

International Webinar on

“Multi-dimensional Aspects of Auditing Blue Economy” (13th & 14th July 2023)

International Centre for Environment Audit & Sustainable Development (iCED), as the Global Training Facility (GTF) of INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA) organized International Webinar on “Multi-dimensional Aspects of Auditing Blue Economy” on 13th (Batch-I) & 14th July (Batch-II) 2023 in two batches through virtual mode. A total number of 64 participants (38 in Batch- I & 26 in Batch-II) from 22 SAIs across the world participated in this programme.



Ms. Sayantani Jafa, ADAI & DG, iCED addressing the participants during Inauguration of the International Webinar (Batch I & II)

During the inaugural session of Batch-I, Dr. Deen Dayal Verma, Director (Administration), iCED welcomed Ms. Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General & Director General, iCED, participants, and the guest faculty Mr. Fraddry D’Souza.

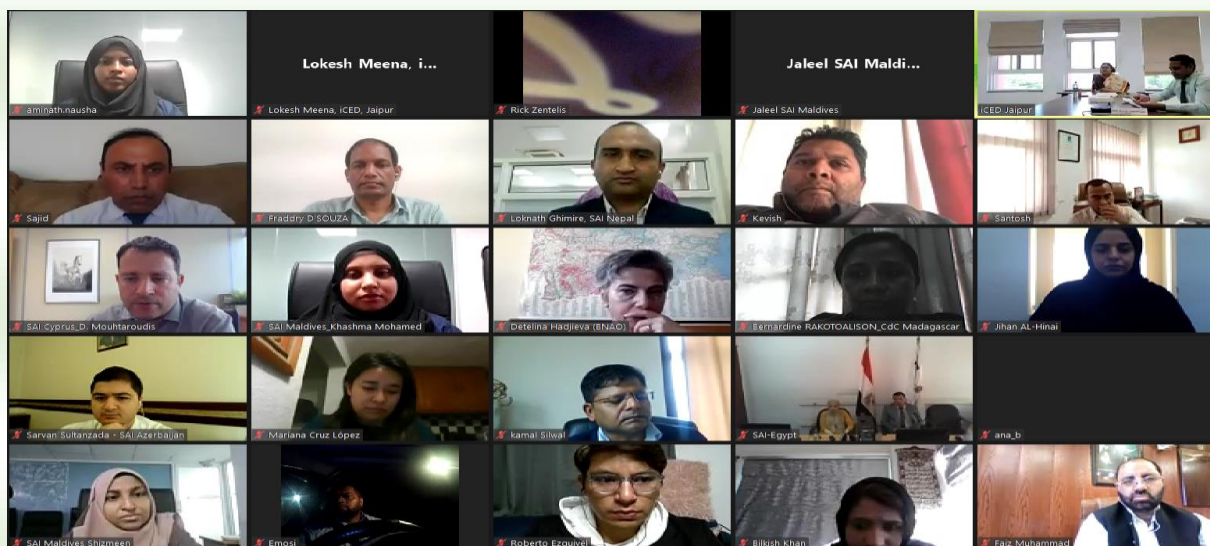
During the inaugural session of Batch-II, Dr. Nanda Dulal Das, Director (Training & Research), iCED welcomed Ms. Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General & Director General, iCED, participants, and the guest faculty Commodore Debesh Lahiri, Executive Director NMF New Delhi.

Ms. Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General & Director General, iCED inaugurated the Webinar on both the days. She highlighted that Sustainable Blue Economy offers solution to numerous challenges posed by climate change and resource extraction, by promoting development of ocean resources in a fair and equitable manner. This includes initiatives such as sustainable fisheries management, renewable energy generation, conservation of Marine Protected Areas, and banning disposal of sewage and pollutants into the water bodies and ocean. One of the key challenges facing the Blue Economy is overfishing, which can lead to depletion of fish populations and negatively impact marine ecosystems. To

address this, we need to adopt sustainable fishing practices, such as reducing bycatch, implementing catch limits, and protecting marine habitats.

