

Summary

National Training Programme for IA&AS Officer Trainees (2022 Batch) on “Environment Audit” from 31st July to 5th August 2023

International Centre for Environment Audit & Sustainable Development (iCED) organized a 06 days' National Training Programme on “Environment Audit”, from 31st July to 05th August, 2023 for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service Officer Trainees of the 2022 batch at its own campus. A total of 18 officer trainees including 02 officers from Bhutan and 02 from Maldives participated in the training programme.



**Group Photo during National Training Programme for IA&AS Officer Trainees (2022 Batch) on
“Environment Audit”**

Ms Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General & Director General, iCED inaugurated the training programme and extended a warm welcome to all the officer trainees.

She highlighted that the primary focus of the NTP is to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of various sectors of Environmental Audit, including their challenges and opportunities, as well as the policies and strategies required to promote their sustainable growth.



**Ms Sayantani Jafa, ADAI &
Director General, iCED
addressing the participants**

Ms. Jafa emphasized that the recent establishment of the Centre of Excellence on Audit of Blue Economy by Hon'ble CAG of India, Shri G. C. Murmu highlights SAI India's commitment to enhancing global capacity in environmental auditing. iCED plays a crucial role in mainstreaming environmental concerns globally among government agencies and auditors worldwide and is

uniquely placed as the only Global Training Facility (GTF) of INTOSAI in being dedicated to Environment Audit and sustainable Development issues. Ms. Jafa highlighted that the cumulative number of participants who have undergone training at iCED stands at nearly 6211 individuals.

She outlined the global environmental challenges, including India's concerns such as water contamination and urban waste issues and broader environmental issues related to natural resources. She underlined India's unique status as a mega-diverse country, home to a significant portion of the world's species.

In addressing India's ESG issues within its socio-economic diversity, she pointed out the need to evolve criterion on ESG which is sensitive to the developmental concerns of the Global South. She stressed a balanced, nuanced approach for sustainable development, which is not exclusive of the prerogative of the Global South.

Ms. Jafa quoted Amitav Ghosh's insights on the connection between fossil fuels and economic development, highlighting the relevance of green finance and the accountability of developed nations. She cited various discourses on the theme including that of Dr. Vandana Shiva.

the viewpoint of Dr. Vandana Shiva, questioning whether humanity is trapped in a 'feedback loop'? This concept implies that society relies excessively on technological solutions to counter environmental degradation, potentially ignoring more holistic and sustainable approaches.

Ms. Jafa further emphasized the role of auditors in actively contributing to environmental preservation through evidence-based reporting and constructive suggestions.

She mentioned that various evening activities and visits to local cultural and historical sites have been planned for the participants.

She concluded by welcoming participants from Bhutan and Maldives, noting their valuable contribution to the programme's diversity, and wished everyone a fruitful and enjoyable learning experience at iCED.

During this six days' training programme, 10 experts from various organizations such as IIT Kanpur, International Institute of Waste Management (IIWM), Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad, Observer Research Foundation (ORF) including the IA&AD were invited to deliver the sessions on various aspects of Environment Audit.

Teaching methods during the training programme included both formal lectures as well as various individual and group exercises, etc. Details of the trainers and the sessions delivered during this programme are as follows:

Sl. No.	Sessions	Trainer/s
1.	Performance Auditing for Effective Environmental Management: The Indian Experience	Dr. V. B. Mathur, Former Chairman, National Bio-Diversity Authority, Tamil Nadu
2.	Role of iCED in Capacity Building in Environment Audit & Discussion on Recent Environment Audit Reports of SAI India	Dr. Nanda Dulal Das, Director (T & R), iCED, Jaipur
3.	Overview of Multidimensional Aspects of Blue Economy & Environmental and Strategic Impact Assessment with special reference to Blue Economy	Mr. Fraddry D'Souza, Independent Consultant, Former TERI Researcher
4.	Overview of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Framework (Online)	Dr. Mukesh Sharma, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur
5.	Environmental Impact Assessments (Online)	Shri Subramaniam K. Pr. AG (Audit-I), Rajasthan
6.	Regulations and Issues related to Waste Management in India & Audit of Waste Management	Ms. P. Bineesha, Executive Director, IIWM, Bengaluru
7.	Importance of Mangrove Ecosystems for Coastal Protection and Biodiversity Conservation	Dr. Kathiresan Kandasamy, Professor, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu
8.	Use of Geospatial Technology for Geoscience and Geohazards	Dr I C Das, Group Head, Geosciences, NRSC Hyderabad
9.	Use of Geospatial Technology for Forestry Applications	Shri G Rajashekar, Group Head, Forestry and Ecology Group, NRSC Hyderabad
10.	Valuation of Ecosystem Services with a special reference to the Blue Economy (online)	Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, Director, Centre for New Economic Diplomacy & ORF Kolkata Centre, Observer Research Foundation



