



PASAI

JULY - AUGUST 2016 UPDATE

Pacific Auditors working together

Technical Support for Nauru

One of PASAI's strategic priorities is to work with our Pacific SAs to achieve high quality audits, particularly Financial Statements of Government (FSG) or Whole of Government (WOG) accounts or Public accounts (PA). A key project to give effect to achieving this priority involves providing much needed capacity to our PASAI members that are lagging in the audit of their FSG/WOG and/or PA. The Government of Nauru has only produced the FSG/WOG accounts for 2013/2014 after a 15 year gap and the Nauru Department of Audit is preparing to audit these statements for the first time. To provide the technical support and assistance for this task, PASAI advertised and engaged a consultant Mr Mukesh Arya from 6th August to 4th September 2016. Mukesh provided on the job training and provided the much needed technical expertise to capacity build the staff and start the process in auditing the 2013/2014 WOG accounts with the view that the staff will be equipped to audit the 2014/2015 WOG when they are available by December 2016. The WOG accounts for 2013/2014 will be completed by November 2016.

PASAI will review the observations and recommendations provided by its consultant and develop a strategic approach to provide further technical support to the Nauru Auditor General's Office, subject to the PASAI Governing Board approval.

PASAI will review the observations and PASAI acknowledges the excellent work conducted by Mukesh and the continuing support of our development partners the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the New Zealand Ministry Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

Inside this update

- Technical Support for Nauru
- Strategic Planning for Public Auditors in Yap
- Assessment of the Tonga Office of the Auditor General
- Teammate Training for Solomon Islands Auditors
- PASAI Charter and Governance Reforms
- Meeting on Guidance development for Auditing SDGs Programme, New York, USA.
- IDI Workshop with INTOSAI regions in Oslo, Norway.
- PASAI's new Communications Advisor
- PASAI Secretariat welcomes new Systems Developer
- Calendar



Photo left: Left to Right – Mr Krishan Vakithodi (Auditor), Mr Manoharan Nair (Auditor-General), Mr Justin Togoran (Senior Examiner of Accounts), Valeni Natano (Senior Examiner of Accounts), Mr Mukesh Arya (PASAI Consultant), Katrina Hedmon (Executive Secretary), and Gillian Itsimaera (Auditor).

Strategic Planning for Public Auditors in Yap

On August 8th - 12th, 2016 the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) was in Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia working with staff of the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) to develop their knowledge and experience in developing the OPA's strategic plan.

The OPA is required to audit financial records of the Yap State Government including, but not limited to, "every branch, department, office, political subdivision, board, commission and agency, and other public legal entities or non-profit organizations receiving public funds from the Yap State Government".

Developing a strategic plan involves envisaging a desired future for the organisation and creating a plan to make that vision a reality. The Office of the Public Auditor has limited capacity and resources with only nine staff. As such, it is a challenge for the OPA to deliver its mandate and to ensure that appropriate plans and organisational systems are in place to guide the utilization of limited resources for an effective impact.

One of PASAI's strategic priorities across the Pacific is to help Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) develop and implement a realistic strategic plan and publicly report against these strategic plans. PASAI's Director of Practice Development, Ms Sinaroseta Palamo-

losefo said, "During the week, we discussed the strategic planning process as well as the components of a strategic plan. The staff was introduced to the SAI Performance Measurement Framework (SAI PMF) – a global multi-purpose tool used by SAIs to assess their performance, as a tool to conduct a needs assessment of the office to inform the strategic planning process".

The Public Auditor, Mr Achilles Defngin said, "We are very fortunate to have Ms. Palamo-losefo from PASAI assist and guide us in developing our strategic plan. We encourage other agencies in the State Government to develop their strategic plans as well." Mr Defngin further stated, "My staff are enthusiastic about articulating our office's vision, mission and values which will set our auditing direction for the next several years."

Staff of OPA described the workshop as enlightening and worthwhile. One of the management staff said, "The workshop has presented us with the prospects to make strategic improvements in various areas of our overall office operations. It has shown us the bigger picture and a more realistic perception of where our Office currently stands."

