



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Practical Advice for Auditors of Foreign Aid Projects in the Pacific**

PASAI completed its first pilot of conducting a co-operative financial audit for the region and selected the topic of foreign aid projects. Six SAIs from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu and Samoa participated with the support of INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI). This pilot programme resulted in multiple observations and lessons learned which forms the basis of this regional report. The report also includes practical advice to assist SAIs in the conduct of financial audits of foreign aid projects in the future. It is expected that both SAIs and development partners in the Pacific region may learn valuable lessons from individual SAI reports as well as from this regional report to improve and enhance the quality of the audits of funds provided by foreign aid.

The current PASAI Chairperson, Public Auditor of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) State of Pohnpei office Mr Iso Ihlen Joseph summed up the importance of this topic in his foreword to this report *“With a worldwide focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) there is an ever-increasing quantity of aid flowing into developing countries relating to SDGs. This requires governments to be even more responsible for the transparent and accountable use of funds provided by foreign aid, whether it is for SDG implementation or government projects. In the Pacific this can be even more challenging and highlights the need for a strong country financial system to manage these aid funds honestly and fairly, to ensure they are meeting the needs of the targeted government projects.”*

The official launch of this regional report was held in Auckland, New Zealand at the Grand Millennium Hotel on 23 February, 2017, during PASAI’s 16<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting which was attended by the Governing board members, PASAI’s INTOSAI representative and development partners from Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the World Bank and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. All delegates were presented with a copy of this report and it will also be published on PASAI’s website ([www.pasai.org](http://www.pasai.org)) from Tuesday 28 February, 2017.

PASAI promotes transparent, accountable, effective, and efficient use of public sector resources in the Pacific. It contributes to helping its member SAIs improve the quality of public sector auditing in the Pacific to uniformly high standards and assists governments to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels which aligns with Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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*Photo: PASAI Advocate, Mr Eroni Vatuloka handing a copy of the regional report to the PASAI Chairperson, Mr Iso Ihlen Joseph at the launch.*



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