The Themes for the Congress

Theme I:
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Theme II:
Professionalization

Agenda for the XXII-INCOSAI
Dear friends and colleagues

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the fourth newsletter for the XXII-INCOSAI.

In this newsletter I will give an update on the two main themes for the Congress. I will also update you about the latest information on our preparation for the Congress, including further details on the booths and seminars. As well as our newest initiative: "the discussion forum". Finally I will brief you on how I see the opportunity for our Congress in the light of the resent development within our Community.
The main themes:

Since the last newsletter the technical committee in my office has kept working on the analysis of the regional papers as well as the survey and have been able to finalize and prepare the first draft for the two themes papers. In the meantime, both theme chairs have been working to finalize the theme papers in coordination with the moderators, rapporteurs and other interested SAIs and external stakeholders.

Theme I: 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

It has been a very positive experience to go through all the feedback we have received on theme I from more than 120 SAIs, the seven INTOSAI regions, and external stakeholders e.g. the UN, World Bank and the GIZ. All of these feedback represent very important contributions and dialogues that have helped us shape our ambitions and the way we will approach the SDGs at the local, regional and global levels.

The regional papers and the survey results have been analyzed and a report consisting of more than 50 pages has been produced and shared with the involved parties. For example, the report was presented and then discussed with the regions at the IDI meeting that was held in the beginning of September 2016 in Oslo.

I am happy to see the positive feedback we have received on the theme I and how INTOSAI can contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It almost is clear that there is a positive attitude towards contributing to the SDGs from our community. Overall there is an agreement with and understanding of the four approaches to the SDGs that has been presented in the next strategic plan of INTOSAI.

The regions confirmed that the SDGs is something they find very interesting and will be a main focus for their work in the future.

I find it very positive and encouraging that majority of SAIs and regions are interested in the SDGs, that they want to contribute and can see a role for themselves in this arena. By now we can conclude that there is an appetite to get involved with the SDGs at both the SAI and Regional level and that there is an acknowledgment that INTOSAI has an important role to play at the local and regional as well as the global levels.

INTOSAI has, without doubt, an important, supporting and leveraging role to play in national, regional, and global efforts to implement the SDGs and to follow-up and review progress made. To meet global expectations and ensure INTOSAI maximise the value added and avoid duplication, we need to plan and act in a coordinated manner on our contribution to the SDGs.

At the Congress we need to elaborate on INTOSAI's contribution to the SDGs, and discuss how we can continue INTOSAI's engagement with the UN on the SDGs over the next 15 years through the 4 approaches.

The XXII-INCONSIAI is a pivotal point for our community and there are important discussions that need to be undertaken at the Congress which will lead to further research and that can potentially provide INTOSAI a global public voice on matters related to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.
The purpose of this theme is to outline a proposed “professionalization agenda” for the INTOSAI community to discuss at XXII-INCOSAI.

In the Theme II Information Paper, we took professionalization to mean the ongoing process of gaining authoritative expert and ethical qualities and status, and demonstrating a high level of competence or skill in these qualities. It means increasingly being, and being seen to be, professional, doing the right work at the right time as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The ultimate purpose of increasing professionalization within INTOSAI is to support SAIs and their staff to be effective in performing their role within their respective jurisdictions.

Through theme II we look into what professionalization means at the global, regional and national level as well as for public sector auditors in general.

### Global level

INTOSAI is a global organization built on strong traditions of collaboration and support, which is aptly expressed in its motto “Mutual experience benefits all”. Through its advocacy of and support to SAIs and, more recently, its standard setting activities, INTOSAI is becoming well respected in the international community.

INTOSAI has a number of important initiatives underway that will set a solid platform for a credible and sustainable standard setting function.

INTOSAI continues to be a strong global advocate for member SAIs to have an appropriate independent mandate, so that SAIs can effectively discharge their roles and make a meaningful contribution within their respective jurisdictions.

### Regional level

Regional organizations play an important role in linking individual SAIs and the wider INTOSAI community, and strengthening public sector auditing professionalization globally and locally. SAIs’ professionalization activity has benefited from regional initiatives, and they regard the support offered by regional organizations as relevant and useful. Greater expectations have developed of regional organizations over the past decade and they may need to step up their efforts aimed at helping:

- To strengthen the independence of SAIs;
- SAIs to carry out assessment of their quality systems; and
- Public sector auditors to achieve professional qualifications and certification.

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National level

Independence is a fundamental, but fragile, underpinning for the work of SAIs. SAI independence needs to be actively sought through the best endeavors of SAIs, their regional organizations, and the INTOSAI community.

