

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. 6th Governing Board meeting

The PASAI Governing Board convened its 6th meeting in Auckland, New Zealand on 1-2 February 2012. Three members of the Board were unable to attend the meeting. The Board noted that significant progress has been made with the PRAI, while there are challenges that PASAI needed to consider to ensure that the organisation remains focused on its strategic goals.



The Board noted the reports of the various programmes and made the following key decisions:

- considered and approved the 6 months financial report and proposed that the refined performance measurement framework be prepared for the next PASAI Congress;
- confirmed the process to prepare the financial and performance audit manuals for the PASAI Congress, approved the champions for the two manuals and training materials and approved the 'cadre of instructors' for the PASAI courses;
- emphasised the need to enhance communication regionally and internationally and obtain maximum impact from the results of the co-operative performance audits;
- noted the results achieved by the sub-regional audit support programme despite the various challenges faced;
- reviewed the draft accountability and transparency report 2011 and approved the process for quality assurance and completion for the PASAI Congress;
- approved the 3 year plan and budget in principle and confirmed the activities to 30 June 2013, and for the organisation to focus on a long-term plan for further discussion in Noumea, New Caledonia in October 2012;
- confirmed the re-appointment of Mr Eroni Vatuloka as Executive Director of PASAI for another 3 years.

The Board reviewed the PASAI Congress Programme and confirmed that it will be held in Noumea, New Caledonia on 2-5 October 2012. Details of the program will be provided in the March 2012 Update.

2. Strategic Management and Operational Guidelines

Of the 11 applications received by the PASAI Secretariat for the PASAI Strategic Management and Operational Guidelines (SMOG) Advisor, only two have been shortlisted for interview. The Secretariat hopes to complete the interviews in March 2012.

The slight delay in the appointment of the advisor will mean the meeting of the SMOG Working Group appointed in January 2012 is postponed to 21-25 May 2012. Consequently, the completion of the guidelines will be delayed by a month or so.

3. Technical Support Advisor

PASAI is looking for a suitably qualified and experienced advisor to provide technical support to SAls in the region especially in adapting and applying the tools and techniques included in the PASAI manuals and guidelines, and the training programs.

The Technical Support Advisor will assist SAls in reviewing and updating their policies and manuals so that they are consistent with the PASAI manuals and guidelines and will support the SAls' efforts to provide audits to uniformly high standards across the Pacific. The advisor will also serve as a member of the instructional teams delivering the 4 Career Path Training courses and provide on-the-job training in accordance with the manuals and guidelines.

The Technical Support Advisor announcement was circulated to SAls in the region on 21 February 2012, and is also available on the PASAI website www.pasai.org. Applications close on Monday 19 March 2012.

4. Co-operative performance audit

Access to safe drinking water - To date, six individual SAI audit reports had been made public. These are from the Cook Islands, FSM – Kosrae, Kiribati, Palau, Samoa and Tuvalu. While Fiji has completed its report and forwarded it to the President for release, this is not likely to occur. FSM – Yap has advised that it will make public its report in the week commencing 5 March. The remaining two SAls, Tonga and PNG have not provided any indication of when their reports will be in the public arena. The PASAI Secretariat will follow up the two SAls' on their intentions with this issue.

The regional overview report was cleared by the Governing Board at its February 2012 meeting and can be forwarded to the editor for publication, once the above situation is clarified.

Managing sustainable fisheries - Eleven SAls are involved in this cooperative audit. Ten are focusing on the sustainable management of tuna stocks within their jurisdiction, while the SAI of Yap is examining the sustainable management of trochus and sea cucumber. Audit teams have completed fieldwork and are now at the report drafting stage. Teams will be coming together to complete their draft reports in Nadi, Fiji on 26-31 March 2012. This exercise will be supported by Mr Allen Parker – formerly the PASAI Capacity Development Advisor and now Director of Audit of the Cook Islands, and Mr Jonathan Keate – Coordinator of the Regional Working Group on Environmental Audit (RWGEA) and located with the NZ OAG.

Three SAls – Cook Islands, Palau and Tuvalu had provided their initial drafts to the CPA advisor for comment. Other SAls are expected to send their draft reports close to the meeting date.

5. Sub-regional audit support programme

The second round of the Sub-regional Audit Support (SAS) programme is coming to a conclusion in March 2012, with the final being a whole of government audit in Tuvalu. Despite the numerous challenges the program has made has made good progress to date, and the secondees are continuously improving in skill levels and capabilities whilst working on the audits. Details of the programme will be provided in a report by the SAS Team for tabling in the Governing Board later this year.

6. PASAI Calendar

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

- 23 January – 23 March 2012 – SAS Tuvalu phase audits;
- 26-30 March – Co-operative performance audit (sustainable fisheries) report-back meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 17-19 April – Pacific Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA) meeting, Sydney, Australia;
- 2-3 May – Tier 2 Intermediate Government Auditing Working Group preparation meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 7-18 May – Tier 2 Intermediate Government Auditing training, Nadi, Fiji;
- 4-6 July – Tier 3 Supervisory Roles Working Group preparation meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 9-20 July – Tier 3 Supervisory Roles training, Nadi, Fiji.
- 23-24 August – Tier 1 Fundamentals of Auditing Working Group preparation meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 27 August - 7 September – Tier 1 Fundamentals of Auditing training, Nadi, Fiji.

For further information, please contact the PASAI Secretariat:

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