

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. 8th PASAI Governing Board Meeting

The Governing Board convened its 8th meeting in Auckland, New Zealand on 12-13 February 2013. While the meeting dealt with its normal business agenda including review of its PRAI programme and activities, its major focus was on the ADB-led review of its PRAI technical assistance grants. The Board received the draft review report and accepted its findings after valued input from ADB reviewer, Ben Graham. Ben's review was wider than straight assessment of the technical assistance grants and with particular input from AusAID and NZ MFAT IDG covered broader issues of the effectiveness of the PRAI overall.



8th PASAI Governing Board Meeting, 12 February 2013, Auckland, New Zealand

This feedback provided good input to the other major agenda item which the Board considered and debated – the process to develop and prepare its next strategy (called by its working title of "PRAI2"). The meeting covered good ground on the form of the long-term strategy. It set itself timelines on the processes to be completed leading to the production of the strategy that could receive the support of the PASAI members at the Guam Congress, as well as from partners and stakeholders.

The Board has also commissioned its own review of PASAI to complement the ADB-led review. The review is being undertaken by Anders Hjerstrand, formerly of the Swedish SAI. He has over 25 years experience in capacity development in AFROSAI-E, including working closely with their Secretariat. He was able to interview all Governing Board members and development partners present to commence his review. Currently he is finalising his review, in conjunction with our legal consultant, Robert Buchanan.

2. Capacity Building

Career Path Training – Tier 1: Fundamentals of Government Auditing training started on 28 February and will be completed on 8 March 2013. The Secretariat is also following up participants of previous training concerning submission of post training action plans.



Participants of the *Tier 1: Fundamentals of Government Auditing* training

ISSAI Implementation Initiative (3i Programme) – The Capacity Building Advisor will follow up with the SAIs on their obligations as defined and agreed to in the Statement of Commitment that was signed in Nadi, Fiji in December 2012. As part of the SAI's commitment to the implementation of ISSAIs, they should use iCATs for the three audit streams to assess their status of compliance.

Certification Program – The Secretariat is consulting with the Institute of Public Administration (IPAA) NSW Division regarding the prerequisites for this program. The SAIs in the region will be notified of the full cost and structure for the program once confirmation from IPAA is received.

3. Co-operative Performance Audits (CPA)

3rd CPA Managing Sustainable Fisheries - The regional overview report was endorsed by the 8th Governing Board and will be published in March 2013.

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 States of Kosrae and Pohnpei, Fiji, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu – are now in fieldwork stage. Audit teams will meet in June 2013 to finalise their reports.

4. SAS Program

The Secretariat has approached the Asian Development Bank to confirm funding of a third round of the Sub-regional Audit Support (SAS) program. The date of funding approval will determine the start date of the program.

The 3rd round of the program will involve the meeting of the SAS Committee to discuss and approve the new governance structure that will ensure appropriate Auditor-General leadership of the programme. The refined MOU provides clarity of who should be responsible for what in the program. The 8th Governing Board meeting has approved the MOU, to be signed by the Auditors-General of the SAIs of Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu when they meet in April 2013.

5. Strategic Management and Operational Guidelines (SMOG)

The Secretariat's SMOG Advisor has been busy planning the SMOG support program. Visits by the SMOG Advisor has been planned in two phases with the first phase from 13 February to 8 March to cover the SAIs of Nauru, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The second phase is scheduled to commence on 17 March and will include the SAIs of Kiribati and Tuvalu.

To date, the visits to Nauru and Solomon Islands SAI's have been completed. The objective of the mission was to provide advice and support on strategic management and operational procedures and practices and the assistance has been tailored to their specific needs in strategic management and planning and linkages to their operational planning.

The SMOG approach will also undergo further review and refining through this process with some piloting to be done in some SAIs.

6. Financial Audit Manual

The Technical Support Advisor has commenced work on the Financial Audit Manual. This is expected to be finalised and sent away to a working group for review by end of April 2013. The group comprises the following:

- Beulah Daunakamakama, Adviser – Vanuatu;
- Desmond Wildin – Cook Islands;
- Finau Nagera, Director of Audit – Fiji;
- Lotomoua Tuugafasi, Deputy Auditor General – Tonga;
- Robert Cohen, Deputy Auditor General – Solomon Islands;
- Tony Prcevich, Adviser – Tuvalu;
- Violet Roebeck-Faasavalu, Assistant Controller and Chief Auditor – Samoa;
- Wayne Jones, Adviser – Papua New Guinea.

This work has been long awaited by both the Governing Board and Secretariat alike. We have been thrilled to get major progress on adopting a FAM and this reflects the value of our cooperation with the AFROSAI-E region.

7. PASAI Calendar

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

- 18 March - Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI), Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU workshop, Suva, Fiji;
- 4-5 April – Tier 4 *Management of Government Audits* coordinators meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 8-12 April – Tier 4 *Management of Government Audits* training, Nadi, Fiji;
- 21-22 May – Tier 2 *Intermediate Government Auditing*, coordinators' meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 23-31 May – Tier 2 *Intermediate Government Auditing* training, Nadi, Fiji; and
- 10-15 June – 4th CPA Climate Change Audit reporting meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 17-22 June – 5th CPA Public Debt planning meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 15-19 July – International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)/ International Accounting Standards (IAS) workshop, Suva, Fiji.

For further information, please contact the PASAI Secretariat:

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