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Given the *Journal's* use as a teaching tool, articles most likely to be accepted are those that deal with pragmatic aspects of public sector auditing. These include case studies, ideas on new audit methodologies, or details on audit training programs. Articles that deal primarily with theory would not be appropriate.

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<http://www.intosaijournal.org>



Terence Nombembe

Auditor-General of South Africa and First Vice Chairman of the INTOSAI Governing Board

South Africa has looked forward to 2010 with great anticipation. With the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup taking place in our country June 11–July 11, the entire nation is ready and waiting to welcome foreign visitors with open arms. The staff of the Office of the Auditor-General of South Africa have also been eagerly awaiting the 2010 XX INCOSAI as an opportunity to reaffirm relationships, share knowledge, and showcase our beautiful country to our peer supreme audit institutions (SAI).

The XX INCOSAI will take place in Johannesburg, November 22–27, 2010. The vibrant city of Johannesburg, located in the Gauteng province of South Africa, is known by several names locally, ranging from Joburg and Jozi to Egoli, which means place of gold. By whichever name you want to call it, the city is South Africa's largest and busiest metropolitan area and one of the 40 largest metropolitan areas in the world. The congress itself will take place at the world-class Sandton International Convention Centre, which is conveniently located close to hotels, shopping centers, and tourist attractions.

During the week of the congress, several side meetings will also take place, including the 60th and 61st Governing Board meetings. Various committees, working groups, and task forces will report to delegates on the results of their work. In addition to these formal discussions and meetings, ample opportunity will be provided for informal discussions and networking during the course of the week.

The two technical themes chosen for the XX INCOSAI demonstrate INTOSAI's desire and commitment to remain relevant by addressing issues of topical interest in the public sphere. The South African SAI has the dual responsibility and honor of both hosting the XX INCOSAI and chairing one of the two technical themes. As chair of theme I, the value and benefits of SAIs, we are particularly excited about the discussions during the congress and their outcomes because they will have far-reaching benefits for SAIs and will henceforth play a fundamental role in the way SAIs are viewed across the world.

Environmental management is very significant in today's global consciousness. Theme II, environmental auditing and sustainable development, provides an excellent opportunity for SAIs to show support for the growing movement toward responsible behavior in preserving our environment. In light of this, we are committed to hosting an environmentally responsible INCOSAI. While hosting "green" conferences is a relatively new concept and going completely paperless is not feasible for this year's INCOSAI, we will be attempting to reduce the carbon footprint of this event as far as possible. We hope that this effort will provide a platform for future congresses to improve upon.

In addition to discussions surrounding the two official technical themes of the congress, XX INCOSAI will also see the official launch of the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI). This is a momentous event for INTOSAI—the culmination of the collaborative effort of multiple SAIs to develop a set of standards that address the unique demands of the public sector auditing environment. We in the South African SAI were represented on many committees and working groups that participated in developing these standards, and supporting their implementation is one of our paramount objectives for the congress. This also speaks directly to our intention to strengthen our adoption of the International Standards of Auditing (ISA) (which we completed 4 years ago) by adding the ISSAI's formalized guidance to our methodology in the coming year.

In organizing the XX INCOSAI, our primary objective is to provide an environment conducive to productive discussions with high-quality standards of technical content that will continue to benefit the INTOSAI community long after 2010. We are also eager to share with delegates our national pride in our beautiful and vibrant country. South Africa has a rich and diverse history that demonstrates the resilience of our people. Through carefully selected social and cultural events and excursions, we look forward to giving you a glimpse of our unique cultures and natural beauties as well as an insight into our history of peaceful transition and transformation.

In realizing these objectives, we are making every effort to ensure efficient logistical arrangements that will make the congress exceptionally productive and enjoyable for all participants. A comprehensive congress Web site (www.incosai.co.za) has been launched to provide participants and SAIs with all the information they need to take part in the XX INCOSAI.

The Web site will be continually updated to include new information on the congress, and SAIs will be notified regularly about these updates. The site will also include an online registration capability later in the year, which will provide a smooth registration process for all participants and accompanying persons.

When it became time for us to develop the unique congress logo for the XX INCOSAI, we took inspiration from the baobab tree. While the baobab is not unique to South Africa, it is a nationally protected tree with a wealth of cultural significance. It flourishes on the hot, sunny African plains and can be found in several African countries.

Known in many parts as “the tree of life,” the baobab has always been the traditional meeting place for far-off tribes and villagers to come together and share their knowledge. Public meetings, community councils, or traditional village law courts held under the baobabs are known as “kgotla” in Botswana and “lekgotla” in South Africa. They are usually headed by the village chief or headman, and community decisions are always arrived at by consensus. This concept finds resonance with the INTOSAI motto, “Mutual experience benefits all.”

The diamonds within the baobab tree not only refer to the rich natural resources of South Africa and the African continent, they also create a direct link to INTOSAI’s five official languages. These language diamonds will be used throughout the XX INCOSAI to distinguish between the official languages and make them clearly visible.

It is my great privilege to extend a formal invitation to all INTOSAI members to meet on the southernmost tip of Africa for the 20th INTOSAI congress in November 2010. I look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful country.



XX INCOSAI logo

NEWS

IN

brief

Australia

New Better Practice Guide on Innovation in the Public Sector

In December 2009, the Australian National Audit Office launched its Better Practice Guide *Innovation in the Public Sector: Enabling Better Performance, Driving New Directions*. The guide describes the preconditions and processes that underpin public sector innovation and offers practical help to public service practitioners. It focuses on the culture and practices that can be adopted to encourage and facilitate innovation in the public sector.

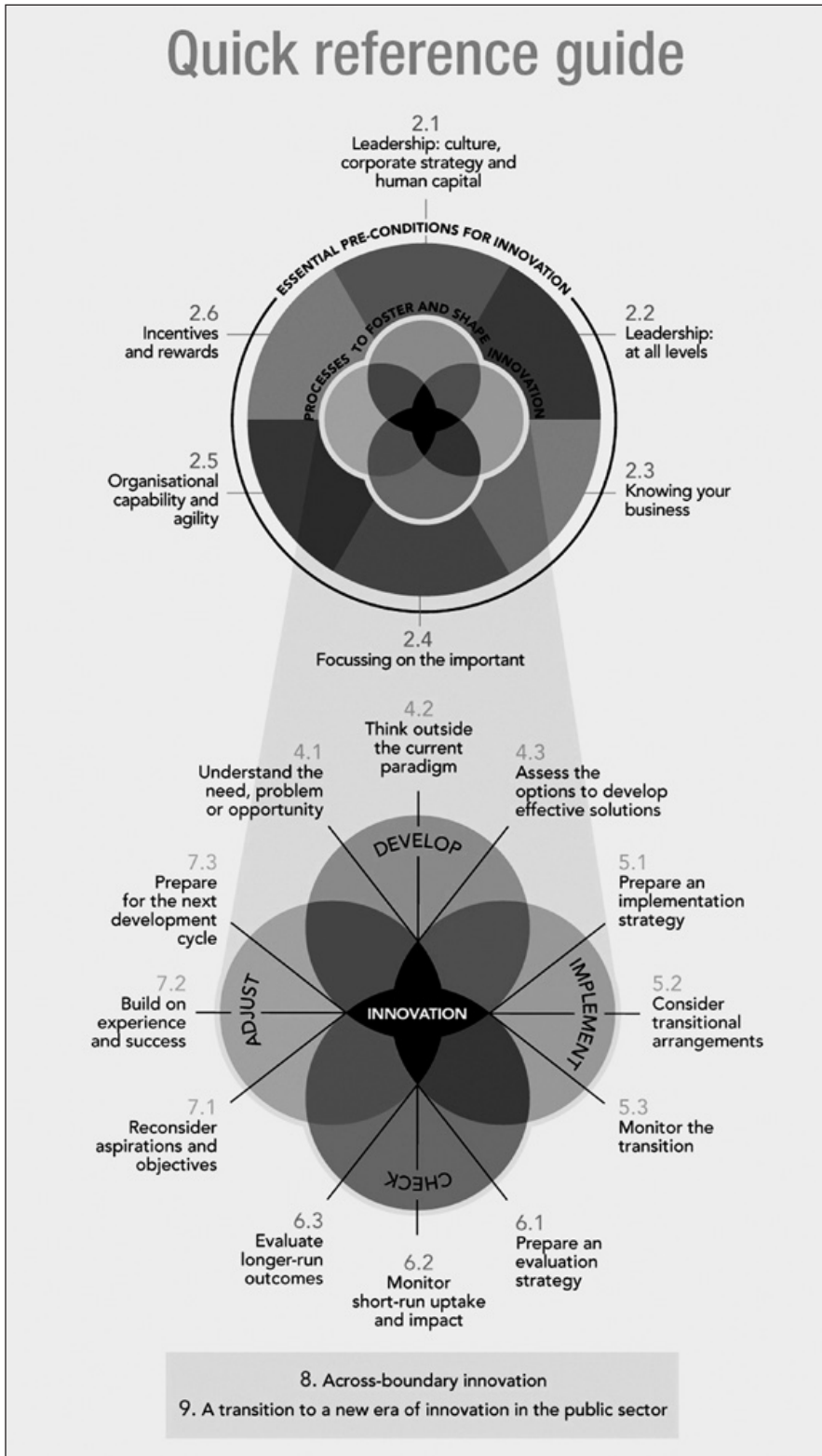
Agency processes can foster and shape innovation by building on the preconditions for innovation. These processes fit into the steps public servants generally follow in developing, implementing, monitoring, and refining what they do. The guide takes the reader through each phase in this model, providing insights into key steps and highlighting possible ways to manage the risks involved.

