



MEDIA RELEASE
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PASAI's 20th Congress held in Tuvalu

The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) held their 20th Congress in Funafuti, Tuvalu from 8 August – 11 August 2017. Over 40 participants from 23 SAI members and development partners attended the Congress, which had the theme “Promoting the Values and Benefits of SAIs through Effective Communication”.

Acting Prime Minister, also Deputy Prime Minister of Tuvalu Hon. Maatia Toafa was the keynote speaker at the Opening Ceremony, mentioning the importance of the Congress theme, particularly for Tuvalu and its recent update of their audit Act. “With these changes and increased powers, comes additional accountability. This accountability must be effectively communicated to stakeholders in order to be demonstrated,” said Hon. Toafa.

The Prime Minister of Tuvalu Hon. Enele Sopoaga hosted a state dinner for the PASAI Congress delegates on the night of the opening of Congress. Welcoming the SAI Heads from around the Pacific, he applauded their role and those of public officers in general, in leading their nations in trust and respect. Speaking about the Tuvalu government, “This government is fully committed to the principles of transparency, good governance and accountability,” he said.

Congress delegates participated in productive dialogue during the communications workshop, coming up with creative ideas and viable solutions for the challenges which many of them face in promoting the values and benefits of SAIs and engaging their stakeholders. Important decisions were achieved during the PASAI AGM and business sessions that have positioned PASAI purposefully to achieve their strategic plan and objectives for the region. The Governing Board of PASAI also held their 17th meeting on 7 August 2017 as part of the Congress proceedings.

SAI Heads recognized the importance of having more dialogue with their colleagues, stakeholders and development partners locally to build strong relationships and trust for maximum engagement for the work that their SAI is doing. This would in turn strengthen accountability and transparency across the region. “The Congress has been a success with key decisions being made by the members relating to future funding of PASAI to ensure effective delivery of the PASAI strategy” said Mr. Ihlen K. Joseph, Public Auditor of Pohnpei State - FSM and outgoing Chairman of PASAI.

Auditor-General of Tuvalu, Mr Eli Lopati with his staff and the wider community, hosted the Congress with joy, warmth and unique Tuvalu flavour. Sharing their life and culture through food, dance, music, singing and a special excursion to Tepuka island, Congress participants were treated to an exceptional insight to Tuvalu.

PASAI acknowledges the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their valued support with this Congress.

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Photo: Delegates of the 20th Congress in Funafuti, Tuvalu.

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