

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.

1. Performance Measurement Framework Survey

The Secretariat appreciates the efforts of the heads of SAs in completing their SAI survey and coordinating the stakeholder survey. Only 6 SAs have yet to send their completed surveys. The result of the surveys is an important data for the development of PASAI's long-term strategy.

2. Twinning Arrangements between PASAI and ACAG

In the PASAI November 2012 Update, PASAI requested heads of SAs to get in touch with their twinning partners, the Auditors-General of ACAG, and discuss how to proceed with this program. The twinning SAs are as follows:

ACAG	PASAI
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	Kiribati
New South Wales (NSW)	Solomon Islands
Northern Territory (NT)	Timor Leste (not a PASAI member)
Queensland (QAO)	Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea (secondary role)
South Australia (SA)	Tonga
Tasmania (Tas)	Fiji
Western Australia (WA)	Cook Islands
Victoria (Vic)	Nauru, Tuvalu
New Zealand (NZ)	Samoa
Australian National Audit Office (ANAO)	Papua New Guinea (PNG)

If heads of SAs have difficulty contacting their ACAG partner, please get in touch with the Secretariat. Some of the twinning arrangements have started to develop and benefits being realised. The Secretariat is keen to see all relationships prosper and is willing to provide advice as partners meet and discuss the real opportunities that "twinning" open up and how twinning-based development can draw on PASAI resources.

3. Capacity Building

Career Path Training – Tier 4: Managing Government Audits was completed on 12 April 2013 and preparations are underway for the second offering of Tier 2: Intermediate Government Auditing Skills training, which will be held in May 2013.

Action through implementation cements in good practice. The Secretariat continues to follow up participants of previous training about submission of signed post training action plans. The Secretariat has also taken measures to encourage participants, as well as SAs, to implement post training action plans to reflect lessons learnt as well as the impact of the training offered.

ISSAI Implementation Initiative (3i Programme) – The Capacity Building Advisor is following up with the SAIs on their assessments using ISSAI Compliance Assessment Tools (iCATs). The SAIs are expected to complete three assessments using the three iCATs in February, April and June 2013. As of the end of the month, only one SAI had submitted its assessment using one of the iCATs. One SAI has indicated that it plans to complete all three iCATs in April, May and June 2013. Again the benefits of this program will only be realized through implementation. Please contact the Secretariat if we can provide advice or support.

Certification Program – Information on the Practising International Public Sector Administrator (PIPSA) designation offered by the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) - NSW Division has been given to all the SAIs for them to decide whether or not they want to participate in this program. To date, four SAIs have responded and so far two staff are interested in undertaking the program. 31 May 2013 is the deadline for SAIs to respond, so that the Secretariat can finalise further arrangements for the program.

4. Co-operative Performance Audits (CPA)

4th CPA – Auditing Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk and Recovery (DRR) - The ten SAIs participating in the 4th cooperative audit – Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the FSM State of Kosrae and the FSM State of Pohnpei, Fiji, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu will meet in June 2013 to finalise their reports. To assist in the successful completion of these audit reports, the Cooperative Performance Audit Advisor is working with teams prior to the report finalisation meeting. The Victorian Auditor-General's Office is supporting the Tuvalu Audit Office with this audit under the ACAG/PASAI twinning program.

5th CPA Audit of Public Debt - Preparations are underway for the planning meeting scheduled for 22 - 27 July 2013 in Nadi, Fiji. The eight SAIs participating in the cooperative audit are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) - National, the FSM State of Kosrae and the FSM State of Pohnpei, Fiji, Guam, Samoa and the Republic of Marshall Islands.

5. SAS Program

The 5th SAS Committee meeting was held in Auckland, New Zealand on 23-24th April 2013 to discuss the third round of the SAS Program. The meeting was attended by the heads of SAI from Nauru, Kiribati and Tuvalu, PASAI Secretary-General's Office and the PASAI Secretariat.



SAS committee members

Front row l - r: Ms Gillian Itsimaera (Nauru), Mrs Matereta Raiman (Kiribati) and Mrs Lyn Provost (Secretary-General)
Back l - r: Mrs Agnes Aruwafu (Technical Support Advisor), Mr Eli Lopati (Tuvalu), Mr Eroni Vatuloka (Executive Director) and Mr Robert Buchanan (Legal Advisor)

The meeting produced the following key outputs:

- discussed and approved the new and improved governance structure;
- signed an improved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Kiribati National Audit Office, Department of Audit Nauru, Office of the Auditor-General of Tuvalu (collectively 'the participating SAls'), PASAI and ADB;
- participating SAls discussed their specific objectives and priorities for the third SAS program including the timing;
- reviewed and deliberated on preferred candidates for the roles of SAS program coordinator and SAS audit expert.

PASAI's new role in managing the third round of the SAS program will ensure the effective and efficient planning and implementation of the program for all parties in accordance with the signed MOU.

The proposed timing of approximately 7 weeks in each country is:

- Nauru visit mid-June to July 2013;
- Tuvalu visit mid-August to September 2013;
- Kiribati visit mid-October to November 2013.

We remain grateful for the ongoing support of ADB, whose funds have enabled this program to be carried this year.

6. Strategic Management and Operational Guidelines (SMOG)

Phase three of the SMOG project involving the SMOG Assistance Program has been completed. The SMOG was finalised with comments and feedback received from SAls, the SMOG Workshop for heads of SAls held in December 2012 and, the piloting of the SMOG during the SMOG assistance mission by the SMOG Advisor. The draft SMOG will be sent to the PASAI Secretariat to undergo final quality reviews before it is prepared for endorsement by the Governing Board Meeting at the Guam Congress in September.

The SMOG Advisor will continue to provide support to SAls under the SMOG Assistance Program including other SAls requiring assistance.

7. Financial Audit Manual

The first draft of the PASAI Financial Audit Manual and Guidance Notes are being finalised and will soon be distributed to the group of reviewers from SAls in the region. The manual will be used by the SAS countries when the third round of the program starts in June 2013. It will also be available for general use and will form the basis for our ongoing training program.

It's intended to be an on-line, easily accessible manual. The manual will not be printed by PASAI, but rather made available as an online reference that can be refined and updated regularly by the PASAI Secretariat.

8. PASAI Calendar

In the next six months, PASAI has the following activities planned:

- 21-22 May – Tier 2 *Intermediate Government Auditing*, coordinators' meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 23-31 May – Tier 2 *Intermediate Government Auditing* training, Nadi, Fiji;
- 17-22 June – 4th CPA Climate Change Audit reporting meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 15-19 July – International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)/ International Accounting Standards (IAS) workshop, Suva, Fiji;
- 22-26 July – 5th CPA Public Debt planning meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 9 September – 9th PASAI Governing Board meeting, Guam;
- 10-13 September – 16th PASAI Congress, Guam;
- 16-20 September – APIPA Congress, Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands; and
- 21-25 October, XXI INCOSAI, Beijing, China.

For further information, please contact the PASAI Secretariat:

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