

iCED as Global Training Facility: Summary of 3rd International Training Programme on Introduction to Environmental Auditing held in iCED

3rd International Training Programme on “Introduction to Environmental Auditing” held from 16th to 30th November, 2015 at iCED was attended by 22 participants from 11 countries across the world viz. Bhutan, Federated States of Micronesia (1 participant each from Chuuk State, Kosrae State and Pohnpei State), India, Nauru, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tanzania, Senegal, Thailand



Participants with Dy. C&AG



Inauguration by Dy. C&AG

and Zambia. After registration on 16th November, 2015 training programme was inaugurated by Ms. Suman Saxena, Dy. C&AG, SAI – India on 17th November, 2015. Dy. C&AG welcomed all the participants as well as thanked SAIs of Brazil, Estonia, Indonesia, Federated States of Micronesia and PASAI for contributing trainers for various modules. Ms. Tuuli Rasso, Head, International Relations, NAO, Estonia and Head, EUROSAI – WGEA Secretariat, trainer for the module on environment audit shared dais with Shri Sunil Dadhe, Director General, iCED for the inauguration ceremony. Mr. Jahangir Inamdar, Director (T&R), iCED welcomed all the participants and guests at iCED. Trainers for the training programme are detailed below:

S.No.	Module	Trainer/s
1.	Environment Audit (17 th to 19 th November, 2015)	Ms. Tuuli Rasso, SAI - Estonia
2.	Water (20 th to 21 st November, 2015)	Ms. Prima Dewi Ginting and Mr. Whidas Prihantoro, SAI - Indonesia
3.	Biodiversity (22 nd to 25 th November, 2015)	Mr. Marcelo Cardoso Soares, SAI - Brazil
4.	Waste (26 th to 27 th November, 2015)	Ms. Nameeta Prasad, SAI - India
5.	Climate Change (28 th to 29 th November, 2015)	Ms. Claire Kelly, PASAI and Ms. Elina Paul, SAI – Federated States of Micronesia

Unique feature of the programme is that various modules have been developed by SAIs of different countries and the course developers from the different SAIs deliver these modules at iCED. For the Biodiversity module we had a trainer from Brazil, for the sustainable development module, we had a trainer from Estonia, for the waste module we had a trainer from India, for the water module we had trainers from Indonesia and for the module on climate change we had trainers from PASAI and Federated States of Micronesia. We believe that this unique model offers participants different perspectives of how environment systems are managed and audited across the world.



Participants in the training sessions

Field visit to Tarun Bharat Sangh: Course schedule included a field visit to illustrate practice of sustainable development. For this, a visit to Tarun Bharat Sangh (TBS), a non-governmental organization located at Kishori-Bhikampura in Alwar district of Rajasthan was organized. Tarun Bharat Sangh founded in 1975 in Jaipur by a



group of students and professors from the University of Rajasthan has helped villagers take charge of water management in their semi-arid area as it lies close to Thar Desert, through the use of *Johad*, rainwater

storage tanks, check dams and other time-tested as well as path-breaking techniques. TBS is currently directed by Mr. Rajendra Singh a well-known water conservationist from Alwar district, Rajasthan in India. He has won the Stockholm Water Prize, an award known as "the Nobel Prize for water", in 2015. Previously, he won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for community leadership in 2001 for his pioneering work in community-based efforts in water



harvesting and water management. Participants had a first-hand experience about the activities of TBS and how it has changed the lifestyle of the people in villages and provided livelihood security to village people. Field visit was followed by group presentations by the participants on the issue along with activities like poster making.

As part of our biodiversity module, we planned a biodiversity trip to Tiger Reserve, Ranthambhore and a session on protection of tigers in the Tiger Reserve. The participants found the trip very relevant to appreciating the concept of biodiversity and its preservation. Participants were thrilled to watch



Participants on the Biodiversity trip



Participants on Tiger Safari in Ranthambore National Park

various animals and birds in the wild during safaris. During the trip, the participants also engaged in impassioned and informed discussions with the Mr. Dharmendra Khandal, Field Biologist from Tiger Watch

who talked about measures taken for

preservation and conservation of tigers in the National Park. Mr. Dharmendra provided the indepth analysis of conflict between the community surrounding the national park, mining industry, tourism and wildlife for the natural resources and space as well as how a balance could be established among them.

