

The State Audit Office of Viet Nam is going to celebrate the 30th anniversary



On July 11, 2024, Convening distinguished speakers the State Audit and preeminent experts in the field of Office of Viet Nam public audit and anti-corruption, the (SAV) is going to celebrate the 30th Conference aspires to establish a dynamic and productive platform that year of its enables SAIs and international institutional life to organizations to identify corruption commemorating three decades of within the challenging context of the continuous growth and maturity. the global economic downturn and international crises as well as

This celebratory occasion will encompass a series of events scheduled from July 9th to 11th, 2024. In particular, a central highlight will be the International Conference on "Role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in Combatting Corruption for the Advancement of Transparency, Public Integrity, and Good Governance", which aims to promote the role of SAIs in corruption prevention, while also recognizing SAV's noteworthy contributions in this domain over the past three decades.

facilitate a comprehensive exchange of knowledge and best practices in the anti-corruption domain. Particularly, the Conference sets its focus on not only fostering in-depth analysis and discussion to cultivate innovative solutions and breakthrough, effective instruments for corruption prevention and power control, but also creating collaborative opportunities amongst relevant stakeholders, ultimately enhancing the role of SAIs in corruption prevention, promotion of transparency, accountability as well as national financial integrity.

The World Water Forum 2024 in Bali: A Global Convergence for Water Solutions

The World Water Forum 2024, set to be held in the enchanting island of Bali, Indonesia, promises to be a pivotal event in the global discourse on water management and sustainability. Scheduled from May 18th to 24th, this prestigious forum will bring together a diverse assembly of world leaders, policymakers, scientists, and activists, all united by a common goal: to address the pressing water challenges facing our planet. With Bali's unique blend of natural beauty and cultural heritage serving as a backdrop, the forum aims to foster innovative solutions and promote sustainable water practices.

A key theme of the 2024 forum is "Water for Shared Prosperity," emphasizing the importance of equitable access to water resources in achieving sustainable development. The forum will host a series of high-level panels, technical sessions, and interactive workshops focusing on various aspects of water management, including climate resilience, water governance, and financing water infrastructure. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and collaborate on developing strategies to ensure water security for all, particularly in regions most vulnerable to water scarcity and climate change.

One of the highlights of the World Water Forum 2024 will be the unveiling

of the "Bali Water Action Plan," a comprehensive roadmap outlining actionable steps to improve water resource management globally. This plan is expected to encompass a wide range of initiatives, from enhancing water quality and promoting conservation to supporting innovative technologies and building resilient infrastructure. By leveraging the collective expertise and commitment of forum participants, the Bali Water Action Plan aims to catalyze tangible progress in tackling water-related challenges and advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The forum will also provide a platform for showcasing groundbreaking research and technological innovations in the water sector. Exhibitions and demonstrations will highlight cutting-edge solutions, such as advanced water purification systems, smart irrigation technologies, and data-driven water management tools. These innovations hold the potential to revolutionize the way communities manage their water resources, making them more efficient, sustainable, and adaptable to changing environmental conditions. By connecting innovators with policymakers and investors, the forum seeks to accelerate the adoption of these solutions on a global scale. ('cont)

ASEANSAI

NEWSLETTER

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Extending the Collaboration: ASEANSAI and Swedish National Audit Office Continue Partnership

Following the successful conclusion of the 7th ASEANSAI Summit in November 2023, which saw the agreement to extend the collaboration between ASEANSAI and the Swedish National Audit Office (Swedish NAO), ASEANSAI Secretariat has prepared this extension along with the prepared Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This extension aims to fortify the existing partnership and pave the way for enhanced cooperation in public sector auditing within the ASEAN region.

The primary objective of this collaboration extension is to strengthen regional cooperation and facilitate knowledge exchange through the ASEANSAI Strategic Plan 2022-2025. This plan is designed to enhance the organizational and auditing capabilities of ASEANSAI members, thereby contributing to more effective and

transparent public sector audits across the region. By leveraging the expertise and resources of both ASEANSAI and the Swedish NAO, this partnership aims to deliver significant improvements in audit quality and public accountability.

