



PASAI Bulletin

Issue number 23
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This Bulletin provides Audit Offices in the PASAI region with:

- * updates on issues of interest
- * recent developments affecting SAIs
- * emerging matters
- * general "newsworthy" items.

SAIs and development partners are encouraged to contribute to this publication as it will be beneficial to all as a forum for information exchange and provide an understanding of the issues faced by SAIs in the region. Auditors-General who are members of the INTOSAI committees and working groups should also use this Bulletin to highlight the progress of the work that they are involved in.

1.0 Australian National Audit Office

1.1 Peer Review

During 2011–12, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) was asked to lead an international team to undertake a peer review of the performance audit function of the Indian SAI, the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. The team comprises representatives from the audit offices of Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United States. The peer review is due to be completed in September 2012.

The objective of the peer review is to provide the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) with an assurance that the performance audit function of SAI India adheres to applicable standards of professional practice and to identify any opportunities for improvement to SAI India's performance audit function.

The scope of the peer review is SAI India's performance audit function, including its quality management framework. The review will cover performance audit reports presented to the Parliament/State Legislatures during the period April 2010 to March 2011. The report will include the findings of the peer review, suggestions for improvement for SAI India to consider and good practices adopted by SAI India that might be of interest to other SAIs.

1.2 Environmental Management Better Practice Guide

The ANAO's Environmental Management Better Practice Guide, published in April 2012 has been designed to provide public sector executives and environmental managers with practical implementation strategies, advice and insights to better position their organisations to meet the Government's requirements and improve their overall environmental performance.

The development of the Guide was informed by a review of current environmental management requirements, relevant literature and developments in environmental management practices. We also consulted with key policy agencies, such as the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Discussions with a number of other government entities provided valuable insights into successful implementation strategies and lessons learned based on experience and on-the-ground expertise.

Limited hardcopies are available and can be requested by contacting the ANAO Publications Manager at webmaster@anao.gov.au. The publication was printed on 100% post consumer recycled fibre, certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

If you would like further information please contact: webmaster@anao.gov.au or ag1@anao.gov.au by email.

2.0 Cook Islands Audit Office

2.1 Financial Audits:

During the period 1 April 2012 to 30 September 2012, a total of 28 financial audit reports have been completed to be tabled in Parliament.

2.2 Special Reviews and investigations:

During the period 1 April 2012 to 30 September 2012, a total of 5 special reviews and investigations have been completed to be tabled in Parliament. These were as a result of the identification of a high-risk or genuine and valid complaint from a member of the public, or initiated by the Director of Audit.

2.3 Crown Audit:

The Cook Islands Government Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009 were signed by Financial Secretary, Richard Neves, and Finance Minister, Hon Mark Brown, on 24 May 2012. Our audit was completed on and our qualified opinion was expressed as at that date.

The Crown Financial Statements represent the consolidated financial results for the Government of the Cook Islands and combine the annual statutory accounts of Ministries (17), Island Administrations (10), Offices of Parliament (4), Corporations, Public Authorities and Companies (15) and Other Entities (13).

This milestone is a significant step in the combined efforts of the audit office and MFEM. This major achievement was the culmination of several months' hard work by the crown accounts audit team. The Director of Audit commends all staff involved for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the achievement of this significant landmark.

2.4 Staff Training and Development:

2.4a. Regional:

Cooperative Performance Audit to "Assess the Effectiveness of the Management of Off-Shore Fisheries by National Authorities in Accordance with National Fisheries Policies & Framework", Nadi, Fiji – 23-28 April 2012

Elizabeth Taivairanga and Nancy Teulilo, of the Cook Islands Audit Office, attended the reporting meeting for the third regional Cooperative Performance Audit, held in Nadi, Fiji. The objective of the co-operative audit is to "Assess the effectiveness of the management of off-shore tuna fisheries by national authorities in accordance with national fisheries policies and framework."

The purpose of the meeting was to bring together auditors from 10 participating nations to report their audit findings, identify good practices and share lessons learnt from the audit. The meeting was also an appropriate platform to finalize the audit reports before submitting to the respective Auditor General's for sign-off and/or tabling in their respective jurisdictions.

