

## The 8<sup>th</sup> Forum of ASEAN-Associated Entities Emphasizes Collaboration and Engagement

The 8<sup>th</sup> Forum of ASEAN-Associated Entities concluded on May 14, 2024, at the ASEAN Headquarters, fostering collaboration and engagement between ASEAN and its affiliated Centres and Entities.

ASEANSAI Secretariat had the opportunity to attend the forum which was attended by representatives from 80 entities associated with ASEAN listed in Annex 2 of the ASEAN Charter.

The event opened with remarks from ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, who highlighted the growth of ASEAN organizations over time. He expressed his hope that the forum would continue to serve as a platform for meaningful discussions and collaboration to promote regional stability, friendship, and prosperity.

Ambassador Bovonethat Douangchak, Permanent Representative of Lao PDR to ASEAN, delivered a keynote presentation outlining the goals and priorities of the ASEAN Chairmanship for 2024, providing significant insights into ASEAN's future direction.

The morning session featured interactive discussions with ASEAN's newly appointed Deputy Secretaries-General: Dato' Astanah Abdul Aziz for the Political-Security Community and Nararya Soeprapto for Community and Corporate Affairs. This session facilitated an exchange of ideas

between the centres, entities, and the Deputy Secretaries-General.

In the afternoon, the ASEAN Secretariat's Programme Cooperation and Project Management Division presented information on how organizations can secure funding for projects within the ASEAN project cycle.

The forum concluded with a speed networking session, enabling attendees to connect directly and explore collaborative opportunities. This dynamic format fostered an environment for strengthening connections and identifying practical prospects for joint initiatives.

Director Lee Yoong Yoong conclude the event by thanking all attendees for their enthusiastic participation. He expressed his hope that the forum would encourage greater collaboration among all parties, leading to more effective efforts in developing the ASEAN Community.



## Discovering the Charm of White Island, Camiguin

Nestled off the northern coast of Camiguin Island in the Philippines, White Island is a pristine, uninhabited sandbar that mesmerizes visitors with its pure, powdery white sand and breathtaking views. This crescent-shaped haven stretches out against the azure backdrop of the Bohol Sea, offering a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Its lack of permanent structures ensures an unspoiled environment, making it an ideal spot for those seeking a slice of paradise.

White Island's charm lies in its simplicity and natural beauty. The sandbar's ever-shifting shape, dictated by tides and weather conditions, creates a dynamic landscape that can be different with each visit. This unique characteristic adds an element of surprise and adventure, encouraging tourists to return and experience its evolving beauty. The surrounding crystal-clear waters are perfect for swimming, snorkeling, and diving, offering a glimpse into the vibrant marine life that thrives in this part of the Philippines.

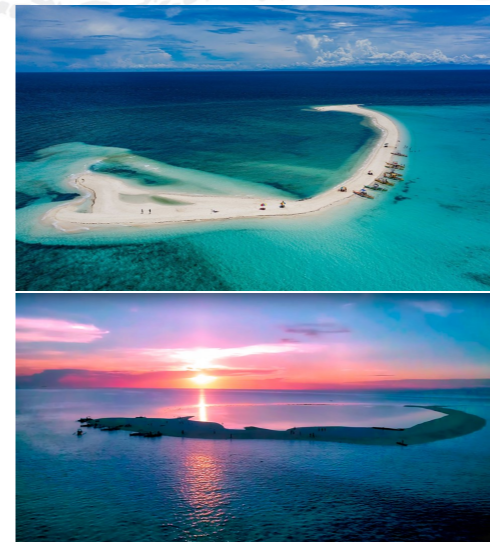
One of the most striking features of White Island is the panoramic view it offers of Camiguin Island, with its lush greenery and towering volcanoes, including the majestic Mt. Hibok-Hibok. This stunning backdrop provides a picture-perfect setting for photography enthusiasts and nature lovers alike. The early morning and late afternoon sun casts a golden hue over the landscape, creating a magical ambiance that enhances the island's allure.

