

CAG's Welcome Speech-60th Governing Board Meeting

General Chanathap Indamra, President of the State Audit Commission of the Kingdom of Thailand, and President of ASOSAI:

Mr. Hou Kai, Auditor General of the National Audit Office of the People's Republic of China, and Secretary General of ASOSAI:

Heads of Supreme Audit Institutions

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Supreme Audit Institution of India, it is my utmost privilege and pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each one of you to the 60th Governing Body meeting of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, ASOSAI. We are deeply honoured to host this prestigious gathering here in Delhi, a city whose history traces back to several millenniums. It is a testimony to the strength and importance of ASOSAI that its membership has grown from 11 SAIs when India hosted the 1st Assembly of ASOSAI in 1979, to 48 member SAIs today. This GB marks a landmark event as it is being held again at the place of its origin.

The ASOSAI Governing Body plays a pivotal role in steering the direction and activities of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions. These meetings are important for us as they provide a platform for collaboration, exchange of ideas, and strategic deliberations among our esteemed counterparts from across the Asian continent. As we gather here today, we are reminded of ASOSAI's significant role in promoting good governance, transparency, and accountability through the member supreme audit institutions. From SAI India's perspective, this meeting and the ensuing Assembly has a special significance as the baton of the Chair of ASOSAI will be passed on to us for the fourth time since the founding of ASOSAI.

You may recall that the 15th Assembly of ASOSAI was held in a virtual mode in 2021 amidst the constraints posed by COVID-19 pandemic. The online meetings of 2021 exemplified ASOSAI's ability to be highly adaptable and innovative and it's resilience in overcoming the challenges posed by a major epidemic. I hope that this GB and the General Assembly to be held in person, would not only provide a forum for discussing professional matters, but also be an opportunity

for each of us for deeper engagement and fostering relationships with our colleagues.

Over the next four days, we have a robust agenda that encompasses subjects that will undoubtedly shape the future direction of ASOSAI's efforts. The Bangkok Declaration of 2021 titled 'SAIs and Preparing for the Next Normal' underscored the role of SAIs in contributing to sustainable development goals and addressing emerging challenges such as corruption, environmental sustainability, and digital transformation. Further, the declaration highlighted the need for continuous innovation and adaptation in audit methodologies to respond effectively to evolving governance landscapes and technological advancements. To further the vision spelt out in the Bangkok Declaration, a symposium on 'Digital Public Infrastructure and Gender Divide Issues of inclusion and accessibility is planned. The theme of the symposium would enable us to appreciate how technology could be leveraged to address the evolving challenges facing growth and development in our nations, while being inclusive. I am confident that the discussions at the Symposium would turn out to be mutually beneficial.

I notice that the agenda also provides for discussion on forming of several new Working Groups in ASOSAI, which I feel is a testament to the interests of ASOSAI members in sharing knowledge and working closely together for furthering professional interests. I encourage each of you to actively participate and share your insights during discussions and contribute towards achieving our common goals of promoting good governance and enhancing public trust in our audit institutions. Let us seize this opportunity to strengthen our bonds of friendship and cooperation, and chart a course that ensures a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt welcome to all of you.

Thank you.

(642 words)