PASAI Tier 2 Intermediate Government Auditing Training Report, 7-18 May 2012, Fiji

The Pacific Association of Supreme Auditors Institutions (PASAI) Tier 2 Intermediate Government Audit Training was held in Fiji from 7 – 18 May 2012. Teokotai Roberts and Maria Tariipo Teaurima attended on behalf of the Cook Islands Audit Office (CIAO).

The training was aimed for Auditors and/or Senior Auditor level who work with specific guidance on complex audit tasks and exercise own judgment on routine audit tasks. The training provided high quality classrooms and on-the-job training to meet staff needs. The training was also provided to build audit capacity in the Pacific region by imparting knowledge to auditors, facilitating auditors learning and increasing audit capabilities.

2.4b. Regional:

7th Pasai Regional Working Group Environmental Auditing Meeting, Sydney, Australia, 17 -19 April 2012

The Director of Audit, Allen Parker, attended the 7th Meeting of the ACAG/PASAI Regional Working Group on Environmental Auditing (RWGEA) held in Sydney, Australia from the 17 to 19 April 2012. The meeting was attended by 18 representatives from Audit Offices in the PASAI region including NZ and Australia.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and share experiences, challenges and lessons learnt from environmental audits undertaken by Audit Offices in the PASAI region. Smaller Audit Offices were able to learn from the experiences and lessons learnt from larger developed Audit Offices. PASAI was also able to share the results of its capacity building activities and the progress of its cooperative environmental audits undertaken in the region.

The meeting also considered and discussed potential environmental audit topics that are relevant to Pacific Island Countries which could be undertaken by Audit Offices in the region. These include Climate Change, Climate Adaption, Disaster Preparedness and Agriculture farming practices. Of particular interest to the Pacific Island Countries were Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness.

Other matters discussed at the meeting include how larger Audit Offices such as New Zealand and Australia could assist smaller Audit Offices in terms of capacity building, assisting with expert opinions and human resources. The meeting was fruitful and successful in that the Cook Islands Audit Office could potentially participate in the regional cooperative audit on Climate Change if this planned audit eventuates.

International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) Implementation Initiative (3i Programme) - ISSAI Certification Programme, 16 July – 3 August 2012, Oslo, Norway

Background: The 20th INTOSAI Congress adopted a comprehensive set of International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) that cover the core audit disciplines of financial, compliance and performance audits.

INTOSAI's Strategic Plan envisages "the role of the INTOSAI Development Initiatives (IDI) is to take forward the implementation of the ISSAIs". IDI began work on its mandate to facilitate the implementation of ISSAIs with a comprehensive capacity building programme which covered level 2 ISSAIs and level 4 ISSAIs on financial, compliance and performance audit.

The ISSAI Implementation Programme 2012- 2014 will be planned, designed, delivered, and monitored by the IDI in partnership with INTOSAI Professional Standards Committee, Subcommittee on Financial Audit, Subcommittee on Performance Audit, Subcommittee on Compliance Audit, INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee, AFROSAI-E, ASOSAI, CAROSAI and PASAI. The first step in towards conducting such a programme was to partner with INTOSAI Bodies and Regions (mentioned above) which eventuated in July-Aug 2012 in Norway.

The Product Development Meeting for the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) Certification Programme under the ISSAI Implementation Initiative (3i Programme) was held in Oslo, Norway from the July 16, 2012 and concluded on August 3, 2012.

Ms. Margret Numanga, Audit Manager was elected to participate in the product development meeting as an ISSAI Mentor. The Meetings Objectives were as follows:

- To design and develop ISSAI Compliance Assessment Tool (iCATs) for financial, performance and compliance audit at level 4 of the ISSAI framework;
- To design and develop an e-courses on iCATs for financial, performance and compliance audit ISSAIs; and
- To formulate questions for pre test to be conducted for selection of participants for the ISSAI Certification Programme.

