

INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation

Working together to strengthen SAIs in developing countries

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INTOSAI Chair Mr. Terence Nombembe (2nd from right) addresses delegates at a session on 'Country Systems' at the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea. Photo: IDI

INTOSAI Participates at Global Forum on the Future of Development Cooperation

29/11-01/12 2011: INTOSAI Chair emphasizes the value and benefits of SAIs and global partnerships

Over 2,000 delegates met in Busan, Korea to agree a new global partnership for effective development cooperation. Mr. Terence Nombembe led an INTOSAI delegation including the Commission on Audit of the Philippines and the INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat, who all presented at various sessions including on Country Systems and the role of Accountability Institutions. The 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4), the key global forum for discussions on aid and development effectiveness, marked a shift from a focus on the effectiveness of aid to the effectiveness of institutions and policies that promote development. The shift will place increasing emphasis on the role of core national institutions, including SAIs, in promoting sustainable development. The forum also recognized the changing nature of development, the increased number of countries and agencies engaged in development cooperation, and the role of south-south cooperation and global partnerships, such as INTOSAI.

The INTOSAI delegation also held discussions with stakeholders from the global accountancy and procurement professions on making global partnerships effective. The forum culminated in agreement on the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, built on four key principles.

- i. Ownership of development priorities by developing countries
- ii. Focus on results
- iii. Inclusive development partnerships
- iv. Transparency and accountability to each other

4th Steering Committee Meeting in Jaipur

The SAI of India will host the next INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee meeting in Jaipur, 23rd-25th February 2012, in conjunction with the ASOSAI Assembly. The meetings will be preceded by the inaugural meeting of the new global partnership between the International Federation of Accountants and the donor community. Members of the INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee are encouraged to complete their registrations by 15 January 2012 latest.

Steering Committee Leadership Teleconference

The INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee Leadership held their monthly teleconferences on 11th October and 22nd November. In October the Leadership discussed the many dimensions of support to SAIs in countries that have recently experienced conflict or natural disasters, and agreed to contact the INTOSAI Working Group on the Audit of Disaster Related Aid on this matter. The Leadership also discussed the availability of peer support within INTOSAI and decided to approach the Capacity Building Committee regarding efforts to further expand INTOSAI's capacity to provide peer support.

November's teleconference focused on core business, including preparing for HLF4 in Busan, the 4th Steering Committee meeting in India, the Global Call for Proposals, and Mapping of SAI Performance tools. The next teleconference is scheduled for January 10th 2012. A teleconference will be held for INTOSAI Steering Committee members on Thursday 19th January, to provide a platform for discussions prior to the 4th Steering Committee meeting.

Mapping of SAI Assessment Tools

The INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat drafted a report which assesses 18 tools used by INTOSAI and Donors to assess the performance of SAIs. The report contributes to the development of a single, global SAI Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), led by the INTOSAI Working Group on the Value and Benefits of SAIs, and will be available shortly. The report found that no existing tools meet all the desired criteria for a global SAI PMF. It recommends the development of a global tool, which would combine the strengths of a limited number of relevant tools. Such a tool could be used to benchmark SAIs with their peers, demonstrate the value and benefits of SAIs, monitor performance over time, and reduce transaction costs from the conduct of multiple assessments.

New SAI Capacity Development Database

A database of SAI Capacity Development Initiatives has been launched at www.SAIdevelopment.org. It builds on the INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee Directory for Capacity Building Projects (CBC Directory), and aims to improve coordination in the planning and delivery of support to SAIs. The database will contain up to date information on current and planned capacity development projects and programs. It retains the same access and publication policy as the CBC Directory. SAI providers and donors (to ease the burden on SAIs receiving support) are now invited to enter all current and planned programs onto the database, in coordination with their partner organizations.

Global Call for Proposals for SAI Capacity Development

There was an impressive response to last autumn's call for proposals for capacity development initiatives in need of additional support, with proposals received from 48 SAIs, as well as for seven global or regional programs. 51 applications were sent as draft and benefitted from a preliminary review by the INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat. All proposals are expected to be finalized by early January and a summary will be distributed to potential providers of support (donors and SAIs) for consideration. Deadlines were extended to accommodate the time taken to translate and review applications, which were received in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Proposals cover the full range of capacity building activities, from financial to forestry audit; professionalizing training to computerizing the audit process; tackling legal independence to enhancing citizen participation. A number of regional and country level proposals focus on ISSAI implementation. The IDI will explore how these can be coordinated with the soon to be launched trans-regional program on ISSAI implementation, funded by the World Bank.

INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee Leadership

Chair (INTOSAI): *Osama Faqeeh, General Auditing Bureau, Saudi Arabia*
 Chair (Donors): *Anthony Hegarty, World Bank*
 Vice-Chair (INTOSAI): *Gene Dodaro, U.S. Government Accountability Office*
 Vice-Chair (Donors): *Stephen Sharples, Department for International Development, UK*

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