Speech by Ms. Midori Takeuchi for regional input

At CBC Meeting on Tuesday, on September 8, 2015

In Stockholm, Sweden

Thank you Chair for a kind introduction

It is a great honor to talk on the topic of “lessons learned from ISSAI implementation in ASOSAI. “ ASOSAI, with membership of 46 SAIs is full of diversity

All ASOSAO activities is conducted in English. Let me go over briefly on recent activities in the region with focus on the ISSAI Implementation.

1. ISSAI Certification program

Thanks to the ISSAI Certification Program conducted by the IDI, we newly have 75 Facilitators in the region, in addition to the 40 active members of IDI certified training specialists. We are grateful for this rich pool of resource persons and committed to get most benefit from them.

Some of this new crop has joined in the ASOSAI workshop 2015 for designing and delivering its course. Another facilitator has been recently assigned to the Subject Matter Specialist for the ASOSAI Seminar 2016 on ISSAI” Implementation Experience and Strategy which will be planned for August 2016.”

1. iCAT review workshop

The iCAT review workshop took place in December 2014 at which the SAI teams received detailed feedback from experts and mentors on their completed iCATs and made revision.

1. ISSAI based cooperative audit program

IDI and ASOSAI are conducting ISSAI based cooperative audit program from 2015 to 2016. Performance audit of disaster management has been chosen as the theme based on the request from the members. 18 SAIs are participating. This two year program intends to support SAIs to move forward ISSAI based performance audit by enhancing their professional staff and organizational capability. The product meeting was held in May and the eLearing course will follow in October to November. An audit planning course will be in January 2016, followed by a review meeting after the completion of the pilot audit and the draft audit report by respective participating SAIs.

2. ASOSAI Activities

(1) ASOSAI-EUROSAI Joint Conference

In September 2014 at Moscow, in conjunction with the ASOSAI Governing Board Meeting, the ASOSAI-EUROSAI Join Conference was held under the theme “ Lessons learned from the past experience of adopting the ISSAIs and their future implications” It was a precious opportunity as SAI leaders in the both regions made candid but elaborated presentation, explaining their positions, progress, difficulties they face lessons learned and way forward as they see.

I am not just giving events calendar but I believe that there is an important lesson there. It is crucial that SAI leaders have clear understanding of what are their issues, where they are, and demonstrate their commitment and determination. The Moscow Statement which was adopted at the Conference acknowledges the fact that the ISSAIs provide firm base for SAIs to rely on, the importance of further development of the ISSAIs to continue, and the importance of cooperation among SAIs in sharing experiences and knowledge on ISSAI implementation. The Moscow Statement encourages members to persevere in enhancing their institutional and professional staff capacity for implementing ISSAI.

(2)　improve ASOSAI capacity development activities

So, what ASOSAI as a regional working group can better help member SAIS for ISSAI implementation?

ASOSAI workshop has been conducted once a year since 1992, planned on topics based on the needs survey conducted every three years, and approved by the General Assembly. It has been popular program with nearly 35 SAIs participate each time. With designed course materials available for free use on the ASOSAI website, capacity development activities are proliferated voluntarily in member SAIs and in some sub-regional level.

We have decided, however, to make this workshop more structured and suitable for professional development of staff and institutional capability of SAIs from 2017. It will be similar to the current ISSAI cooperative audit program by the IDI. In the ASOSAI Strategic Plan 2016-2021, which was approved in the Assembly in February this year, it is stipulated that an elearning will be introduced, increase number of participant from each SAI from one to three, those who completed e-learning course successfully will participate to the sub-regional level meeting, conduct ISSAI based audit back home, and one member of each SAI will gather again for a reporting meeting in the second year, 2018, and relevant follow-ups will be provided.

In addition, the ASOSAI Seminar, which has been organized every two years since 2007, will be conducted every year to provide more opportunities for sharing of experiences.

3. Challenges at sight

(1) empower resource persons

Giving certificate to facilitators is not the end. The ISSAIs are revised, so updating knowledge and enforcing skills of resource persons is necessary to conduct effective activities. It is also important that they are available for the activities, as some resource persons are seconded to other organizations or promoted to assume different responsibility. Efforts to increase expand facilitators are also needed.

(2) Special attention required

We believe that the conducting activities by region is the most efficient way to stretch out available resources. But we are aware that difficulties of some SAIs may need to be attended separately, such as fragility of states, weak institutions, etc. No one has immediate solutions. We keep the difficulties in mind and seek for other possibilities.

1. more cooperation

We are grateful for many initiatives that the IDI has made for the region in implementing the ISSAIs. We will continue and further strengthening the cooperation with member SAIs, the IDI, and other groups in the SAI community.

Thank you for your attention.