According to the guide, while innovation inevitably involves a degree of risk, continued innovation is vital if the public sector is to meet future challenges and opportunities. Governance arrangements applied during the developing, implementing, checking, and adjusting phases should be commensurate with the risk profile associated with an initiative, and engaging with clients and key stakeholders is central to managing innovation risks.

The guide is available online at www.anao.gov.au/director/director/publications/betterpracguides.cfm. The “Quick Reference Guide” graphic highlights the main elements of the guide.

For additional information, contact the Australian National Audit Office:

E-mail: iag1@anao.gov.au
Web site: www.anao.gov.au



Quick Reference Guide to the Australian National Audit Office’s Best Practice Guide *Innovation in the Public Sector*.

Azerbaijan

Modified Audit Law and New Chamber of Accounts Building

The Chamber of Accounts of Azerbaijan was established in accordance with the country’s Constitution and reports to the Parliament. Its authorizing legislation, adopted in 2001, stipulates that the work of the Chamber of Accounts is supreme audit. The legislation was amended in 2008 to improve financial provisions for members of the chamber, expand its authorities, and empower it to establish regional structures and notify audited entities about findings identified during financial control activities, reimbursements due to be paid to the state, and accountability for those who break the law. Moreover, the Chamber of Accounts was placed into the first and highest category of state bodies.

The chamber is focusing its efforts on expanding its relations with other SAs and international organizations, establishing and developing business-like ties with other government financial control bodies, creating a database to organize and conduct control activities in accordance with standards, strengthening staff potential and technical skills, employing competent and experienced staff, improving methodological support, drafting regulatory and methodology documents, and regulating the chamber’s activity in accordance with its expanded functions. In addition, a special strategic development plan has been developed to promote capacity building within the chamber. To implement the plan, work is under way as part of the Corporate and Public Sector Accountability Project, which is being carried out with support from the World Bank and funding from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.



New building housing the Azerbaijan Chamber of Accounts

To improve the chamber's working conditions, a new modern building that preserves the historical and architectural traditions of Baku, the capital, has been constructed for the Chamber of Accounts in the city center. The new building was inaugurated on December 21, 2009, in a ceremony attended by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev. The President met with members of the Chamber of Accounts, congratulated them on the new building, and affirmed the chamber's important role in the development of Azerbaijan's economy.

For additional information, contact the Chamber of Accounts:

E-mail: office@ach.gov.az
Web site: www.ach.gov.az

China

New Regulation on Implementing the Audit Law

On February 21, 2010, the State Council issued a regulation on the implementation of the audit law, which

will become effective on May 1. The regulation requires the audit of all funds and government-related construction projects to ensure the sound use of public moneys.

The revised regulation has been drawn up in accordance with the current Audit Law of the People's Republic of China, which took effect in June 2006. The regulation provides explicit and detailed provisions regarding the scope of audit supervision and the powers and supervision of audit institutions. It prescribes the scope of audits to track the use of funds, audits on construction projects, special audit investigations, and the review of public accounting firms.

The regulation also specifies the powers the audit institution has regarding detailed procedures to investigate accounts and savings. It clearly identifies the circumstances in which an audit can be conducted without prior notice.

In addition, the regulation provides that audit institutions at various levels should strengthen both internal and

external supervision to ensure accurate and impartial auditing.

For additional information, contact the China National Audit Office:

E-mail: cnao@audit.gov.cn
Web site: www.cnao.gov.cn

France

New First President Appointed

On March 11, 2010, Didier Migaud was sworn in as First President of the Cour des comptes in a ceremony witnessed by Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the Republic. He succeeds Philippe Séguin, who passed away on January 7.



Didier Migaud

In his new position, Mr. Migaud assumes the presidency of various councils and bodies affiliated with the Cour des comptes: the High Councils for the Cour des comptes as well as for the regional and territorial chambers, the Budget and Finance Disciplinary Court, the Council on Compulsory Taxation, and the Public Service Review Committee.

Mr. Migaud graduated from the Institute for Political Studies in Lyon. He holds a degree in law, a postgraduate diploma

in public law, and an advanced diploma in political science.

Until his appointment on February 23, Mr. Migaud was a member of Parliament, President of the Committee on Finance, the general economy and the budgetary control of the National Assembly; President of the Assessment and Monitoring Mission; and a member of the Committee for the Assessment and Monitoring of Public Policies.

He is one of the founding fathers of the Institutional Law on Finance Laws, which reformed the French budgetary and accounting system in 2001.

For additional information, please contact the Cour des comptes:

E-mail: [dlamarque@ccomptes.fr](mailto:d Lamarque@ccomptes.fr)
Web site: www.ccomptes.fr

Japan

Anniversary of the Board of Audit

On March 5, 2010, the Board of Audit of Japan celebrated its 130th anniversary. It was founded in 1880 as an auditing organ under the direct control of the “Dajokan,” a predecessor of the cabinet. The board has the mandate of auditing the final accounts of the expenditures and revenues of the state.

To commemorate its anniversary, the Board of Audit issued a book about its 130-year history to look back on its experiences and to add value to its future auditing activities.

For additional information, contact the Board of Audit:

E-mail: liaison@jbaudit.go.jp
Web site: www.jbaudit.go.jp/engl

Kuwait

Recent Training and Collaboration Activities

In recent months, the State Audit Bureau (SAB) of Kuwait has carried out a number of training and collaboration activities. In December 2009, the SAB hosted a training program for ARABOSAI on performance assessment of the oil sector. The SAB also hosted the 18th Staff Training and Development Committee meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council SAIs during January 2010.

To promote knowledge sharing and learn about other SAIs' missions and functions, two official delegations from the SAB visited the Office of the Controller and Auditor-General of New Zealand and the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom, in February 2010. In addition, the SAB hosted a program on performance, information technology, and financial audit for specialists from the Mongolian National Audit Office in March 2010.

For additional information, contact the SAB:

E-mail: undersecretary@sabq8.org
Web site: <http://www.sabq8.org>

Saudi Arabia

Consulting Services Contract Signed to Promote IT Environment for E-transactions

Osama J. Faqeeh, President of the General Auditing Bureau (GAB), recently signed a contract to study the GAB's information technology (IT) environment and draw up the required technical conditions and specifications for the GAB to

implement computerized auditing. This contract was signed in response to a cabinet resolution requiring government agencies to expedite the use of IT systems in all their financial and accounting transactions and implement computerized auditing.