The collaboration between ASEANSAI and the Swedish NAO will encompass a variety of activities aimed at boosting the competencies of ASEANSAI auditors. A key component of this partnership will be the provision of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), who will play a crucial role in training and capacity building. Additionally, the partnership will explore other mutually agreed areas to ensure a comprehensive approach to enhancing auditing standards and practices within ASEAN member countries.

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the uniqueness

Note from the Head of SECRETARIAT

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BPK Receives Special Awards and Recognition from ADB



in Improving Audit and Financial Management Performance of ADB-financed Projects for the year 2023. This outstanding honor was bestowed upon BPK after a decision by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) management and was formally delivered during the Wrap-Up Meeting of the ADB Country Portfolio Review Mission 2024, which took place in Jakarta on Thursday, April 28th 2024.

BPK's recognition with this award highlights the outstanding progress made in forging a strong cooperation between ADB and Global cooperation Centre of BPK. This cooperation has remained firm in its commitment to raising the level of financial management and audit reports throughout the audit process, including planning, implementation, and reporting accuracy.

The selection procedure for this prestigious award was comprehensive,

The Audit with different factors carefully Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK) has received the coveted Special Recognition Award for Collaboration in Improving Audit and Financial Management Performance of ADB-financed Projects for the year 2023. This outstanding honor was bestowed upon BPK after a decision by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) management and was formally delivered during the Wrap-Up Meeting of the ADB Country Portfolio Review Mission 2024, which took place in Jakarta on Thursday, April 28th 2024.

This award recognizes the efficient coordination and collaboration displayed by the various divisions entrusted with auditing the financial statements of ADB-funded projects. The ADB's presentation of this award to BPK signals a renewed commitment to strengthening the two entities' collaboration and relationship. BPK is committed to improving collaboration with ADB in the design, implementation, and reporting of audits of financial statements for foreign loans and grants, with active participation from relevant divisions within both organizations. This collaborative effort strives to maintain the greatest levels of openness, accuracy, and efficiency in financial management within the context of ADB-funded projects, enabling long-term growth and mutual prosperity.



Myanmar's Traditional Water Festival

Myanmar people yearly celebrate and welcome the Myanmar New Year's Festival, known as Thingyan Festival - Myanmar's Traditional Water Festival, in the month of Tagu (April) which is the first month of the Myanmar Calendar. This period signifies a transition from the old year to the new one and is often considered an auspicious occasion. The "Saw Hla Wun Temple Inscription" from Bagan, in the Myanmar year 653, documents the celebration of the Thingyan Festival during the Bagan Era.

In Myanmar, twelve-month seasonal festivals are celebrated as traditional customs from one era to another. Among these, the Thingyan Festival, is one of the most significant and widely celebrated national events and it typically lasts four or five days and ends up with the New Year's Day. The people of Myanmar usually celebrate Thingyan Festival with grace and respect. During the festival, they joyfully splash each other with cool, fragrant water from silver cups, using small branches of the Aung Tha Pyay flower. This tradition intends to bring holiness and cleanse away disasters, dangers, and negative thoughts accumulated over the past year.

During Thingyan, the New Year's Festival, people celebrate by splashing water, holding donation events, offering food, pouring scented water over Buddha Statues, keeping the Sabbath, meditating, bathing and shampooing the

elderly, paying homage to grandparents, parents, and teachers, listening to sermons, and freeing animals in sanctuaries.

All Myanmar nationalities, regardless of age, race, class, and religion, participate in Thingyan. This festival brings communities together, fostering a sense of unity and friendship as everyone join hands to celebrate the new year. It's a time when social barriers are relaxed, and allowing people from various backgrounds come together and enjoy the festivities.