SAIs need to be beyond reproach in their own practices if they are to hold others to account. These practices include:

- Complying with ethical standards and embedding a culture of ethics which all staff continuously strive to uphold;
- Using quality systems in audit and SAI level practices, to ensure that they are model organizations carrying out quality audit work; and
- Demonstrating their openness and transparency through public reporting of their performance.

Public sector auditor

In their unique position to see across public sectors, public sector auditors are an integral part of public dialogue on performance and accountability.

INTOSAI, at the global level and through regional organisations, is working toward improving certification opportunities for individuals. However, challenges remain in addressing the needs of more remote SAIs that have less access to existing IFAC and other existing certification options.

Adapting public sector auditing for the expectations and aspirations of the emerging workforce will ensure it is enhanced and strengthened as a professional career choice for people with the qualifications, ethics and experience to support SAIs in achieving impact for citizens.

Preparation for the Congress

It is a huge honor for us to host the XXII-INCOSAI and we hope that the Congress will add great value to our community and that all delegates will be able to go back with new knowledge, new friendships and a wish to come back to the UAE.

We have taken on this challenges with open arms and are doing our best to organize a successful event.

Invitations and registration

Currently we are working tirelessly to get all SAIs and other stakeholders registered for the Congress. The invitations was sent out in July and we are continually following up to make sure that all relevant stakeholders have received the invitations. Invitees can register online through our website (www.incosai2016.ae)

We aimed to have all delegates registered by the end of September and that all delegates will have access to all the information and discussion forum on the website by then. However and due to many requests from our friends and colleagues we will keep the registration open until mid of October.

Paperless Congress

We are working with an environmentally friendly approach for our conference, therefore, we will prioritize the “Go-Green” initiative. We will provide an Electronic on-line Library that will consist of all the documents that will be discussed during the Congress.

Access to the online library will be available through the website and through the INCOSAI application that can be downloaded for free from the Apple store or the Play store for Android and Apple smartphones and tablets by searching INCOSAI2016 or simply scanning this barcode.

We are asking to receive all relevant documents for the agenda by 4th November 2016. After that day documents for the Congress will be made available in the electronic library and will be accessible for all delegates that have registered for the Congress and have a log-in for the dashboard on the INCOSAI website or the INCOSAI application.
Discussion Forum

This month we have activated the discussion forum for the Congress on our INCOSAI website www.incosai2016.ae

The purpose of this DB is to encourage discussion on the themes for the Congress and other matters of interest like the strategic plan in the time leading up to the Congress. In other words DB will act as a platform for all participants to exchange ideas and opinions about all issues related to the two main themes, organization of the Congress, INTOSAI, GB, Regional groups, etc.

The discussion forum can only be accessed by the delegates that have signed up for the Congress. After you have been registered for the Congress you can use your email as username and your last name as password to access the discussion forum. If you have not registered for the XXII-INCOSAI yet, please follow this link: www.incosai2016.ae

We encourage all delegates to take part in the discussions on the discussion forum and to bring innovative ideas that can be used to enrich the discussion.

We hope this new initiative will open up the dialogue and give room for more inclusiveness and innovative ideas leading up to the Congress and improve the discussions and decisions that are going to take place at the XXII INCOSAI.

Booths

Booths are defined as a small workspace dedicated to a specific activity, such as:

- Goal committees
- Working groups
- Sub-committees
- Task forces
- Special Interest groups such as World Bank, UN, IIA, IFAC etc.

- Regions
- IDI
- The Journal of INTOSAI
- The General Secretariat

The intention is to provide detailed information to a targeted audience who are interested in the subject matter. The booths provide delegates with the option to have in-depth discussions. At the same time the booths give the chair and other relevant role-players a unique chance to receive feedback on the work they are doing. The booths will help to facilitate networking within INTOSAI.

Besides the half day that is dedicated for booths at the Congress there will be an option to open the booth throughout the Congress whenever it is possible for the host of the booth.

We will make a program for the activities in the booths so that all delegates can see when the different booths are open and what information they can find in the booth.

Booth and seminars at the Congress

As you may be aware we have set aside half a day at the Congress for booth and seminars.

We see the introduction of booths and seminars as an addition to the presentations and discussions that will take place in the plenary sessions at the Congress.

This initiative is on a voluntary basis for committees, sub-committees, task forces, working groups, etc. to set up booths or participate in seminars to present their work to the INTOSAI community.

Seminars

Seminars are defined as organized activities to communicate, to a moderately sized audience, key issues within the INTOSAI environment.