The main objectives of the contract are to accomplish the following:

- Identify all necessary technical requirements and services needed to implement electronic transactions related to the GAB's relationship with government institutions and other parties, including government-to-government services.
- In accordance with the GAB's law, rules, and regulations, identify and document all applicable operations and procedures related to its main activities (both financial and performance audits) and other supporting activities.
- Survey the current situation of government agencies to identify 10 agencies that are ready for e-connections with the GAB and begin a pilot application in preparation for applying e-connection with all agencies with similar levels of e-readiness.
- Study at least five practical examples in e-audit and adoption of e-transactions in countries with developed IT to benefit from best practices.
- Closely coordinate with and maintain appropriate e-connections between the GAB's branches and audited entities.
- Draw up an integrated plan to implement e-government transactions in all the GAB's activities and generalize the application of e-audit to include executive subplans while specifying the technical and human requirements and time frames for implementing such plans.

New Strategic Plan for 2010–2014

In early 2004, the GAB developed its first strategic plan (for 2005–2009). This plan reflected ongoing government efforts to bring about economic, political, and administrative reforms and ensure the effective performance of government agencies. It also reflected the GAB's own desire to pursue its mandate as fairly, objectively, and efficiently as possible and to make the best use of new technologies to perform its work.

Over the past 5 years, GAB succeeded in achieving a number of the goals and objectives of its first plan. For example, the GAB

- organized an annual seminar to promote cooperation and communication with audited entities and promote improved performance;
- updated the public accounting systems, where the terms of reference had been prepared, and commissioned a national consulting firm to conduct a comprehensive analytical study;
- within government entities, created internal audit units that directly report to the heads of such entities and play a key role in safeguarding public funds;
- gained approval of the unified regulation the GAB formulated for internal audit units; and
- gained approval of the GAB initiative to automate all financial and accounting processes.

To build on the successes of the first strategic plan and further improve its performance, the GAB has developed its second strategic plan (for 2010–2014) based on an analysis and evaluation of the implementation of its first plan. The process was guided by the strategic plans of several SAls,

INTOSAI, and its regional working groups.

The goals of the new strategic plan relate to enhancing financial auditing and computerization of auditing techniques, expanding the scope of performance audits, contributing to the development of audit standards and financial and accounting regulations, automating auditing processes, building up the GAB's professional capacity, activating internal audit tools within government agencies, and promoting cooperation and communication between the GAB and related national and international bodies.

The GAB was careful to coordinate the goals of its strategic plan with the state's current efforts in the areas of comprehensive reforms, promoting fairness, fighting corruption, diversifying economic activities, and facilitating services to the people. In this regard, GAB has been contributing to improving the performance of audited entities, helping them achieve their goals, meet the requirements of development, and bring about financial and administrative discipline. This should serve the GAB's ultimate purpose of providing credible, reliable, and objective reports on the performance of state agencies and the overall financial situation of the state.

For additional information, contact the GAB:

E-mail: gab@gab.gov.sa
Web site: www.gab.gov.sa

Ukraine

Awards for the Chairman of the Accounting Chamber

In December 2009, Valentyn Symonenko, Chairman of the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine,

received awards from the Presidents of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Viktor Yuschenko, the President of Ukraine, awarded the Golden Star to Dr. Symonenko, conferring upon him the rank of Hero of Ukraine. The Golden Star is the highest national award in Ukraine and is given to those who perform significant services and heroic deeds for their homeland.



Valentyn Symonenko (right) received the Golden Star award from the President of the Ukraine, Viktor Yuschenko (left).

Dr. Symonenko has been the Chairman of the Accounting Chamber for 13 years. He was the first Chairman named to this position. Under his leadership, the institution has been recognized as an independent constitutional body providing external state financial control in accordance with the principles of legality, planning, impartiality, independence, and openness in its domestic and international work. Its staff grew from 75 persons in 1997 to more than 500 by the end of 2009. The Accounting Chamber has its central office in Kiev and nine regional offices throughout Ukraine.

The SAI of Ukraine is well positioned within both INTOSAI and EUROSAL and proactively undertakes

international collaborative efforts. It is a member of the EUROSAI Governing Board and Chair of the EUROSAI Task Force on the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes.

In December 2009, Dmitriy Medvedev, the President of the Russian Federation, presented the Order of Friendship to Dr. Symonenko. Mr. Medvedev cited the professionalism of the Ukrainian Chairman and his valuable contributions to strengthening friendship and collaboration between the Russian and Ukrainian SAIs, leading to the mutual enrichment of both nations' cultures.

For additional information, contact the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine:

E-mail: rp@ac-rada.gov.ua
Web site: www.ac-rada.gov.ua

Vietnam

Recent Legislation Related to the State Audit Office

New and revised audit legislation and mandates related to the State Audit Office of Vietnam (SAV) have been issued recently. Legislation regarding the SAV's organization and operations included a law on promulgating legal documents (effective in January 2009) and a law on officers and staff (effective January 2010). In addition, the SAV has issued legal documents regulating the organization and operation of audit teams and processes for auditing state-owned enterprises, the state budget, targeted national programs, and financial institutions.

Other legal documents have addressed cooperation between the SAV and (1) the Ministry of Public and Security, (2) the economic committee of Parliament, and (3) the news media

(the latter dealing with propagating and disseminating information about the SAV). Finally, a sample regulation was issued to promote coordination among regional audit offices, the people's council, and local people's committees.

Joint Audit with the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation

According to recent statistics, marine products have been the main export from Vietnam to the Eastern Europe market in general and to Russia in particular. In addition, the Russian Federation provides Vietnam with many products. In view of this ongoing cooperative relationship, it is important to establish an effective and transparent system to monitor the quality and safety of fish and seafood products.

In December 2009, the president of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation proposed to the Auditor General of the SAV that the two SAIs organize a parallel performance audit to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of state control over the quality and safety of Vietnamese fish and seafood products.

Since receiving the proposal, the SAV has consulted with the Prime Minister and other concerned ministers and agencies to comply with legal requirements and to schedule a 5-day inspection visit to Vietnam. The SAV anticipates that the joint audit will be implemented after March 2010.

Cooperation with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Annually, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) has

directly sponsored education and training activities for the SAV. ACCA has also indirectly sponsored the development of two SAV magazines. In January 2009, ACCA and the SAV signed an agreement on expertise exchange and cooperation.

Among the activities the two entities organized were a conference in April 2009 on the role of SAIs in increasing the effectiveness of state expenditures; a Computer Assisted Training (CAT) class in March 2009; and a meeting on ethics for finance professionals in March 2010.

Support from the United Kingdom for the SAV Development Action Plan

In October 2009, the United Kingdom's (U.K.) Department for International Development (DFID) and the SAV agreed on terms of reference for assistance in developing the SAV's Development Action Plan (DAP) for 2010–2020. The SAV is actively heading up this project, and DFID has allocated up to £160,000 for it from December 2009 to December 2010. The U.K. National Audit Office is supporting the SAV by providing technical input through a series of thematic workshops and detailed working sessions at key stages in the production of the DAP as well as constructive, objective feedback on the DAP as it is produced.

For additional information, contact the SAV:

E-mail: vietnamsai@hn.vnn.vn
Web site: www.kiemtoannn.gov.vn

Can Auditors Make a Difference in Accounting for and Auditing Disaster-related Aid?

by Maarten B. Engwirda, Chairman of the INTOSAI Working Group on Accountability for and Audit of Disaster-related Aid and member of the European Court of Auditors

The aid sector, which has multiple donors and recipients at both the national and international levels, is very complex. In a disaster situation, this complexity increases, as does the risk of unaccounted-for funds, waste, fraud, and corruption.

In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, INTOSAI set up a task force to establish an audit trail for tsunami-related aid. With \$13 billion pledged and 56 countries and a multitude of aid organizations involved, this proved to be virtually impossible for the task force. The lack of a single information structure and a framework for efficient and effective audit (single audit) hampered accountability and transparency. There was no overall picture of the disaster relief actions or funding; in some cases, this may have led to inefficient or duplicative activities, and in others people in need may not have received aid.

