The SAI-Donor Engagement Workshop

The INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the ASEANSAI Secretariat organized the SAI-Donor Engagement Workshop which held at ADB training facilities in Manila, Philippines in 16 – 18 September 2019. This workshop was attended by 19 participants from members of ASOSAI and Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA) aiming to empower SAsIs to engage in fruitful and mutually beneficial partnerships with donors in leading their institutional strengthening strategy.

Further, this workshop also intended to support SAsIs in developing high quality concept notes which would increase their position while engaging with development partners; and subsequently, flow to them to lead their donor supported projects.

Various topics were discussed during the workshop such as Deciding on Support, engaging Donors, thinking like a Donor, Staying Connected, Concept Note development, Planning, Executing and Monitoring and Why to coordinate.

During the workshop, Mr. Wahyud from SAI Indonesia and Mr. Fazlullah Nazemi from SAI Afghanistan had the opportunity to share their experiences on ‘Donors and Don’ts of Receiving Support - A Recipient SAI perspective’.

In addition to coaching and assisting participating SAsIs to engage with donors, this workshop also served as a forum of sharing knowledge and experiences among SAsIs on how to engage with donors.

Paradise of the North: Philippines’ Batanes Group of Islands by Alyssa Marie M. Corredo, SAI Philippines

The Uniqueness

In the northernmost Philippine frontier lie the relatively isolated islands of Batanes, home of the resilient and welcoming ethnonymic group of Ivatans. Considered as the smallest province in the country, Batanes has a land area of 219 square kilometers and a population of less than 17,000. Batanes islands can be exceptionally mesmerizing especially for first time comers. Its sloping hills, subtropical climate, well- preserved culture, and breathtaking landscapes and seascapes, make it perhaps one of the most beautiful chain of islands in the world.

The famous stone houses of Batanes, with their heavy boulder walls covered with thick cogon grass roofs are not found anywhere else in the Philippines. Since the province is surrounded by major bodies of water including the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean, the Ivatans’ historic houses were built to protect them from extreme catastrophic conditions like earthquakes, hot-humid summer months, and storms brought by monsoon rains and severe typhoons.

To date, Batanes is still in pristine condition and has not been ravaged by mass tourism unlike a lot of places in the country. With the absence of malls, clubs and fast food chains, Batanes provides a calm and meditative break from the noise and chaos of urban living. It does not only showcase a variety of picture-perfect spots for tourists, but it is also a great destination for travelers who are more interested in connecting with nature and culture at the same time.

The Ivatans are known for their admirable values. They are trusting, so much so that they leave the doors and windows of their houses open. Moreover, Ivatans have been proven to have longer life expectancy due perhaps to living a low-stress life. It has been recorded that there are over 30 centenarians living in Batanes.

It is a wonder Batanes is definitely in every Filipino’s bucket list and every traveler’s dream destination. With its picturesque hills and jaw-dropping beaches, Batanes really is breath of fresh air and a dream come true.


The 5th Senior Officials Meeting

The State Audit Organization of Lao P.D.R. (SAI Lao) hosted the 5th ASEANSAI Senior Officials’ Meeting in Vientiane from 4 to 5 July 2019. The meeting was officially opened by Her Excellency, Dr. Mrs. Vienthong SIPHANDONE, Commissioner of ASEANSAI was attended by 30 senior officials from 10 SAIIs.

In her speech, Her Excellency, Dr. Mrs. Vienthong SIPHANDONE welcomed all participants warmly and also conveyed her sincere appreciation to all members of ASEANSAI in nominating senior officials to attend the 5th SOM. Her Excellency also highlighted the importance of the meeting which were to review, discuss and approve some crucial issues. Various issues were discussed at the meeting and the result will be brought to Summit for the Assembly’s approval.

The result of the SOM were approvals on

on this issue

The 5th Senior Officials Meeting

ESOSA-based Financial Audit Training in SAI Myanmar

Training Committee’s Communication on LAsian Sustainability

The SAI-Donor Engagement Workshop held at ADB training facilities in Manila, Philippines.

5th Contacts the uniqueness

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to provide you the third edition of ASEANASI Newsletter in 2019.

In this edition, we bring you the latest activities of July to September which covers the 59th Senior Officials Meeting, The SAM-Donor Engagement Workshop and OAG Norway Visit to ASEANASI Secretariat. This edition also presents contribution from SAI Myanmar on ISSAI-based Financial Audit Training in SAI Myanmar.