This assignment is supported by the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Photo above: Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia Office of the Public Auditor with Auditor General, Mr Achilles Defngin (fourth from the left) and PASAI Director of Practice Development, Sina Palamo-losefo (fourth from the right).

Assessment of the Tonga Office of the Auditor General

Capacity development of Pacific Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) continued with the assessment of the Tonga Office of the Auditor General (TOAG) conducted on 4-8 July 2016 using the INTOSAI SAI Performance Measurement Framework (SAI PMF).

The SAI PMF is a global framework that enables SAIs to perform voluntary assessments of their performance against International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) and other established international good practices for external public auditing. It is a universal tool which can be applied to all types of SAI regardless of governance structure, mandate, national context and development level. The development of the “lite” version of the SAI PMF and its use by smaller Pacific SAIs is in line with PASAI’s regional strategic priorities of helping Pacific SAIs to strengthen their independence, complete high quality audits on a timely basis and enhance their institutional capacity and capability.

The TOAG SAI PMF assessment was conducted by an internal assessment team from the TOAG and peer reviewed by the Tuvalu Audit Office (TAO) with support from PASAI. The TOAG team was co-ordinated by Mr Kelepi Makakaufaki while the peer review team included Ms. Claire Kelly (PASAI consultant), Mrs Sinaroseta Palamosefo, PASAI Director of Practice Development, Mr. Eli Lopati (Auditor General - TAO) and Mrs Imase Kaunatu (TAO). The Auditor General of TOAG, Mr. Sefita Tangi, management and staff of the SAI provided great support to the assessment team during the week.

Following the completion of the assessment, the peer review team presented its preliminary findings to the staff of the TOAG. Mr Tangi expressed his appreciation of the assessment and gratitude for the review. He said, “This is the first time that the Office has been reviewed. The results of the assessment will help us prioritise and focus our efforts on areas requiring improvement and development”. Management also acknowledged the importance of the assessment and their acceptance of the preliminary findings as constructive feedback on areas where the SAI requires improving.

The team is expected to complete and finalise its report on the assessment at a reporting workshop in November 2016 following further pilots to be completed in other countries in the South Pacific. This will be followed by another set of pilots in the Northern Pacific in 2017.

The SAI PMF “lite” project is a collaboration between PASAI and INTOSAI Donor Secretariat (IDS) and INTOSAI Development Initiatives (IDI) with funding assistance from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

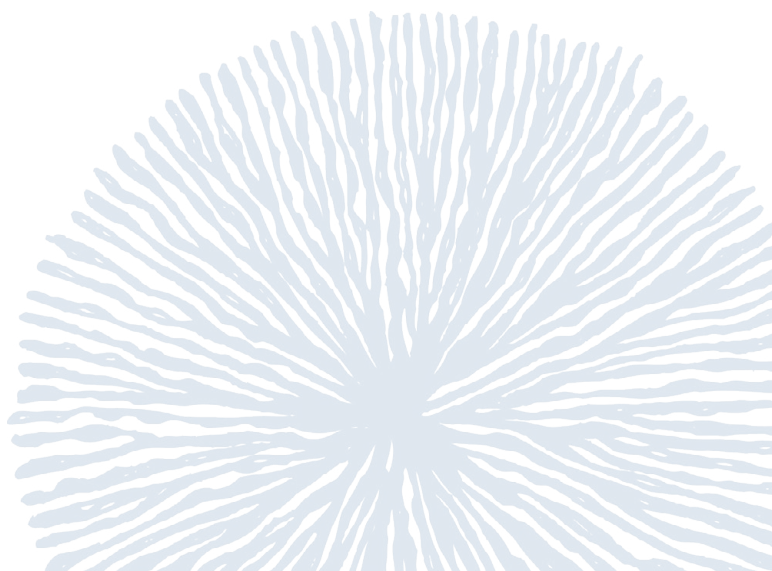




Photo above: Teammate Training OAG Solomon Islands participants. From Left to Right (Backrow): Randall Noda (Audit Manager), Vincent Tapidaka (Senior Auditor), Johnson Lobo (Senior Auditor), Joe Tepenoki (Senior Auditor), Peter Danitofea (Senior Auditor), Ben Arilasi (Auditor), Joan Andrew (Senior Auditor). Frontrow: Philemon Kaola (Senior Auditor), Vance Hetariki (Teammate Australasia Business Development Manager), Peter Lokay (Auditor General) and Mary Oldan (Senior Auditor)

