

SAI Myanmar's Response After the March 2025 Earthquake: Ensuring Accountability and Transparency in Post-Disaster Management



On 28 March 2025, a powerful earthquake measuring 7.7 struck central Myanmar, affecting six states and regions, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory. The disaster caused widespread destruction and humanitarian challenges. In response, the government launched emergency rescue and relief operations, supported by ASEAN member states, neighboring countries, and international organizations. Humanitarian aid included relief goods, search and rescue equipment, medical supplies, and healthcare services.

Despite damage to government offices and staff housing in Nay Pyi Taw, the government quickly organized a systematic response. With support from the authorities, the Office of the Auditor General of the Union (SAI Myanmar) took immediate steps to ensure staff safety and operational continuity. These included building temporary shelters, distributing essential supplies, and repairing office buildings. As a result, SAI Myanmar has resumed its activities and is now operating under normal conditions.

As the Supreme Audit Institution, SAI Myanmar plays a key role in safeguarding public resources. After the earthquake, they supported efforts to strengthen transparency, accountability, and financial integrity in the government's response. This included advising on the use of disaster management funds and donor contributions, reviewing draft rehabilitation procedures, and promoting strong documentation and internal controls. SAI Myanmar will also audit the distribution of aid such as food and medicine, as requested by relevant ministries, in line with the Union Auditor General Law.

Through these actions, SAI Myanmar reaffirms its commitment to upholding good governance and public trust, especially in times of national crisis. Its proactive oversight contributes to a more resilient and accountable society.

(Office of the Auditor General of the Union, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar)



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the second volume of the ASEANSAI Newsletter for 2025. This edition showcases updates and highlights of ASEANSAI's activities from April to June 2025.

Among the features, you'll find insights into SAI Myanmar's response to the March 2025 earthquake, ASEANSAI's progress in formulating its Strategic Plan 2026–2029, the launch of ISSA 5000 as a new global standard for sustainability assurance, and key takeaways from the 9th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN, which emphasized Vision 2045 and regional collaboration.

Our "Uniqueness" Column highlights the Mangrove Marvels of Koh Kong, Cambodia's rainforests by the sea, celebrating the importance of coastal ecosystems in supporting biodiversity, tourism, and community resilience.

As always, we welcome submissions from ASEANSAI members in articles, special reports, news updates, or other materials relevant to ASEANSAI's work. Please feel free to share your contributions with us at aseansai@bpgk.go.id.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

Happy reading!

Warm Regards,
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The Uniqueness

Mangrove Marvels of Koh Kong: Cambodia’s Rainforests by the Sea

About 5.5 hours from Phnom Penh, the mangrove forests of Koh Kong are one of Cambodia’s natural treasures. Often called “rainforests by the sea,” these coastal forests cover more than 50,000 hectares in Koh Kong alone. They are part of the 4.25 million hectares of mangroves found across Southeast Asia, and play an important role in protecting Cambodia’s coastline and environment.



These forests are full of life. They are home to crabs, shrimps, shellfish, snails, fish, and even mudskippers that seem to prefer land over water. Birds nest in the trees, and animals like lizards, sea turtles, and fruit bats also live here. In Boeng Kayak, visitors can explore the mangroves on an elevated walkway, making it easy to see the plants and animals without disturbing their home.

The mangroves are not only important for nature—they also help local communities. Tourism projects in the area create jobs for nearby villagers while encouraging people to protect the forest. If you love nature and want to see something truly special, the mangrove forests of Koh Kong are a great place to visit and learn about the rich life along Cambodia’s coast.

(National Audit Authority of Kingdom of Cambodia)

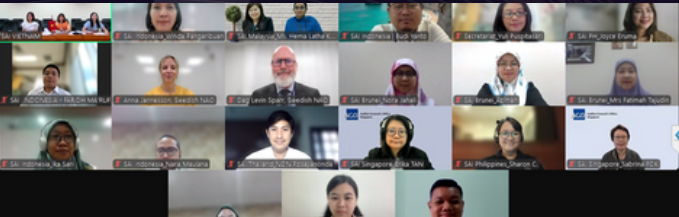
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ASEANSAI Advances Strategic Plan 2026–2029 Through Collaborative Consultations

ASEANSAI continues to strengthen its institutional development and good governance through the development of its Strategic Plan 2026–2029. Led by the State Audit Office of Viet Nam (SAV) as Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, the process has included consultations with member SAIs and international partners. Following the first meeting in December 2024, two virtual meetings were held in May and June 2025, involving around 30 participants from ASEANSAI and the Swedish National Audit Office. Drafts of the Plan and its Implementation Matrix—reflecting ASEANSAI’s core values and four strategic objectives—were reviewed and revised through collaboration.

The third meeting, led by SAI Philippines, resulted in a broad consensus on the third draft. The final version will be confirmed ahead of the Senior Officials’ Meeting in July and formally endorsed at the ASEANSAI Summit in November 2025, hosted by SAI Singapore. In closing, Ms. Lang Trinh Mai Huong of SAV thanked the Committees for their contributions and reaffirmed ASEANSAI’s commitment to a sustainable and forward-looking future.



(State Audit Office of Vietnam)

ISSA 5000: A New Era for Sustainability Assurance and the Role of SAIs

The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) has issued ISSA 5000, the first global standard for sustainability assurance. This principles-based and scalable standard provides a unified approach to assessing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) information across various reporting frameworks. Unlike traditional audits, ISSA 5000 is designed to address the complexity of sustainability topics through flexibility and interdisciplinary collaboration.

For Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), ISSA 5000 offers strategic opportunities to strengthen governance and public trust. It supports the evaluation of sustainability programs, introduces concepts like double materiality, and encourages readiness through internal capacity building, pilot assessments, and stakeholder engagement. ASEANSAI is well-positioned to take the lead in this area by fostering regional collaboration, facilitating peer learning, and promoting the exchange of good practices in applying the standard.

(Dr. Sutthi Suntharanurak, State Audit Advisor, OAG Thailand)

9th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN Highlights Vision 2045 and Strengthened Collaboration



The 9th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN was held on 18 June 2025 at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, serving as a platform to strengthen collaboration between ASEAN and its affiliated Centres and Entities. More than 50 of the 81 recognized entities under Annex II of the ASEAN Charter, including the ASEANSAI Secretariat, participated in the forum.

ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn opened the event by underscoring the importance of ASEAN Community Vision 2045. He emphasized the need for entities to expand their engagement with ASEAN citizens, ensuring the Vision is grounded in public aspirations and widely supported across the region.

The forum’s first interactive session featured Ambassador Sarah Al Bakri Devadason, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to ASEAN, and Delia Albert, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines. They discussed the theme of the ASEAN Chairmanship 2025 and reflected on the shared values and unity that continue to shape ASEAN leadership. This was followed by a session with former ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi, who spoke on the economic outlook toward Vision 2045, encouraging innovation, cross-sector collaboration, and stronger regional synergy.

Participants also joined an informal lunch discussion with assistant directors from ASEAN’s three community pillars, followed by a session led by Ibu Retno Marsudi, former Indonesian Foreign Minister and UN Special Envoy on Water. She shared global forecasts for 2025 to 2045 and highlighted their implications for ASEAN’s long-term development. The forum concluded with collaborative discussions on practical steps to support ASEAN’s Vision 2045. The event ended with a group photo and an exhibition of booths showcasing ongoing initiatives and contributions from ASEAN-associated entities.

(ASEANSAI Secretariat)