In November 2007, INTOSAI decided to broaden the scope of the task force to disaster-related aid in general and transform it into a formal working group. Currently, the working group, which is chaired by the European Court of Auditors, consists of 17 supreme audit institutions (SAI) from countries prone to natural disaster as well as donor countries.

Because the working group cannot address all aspects of disaster-related aid, it has limited the scope of its work program to the two following areas:

- **Accountability Work Package:** the development of guidance and good practices in accountability for stakeholders such as multilateral and nongovernmental aid organizations, governments, and private sector auditors.
- **Audit Work Package:** the development of guidance and good audit practices for SAIs.

Accountability for Disaster-related Aid

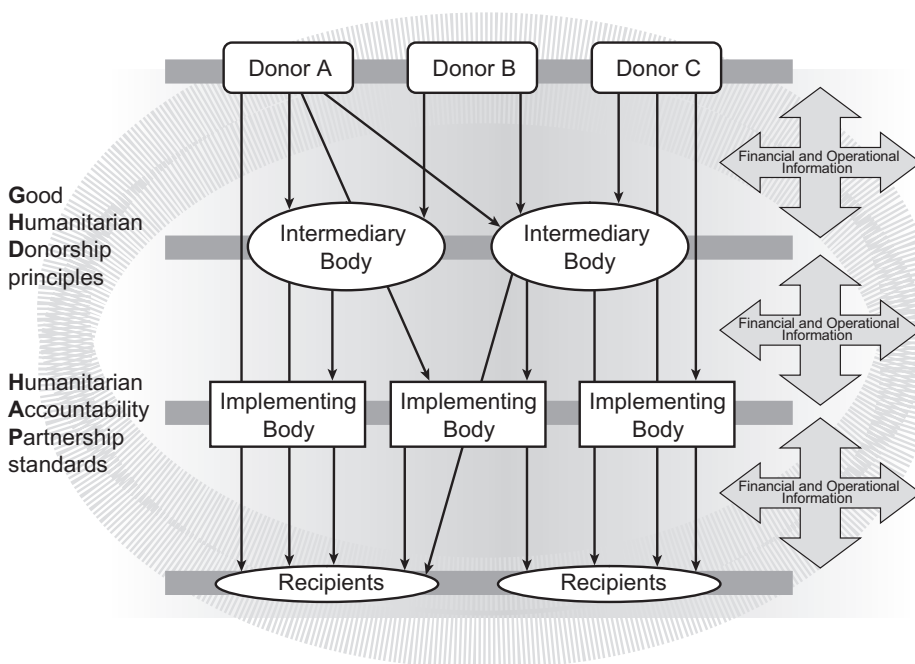
Accountability for humanitarian aid is important for both donors and potential beneficiaries. The lack of accountability and transparency increases the risk that the aid will be mismanaged or distributed inefficiently—a risk for which, in the worst case scenario, the beneficiaries may pay the price with their lives.

For the **accountability work package**, the working group's objective is to promote increased and improved accountability practices with the support of international standard-setting or coordinating bodies. To that end, the working group has developed the Integrated Financial Accountability Framework (IFAF), a model for a financial accountability information system. The theory underlying IFAF is that accountability will automatically increase if all the donors and the implementing organizations

(which actually provide the aid to people in need) use its standard template to report their contributions, receipts, and activities in a summarized and transparent manner. Furthermore, use of the template will diminish administrative burdens.

Humanitarian aid operations typically involve different levels of actors, whereby intermediary bodies receive funds from donors and their own sources and can either implement operations themselves or work through other implementing agencies. At each level, financial and operational information needs to be provided to ensure transparency. The working group envisions that all major donors will report their contributions by recipient and that the recipients (which are the intermediaries or the implementing agencies) will report the corresponding amounts as their revenues. On the expenditure side, the implementing bodies will report on their expenditures publicly by activity. These reports would be verified only once and certified accordingly, following the single audit principle. Figure 1 illustrates how the working group envisions that the information on funds and activities would be reported.

Figure 1: Integrated Financial Accountability Framework: A Model for the Flow of Funds and Transparent Financial and Operational Reporting on Activities for Disaster-related Aid



Based on this model, the working group has developed templates for reporting. Intermediate bodies and implementing agencies are currently testing the templates based on this model through a certification procedure developed by the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP), an international self-regulatory body that promotes accountability within the humanitarian aid sector. HAP has developed a standard that integrates accountability principles, requirements, and benchmarks. This standard is

linked to HAP's certification scheme, which is open to nongovernmental organizations and United Nations (UN) agencies. The working group has a representative on HAP's steering committee, which is revising the standard to ensure that it addresses sufficiently the financial component of accountability.

The working group is seeking comments on IFAF from major donors and other actors in humanitarian aid (such as the European Commission, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and Price Waterhouse Coopers). The European Commission's reporting requirements are generally considered to be the most demanding, but the Commission has, to date, given positive preliminary remarks on IFAF.

The working group is also in touch with (1) the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD), a voluntary association of 36 donor countries committed to a set of standards for humanitarian aid, and (2) the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to promote commitment to implementing accountability standards related to harmonized reporting based on the working group's templates.

Finally, the working group is in touch with the staff of the International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) Cash Basis Review Task Force to review the IPSAS cash basis accounting standard and to make recommendations to enhance the standard's accountability and transparency for financial reporting.

Audit of Disaster-related Aid

INTOSAI is the standard-setting body for SAIs. However, two tasks of the **audit work package** are related to internal audit in the UN and private sector audit. Therefore the working group is addressing other standard-setting bodies for these two tasks and is using its power of advocacy.

The Indonesian SAI, vice-chair of the working group, drafted a guidance document on preparing, implementing, and reporting on audits of disaster-related aid and disaster preparedness. Based on feedback received and the results of a survey of INTOSAI members, this guidance document is currently being revised and coordinated with an audit questionnaire on disaster-preparedness developed by the Turkish SAI. In addition, a first draft of a checklist on awareness of fraud and corruption during an audit of disaster-related aid has been prepared; it is based, in part, on the many good guidelines, reports, and checklists that already exist.

To promote practical application of the single audit principle, the working group is in touch with UN Representatives of Internal Audit Services (RIAS). At its annual meeting in September 2009, RIAS discussed single audit and its potential for establishing an assurance framework. Several RIAS participants have shown interest in the working group's ideas and proposals on this topic.

Can We Make a Difference?

The working group is aware that time and effort will be required before accountability in this area improves and that SAIs and auditors in general have only limited influence. Nevertheless, auditors can make a difference in many different ways. They can

- influence donors to improve the transparency and accountability of humanitarian operations,
- provide tools that organizations implementing the aid need to produce cost-effective accountability reporting, and
- promote single audit principles and guidelines so that all funders receive single assurance.

In addition, SAIs of donor countries can influence their governments to implement the accountability requirements of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (a commitment to principles for humanitarian aid and a common framework for efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian aid agreed to by all European Union member states) and the accountability principles of the Good Humanitarian Donorship.

Obviously, while one working group cannot change the world within its lifetime, it can succeed in being a catalyst for future change. If it does so, our work will have been more than fruitful.

For additional information, see the Web site of the Working Group on Accountability for and Audit of Disaster-related Aid (<http://eca.europa.eu/intosai-aada>).

An Overview of the INTOSAI Collaboration Tool

by Jaghans Singh, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

The INTOSAI Collaboration Tool is an Internet-based tool to facilitate INTOSAI's decision-making processes between annual board meetings and the triennial congresses. Available in INTOSAI's five official languages, the tool is designed to be the workbench for the INTOSAI community for internal communication. Its use is restricted to member SAIs. It aims to integrate unstructured content, documents, e-mail, calendars, and real-time tools to provide INTOSAI with real-time collaboration, communication, and content management.

