INTOSAI WGITA e-Seminar on "IT Audit in the Era of Industrial Revolution 4.0: Opportunities and Challenges" hosted by SAI Indonesia
Opening Remarks by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and the Chair of WGITA
2 September 2021 (5.05-5.10 pm)

Dr. Agung Firman Sampurna, Chairman, the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia

Dr. Agus Joko Pramono, Vice Chairman, the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia

Respected Board Members, the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen from different parts of the world, and different time zones,

Good Morning, Good afternoon, Good evening!!

Greetings from New Delhi!!

I hope you, everyone in your families and SAI are safe and healthy!

On behalf of the INTOSAI Working Group on Information Technology Audit (WGITA), I sincerely appreciate and congratulate the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia, for hosting this e-Seminar on "IT Audit in the Era of Industrial Revolution 4.0: Opportunities and Challenges".   In the prevalent pandemic environment,   where the world has witnessed unmatched digital transformation, this seminar is very relevant and important.

The term "Fourth Industrial Revolution" was first introduced by a team of scientists developing a high-tech strategy for the German government, and

popularised by Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Mr. Schwab has rightly said, "We must develop a comprehensive and globally shared view of how technology is affecting our lives and reshaping our economic, social, cultural, and human environments. There has never been a time of greater promise, or greater peril."

The transformation journey to the fourth industrial revolution provides a plethora of opportunities for nations and organizations, to achieve operational excellence; but like all paradigm shifts, there are also challenges. We all need to be more agile and adaptive, to cope with the disruptions due to this transformation.

India too is witnessing massive digital transformation in the spheres of infrastructure, public policymaking and governance. As of March 2021, India has currently more than 750 million broadband subscribers, mainly mobile users.

In India, today, the trinity of mobile telephony, unique biometric identity and electronic banking, is being used for the world's largest direct benefit transfer to millions of people. The India Stack suite of Application Programme Interfaces (APIs) with four distinct technology layers – presenceless layer, paperless layer, cashless layer and consent layer – is driving large scale changes in identity authentication (including for governmental benefits), platforms for financial transfers using the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), as well as large scale Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) of governmental benefits to millions of beneficiaries. These developments have helped protect millions of people from poverty during the risks and uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic. Such initiatives are now fundamental in making the public service delivery efficient and transparent, as well as ensuring trust in public entities and their governance.

Dear Colleagues, in the fourth industrial revolution, audit professionals, especially Information Technology auditors, must also be ready to face multi-faceted changes and challenges.

For adapting to such changing needs, auditors will have to make far greater use of data analytics and Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for optimizing efficient use of their own scarce resources and also effectively meeting the requirements and needs of their stakeholders.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope this e-seminar will be an important milestone in our collective journey to facilitate sharing of experiences and best practices for IT auditing in the era of the fourth industrial revolution. I wish this seminar all the success!

Thank You!!