High Tea with IA&AS Officers at iCED: Officer Trainees get the opportunity to engage with the Heads of Departments (HoDs) and Group Officers from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) at the iCED campus during the High Tea. The event was organized to facilitate informal interaction, discussion and knowledge exchange among Officer Trainees and experienced IA&AS officers.

Trips to City Palace, Jantar Mantar, Hawa Mahal, Amer Fort and Albert Hall Museum - Visit to City Palace, Jantar Mantar, Hawa Mahal, Amer Fort and Albert Hall Museum at Jaipur was also organized.

The City Palace, Jaipur is a royal residence and former administrative headquarters of the



Officer trainees during visit to city palace at Jaipur

rulers of the Jaipur State in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur is a collection of 19 astronomical instruments built by the Rajput king Sawai Jai Singh, the founder of Jaipur, Rajasthan.

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.

The Amer Fort was originally built by Raja Man Singh. Jai Singh (I) expanded it. Improvements and additions were done by successive rulers over the next 150 years, until the Kachwa rulers shifted their



Officer trainees during visit to Amber Fort, Jaipur (India)

capital to Jaipur during the time of Sawai Jai Singh (II), in 1727.

The Albert Hall Museum has a rich collection of artifacts including paintings, jewellery, carpets, ivory, stone, metal sculptures, and works in crystal. The collection includes coins from the Gupta, Kushan, Delhi Sultanate, Mughal and British periods.

Further, shopping tours to Bapu Bazar, traditional market of Jaipur

were also organized. Bapu Bazaar is a shopping destination located on MI Road in the heart of Jaipur. It is one of the oldest and best markets of Jaipur. The market is known for its exotic Rajasthani products which include textiles, handicrafts, brass work and precious stones.

Dinner at Chokhi Dhani-A dinner was arranged for the Officer Trainees at Chokhi Dhani



Jaipur. Chokhi Dhani is located in a heritage village and around 20 kilometres away from the main city of Jaipur. Like every heritage village worth its salt, it is a perfect place to see and experience everything about local culture in a compact setting.

The heritage village is specially

designed to attract tourists visiting Rajasthan. It is a perfect mirror to the Rajasthani culture, food, traditions and heritage. The name Chokhi Dhani literally translates to Rajasthani Culture. All the participants enjoyed the trip as an introduction to local cultural and culinary traditions.

Feedback:- Feedback on course designing, the time required, content, knowledge and its delivery by the resource persons and facilities available at iCED was also collected from the participants is out 9.01 of 10, which is very encouraging for us. Session on “Importance of Mangrove Ecosystems for Coastal Protection and Biodiversity Conservation” has been rated as the best (9.89 out of 10).

Summing-up and valediction:

Ms Sayantani Jafa, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General & Director General,



Ms Sayantani Jafa, ADAI & DG, iCED during the valedictory session

iCED graced the valedictory session of the National Training Programme.

Ms. Jafa requested all the officer trainees to actively contribute to iCED's quarterly newsletter '**Green Files**'. By contributing to the newsletter, they could help disseminate valuable information and perspectives to a broader audience, fostering a culture of continuous learning and knowledge exchange.

Officer Trainees also presented a book and a memento of NAAA Shimla during the valediction.

Ms. Jafa extended her best wishes to all the officer trainees for their future endeavours. She

thanked all the experts and participants for their contributions in making this event a success.