

INTOSAI WGEA principles of cooperation with external organisations

Background

In recent years, the Chair of the WGEA has been the liaison between the WGEA and international organisations, such as the World Bank, other Multilateral Development Banks, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and other UN agencies. As such, the Chair has had an opportunity to discuss the work of the WGEA and its membership, to exchange information and tools, and to share information on SAIs' work on environmental auditing.

These activities have taken place without an overall strategy. While the principle of building relations remains important, there is also a need to:

- identify our outreach objectives and the external organisations that are most important,
- guide and target our communication activities with these organisations,
- determine the roles and responsibilities of the WGEA membership, and
- consider means to strengthen the role of regional WGEAs.

Current strategy follows and the Chair is responsible to ensure that our activities are in accordance with the INTOSAI Strategic Plan and INTOSAI Communication Strategy.

Vision

To accomplish INTOSAI WGEA long-term vision, we want the Working Group and its activities to be well known and respected among international organisations that develop environmental governance guidelines, legislation as well as good practices for governments or among other relevant organisations. The aim is to increase the impact of our work by showing the value of it as well as incorporating subject matter expertise from external organisations into our activities to develop the capacity of our members and to add value to our activities.

All our members and working bodies acknowledge that

... communication and cooperation with external organisations must follow the rules stated in the "Handbook for committees of INTOSAI" (November 2007). In particular we must follow the principles of fund raising in the context of remaining independent.

Goal 1 – Increase the prominence of INTOSAI WGEA and its outcomes

- The Chair has a right to represent INTOSAI WGEA and all the activities are reported to SC and WG regularly.
- Project leaders and Regional coordinators are encouraged to build relationships with external organisations on their own and represent INTOSAI WGEA when necessary. In order to avoid duplication and misunderstandings, such activities should be coordinated with the INTOSAI WGEA Chair.
- Project leaders are expected to plan to the project also the communication of the final outcome by identifying interested parties.

- All WGEA working bodies should continuously map and communicate to the INTOSAI WGEA Chair the interest of International Organisations towards WGEA and its members work.
- The INTOSAI WGEA Chair is responsible of providing introductory materials (slides, brochures etc) about WGEA and its activities.
- The INTOSAI WGEA Chair is responsible for finding possibilities to take part and present WGEA and its members work in relevant international conferences. All the working bodies are expected to inform any such possibilities.
- Chair maps the list of organisations the WGEA has communicated with and has had cooperative activities over the years.

Goal 2 – Involve expertise

- Project leaders should (whenever possible) involve the subject matter experts from international organisations to enhance the content of complex subject matters as well as to improve the credibility of final outcome. Planned activities must be reflected in the project plan and/or communicated to INTOSAI WGEA Chair.
- All WGEA working bodies should continuously map and communicate to INTOSAI WGEA Chair the potential experts to be involved with our WG and SC meetings.