

## Summary: GTF: 1<sup>st</sup> international training program on environment auditing held in iCED

- A proposal was mooted in 2011 by SAI India to make iCED the Global Training Facility (GTF) for The International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA) which was accepted by INTOSAI WGEA, keeping in mind the need for training in environment audit expressed by SAIs across the world. SAI India had committed to INTOSAI WGEA to hold the first course in iCED by November 2013. A need analysis showed that most WGEA members wanted an introductory basic course, at least for the beginning of GTF. GTF was adopted in the WGEA work plan for 2011-13 and extended up to 2013-16. Accordingly, the 1<sup>st</sup> international training program of the GTF was held from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

- A sub-committee was set up to develop the course module and comprised of Norway, Estonia, USA, India and Finland. All of these SAIs also committed to sending their course developers to deliver the course in iCED Jaipur. This course is very unique as the various modules have been developed by SAIs of different countries and the course developers from the different SAIs are also coming to iCED to deliver these modules. For



*Training session in progress*

example for the biodiversity module we had trainers from Brazil, for the sustainable development, environment auditing and sustainable development module, we had trainer from Estonia, for the waste module we had a trainer from India, for the climate change module we had trainer from Norway etc. We believe that this is a unique model and will offer participants different perspectives of how environment systems are managed and audited across the world.



*Biodiversity field tour*

- The training programme was inaugurated by the CAG of India who is the SAI of India. CAG of India welcomed the participants and also thanked the sub-committee members and WGEA for their support. He also talked about the relevance of environment auditing, especially

in light of climate change and environment degradation that we see in the world around us.

- The first course had a total of 25 participants from 13 countries across the world viz. Afghanistan, Bahamas, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Moldova, Rwanda, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey. The participants, before coming to iCED, were to do home study and prepare a short paper on environment challenges as well the responses of their government to these environment challenges. This paper served not just the participants to relate more closely to the modules, but also enabled the trainers to customize their study materials.



*Hands on session*



*Group Discussion*

- To sum up the training module which stretched over 17 days, we had sessions on performance auditing, environment auditing, sustainable development, biodiversity, climate change, waste issues and water issues. From the feedback received from the participants, it is clear that the participants found the modules relevant, the atmosphere in the class conducive to discussions, the concepts delivered clear and unambiguous, the structuring and presentation of material excellent, pace of presentations

outstanding and participants were also encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussions. It is especially heartening that the participants felt that they will be able to use skills learnt here when they go back home and to their work places. The issues and skills were found to be of great use and relevance.

- We also had a review session over the last 2 days of training whereby the participants had to write a paper and discuss it with the course directors. This course paper was supposed to be like a detailed audit plan on an environment audit of relevance to their country, which they could conduct back home. The participants worked very hard on their papers and delivered to us papers of very high quality. We received very interesting papers on issues like audit of sustainable forests, climate change, management of waste, renewable energy, audit of measures to save the rhino etc. These plans also discussed in detail a design for audit as well as issues like criteria and audit questions. The one to one sessions the course directors had with the participants regarding the paper was also found to be very fruitful and relevant. In fact, due to the good quality of papers received, we put all the papers in a compilation which will be available to all the participants for guidance and reference.



*Field trip on sustainability issues*

- We also planned a lot of evening and weekend activities. The purpose of these activities was that the participants should also grasp environment concepts in a comfortable setting as well as activities built for fun and enjoyment. In the first category, we had sessions on a presentation on new initiatives in waste management in India, panel discussion on mining and the biodiversity trip to Ranthambhore. The participants also found the sessions on waste management and mining very useful and engaged in impassioned and informed discussions with the presenters.



*Participants enjoying the view!*

- We also had a lot of activities to enable the participants to enjoy themselves as well as experience the rich cultural diversity of India. To achieve this we had a heritage walk along the bazaars of old Jaipur, a module on Bollywood music and movies, a light and sound show on Jaipur at Amber, trip to see the Taj Mahal in Agra as well as shopping trips to various shopping malls and markets of Jaipur.



Most of the participants found these activities very stimulating and pleasant. The participants also enjoyed the yoga sessions.

- The course concluded with a valedictory session and presentation of certificates to the participants. The final event was a mime show on environment issues performed by a Jaipur based theatre group. Their depiction of threats facing the environment today through gestures and expressions was much appreciated.