While for the uniqueness column, we post Philippine Bantayuan Group of Islands, home of the resilient and welcoming ethnomusicological group of batans.

Lastly, the Secretariat is always open for your submission of articles, special reports, news and other materials related to the ASEANASI and member's activities. You can share and submit the materials to the Secretariat at asain@bpk.go.id.

Enjoy reading!

Warm Regards,

Bahtar Arif

Office of Auditor General of Norway (OAG Norway) visited ASEANASI Secretariat in Jakarta on 1 July 2019. This one day visit aimed to discuss how OAG Norway can work together with ASEANASI and support specific activities.

OAG Norway that represented by resident advisor in Myanmar, Mr. Ingvad Heldal had an opportunity to have a courtesy call with Secretary General BPK as Head of ASEANASI Secretariat, Mr. Bahtar Arif.

During the visit, Mr. Ingvad Heldal presented OAG Norway methods on technical assistance, bilateral collaborations with ASEANASI and information on the collaboration between OAG Norway – Myanmar. The Secretariat also presented the profile of ASEANASI including the history of establishment, organization structure, activities, cooperation with Development Partners, and its outreach.

In addition to that, discussion and sharing experiences on developing performance audit was also held. It is expected that visit of OAG Norway will strengthen the cooperation between ASEANASI and OAG Norway.

As part of the sustainability initiatives of the Long-Term ASEANASI Programme on ISSAI Implementation (LTAPI), the ASEANASI Training Committee (TC) chaired by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of the Philippines (Commission on Audit), conducted the Course Design and Development Workshop (CDDW) in financial audit for instructors on 19-27 August 2019 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Basically, the programme consists of two major activities: 1) The design and development of the remaining four financial audit topics; and 2) The delivery of the designed workshop using the developed coursewares.

The CDDW was utilized as course designers for ASEANASI-accredited ISSAI Facilitators on Financial Audit, particularly from the SAI of Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar, and one financial auditor from SAI Philippines. With the guidance of the Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from the Swedish National Audit Office (SNAO) and the mentors from the TC a courseware on specific financial audit topics Audit Documentation, Audit Evidence, Analytical Procedures, and Reporting was designed and developed.

The courseware consists of six sessions aiming to link the planning phase to the execution and reporting phases of the financial audit process. Each session consists of a set of course materials, namely, Session-at-a-Glance (SAAG), PowerPoint Slides, Facilitator’s Guide (FG), Structured Learning Exercises (SLEs) and Participants’ Notes.

Upon approval, the courseware will be used and delivered in the Financial Audit Workshop proposed to be conducted in April 2020. This will ensure attainment of the programme’s main objectives, advancing the knowledge of ASEANASI auditors in financial audit, and empowering them to align their national standards to the ISSAIs.

SAI Myanmar is planning to conduct the financial audit in line with the international standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) by conducting pilot audits year by year. They have already conducted pilot audits and trainings in the Head Office and the Office of the Auditor General of Yangon Region. The Training for Trainers Workshop relating to the ISSAI-Compliant Financial Audit was held from September 4 to 6, 2019 in the Office of the Auditor General of the Union, Nay Pyi Taw, and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with the support of the European Union.

The training aimed at sharing the knowledge about ISSAI based financial audit, the Financial Audit Practical Guide and experiences of the pilot audits that were carried out in previous years to the staff from the head office and respective regional audit offices. During the workshop, the EU experts explained how to review the audit plan in the field of determining materiality and sample size, to comment on the preliminary planning and detailed planning, to respond the risk, to finalize the audit especially in determining the type of opinion and considering the situations whether to include in the Emphasis of Matter paragraph or Other Matter paragraph with case studies.

The co-facilitators or representatives from the head office and the Office of the Auditor General of Yangon Region also shared their experiences gained from the pilot audits. The 23 participants from the head office and 75 Participants from the office of the Auditor General of Regions and States, totally 98 participants attended that training.

The trainers in this workshop will disseminate the knowledge from the Workshop to auditors from the head office and all levels of audit offices in the regions and States.

SAI Myanmar has already drawn up roll-out plans to conduct financial audits in line with ISSAI yearly. According to the plan, all financial audits conducted in SAI Myanmar will be ISSAI compliant in the financial year 2019-2020 for the Union Level and in the financial year 2022-2023 for the State/Region Level.