

THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION'S NOTE



Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and warm greetings to all of you.

Alhamdulillah, with many great blessings, we have much to celebrate of the many ASEANSAL activities held during 2014. To bring 2014 as a prolific year for ASEANSAL, I would like to highlight the ASEANSAL events and contributions from ASEANSAL members for this volume of newsletter.

First and foremost I would like to take this wonderful opportunity to convey my heartiest congratulations to Mr. Pisit Leelavachiropas, the newly appointed Auditor General of Thailand, and Mr. Harry Azhar Azis, Ph.D the new Chairman of Audit Board of Republic of Indonesia.

One of the highlights of the ASEANSAL activities for this newsletter is the first ASEANSAL Executive Committee Meeting which was chaired by the Auditor General of Brunei Darussalam cum Chair of ASEANSAL, and attended by the Auditor General of Cambodia cum the Vice Chair of ASEANSAL, representatives from ASEANSAL Secretariat, and senior officials from National Audit Authority of Cambodia. Amongst the many matters discussed was on the upcoming ASEANSAL Assembly 2015.

The other ASEANSAL highlight is from the ASEANSAL Training Committee where the IntoSAINT Moderators' Training was conducted in Nha Trang City, Vietnam, in coordination with moderators from SAI Netherlands.

In the strive to improve the auditing and accounting practices in the ASEAN region, the Office of the Auditor General of the Union of Myanmar (OAG) has shared that a memorandum of understanding has been signed between OAG and German International Cooperation (GIZ) for the Implementation and Enforcement of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA) in Myanmar's Financial Banking Sector. Furthermore, the SAIs of Lao P.D.R, Kingdom of Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have also contributed an article on the annual Tripartite Meeting on the subject matter "The Lesson on ISSAI Implementation."

SAI Vietnam has shared on The Pre-Audit Arrangement Workshop For Cooperative Audit On Mekong River, Hanoi, Vietnam where a memorandum of understanding between the SAIs was signed for ensuring the SAIs of Cambodia, Lao P.D.R, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam of the efficiency and effectiveness of the upcoming 2015 biodiversity audit of the Mekong River.

In SAI Brunei's continuing efforts to utilize ICT to improve audit efficiency and effectiveness there is an article contributed on the Audit Management System (AMS) training for the department's personnel.

Finally, for the Uniqueness column we like to share the Preah Sihanouk Province, Phnom Penh, Cambodia which has mesmerized tourists with the varieties of attractions.

Last but not least, I like to wish all of you the best for the new year 2015, and may the ASEANSAL spirit of togetherness continue to burn deep within our hearts for us to strengthen the ASEANSAL Community with good governance for better government.

Happy New Year 2015.

Warm Regards,

Pengiran Hajah Fauziah Binti Pengiran Haji Muhammad Kifli

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NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE AUDIT COMMISSION AND AUDITOR GENERAL APPOINTED - THAILAND

On September 25, 2014, Prof. Chaisit Trachoetham, six members and Mr. Pisit Leelavachiropas have been appointed by the King as the Chairman of the State Audit Commission, the Member of the State Audit Commission and the Auditor General respectively.

According to the Organic Act on the State Audit 1999, the State Audit Commission shall have the powers and duties in connection with the formulation of the state audit policies while the Auditor General shall be responsible for the performance of official affairs of the Office of the Auditor General and shall report directly to the Chairman.



THE AUDIT BOARD OF REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA (BPK) APPOINTS HARRY AZHAR AZIS, PH.D. AS THE NEW CHAIRMAN



Harry Azhar Azis, Ph.D., assumed office as the Chairman of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia, succeeding the former chairman, Dr. Rizal Djalil whose mandate expired on October 28th, 2014.

Prior to his new appointment, Harry Azhar Azis, Ph.D. was a parliament member, economist and Indonesian political expert. He also served as Vice Chairman on the Commission XI of the Parliament focusing in the field of Finance, National Development Planning, Banking and Non-bank Financial Institutions.

Before engaging in the parliament, he was a lecturer at several universities in Indonesia. He has undergraduate education from the College of Industrial Management, Indonesia. Afterwards, he went to take Master degree in the University of Oregon USA and earned a doctorate in the Oklahoma State University USA, both in the field of economics.

During college, he had received several awards such as best student of the college in 1976 and Scholarship Award for ASEAN Youth in 1987 and 1993. In addition, he actively writes several papers which were published in the national and local media.

