

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ASEANSAI TECHNICAL MEETING

4th November 2015

Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel & Residence, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

1. DATE AND VENUE

- 1.1 The ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions (ASEANSAI) Technical Meeting was held on 4th November 2015.
- 1.2 The event took place in Meeting Malisrouth Ground Floor, Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel & Residence, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

2. PARTICIPANTS OF THE ASEANSAI TECHNICAL MEETING

- 2.1 The ASEANSAI Technical Meeting was attended by 33 senior officials / delegates from:
- i) Jabatan Audit Brunei Darussalam (**SAI Brunei**);
 - ii) National Audit Authority of Kingdom of Cambodia (**SAI Cambodia**);
 - iii) The Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia (**SAI Indonesia**);
 - iv) The State Audit Organization of Lao P.D.R. (**SAI Lao**);
 - v) Jabatan Audit Negara Malaysia (**SAI Malaysia**);
 - vi) Office of the Auditor General of the Union, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (**SAI Myanmar**);
 - vii) The Commission on Audit of the Republic of Philippines (**SAI Philippines**);
 - viii) Auditor-General's Office, Singapore (**SAI Singapore**);
 - ix) Office of the Auditor General of Thailand (**SAI Thailand**); and
 - x) State Audit Office of Vietnam (**SAI Vietnam**).

The list of attendees is as attached in **ANNEX 1**.

3. SPEECH BY SAI CAMBODIA

- 3.1 Mr. Long Atichbora on behalf of Auditor General of hosting SAI, Her Excellency Madam Som Kim Suor welcomed all delegates to the technical meeting. He then invited The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan, Head of Secretariat Function to commence the ASEANSAI Technical Meeting.

4. TECHNICAL MEETING

- 4.1 The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan, Head of Secretariat Function welcomed all delegates to the ASEANSAI Technical Meeting and highlighted that the meeting was very important to make sure the ASEANSAI Summit the next day would run smoothly as expected. The Honourable further mentioned that there were issues to be discussed and decisions to be made. There were at least 3 significant issues to be discussed and to conclude. The presentation slides can be seen in **ANNEX 2**.

Agenda 1: Finalisation of the Draft Protocol Amending the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions (ASEANSAI)

- 4.2 The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan highlighted the most significant issue which was the signing of the draft protocol amending to the ASEANSAI agreement. The process of amending the agreement had started two years ago. The issue to amend the agreement was triggered by the need for ASEANSAI to have a single secretariat for sustainability.
- 4.3 The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan recalled the status of the draft Protocol Amending The Agreement On The Establishment of ASEANSAI:
- ❖ The draft Protocol which was to have a single Secretariat, was agreed during the ASEANSAI Senior Officials' Meeting in Brunei Darussalam in July 2015.

- ❖ The final draft was to be signed during the ASEANSAI Summit this 5th November 2015 in Cambodia.
- ❖ All member SAIs were to proceed with the internal clearance. Five SAIs namely SAI Singapore, SAI Indonesia, SAI Vietnam, SAI Lao and SAI Thailand had obtained internal clearance from their respective agencies.
- ❖ SAI Malaysia had proposed other amendments as suggested by their AGC. This proposal affected the draft Protocol that has been agreed earlier and the internal clearance that has been already obtained by some SAIs. As such, the revised draft Protocol has to be re-circulated again to all SAIs for the internal clearance process. The matrix is attached in **ANNEX 3**.

4.4 The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan informed that the Executive Committee, Head of Administration Function and Head of Secretariat Function during the Preparatory Meeting in the morning, had derived the following three options:

- **Option 1:** All agree and that the draft Protocol will be signed during the Summit. Since there will be a new Chairman, it will be effective if this new Chairmanship is directly supported by the Secretariat. Furthermore, all head of SAIs will attend the Summit and this is the perfect time to make an agreement on the important issue for the ASEANSAI sustainability.
- **Option 2:** To sign the draft Protocol during the Summit with an exceptional clause on Article 6 - ENTRY INTO FORCE, considering that not all SAIs have obtained the internal clearance regarding the Article 6. This would mean the signing would be conducted during the Summit but the Agreement will only be enforced when internal clearance has been obtained.

- **Option 3:** To postpone the signing of the draft Protocol until all internal clearance will be obtained and find the best event for all the Head of SAIs to sign.
- 4.5 The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan informed that the first and second options were difficult to achieve because internal process needs to restart again.
- 4.6 All SAIs agreed to postpone the signing of the draft Protocol Amending The Agreement On The Establishment of ASEANSAI until all member SAIs have obtained the internal clearance after the circulation of the revised draft. The revised draft Protocol will incorporate all comments made by all member SAIs after the Summit and will be circulated to all member SAIs to give ample time for internal clearance process. If there are no changes to the draft Protocol, Secretariat hopes that all member SAIs can target to obtain internal clearance within 3 months from the date of circulation of the draft.
- 4.7 The meeting further discussed the venue for hosting the signing of the draft Protocol Amending The Agreement On The Establishment of ASEANSAI. SAI Thailand proposed the signing be done during the ASOSAI Governing Board Meeting in Chiang Mai which is also in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary celebration of SAI Thailand to be held on February 2016. SAI Thailand informed that invitations have been sent to all ASEANSAI members.

