



MEDIA RELEASE
02 June 2017

SAI Communicates, Citizens Assured Nadi, Fiji

Auditor-Generals and Public Auditors (Heads of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI)) from around the Pacific attended a three-day workshop in Nadi, Fiji on 'Enhancing Effective Communication with Stakeholders' from 29th to 31st May, 2017.

Heads of SAI gathered to learn, discuss and develop strategies to achieve greater audit impact through effective and efficient communication with the legislature, parliamentary committees, audit entities, private sector, civil societies, citizens and the public at large as well as internally within the SAI. Sessions on media, social media and public speaking provided valuable insights and ideas on communicating audit work and results through broader platforms. "This workshop has given us much to think about and implement in our SAIs," commented Ihlen Joseph, Public Auditor for Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia and PASAI Chairperson.

In making the opening address, Mr. Matthew Lapworth, Counsellor, Regional Political and Economic Development for DFAT (Fiji) said that "DFAT is pleased to support this programme as good effective communication is crucial for SAIs in promoting good governance, accountability and transparency in the region."

Hon. Dr. 'Aisake Valu Eke, Member of Parliament for Tonga, and one of the key guest speakers for the workshop in sharing his reflection from the workshop stated that "I feel that this workshop was about changing from being a SAI from the past and becoming a SAI that is relevant for now and in the future. I am looking forward to the transition that will take place in our Pacific SAIs as a result of this workshop."

The insights gained from this workshop have prompted some SAIs to begin work on their communication strategy. While some are on their way to completing their communication strategy, others are at the stage of implementing theirs. "We have been encouraged, challenged and equipped to be better leaders in communication as Heads of SAI," said Tuvalu Auditor-General, Eli Lopati in his closing remarks. "We are taking away so much from this workshop."

At the conclusion of this workshop, each participant made their own commitments to changes in their communication in certain key areas. The actions on these commitments will be followed up on at the 20th PASAI Congress to be held in Funafuti, Tuvalu from 8 – 11 August 2017 with the theme "Promoting Values and Benefits of SAIs through Effective Communication". During the three-day workshop, key discussions and outcomes were summarized in visual form by visual facilitators from 'Interactionz' and presented for participants to take away.

The workshop was hosted and facilitated by the PASAI Secretariat team and also staff from the Australia National Audit Office (ANAO) and the Audit New Zealand. Stakeholders who attended the workshop were Members of Parliament from Fiji and Tonga, audit entities represented by the Permanent Secretary for Fiji Ministry of Public Enterprises, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, heads of regional organisations from the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) and the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations (PIANGO), and CEO for Taimi Media Network representing the media networks, Capital Toastmasters Suva and Development partners/donors the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT), European Union, and UNDP.

PASAI acknowledges the support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for making this workshop possible for all our member SAIs.

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Photo: Pacific Auditors-General and Public Auditors and representatives from various stakeholders attended the regional workshop for heads of supreme audit institutions (SAIs) on enhancing effective communication with stakeholders, Nadi, Fiji.



Photo: Mr. Matthew Lapworth, Director, Regional Political and Economic Development for DFAT (Suva, Fiji) delivering the opening remarks at the workshop.



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