Today, the Collaboration Tool has more than 686 users from 133 countries. More than 67 workspaces have been created for different INTOSAI committees and subcommittees, working groups, and task forces; the INTOSAI Secretariat; the INTOSAI Development Initiative; and the *International Journal of Government Auditing*.

The Collaboration Tool uses a customized Oracle Collaboration Suite (OCS) as its base software. It can be accessed at www.intosaictool.org or by clicking on the INTOSAI Collaboration Tool link on the home page of the INTOSAI Web site, www.intosai.org.

Log-in Page of the INTOSAI Collaboration Tool

INTOSAI
International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions

INTOSAI Collaboration Tool English Français Deutsch Español العربية

Username

Password

Remember my username on this computer

Sign In Help

- Sign in using your username and password to access protected information and features.
- You may change your display language by clicking on the appropriate link in the Language section. (Note that your browser may not support all languages.)
- To access Oracle Collaboration Suite, your browser must support JavaScript.

Tutorial Contact Us

Why and How Was the Collaboration Tool Developed?

One of the goal 4 objectives in INTOSAI’s Strategic Plan is to “study and recommend a solution on how all INTOSAI bodies can make greater use of modern technology to facilitate decision-making during the intervening time between annual Governing Board meetings and triennial INTOSAI Congresses.” In January 2005, the Finance and Administration Committee asked the SAI of India as Chair of the Working Group on Information Technology Auditing to develop a proposal to meet this objective. The SAI of India presented a comprehensive proposal for an Internet-based collaboration tool to the committee in July 2005. At its meetings in November 2005 and November 2006, INTOSAI’s Governing Board asked the SAI of India to develop and implement the tool, which was successfully launched in INTOSAI’s five official languages (Arabic, English, French, German, and Spanish) in May 2007.

What Does the Collaboration Tool Enable INTOSAI Users to Do?

Using the tool, groups of users can

- manage projects;
- share, organize, and collaborate on documents in a secure environment;
- communicate easily through discussion forums and e-mail messages;
- collaborate in real time through Web conferencing and instant messaging;
- track the timeline and progress of a project using the workspace calendar and task list; and
- manage content access via workspace roles.

What Are the Main Features of the Collaboration Tool?

The Collaboration Tool includes the following main features:

- **Document Management:** Team members on a project can work simultaneously on the same document.
- **Multiple User Management:** Every user is assigned a unique username and password and has different access rights depending on his or her role—e.g., chair of a committee, subcommittee, or working group or goal liaison.
- **Discussion Forum:** Users have access to an informal forum to discuss areas of common interest. The forums are primarily categorized under the various committees or working groups for specific topics specified by the chairs.
- **E-mail Notification:** Users can create mailing groups for their teams, and team members can be notified by e-mail when other project team members post new documents and information to the discussion forum.

- Bulletin Board: The INTOSAI Secretariat and the chairs of committees, working groups, task forces, and regional group secretariats can upload important notifications in INTOSAI’s five official languages.
- Events Calendar: The calendar keeps users in touch with project-related activities, such as scheduled meetings, events, or tasks.

How Can I Learn How to Use the Collaboration Tool?

A comprehensive tutorial (in INTOSAI’s five official languages) is available on the log-in page of the tool. (Click on the word “Tutorial” in the lower left hand corner.) It features 13 PowerPoint presentations that are also available as PDF documents.

Tutorial for the Collaboration Tool

The screenshot shows the INTOSAI logo and name at the top left. Below it, the text 'International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions' is visible. The main header of the page reads 'INTOSAI Collaboration Tool' with a 'Back' link on the right. The central content is a table listing various tutorial topics and their available formats.

Description	PDF	PPT
How To Login	PDF	PPT
Exploring Home Page	PDF	PPT
E-mail	PDF	PPT
Calendar and Tasks	PDF	PPT
Workspaces	PDF	PPT
Discussions	PDF	PPT
Content Services	PDF	PPT
Web Conferencing	PDF	PPT
Mailing Lists	PDF	PPT
User Profile	PDF	PPT
Real Time Messenger	PDF	PPT
Infrastructure Requirements	PDF	PPT
Annexure – Template for User Creation (xls)		PPT

For further information or questions about using the Collaboration Tool, contact the SAI of India at support@intosaiactool.org; pdir@cag.gov.in; or ir@cag.gov.in.


 A graphic featuring a spotlight on the left side, casting a beam of light towards the center. The text "Spotlight on" is written in a cursive font, and "THE STRATEGIC PLAN" is written in a bold, serif font below it. In the background, there is a faint, stylized globe with latitude and longitude lines.

Spotlight on THE STRATEGIC PLAN

by Kirsten Astrup, INTOSAI Director of Strategic Planning

In the January issue of the *Journal*, I wrote about progress in updating the strategic plan for 2011–2016 after the Strategic Planning Task Force met and the Governing Board commented on the draft. I received the first round of comments—from the task force and INTOSAI members—last autumn. In cooperation with the Secretary General, the goal chairs, and the task force chair, I have incorporated those comments into the revised draft.

I appreciate all the contributions being made to developing INTOSAI's second strategic plan. We are now producing a new draft based on the task force members' review, which is to be completed in the middle of April. After that, the new draft will be sent out to all member SAIs for a second hearing round. As you may know, I created a complementary document to the strategic plan, entitled *INTOSAI's Report on the Strategic Plan 2005–2010*, which describes the results of the first strategic plan, its achievements, and its detailed organizational structure to date. This is the platform upon which we build our new plan. As we are finalizing the second strategic plan, I sense that we are all motivated by the plan's purpose—to take INTOSAI and individual SAIs to a higher level of capacity. I believe that strategic activities throughout INTOSAI are helping us move toward that goal while, at the same time, building bridges between our institutions.

At the end of March and beginning of April, I participated in the 6th meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee in



Kirsten Astrup

Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. I gave a short report on the strategic plan update. The committee responded positively to both this report and the work being done to develop the next strategic plan and stressed the importance of the plan in charting a path for INTOSAI over the next 6 years. Osama J. Faqeeh, Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee and President of the General Auditing Bureau of Saudi Arabia, commented that the efforts to ensure progress in developing the new strategic plan have truly been a team effort.

In Caracas, the Venezuelan audit office received us cordially and Clodosbaldo Russián, the Auditor General, organized the meeting in an effective and professional manner. We were able to explore some of the city and neighborhood. We learned about an interesting initiative the audit office had undertaken to renovate and restore a park that had fallen into disuse. The employees had volunteered their efforts for this work and, in return, were able to use it in their leisure time for sports and other outdoor activities, such as barbecues. This is an important aspect of our modern lives given the ever-increasing pressures on individuals in the work force that challenge the quality time families can spend together. This park will offer relief for both audit office staff and their families.

After a great deal of discussion in the preparatory stages, it was decided that the structure of the new strategic plan would remain the same as the previous one. As with the earlier plan, the new plan is based on the fundamentals contained in INTOSAI's mission, vision, and goals, which, in turn, are based on INTOSAI's seven core values:

- independence,
- integrity,
- professionalism,
- credibility,
- cooperation,
- innovation, and
- inclusiveness

The importance of these core values cannot be overemphasized. The first and most important is independence, which was underscored by the adoption of the Mexico Declaration on SAI Independence in 2007 and has been chosen as an area of focus within INTOSAI for 2010. Independence, which deals with the audit environment, and integrity, which deals with the auditors themselves, are the cornerstones upon which our profession is built. Based on these two cornerstones, we can achieve professionalism and credibility through cooperation, innovation, and inclusiveness.

In the 2011-2016 strategic planning period, INTOSAI will continue its work in a broad and diverse field of activities, but a number of key issues warrant its special focus in order to secure continued progress for both the organization and its members. Key strategic priorities for this period include reinforcing independence and professionalism in external government auditing and fostering adequate internal

and external communication to meet the increasing public demand for oversight, accountability, and transparency. INTOSAI also needs to demonstrate the value and benefits of SAIs in good governance and development as well as the role of SAIs in fighting corruption. INTOSAI needs to further encourage close cooperation among regional working groups, SAIs, and international organizations in combating corruption.

