

Time to Go TeamMate⁺: The FSM Office of the National Public Auditor Acquires and Operationalizes TeamMate+ Audit Software

Fiscal year 2020 marks a new milestone in performing audits and other related tasks after the FSM Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) acquired TeamMate+, a computer-assisted audit tool (CAAT) through a grant received from the Office of Insular Affairs of the US Department of Interior (DOI-OIA).

Through the grant and local provided funds for training, ONPA managed to conduct a study, developed terms of reference and negotiated with the supplier of TeamMate+, Wolters Kluwer for the acquisition, training and maintenance of the audit software. With this new development, ONPA joins other SAIs in the Pacific Region that have already acquired and implemented this computer-assisted audit software solution.



The acquisition, installation and training were carried out during the period of August through October 2019, and ONPA started to run parallel its auditing assignments manually and by the use of TM+, from October 01, 2019. Initial training included staff from the National, Yap, Pohnpei and Kosrae OPAs, however the software is currently accessible to ONPA only.

Two phases of training were covered after the implementation of TeamMate. A TM representative from Japan conducted those two trainings, and the first training mainly covered customizing the software so that it meets our audit requirements. On phase one, only the selected champions or administrators were selected to attend from the National and the states of Yap, Kosrae and Pohnpei. Chuuk OPA was invited but was unable to join. The training went for one week from September 23 to 27 and then continued from October 7 to 11, 2019. The trainings basically covered the basics of Teammate and how to use its tools.

Currently, all of the audit teams and individual staff in the Audit Division are conducting at least one of their audit assignments through TM+. It is expected that by the beginning of the next fiscal year 2021, all auditing assignments and related tasks will be conducted through the TM+, marking the end of our manual system. Implementing an audit software is a requirement of our strategic plan. The Public Auditor put together an Ad Hoc Committee to research for the best audit software solution that best fit our needs. After assessing the audit software available to us on the market, a recommendation was given for Wolters Kluwer TeamMate+, a global leader in audit software solutions that serves customers in over 180 countries globally.

The use of the TM+ audit also go parallel with our in-house weekly training and 'brainstorming sessions' where the sharing of challenges faced from the use of this new computer software by the staff and guidance from our in-house resource persons are given to try to bring everyone on the same level. It is a working and learning-in-progress still, however, with commitment of the staff and support from the Management, everyone is confident that we will "land" and remain as the National OPA with enhanced audit tools in our hands to bring us closer to our goal of conducting quality and independent audits efficiently and effectively for the public's benefit.