



ECOSAI

Report of the 13th Training Committee Meeting

13-14 December 2013, Tehran, Iran

The 13th ECOSAI Training Committee Meeting (TCM) was held in Tehran, Iran on 14th December, 2013. The meeting was attended by delegates from SAIs of the Republic of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Iran. The Secretariat suggested that as the main focus of the 13th TCM was to develop a three to five years ECOSAI Training Plan and other agenda items will have a bearing on its development so a slight revision in the order of the agenda items to get benefit from the inputs. The Committee deliberated and agreed on the following agenda:

1. Discussion about cancellation of training arranged by the SAI Iran
2. Follow-up on the 12th Training Committee Meeting decisions
3. Presentation by the SAI Turkey on the progress made on Training of Trainers to be held in 2014
4. Discussion on having separate sections for the ECOSAI member SAIs in the ECOSAI Circular
5. Developing a new training plan for the next three to five years for the ECOSAI Strategic Plan
6. Other matters

Agenda Item 1: Discussion about cancellation of training arranged by the SAI Iran

2. The SAI Iran explained that they voluntarily offered to undertake an advance course on Performance Auditing. Despite the fact that all training material for the course and necessary logistic arrangements were made, the overall participation from the member SAIs was very low to hold the course, so the course was cancelled.

3. The House deliberated upon the reasons for low participation and it transpired that the major reasons for non participation were; firstly, engagement of their Human Resource during the period as they were busy elsewhere in discharge of their official duties; secondly, some of the SAIs had financial constraints as budget provisioning for the event had not been made; and thirdly, lack of approval by the governments.

4. The suggestions made by the participants to redress similar situations in future primarily included providing advance information about the trainings programs. This would facilitate the SAIs to make necessary budget allocation, timely nomination of participants and seek approval by the governments.

Agenda Item 2: Follow-up on the 12th Training Committee Meeting decisions

5. The Committee reviewed the latest status of implementation of the decisions taken in the 12th ECOSAI Training Committee Meeting and expressed satisfaction over the pace of activities carried out in compliance of the decisions.

6. The Secretariat briefed the Committee that in accordance with Paragraph 7 of the Agenda item 1 of the Minutes of the 12th TCM, it was

resolved that the Secretariat would provide the template developed by the SAI Pakistan for the INTOSAI-CDC for funding of fellowship programs. The Secretariat informed the participants that the template needed improvement so it was not considered appropriate to share such document at this stage.

7. According to Paragraph 8 of the Minutes of 12th TCM, the SAI Turkey was to share progress made on the Training of Trainers (ToT) to be held in 2014. The report of the SAI Turkey was discussed under Agenda item 3 of this meeting.

8. As per Paragraph 5 of the Minutes of 17th ECOSAI GB meeting, the Secretariat sought directions from the SAI Iran for transfer of US \$ 18,000 to the SAI Iran. The TCM was informed by SAI Iran that it considered that sufficient balance should remain in ECOSAI fund and they were at the moment not inclined to draw out the money. The SAI Iran would inform the Secretariat when and how the money should be paid back to the SAI Iran in future. The Secretariat requested the SAI Iran to render accounts for the amount that had been allocated for the training by the IDB so that the same can be forwarded to the donor for resumption of technical assistance in future.

9. The 17th GB approved reconvening of the TCM in 2013 to develop new ECOSAI training plan. The SAI Pakistan offered holding of a special session of the TCM in Islamabad during September 2013, before the 18th GBM. However, due to lack of quorum the meeting was postponed to be held along with the normal TCM. However, additional day was dedicated to develop the new ECOSAI Training Plan.

10. The 17th GB had approved the recommendation of the 12th TCM to provide assistance to the SAI Kyrgyz Republic from the ECOSAI fund at their request to enable them to hold a training course in 2013. Accordingly, Secretariat requested the SAI Kyrgyz Republic to formally provide the requirements for consideration, which were not provided. The SAI Kyrgyz

Republic informed the TCM that necessary budget demand was not granted so they were planning to hold the course in future when the capacity of the SAI Kyrgyz Republic is developed to hold the course.