In the October issue of this *Journal*, I briefly mentioned the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that INTOSAI and the donor community were scheduled to sign in Brussels later that month. Signing this MOU emphasized INTOSAI's strategic focus on capacity building. The MOU establishes a partnership to strengthen SAI capacity to increase the effectiveness of SAIs as instruments in their countries of accountability, transparency, and good governance and as vehicles to fight corruption. As part of advancing the donor funding MOU, INTOSAI will make the development of strategic and development plans throughout the organization a high priority during the new strategic plan period. (See Inside INTOSAI in this issue for information on the initial implementation of this MOU.)

Please feel free to contact me at astrup@rechnungshof.gv.at if you have comments or would like to give feedback on issues related to implementing INTOSAI's strategic plan.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Conference on Strengthening External Public Auditing in INTOSAI Regions

From May 26–27, 2010, the INTOSAI General Secretariat will host a conference in Vienna, Austria, on strengthening external public auditing in INTOSAI regions.

This conference was developed based on the conviction that INTOSAI should make every effort to strengthen the independence and capacities of its member SAIs. The planned conference will focus mainly on the needs and requirements of INTOSAI's seven regional working groups. It will discuss different approaches to transmitting the values and benefits of independent SAIs in INTOSAI's regions along with the resulting requirements and needs for capacity building.

For additional information, contact the INTOSAI Secretariat:

E-mail: intosai@rechnungshof.gv.at

Web site: www.intosai.org

Initial Implementation of Memorandum of Understanding between INTOSAI and the Donor Community

As reported in the January *Journal*, representatives of INTOSAI and 15 donor multilateral and national agencies signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Brussels on October 20, 2009. The MOU brings SAIs together with the donor community in a common approach to strengthening SAI capacity in developing countries; it also provides a variety of mechanisms to facilitate donor funding and support in line with donor mandates, priorities, and requirements.

INTOSAI Representatives on the Steering Committee

The MOU provides for a governance structure consisting of a Steering Committee assisted by a Secretariat to provide administrative support. All donor signatories to the MOU are members of the Steering Committee. At the 59th INTOSAI Governing Board meeting in November 2009, the board approved the following INTOSAI representation—to achieve technical expertise and balanced regional representation—on the Steering Committee: the SAIs of Saudi Arabia (Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee), Denmark (Chair of the Professional Standards Committee), Morocco (Chair of the Capacity Building Committee), India (Chair of the Knowledge Sharing Committee), the United States of America (Chair of the Task Force on Donor Funding), and Austria (INTOSAI General Secretariat); the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI), the capacity-building arm of INTOSAI; and two rotating regional members.

Initial Steering Committee Meeting Held in Morocco in February 2010

The initial meeting of the Steering Committee was held February 22–23, 2010, in Marrakech, hosted by the Court of Accounts of the Kingdom of Morocco. In preparation for that meeting, a task force comprising representatives of IDI, the European Commission, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), and the World Bank developed initial discussion papers on the Steering Committee and its Secretariat. One paper considered and recommended a structure for the Steering Committee’s operations, a work program, and funding modalities, and the other addressed working modalities and the host for the Secretariat.



Participants in the initial Steering Committee meeting in Morocco in February.

Representatives at the meeting agreed upon working modalities for the Steering Committee that include consensus decision making, and joint Steering Committee leadership, with joint chairs and vice-chairs from the INTOSAI and donor communities. INTOSAI appointed the SAI of Saudi Arabia as Chair and the SAI of the United States as Vice Chair, based on their roles as Chair and Vice Chair of the INTOSAI Finance and Administration Committee. The donor community appointed the World Bank as Chair and DFID as Vice Chair to represent the multilateral and bilateral donor organizations, respectively. Recognizing that this cooperative agreement is still in its development phase, the Steering Committee adopted an interim work program for the period leading up to the second Steering Committee meeting, which is to take place in South Africa in November 2010. The key activities for the interim work program are to

- take stock of ongoing capacity-building initiatives in the SAI community,
- develop an overview of existing strategic plans and development action plans,
- survey the needs of SAIs in developing countries,

- detect funding gaps, and
- gather examples of good practices for SAI capacity building.

This survey and analysis will provide important input to the joint work program to be decided upon at the second Steering Committee meeting. The work program will ensure that support is provided in a strategic, transparent, coordinated, sustainable, and needs-based manner.

At the Morocco meeting, the Steering Committee appointed IDI to host its Secretariat in recognition of IDI's broad experience in SAI capacity building and wide network within INTOSAI as well as INTOSAI's commitment to the success of this cooperative agreement. The interim terms of reference for the Secretariat identify roles and responsibilities for (1) carrying out the above-mentioned key activities of the interim work program, (2) administering and facilitating Steering Committee meetings, (3) carrying out information and awareness-raising activities, and (4) ensuring effective communication. The Steering Committee recognized that the Secretariat's roles and responsibilities will evolve over time and that the Secretariat will be a key support for the Steering Committee in implementing the MOU.

For further information, please contact the INTOSAI-Donor Community Steering Committee Secretariat, IDI:

Fax: +47 21 54 08 50

E-mail: idi@idi.no

Financial Audit Subcommittee

In preparation for the XX INCOSAI in November 2010, the Secretariat of the Financial Audit Subcommittee (FAS) is focusing its efforts on raising awareness of the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) on financial audit within the INTOSAI community. FAS's ultimate goal is to provide SAI leadership with the information they need to decide to implement the ISSAIs. FAS will also participate in joint awareness-raising initiatives with the Professional Standards Committee.

Whenever possible, members of FAS and its Secretariat will introduce the ISSAIs on financial audit to INTOSAI members at international meetings. For example, FAS Project Director Jonas Hällström will visit the Namibian SAI in connection with the FAS meeting in South Africa in April to introduce the ISSAIs.

In another effort to raise awareness, FAS sent information kits in early March to 79 key persons who had been nominated from 64 different SAIs. The kits included a PowerPoint presentation, a handout, and speaking notes so that the recipients could give an introductory presentation on the INTOSAI financial audit guidelines at their respective organizations. The material is also available on the FAS Web site at <http://psc.rigsrevisionen.dk/fas>.

Other FAS Activities

- FAS continues to appoint experts to task forces of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB). Currently, INTOSAI experts are working on task forces to revise International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 610 and ISA 720.
- The practice notes included in the ISSAIs are currently being translated into INTOSAI's five official languages. The European Court of Auditors is working on translating and proofreading the French, German, and Spanish versions. The translating firm Büro Tazir is doing the Arabic translation, which the Moroccan SAI is proofreading.

FAS Meetings

The next FAS meeting will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, April 14-16, 2010, hosted by the South African SAI. This meeting will focus on approving ISSAIs 1000 and 1003 and the translation of the practice notes into INTOSAI's official languages. FAS will also discuss its work plan for the next 3 years. The subcommittee will meet in Stockholm, Sweden, September 8–9.

In March, FAS Chair Gert Jönsson attended his first IAASB meeting as a member of the board. The meeting was held in New York City. He was supported by FAS Director Jonas Hällström as technical advisor.

For additional information, please contact the FAS Secretariat:

Fax: +46-8-51714111

E-mail: projectsecretariat@riksrevisionen.se

Web site: <http://psc.rigsrevisionen.dk/fas>

Subcommittee on Accounting and Reporting

The Web site of the Subcommittee on Accounting and Reporting was launched in January 2010 and resides on the site of the Professional Standards Committee. It contains general information on the subcommittee's mandate, work plan, and membership. It also contains various reports and presentations, including the results of its 2009 survey on financial accounting and standards and reports to the Professional Standards Committee and the INTOSAI Governing Board.

For additional information on the subcommittee's work, contact Stuart Barr, Assistant Auditor General, Office of the Auditor General of Canada.