Agenda 2: Cooperation With Donors Such As World Bank And Swedish National Audit Office

- 4.8 The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan informed the meeting that World Bank, has agreed to provide a grant amounting to USD325,000.00 to support the LTAPII Phase II. Based on conversation with World Bank, the matter is still pending the approval from the Regional Vice President. Once the approval is obtained, the Agreement will be signed by World Bank and ASEANSAI in early 2016.

- 4.9 The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan also highlighted the importance of the support from World Bank to finance the LTAPII activities in 2016 as GIZ will provide fund for selective projects. If the approval is obtained from the World Bank by January 2016, the agreement is expected to be signed in February 2016.
- 4.10 The draft agreement between ASEANSAI and World Bank will be circulated by the ASEANSAI Secretariat to all members for approval. Once approved, the Chairman of ASEANSAI will sign the agreement during the assembly.
- 4.11 SAI Malaysia voiced that although they supported the LTAPII programme, they foresee that it will be difficult because there is no provision of clause in the current ASEANSAI Agreement which allow ASEANSAI to obtain support from donors. SAI Malaysia proposed to include an additional clause on this matter in the Agreement.
- 4.12 SAI Singapore supported the programme but proposed an alternative for consideration whereby the agreement can be signed by the donor and the beneficiary SAIs. This will help to shorten the process of obtaining internal clearance.
- 4.13 SAI Malaysia proposed the possibility to include a clause in the ASEANSAI Agreement that the Chairman has certain power to make the ultimate decision in order to speed up the process of signing of agreement.
- 4.14 The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan concluded that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEANSAI and World Bank will be postponed for further discussion because there is no decision on this agenda.
- 4.15 The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan advised that there is a need for ASEANSAI to enter into an MOU with the Swedish National Audit Office (SNAO) regarding the technical assistance to ASEANSAI on LTAPII. The previous arrangement where technical assistance is provided through GIZ will

no longer continue in 2016 as the agreement between GIZ and SNAO will expire in December 2015.

- 4.16** Member SAIs requested Secretariat to provide details on the arrangement before taking a decision on this matter. Secretariat will circulate the details to member SAIs.

Agenda 3: ASEAN SECRETARIAT Proposal

- 4.17 The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan informed that SAI Malaysia has proposed for ASEANSAI to audit ASEAN's Financial Statement and to conduct audit for projects proponent/ implementing agency in its respective Countries, and for ASEANSAI and ASEC to develop cooperation on Knowledge Sharing or Training.
- 4.18 The meeting noted several comments from the floor relating to respective SAI's Mandate, Terms of Reference, composition of the audit team and resource availability for the audit of ASEAN's Financial Statement.
- 4.19 Representative from SAI Malaysia sought approval from the meeting for a timeslot for the Auditor General of Malaysia to give a brief presentation on the proposal during the ASEANSAI Meeting Session II.
- 4.20 The meeting agreed on the followings:
- ❖ To postpone the signing of the draft Protocol Amending The Agreement On The Establishment of ASEANSAI until internal clearance has been obtained by all member SAIs on the revised draft to be circulated after the ASEANSAI Summit;
 - ❖ Proposed the signing to be conducted in Chiang Mai in February 2016;

- ❖ Auditor General of Malaysia will present the proposal for ASEANSAI to be the external auditor for ASEAN during the ASEANSAI Summit.

Agenda 4: Confirmation of the Next Chairman

- 4.21 The meeting concluded that SAI Cambodia will be the next Chair and SAI Lao will be the Vice Chair of ASEANSAI for the term 2015 to 2017.

Agenda 5: Appointment of ASEANSAI Secretariat and Administration Function

- 4.22 The meeting agreed to continue the transitional arrangement of having two functions that is ASEANSAI Secretariat and Administration Function, until the draft Protocol Amending the Agreement on the establishment of ASEANSAI is signed whereby the Administration Function will be headed by appointed officer from the Chair SAI and Secretariat Function will be headed by SAI Indonesia. The appointment will be endorsed at the ASEANSAI Summit.

Agenda 6: Appointment of Auditor for Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2015

- 4.23 The meeting agreed that following the result of the ASEANSAI Senior Officials' Meeting in July 2015, SAI Thailand will be the next Auditor as there are no other nominations. The appointment will be endorsed at the ASEANSAI Summit.

Agenda 7: Appointment of ASEANSAI's Committees and Members

- 4.24 The meeting concluded that with no additional comment for the appointment of ASEANSAI Committees and members, the appointment for each committee as agreed during the ASEANSAI Senior Officials' Meeting in Brunei Darussalam will be endorsed at the ASEANSAI Summit.

Agenda 8: Status of Revised Work Plan 2016-2017 (Including the proposed budgets)

4.25 SAI Cambodia informed that not all the meeting materials have been provided and sought cooperation from the committees to provide them by the end of the day to ease the flow of the ASEANSAI Summit.

4.26 The meeting concluded with no other comments on the revised Work Plans 2016-2017 and that the Committees' Work Plans 2016-2017 will be presented for endorsement during the ASEANSAI Summit.

5. CLOSING

5.1 The Honourable Mr. Hendar Ristriawan expressed his thanks to all delegates for attending the Technical Meeting.

5.2 There being no other matters, the meeting ended at 16:00pm.