Another issue facing the Blue Economy is marine pollution, which can harm marine ecosystems and impact human health. To tackle this problem, we need to reduce plastic waste and other pollutants entering the ocean through measures such as waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable waste management practices.

Ms. Jafa said that globally the Blue Economy can play a crucial role in mitigating the impacts of climate change. For example, renewable energy generation from offshore wind, wave, and tidal power can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote a shift towards a more sustainable energy system. Further, ocean acts as one of the largest carbon sinks in the World, warming of which can further threaten the progress made so far in climate-change mitigation commitments. Before closing, she thanked Mr. Sami Yläoutinen, the Auditor-General of Finland and Chair of INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing and his team from the National Audit Office (NAO), Finland, for their support in organizing this webinar.



Participants during International Webinar on “Multi-dimensional Aspects of Auditing Blue Economy” 13th July 2023 (Batch-I)



Participants during International Webinar on “Multi-dimensional Aspects of Auditing Blue Economy” 14th July 2023 (Batch-II)

During this webinar, one independent marine researcher and other experts from SAI India; Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), Australia; Government Accountability Office (GAO) US; National Audit Office, Mauritius; Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu and National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi shared their experiences related to Multi-dimensional Aspects of Auditing Blue Economy.

Session-wise details are given below:

S. No	Resource Person	Session	Date
1.	Mr Fraddry D'Souza	Overview of Multidimensional Aspects of Blue Economy	13 th July 2023
2.	Ms Aditi Sharma, SAI India	Audit of the Coastal Development Authorities	13 th July 2023
3.	Dr Kathiresan Kandasamy, Professor, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu	Importance of Mangrove Ecosystems for Coastal Protection and Biodiversity Conservation	13 th July 2023
4.	Ms Jacqueline Hedditch, Senior Director, Performance Audit, National Audit Office, Australia	Audit of Regulation of Great Barrier Reef, Marine Park Permits and Approvals by NAO Australia: Experience Sharing	13 th July 2023
5.	Commodore Debesh Lahiri, Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi	Overview of Multidimensional Aspects of Blue Economy	14 th July 2023
6.	Ms Aditi Sharma, SAI India	Audit of the Coastal Development Authorities	14 th July 2023
7.	Mr Jonathan Dent, GAO US	Audit of Ocean Acidification: Experience Sharing by GAO US	14 th July 2023
8.	Mr Juihendranath DODAH, Assistant Director of Audit, National Audit Office, Mauritius	Performance Audit of Moving towards sustainable Artisanal Fishery in Mauritius: Experience Sharing by NAO Mauritius	14 th July 2023



Mr. Fraddy D'Souza started his presentation with emphases on Overview of Multidimensional Aspects of Blue Economy. He discussed concepts and scope of Blue Economy, dimensions of the Blue Economy, challenges and opportunities for the Blue Economy, best practices in Blue

Economy initiatives around the world and Ocean Governance etc. He also highlighted the Indian Deep Sea Mission programme and “Operation Phakisa” a strategic initiative launched by the South African government in 2014.

Ms. Aditi Sharma, SAI India briefed the participants about Audit of the Coastal Development Authorities in India in session-II. She highlighted processes of CRZ clearance and audit report related to conservations of Marine eco-system with reference to the coastal states in India. She also discussed Implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone by the State Coastal Zone Management Authority (SCZMA) in West Bengal and important audit findings of SAI India.



Dr. Kathiresan Kandasamy, Professor, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu shared his experience related to Importance of Mangrove Ecosystems for Coastal Protection and Biodiversity Conservation. He discussed Global status of Mangroves and its effects on Coastal Ecosystems. He also highlighted development of

Mangroves scheme MISHTI - “Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes” and Maharashtra: a successful model.