Each year, before Myanmar New Year's Day in the April vacation, Government Staff enjoy the various activities of Thingyan Festival and the Office of the Auditor General of the Union arranges activities such as offering food to staff, dousing each other with scented water, and holding fun ceremonies.



Myanmar traditional dance of OAG's staff during the Thingyan Festival

The World Water Forum 2024 in Bali: A Global Convergence for Water Solutions ('cont)

In addition to its professional and technical dimensions, the World Water Forum 2024 will celebrate the cultural significance of water through various artistic and cultural events. Bali's rich traditions and vibrant arts scene will be showcased, offering participants a chance to experience the island's unique cultural heritage. Through performances, exhibitions, and cultural exchanges, the forum will highlight the intrinsic link between water and culture, underscoring the need to preserve and protect this vital resource for future generations. As the forum concludes, it is hoped that the spirit of collaboration and commitment fostered in Bali will inspire lasting action and global solidarity in the quest for sustainable water solutions.

Another significant aspect of the World Water Forum 2024 is the emphasis on community engagement and grassroots initiatives. Recognizing that local communities are at the forefront of water management challenges, the forum will feature sessions dedicated to amplifying the voices of indigenous peoples, local water advocates, and non-governmental organizations. These sessions aim to highlight successful community-led water projects and explore how traditional knowledge and practices can complement modern scientific approaches. By fostering dialogue between global leaders and local stakeholders, the forum seeks

to ensure that water solutions are inclusive, context-specific, and sustainable in the long term.

Finally, the forum will address the critical issue of financing water initiatives. Ensuring adequate funding for water projects remains a major hurdle, particularly in developing countries where resources are often limited. The World Water Forum 2024 will convene financial experts, donors, and international organizations to discuss innovative financing mechanisms and investment strategies. Topics such as public-private partnerships, blended finance, and climate finance will be explored to unlock new sources of funding and mobilize resources for water infrastructure and conservation projects. The goal is to create a conducive environment for investments that can drive sustainable water management and foster economic growth, ultimately contributing to global water security and resilience.





Dear Colleagues,
With this first edition of ASEANSAI Newsletter 2024, allow me to wish you all a new year full of optimism, joy, happiness and successes.

In this edition, we would like to highlight the latest activities of January to March 2024, include article on "Extending the Collaboration: ASEANSAI and Swedish National Audit Office Continue Partnership".

We also bring contribution SAI Vietnam for the articles on "The State Audit Office of Viet Nam is going to celebrate the 30th anniversary", SAI Thailand for the article on "Audit Topic Trends After the Pandemic: Emerging Issues from the UNSG Report", and SAI Indonesia for the articles on "The World Water Forum 2024 in Bali: A Global Convergence for Water Solutions" and "BPK Receives Special Awards and Recognition from ADB".

For the uniqueness column, we post the Myanmar's traditional water festival, known as Thingyan Festival.

Lastly, the Secretariat always welcomes your submission of articles, special reports, news and other materials related to the ASEANSAI and member's activities. Please share and submit the materials to the Secretariat at aseansai@bpk.go.id.

Stay safe and enjoy reading!
Warm Regards,
Bahtiar Arif

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Audit Topic Trends After the Pandemic: Emerging Issues from the UNSG Report

by Dr. Sutthi Suntharanurak¹

The UN Secretary-General's report, released on May 1, 2024, underscores six key transitions essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030: food systems, energy access, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, and addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. For this article, the author explores how these transitions will shape audit trends in the post-pandemic era and the impact of Supreme Audit Institutions' (SAIs) audits on these themes.

1. Food Systems

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the vulnerability of global food systems, highlighting the urgent need for resilient and sustainable agricultural practices, focusing on leveraging smart technologies and promoting circular agriculture. SAIs should prioritize evaluating government programs aimed at enhancing food security and promoting sustainable agriculture through performance audits assessing initiative effectiveness and compliance audits ensuring resource utilization. Effective auditing can identify gaps and inefficiencies in food security programs, leading to better resource allocation and more resilient agricultural practices, ultimately making food systems more robust against future crises and contributing to overall sustainability.