Visiting White Island is a straightforward and enjoyable endeavor. Boats from the mainland, specifically from the jump-off

point in Yumbing, Mambajao, take just about 10-15 minutes to reach the sandbar. The best time to visit is during the dry season, from March to June, when the weather is most favorable for outdoor activities. It's recommended to bring essentials such as sunscreen, hats, and plenty of water, as the island lacks natural shade and facilities.

For those exploring Camiguin, White Island is a must-visit destination that encapsulates the serene and untouched beauty of the region. It provides a perfect contrast to the island's other attractions, such as the hot and cold springs, waterfalls, and historical sites. Whether you're looking to relax, take in the stunning scenery, or enjoy water activities, White Island promises an unforgettable experience that highlights the natural splendor of the Philippines.

Photos sources: <https://www.roughguides.com/>; <https://www.projectlupad.com/>



# ASEANSAI

## NEWSLETTER

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## ASEANSAI Secretariat participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Conference for the ASEAN Political-Security Community

The 16th Coordinating Conference for the ASEAN Political-Security Community (ASCCO) convened on May 9, 2024, at the ASEAN Secretariat. Chaired by Dato' Astanah Abdul Aziz, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Political-Security Community, the conference brought together representatives from ASEAN Member States, heads of APSC Sectoral Bodies, and affiliated entities to deliberate on key issues.

A pivotal focus of the meeting was the comprehensive review of the progress in implementing the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025. Impressively, 99% of the action lines stipulated in the Blueprint have already been addressed, underscoring the commitment of ASEAN members to regional integration and security.

The conference also spotlighted the advancements made by Timor-Leste in its

preparations for ASEAN membership, indicating a significant stride towards broader regional inclusivity. Additionally, delegates engaged in fruitful discussions on pertinent regional political and security matters, offering valuable insights for shaping the ASEAN Vision 2045 and its associated Strategic Plan under APSC.

ASCCO, as a premier platform, plays a crucial role in coordinating the diverse sectoral bodies under the ASEAN Political-Security pillar. By facilitating the exchange of information, best practices, and lessons learned from the implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025, ASCCO contributes significantly to fostering political and security cooperation within ASEAN. As ASEAN navigates the complexities of the contemporary geopolitical landscape, forums like ASCCO are instrumental in charting a course towards a more integrated and secure regional community.

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Note from the Head of SECRETARIAT

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Dear Colleagues,  
I am pleased to present the second volume of the ASEANSI Newsletter for 2024.

In this edition, we bring you the latest updates on the activities that took place from April to June 2024. These include ASEANSI Secretariat participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Conference for the ASEAN Political-Security Community and The 8<sup>th</sup> Forum of ASEAN-Associated Entities Emphasizes Collaboration and Engagement.

This edition also presents contribution from SAI Thailand on the article of "RobuditAI: Revolutionizing Public Auditing with Science, Technology, and Data-Driven Insights."

While for the uniqueness column, we post "Discovery the Charm of White Island", nestled off the northern coast of Camiguin Island in the Philippines.

Lastly, the Secretariat always welcomes your submission of articles, special reports, news and other materials related to the ASEANSI 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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# RobuditAI: Revolutionizing Public Auditing with Science, Technology, and Data-Driven Insights

by Dr. Sutthi Suntharanurak<sup>1</sup>

In the not-so-distant future, the landscape of public auditing is set to undergo a dramatic transformation. From my research on the Adaptation of SAIs in the Challenging World, I found that Generative AI is a game changer that SAIs could utilize. Simultaneously, robotics will provide physical intelligence assistance. In my humble view, I call this "RobuditAI," a term derived from my future imagination that blends three words: Audit, Generative AI, and Robotics.

Enter RobuditAI, a groundbreaking innovation that combines the power of Generative AI, advanced robotics, and data-driven methodologies to redefine how SAIs operate. This visionary concept, imagined to harness the full potential of science and technology, promises to elevate the effectiveness, efficiency, and integrity of public auditing to unprecedented levels.

## The Genesis of RobuditAI

From my research, I found that RobuditAI represents the synthesis of three cutting-edge domains:

1. **Generative AI:** Leveraging sophisticated algorithms that can process, analyze, and generate insights from massive datasets;
2. **Robotics:** Utilizing autonomous and semi-autonomous robots to perform repetitive, time-consuming, and hazardous audit tasks with precision;
3. **Data-Driven Auditing:** Integrating advanced data analytics to inform decision-making, predict trends, and uncover hidden patterns of fraud and inefficiency.

