



Dear Colleagues

It is with great pleasure that I present the first INCOSAI XXII newsletter. This highlights our preparations for the INCOSAI XXII (the Congress) this year in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The newsletter covers three areas:

First, we will update you on preparations for the Congress.

Second, we will introduce you to the two themes for the Congress.

Third, we will share with you what is planned over the next 12 months in the lead up to the Congress.



INCOSAI XXII Preparations



At the 2013 INCOSAI XXI in Beijing, China, the State Audit Institution of the United Arab Emirates was given the responsibility of hosting the INCOSAI XXII in 2016. We have been working hard to create the best environment for the Congress since then.

I presented our initial preparations to the Governing Board members at the 66th Governing Board meeting. I presented our suggestion for the two themes, and informed the Governing Board about our proposed changes for the Congress format.

We understand from discussions with members of the INTOSAI community that at previous congresses there was limited time for everyone to present their work in detail. As a result, we plan to allow for more interaction and direct engagement for delegates at the Congress in 2016. We plan to:

- Ask the committees and regions for more condensed reports and a focus on key topics. Furthermore we will encourage the goal chairs to present reports on behalf of all their members.
- Shorten the plenary sessions to allow more time for discussions and interaction between members of INTOSAI and the committees, sub-committees, working groups and task forces through booths, seminars and workshops.
- Cease the presentation of country papers. Theme discussions will be encouraged with more interaction between the INTOSAI community and the regions. We are proposing regional papers, surveys on the two themes, and social media. SAIs are of course still welcome to submit papers.

Prior to the 67th Governing Board meeting held November 2015 in Abu Dhabi, a work meeting was held to discuss the two Congress themes. This new

initiative proved to be very helpful to the theme chairs in their preparations for the themes.

I also had the opportunity to present the venue for the INCOSAI XXII to the participants at the 67th Governing Board meeting. The venue enables us to create sessions where there can be room for presentations, discussions and networking.

The venue's four meeting rooms can accommodate up to 100 people. The goal committees and sub-groups can do presentations, workshops etc. in the rooms. There is also a large exhibition area that can accommodate a large number of booths. We would like each committee, sub-committee, working group, task force, etc. to set up a booth. The booths provide Congress participants 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.

We are planning to survey SAIs about topics they want to know more about, so that the goal committees and sub-groups can better understand your expectations.

The two themes:

The 66th Governing Board approved the two themes for the INCOSAI XXII.

Theme I: Sustainable Development Goals:

How INTOSAI can contribute to the UN post 2015 agenda including good governance in order to strengthen the fight against corruption? The chair of theme I is Saudi Arabia.

Theme II: Professionalization:

What can promote INTOSAI's credibility to become a more prominent international organization? The chair of theme II is New Zealand.

Theme I: Sustainable Development Goals



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) replace the 2000-2015 Millennium Development Goals. The SDGs are far reaching and require all countries to participate, including those with more advanced economies.

In September 2015 the United Nations adopted the SDGs for 2016-2030. There are 17 sustainable development goals with 169 associated targets and objectives.

The United Nations has, in various forums and through the active engagement of INTOSAI, recognized the indispensable role of independent and capable SAIs in the efficient, effective, transparent, and accountable implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In response, we are developing, through our strategic planning process a strategic priority for how we will go forward in regard to the SDGs. The objective of the theme on the sustainable development goals is to transform all the discussions on how INTOSAI can contribute to the SDGs into reality at the Congress and beyond.

We believe that SAIs, through their audits and consistent with their mandates and priorities, can make valuable contributions to national efforts to track progress, monitor implementation and identify improvement opportunities across the full set of the SDGs.

The topic of the SDGs has already been widely discussed within our community, and many SAIs have contributed to the preparation of the theme. For example we have had some notable engagements including the UN / INTOSAI symposium in Vienna, the Capacity Building Committee meeting in Stockholm, and the Knowledge Sharing Committee meeting in Washington.

During these preparations it has become evident that before proceeding on communicating with all INTOSAI members, we firstly need to understand what role and responsibilities we can undertake. This has involved extensive discussions amongst task force for strategic planning members and other groups such as the "SDG Think Tank".

At the work-meeting preceding the 67th Governing Board meeting we agreed on a way forward on the SDGs.

