

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. 15th PASAI Congress

Preparations for the 15th PASAI Congress are progressing well, with thanks to Francois and his team at the New Caledonia SAI for their hard work.

PASAI members, development partners and stakeholders who have indicated they will attend the Congress are requested to send their completed registration forms to the PASAI Secretariat or to the host, the SAI of New Caledonia, as early as possible. For any enquiries, please contact the Secretariat, sook.vun@pasai.org.

The PASAI Secretariat circulated a Congress presentation template to Heads of SAs to complete the paper on key developments in their jurisdictions. As at the due date 31 August 2012, the Secretariat has received only 10 submissions. Again, to help the Secretariat, it would be appreciated if all completed presentations are forwarded as soon as possible. SAs requiring any assistance should contact the Executive Director, eroni.vatuloka@pasai.org.

2. Capacity Building

Several capacity building projects are moving from the development to the implementation phase and some new projects were recently launched. Four of the five planned manuals have been distributed to SAs, donors and stakeholders. As the second offering of training programs are completed, they are being finalised and put into an on-going annual PASAI training schedule. IDI's ISSAI Implementation Initiative (3is), presented in the July update, will be further discussed in October at the Congress being held in Noumea, New Caledonia. Additionally the new Strategic Management and Operational Guidelines (SMOG) working group's progress will be discussed at the Congress.

Manuals – Hard copies of the Performance Audit Manual will be available at the Noumea Congress for delegates to take away. The manual can also be retrieved from PASAI's website. The manual was endorsed by the Governing Board at its February 2012 meeting.

Training - 21 participants from 15 SAs will be attending the second offering of the Tier 3 career path training, Supervisory Roles in Government Auditing held in Nadi, Fiji, from 3-14 September. Instructors for this session included Margret Numanga (Cook Islands), Julinida Weital (Federated States of Micronesia - National), Mere Waqanicagica (Fiji) and Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo (PASAI Secretariat). Following the training, they will be working with PASAI's Capacity Building Advisor to finalise the course materials.

As the Tier 3 training concludes, Ms. Elina Paul (Federated States of Micronesia - National) and Ms. Lotomoua Tu'ungafasi (Tonga) will be preparing to deliver the second session of the Communicating Effectively Workshop that will be held from 24-28 September.

ISSAI Implementation Initiative – 3i Program – The three mentors for the region have returned from Oslo after being involved with developing iCATs for level 2 and level 4 of the ISSAIs. The next activity for the 3i Program is the ISSAI Certification Program. PASAI was requested to nominate 34 participants for the Certification Program. The allocation of the number of participants from the different SAs in the region was determined by IDI depending on the size of the SAI. At the close of nominations, PASAI was able to submit 28 nominations from 7 SAs. 6 SAs were not able to nominate any participant due to the unavailability of qualified staff. The first part of the Certification Program is an e-learning course on iCATs that will take place from 22 October to 7 December 2012.

Financial Audit Manual – PASAI is in discussion with AFROSAI-E on the adoption of its financial audit manual. More information on progress will be provided at the October PASAI Congress.

Strategic Management and Operational Guidelines (SMOG) Management Workshop - Work on the SMOG project is progressing well according to the targets and milestones set by the Working Group. The group has had two meetings to date through conference calls facilitated by the PASAI Secretariat. These meetings have been vital as a means of engaging the team to discuss pertinent issues concerning the guidelines.

The Working Group has been fortunate to receive valuable feedback from the SMOG champion Mr Peter Achterstraat, Auditor General of New South Wales, who would like to be involved early in the development of the guideline. It is anticipated that the draft would be at a stage ready to be reviewed by the champion and the Executive Director by September.

3. Co-operative Performance Audits

Managing Sustainable Fisheries - The Office of the National Auditor of the Federated States of Micronesia released its performance audit report on the Management of Tuna Fisheries in FSM on 22 June. Since June, the SAIs of the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu have tabled their reports in their respective legislatures. In addition, the SAI of Fiji has lodged its report with its Public Accounts Committee. The remaining five audit reports of the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Samoa and Tonga are currently being finalised.

A preliminary regional overview report has been drafted for consideration at the 15th PASAI Congress and will be progressively updated as the remaining reports are made public.

4th Cooperative Performance Audit on Climate Change Adaptation - Planning for the 4th CPA on climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk and recovery (DRR) strategies is underway. The ADB Performance Audit Advisor and the Coordinator of the RWGEA in conjunction with the PASAI Secretariat will prepare a proposal for a cooperative audit on CCA/DRR for the 15th PASAI congress in October 2012. Expressions of interest in participating in the 4th cooperative audit have been sent to Pacific Island Auditors-General.

4. Support to SAIs

The Executive Director made a visit to the Vanuatu SAI on 20-23 August 2012 and provided support to the Auditor General, Mr John Path. The work involved: briefing of the AG on the achievements that have been made by PASAI under the PRAI; assisting the SAI in developing a simple audit portfolio management system; and, review of the SAI's proposed audit legislation. Mr Path sincerely appreciated the support and indicated that the audit portfolio system will be useful to justify additional funding of audit positions.



Seated: Mr Eroni Vatuloka (left) with Mr John Path (right) the Auditor General of Vanuatu with the staff of the Vanuatu Audit Office.

5. Accountability and Transparency Report 2011

The PASAI Secretariat wishes to thank Head of SAIs for disseminating the media release on the Accountability and Transparency Report 2011 which was released on 17 August 2012. A copy of the report is available from the PASAI website www.pasai.org.

6. SAI Review Survey

Thank you for the completed SAI review surveys. A report of the SAI Review Survey is being drafted for the Governing Board meeting in October, with the objective it be released to the Congress.

7. PASAI Calendar

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

- 3-14 September – *Tier 3 Supervisory Roles* training, Nadi, Fiji;
- 4-5 September - SAS Committee meeting, Auckland, New Zealand;
- 20-21 September – *Communicating Effectively* workshop, co-ordinators preparation meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 24-28 September – *Communicating Effectively* workshop, Nadi, Fiji;
- 1 October – 7th Governing Board meeting, Noumea, New Caledonia;
- 2-5 October – 15th PASAI Congress, Noumea, New Caledonia;
- 19-24 November – Co-operative performance audit (climate change adaptation) planning meeting, Auckland, New Zealand;
- 29-30 November – SMOG coordinators meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 3-5 December – 3i management workshop, Nadi, Fiji;
- 6 -14 December, SMOG management workshop, Nadi, Fiji.

For further information, please contact the PASAI Secretariat:

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