All of which was successfully achieved in the stringent timeframe allocated during the course of 3 weeks. As part of the core team who developed the e-course on iCATs for financial audit of ISSAI's, Ms Numanga will also participate as an Online Mentor in the E-learning course on ISSAI Compliance Assessment Tools (iCATs) to be held from 22 October – 7 December, 2012.

ISSAI facilitators from the regions will be trained in the use of the iCAT as the first part of the ISSAI certification programme. Regional 3i Management workshops will be conducted in five regions for SAI top management to create awareness of ISSAIs and iCAT and get commitment for conducting iCATs at SAI level. SAIs that agree to conduct iCATs will be provided support.

The World Bank is the financing partner for the above programme and has provided substantial earmarked funding for the entire programme.

If you would like further information please contact: Donna Engu (donna.engu@auditoffice.gov.ck) by email.

3.0 Guam Office of Public Accountability

The Guam Office of Public Accountability Released its Fiscal Year 2011 Citizen Centric Report

In August 2012, the Guam Office of Public Accountability (OPA) released its fiscal year (FY) 2011 Citizen Centric Report (CCR) pursuant to Public Law (P.L.) 30-127. OPA's FY 2011 CCR includes its mission and goals, its progress in FY 2011, its future challenges and outlook, as well as the Government of Guam (GovGuam)'s finances. This is the third CCR released by OPA since 2010.

The CCR initiative is one of the recommendations and good practice indicators from the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI)' "Accountability and Transparency in the Pacific Region 2011" report. The report states: "SAIs should promote the interests of access to information, and enhance transparency and accountability, by adopting initiatives to improve the accessibility of their audit reports, for example by providing a simplified narrative of government accounts and activities the public, (as in the Citizen-Centric Reporting initiative in Guam and other US jurisdictions)."

The CCR is an initiative by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) to promote and advance communication between governments and their citizens. The Guam Legislature adopted this initiative so that GovGuam agencies would provide government financial information in a clear and understandable manner, updated regularly and often, delivered to all, easy to locate, honest in breadth and technically accurate in detail. Every GovGuam agency is required to publish a CCR on its website and electronically submit the CCR to the Speaker of the Legislature and the Public Auditor no later than 60 calendar days, after the independent audit report for a government entity has been released by the OPA for each fiscal year. OPA will also post the CCR on its website.

The CCR contains four pages and follows the format suggested by AGA. The first page contains information about the entity, including the entity's vision statement, strategic goals, operational structure, and demographics. The second page reflects a performance report based on a summary of the entity's key missions and/or services and possible outcome measures. The third page provides a snapshot of financial data as it relates to the performance report presented in page 2. The fourth page presents the entity's forecast of future challenges and economic outlook.



For more information, please visit OPA's website at <http://www.guamopa.org>.

If you would like further information please contact: Guam Office of Public Accountability by TEL.00 1 671 475 0390 FAX 00 1 671 472 7951.

4.0 Office of the Kosrae Public Auditor

Kosrae Port Authority financial management called into question

The Kosrae Office of the Public Auditor speculated in an audit of the Kosrae Port Authority released at the end of June that unresolved issues from a previous audit "will translate to huge losses, possibly hundreds of thousands of dollars." The current audit covers the Authorities financial transactions beginning in the 2011 fiscal year through May of the 2012 fiscal year. It lists several thousands of dollars worth of losses that took place just during that year and a half period.

The audit suggests that criminal activity may have taken place and recommends that Kosrae's Governor should refer those matters to the Kosrae Office of the Attorney General for further investigation. The audit was requested by the Authority's Board Chairman.

The Executive Summary of the audit listed the shortcomings as follows:

"Based on the audit objectives, we found that the Authority's internal controls:

- i) Did not ensure that all fees due are timely collected and deposited.
 - a. Fees due from three aircraft and 74 vessel arrivals were not collected or possibly misappropriated;
 - b. 16 percent of departure fees amount to \$13,385 were not collected;
 - c. 66 percent amount to \$36,899 of the Authority's receivables are left uncollected and (have) been overdue for more than three years; and
 - d. Controls over receipting, billings and receivables are not implemented.

