



# Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI)

Status of the Pacific Regional Audit Initiative (PRAI) - March 2012

## 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. INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee Meeting, Jaipur, India – 24-25 February 2012

Bruce Robertson and Eroni Vatuloka attended the fourth meeting of the INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee held in Jaipur India on 24-25 February 2012. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- discuss the progress made on additional financing arrangements for SAI capacity;
- discuss the progress made on the database of SAI capacity development projects;
- discuss the mapping of existing SAI assessment tools and the way forward on the development of an SAI Performance Measurement Framework;
- agree on the nature and direction of future efforts in INTOSAI-donor cooperation and decide on a work programme for 2012.

The committee made significant progress at the meeting. About 10 funders confirmed their commitments to the funding of several proposals from SAs, regional and global bodies. Other funders preferred to be given more time to consider the total of 55 proposals with an aggregate value of USD 90.2 million.

Development partners in collaboration with SAs and regional bodies were required to register on the SAI capacity development database [www.saidevelopment.org](http://www.saidevelopment.org) with all their ongoing and planned projects/programs. The purpose of the database is to improve the planning and coordination of all forms of support to SAs and regional bodies. PASAI has completed the registration of its projects/programs on this website.

The INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat (INTOSAI Development Initiative) presented a SAI performance measurement framework with a rationale for assessing SAI performance. It also presented the results of the mapping of existing frameworks, carried out in 2011, which measure SAI performance. The Steering Committee endorsed the initiative and proposed future work for the task team and a reference group that are responsible for the development of the framework. PASAI (Secretariat) is a member of the reference group.

## 2. Capacity Building

### *Strategic Management and Operational Guidelines*

The PASAI Secretariat has decided to re-advertise the PASAI Strategic Management and Operational Guidelines (SMOG) Advisor position after the person identified withdrew their interest. This will have an impact on the meeting of the SMOG working group, the preparation and completion of the guidelines and their implementation. PASAI will review the timelines for the project and convey these to AusAID, the funder of the project.

### *Technical Support Advisor*

At the close of applications on 19 March 2012, 5 applications for the Technical Support Advisor position were received. The shortlisting of applications and interviews will be conducted in April and PASAI hopes to have someone on board by May/June 2012.

The Technical Support Advisor will:

- assist SAs in reviewing and updating their policies, procedures and manuals so that they are consistent with the PASAI manuals and guidelines;
- serve as a member of the instructional teams delivering the four career path training courses;
- provide on-the-job training in accordance with the manuals and guidelines;
- work closely with the Capacity Building Advisor to update the PASAI manuals and training materials so they remain in harmony with international standards and best practices, and plan, monitor and report on technical support activities;

- develop and maintain a database identifying technical matters that have been referred to and resolved.

The PASAI Secretariat will inform SAIs when this service will be available.

#### *Performance Audit Manual*

The Performance Audit Manual (PAM) is being finalised for publication. The PASAI Secretariat hopes to circulate the manual by May 2012.

### **3. Co-operative performance audit**

#### *Access to safe drinking water*

Seven SAIs have submitted their audit reports to their legislature. These reports are now publicly available. This includes Cook Islands, Kiribati, Kosrae, Palau, Samoa, Tuvalu and Yap. Fiji has completed its audit report and has submitted it to cabinet. Both Tonga and PNG have advised that their reports may be tabled in May 2012.

The draft overview report on Access to Safe Drinking Water was completed by the ADB Cooperative Performance Audit Advisor and the co-coordinator of the Regional Working Group on Environmental Auditing (RWGEA). It was provided to the February 2012 meeting of the PASAI Governing Board and its publication approved. This is expected to be printed and circulated in May 2012.

#### *Managing sustainable fisheries*

The ten audit teams participating in the 3rd cooperative performance audit on management of sustainable fisheries met in Nadi, Fiji on 26-31 March 2012 to finalise their audit reports for consideration by auditors-general.



Prior to this meeting, a number of teams had submitted their draft reports to the Performance Audit Advisor for comment. This process has proved beneficial to ensuring that final drafting of audit reports is completed in a timely manner. At the conclusion of the reporting meeting in March 2012, seven individual country specific audit reports were completed. In addition, individual audit teams had identified contributions for the regional overview report which will be compiled later in the year.

### **4. Sub-regional audit support programme**

The second round of the Sub-regional Audit Support (SAS) programme which started in Kiribati in June 2011, Nauru from October 2011 was completed on 23 March 2012 in Tuvalu. The programme has achieved a lot for the three SAIs. The reports for the audits conducted, and a regional report are being finalised.

PASAI wishes to thank the SAS Coordinator - Ross Hilton, the SAS Expert - Matt Major and secondees (Mase Tumua, Gillian Itsimaera, Teaua Rereniti and Tematang Raimon) for the work they completed in the three SAIs.

## 5. Accountability and Transparency Report 2011

The project manager has completed work on the draft Accountability and Transparency Report 2011 after incorporating comments from the Governing Board meeting in February 2012. This report has been circulated to stakeholders for their review and comments.

## 6. Funding

AusAID has remitted the last tranche of its funding of the PRAI of AUD 1 million or NZD 1,286,690 under the Partnership Framework. PASAI has also received AUD 750,000 or NZD 966,225 from AusAID to fund the two projects:

- development and implementation of the Strategic Management and Operational Guidelines and;
- provision of technical support to SAls in the region.

PASAI appreciates the kind contribution of the Australian Government in supporting the PRAI to improve the standard of public accountability in the Pacific region.

## 7. PASAI Calendar

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

- 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;
- 2-3 August – Tier 3 Supervisory Roles Working Group preparation meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 6-17 August – Tier 3 Supervisory Roles training, Nadi, Fiji.
- 20-21 September - Communicating Effectively training, Working Group preparation meeting
- 24-28 September- Communicating Effectively training
- 1 October – 7th Governing Board meeting, Noumea, New Caledonia;
- 2-5 October – 15th PASAI Congress, Noumea, New Caledonia.
- 29 October - 3 November - Cooperative Financial Audit planning meeting

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