ASEANSAL

VOLUME IV / 2014
NEWSLETTER

ASEANSAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, 21 OCTOBER 2014



The ASEANSAL Executive Committee meeting was held in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia on 21st October 2014.

This was the first ASEANSAL Executive Committee Meeting held after the handing over of ASEANSAL chairmanship to Jabatan Audit of Brunei Darussalam on 6 November 2013. This meeting was chaired by Auditor General of Brunei Darussalam cum Chair of ASEANSAL and attended by the Auditor General of Cambodia cum the Vice Chair of ASEANSAL, representatives from ASEANSAL Secretariat, and senior officials from National Audit Authority of Cambodia.

During the one day meeting, the ASEANSAL Executive Committee had discussed a number of agendas which included the ASEANSAL activities since last November 2013, amendment to ASEANSAL Agreement, concept paper on the restructuring of ASEANSAL Secretariat, amendment on ASEANSAL Work Plans 2014-2015, donor support and other matters pertaining to the Audit Report on ASEANSAL Financial Statement For The Year Ended 31 December 2013, joint communiqué as well as proposed date, venue and agenda for the ASEANSAL Assembly 2015, ASEANSAL Technical Meeting, and ASEANSAL Summit 2015 for the handing over of ASEANSAL chairmanship to National Audit Authority of Cambodia.

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IntoSAINT MODERATORS' TRAINING IN NHA TRANG CITY, VIETNAM 1 - 6 DECEMBER 2014

In accordance with the ASEANSAT Training Plan for 2014, the ASEANSAT Training Committee has conducted the IntoSAINT Moderators' Training from 1 - 6 December 2014 in Nha Trang City, in Vietnam coordination with moderators from SAI Netherlands. The training workshop was attended by 20 participants from 7 ASEAN countries and SAI Fiji.

SAINT (Self-Assessment INtegrity) is a tool which enables public sector organisations to assess their vulnerability and resilience to integrity violations. SAINT also yields recommendations on how to improve integrity management. SAINT is developed by the Netherlands Court of Audit in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and the Bureau Integrity of the city of Amsterdam. The objectives of the training are:

- Train participants in the use of IntoSAINT.
- To build a pool of IntoSAINT moderators for ASEAN region and other SAIs in the Asian region.

During the 6 day workshop, participants learnt the concept of self-assessment, Into(SAINT) methodology as well as given the opportunity to conduct role-plays on how to be effective moderators in their own SAIs.

Upon the conclusion of the workshop, each participating SAI is requested to:

- Conduct an integrity self-assessment (IntoSAINT) within its own SAI before the end of 2015, with support by moderators who have participated in this training.
- Enable its trained moderators to join the ASEANSAT regional pool of IntoSAINT moderators and, if necessary, to participate as trainers in the follow-up regional training workshop for new moderators that may be planned in the future for ASEANSAT.
- Share the experiences of its IntoSAINT pilot with the core group of ASEANSAT-member SAIs and institutional partners.



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SAI VIETNAM HOSTED THE PRE-AUDIT ARRANGEMENT WORKSHOP FOR COOPERATIVE AUDIT ON MEKONG RIVER BASIN, HANOI, VIETNAM 16 - 18 SEPTEMBER 2014

On 16 September 2014, the State Audit Office of Vietnam (SAV) hosted successfully "the Pre-Audit Arrangement Workshop for Cooperative Audit on Mekong River Basin" in Hanoi. The workshop took place with the participating SAIs of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, with experts from GIZ and ASEAN centre for Biodiversity. It was held for purpose of identifying framework and objectives for the cooperative audit planned to be conducted by the 5 foregoing SAIs in 2015. This coming audit on biodiversity in the Mekong River Basin would be hosted by SAV.

Being aware of the importance of the Mekong River, the SAV, in collaboration with SAIs of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand, carried out a parallel audit of the water issue of the Mekong River Basin for the first time in 2012 and 2013. The audit result reveals that at the national level, the system of laws and policies on management of water resources and environment in Vietnam is incomplete.

At the regional scale, it also proved that sustainable development has grown to be a transnational issue, beyond the reach of each separate country.

The workshop lasted for 2 days (16 - 18 September 2014). Through knowledge sharing and lessons learnt from the previous audit, the workshop focused on discussion of identifying some priority topics to select a topic for the 2nd cooperative audit of this kind. "This is considered as a good opportunity to strengthen the capacity of SAIs in the field of environmental auditing", said Dr. Tien- Deputy Auditor General, SAV.