Theme II: Professionalization

The purpose of the professionalization theme is to promote discussion about how INTOSAI could become a more credible and influential global organization acting in the public interest. This is called the professionalization agenda.

The United Nations, and other international stakeholders, have a keen interest in seeing INTOSAI develop its professionalization agenda and strengthen its global voice. They recognize the value of a strong and effective audit function that fosters stable and healthy democracies around the world.

We need to work together towards improving the professionalization of INTOSAI at all levels. We want to better understand what more can be done at the global, regional, and individual SAI levels.

Of course, not every SAI or regional organization is at the same starting point. There is, however, value in having a shared goal and moving in a common direction.

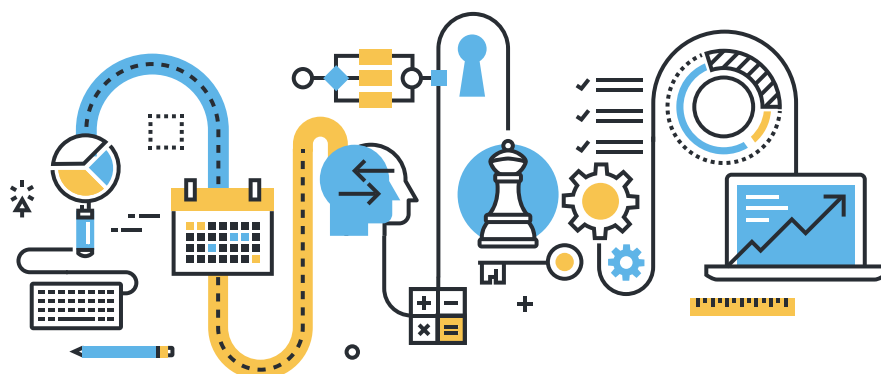
The professionalization theme presents an opportunity to explore the contribution that regional organizations can make. Their unique position as the linchpin between individual SAIs and INTOSAI as the global advocacy body means they are well placed to influence the professionalization agenda. We want to know how well the draft regional framework on professionalism supports the development of individual SAIs and what is needed to improve the effectiveness of regional organizations.

INTOSAI's draft Strategic Plan 2017-2022 describes how it will work towards the professionalization agenda at a global level. The plan outlines INTOSAI's intention to increase its role as a global advocate for SAIs, enhance its standard setting activities, and update its statutes.

Increasing the focus on the professionalization agenda within INTOSAI will help SAIs become more effective in carrying out their role. Empowered, professional SAIs are more respected domestically, which can strengthen their own voice and, in turn, INTOSAI's global voice. We look forward to exploring how the professionalism of INTOSAI can be enhanced at all levels.



What is planned over the next 12 months



Over the next 12 months we will engage the whole INTOSAI community in the preparations for the Congress.

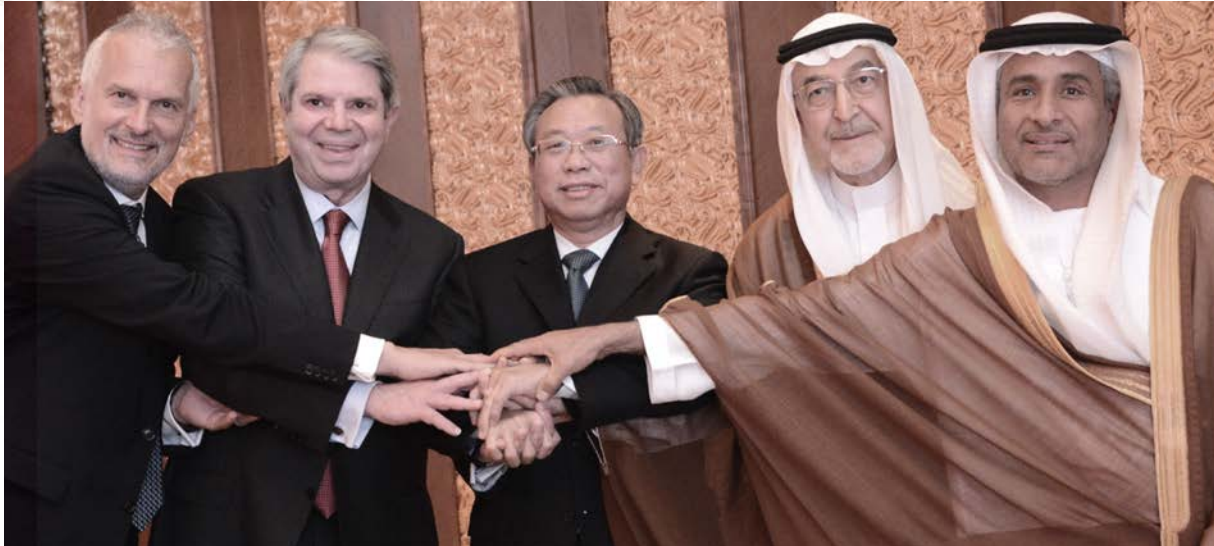
As already indicated, we will no longer request country papers. Regional and sub-regional papers will provide the regions' perspective on the two themes. We have left it to each region to determine the best way to reflect the views of individual SAIs in their papers. If individual SAIs however (and sub-regions not represented by regional organizations) wish to present their views on the two themes, they are welcome to do so.

