



# Media release

28 May 2021

## SAI auditors taught to be effective communicators

**Auckland, New Zealand:** The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) is delivering a workshop on interpersonal communication skills for auditors on 28 May 2021.

95 participants (58 female, 37 male) from supreme audit institutions (SAIs) in the Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM National, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pohnpei, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Yap State will participate in this online training.

The workshop will be facilitated by Sarah Markley (Deputy Secretary-General – PASAI) and Nicole Ayo von Thun (Advisor, International Engagement – Office of the Auditor-General New Zealand).

PASAI developed this training to complement the technical skills many auditors already have. Although often overlooked, interpersonal skills can be taught and improved.

Sarah explained, “It’s obvious an auditor needs technical capabilities, but the ‘soft skills’ involved in interacting and building relationships are just as essential to the success of their work”.

In a professional audit environment staff engage with colleagues, clients and stakeholders every day. To do this effectively, it is critical auditors have strong interpersonal communication skills.

The training provides an opportunity to share experiences with other participants. Its materials include best practice guidance and practical examples relevant to the work of SAIs in the Pacific.

It is hoped it will positively affect all aspects of personal interactions, relationship development and communication.

“The workshop will help participants to make a good impression, actively listen, use effective non-verbal communication methods, build rapport with others and present themselves confidently,” Sarah said.

PASAI acknowledges the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

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