Teammate Training for Solomon Islands Auditors

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) Solomon Islands hosted a two day Teammate training workshop for its staff on the 25th and 26th of August 2016. A total of 14 officers attended the workshop over the two days, which was very beneficial to the SAI and its staff. "The training provided was good and it was good timing as most of us are working on our first pilot project using TeamMate," said one participant. Another participant stated, "The training was good and in time as most of our staff have just returned from their first teammate project."

The participants gained administration knowledge of the programme and valuable hands on experience while being guided by their Trainer, Vance Hetariki, Business Development Manager for Wolterskluwer TeamMate Australasia. "Vance helped solve all our officers' queries and created an atmosphere of confidence among the OAG officers using the Teammate system," one of the participants said.

The workshop was funded by the OAG Solomon Islands and they look forward to doing more training in the future.

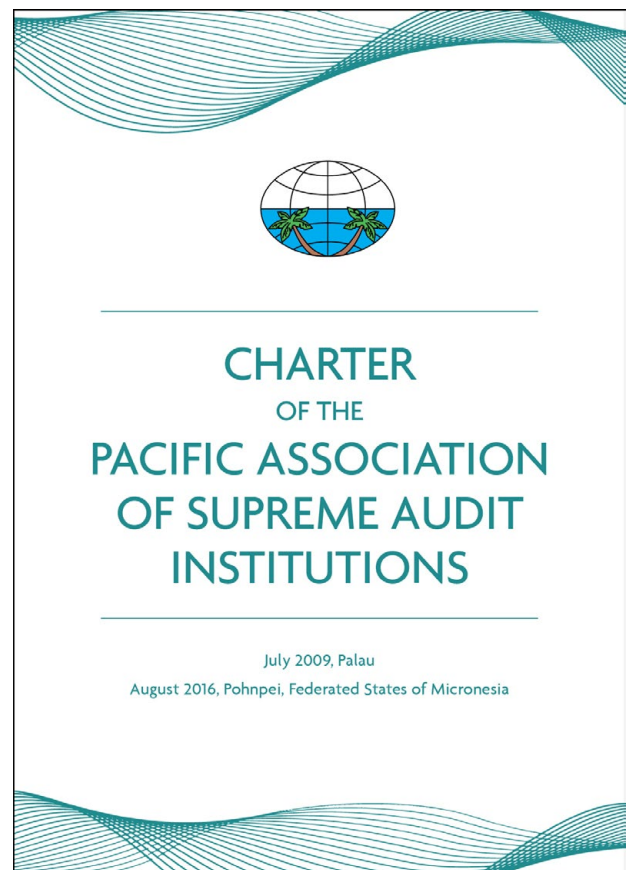
PASAI Charter and Governance Reforms

The Pohnpei Congress saw a new milestone in PASAI's existence, when the Congress approved a revision of its Charter, the founding document. At the same time, the Governing Board adopted a new Governance Code, which will enable the Board to function to its full potential in accordance with best practice in corporate governance.

PASAI's Charter was adopted in 2009 at the Congress in Palau. It has stood the test of time, but very few of the SAI Heads who were involved in its adoption are still in office today. By approving the new Charter, the current generation of SAI Heads reaffirmed its underlying tenets of regional co-operation and working together to achieve improved public sector auditing outcomes in the Pacific. Also, PASAI as an organization has grown and matured hugely since then, especially in the way the Governing Board and the Secretariat function and operate. While the revised Charter leaves PASAI's overall mission, objectives, and governance structure intact, a number of changes were made to:

- improve its alignment with the current Strategic Plan
- give effect to the evolving governance practices
- give effect to the division of responsibilities for developing and implementing strategy
- better recognize the contributions of PASAI's development partners.