- ii) Did not ensure that disbursements made are authorized and economical.
 - a. There is no disbursement voucher being used to control the Authority's authorized budget; and
 - b. There were no documents filed along with the disbursement documents to show that purchases are being made in a competitive manner."

The Kosrae Port Authority became an independent operation in the 2008 fiscal year and, according to the audit, is vested with the following powers and duties:

- i) "To operate, manage, equip, and maintain all ports of entry in the State including, the Okat and Lelu harbors, and docks, and the Okat airfield.
- li) To expand and improve upon the services offered at the ports of entry, and where practicable, (to) construct and operate new facilities to meet the foreseeable demand for Authority services.
- lii) To adopt, (and) enforce regulations (and) inspections or examinations as provided by law and etc."

The first audit finding was that "existing controls did not ensure that all fees are timely collected and deposited." It questioned whether all fees due to the authority are collected and as support for the question said that fees due from vessel and aircraft arrivals appeared not to have been collected or possibly to have been "misappropriated." Specifically it said that fees from 74 out of 106 vessels and three private aircraft arrivals were either not collected or were simply not booked if they were collected.

It said that the possibility of misappropriation exists because there were instances that fees from private planes, sail boats, and yachts were paid in cash. The Authority does not practice mandatory receipting for all collections. The audit said that there is no control over issuances of invoices and the invoices that are issued are not pre-numbered. Also there is no segregation of duties and no independent review to ensure that all collections are deposited.

The Official Receipts Book for FY 2011 was missing and unavailable for review by the audit team. The Board response to the audit said that the receipt book may have been stolen from the safe along with \$1,785 in un-deposited cash during a burglary on October 3, 2011. Either that or the missing receipt book was "deliberate sabotage."

Of the missing receipt book the audit said, "It is not ordinary that an Official Receipt Book is lost in the Authority's premises unless there is an effort to conceal entries from the audit examination."

It recommended that the Governor should direct the AG to conduct an investigation as to why the receipt book is missing.

Port Authority personnel told the auditor that they do not have control over arrivals of sailboats and yachts especially when they dock at the Lelu Harbor.

"They also pointed out that they lack manpower to ensure that these arrivals are timely invoiced and amount(s) due are collected. They further explained that in some cases they are not properly notified that vessels are coming in(to) the State Ports."

Airport Departure fees came under the general heading of faulty financial controls.

The Kosrae Airport charges a \$15 Airport Departure fees for passengers whose flights originate at the Kosrae Airport. The audit said during the period of the audit sixteen percent (\$13,885) of the fees that were due were either not collected or were misappropriated. It said that printing, custody, accounting and recording of the tickets were being handled by one person who was not named in the audit.

Cash collected for daily departure fees were also deposited one week late as a habit leading the auditor to believe that one week's receipts were being used to cover the previous week's deposits.

“The basic idea underlying segregation of duties is that no employee or group of employees should be in a position both to perpetrate and to conceal errors or fraud in the normal course of their duties,” the audit said.

The public auditor recommended that the Governor should direct the Office of the Attorney General to conduct an investigation into the absence of effective controls and the presence of irregularities in the Airport Departure fees collection system.

The audit expressed doubts that fees due to the Authority are collected on a timely basis.

A spreadsheet in the audit showed that \$38,699.28 had not been collected from one shipping company and one shipping agent for bills that have gone unpaid since 2008.

The shipping agent mentioned in the audit has no current bills at the Port Authority and none aged 31-90 days but is listed as having \$40,722.58 in bills aged over 90 days. \$26,302.80 of the accounts payables for that shipping agent has been due since 2008. According to the auditors’ figures, that shipping agent had acquired \$14,419.78 in accounts payables in years since 2008.

The shipping company mentioned in the audit has \$12,366.48 in accounts payable that have been due to the Authority since 2008. It currently has \$3,217.92 worth of invoices aged 31 to 90 days.

\$1109.63 worth of invoices aged over 90 days are due from the two other businesses listed in the table of aged receivables.

