



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **APIPA 2020 Conference:**

### **PASAI Secretariat Team presents on Quality Assurance**

#### **Auckland, New Zealand (13 August 2020)**

Audit quality plays an essential role in maintaining confidence in the assurance of the independent audit process. The PASAI Secretariat team delivered a presentation on Quality Assurance at the 31st Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors (APIPA) Virtual Conference on Thursday, 13 August 2020.

Our speakers included: Esther Lameko-Poutoa (Chief Executive PASAI), Sarah Markley (Director - International Engagement, Office of the Auditor-General New Zealand) and Nick Johnston (Director - Quality Assurance, Office of the Auditor-General New Zealand).

Esther presented the first session focusing on the definition of audit quality, the quality parameters of the SAI Performance Measurement Framework (PMF) and PMF results on Quality Audit and Quality Assurance for the Pacific region.

In the second session, Sarah discussed quality and the elements of the Quality Control System focusing on six elements of the Quality Control Framework and how to implement them in a SAI. International standards on Quality Control and the role of leadership in promoting a culture of quality and excellence in a SAI were also discussed.

In the third and final session, Nick discussed examples of quality controls, key considerations in setting up a quality assurance function in a SAI and recent developments in Quality Control and Quality Assurance.

The presentation included videos from SAI Fiji and SAI Solomon Islands about their experiences in building the quality assurance function in their SAIs. PASAI's Quality Assurance Manual was cited as being one of the main sources of guidance that was used for this purpose - available on our website: <https://www.pasai.org/pasai-manuals-guidelines>

This year's APIPA Virtual Conference (3-14 August 2020) brought together over 300 auditors and finance officers from across the Pacific region including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Federated State of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Palau.

The two-week online conference provided a wide range of courses to strengthen audit capability and expertise. Topics covered included: Accounting and Auditing Standards Update, Root Cause Analysis, Reviewing the Compliance Supplement and Single Audit Report, a refresher on Internal Controls, Auditing Governance, Developing and Leading High-Performance Audit Team, Emotional Intelligence and Creative/Critical Thinking.



*Photo: Esther Lameko-Poutoa (Chief Executive, PASAI) opens the Quality Assurance session at the APIPA Virtual Conference 2020.*



*Photo: Sarah Markley (Director - International Engagement, OAG New Zealand) and Nick Johnston (Director - Quality Assurance, OAG New Zealand) get ready to present their session on Quality Control and Quality Assurance at the APIPA 2020 Virtual Conference.*



*Photo: Meresimani Vosawale (Quality Assurance Team Leader) from the Office of the Auditor-General Fiji shares SAI Fiji's experiences of building their quality assurance function.*

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