The intention is that the revised Charter, supported by the new Governance Code, will have greater visibility for SAI Heads – whether as members of the Congress or, when the opportunity arises, as serving members of the Governing Board. Both documents are available on the website at <http://www.pasai.org/charter/>. They have also now been published in booklet form, together with the new Code of Conduct which the Board adopted earlier this year. The booklet will be circulated to all SAI Heads and additional copies are available on request to the Secretariat at secretariat@pasai.org



Meeting on Guidance development for Auditing SDGs Programme, New York, USA.

The first meeting of the resource team to develop the draft guidance on auditing preparedness for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) from 27 - 29 July 2016 at the United Nations Headquarter in New York City.

The INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) in co-operation with the INTOSAI Knowledge Sharing Committee, Chaired by SAI India, has launched a capacity development programme on 'Auditing Sustainable Development Goals'. The programme aims at supporting SAIs in conducting high quality audits of implementation of SDGs. One of the key deliverables of this programme was to develop the draft guidance to be ready for discussion during INCOSAI 2016. Most of the work will be done online between June and November 2016, with two planned face-to-face meetings for the team.

The outputs of this first meeting were: the final structure of the Guidance on Audit of Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was determined; the resource mapping and responsibilities were assigned; and the timelines were agreed. Since the New York meeting, an online Community of Practice (CoP) has been created and the access details for the team to continue the discussion on their respective drafts.

The second meeting will be a Product Development Meeting to agree on the final draft, which will be held from 3 to 7 October 2016 in New Delhi, India

The resource team comprised of representatives from IDI, UNDESA, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), PASAI and SAIs of Brazil, India, Indonesia and United Arab Emirates. PASAI was represented at this meeting by the Chief Executive.



Photo above: The resource team

IDI Workshop with INTOSAI regions in Oslo, Norway.

Since 2014, the IDI and INTOSAI regions have been meeting on an annual basis to discuss and agree on topics of mutual interest. The meeting this year was held in Oslo, Norway from 31 August – 2 September, 2016, and all seven regions of INTOSAI were represented. PASAI was represented by the Chief Executive.

The meeting provided opportunity for the regions to share experiences and learn from each other on various issues, with great emphasis that the regions' activities and programs are to benefit the SAls. During the meeting, participants continued working on the Regional Strategic Management Framework and had some useful discussions towards agreeing on a final version. Once the final version is provided, the intention is for each region to customize the generic framework to their specific context. The framework also tried to link with the Capacity Building Committee's (CBC) regional professionalism framework. IDI also shared the work done so far on INTOSAI Competency Framework and on programme monitoring and follow up. The meeting was also briefed on the upcoming INCOSAI to be held in Abu Dhabi in December and discussed the role of the regions on the INCOSAI themes and regional plans for booths and seminars. There were also discussions on regions' perspectives on their needs from the INTOSAI Global Survey which a draft was presented before the workshop and discussed during the meeting. The IDI also sought regional inputs and advice during which the participants provided their general feedback and advice to the IDI. In the margin of the meeting IDI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PASAI to co-operate and work in partnership with each other in the development and delivery of their respective initiatives and programmes in the Pacific, to the benefit of Pacific SAls.

The next meeting will be held in September 2017 in Oslo, Norway.



Photo above: IDI workshop participants in Oslo, Norway.

PASAI's new Communications Advisor

PASAI appointed Tina Vaka as their new Communications Advisor in June, 2016 for an initial contractual period of three months. She is a graduate from Victoria University, Wellington NZ with a Masters in Applied Linguistics and a postgraduate Diploma in TESL. She is also a graduate from the University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Education. Her experience includes teaching English, writing and business courses at Victoria University, University of Auckland, Best Pacific Institute of Education and the Manukau Institute of Technology in NZ. As a former Programme Manager for Holmes Colleges in Brisbane, the former Director of Say What Training in Tonga and the Director of ICON Community Inc., Tina brings a wealth of communications, training and public relations skills and experience to her role as Communications Advisor.