11. As per Paragraph 15 of the 12th TCM report, the Committee recommended that the SAIs that were hosting the training courses would utilize government owned facilities to reduce the cost. Accordingly, the course organized by the SAI Iran for 2013 was based on this resolution. The other SAIs appreciating the approach and committed to follow suit.

Agenda item 3: Presentation by the SAI Turkey on the progress made on Training of Trainers to be held in 2014

12. The SAI Turkey made a presentation on the agenda item. Mr. Davut Ozkul informed the TCM that a long term understanding was under consideration by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency-TIKA would support training of trainers (ToT) for the ECOSAI and other SAIs and that the TCA was to coordinate this program. This facility was being called the 'Long Term Regional Training Program (LTRTP)'. Earlier plan for holding TIKAsponsored course in 2014 would be rescheduled as TIKA was considering a long term financing option. The envisaged funding under this program was expected to be US\$2.455m, which would be made available during the next six years upon the final evaluation and approval of the project by TIKA in 2014.

13. While highlighting the plans under consideration, it was explained that the LTRTP would be in two phases. The first covering signing of commitment and identifying training specialist candidates. The second phase would cover strengthening the training infrastructure i.e. course designing, undertaking a TNA and implementing an annual training program for ECOSAI for 2016-19.

Details of the plan are still under consideration of TIKA that has interest in capacity building of the SAIs in the region and developing SAIs.

14. While appreciating the achievement of finding sponsors for capacity building of ECOSAI members by the SAI Turkey, the SAI Afghanistan pointed out the proposed rigid conditionality of proficiency in English language should be relaxed as it may hamper nominations by some of the younger and developing SAIs. It was recommended that the SAI Turkey would take up this aspect with TIKA.

Agenda item 4: Discussion on having separate sections for the ECOSAI member SAIs in the ECOSAI Circular

15. In Paragraph 6 of the 17th GBM report, it was recommended that in order to further improve the quality of the ECOSAI Circular separate sections may be allotted to each member SAI and the matter be further discussed in the forthcoming TCM. Accordingly, the SAI Pakistan had published the 13th issue of the ECOSAI Circular with separate sections. The participants appreciated the ECOSAI Circular and reiterated that they would send articles for publications. The SAI Iran suggested that the Secretariat would urge for more contributions.

Agenda item 5: Developing a new training plan for the next three to five years for the ECOSAI Strategic Plan

16. As resolved under Agenda item 5 of the 17th ECOSAI GBM, a new ECOSAI training plan needed to be developed. The Secretariat highlighted the issue of having a new training plan as the earlier had been developed in the year 2000. The SAI Iran apprised the TCM about the importance of

various aspects of training and its utility in development of capacity of the SAI. Thereafter, all the SAIs actively participated in the proceedings and the training plan thus developed was recommended to be placed before the 18th GBM for approval. The training plan is attached as Annex-B.

Agenda Item 6: Other matters

17. Based on the feedback from the SAIs on possible causes of non attendance of training offered by the SAI Iran in 2014, it transpired that some of the SAIs may have need for financial assistance to cover cost for participation in the training programs. The participants recommended that US\$10,000 may be earmarked in the next two years' budget to cater for providing financial assistance from the ECOSAI fund. The SAIs in need of the financial assistance will approach the Secretariat three months in advance, so that the assistance could be provided in time on first come first serve basis.

18. The SAI Iran suggested that to complement the Training Plan the member countries need to encourage sending small groups of experts to other member SAIs for sharing of their experience and adopted methods. This approach would enhance the capacity of both the SAIs. The suggestion was appreciated by all the participants and it was recommended that this method of sharing experience should be adopted by members through bilateral arrangements and progress of such engagements may be shared during the future TCMs.

Recommendations of TCM

19. The 13th TCM recommended that the proposals contained in Paragraphs 6, 8, 10, 16, 17 and 18 of this report may be considered for approval by the Governing Board of the ECOSAI.

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