E-mail: stuart.barr@oag-bvg.gc.ca

Web site: <http://psc.rigsrevisionen.dk/las>

Working Group on Environmental Auditing: Results of Sixth Survey of Environmental Auditing

Since 1992, when it was formed, the INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA) has conducted six surveys to monitor the trends, developments, and challenges that audit offices are facing in environmental auditing. The sixth survey, covering the period from January 2006 through March 2009, was sent to all INTOSAI members in 2009. A total of 106 SAIs completed the survey, for an overall response rate of 59 percent.

The survey focused on such areas as SAI auditing mandates, conduct of environmental audits, measurement of the effect of audits, SAI capacity for environmental auditing, cooperation with other SAIs, use of INTOSAI and WGEA products, and future audit plans.

The survey results indicate the following developments for January 2006 through March 2009:

- SAIs are increasingly specifying their mandates to audit environmental issues. Most SAIs indicated that their environmental audit mandate had not changed since 2006.
- SAIs are increasingly conducting environmental audits. Most SAIs (78 percent) have conducted environmental audits and more than half (59 percent) said the number of audits had increased since 2006. Also, most SAIs (86 percent) are considering environmental issues in their other audits.
- Environmental audit objectives have generally remained the same, the two most common being determining compliance with domestic environmental legislation and evaluating the performance of government environmental programs. The most important environmental audit topics for the SAIs participating in the survey were natural resources, the quality and supply of drinking water, and general waste. Climate change was also mentioned as a popular topic.
- The number of audits on international environmental agreements and sustainable development has remained more or less the same as the previous survey. The three most audited conventions are the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol), the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The variety of agreements and treaties has somewhat expanded.
- More than half of the SAIs (56 percent) measure the effect of their environmental audits, primarily by observing the government's responses to audit recommendations and conducting follow-up audits. The main reasons for not measuring audit effect are the lack of (1) environmental data/indicators and (2) a proper follow-up system.

- In 82 percent of the responding SAIs, 1 or more percent of all employees work on environmental auditing. In 33 percent of SAIs, the share of employees working on environmental audits has increased since 2006. The development of other capacities (in areas such as budget, training, and methodology) has also increased in 43 percent of SAIs.
- The most common obstacles the SAIs experience in development environmental audits are (1) insufficient monitoring and reporting systems and data on the state of environment and (2) lack of skills or expertise within the SAI. A positive change from previous surveys is that SAIs are using different kinds of measures more frequently to overcome those obstacles—primarily training staff, using international organizations’ environmental standards, and collecting environmental data directly from the field. Many SAIs underscored the importance of continuously carrying out environmental audits and developing their capacity through training and cooperative activities. The importance of assistance from the INTOSAI WGEA and regional WGEAs was also cited.
- A large share of all SAIs (80 percent) plan to conduct environmental audits during the 2009–2011 period, primarily in the areas of natural resources, waste, and water. More than half of the SAIs (64 percent) plan to increase the volume of their environmental audits.
- Half of the SAIs (50 percent) have had experience cooperating with another SAI on an environmental auditing issue since 2006. As in previous surveys, the most common cooperative activity was the exchange of audit information or experiences among SAIs. All SAIs cited their cooperative activities as relevant and useful tools in their work. SAIs believe that using information technology—i.e., developing interactive Web sites and using e-training—will be beneficial for future cooperation among SAIs.
- The most used and important INTOSAI WGEA products are auditing guidance materials, the home page, and the *Greenlines* newsletter.

The Chair of the INTOSAI WGEA would like to thank all the SAIs who responded to this survey. The responses were essential to describing the developments and trends in the field of environmental auditing in the past 17 years and updating the INTOSAI WGEA Web site. The results of this survey will also play a vital role in developing the 2011–13 INTOSAI WGEA work plan and serving the needs of INTOSAI members.

The full survey report can be found on the INTOSAI WGEA Web site (www.environmental-auditing.org) under WGEA Publications, Surveys.

For additional information, contact the WGEA Secretariat at the National Audit Office of Estonia:

Fax: +372 640 0101

E-mail: info@wgea.org

New ASOSAI Chairman

At the XI ASOSAI Assembly on October 12, 2009, Tanwir Ali Agha, Auditor-General of Pakistan, became the new Chairman of ASOSAI, taking over from Jiayi Liu, Auditor General of the Chinese National Audit Office. On that occasion, Mr. Agha assured ASOSAI members that his priority as Chairman of ASOSAI would be to carry the mission forward within the framework of the ASOSAI Charter and with the cooperation, assistance, and support of all members of the ASOSAI family and its strategic partners.



Tanwir Ali Agha

Mr. Agha became the 16th Auditor General of Pakistan in July 2007. As head of the Pakistani SAI, he is entrusted by the Constitution with the responsibility of reporting to the national and provincial legislatures on the results of the federal and provincial governments' financial operations.

Mr. Agha has had a diverse career in public service. In addition to various positions in the SAI, he held key jobs in the Ministry of Finance for more than two decades. He was the Economic Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan in the United States and an Executive Director on the Board of the World Bank in Washington, D.C. Before assuming the office of Auditor-General, he served as Finance Secretary to the Government of Pakistan. Mr. Agha has had extensive exposure to public finance policy planning and coordination at the highest levels of decision making.

Currently, Mr. Agha is the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ECOSAI) and External Auditor of the United Nations (UN) Industrial Development Organization. He is also a member of the UN Panel of External Auditors. He was the External Auditor of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for the 2006–08 term.

For additional information, contact the Office of the Auditor-General:

E-mail: agp@agp.gov.pk

Web site: www.agp.gov.pk

EUROSAI Seminar on INTOSAI’s Standards and Guidelines

On October 28–29, 2009, the NIK, the SAI of Poland, hosted a pilot seminar on the framework of International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) and INTOSAI Guidelines on Good Governance. The seminar was a joint initiative of the NIK, Chair of the EUROSAI Governing Board, and the Danish Rigsrevisionen, Chair of the INTOSAI Professional Standards Committee (PSC).



Participants in the EUROSAI seminar on INTOSAI standards and guidelines.

The seminar gathered representatives of 26 EUROSAI SAIs (including the European Court of Auditors), 1 OLACEFS SAI, and 1 ARABOSAI SAI.

The seminar’s primary goal was to increase the EUROSAI SAIs’ knowledge of the content, structure, and purpose of the framework of INTOSAI standards and guidelines. The participants exchanged experiences in applying the standards to financial, compliance, performance, environmental, and internal control auditing within their national organizations.

In his welcome presentation, Jacek Jezierski, President of the NIK and Chair of the EUROSAI Governing Board, emphasized the importance of ISSAIs in fulfilling EUROSAI’s strategic priorities, which encompass active contributions to its members’ institutional development by creating opportunities for training, knowledge, and information sharing. Mr. Jezierski also presented the strategic objectives of the EUROSAI Governing Board.

Henrik Otbo, Auditor General of the Danish Rigsrevisionen and Chair of INTOSAI’s PSC, shared the PSC’s perspective on the motivations for working with ISSAIs. He described the main challenges facing the PSC and emphasized that the standards are likely to gain importance as the demand for transparency in the public sector increases.

All materials from the seminar—including general information, presentations, participant reports, and photos—are available on the EUROSAI Web site at the following link: www.eurosai2008.pl.

For additional information, contact the NIK:

Fax: (+48-22) 444 55 73

E-mail: wsm@nik.gov.pl

Web site: www.nik.gov.pl

Nineteenth OLACEFS Assembly

The Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Entities (OLACEFS) held its 19th General Assembly in Asunción, Paraguay, October 5–9, 2009. Hosted by the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic of Paraguay, the assembly drew delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Perú, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Uruguay. Guests and observers included representatives from Spain, Portugal, Germany, the World Bank, and this Journal.



Participants in the 19th OLACEFS Assembly in Paraguay in October 2009.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held in the Bicameral Room of the National Congress of the Republic of Paraguay. The President of Paraguay, don Fernando Lugo Méndez, officially opened the ceremony, warmly welcoming the delegates and thanking them for their role in contributing to government accountability in the region. The President

of OLACEFS, Julio Cesar Turbay Quintero, Comptroller General of Colombia, also addressed the delegates, as did Octavio Augusto Airaldi, Comptroller General of Paraguay, and Miguel Carrizosa, the President of the Paraguayan Senate.

