

PASAI

DECEMBER 2016 UPDATE

Pacific Auditors working together

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FSM Pohnpei Office of the State Public Auditor leads the way on International Anti-Corruption Day

Acknowledging the importance of joining efforts in the FSM and worldwide in the fight against corruption, Pohnpei Office of the State Public Auditor (OSPA) lead the way in their state in activities on International Anti-Corruption day on 9 December 2016. The UN 2016 Theme was "United Against Corruption for development, peace and security". The theme for the FSM Pohnpei OSPA this year was "TEAM UP AGAINST CORRUPTION."

The FSM Pohnpei OSPA lead the following campaign activities in marking this significant International day:

1. Essay Contest among the High Schools (private/public)
2. Float/Parade Contest between Youth Groups

Their programme for the day included a float parade down the main streets of Pohnpei, followed by a short ceremony.



Photo above: Preparations for the Anti-Corruption march in Pohnpei, FSM.



FSM Pohnpei Office of the State Public Auditor leads the way on International Anti-Corruption Day (cont.)



Photo above: The march taking place down the main street of Pohnpei, FSM.



Photo above: The ceremony held by the Pohnpei OSP



Republic of Marshall Islands Office of the Auditor-General prepares for the Constitution Convention

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is holding a Constitution Convention in February 2017 to consider changes to the Republic's Constitution. The RMI Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) is considering putting forward changes at the convention to broaden the SAI's independence. One of our PASAI Consultants, Mr Craig Neil, visited RMI on 14-16 December 2016 to assist the SAI in these law reform efforts.

While in RMI, Mr Neil together with the Auditor-General, Mr Junior Patrick met with Parliament's Speaker, Minister and Secretary of Finance, Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Chief Secretary and other RMI officials to discuss the merits of strengthening the SAI's independence, in particular the advantages of the SAI as an institution having broader financial and management autonomy. The visits were extremely well received with everyone having a good understanding of how strong institutional independence is necessary to allow a SAI to accomplish its tasks free of undue pressure or influence.

Mr Neil also provided some technical assistance to the SAI in respect of a paper the SAI is preparing for the convention process. PASAI will contribute some further information on SAI independence to help with the SAI's discussions with the wider Marshall Islands community on the importance of its independence, as part of the convention process.

PASAI encourages and supports its members to become independent and sustainable institutions that make a difference to the quality of public sector governance and service delivery for the benefit of their people. It achieves this by providing member SAIs with legal support (as in the case of RMI) under its Strategic Priority 1: Strengthen SAI Independence.



'Communicating and Promoting Value and Benefits of SAI Workshop' Suva, Fiji

The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) together with the Fiji Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) conducted the 'Communicating and Promoting Value and Benefits of SAIs' workshop in Suva, Fiji on 5 – 9 December 2016. This was the third communications workshop delivered by PASAI this year, as part of its programme on communicating the value and benefits of SAIs. The OAG's Directors and senior management attended the workshop with 32 participants.

Mr. Sairusi Dukuno, OAG Director of Corporate Services opened the workshop as acting Auditor-General, welcoming the special guest speaker, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Economy, Ms Makereta Konrote, PASAI facilitators and workshop participants. Referring to the strategic priorities of the OAG, Mr Dukuno stated, "One of its strategic objectives is to motivate personnel to achieve their potential and nurture a conducive environment for professional and personal development through facilitating continuous learning and development programs for all levels. This five day workshop is a part of the continuous learning."

"Dissemination of information to citizens including Parliament and other stakeholders is crucial, so a comprehensive, clear and well-defined Communication Strategy will go a long way to achieving this objective." ~ Ms Konrote

‘Communicating and Promoting Value and Benefits of SAI Workshop’ Suva, Fiji (cont.)

Special guest speaker, Ms Konrote gave an encouraging speech, emphasising the important role that the OAG plays in keeping public officers responsible and accountable in how public funds are used. She referred to the principles in the *International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) 12: The Value and Benefits of SAIs – making a difference to the lives of citizens, in her keynote speech. “Dissemination of information to citizens including Parliament and other stakeholders is crucial, so a comprehensive, clear and well-defined Communication Strategy will go a long way to achieving this objective. As auditors, you will also learn the core elements that need to be included while writing reports and the ability to convey information in an accurate, concise and a clear manner. We welcome strengthening of these skills and look forward to*

seeing the improvements in future reports from the Auditor General,” she said.

The workshop participants were enthusiastically engaged in sessions that included topics such as ‘Identifying SAI Stakeholders’, ‘Stakeholder Engagement’, ‘Communication Strategy Implementation’, ‘Report writing processes’, ‘Writing concisely’, and ‘Dealing with the Media’. The sessions were facilitated by PASAI Director of Practice Development, Sinaroseta Palamolofo and Communications Adviser, Tina Vaka.

