



Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI)

Status of the Pacific Regional Audit Initiative (PRAI)

June 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.

Nadi Governing Board Meeting and Kiribati Congress – July 2010

The PASAI Secretariat circulated papers to the members of the Governing Board for its 3rd meeting to be held at Novotel Nadi on 5 July 2010. The Secretariat also circulated papers and presentations to all PASAI members and stakeholders who will be attending the XIII PASAI Congress in Tarawa Kiribati between 7 and 9 July 2010.

PASAI Secretariat

New Staff - Ms Elizabeth Tommy, a former Senior Audit Manager of the Cook Islands Audit Office has been recruited as PASAI's Technical and Methodology Advisor. She commenced work on 15 June and prepared for and participated in the Capacity Building "Kick-Off" Conference.

2009 Accounts - The 2009 accounts for PASAI are being compiled and these should be ready for review by the Governing Board when it meets in Nadi on 5 July 2010. The audited accounts will be included in the annual report of the organization.

Website - The design of the PASAI website has been confirmed and the Secretariat is gathering data to load onto the site. These include PASAI reports such as accountability reports, annual reports and publications, the PASAI Charter & Rules, manuals and guidelines, upcoming events in PASAI calendar and links to other SAs' websites.

Bulletin - The 14th issue of the PASAI Bulletin for June 2010 (the first compiled by the PASAI Secretariat) was released in June 2010. In the future, the publication will be issued on a quarterly basis, and SAs are encouraged to contribute to the publication by sharing key developments in their SAs. The Bulletin will include information on audit reports that have been released, the impact of audits in the public service and the community in general, interesting audit results that can be shared, updates on INTOSAI meetings attended and briefs of those meetings and other news-worthy items. Contributions for the September 2010 issue of the Bulletin close on 31 August.

Capacity Building "Kick-off" Conference

The Capacity Building "Kick-off" Conference, held at the Mercure Hotel Auckland between 21 and 29 June ended on high note with the working groups mapping out clearly the design of 3 manuals and 2 training courses. The 21 participants from 14 SAs and 5 coordinators discussed and reviewed tasks to be completed by each group in the next year.

The key-note address was delivered by Ms Kylie Coulson, the Senior Financial Management Specialist based in the World Bank's Sydney Office. She discussed the importance that the Bank places on the work and value of SAs and the bank's commitment to sponsoring programs such as the conference. Mr Bruce Robertson delivered an address on behalf of the Secretary General of PASAI, stressing that participants need to work hard to complete the tasks effectively given the special challenges (such as distance between SAs and communications difficulties) that SAs in the region face. He also mentioned that collaboration and cooperation are essential to building the consensus to ensure the success of the region-wide initiative.

Below is a photo of the participants of the Capacity Building Kick-off Conference.



Cooperative Performance Audit

All the ten SAs which participated in the first cooperative performance audit on the management of solid waste have completed their audit reports. Eight SAs have completed quality assurance on the reports and received management comments and the heads of five SAs have signed off the reports. One of the participating SAs has made its report public and received wide media coverage. For extracts of the media coverage, please refer to the following links:

Guam Pacific Daily News –

<http://www.guampdn.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201006250300/NEWS01/6250326>

KUAM - <http://www.kuam.com/global/story.asp?s=12700694>

Marianas Variety - http://www.mvguam.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12908:opa-ordot-a-costly-failure&catid=1:guam-local-news&Itemid=2

Pacific News Center

http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6053:opa-says-govguam-not-prepared-to-take-over-solid-waste-&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156

The draft regional audit report, based on the findings of the 10 SAs audits, has been completed and will be tabled in the Nadi Governing Board meeting and the PASAI Kiribati Congress. As reported in the May 2010 Update, the report will not be made public until all SAs reports have been tabled in the legislatures of the participating countries.

PASAI Sub-regional Audit Support (SAS) Program

It is unfortunate that the two SAS experts have not requested extensions of their contracts to cover the second round of the program. Mr Alex George, the SAS Coordinator has requested not to continue for personal reasons. Ms Beulah Daunakamakama, the SAS Expert has accepted an appointment with the Asian Development Bank to improve public financial management in the 3 countries; Nauru, Kiribati and Tuvalu. Thus she'll continue to be involved in an indirect role with the SAS program.

The two vacant positions have been advertised, and PASAI hopes to have them filled before the start of the second round of the SAS program in September 2010.

2009 Report on Accountability and Transparency in the Pacific Region and the 2010 Survey

The 2009 Report on Accountability and Transparency in the Pacific Region and its commentary have been published and these will be circulated to the members of PASAI in the Kiribati Congress. Copies of the documents can be obtained from the PASAI Secretariat on request. The published report and commentary will be available from the PASAI website by 31 July 2010.

The PASAI Secretariat has commenced preparations for the 2010 survey which will include an in-depth study of accountability and transparency mechanisms on a sample of 7 countries from the region. The names of the countries will be confirmed after the Nadi Governing Board meeting. Countries not covered in the in-depth study will be surveyed by questionnaires.

Funding

The World Bank has produced a grant agreement for its assistance in the development of manuals and guidelines, and training materials. The agreement has been reviewed by the PASAI legal advisor and will be signed by the Secretary General soon.

The ADB is preparing documentation for the first allocation of funds under the technical assistance for the second phase of the project. PASAI hopes to receive this fund in late August 2010.

Project Management Framework

The first draft of a project management framework has been completed. It is designed to be implemented at an individual project level and follows best practice project management guidelines, with templates and completed examples. It has been designed to be used as a standard, but flexible, methodology for a wide range of projects.

The next step will be to obtain input on the draft framework from the Secretary-General and key development partners, and to do further work to integrate the framework into the Secretariat's newly-acquired financial management system. Once this work has been completed, the framework will be submitted to the Governing Board for endorsement and approval.

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

Email:	enquiry@pasai.org
Telephone:	+64 9 304 1275
Fax:	+64 9 307 9324

Eroni Vatuloka
Executive Director