Pilot staff exchange program—SAI Fiji and SAI Kiribati

PASAI and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have proposed pilot exchange program for staff from the SAIs of Fiji and Kiribati. This activity would align with PASAI’s strategic priority of developing the capacity of its member SAIs (SP4 of the Long-Term Strategy 2014–2024). The pilot program would also help with developing partnerships and twinning arrangements (4C1) between SAIs to increase information sharing opportunities and it improve SAIs’ effectiveness.

The pilot exchange program is aimed at capacity building by sharing experiences and transferring knowledge to:
- enhance professional skills
- increase confidence of the interns and their abilities to plan, conduct and report on audits
- gain familiarity with the business environment of client organisations
- enhanced knowledge of specific disciplines, strategies, techniques and methodologies.

The exchange program also aims to promote increased collaboration, including direct capacity building, between SAIs in the Pacific region.

The PASAI Secretariat has been negotiating with UNDP on the funding for this program. When a budget is confirmed, a draft agreement will be finalised and the project is expected to start.

Details of the program are being discussed with the two SAIs, including endorsement of the program by the governments of Fiji and Kiribati, the selection of the entity to be audited, the timing of the program, and logistics.
SAS program

The SAS Committee will meet in Auckland, New Zealand on 15–16 April 2015 to discuss the Round 4 program report. This report will assist the committee to evaluate and reflect on lessons learnt and to prepare for Round 5 of the program. PASAI acknowledges the continuing support of ADB for this successful capacity building program.

Secondees and ADB consultants for Round 4 of the SAS Program
From left to right: Reviniti Rekenibai (Kiribati), Kevin Hughes (ADB coordinator), Shawn Reynolds (ADB audit expert), Iefata Keli (Tuvalu), Johnson Lobo (Solomon Islands), Kirata Bita (Kiribati)
Enhancing SAI capacity and capability

January was a quiet month for PASAI trainings. However, we have been in planning and discussions mode. Under PASAI’s new Strategic Plan, there will be more capacity development activities to assist SAIs in the next couple of months. And with the support of SAIs, we look forward to successful training activities.

Career Path Training: The Secretariat is still working with SAIs on action plans and accomplishment reports from participants who have trained in previous years. Feedback from SAIs via action plans and accomplishment reports is crucial for the Secretariat to help us improve and develop future capacity development programs. It is import, and urgent, for Heads of SAIs’ to support and encourage those who represented their offices at these trainings to submit the required reports.

ISSAI Implementation Initiative: SAIs who participated in the ISSAI Compliance Assessment Tool (iCAT) review workshop in November 2014 were able to meet with mentors and facilitators to receive advice on how they completed their iCATs. As a result of this workshop, SAIs revised and completed their iCATs for the relevant audit streams (financial, performance and compliance) as well as Level 2 iCAT for each stream. Additionally, the SAIs were required to prepare a strategy for implementing ISSAIs. The Secretariat is following up with SAIs for these completed activities.