In the far future, this trinity forms the backbone of RobuditAI, a system designed to empower SAIs with

the tools needed to encounter the complexities of modern public finance.

## Key Features and Benefits

1. **Enhanced Data Processing and Analysis;** RobuditAI can swiftly process vast amounts of financial data, audit reports, and transactional records. Its AI algorithms are capable of identifying anomalies, detecting irregularities, and flagging potential fraud with remarkable accuracy. This accelerates the audit process and ensures comprehensive coverage of audit subjects;
2. **Real-Time Monitoring and Alerts;** With RobuditAI, SAIs can implement real-time monitoring systems. Autonomous robots equipped with AI capabilities continuously scan financial transactions and operational activities, providing instant alerts for any suspicious behavior. This proactive approach minimizes the risk of fraud and ensures timely interventions;
3. **Increased Efficiency and Productivity;** By automating routine audit tasks such as data entry, reconciliation, and preliminary analysis, RobuditAI frees up human auditors to focus on more strategic and complex aspects of auditing. This results in significant time savings and enhances overall productivity;
4. **Improved Accuracy and Consistency;** Human errors in data analysis and reporting are drastically reduced with RobuditAI. Its AI-driven processes ensure that audits are conducted consistently, adhering to predefined rules and standards, thereby enhancing the reliability of audit outcomes;
5. **Scalability and Flexibility;** RobuditAI's modular

design allows SAIs to scale their audit operations seamlessly. Whether auditing a small municipal entity or a large government department, RobuditAI can adapt to varying scopes and complexities, making it a versatile tool for diverse audit environments.

## Addressing Challenges and Ethical Considerations

From my imagination, it seems crazy, like watching a film such as Terminator. However, science and technology could make it a reality. My research on the Adaptation of SAIs in the Challenging World set a simple research question: what happens in the next normal era that SAIs have to adapt to? The main finding is to utilize Generative AI and robotics efficiently based on the Data-Driven era.

While the potential of RobuditAI is huge, it is essential to address the associated challenges and ethical considerations:

**Data Privacy and Security;** Handling sensitive financial and operational data necessitates robust cybersecurity measures. Ensuring data privacy and protecting against cyber threats are paramount to maintaining public trust.

**Legal and Ethical Standards;** The deployment of AI in auditing must comply with legal frameworks and ethical standards. Transparency, accountability, and fairness in AI algorithms are critical to avoiding biases and ensuring equitable audit practices.

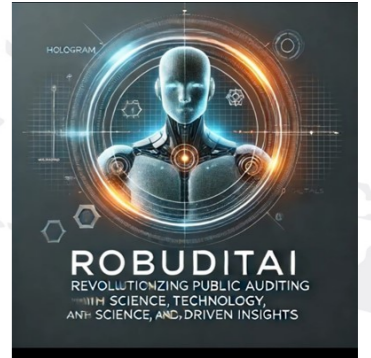
**Change Management;** Transitioning to an AI-driven audit system requires careful change management. Training programs, stakeholder engagement, and clear communication are essential to overcoming resistance and facilitating smooth integration.

Cost of Implementation; Initial investments in RobuditAI technology may be substantial. However, the long-term benefits in terms of efficiency gains, fraud reduction, and improved audit quality justify the expenditure.

## The Future of Public Auditing with RobuditAI

As SAIs embrace the capabilities of RobuditAI, the future of public auditing looks promising. This advanced system not only enhances the technical aspects of auditing but also fosters a culture of innovation, accountability, and transparency within public institutions. By leveraging the synergy of Generative AI, robotics, and data-driven insights, RobuditAI sets a new benchmark for excellence in public sector auditing.

In this envisioned future, SAIs equipped with RobuditAI will be better positioned to safeguard public resources, ensure financial integrity, and uphold the principles of good governance. The journey towards this future is both exciting and challenging, but the potential rewards are immense, promising a new era of audit excellence driven by science and technology.



The picture is generated by DALL-E 3

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