

13th International Training Programme on “Evolving Landscape of Environment Audit and Sustainability Issues-Challenges and Role of SAIs” from 10th to 18th November 2025

International Centre for Environment Audit & Sustainable Development (iCED), as the Global Training Facility (GTF) of INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA), organised 13th International Training Programme on “Evolving Landscape of Environment Audit and Sustainability Issues-Challenges and Role of SAIs” from 10th to 18th November 2025 in onsite mode at iCED. A total of 10 participants from 06 SAIs participated in the training programme.



Group photo during the 13th International Training Programme

In her welcome address, Ms. Meena Bisht, Director(T&R) extended greetings to Mr. Pravindra Yadav, Director General of iCED, as well as to the participants.

Mr. Pravindra Yadav, Director General of iCED, in his inaugural address, highlighted the growing significance of environmental issues, with visible signs of climate change, such as more frequent natural disasters like floods, tsunamis, and droughts. He also emphasized about the importance of robust environmental regulations and effective auditing to ensure that countries' efforts to protect the environment are being properly implemented.

He also briefed the participants on the role and contributions of iCED, in collaboration with INTOSAI (WGEA) as a Global Training Facility, and outlined the key efforts made by iCED in this sector.

He also briefed the participants about various outdoor activities, including visits to the Taj Mahal in Agra, Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary Bharatpur, Chand Bawri, City Palace, Jantar Mantar,

Hawa Mahal, Albert Hall, Dravyavati River Project and Chokhi Dhani to help them connect with the environment first-hand and experience the historic culture of India.

The inaugural addresses were concluded with expressions of gratitude to Mr. Sami Yläoutinen, Chair of the INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing and Auditor General of the National Audit Office of Finland, and his team for their support in organizing the training programme. Special thanks were also extended to all the SAIs for nominating participants and IDI & SAI Thailand, SAI Finland contributing trainers to the programme.

During the training programme, experts from INTOSAI WGEA, SAI Thailand, SAI India and other renowned Institutions shared their perspectives with relevant case studies to elaborate the various aspects of Environmental Auditing. The session-wise details are given below:

S. No	Resource Person	Session
1.	Mr. Sunil S. Dadhe, SAI India	Basics of Environmental Governance and Environmental Auditing
2.	Dr. Vivi Niemenmaa, INTOSAI WGEA	Overview of Environmental Audit and Key Initiatives of INTOSAI(WGEA) (Recorded Session)
3.	Mr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Independent Researcher	Environmental Impacts of Mining and Sustainable Development Framework for Mining
4.	Mr. Adriano Juras, IDI & Ms. Maria Lucia Lima, IDI	Overview of the SDGs: Frameworks, Challenges for Auditing the SDGs (Virtual)
5.	Ms. Khanamporn Philapurana, SAI Thailand	Sustainability Reporting in the Public Sector: A Snapshot for Supreme Audit Institutions
6.	Dr. Pravakar Mishra, Former Scientist G, NCCR	Measurement of Coastal Water Quality and Marine Pollution with reference to Plastic and Chemical Pollution
7.	Dr. V. B. Mathur, Former Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, India	Overview of Global Framework for Biodiversity Conservation and Performance Auditing
8.	Mr. Virender Kulharia (IA&AS), Financial Adviser & C.A.O, Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), Chandigarh	Use of Remote Sensing and GIS in Environment Audit: Experience Sharing of SAI India
9.	Mr. Pravinjith K.P., Managing Director at Ecoparadigm	Designing audits of waste issues that involve Multilateral Environment Accords
10.	Dr. Anshuman, Associate Director, TERI, New Delhi	Global Water Challenges and Audit of Water related Issues

Teaching methods during the training programme included both formal lectures as well as various individual and group exercises, etc. Each topic was divided into theory and practical part consisting of case studies.

Cultural Visit & Dinner at Chokhi Dhani

A Cultural Visit followed by dinner was arranged for the participants at Chokhi Dhani Village, Jaipur. Chokhi Dhani is located around 20 kilometres away from the main city of Jaipur and has been created in a heritage village styled theme. Various displays and exhibits in Chokhi Dhani gave participants a perfect place to see and experience varied local culture in a compact setting. All the participants enjoyed the trip as an experience to local cultural and culinary traditions of the state.