PASAI acknowledges the support from the Fiji OAG in organising the workshop, and the valued support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Photo top: Ms Konrote, PASAI facilitators and Fiji OAG workshop participants.

Photo bottom: Fiji OAG Communication workshop participants.



PASAI/PFTAC Workshop on Strengthening Oversight Functions of Public Financial Management

The Auditor-General's Office of Solomon Islands (OAG) together with the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) and the Pacific Financial Technical Centre (PFTAC) hosted a Pacific regional workshop in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 5 to 9 December 2016 at the Heritage Hotel. The theme of this joint PASAI/PFTAC workshop '*Strengthening Oversight Functions of Public Financial Management through Internal and External Audit*', is the first in the Pacific region where the objective was to impart knowledge about the critical roles played by External Audit (Audit Offices or also known as Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) and Internal Audit to improve and contribute to strengthening Public Financial Management to enhance the ability of governments to deliver key services to its citizens.

Twenty-seven auditors from respective SAIs (external audit) and Government Internal Audit divisions/agencies participated in this week-long workshop representing seven Pacific countries – Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Participants were encouraged to consider co-operation and co-ordination with each other to maximize the benefits gained from working together. Towards the end of the workshop participants from internal and external audit offices of each country spent time to discuss possible collaboration and presented joint country strategies on avenues where they can work together. PASAI/PFTAC will continue to encourage this collaboration through follow up and continuing dialogue with these auditors.

In his opening remarks, the Solomon Islands Auditor-General Mr Peter Lokay stated "*This first regional collaboration between Internal Auditors and External auditor is significant because it will promote good governance through contributions to accountability and transparency in the use of public resources, as well as to promote efficient, effective and economic public administration, to make a difference to the lives of our people in the Pacific.*"



Photo above: PASAI/PFTAC workshop participants.

PASAI/PFTAC Workshop on Strengthening Oversight Functions of Public Financial Management (cont.)

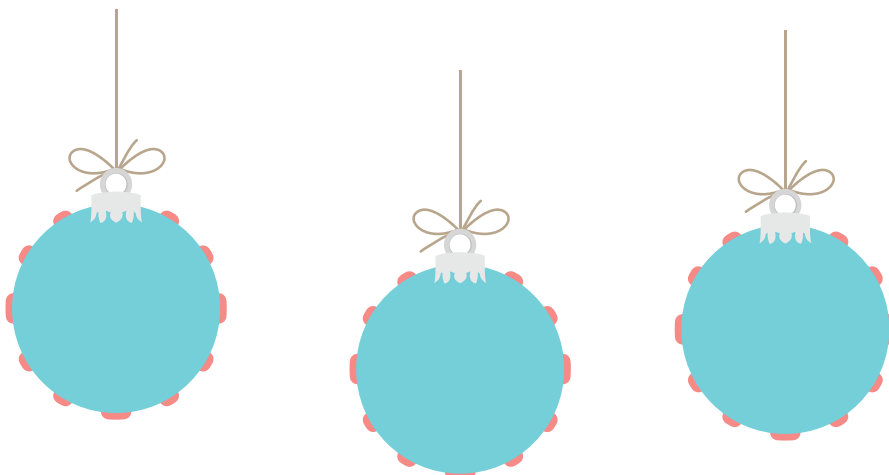
The regional workshop was developed and delivered by a highly experienced team including PASAI's Director of Technical Support, Agnes Aruwafu (External Audit expert), Sue Morrison (Internal Audit expert), Chita Marzan, PFTAC's PFM Expert together with invaluable input from Mr Paul Apps, Past President/Board of Directors of the Institute of Internal Audit [IIA Australia]. A session was also delivered by Mr Mark Thompson and Vance Hetariki from Teammate Wolters Kluwer.

PASAI commended the Solomon Islands Office of the Auditor-General for their excellent support and for making this workshop a great success. This included arranging for delegates to be a part of the national "**Walk Against Corruption**" with them on International Anti-Corruption Day, 9th December and witnessing the launch of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy by the Honourable Prime Minister Mr Manasseh Sogavare.

PASAI acknowledged the financial support of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the collaborative ongoing joint regional partnership with PFTAC.



Photo above: PASAI/PFTAC workshop participants join the Anti-corruption march in Honiara.





Building capacity of auditors on Public Procurement

The Controller and Auditor-General of Samoa Mr Fuimaono Camillo Afele hosted the Pacific regional program on public procurement, which is part of an international capacity building program developed and delivered jointly by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions Development Initiative (IDI) and the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI).

Twenty-two auditors from Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, State of Pohnpei FSM, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu participated in this week-long review meeting, which commenced Thursday 15 December and ended on Tuesday 20th December 2016.