To sum up the training module which stretched over 14 days had sessions on performance auditing, environment auditing, sustainable development, biodiversity, climate change, waste issues and water issues. Each of these modules was spread over 2 days and consisted of giving participants a background and introduction as well as steps to audit these. Teaching methods included both formal lectures as well as various individual and group exercises, etc. Each topic was divided into theory and practical part consisting of case studies.

We also had a review session over the last day of training where the participants had to write a paper and discuss it with Director (T&R), iCED and trainers Ms. Claire Kelly & Ms. Elina Paul. This course paper was supposed to be like a detailed

audit plan on an environment audit of relevance to their country, which they could conduct back home. The participants worked very hard on their papers and delivered papers of high quality. We received interesting papers on issues like prevention and control of water pollution in Brahmaputra river; Water conservation and Sustainable development of water resources in Oman and Saudi Arabia; protection and conservation of forests and wild life in Tanzania and Zambia; and conservation of marine bio-diversity in Federated States of Micronesia and Nauru. These plans also discussed in detail a design for audit including criteria, scope and methodology as well as audit design matrix. Participants could study best practices in other countries (especially in the countries participating in current course) and use them for comparisons. Participants made group presentations at the end which were evaluated by peer groups, trainers and iCED. In fact, due to the good quality of papers received, we put all the papers in a compilation which will be available to all the participants for guidance and reference.

Since iCED was home for the participants for the 15 days, birthdays of participants



Birthday celebrations!

falling during the training period were also celebrated with full fervour and zest. Participants enjoyed shopping trips in the pink city purchasing traditional handicraft items, souvenirs, clothes, sweets, etc. in the beautiful streets.

Feedback received from participants showed that they learnt a lot from the sessions. Sessions had improved their understanding of the subject, met their expectations and the sessions were capable of stimulating their interest. The feedback also indicated that participants felt that trainers' knowledge of the subject matter was excellent, trainers had organised their material effectively, were very well prepared and were responsive to needs of participants. Overall feedback for the 3rd program indicated that length of the training program was just right, no modules needed to be deleted and that their SAIs would be interested in future such courses and specialised courses too.



Discussions over a cup of tea

Commenting on the quality and usefulness of the training programme, Mr. Austen Mweemba, a participant from SAI, Zambia, wrote “Personally, I came to India with very little knowledge about environment audits but today I am privileged to say I am graduate of International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED) and my fellow graduates will agree that we are all well-armed to assist our SAIs perform Environment Audits in our respective country.” Mrs. Raya Mohammed Al-Shuaili from SAI, Oman commented “Going back to our SAIs we will definitely deliver our experience, our auditing environment experience, and the things we have gained during the programme and the fifteen memorable days we spent in the site trips, cultural activities and others.”

Apart from classroom training sessions and study trips, participants enjoyed Light & Sound Show at the Kesar Kyari complex of Maota Lake in Amber. This musical extravaganza highlights the local legends, folklore and



history, blending it with folk music. In order to look... to feel... to breathe... to taste... to experience...Rajasthani culture, traditions and cuisines participants were taken to *Chokhi Dhani* Village Fair and Restaurant.

Comptroller & Auditor General of India chaired the valediction ceremony on 30.11.2015 and distributed certificates to the participants. Speaking at the Valediction ceremony Comptroller & Auditor General of India stated *“I feel that global SAI community shares the responsibility of ensuring accountability in implementation of the agreed agenda (Addis Ababa Action Agenda). This is a big responsibility. We need to prepare for improving effectiveness of our oversight. Issues in Environment audit are complex, inter-related and cross-boundary. Public auditors must perfect their professional judgment by upgrading skills and sharing knowledge to fulfil expectations from them in auditing efforts to conserve environment. This would make us active participants in the challenging journey of mankind”*.





Participants with the Comptroller & Auditor General of India