Basically, through discussion among SAIs, the participants had been equipped with a lot of intensive learning and experiences on biodiversity audit. Topic for the upcoming audit on fishery in Mekong River Basin was also agreed. At the end of workshop, a draft MoU was developed as a commitment of SAIs' participation to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the 2015 audit.



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A MoU between the Office of the Auditor General of the Union of Myanmar (OAG) and German International Cooperation (GIZ) was signed at the Office of the Auditor General of the Union, Nay Pyi Taw, on 14 October 2014 for the Implementation and Enforcement of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA) in Myanmar's Financial and Banking Sector.

This has been a great opportunity to provide the capacity establishment and enrichment of OAG as well as to practice International Accounting and Auditing Standards in the Financial and Banking Sector in Myanmar. Developing the practice of IFRS and ISA in the area of auditing and accounting in Myanmar has not only improve the effectiveness of the current functional operations and transactional performances, but also enhances the competency and regulatory procedures of OAG, the pivotal role player of government-mechanism.



THE STATE AUDIT ORGANIZATION OF LAO PDR'S INTERNAL MEETING TO REVIEW THE AUDIT IMPLEMENTATIONS DURING THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 2014



On October 2014, the State Audit Organization of Lao PDR held an internal meeting to review the audit implementations during the previous fiscal year. The State Audit Organization of Lao PDR had audited the revenue from income taxes, assets, equivalent assets to the capital, income taxed from land, technical income and others.

The strengths and weaknesses of the budget expenditure were also discussed.

6TH TRIPARTITE MEETING BETWEEN SAIs OF LAO PDR, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM 11 - 12 NOVEMBER 2014

The Tripartite Meeting is an annual event, established from a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between 3 countries namely Lao PDR, Kingdom of Cambodia and The Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This year marks the 6th Tripartite Meeting and it was the turn of The State Audit Organization of Lao PDR to be the host supported by GIZ.

The 6th Tripartite Meeting was held from 11-12 November 2014 and the subject discussed was "The Lesson on ISSAI Implementation". This is an important topic and a priority in the minds of various senior audit offices in the region and worldwide have interested on. Among the matters discussed and experiences shared by the participants were:

1. Current situation on ISSAI Implementation of 3 SAIs
2. Areas for improvement.
3. Solutions and way forward.

The discussion and lessons shared among 3 SAIs from 3 countries was about the improvement on the realistically structural audit systems, capacity building, developing the legislations/legal procedures related to coordination mechanism, in audit reporting, increasing competencies in audit evaluation. All of these will be applied by each of the mentioned countries.



AUDIT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AMS) TRAINING 24 - 28 NOVEMBER 2014 SAI BRUNEI

A 5 day in-house training on Audit Management System (AMS) was held from 24 to 28 November 2014 in the Seri Damai Meeting Room, Block C, Level 1 Bahirah Building.

Conducting the training was Mr Hiroyuki Sakai, Senior Application Consultant for TeamMate AM Asia-Pacific with a total of 21 participants attending, including Acting Deputy Auditor General, most of whom are department nominated AMS Champions from a various audit areas.

The objectives of the training are:

- Brief users on improvements made to the new version of AMS.
- Increase the users knowledge about the AMS system enabling them to maximize the utilization of various modules found in AMS.
- Learn to review and produce reports using AMS.
- Increase the utilization rate of AMS among department personnels.



the **UNIQUE**ness

PREAH SIHANOUK PROVINCE, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Preah Sihanouk province, named after King Norodom Sihanouk since its independence from France in 1953, is known locally as Kampong Soam. Located 230 kilometers southwest of the Capital Phnom Penh, the province has become one of the best seaside destinations in Asia to be explored.

Known for its fabulous beaches, the province revolves around fabulous seafood, water-sports and its surrounding islands. The popular beaches that line the contour of the city from north to south are the Victory Beach, Deum Chrey Beach, Independence Beach, Sokha Beach, Serendipity Beach, Ochheuteal Beach, Samdech Hun Sen Beach, Hawai Beach, Ream Beach and the Otres Beach.

Besides mesmerizing the tourists, other popular off the beach attractions include the tropical islands, the beautiful Kbal Chhay waterfall and the Ream National Park.

Island hopping, snorkeling and scuba diving are also very popular since most part of the natural beauties in and around Preah Sihanouk province are still very much undisturbed.

When night falls, tourists can explore and enjoy the culinary diversity of restaurants and bars that are scattered alongside the beaches and all over town.

Tourist attractions in Preah Sihanouk province come in great many varieties which are sure to leave the tourists with cherished memories.



Source: Ministry of Tourism, Cambodia)