

REPORT OF THE VISIT OF CAG AND DELEGATION TO MALDIVES FOR SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE OF THE MALDIVES AND OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

24-26 OCTOBER 2021

On the invitation of the Auditor General (AG) of Maldives, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India was on official visit to Maldives, from 24th - 26th October 2021 along with his delegation comprising of Mr. Ashutosh Sharma, Director General and Secretary to CAG, Mr. Amitabh Prasad, Principal Director (International Relations) and Mr. Vishal Bapusaheb Desai, Director (Personnel).



Signing Ceremony of MoU on 24th October 2021 -

(<https://twitter.com/AuditMV/status/1452329631164641290?t=X0rLQ2fzmazv7sAVHNR8Rw&s=08>)

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu, and Auditor General (AG) of Maldives, Mr. Hussain Niyazy, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 24 October 2021 to strengthen existing relations and bilateral cooperation between both parties.



Signing Ceremony of MoU on 24th October 2021

In signing the MOU, both parties underscored the importance of collaborating with each other in the areas of mutual interest to enhance the professional capacity of both the institutions and improve their methodologies in the field of public audit. The parties also agreed to conduct training programmes in their respective countries for their staff on a need basis and explore other means of capacity development support, and cooperate on areas that are mutually beneficial.



Signing Ceremony of MoU on 24th October 2021

The institutional relationship between the Auditor General's Office of the Maldives and the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India was formally established in 2008 with the signing of an MOU between the two institutions. The MOU led to the strengthening of ties that both the institutions had always enjoyed owing to close bilateral relations and regional cooperation between the Maldives and India, and due to the fact that both the institutions are members of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).

The Auditor General of Maldives, Mr. Hussain Niyazy, expressed his deep appreciation to his Indian counterpart for their continued support and generous

assistance in helping his institution build and develop the necessary capacities of its staff through International Centre for Information Systems and Audit (iCISA) and International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED). iCISA has conducted two virtual training programmes for the staff of the Auditor General's Office (AGO) in 2021. In previous years, scores of the AGO staff have attended training programmes run by iCISA which are funded by the Government of India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. In addition, members of AGO staff have participated in training programmes on environmental audit conducted by iCED.



Signing Ceremony of MoU on 24th October 2021

The CAG of India, Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu informed that the Sustainable Development is at the forefront of the partnership between the two SAIs. Mr. Murmu underlined the importance of judicious use of resources and sustainability for future generations giving rise to the concept of Natural Resource Accounting (NRA), which is a crucial element of Sustainable Development. The NRA provides an outline of resource bases, pace of usage

with an eye on their sustainability and embeds environmental aspects into the economic indices.

The CAG, while highlighting the gaining momentum of Natural Resource Accounting (NRA) in India, informed that India being a signatory to the Environmental Accounting efforts of the UN has committed to monitor 25 environment related targets with particular attention being paid to target no 15.9 related with Environmental - Economic Accounting. This target envisages to integrate, by 2020, the ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts. In furtherance of these efforts, SAI India has released a concept paper on Natural Resource Accounting in 2020 highlighting the short, medium and long-term goals congregating with the SDGs goals set by the UN. A copy of the Concept Paper on NRA was presented by the CAG to the Auditor General of Maldives.



Signing Ceremony of MoU on 24th October 2021

Mr. Murmu expressed confidence that through the collaborative efforts undertaken under the MoU, both SAIs could work together to strengthen respective institution's professional capacity and improve methodologies in the field of audit of public finance. The MoU signed between the two SAIs will bring

greater flexibility and dynamism in knowledge transfer and cooperation between our SAIs. Smart auditing practices, faster and efficient data analysis, as well as capacity building by skilling our teams in latest best practices will go a long way in creating a firm foundation for the growth goals of both economies.

Later, the CAG delegation also met Finance Minister of Maldives, Mr. Ibrahim Ameer, and discussed avenues for strengthening collaboration between the two countries. Mr. Ibrahim Amir highlighted recent Public Finance Management (PFM) reforms and importance of transparency and accountability to ensure it. Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu highlighted the various initiatives by CAG on performance audit front to ensure accountability and good governance. He also highlighted the role of India's Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act to ensure intergenerational equity in fiscal management and long-term macro-economic stability. CAG, while highlighting the importance of judicious use of natural resources and the concept of Natural Resource Accounting (NRA), which is a crucial element of Sustainable Development, also presented a copy of the Concept Paper on NRA to the Finance Minister of Maldives



Meeting with the Finance Minister of Maldives on 24th October -

https://twitter.com/AuditMV/status/1452350196919144453?t=fpY2uMdwErT05IEJTj3_hQ&s=08

On 25th October 2021, CAG delegation met the Hon'ble President Mohamed Nasheed, MP & Speaker of the People's Majlis. President Nasheed was accompanied by Ms. Eva Abdulla, MP and Deputy Speaker of the People's Majlis. President Nasheed highlighted the independence of AGO of Maldives. He also emphasized the importance of effective and timely implementation of development projects besides performance audit of large infrastructure projects. Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu apprised the Speaker about the coordination between Parliament of India and CAG of India to ensure development and good governance. He highlighted the importance of judicious use of natural resources and the concept of Natural Resource Accounting (NRA), which is a crucial element of Sustainable Development. Both sides also exchanged ideas on deepening cooperation between autonomous institutions that form the bedrock of our democracies.



Meeting with the Speaker of the People's Majlis on 25th October -

(https://twitter.com/mvpeoplesmajlis/status/1452560943397830658?t=duTYLItA_rJiX8eunhsZnQ&s=08)



Meeting with the Speaker of the People's Majlis on 25th October -

<https://twitter.com/HCIMaldives/status/1452635277294379015?t=7WB0mZQh18VJKTPleD0DKA&s=08>

Subsequently, the CAG delegation had a meeting with Public Accounts Committee (PAC), People's Majlis. PAC was led by its Chairperson, Mr. Mohamed Nashiz, MP, People's Majlis. Both sides underlined the importance of accountability of public funds & independent audit authorities in democracies.



Meeting with Parliament's Public Finance Committee on 25th October

Later, the CAG delegation met the Hon'ble Vice President of Maldives, His Excellency Mr. Faisal Naseem. The Vice President applauded CAG of India's continuous collaboration and support provided to the AGO Maldives, especially in Capacity Building. He also expressed gratitude to India for the assistance and contribution to the Maldives's development priorities. Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu highlighted the significance of efficient usage of limited resources and gave assurance to collaborate with AGO Maldives in different areas of audit, such as performance audit, environmental audit, natural resource accounting (NRA) and Information Technology besides further assisting in capacity-building. They also discussed ways to deepen the inherent relationship and the close ties between the two countries. CAG present a copy of the Concept Paper on NRA to the Hon'ble Vice President of Maldives



Meeting with the Vice President on 25th October (<https://presidency.gov.mv/Press/Article/25536>)



Meeting with the Vice President on 25th October

On 26th October 2021, CAG delegation had a meeting with AG delegation led by Mr. Hussain Niyazy, Auditor General of Maldives. During the meeting, both sides deliberated upon the way forward and agreed to come up with a mutually agreed Joint Action Plan. Both sides also agreed to nominate the focal point on each side for better and effective coordination.