"I'm excited to be part of a proactive team of professionals at the PASAI Secretariat. The work is not only interesting, but it is making a positive difference to the lives of people in the Pacific which is something that I'm passionate about!"



Photo above: PASAI Communications Advisor, Tina Vaka.

PASAI Secretariat welcomes new Systems Developer

The Secretariat welcomed its new Systems Developer, Mr Tu'amalie Paea in July. Mr Paea is contracted by the Secretariat for four months to develop a Web Information System that will be an easy-to-use, centralized repository of information to record, analyze and store critical data regarding the activities of the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions' (PASAI) members. It will also store data on PASAI's activities to support implementation of its strategic plan and be an information hub for strategic, operational and periodic plans and reports.

Born in Neiafu Vava'u, Tonga, Mr Paea is a Senior Computer Programmer, Database/Web Designer, and Systems Developer. Tu'amalie has a Bachelor of Computer Science and Information Systems from the University of the South Pacific, and a Masters of Information Technology from the University of Queensland, Australia.

Tu'amalie's systems development experience started with the Government of Tonga where he helped develop a Web Portal and a number of computer systems. He was also engaged by the Department of Climate Change as a TA National Consultant in March 2016. Tu'amalie has joined the Secretariat as an international consultant funded by the Asian Development Bank.



Photo above: PASAI IT Consultant, Mr Tu'amalie Paea.

PASAI CALENDAR

THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

- **12 – 16 September** : Kiribati SAI legal support, Tarawa, Kiribati
 - **12 September – 14 October** : Solomon Islands SAI technical support, Honiara, Solomon Islands
 - **12 - 23 September 2016** : IDI SAI Young Leader Design Meeting, Oslo, Norway
 - **14 – 22 September** : IDI SAI Young Leaders Global Program Design meeting, Oslo, Norway.
 - **3 - 6 October 2016** : INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee (CBC) Meeting, Cape Town, South Africa.
 - **3 - 6 October 2016** : INTOSAI Donor Cooperation Steering Committee Meeting, Cape Town, South Africa
 - **3 - 6 October 2016** : Samoa SAI PMF Peer Review, Apia, Samoa
 - **3 – 7 October** : IDI Product Development meeting – audit of SDGs, New Delhi, India
 - **10 – 14 October** : Communications Workshop for Tonga SAI, Nuku'alofa, Tonga
 - **10 – 21 October** : IDI SAIs Engagement with Stakeholders Program design meeting, Manila, Philippines
 - **17 – 26 October** : Tuvalu SAI PMF Peer Review, Funafuti, Tuvalu
 - **24 – 28 October** : Regional Performance Audit Project Team Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand.
 - **7-11 November 2016** : SAI PMF Reporting Workshop, Nuku'alofa, Tonga
 - **14 – 18 November** : IDI SAI Independence Guidance Meeting, Oslo, Norway
 - **21 – 25 November** : Regional workshop on Building Capacity to effectively audit the management of public assets , Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.
 - **5 – 9 December** : Communications workshop for Fiji SAI, Suva, Fiji
 - **5 – 9 December** : PASAI/PFTAC Regional workshop on Strengthening Oversight Functions of PFM through internal and external audits, Honiara, Solomon Islands
 - **5 – 11 December** : INCOSAI, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
 - **9 December** : International Anti-Corruption Day.
 - **12 – 16 December** : Regional Cooperative Compliance Audit Procurement Reporting meeting, Apia, Samoa
- ### 2017
- **19 – 25 January** : PAC Workshop & Awareness program, Apia, Samoa
 - **23 – 27 January** : SAI PMF Lite Planning Meeting (North SAIs), Guam.
 - **23 – 24 February** : 16th Governing Board Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand