

Cooperation between the IDI and the ISCITA

Introduction to the IDI

The IDI's Mission for 2001-06 is '*to help developing nations to improve their audit capacity and effectively address emerging audit issues through training, information sharing, and the provision of technical assistance to regions of INTOSAI*'.

The IDI's focus is on SAIs of *developing* nations. The IDI also interacts with SAIs of developed nations. However, their role is to assist in providing developing-country SAIs with technical assistance¹ through the IDI's cooperation programmes..

Capacity building is another issue of emphasis. The IDI believes that simply delivering technical courses does not lead to building of audit capacity. The knowledge and skills acquired in technical courses must be applied in work situations.

Examples of Cooperation Programmes

The IDI's Strategic Plan provides for cooperation with INTOSAI Committees and Working Groups. Therefore, the IDI maintains close contact with these bodies to develop programmes.

Public Debt Auditing Programmes

In 2003-04, IDI organised a unique capacity building '*Champions*' programme on public debt auditing in the OLACEF region. This was done in close cooperation with the INTOSAI Committee on Public Debt. '*Champions*' are auditors who are expected to possess skills for supervising and conducting audits and also training skills. The candidates for this programme were auditors with some experience in auditing public debt.. This extended programme included a pilot public debt audit in Venezuela by the Champions to enable hands-on experience.

The IDI also cooperated with the Public Debt Committee in the design and delivery of a two-week technical course on public debt auditing in ASOSAI in 2004. The workshop was delivered by the IDI-certified Training Specialists of the region.

Environmental Auditing Programme

The IDI cooperated extensively with the INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA) to develop and deliver workshops in environmental auditing. It was delivered twice, once in November 2003 in ASOSAI and again in February 2004 in AFROSAI (E). After the AFROSAI (E) workshop, the EA workshop participants of select SAIs participated in the planning and conduct of a pilot collaborative audit. The audit was focused on the accountability framework for waste management. The WGEA provided technical supervision for the audit. Results of this audit have been very promising. It is currently at the audit reporting stage. This cooperation programme has persuasively demonstrated the impact of a capacity building programme on good governance. Annexe-1 shows the various stages of the cooperation process.

Now, the IDI looks forward to increased cooperation with the INTOSAI standing Committee on IT Audit (ISCITA).

¹ Technical assistance could in the form of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), best practice guides, audit tools, quality assurance reviews, supervision of pilot audits, etc.

Follow up on the 13th meeting of the ISCITA

Follow up actions by the IDI on matters relevant to it are stated below:

Committee's decisions	IDI's actions
1. SAIs Oman & India to review ISCITA's IT audit courseware for consistency by 09/2004 & give to IDI for converting into training program using the IDI methodology (<i>ref: para 22 of minutes</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The course materials would be used in IDI's extensive IT Audit Champions program in ARABOSAI commencing this year <input type="checkbox"/> The September 2004 version (for levels 1& 2 IT audit) of the course materials is currently available on the ISCITA's site. IDI will ensure that the latest version of the course materials available (either through the website or sent separately to IDI by the Committee) would be used in the above programme
2. Committee requested enhanced support of the IDI in capacity building (<i>ref: para 30 of minutes</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The IDI distributed CDs of IDI-ASOSAI courseware on Introduction to IT Audit <input type="checkbox"/> The IDI offers to distribute ASOSAI course on Financial Audit in IT environment, subject to consent of the ASOSAI <input type="checkbox"/> The IDI has planned an extensive IT Audit Champions program in ARABOSAI during 2005-06 in close cooperation with the ISCITA

The IDI's Global Survey

The IDI carried out a global survey in 2004 to obtain the response on various issues, including priorities and perceived capacity building needs, of SAIs of developing nations with respect to auditing of four areas, namely, environment, public debt, privatization and IT. The survey was divided into the following six sections: The survey questionnaire was issued in July 2004

1. About office in general
2. Environmental Auditing
3. Audit of Public Debt
4. Audit of Privatisation, etc.
5. IT Auditing
6. Training priority among the 4 areas

Sections 2 to 5 of the questionnaire were developed in consultation with the respective working group / committee of the INTOSAI.

The survey was issued in July 2004 to 156 SAIs in eight² INTOSAI regions. 80 responses were received by September 2004. IT auditing was perceived as first priority in all regions, except EUROSAI (where it was second priority). The results are shown Annexe-2. Over and above, 89 percent of the responding SAIs perceived the need for further capacity building in this area of audit. The high priority given to capacity building in IT audit offers a promising opportunity for enhanced cooperation between the ISCITA and the IDI.

IT Audit Champions programme in ARABOSAI

The IDI has planned an extensive IT Audit Champions programme in ARABOSAI during 2005-06. The objectives and other benefits anticipated from this programme include:

- ❑ To develop a pool of auditors who can supervise and perform IT audits and also train other auditors in this subject
- ❑ Go beyond just technical training to sustainable capacity building
- ❑ Effectively disseminate products of ISCITA through IDI's well-accepted training methodology
- ❑ Facilitate joint audits, peer reviews and other forms of collaboration among INTOSAI members

The Champions candidates will be selected from a limited number of SAIs based on certain criteria, such as:

- ❑ Comparatively high on use of IT within the SAIs
- ❑ Auditee environment is amenable to immediate application of learning
- ❑ Have demonstrated commitment to go beyond program to continued capacity building

The programme is planned to will comprise the following activities:

1. Curriculum Meeting

This is a 3-day Curriculum meeting to decide on the strategic direction and agree on objectives, approach, roles and overall content of the IT Audit Programme. Selection criteria for participation will be discussed in this first planning meeting. Participants at this meeting will include subject matter experts from ARABOSAI and the ISCITA, IDI-certified Training Specialists and the IDI's representatives.

2. Design and Development meeting

This is a five-day meeting aiming at designing and developing the course materials that will be offered in the following workshop. Participants at this meeting will include subject matter experts from ARABOSAI and the INTOSAI Standing Committee, IDI-certified Training Specialists and the IDI representatives.

3. IT Audit Workshop and Instructional Techniques Module

The purpose of this 3 to 4 weeks workshop is to develop the skills and knowledge of auditors in IT Audit. This is the main component of the programme and it consists of two phases:

² For working purposes, the IDI has divided AFROSAI region into two sub-regions based on language, namely, AFROSAI(English speaking) and AFROSAI (French speaking); so in effect, the survey was sent to eight 'regions'.

- ❑ **Phase 1** will be conducted as a seminar delivered by the IT Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). It will be based on the outlines developed in the planning meeting.
- ❑ **Phase 2** will be delivered by selected IDI-certified Training Specialists and will focus on course design and instructional techniques.

Participants at this workshop should be auditors with some experience and interest in IT and/or IT Audit. The workshop will be limited to 18 participants from a maximum of six SAIs. IDI will invite only SAIs with the mandate to carryout IT Audit or who are planning to implement IT Audit.

4. *Pilot IT Audit*

The objective of this activity is to enable the participants at the previous workshop to practise their newly acquired skills and knowledge. The pilot audits will be implemented in their respective countries. The pilot audit is probably the most important stage of this capacity building programme.

5. *Design and Development meeting for a Regional IT Audit Workshop*

This is a two-week design and development meeting. The objective is to prepare courseware for a two-week regional IT audit workshop for ARABOSAI. Participants in this meeting will be selected trainees from activities 4 and 5.

6. *Regional IT Audit Workshop*

This is a two-week regional IT audit workshop tailor-made to fit the ARABOSAI basic needs in IT auditing. It is suggested to offer this workshop twice (each delivery allowing the participation of 8 SAIs) to ensure a practical, hands-on delivery of the course materials. The IDI will fund the delivery of one of the two Regional Workshops.

The way ahead

There are many ways in which the ISCITA could make significant contribution to the IDI's current, and future, IT audit capacity building programmes. Amongst others, these include:

- ❑ Help formulate technical goals of the program and provide strategic directions in this regard
- ❑ Provide audit best practice guides, IT audit tools, discussion papers, IT audit reports, case studies, etc
- ❑ Provide Subject Matter Experts at various stages of the IDI's IT audit programmes
- ❑ Supervise technical aspects of the programme, including at the planning, implementation and reporting stages of pilot audits
- ❑ Include the IDI on the mailing list of research project discussion papers and final products. This will enable IDI to remain updated on developments in this IT auditing

Other activities of the IDI: E-learning initiatives

As part of its Strategic Goal#5, the IDI initiated a unique pilot e-learning project in OLACEF. The objective of the programme is to explore cost-effectiveness of training through full on-line distance learning. It is equivalent to a two-week Performance Audit course spread over 8 weeks. The programme is being delivered for 60 auditors by 4-6 on-line tutors. A full pilot audit by the trainees is expected from end August to October 2005.

The IDI is now actively considering a global E-lab project. The objective of this project is to explore e-learning solutions different from the on-line model being explored in the OLACEF region. 20 IDI-certified Training Specialists from different regions are expected participate in this two-weeks project. The IDI is planning to implement the project from end November, 2005. During the project delivery, the participants will learn the principles and practices in e-learning. To provide hands-on experience, the participants will use different e-learning authoring tools to develop self-paced e-learning modules on various topics.

Conclusion

The IDI expresses its gratitude to the Committee for continuing to invite the IDI representatives to participate in their meetings. The IDI hopes that interaction between these two institutions will result in more effective capacity building programmes in IT auditing.

Those interested to know more about the IDI may visit the web at <http://www.idi.no>

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ANNEXE-1**Cooperation Process with WGEA for the Environmental Audit (EA) Programme**

1. Proposal at the 1st WGEA Steering Committee Meeting London, April, 2002
2. Two-Day Meeting of WGEA Chair and the IDI, Oslo, July, 2002
3. Two-Day SMEs' Meeting to determine EA Course Curriculum, Oslo, November, 2002
4. Project Announcement at 2nd WGEA Steering Committee meeting, Cost Rica, January, 2003
5. Seven-Day EA Seminar for Training Specialists, Oslo, June, 2003
6. Three-Week Course Design Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, September 2003
7. Delivery of 1st 2-Week Pilot Course for ASOSAI, Antalya, November, 2003
8. Delivery of 2nd Pilot Course for AFROSAI-E, Kenya, February, 2004
9. Successful pilot collaborative environmental audit in AFROSAI with participants of the 2nd pilot course: Now at audit reporting stage

Subject Matter Experts and Training Specialists for the EA Program**1. Training Specialists**

- 5 from ASOSAI
- 2 from EUROSAI
- 2 from AFROSAI-E
- 1 from SPASAI

2. Subject Matter Experts

- Chair (Canada)
- Representatives of WGEA's Steering Committee members from
- ASOSAI (China & Pakistan)
- AFROSAI-E (South Africa)
- ARABOSAI (Jordan)
- OLACEF (Brazil, Costa Rica)
- EUROSAI (Norway, Poland, UK)
- USA

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