Participants at Chokhi Dhani Village Resort, Jaipur

Trip to Amber Fort, Hawa Mahal, Jantar Mantar – Trip to historical sites in Jaipur gave a



Participants at Amber Fort

glimpse of rich history and architectural masterpieces to participants. The Amber Fort was originally built by Raja Man Singh. Improvements and additions were done by successive rulers over the next 150 years, until the Kachwa rulers shifted their capital to Jaipur during the time of Sawai Jai Singh (II), in 1727.

The Hawa Mahal is an eco-tourism site and a five-storey building. It is the tallest building in the world that has been built without a foundation. It has a curved architecture that leans at an 87-degree angle, and a pyramidal shape which has helped it stay erect for centuries. Participants were impressed by the rich historical narrative and architectural masterpieces of both these sites.



Participants at Hawa Mahal



Participants at Jantar Mantar

The Jantar Mantar, in Jaipur, is an astronomical observation site built in the early 18th century. It includes a set of some 20 main fixed instruments. Designed for the observation of astronomical positions with the naked eye, they embody several architectural and instrumental innovations. This is the most significant, most comprehensive, and the best preserved of India's historic observatories. Participants highly appreciated the astronomical skills and cosmological concepts exhibited in this

site.

Trip to Dravyavati River Project, Jaipur- (*Case study of River Rejuvenation project*)

Dravyavati River Project is a major initiative to rejuvenate the Dravyavati River in Jaipur, Rajasthan, by cleaning the river, developing green spaces, and improving infrastructure. The project, completed by Jaipur Development authority and executed by Tata Projects, involved cleaning 40 km of the river stretch , building sewage treatment plants to handle 170 million litres of sewage , and creating amenities like walking and cycling tracks, parks, and smart city facilities along the riverfront.



Participants at Dravyavati River Project, Jaipur



Dr. Abhishek Gupta, DG, iCED with participants during official dinner

An official dinner was organised at iCED, for ITP participants and officers posted at field offices located in Jaipur to enable interaction and to appreciate different areas of functioning of C&AG offices. It was graciously attended by Dr. Abhishek Gupta, Director General, iCED. The dinner provided the participants with an opportunity to interact with IA&AS officers posted at Jaipur.



Participants at Taj Mahal, Agra

Visit to the Taj Mahal, Agra, India

It is a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its architectural beauty and historical significance. It is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture. Constructed from white marble, it features intricate carvings, gardens, and a reflecting pool.



Participants at Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur

Trip to Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur-

As a part of biodiversity module, a biodiversity trip to Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur was organized. The participants were overwhelmed by the biodiversity of bird species i.e. Waterfowl, Ducks, Storks, Cranes, etc. at Keoladeo National Park. They had a first-hand experience of conservation measures

undertaken by forest authorities for protection of habitats for migratory as well as local birds.

Trip to Chand Baori- It is a historic stepwell located in the village of Abhaneri, which is in

the Dausa district of Rajasthan. It is one of the largest and deepest stepwells in the world, featuring 3,500 steps that descend 13 stories into the ground. Built in the 9th century by King Chanda, it served as a water conservation structure and a public gathering place.



Participants at Chand Baori, Stepwell, Dausa, Rajasthan

At the end of the visit, the participants were briefed about biodiversity and habitat conservation measures undertaken by forest department as well as challenges being faced

due to socio-political conflict for scarce resources.

Valediction of the 13th International Training Programme-

At the beginning of the valediction, all participants presented their country papers highlighting various audits undertaken in their respective countries in the presence of Ms. Meena Bisht, Director (T&R), and Mr. Harish Khurana, Deputy Director (Admn), iCED (SAI India).



