

Regional Round-up ASOSAI WGEA

For the 8th Steering Committee Meeting of INTOSAI WGEA

Indonesia, August 2009

Distinguished Chair of the INTOSAI WGEA, ladies and gentlemen:

It is my honor to report the work of ASOSAI WGEA to the Steering Committee.

First, the environmental audit seminar was held in China. In order to exchange experiences and information in regard with environmental auditing among Asian countries, the ASOSAI WGEA held a seminar in Hangzhou, China from October 14 to 23, 2008. 61 participants from 32 countries and regions attended the seminar. Mr. Mihkel Oviir, Chair of the WGEA, was also invited to attend this seminar. On the opening ceremony of the seminar, Mr. Liu Jiayi, Auditor General of CNAO, Chair of the ASOSAI WGEA, gave a welcoming speech. Mr. Zhou Jian, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, and Mr. Dong Dasheng, Deputy Auditor General, delivered presentations on the status of Chinese environmental protection and Chinese political and audit system respectively. Mr. Mihkel Oviir briefly introduced the INTOSAI WGEA work plan

(2008-2010). Participants from 28 countries and regions also gave presentations, and discussed on the topics of “Climate Change and Air Pollution” and “Natural Resources Exploitation and Sustainable Energy”.

During the seminar, the 2nd working meeting of the ASOSAI WGEA was held. 18 SAIs’ representatives attended the meeting. At the meeting, the secretariat presented ASOSAI WGEA working report, distributed a survey on cooperative audit and re-confirmed the membership of ASOSAI WGEA.

Second, environmental audit cooperation has been promoted. On one hand, cooperative environmental audit has new development, which is witnessed by the cooperative forestry audit conducted by the SAI-Indonesia and SAI-Malaysia. On the other hand, the ASOSAI Environmental Audit Guidelines are to be finalized. The guidelines include: “basic concepts of environmental auditing”, “background knowledge for the audits of air, water, solid waste and bio-diversity”, “main audit contents for the audits of air, water, solid waste and bio-diversity”, and “environmental audits carried out by Asian SAIs”, etc. The research team, with auditors from China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, has met 5 times to draft the guidelines. The guidelines will be submitted to the governing board of ASOSAI for approval, after collecting feedbacks from

all ASOSAI members.

Third, members of ASOSAI WGEA exchanged information and experiences on environmental auditing.

In October 2008, representatives from the secretariat of ASOSAI WGEA attended the 6th EUROSAI seminar on environmental auditing to learn European SAIs' experiences on "sustainable energy" auditing.

In January, 2009, representatives from 11 Asian SAIs attended the 12th Meeting of INTOSAI WGEA in Doha. The secretariat member of ASOSAI WGEA reported the work of ASOSAI region to the assembly. During the meeting, an ASOSAI regional meeting was held, and the work plan (2009-2010) of the ASOSAI WGEA was approved.

In May 2009, representatives of the secretariat of ASOSAI WGEA attended the VI EUROSAI-OLACEFS Conference, and briefly introduced the work of ASOSAI WGEA, the preparation of 13th meeting of INTOSAI WGEA, as well as the environmental audits carried out by SAI-China. The theme of the conference is closely connected with environmental auditing and cooperative audit.

Fourth, the latest development of environmental protection and environmental auditing were seen in China.

The Chinese government and supreme audit institution have attached great importance to environmental protection and environmental auditing. The Chinese government has set “eco-system construction” as one of the ten measures to combat the world financial crisis, to encourage domestic demands and to ensure economic growth of China. In 2008, the National Audit Office of China audited water pollution control programs in 6 river valleys and the Bohai Sea, and audited 45 enterprises’ activities in fulfilling “energy saving and emission reducing” policy. Audits found that the waste water processing capacity has increased 12 million tons per day in China, COD and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission had reduced by 4.42% and 5.95% respectively. This year, with experiences learnt from other SAIs, the CNAO is organizing local audit offices to conduct cooperative audits on water pollution control programs for three rivers and one lake.

In the future, the ASOSAI WGEA will continue to work on the following aspects:

1. to further strengthen the information exchange among SAIs through the website of ASOSAI WGEA;
2. to encourage cooperative audits within ASOSAI;

3. to facilitate the implementation of Working Plan (2009-2010) of ASOSAI WGEA;
4. to make due preparation for the 13th meeting of INTOSAI WGEA;
5. to fulfill its duty as the chair of Theme II of XX INCOSAI, and prepare related papers as required.

Last but not least, I cordially invite all of you to Guangxi, China, for the 13th meeting of INTOSAI WGEA.

Thank you!