Ms. Jacqueline Hedditch, Senior Director, Performance Audit, National Audit Office (NAO), Australia shared her experience related to Audit of Regulation of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Permits (in two phases) and approvals by NAO Australia in session-IV. She also highlighted other Blue Economy related audits and future climate change auditing strategy of NAO Australia.



Commodore Debesh Lahiri, Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi started his presentation with emphases on Overview of Multidimensional Aspects of Blue Economy. He discussed about the 17 SDGs and elaborated on the 2022 SDG Report. He further discussed Draft Blue



Economy Policy of India and National Accounting Framework for the Blue Economy.

Mr. Jonathan Dent, from the GAO US briefed the participants about different aspects of Audit of Ocean Acidification. He discussed about the GAO US Audit Report related to Ocean Acidification and its important findings. Further he elaborated on the effects of Ocean Acidification on Species, Ecosystems and Coastal Communities.





Mr. Juihendranath Dodah, Assistant Director of Audit, NAO, Mauritius shared his experience related to Performance Audit of Moving towards sustainable Artisanal Fishery in Mauritius. He further discussed about the area of Fish Production and Artisanal Fishery and Development of Fisheries Sector in

Mauritius. He also highlighted Involvement of Fishermen Investment Trust in Sustainable Artisanal Fishery.

Feedback: - Feedback on course designing, the time required, content, knowledge and its delivery by the resource persons was also collected from the participants through Google form. The average feedback of the participants for batch I was 9.4 out of 10 and for batch II it was 8.8 out of 10, which are highly encouraging.

Session on “Audit of the Coastal Development Authorities” delivered by Ms Aditi Sharma, SAI India and Session on “Overview of Multidimensional Aspects of Blue Economy” delivered by Commodore Debesh Lahiri, NMF New Delhi were rated as the best in batch I & II respectively.

Valediction of the International Webinar on “Multi-dimensional Aspects of Auditing Blue Economy

Ms Sayantani Jafa, ADAI and DG, iCED graced the valedictory session. She thanked the participants for their active participation in the programme so that the programme could be conducted successfully.

Further, ADAI Madam, in her valedictory speech told participants that the Blue Economy is a labyrinthian and multifaceted area which is driving economic growth and innovation. Its vital importance is thus opening up new frontiers for auditing, and the need for upscaling capacity building and research has thus formed a key theme of the SAI 20 Engagement Group under the Presidentship of the Hon’ble Comptroller & Auditor General of India, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu.



Ms. Sayantani Jafa, ADAI & Director General, iCED addressing the participants during valediction

She stated that the sharing of experiences and perspectives during the webinar would suitably equip all the participants to take the learning process forward. ADAI Madam expressed her gratitude to all the resource persons for sharing their experiences with the participants. She also thanked all the SAIs who had nominated resource persons to deliver the sessions during the webinar. Dr Deen Dayal Verma, Director (Administration), iCED and Dr Nanda Dulal Das, Director (T&R), iCED conveyed vote of thanks to all the faculties for sharing their knowledge and experiences during Batch I & II respectively.

Dr Deen Dayal Verma, Director (Administration), iCED and Dr Nanda Dulal Das, Director (T&R), iCED conveyed vote of thanks to all the faculties for sharing their knowledge and experiences during Batch I & II respectively. They thanked all the participants for their active participation. They further conveyed sincere thanks to all the SAIs who nominated participants and supported iCED by contributing resource persons for the webinar and concluded the webinar.

Testimonials

Mr. Roberto Ezquivel from SAI Mexico – “it was a very good webinar, you gave us important examples and many tools that can be implemented”.

Mr Faiz Muhammad from SAI Pakistan – “it turned out to be a great learning experience. It was an excellent learning experience Overall”.

Mr Loknath Ghimire from SAI Nepal – “it was well managed seminar, very good. Keep it up”.

Mr Lote RokoliNaicavu from SAI Fiji – “the topics were very well presented with lot of insights and capacity development on the overview of Multidimensional Aspects of Blue Economy. Greatly appreciated and blessed to be part of this wealth of knowledge transmissions”.