



PASAI UPDATE

Pacific Auditors working together

Independence resource kit under development

The PASAI Secretariat is developing a resource kit for SAIs to address independence issues in countries in the region. Developing the kit is an activity under the PASAI Strategic Plan 2014–24. It aligns to output *1A2 Support SAIs to access expertise to address independence issues*. An important component of the activity is for SAIs to assess their requirements for independence resources.

As part of this work, SAIs self-assessed their independence requirements against *Domain B — Independence and legal framework in the SAI Performance Measurement Framework*. This framework covers four dimensions:

1. appropriate and effective constitutional and legal framework
2. financial independence and autonomy
3. organisational independence and autonomy
4. independence of the head of SAI and the SAI's officials.

For each dimension, SAIs were asked if they meet each criteria or to give a brief description of what they need to address against each criteria. So far, self-assessments have been received from: American Samoa, Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Federated States of Micronesia (National, Pohnpei and Yap), Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

If you need help with completing your self-assessment, contact the Secretariat for assistance.

The resource kit will include a list of regional experts and development partners. Stakeholders have also been asked if they could share their expert database for this resource.

Grant funding agreements close to complete

Negotiations for the new grant funding agreements for the next three years are continuing with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). PASAI hopes these negotiations will be completed and grant agreements signed by November 2014.



Cooperative financial audit — foreign aid projects

The cooperative financial audit on foreign aid projects is ISSAI-based and follows the risk-based approach to financial audits. Twelve participants from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu and Tonga participated in the reporting meeting held in Nadi, Fiji on 13–18 October 2014.

The main objective of the reporting meeting was to look at how the risk-based approach to financial audits is being applied in planning, executing, and reporting on the foreign aid audits. SAls brought their audit working files, audit reports, and management reports to the meeting for review and to finalise the audit findings. The meeting was very productive and interactive, with recommendations made about how SAls could further improve these audits.

Thanks go to the Director of Audit, Cook Islands, Mr Allen Parker, for approving his Senior Auditor Ms Aolele Sua Aloese to participate as the subject matter expert at the reporting meeting. PASAI also acknowledges the continued support of IDI and the involvement of IDI Program Manager Md Shofiqul Islam.

PASAI's Technical Support Advisor, Ms Agnes Aruwafu, has started drafting a regional report, summarising the outcomes and outputs of this cooperative audit to share the lessons learnt during the joint reporting meetings.

Capacity building

Career path training — No tier training was held this month. However, the Secretariat continued to follow up the action plans of participants from previous training. The lessons learnt from previous trainings are important for the Secretariat to help develop and improve future programs. The Secretariat appreciates the support from Heads of SAls in ensuring that participants submit the required reports.

ISSAI implementation initiative — One of the activities for the ISSAI implementation initiative is the assessment (iCATs) SAls must undertake to determine their compliance with ISSAIs. Some SAls are yet to complete their iCAT assessments. The Secretariat and IDI are following up these assessments in preparation for the upcoming iCAT review workshop scheduled to be held in Samoa on 24–28 November 2014.

Enhancing capability — One of the strategic priorities for the PASAI Secretariat's long-term strategy is to enhance SAI capacity and capability by assisting SAls to develop comprehensive strategic plans and performance measurement frameworks. The Secretariat will follow up with SAls on the progress of these plans and let you know the details of the assistance the Secretariat can provide.



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Kiribati completes Round 4 of SAS program

During the period 1 September to 10 October 2014, the Kiribati phase of Round 4 of the SAS program was successfully completed. The following activities were undertaken:

Activity 1: Training. Training included formal sessions with secondees followed by on-the-job training during the course of the Kiribati Shipping Services Limited (KSSL) audit. Training was also provided to all Kiribati National Audit Office staff on specific topics relevant to their work based on consultation with staff and management.

Activity 2: Audit. The primary task of the SAS team was to complete the audit of KSSL for the financial years 2012 and 2013. The outputs of this audit are a final draft management letter and an audit opinion for each of the two financial years audited.

Activity 3: Follow-up of recommendations. The SAS consultants presented recommendations on how the Kiribati National Audit Office can follow up previous audit recommendations more effectively, providing templates to track, document, and report this work.

Activity 4: Support to other Kiribati National Audit Office staff. The SAS consultants also supported Kiribati National Audit Office staff with other tasks. The primary focus of this support was considering the audit of the Kiribati Oil Company (KOIL) and making further progress on the systems audit of the government's financial management system (Attaché); both these activities commenced under the previous round of the SAS program.

The final phase of Round 4 will be in Tuvalu for the period 10 November to 19 December 2014.

PASAI acknowledges the continuing support of the ADB for this program.

Accounting and travel services

PASAI has received satisfactory interest from its two advertisements for companies to provide accounting and travel services. The applications are being shortlisted and interviews will be conducted in November 2014.

THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

3–7 November: Tier 1 Training, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

10 November – 19 December: SAS Round 4, Tuvalu phase

24–28 November: iCATs review workshop, Apia, Samoa

22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015: PASAI Secretariat closed for Christmas and New Year

To be confirmed: 12th Governing Board meeting, Auckland, New Zealand

9–13 March 2015: Tier 3 in-country workshop, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

12–14 November: AFROSAI-E — 9th Annual Technical Update, Pretoria, South Africa

1–3 December: IDI Planning and Prioritisation meeting — Oslo, Norway

FURTHER INFORMATION

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