We plan to engage the whole INTOSAI membership in the two themes. Surveys on the two themes will be sent out early in 2016. LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter will also be used to engage the INTOSAI community in discussion about the two themes.

The timeline below shows the activities over the next 12 months leading up to Congress.

Newsletter Jan 2016	Newsletter March 2016	Newsletter June 2016	Newsletter September 2016	Newsletter November 2016
Outline INTOSAI Community Preparations for the Themes Preliminary theme papers Outline for regional paper January 2016	Outline INTOSAI Community Preparations for the Themes Preliminary theme papers Outline for regional paper January 2016	Analyzing and writing the final theme papers including translation into five languages of INTOSAI June to September 2016	Analyzing and writing the final theme papers including translation into five languages of INTOSAI June to September 2016	Final Theme papers to INTOSAI community October 2016
Regional papers / stand alone SAIs Regions perspective on the two theme 6 / 5 months from January 2016	Regional papers / stand alone SAIs Regions perspective on the two theme 6 / 5 months from January 2016	Social Media	Social Media	Social Media
Survey to All SAIs - Two Themes Feb to March 2016	Survey to All SAIs - Two Themes Feb to March 2016			
Strategic plan to all SAI for comments Jan - May 2016	Strategic plan to all SAI for comments Jan - May 2016			
Social Media	Social Media			

I really hope that you will embrace the new approach. I believe it will facilitate more valuable discussions at the INCOSAI XXII and following the Congress.



Ending Note

I will end this newsletter by describing my expectations of INCOSAI XXII and the future of INTOSAI.

Several important initiatives and developments have happened over the past few decades within our INTOSAI community in the advancement of INTOSAI.

We are now recognized by international bodies such as the United Nations, the International Federation of Accountants and the World Bank. We have created a framework for auditing standards and guidance, and some of our working groups, such as the Working Group on Environmental Auditing; have become bodies with 80 or so countries represented.

These are major achievement for INTOSAI. They have only been possible because of the hard work from the members of the INTOSAI community.

Alongside these achievements there's a growing expectation from the international community surrounding INTOSAI. Recent UN resolutions reflect these expectations. In particular resolution 69/228 in December 2014 on promoting and fostering the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening SAIs, and resolution 69/327 in September 2015, on promoting inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development. Through these resolutions, among others, the United Nations has recognized the important role of SAIs and INTOSAI in the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

I see this as a great challenge to INTOSAI, but also as a great opportunity for the whole INTOSAI community to show the world that we are an international organization that has something to contribute to the citizens of our communities.

I believe that our engagement in the 2030 agenda (SDGs) can be of great value to the United Nations, the member states and for INTOSAI. Enhancing the professionalism of INTOSAI will enable all levels of INTOSAI to more effectively contribute to that agenda.

How we respond to this challenge will be determined over the next 12 months, at the Congress and following INCOSAI XXII.

I look forward to hosting all of you in Abu Dhabi in December 2016.

With best regards

Dr. Harib Alamimi

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

Snapshot of UAE



Abu Dhabi



Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center | Venue of INCOSAI 2016



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