

PRESS RELEASE

Office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India

New Delhi

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CAG inaugurates 23rd Commonwealth Auditors General Conference

The 23rd Commonwealth Auditors General Conference was inaugurated by Shri Shashi Kant Sharma, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) today in New Delhi. This Conference is being attended by 74 participants from 36 countries.

In his inaugural speech, Shri Sharma said that CAG Audit is a knowledge driven activity and the efficacy of audit gets enhanced when the practitioners share their knowledge and experiences with their counterparts from other countries. He said that such international conferences of public sector auditors thus assume importance as they provide a unique opportunity for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) auditors to share their experiences and learn from the best practices of others.

The CAG mentioned that the Commonwealth Conference is one of the oldest multilateral conferences of the public sector audit community as it started more than six decades ago. CAG emphasized the significance and relevance of the two conference sub-themes, viz., leveraging technology and environment audit to the SAIs. The CAG said that there is tremendous buzz in the international audit community about the great potential that big data and data analytics can offer. There are several other ways by which SAI could use technology to improve the quality and accuracy of its audit plans, to make audit efforts more focused, and bring out audit findings that are incisive and reader friendly, resulting in overall improvement in the quality of audit. He said that the importance of environment in today's world has engaged the attention of global community, national governments, civil societies and the public. The CAG also

emphasized on the importance of SAI Independence, saying that the same has also been recognized in the UN General Assembly Resolutions.





Speaking on the occasion Mr. John Thorpe, Executive Leader of National Audit Office of UK emphasized on the core values of Commonwealth and how the challenges of present times makes them all the more relevant.

The Conference was also graced by Dr. Harib Saeed Al Amimi, President of the State Audit Institution of UAE and the Chairman of International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). Dr. Amimi emphasized on the significance of the two sub-themes for the international community of public auditors. He mentioned that INTOSAI is actively working in these areas through its working groups. He also appreciated the efforts of CAG of India towards capacity development in the field of environment auditing through the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED) near Jaipur. The Keynote address on the main theme "Fostering Partnerships for Capacity Development in Public Audit" was delivered by Dr. Prasenjit Mukherjee, Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General.

Session on the conference sub-theme "Leveraging Technology" was chaired by Prof Mussa Assad, the Auditor General of Tanzania. The keynote address on the sub-theme was delivered by SAI South Africa. The delegates from Cayman Islands, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan and United Kingdom also shared their country experiences on the use of technology in audit.