INTOSAI National Coordination Platform Meeting

ASEANSAI Executive Committee, Training Committee, and Secretariat attended the 2nd Meeting of INTOSAI and the INTOSAI Regions’ Coordination Platform (IRCP) in Cape Town, South Africa on 21 to 23 May 2019. This meeting served as a coordination forum between INTOSAI and regional SAIs to further strengthen synergy.

The meeting was attended by 54 participants from all INTOSAI regions, INTOSAI Goal Chairs, the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee, the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation, General Secretariat, IDI, INTOSAI Journal and the next INTOSAI Chair.

The agenda covered a wide variety of subjects, identified as priorities by the participants. Some of the issues discussed during the meeting were:

- The importance of leadership and INTOSAI’s role in strengthening current and future leaders within INTOSAI and its members;
- Challenges and success factors in ISSAI implementation, including the need for professional quality control and quality assurance processes to support the implementation;
- How to better coordinate INTOSAI communication to improve impact and increase accessibility.

Participants also received information about the upcoming INCOSSI XXII in Moscow, the updating of the SAI PMF Implementation Strategy and the strategic development of the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation, among other things.

As a part of the 3i Programme – ISSAI Implementation Initiative, the IDI has been supporting SAIs in different INTOSAI regions in conducting ISSAI compliant audits. Through collaboration with ASEANSAI, IDI gives their support on the Cooperative Financial Audit.

Currently, the project comes to the mentor onsite visit. Each mentor provides one week onsite support to designated SAIs at the fieldwork of the audit.

At this stage, mentor has opportunity to discuss directly with the audit team on the audit progress and the challenges in performing the audit. Mentor also provides the input and assist the audit team to perform their audit as planned and in line with the ISSAI.

From March to May 2019, audit teams from SAI Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Lao PDR were on mentor onsite visit with their respective mentors. After this visit, the audit teams are requested to prepare the audit reports to be reviewed by IDI manager and resource person. At the end of the program, a workshop on Quality Assurance will be organized to indicate the extent of compliance to financial audit ISSAI requirements.

The uniqueness

The Shwedagon Pagoda is one of the most famous pagodas in the world and is the main attraction of Yangon, Myanmar’s capital city. Locally known as Shwedagon Zedi Daw, it sits in a top of a hill with 99 meters height. It can be seen from most places of Yangon day and night as the golden roof illuminates the city.

The main gold-plated dome is topped by a stupa containing over 7,000 diamonds, rubies, topaz, and sapphires, the whole giddy concoction offset by a massive emerald positioned to reflect the last rays of the setting sun.

As Myanmar’s most revered shrine, it has always been customary for families, mendicants and followers of the Buddha to make the pilgrimage to the Shwedagon. This is almost the same way that Moslems do to visit the Kaaba at Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

Visitors are required to remove their shoes upon entering the Shwedagon and combining the scalding floor tiles between the shaded sanctuaries is not an easy process.

The pagoda is said to contain eight hairs of the Buddha, a fact that adds its prestige. The stairways and bridges leading into the main sanctuary to serve the thousands of pilgrims who flock there, and flower and book stalls, peddlers of religious souvenirs and tea shops do a brisk trade during the pilgrimage.

Travelers will see temples everywhere they go in Myanmar, and will doff mitras be struck by the wealth and profusion of building styles. At Pagan for example, there is an ancient plain containing over 2,000 temples and pagodas, surely one of the most remarkable ensembles in the world. Yet still, assessed on their individual merits, the Shwedagon Pagoda remains unrivaled as temple, meeting place and symbol of national identity.

Source: https://www.theshwedagonpagoda.com

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At this meeting, ASEANSAI shared its experience in implementing ISSAI through LTAPlI (Long-term ASEANSAI Programme on ISSAI Implementation).
The 3rd Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN

The Office of the Auditor General of the Union of Myanmar (OAGM) held a Compliance Audit Workshop on Extractive Industry Sector with the assistance of the Office of the Auditor General of Norway (OAGN) from 13th – 21st June 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The workshop provided auditor of OAGM, especially the compliance audit team, recommendation on their audit plan, subject matter, audit objectives, audit criteria, and risk identification in the planning phase of auditing in Oil and Gas Sector and Mining Sector.

The experts from OAGM delivered audit procedures and facts that need to be considered in the fieldwork phase of the Compliance Audit and also shared their knowledge gained from other SAIs’ case studies.

For this workshop, it was expected that the participants gained the knowledge on how to accomplish the planning phase of the Compliance Audit generally and also on how to conduct the planning phase of audit in EIB sector of other SAIs and audit procedures effectively in the audit field.

Hosted by the ASEAN Secretariat, the 3rd Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN was held on Monday, 29 April 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

This forum aimed to elevate entities’ awareness regarding ASEAN work plan and priorities as well as to inform them on how the entities could contribute towards achieving ASEAN Vision 2025 through specific collaborative undertakings.

Over 150 participants representing ASEAN youth, civil societies, women, business and professional associations, including SAIs Indonesia as ASEANSAI Secretariat attended this forum.

This forum was opened by Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs, Dr. APK Mochtan. In his speech, he highlighted how ASEAN and the entities could work collectively in achieving a more people-centered, more environmentally sustainable Asia and ASEAN.

Moreover, he explained that given the diversity among ASEAN entities as well as the expansive scopes that entities cover, there is a big role ASEAN entities could play to ensure agility and inclusiveness in our regional integration process.

At XIV ASOSAI Assembly at Vietnam in 2018, the Assembly agreed on recommend actions and approved the Hanoi Declaration. The main content of Hanoi Declaration is to affirm ASOSAI’s interests, efforts and contributions to assist and support development Goals (SDGs) which recognized by United Nations. The declaration proposes two recommendations, that is, (1) to promote knowledge sharing and capacity development in ASOSAI community in the field of environmental auditing for sustainable development and (2) to implement SDGs and address global environmental challenges.

This forum aware the participants on how the entities could contribute to pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which recognized by United Nations.

SAI Thailand has conducted performance audit for more than thirty years. They have more experience in performance audit. Therefore, when INTOSAI proposed four approaches to implement SDGs for SAI Thailand, we have strengthened the performance audit that contribute to each aspect of SDGs.

Moreover, the Hanoi declaration 2018 suggested measures that contributed to implement SDGs for ASOSAI community. SAI Thailand recognizes this declaration by strengthening knowledge and experience sharing with key stakeholder especially the academic institution.

After XIV ASOSAI Assembly, SAI Thailand prepared to engage with academic institution in order to develop knowledge for SDG audit and sharing experience in performance audit with academic institution. Therefore, when SAI Thailand implements the declaration by engaging activities with SDG Move, they started with conducting research and develop the knowledge audit for SAI. SAI Thailand has recognized the new opportunity by utilizing the best practices of SDG audit.

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