This gives an opportunity for the goal committees to communicate key matters, presented to the Congress at the plenary session, in more detail followed by discussions that would be expected to be at a technical level.

The advantage of seminars is that the delegates can get more detailed information about key issues they find particularly interesting while the goal committees can present some of their work to a broader audience and receive feedback in a more controlled manner.

The venue has four meeting rooms that can accommodate up to 100 people each. (insert link to floorplan) The three main goals committees will have one room each for four hours and it will be the responsibility of the chair of the committee to set the program. The fourth seminar room will be dedicated to discuss the five crosscutting priorities as set out in the next Strategic Plan for INTOSAI.
The agenda for the XXII-INCOSAI

The Congress will take place over seven days from the 5th to the 11th December 2016. The main Congress will only take place from the 7th to the 11th December, while the first two days will be dedicated for main goals committee meeting besides the 68th Governing Board meeting.

A detailed agenda is available on the INCOSAI website, but here we will give a brief overview of the activities that will take place throughout the Congress.

Day 1: Monday 5 December

- Main Goals committee meeting of: PSC, CBC, KSC
  - The main Goal Committees meet every three years at the occasion of the INCOSAI. At the meeting the presentation for the Congress will most likely be discussed.
- 68th Governing Board meeting
  - The General Secretariat and the Chairman will be responsible for the meeting and invite the relevant parties.

Day 2: Tuesday 6 December

- 68th Governing Board meeting continued
- Reception

Day 3: Wednesday 7 December

- First general plenary session of the Congress
  - The first part of the day will be allocated for the inauguration and opening ceremony.
  - The second part of the day will be allocated for the first session of the general plenary and will contain various reports from the chairman, the first vice-chairman, the second vice-chairman and the secretary general. Beyond that the session will include the presentation and discussion of the new INTOSAI statutes and the Strategic Plan as well as presentations from the regions.
- Opening Gala Dinner
  - All delegates at the XXII-INCOSAI is encouraged to participate in the Gala Dinner on the evening of day 3.

Day 4: Thursday 8 December

- Presentations from the three main goal committees: PSC, CBC and KSC
  - The first half of the day is dedicated for the three main goal committees
- Theme I: The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development
  - The second half of the day is dedicated for theme I. The first 2 hours will be held as a general plenary session to give general presentation on the theme. The 2 remaining hours will be held in four smaller groups dedicated for discussion of the four approaches to the SDGs.
The Agenda for the XXII-INCOSAI

**Day 5: Friday 9 December**

- Theme II: Professionalization
  - The first half of the day is dedicated for theme II. The first 2 hours will be held as a general plenary session to give general presentation on the theme. The 2 remaining hours will be held in four smaller groups dedicated for discussion.
  - The second half of the day will be dedicated for booths and seminars
    - A more detailed program for this session will be presented at the Congress

**Day 6: Saturday 10 December**

- Cultural day.

**Day 7: Sunday 11 December**

- The first half of the day is dedicated to the closing of the two themes and to discuss and approved the Abu Dhabi Declaration and the Abu Dhabi Accords.
- After lunch the closing plenary session of the Congress will be held. This session will among others include presentations from the INTOSAI stakeholders such as the World Bank, IFAC, IIA and the UN. This session will also give the opportunity to give a farewell to the outgoing chairs and Governing Board members.
- After the closing of the Congress the 69th Governing Board meeting will take place.
- Press conference
As stated in the previous newsletters a lot of things are happening within our community and these developments bring INTOSAI at a crossroads, where our discussions leading up to the Congress and our decisions at the Congress will have a great impact on the future for INTOSAI.

I see the XXII-INCOSAI as a culmination of all the valuable initiatives that are happening within our community and I believe the Congress will combine all these initiatives and that we, together, as a community, can use the XXII-INCOSAI as a platform to take INTOSAI forward, give INTOSAI a united global public voice and live up to the recognition and expectation from the global community.

I am grateful to see all the hard work from our colleagues around the world. I am convinced that all this work will help us to create a Congress that will be of essential value to the INTOSAI community as well as our stakeholders.

Let me end this newsletter by encouraging you to bring forward any requests, wishes, innovative ideas or thoughts on how we can improve the Congress to our attention by using the official INCOSAI email: incosai2016@saiuae.gov.ae

With best regards

Dr. Harib Al Amimi

President of the State Audit Institution of the United Arab Emirates
First Vice-Chairman of INTOSAI
Snapshot of UAE

- Sir Bani Yas Island
- Emirates Palace
- Saadiyat Island