The Port Authority referred no legal claims for collection purposes though they have the power to do so. Worse, the Authority could not produce the documents for the long overdue claims. Worse still, the auditor claims that there was a conflict of interest for at least one of the companies it listed that has long overdue bills payable to the Authority.

“A person responsible to collect is under the supervision of a person who (likely has) a material interest not to pay the Authority. This is probably one of the reasons why collection proceeding(s) to collect amounts due was not initiated,” the audit says.

Without naming names, as is the standard practice of audits in the FSM, though certainly names would be provided to the Attorney General for the purposes of an investigation into fraud, the audit provided an example of conflict of interest that seemed to speak directly to the case in hand:

“A government official owns a company and (is) a customer of the Authority. At the same time one of his functions is to protect the interests of the government to include the Authority’s claims. His company is indebted to the government for which he is tasked to collect. The question now is “how can he impose sanctions to his company to pay the government?” In this scenario, there are two interests which do not coincide. The interest of the government is to collect the amount due and the personal interest of the official is not to enforce collection which is in favor (of) his company

Auditors quoted the Port Authorities on accounting policies when they recommended that all accounts should be due 30 days after the invoice date. Overdue accounts should be reviewed an account is outstanding by 90 days, services should be suspended and the matter referred to lawyers for recovery..

The Authority issued receipts only on demand. Auditor’s noted that the Authority’s Policies and Procedures Manual does NOT explicitly provide for the mandatory issuance of official receipts on all amounts collected. They recommended that the Board include that requirement in the manual.

When compared to checks, cash collections were deposited much later than was cash. Checks were deposited reasonably quickly; either on the same day as they were received or at least within seven days. Cash listed on the auditor's spreadsheet generally took three months to deposit. The transactions on that spreadsheet appeared to have been "cherry picked" to demonstrate the point.

The cash receipts on the spreadsheet were small, ranging from \$5 to \$35 and the total amounted to only \$173, but the late deposits indicated to the auditors that the money was being used for some other reason and then repaid a long time later. One five dollar payment was not deposited until nearly six months after it was received.

The audit said that existing controls did not ensure that disbursements were economical and authorized. It did not provide specific purchases as examples of that audit finding.

"If there are any questions or concerns regarding this report, please contact the Office of the Public Auditor," the audit said and provided the email address of Stoney S. Taulung, Public Auditor which is ksauditor@mail.fm. Phone numbers are: 691-370-3440; 691-370-3766 or Facsimile: 691-370-3443.

The audit also provided a mailing address for the Kosrae Office of the Public Auditor which is:
Kosrae Office of the Public Auditor
Post Office Box 727
Kosrae, FM 96944

Originally reported by Bill Jaynes at the The Kaselehlle Press, July 23, 2012 edition.

5.0 Office of the Auditor General Marshall Islands

Office of the Auditor-General of the Republic of the Marshall Islands has officially launched its website. You are welcomed to view and retrieve copies of the published audit reports at www.rmioag.com.

All suggestions for improvements can be directed to the Office of the Auditor General Marshall Islands.

If you would like further information please contact Office of the Auditor General Marshall Islands : phone +692 625-3192; or fax +692 625 5135.

6.0 Auditor-General's Office of Papua New Guinea

Auditor-General's Office of Papua New Guinea E-Learning Pilot

The Auditor-General's Office is currently undertaking a pilot e-learning study over the August 2012 to January 2013 period in order to evaluate the potential for implementing online learning as part of the AGO's Learning and Development program. It is felt e-learning will provide a number of benefits including:

- On demand, repeatable learning
- Pre-course quizzes
- Ability to monitor learning
- Learning aligned to competencies
- Access to an extensive range of learning courses and material

The pilot consists of up to 20 participants in a series of online courses that are hosted on the AGO's internal network. The pilot group will provide feedback and enable the AGO to further refine the e-learning program before access is made available to all staff.

The Office has selected SkillSoft as the provider of a comprehensive range of e-learning content. SkillSoft is a global provider of e-learning content and software products and is offering the AGO a flexible, stand-alone solution.