Ms. Meena Bisht, Director, (T&R) & Mr. Harish Khurana, Dy. Director(Admn) iCED (SAI INDIA)



Ms. Meena Bisht, Director (T&R) in her vote of thanks, thanked all participants, faculties and expressed gratitude to the O/o the CAG of India, New Delhi, and the INTOSAI WGEA Secretariat for their continuous support in this endeavour. She also conveyed her appreciation to SAI Thailand and IDI for providing faculty support for this training programme. The valedictory session concluded with the

distribution of training certificates and mementos to all participants

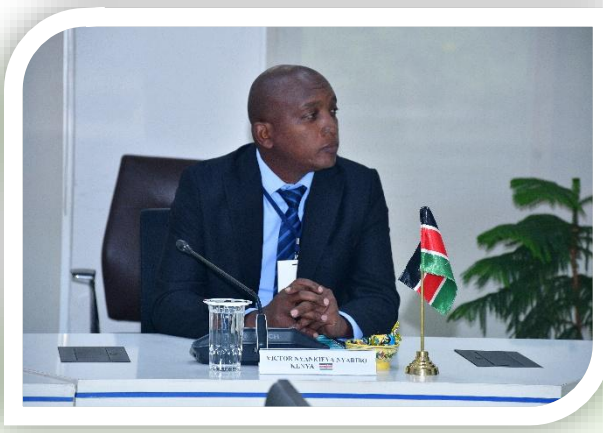
Testimonials

“I, on behalf of all the participants, would like to thank the organisation (iCED team) and the trainers for this valuable training programme on environmental and sustainability issues. The sessions were insightful, well delivered, and helped us understand the challenges and opportunities in this field from a global perspective. It was a privilege to learn alongside participants from different countries and to exchange our experiences.



Ms. Pema Deki, SAI Bhutan

The three-day excursion, especially the visit to the Taj Mahal and other important sites, was a memorable experience and added great value to our stay. We shall carry the knowledge, friendships, and experiences from the programme back to our country and workplace.”



Mr. Victor Nyankieya Nyaribo, SAI Kenya

“The sessions were informative, and the content was delivered well by the faculty. The diverse coverage of topics is also appreciated.

The excursions were excellent and memorable—Chokhi Dhani, the shopping experience, Amber Fort, Albert Hall Museum, bird watching at Bharatpur, and ultimately the Taj Mahal, which was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The outside activities were also very informative, especially the visit to the Dravyavati Treatment Plant, which was highly educative and demonstrated practical applications in environmental protection and sustainability.

The stay on campus was good, though regrettably I did not have the opportunity to explore all the facilities. Next time, I will definitely make use of them.

The learning process and the technology used in delivering the content were exceptional and greatly appreciated.

Thanks to the Government of India, the C&AG, the participants, DG iCED, and all the staff of iCED. Thank you once more.”

“Excursions & Outside Activities:

They were well coordinated, and participants were taken care of very well.

Stay at Campus:

It was very comfortable, and the facilities provided were excellent, including recreational and sports facilities. The campus is very clean and quiet; it felt like a little rejuvenation time after hectic office work.

Training Programme:

The programme was enriching and insightful, with facilitators having wide knowledge and experience. It will indeed help me in my next audit related to the environment.”



Ms. Namgay Choden, SAI Bhutan



Mr. Ahmed Hamza Fazeel, SAI Maldives

“At first, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you all. My stay at iCED was very comfortable and enjoyable. The food, excursions, and outside activities were all very good; the excursions were especially well prepared and gave us memorable experiences.

One small observation is that the site was a bit chilly throughout the campus, but it was not a serious issue and did not affect the experience.

“Everything was planned very well—the training sessions and the trips were well organised. The staff were very welcoming, and I loved everything about the place.”



Mr. Nabiido Ishiguri, SAI Japan

Finally, thank you again to all the iCED and SAI India staff. I look forward to seeing you and coming here again.”

“My stay at iCED was very comfortable and pleasant. The excursion was eye-opening for me. The outside activities and the entire training programme were rewarding for me and for the Bahamas.”



Ms. Cyprianna Curtis, SAI Bahamas



Ms. Rudiah Gesare Manduku, SAI

“The sessions were well planned and educative. The excursions were also very informative. The outside activities were refreshing and historical. The stay on campus was okay, though the time was limited for extra activities like swimming and gym. The learning process was well covered and practical. The training programme was very well arranged.”

“The training programme was well structured, with a balanced set of outside excursions. The faculty members were an excellent choice, bringing extensive experience and a welcoming openness to discussion and interaction.”



Mr. Sunil Kumar Sharma, SAI India



Mr. Vinod Parihar, SAI India

“The sessions were very well planned and relevant to the theme of the training programme. The excursions and outside activities were also effectively planned, and we had a lot of fun along with practical hands-on learning experiences.

Overall, the training programme was very fulfilling.”