2. Energy Access and Affordability

Energy access and affordability are critical for sustainable development, with the pandemic underscoring the need for clean energy technologies and energy efficiency investments to support economic recovery and long-term sustainability. SAIs should examine policies and investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, focusing on accessibility and affordability for vulnerable populations.

Audits can drive improvements in clean energy initiatives, ensuring renewable energy projects and efficiency programs deliver intended outcomes, increasing energy access, reducing poverty, and supporting sustainable economic growth. This highlights where policies may fall short and offers recommendations for enhancing energy initiatives' reach and impact.

3. Digital Connectivity

The pandemic accelerated the shift towards digital connectivity, exposing significant disparities in access to digital services, essential for fostering economic development and financial inclusion. SAIs should review government initiatives expanding digital infrastructure and e-government services, conducting IT audits to ensure security and efficiency, and performance audits to evaluate digital inclusion efforts' impact. Audits can bridge the digital divide, promote inclusive development, improve digital infrastructure, enhance cybersecurity, and ensure digital services reach underserved communities, fostering greater economic and social inclusion and providing equal opportunities for participation in the digital economy.

4. Education

The pandemic disrupted global education systems, worsening inequalities and highlighting the need for universal access to education and digital skills development. SAIs should assess government efforts to provide inclusive and quality education, focusing on program implementation and outcomes, particularly access, quality, and inclusiveness. Audits can identify weaknesses and recommend improvements, enhancing educational policies, reducing disparities, and preparing students for future challenges, contributing to a more inclusive and resilient education system capable of adapting to unforeseen disruptions.

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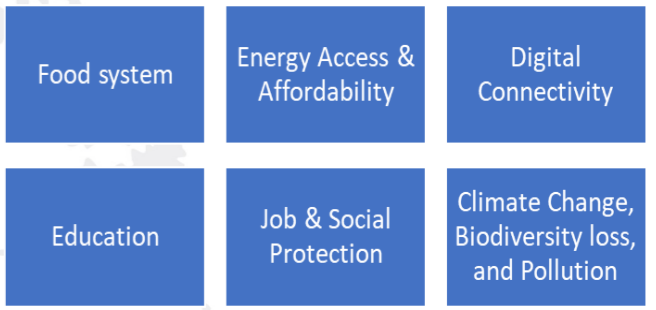
5. Jobs and Social Protection

The pandemic caused significant job losses and highlighted inadequacies in social protection systems, necessitating modernization to eradicate poverty and improve employment conditions. SAIs should review social protection schemes and programs targeting informal employment and low pay, assessing their effectiveness in breaking the poverty cycle and ensuring social equity. Audits can lead to more effective social protection systems, providing better support for vulnerable populations, reducing poverty, improving employment conditions, and building more resilient and inclusive economies, identifying areas for strengthening and offering insights and recommendations for policy improvements.

6. Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Pollution

The pandemic intensified the urgency to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, with sustainable transportation, industry decarbonization, and sustainable consumption and production being key intervention areas. SAIs should examine government actions on these environmental issues through environmental audits, evaluating the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation measures, conservation efforts, and pollution control initiatives. Effective audits can lead to stronger policies and programs for addressing these issues, promoting sustainability, protecting natural resources, and supporting long-term environmental health, providing critical feedback on initiative implementation, guiding improvements, and fostering greater accountability.

In conclusion, as the world recovers from the pandemic, SAIs play a crucial role in ensuring that government actions are effective, efficient, and aligned with the broader goals of sustainable development and resilience. By focusing on the six critical transitions identified in the UN Secretary-General's report, SAIs can address emerging issues and contribute to a sustainable and inclusive recovery. This strategic focus will not only enhance the impact of audits but also support global efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Through their work, SAIs can provide valuable insights and recommendations that drive improvements in policy and practice, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and equitable world.



Six Key Transition for achieving SDGs 2030

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