



Media release

8 December 2023

PASAI director visits Kiribati

Bairiki, Kiribati: Programme Director for the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI), Susana Lauulu, visited Kiribati last week to provide in-person technical support.

Auditor-General, Eriati Manaima, and his staff at the Kiribati Audit Office (KAO) hosted Ms Lauulu during her mission.

The primary purpose of Ms Lauulu's trip was to assist and guide the staff responsible for the 2022 Financial Statements of Government (FSG) with the audit planning and process. PASAI's central strategic priority is that its member audit offices complete high-quality audits of government accounts on a timely basis.

Ms Lauulu explained, "It's very important that auditors have a broad understanding of government operations, the nature of key components of the FSG, and linkages to the work of each ministry to ensure the government budget is appropriately expensed and accounted for.

"Auditing is much more than double-checking numbers. Effective auditors must build relationships, communicate well and know what the right questions are to obtain the relevant information."

Ms Lauulu discussed with KAO staff the challenges impacting workflow and timelines to the FSG audit, and how to manage those challenges with existing resources.

On her final day in Kiribati, Ms Lauulu paid a courtesy visit to senior staff at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Accompanied by Audit Supervisor, Tematang Raimon, Ms Lauulu met Accountant General, Toromon Metutera, and Deputy Accountant General, James Ruatu.

Before leaving Ms Lauulu assured the Auditor-General that PASAI will continue its support of KAO online and in person where needed near the closing of the FY2022 FSG audit.

PASAI acknowledges the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).



PASAI Programme Director, Susana Lau (seated in centre) and Auditor General, Eriati Manaima (seated on far right) with staff from the Kiribati Audit Office



Left to right: Deputy Accountant General, James Ruatu; Audit Supervisor, Tematang Raimon; PASAI Programme Director, Susana Lau; and Accountant General, Toromon Metutera

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