



# Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI)

## Status of the Pacific Regional Audit Initiative (PRAI)

### April 2010

#### PASAI Mandate and Objectives

PASAI promotes transparent, accountable, effective, and efficient use of public sector resources in the Pacific.

PASAI contributes to that goal by helping its member SAs improve the quality of public sector auditing in the Pacific to uniformly high standards.

To that objective, PASAI's mandate is to strengthen understanding, co-operation and coordination between its members by advocating the interest in good governance and build and sustain auditing capacity while assisting its members to perform their auditing functions. It also serves as a regional working group of INTOSAI and encourage co-operation with other regional working groups.

#### PRAI

The Pacific Regional Audit initiative (PRAI) is a Pacific Plan initiative.

The PRAI's overarching objective is to raise Pacific public auditing to uniformly-high standards.

This in turn is expected to improve transparency and accountability in managing and using public resources.

#### PASAI Congress and Governing Board Meeting

The PASAI Secretariat has received only 6 registrations for the Kiribati PASAI Congress to date. Intending participants are requested to register early for the Congress and make necessary hotel bookings.

The Kiribati National Audit Office has made a few changes to the Congress Program and this will be circulated for your information.

#### PASAI Secretariat

Heads of SAs and stakeholders should have now received a second announcement on the Technical and Methodology Advisor position. The PASAI decided to re-advertise the position after the applicant who was identified turned down PASAI's offer of employment. Applications close on 19 May 2010.

The PASAI Secretariat has appointed Ms. Pearl Segi as its Administrative Assistant and she commenced work Monday 3 May 2010.

#### Capacity Development Program

Invitations have been sent to the participants of the first of the two Capacity Building "Kick-off" Conference which will be responsible for the development of manuals and training materials. The conference is scheduled for 21 to 29 June 2010. The early part of the conference will be attended by Mr. Bruce Robertson on behalf of the Secretary General of PASAI, and a number of experts including former New Zealand Auditor General Mr. Kevin Brady and the Senior Financial Management Specialist of the World Bank Sydney Office Ms. Kylie Coulson.

#### PASAI Cooperative Performance Audit

The report-back meeting of the cooperative performance audit was held in Novotel Nadi Fiji between 8 and 15 April 2010. The conference was a success with the participants completing the draft reports of the audits of the management of solid waste. The heads of SAs involved in the audits have confirmed that the reports will be ready for sign off on or around 31 May 2010.

The Cooperative Audit Advisor has commenced preparing the regional report of the solid waste audit based on the findings of the 10 SA reports. The regional report is expected to be tabled in the PASAI Governing Board meeting and Kiribati Congress in July 2010.

#### PASAI Sub-regional Audit Support (SAS) Program

The SAS Program Advisors will be presenting a report of the first round of the SAS Program to the SAS Committee when it convenes in a meeting in Suva on 17 and 18 May 2010. The meeting will also be attended by representatives of Ministry of Finance and state-owned enterprises which were audited in the first round of the SAS program. The meeting agenda includes: review and update on the SAS program; feedback from Heads of SAs, and representatives of Ministry of Finance and state-owned enterprises; and planning for phases 2 and 3 of the program.

The meeting will also discuss a new technical assistance for the three countries called *Strengthening Public Financial Management in Pacific Developing Member Countries*.

For any clarification of any of the items in this update, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Director by

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## 2009 Accountability and Transparency in the Pacific Region

Professor Michael Powles has completed a commentary on the 2009 Accountability and Transparency Report. The commentary has been circulated for review by a subcommittee of the Governing Board comprising the Chairman of PASAI, the Secretary General and Mr. Paul Allsworth. The subcommittee will participate in a telephone conference in the second week of May to discuss the commentary. The Accountability and Transparency Report and its commentary will be tabled in the Governing Board meeting and the PASAI Kiribati Congress in July 2010.

## Funding

A Partnership Framework in respect of AusAID funding to PASAI is being reviewed by legal advisors. The agreement is expected to be signed soon and PASAI expects to receive the first tranche of the assistance of AUD1 million within 30 days of signing.

A similar agreement with the World Bank is being developed with the Secretariat being required to provide an updated Procurement Plan to facilitate the process. NZAID assistance in 2010 now seems unlikely following recent negotiations.

## Project Management Framework

Mr Benjamin Stephens tabled a first draft report of the Project Management Framework (PMF) in a meeting attended by Bruce Robertson, on behalf of the Secretary General, Robert Buchanan (PASAI's Legal Advisor) and the Secretariat staff on 29 April 2010. Mr. Buchanan also presented a risk management template which will form an essential component of the PMF. The PMF report is scheduled for completion by end of May 2010.



ADB-IDI-PASAI Cooperation Performance Audit report back meeting  
8th - 15th April 2010  
Nadi, Fiji Islands