The courseware selected by the AGO covers general business, technical and desktop skills:

- Certified Internet Security Auditor
- Microsoft Office 2012: Beginning Word
- Microsoft Office 2012: Beginning Excel
- Microsoft Office 2012: Advanced Excel
- Microsoft Office 2012: Beginning PowerPoint
- Accounting Fundamentals
- IFRS Primer
- Auditing Essentials
- Management Essentials
- Leadership Essentials
- Business Writing Basics
- Business Grammar Basics
- Listening Essentials
- Constructive Feedback and Criticism

If you would like further information please contact Wayne Jones at WJones@ago.gov.pg.

7.0 Office of the Auditor General Solomon Islands

7.1 Modernisation of the Office

7.1a. Legislation

Office of the Auditor General Solomon Islands is refining a new National Audit Office Bill which will more fully describe the Auditor-General's powers and responsibilities in accordance with contemporary expectations of what is expected from a SAI, including safeguarding the Auditor-General's independence as required under the INTOSAI Mexico Declaration. The Auditor-General has been very much guided by comparative work done by PASAI on its member SAIs, including the most recent study report *Accountability and Transparency in the Pacific Region 2011* which included a review of the Solomon Islands. The proposed legislation will also clarify the operations of the office which are not described in existing legislation.

As a result of the Auditor-General's initiatives to prepare this legislation for submission to the National Parliament, the Ministry of Finance & Treasury is also now preparing complimentary legislation to update its public finance management role, and the Auditor-General and the office have been engaged in consultations with the Ministry and its consultants as it considers alternative ways of prescribing its role in the proper management of the collection and use of public resources.

Office of the Auditor General Solomon Islands is now putting the final touches to a proposal to restructure the office to better reflect:- the three types of audits the Auditor-General now conducts; the specialist nature of work the

7.1b. Office restructure

Office of the Auditor General Solomon Islands is now putting the final touches to a proposal to restructure the office to better reflect:- the three types of audits the Auditor-General now conducts; the specialist nature of work the Auditor-General conduct in terms of appropriate classification and remuneration of staff; and the need to better manage essential corporate services – including in particular the functions of recruiting, training and promoting staff in a self-sustaining manner.

7.1c. Capacity building of staff

The Auditor-General has been pushing a lot of his staff through their university studies and allowing a number of them to undertake full-time studies locally in addition to those students who are on scholarships through the Solomon Islands National Training Unit. Office of the Auditor General Solomon Islands is also benefiting from the RAMSI-funded Last Semester Program which covers the cost of full-time study at the University of South Pacific for staff who are on their last semester of study before graduating. One of the auditors, Mr. Joseph Nunua, successfully piloted the scheme last semester and another staff member is currently benefiting from the scheme this semester.

The Office of the Auditor General Solomon Islands has also been offered two places for staff by the New South Wales Audit Office in its next induction course for which the Auditor-General is grateful under the recently established twinning arrangements.

7.2 Audit scrutiny

7.2a. Financial statement and assurance audits

The core business of the Office of the Auditor General Solomon Islands is tracking reasonably well, although there has been a recent slowdown of output on the audit of National Accounts which is now being addressed. The office is looking at ways of more efficiently conducting this audit, including exploring the extent to which they can use CAATs to better sample transactions now that the Ministry of Finance & Treasury has bedded down its new AX accounting system. The Auditor-General will also be conducting assurance audits on a 3-4 year rolling basis for the smaller, low risk Ministries rather than each year as has been the practice to date.

The other audits being conducted, which comprised of nine Provincial Governments, a City Council, eight State Owned Enterprises, and six other public bodies, are progressing well and are being delivered within four months [more often within days] of receiving signed financial statements.

7.2b. Performance audits

The Auditor-General is pleased with the outcome of the PASAI coordinated co-operative environmental performance audit on the *Management of Sustainable Fisheries (tuna fishery) in the Solomon Islands Fisheries Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)* which was transmitted to the National Parliament on 20 August 2012 and which received considerable domestic and international media coverage.

The Auditor-General is currently engaged on two performance audits which are of very high public interest in the Solomon Islands. The first one is investigating the procedures and outcomes of the administration of the Rural Capacity Development Fund grants that are funded in most part by the Republic of China and delivered directly to the electorates of the National Parliamentarians through arrangements organised by the parliamentarians themselves.

The second one, which the auditors are currently scoping, is the audit of the highly successful Festival of Pacific Arts that was recently held in the Solomon Islands, and which resulted in a large number of high value contracts being managed and supervised in a comparatively short space of time.

7.2c. Parliamentary scrutiny

The Auditor-General have commenced working with the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee to re-establish its review of his audit reports so that his reports may be properly considered in the National Parliament. For some time now, the Committee has been focused on reviews of the annual and supplementary budgets. Signals to date from the Committee have been encouraging.

7.3 Anticorruption activities

The Auditor-General is pleased to announce that the Solomon Islands has now become a member of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific Steering Committee with him as Solomon Islands' Alternative Member. The Auditor-General is looking forward to attend the next meeting of the Steering Committee in Hanoi in October 2012.

The Auditor-General has been actively engaged in the Integrity Forum which is an informal group of key accountability and enforcement agencies established in the Solomon Islands to keep each other informed of risks or events which may impact on their operations.

The Auditor-General has also been making presentations, including through the RAMSI-funded *Outreach Program*, to colleagues, stakeholders and civil society on the role of the Office and the sorts of matters of concern that his auditors are finding as they conduct their audits on the Solomon Islands Government and its associated public bodies, as well as donor-funded projects.

7.4 Appointment of Deputy Auditor General

The Auditor-General is pleased to announce that after lengthy delays he has now been provided with a Deputy Auditor General, Mr. Robert Cohen, who has previously worked in the office and whom most of the staff are very well acquainted. RAMSI continues to provide the much appreciated funding to retain the services of Robert and two other international advisors who are vital in assisting his office to develop itself into a capable, self-managing SAI for the Solomon Islands.

Robert has previously worked in the Australian National Audit Office and the Auditor General's Office of Papua New Guinea, as well as spent many years working in the Pacific as a project manager for World Bank development projects and the disaster recovery project following the Rabaul volcanic disaster in 1994. He holds practitioner licenses for Certified Practicing Accountant and Body Corporate Manager.

If you would like further information please contact Robert Cohen at rcohen@oag.gov.sb.

8.0 Yap Audit Office

Yap Audit Office Launches Website

The Office of the Yap State Public Auditor is pleased to announce the launch of its new public internet website at www.audityap.org. The website offers the public convenient access to audits and other information on the programs and operations of the Yap State Government and its agencies. Information on this site is also designed to assist the people of Yap and other interested parties in enhancing their understanding and knowledge of the Public Auditor's office.

The Office of the Public Auditor serves as the audit and investigative arm of the Government and the people of the State of Yap. Acting as an extension of the eyes, ears, voice, and conscience of the people of Yap, its mission is achieved through conducting professional, timely, and independent audits, investigations, and reviews. Its goal is to enhance

public trust in our government. The website also provides links to other websites and resources related to the mission of this office, contact information, and a hotline tip submission form.



Those who suspect anyone of fraudulent activity, or know of waste, abuse, or mismanagement of government resources, employee misconduct, or corruption by those doing business with the Government of the State of Yap can report wrongdoing online at the website or by calling the Office of the Yap State Public Auditor fraud hotline. “Since many of our investigations begin after we receive tips from the public, our goal is to make it as easy as possible for people to report suspected improper activity,” said Chief Investigator Sophia Pretrick. “My division processes and reviews all of the tips we receive. If we find violations of state laws, we refer and work with law enforcement and the Attorney General’s office to take the appropriate action.” The public’s appetite for transparency and accountability continues to grow and the office welcome and encourage their participation and feedback.

If you would like further information please contact Patrick J. Zacchini at pzacchini@audityap.org.

For any clarification of any of the items in this Bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact the PASAI Secretariat by

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