The keynote speaker Honorable Salā Fata Pinati (Minister for Audit Office) formally opened this regional meeting by highlighting the important role that Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) play in ensuring accountable and transparent

government procurement practices. The Controller and Auditor-General of Samoa also commented that *“This regional program is the first being delivered in the global INTOSAI region and I am pleased to host it, because the subject matter of public procurement is a significant matter which affects all areas of public service delivery which my office is mandated to do.”*

The programme aims to use the co-operative audit guidance developed by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institution's (INTOSAI's) Capacity Building Committee with the main objective to support SAIs in moving towards International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) in the conduct of compliance audits. The programme, which is part of the global ISSAI implementation initiative or 3i programme, spans a period of two years and provides blended support solutions by supporting participants in sustainably enhancing their professional and organisational capacity.



Photo above: Participants of the Pacific regional program on public procurement in Apia, Samoa.

PASAI is the overarching regional working group of Supreme Audit Institutions in the Pacific region. We have 28 members that we work with to promote transparent and efficient use of public sector resources with the aim to make a difference to the lives of our citizens. PASAI is a regional organisation of INTOSAI, which operates as an umbrella organisation

for the external government audit community and has a worldwide global affiliation with SAIs around the world. PASAI acknowledged the financial support of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the collaborative ongoing joint regional partnership with IDI.



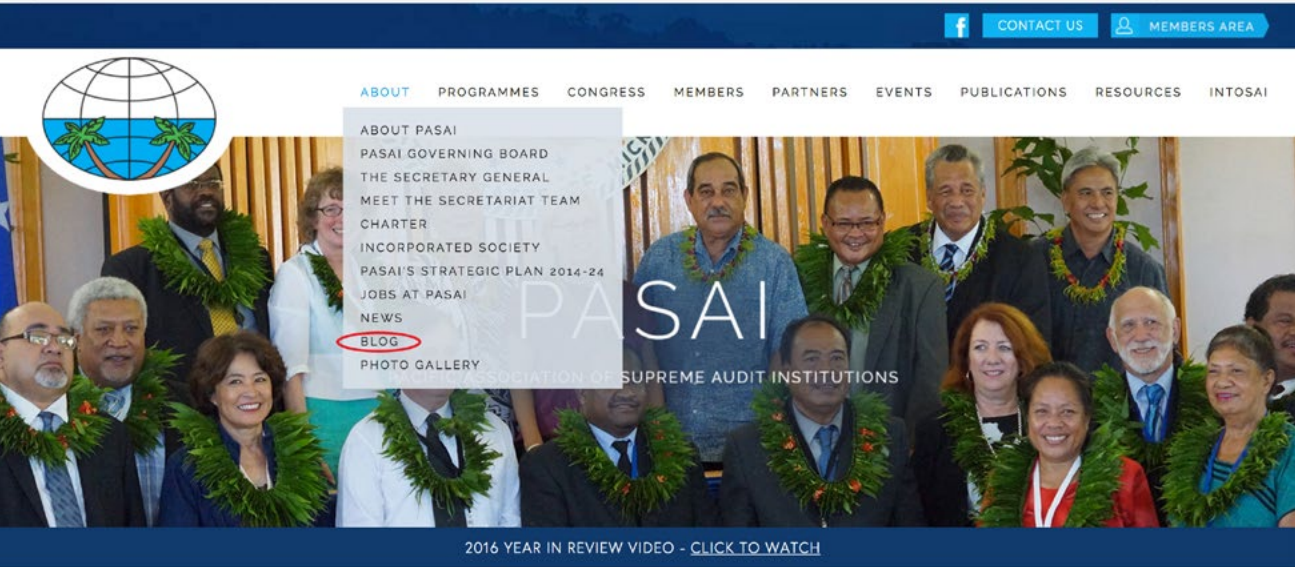
Photo above: Participants of the Pacific regional program on public procurement in Apia, Samoa.



PASAI Blogs and Vlogs

With the development of our new website, we have now added content to our blog page. Here you will find blogs on topics of interest on regional and international audit matters. We have also added videos (or 'vlogs') to this page which adds an added impact to our communication on these topics of interest. Stay current with our blogs by going to <http://www.pasai.org/blog/>

Please view a glimpse of our programs during the calendar year in the video [HERE](#).





Wishing you another fruitful year ahead.

from PASAI Chairman, Secretary-General and Secretariat



From the Secretariat Team:

We would like to thank the Chairman, Secretary General, our Governing Board, our Donors & Development Partners, our SAls and their staff, for all your support and co-operation this year. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2017.

PASAI CALENDAR

2017

- **19 – 20 January** : PAC Workshop & Awareness program, Apia, Samoa
- **23 – 27 January** : SAI PMF Lite Planning Meeting (North SAls), Guam.
- **23 – 24 February** : 16th Governing Board Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand
- **2 – 6 March**: SAI Young Leaders Symposium, Auckland, New Zealand

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