



Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions

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Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institution briefs Small Island States Officials' Committee and Pacific Plan Action Committee

At a meeting in Suva, Fiji on 15-17 August 2011, representatives from the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) briefed the Small Island States (SIS) Officials' Committee and the Pacific Plan Action Committee (PPAC) on the progress of the Pacific Regional Audit Initiative (PRAI).

The briefing was organised after an invitation by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS).

The PASAI Secretariat was represented by its Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Bruce Robertson and its Executive Director, Mr Eroni Vatuloka. They spoke about the important programmes that PASAI has been running under the PRAI, an initiative of the Pacific Plan.

"The presentation concentrated on the transformational changes in the PASAI organisation and on two of our main projects – the sub-regional audit support (SAS) programme and the co-operative performance audits programme. Both of these programmes have had demonstrable effects on Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in the Pacific region" says Mr Robertson.

PASAI had established a Secretariat Office in Auckland, New Zealand in January 2010 and now has four full-time staff and a number of short-term consultants. The Secretariat co-ordinates and carries out the activities and programmes that are part of the PRAI.

Mr Robertson is pleased with the progress that has been achieved with the SAS programme so far. He says, "The objective of the programme is to enable the audits of government entities to be completed to a high standard and in timely manner. It also includes strengthening of in-country public financial management capacity and enhancing accountability mechanisms. So far, the programme of co-operative financial audits has been running for three countries – Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu. The programme completed the first round of audits in 2010. This involved six entities and on-the-job training of four secondees and nine other audit staff. In addition, all three audit offices involved in the programme have adopted new audit methodologies."

He adds, "The second round of the SAS programme, involving a similar number of entities and audit staff, started in June 2011 and is expected to be completed in March 2012."

The second programme – co-operative performance audits – enables SAIs in the Pacific region to participate in a performance audit on a co-operative basis. Each participating SAI reports individually to its legislature. A joint regional audit report is then prepared and disseminated.

"PASAI has co-ordinated and completed two co-operative audits to date. Each audit involved ten SAIs from the region. The first audit was carried out in 2009/10, and focused on the management of solid waste. The second audit, which examined access to safe drinking water, was carried out in 2010/11. We are currently in the process of organising a third audit, which will focus on the management of sustainable fisheries. We are expecting this audit to start later in August 2011.

"The regional report on the management of solid waste was circulated during the meetings of the two committees" says Mr Robertson.

The committees acknowledged that both programmes have developed the capacity of participating SAIs and improved transparency and accountability within selected Pacific island countries and territories.

"We also took this opportunity to ask the committees to provide advice on how the successful outcomes of the PRAI can be promoted throughout the Pacific region. It would be great to see approaches and strategic partnerships that could be pursued to leverage the effect of current and future initiatives" concludes Mr Robertson.

About PASAI

The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) is the official association of supreme audit institutions (government Audit Offices and similar organisations, known as SAIs) in the Pacific region. PASAI is one of the regional working groups belonging to the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).

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