Technical Theme Presentations

The General Assembly was organized around four themes:

- the budget as the financial expression of development plans, its execution and effect;
- principles of accountability for the member countries of OLACEFS;
- world and regional conventions in the fight against corruption; and
- the environment and sustainable development: the challenges of climate change and energy development.

Plenary addresses introduced each theme and were followed by delegate debates on the major issues raised in the papers and the discussions. Guest speakers for the respective themes included Octavio Augusto Airaldi, Comptroller General of Paraguay; Licenciada Rocio Aguilar, Comptroller General of Costa Rica; Carlos Polit Faggioni, Comptroller General of Ecuador; and Oscar Lamberto, Auditor General of Argentina. The assembly adopted the Declaration of Asunción, which lays out eight major accountability principles for good governance and is intended as a guide for member countries. The declaration also expresses the commitment of OLACEFS members to emphasize and reinforce environmental issues within the plans and public policies of their respective governments.

Other Business

Because the Director General of the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) was unable to attend the General Assembly, a video presentation with accompanying PowerPoint slides described the joint IDI and OLACEFS programs to strengthen the institutional and professional capacity of the supreme audit institutions of developing countries.

During the general business session, the assembly elected the President of the Brazilian Tribune of Accounts and the Comptroller General of Venezuela to the Governing Board of OLACEFS for 2010–2011.

The 20th OLACEFS General Assembly will be held in 2010 in Guatemala in the July/August time frame.

Other Activities

Throughout the conference, the Comptroller General and his staff treated participants with gracious and generous hospitality. In addition to a private tour and reception at the Museum of South American Soccer, they provided a taste of local cuisine, music, and dance at both the opening reception and closing dinner at the Hotel Guarani Esplendor. In addition, the President of Paraguay hosted the heads of the delegations

at a private dinner at the Presidential residence. Following the conference delegates had the opportunity to visit the Yguazú waterfalls in Brazil and the Itaipu hydroelectric dam along the border of Brazil and Paraguay.

Information on the 19th OLACEFS General Assembly, including presentations and papers, will be available on www.olacefs.net.

Corrections

In the January 2010 Journal, the title of an Inside INTOSAI news item incorrectly identifies Hwangsik Kim as the new ASOSAI Chairman. As the text correctly notes, Mr. Kim is the new Secretary General of ASOSAI. See the news item on p. 26 on Tanwir Ali Agha, the Auditor General of Pakistan and new ASOSAI Chairman.

Also in the January issue, the photograph on p. 38 is from the XI ASOSAI Assembly in Islamabad, Pakistan, in October 2009, not the ASOSAI Social Security seminar in Beijing.

IDI/OLACEFS Blended Train-the-Trainer Program

In response to OLACEFS' request that IDI equip a new group of training specialists, preparations were made in 2009 to initiate this region's third round of the modified Train-the-Trainer Program during 2010. The program, which now includes a capacity-building module, will be delivered through e-learning and classroom courses. A team of IDI staff and regional training specialists met in Costa Rica in March 2010 for 3 weeks to redesign and adapt the Course Design and Development Workshop and the Capacity Building Module to an e-learning platform. This platform will be used to deliver the 21-week online portion of the program from July through December 2010. In 2011, the participants will meet for the face-to-face Instructional Techniques Workshop before graduating as IDI Training Specialists.



The team of IDI staff and regional specialists that adapted the Course Design and Development Workshop to the virtual platform for the OLACEFS train-the-trainer program.

Transregional Capacity-Building Program on Public Debt Management Audit

Approximately 90 participants from 31 participating SAIs completed an 8-week e-learning course on the audit of public debt management and developed audit plans through online collaboration. They were divided into three groups for audit planning meetings in March 2010 where they received feedback from peers and subject matter experts on their draft audit plans and planned for upcoming pilot audits. A French-speaking group met in Senegal, one English-speaking group met in Kenya, and a second English-speaking group met in Indonesia. After these meetings, the teams initiated the audit execution part of the program, which will last from April 2010 to February 2011. They will also write a proposal to adapt the INTOSAI guidance on public debt management audit for their SAIs. This program is being delivered in cooperation with the Debt Management Program of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and the INTOSAI Working Group on Public Debt.

IDI UPDATE



IDI Update keeps you informed of developments in the work and programs of the INTOSAI Development Initiative. To find out more about IDI and to keep up to date between editions of the *Journal*, look at the IDI Web site: www.idi.no.

IDI/ARABOSAI Strategic Planning Program

In 2009, IDI launched an ARABOSAI strategic planning program designed to enhance SAIs' strategic planning capacities and enable SAIs to develop and manage strategic plan implementation. Strategic planning teams from each of the seven participating SAIs convened in Lebanon in March 2010 for the Strategic Planning Workshop. During the workshop, participants were exposed to strategic planning concepts and trained on ways to implement a broad consultative strategic planning process. The teams will later follow the same process to develop draft strategic plans for their respective SAIs. The program will also include a module on operational planning and developing operational plans to implement strategic plans

Contacting IDI

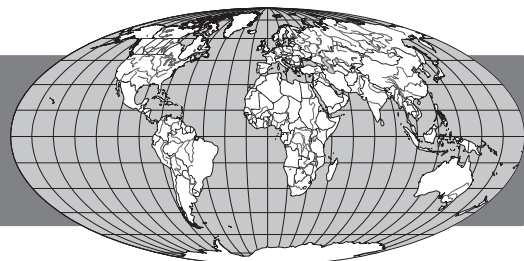
To discuss any of the issues raised in this edition of the IDI Update, please contact IDI:

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INTOSAI 2010 Events



<p>April</p> <p>7-8 Working Group on Key National Indicators meeting, Astana, Kazakhstan</p> <p>15-17 Working Group on IT Audit meeting, Beijing, China</p> <p>16-20 Financial Audit Subcommittee meeting, Cape Town, South Africa</p> <p>25 Meeting of Subcommittee 1 of Capacity Building Committee, Rome, Italy</p>	<p>May</p> <p>TBD Meeting of Subcommittee 2 of Capacity Building Committee, Rabat, Morocco</p> <p>5-7 Steering Committee meeting of the Professional Standards Committee, Copenhagen, Denmark</p> <p>10-11 Meeting of the Working Group on Privatization, Economic Regulation and Public-Private Partnerships, London, United Kingdom</p> <p>20-21 Meeting of Subcommittee 3 of Capacity Building Committee, Bonn, Germany</p>	<p>June</p> <p>7-11 Assembly of the Working Group on Environmental Auditing, Guilin, China</p> <p>30-July 1 Meeting of the Capacity Building Committee Steering Committee, Washington, D.C., United States</p>
<p>July</p> <p>7-12 13th PASAI Congress, Tarawa, Kiribati</p> <p>12-13 Working Group on Accountability for and Audit of Disaster-related Aid meeting, Lima, Peru</p>	<p>August</p> <p>TBD Steering Committee meeting of the Knowledge Sharing Committee, Mexico</p> <p>TBD OLACEFS General Assembly, Guatemala</p>	<p>September</p> <p>8-9 Financial Audit Subcommittee meeting, Stockholm, Sweden</p>
<p>October</p> <p>26-27 10th ARABOSAI General Assembly, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>November</p> <p>22-27 60th INTOSAI Governing Board meeting, XX INCOSAI, 61st INTOSAI Governing Board meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa</p>	<p>December</p>

TBD = To be determined

Editor's Note: This calendar is published in support of INTOSAI's communications strategy and as a way of helping INTOSAI members plan and coordinate schedules. Included in this regular *Journal* feature will be INTOSAI-wide events and regionwide events such as congresses, general assemblies, and board meetings. Because of limited space, the many training courses and other professional meetings offered by the regions cannot be included. For additional information, contact the Secretary General of each regional working group.

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