



*"Pacific Auditors Working
Together"*

PRESS RELEASE

Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions

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Room for improvement in access to safe drinking water

Auckland, July 30, 2012: Lack of investment and trained staff inhibit water quality testing arrangements in a number of Pacific states. This is just one of the findings in the report of a cooperative audit into access to safe drinking water in the Pacific region released today.

The project was coordinated by the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI), the official association of government audit offices and similar bodies in the region. The audit investigated the legal and policy frameworks in place to ensure access to safe drinking water in ten Pacific states and progress being made in implementing these policies.

According to PASAI executive director Eroni Vatuloka, 'access to safe drinking water was selected as the audit topic because of its obvious vital importance and the unique conditions faced in the Pacific such as lack of natural storage, competing land use and vulnerability to drought and cyclones'.

'The conduct of the audit also provided the opportunity for the government audit institutions in the ten states that participated to develop their performance auditing capacity. Also, in turn, their ability to work toward the effective and efficient use of public resources at home was enhanced,' he said.

The report found that most of the ten states have legal and policy frameworks in place to ensure access to safe drinking water. It also identified a number of examples of good practice in drinking water management.

Significantly, the report found that, although in place, the legal and policy frameworks had not been successfully implemented in most of the states. It identified weaknesses in monitoring systems and performance management frameworks.

Throughout, the report highlights opportunities to improve all aspects of performance in managing access to safe drinking water.

The states that participated in the cooperative audit included the Cook Islands, Kosrae and Yap of the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Samoa, Tuvalu and two states that are not named because of confidentiality matters.

Along with PASAI the audit was supported by the Asian Development Bank, the INTOSAI Development Initiative and the Regional Working Group on Environmental Auditing.

The full report can be found on the PASAI website at www.pasai.org.

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 promotes transparent, accountable, effective, and efficient use of public sector resources in the Pacific. It contributes to that goal by helping its member SAIs improve the quality of public sector auditing in the Pacific to uniformly high standards. PASAI is supported by the Asian Development Bank, the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, the International Association of Supreme Audit Institutions Development Initiative, and the World Bank. Further information on PASAI can be found at www.pasai.org.