

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. ADB Review

The ADB review team comprising Mr Ben Graham and Mr John Hawley is currently evaluating the first two technical assistance programs on the development, design and initial implementation of the PRAI, as a long term regional approach to raising public auditing capacity, standards and impacts. The evaluation will follow ADB's Independent Evaluation Department's (IED) standard project criteria.



From left to right: Mr Eroni Vatuloka, Mr Ben Graham and Mr John Hawley

The team met with the Secretariat in Auckland on 20 November and the Secretary General's Office in Wellington on 21 November 2012. The team will soon be sending out a survey to SAs to obtain their views on progress that has been made in the region. Heads of SAs are requested to respond to the survey on time.

2. Twinning Arrangements between PASAI and ACAG

The Australasian Council of Auditors-General (ACAG) met on 15-16 November 2012 and agreed to the following twinning arrangements with the SAs in the region. These are based on the AusAID twinings as far as possible.

ACAG	PASAI
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	Kiribati
New South Wales (NSW)	Solomon Islands
Northern Territories (NT)	Timor Leste (not PASAI)
Queensland (QAO)	Vanuatu Papua New Guinea (secondary role)

ACAG	PASAI
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)

Heads of SAIs are requested to get in touch with Auditors-General of ACAG if they have not already done so and discuss how to proceed with this program. PASAI appreciates the kind support of ACAG, AusAID and NZ-MFAT under this arrangement, and hopes that it will result in capacity improvement in the SAIs in the region.

3. Capacity Building

ISSAI Implementation Initiative (3i Programme) – The e-learning course on ISSAI Compliance Assessment Tools (iCATs) will conclude on 7 December 2011. This is the first part of the ISSAI Certification Program where 26 participants from 8 SAIs within PASAI are taking part. IDI will inform the PASAI about the results of the first e-learning course. The results will determine participation in the second part of the certification program.

E-learning Course on Risk Based Approach to Financial Auditing (RBAFA) – This program is still in progress. IDI is monitoring the participation and results of the program.

SMOG - Preparations for the SMOG Workshop to be held in Nadi, Fiji are in progress with a series of conference calls with members of the instructional team, the Secretariat, the Head of SAI of Cook Islands and Barry Underwood of the NSW Audit Office. The conference calls were essentially to finalise the program and prepare for the workshop.

The instructional team met with the SMOG Advisor in Nadi on 29-30 November to consolidate the materials for the workshop. As planned, the final draft of the guideline will be ready for a review in January 2013.

4. Co-operative Performance Audits

Managing Sustainable Fisheries – All SAIs involved in this 3rd CPA are close to publically releasing their audit reports. It is anticipated that the regional overview report will be finalised for consideration at the Governing Board meeting in February 2013.

Auditing Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk and Recovery (DRR) - In October 2012, the 15th PASAI Congress approved the conduct of the 4th CPA on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk and Recovery (DRR). Again, ten SAIs are participating – 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.

An audit work planning meeting was held for teams in November 2013. The CPA approach agreed to by the 15th Congress was slightly different to previous audits as Congress approved an umbrella audit topic enabling individual SAIs to develop audit objectives and lines of enquiry relevant to their specific jurisdictions. Audit teams carried out a preliminary study (prior to meeting in November) to familiarise themselves with the subject matter and also to identify relevant and specific audit objectives and lines of enquiry. This proved to be a challenge for most teams. However, advisors present at the planning meeting worked with teams to achieve this and then moved on to develop comprehensive audit work plans as a basis for fieldwork in 2013. This was a strong performance audit capacity building exercise, as teams were able to see and develop linkages between audit objectives, lines of enquiry, audit criteria and audit methodology.

On the final day of the meeting, a small feedback/evaluation session was conducted with teams and they contributed a number of suggestions for program improvement. Details will be available in the next PASAI Update.

The audit is again a cooperative effort involving the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and PASAI. As well, the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) provided support to two

audit teams under the ACAG/PASAI twinning arrangements. The Regional Working Group on Environmental Auditing (RWGEA) is significantly involved in supporting this cooperative audit. A regional stakeholder, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), provided specialist technical expertise on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management measures in the Pacific. SPREP has also offered to support audit teams, on technical climate change matters, over the course of their audits.

5. SAS Committee

The SAS Committee will convene its 5th meeting in Nadi, Fiji on 17-18 December 2012. The agenda includes planning of the 3rd round of the SAS program, and especially on improving the governance structure of the program.

6. PASAI Reports

PASAI members, partners and stakeholders are advised that printed copies of the PASAI 2011/2012 Annual Report and Accountability and Transparency Report 2011 are available on request. Copies of the two documents are also available from the PASAI website www.pasai.org.

6. PASAI Calendar

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

- 3-5 December – 3i management workshop, Nadi, Fiji;
- 6 -14 December, SMOG management workshop, Nadi, Fiji;
- 17-18 December, 5th SAS Committee meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 12-13 February 2013 – Eighth Governing Board meeting, Auckland, New Zealand;
- 21-22 February – Tier 1 Fundamentals of Government Auditing coordinators meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 25 Feb-8 March – Tier 1 Fundamentals of Government Auditing training, Nadi, Fiji;
- 4-5 April – Tier 4 Management of Government Audits coordinators meeting, Nadi, Fiji;
- 8-16 April – Tier 4 Management of Government Audits training, Nadi, Fiji;
- 29 Apr-4 May – Cooperative financial audit planning meeting, Nadi, Fiji (dates to be confirmed); and
- May – Tier 2 Intermediate Government Auditing, coordinators' meeting and training, Nadi, Fiji (to be confirmed).

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