



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

As we approach the end of 2024, I am delighted to reflect on the remarkable achievements we have accomplished together since January. Our collective efforts have significantly strengthened cooperation among our members, and I am proud to share some of the highlights from this year.

In April, we successfully held our first Regional Directors and Country Correspondents meeting, marking a significant step in fostering collaboration. We have also delivered numerous training programmes aimed at building the capacity of our members, ensuring that we continue to grow and excel in our respective taxation areas.

One of our notable initiatives this year was the launch of the Commissioners Connect Programme. This platform has provided an excellent opportunity for commissioners to connect and share their experiences in tax administration, enhancing our collective knowledge and expertise.

October was a particularly eventful month, with our successful Annual Technical Conference and General Meeting. These events were instrumental in driving forward our agenda and setting the stage for future initiatives.

Looking ahead, we have already started the Sharing Call of Audit Teams on 5th December, and we are excited to continue this momentum into 2025. We have planned more regional capacity-building programmes, including sharing calls for other teams such as the Corporate Communication Team, AEOI Teams, E-Invoicing Teams, and Crypto Assets Team.

Additionally, we have made significant strides in our digital presence by redesigning our website, making it more user-friendly and informative.

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Upcoming Events

- 3rd Commissioners Connect - 22 January 2025
- CATA_ATO_Practical Experience of Pillar Two Implementation
- NADT-CATA Modern Techniques of Investigation and Intelligence Gathering Workshop 2025

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for their unwavering support and dedication. Together, we have achieved great things, and I am confident that we will continue to build on this success in the coming year.

Warm regards,

Dr Esther A. P. Koisin
Executive Director

NEWS FROM THE CATA SECRETARIAT

(Please click on the headlines to view the full articles on the CATA website)

[CATA 44th Annual Technical Conference held successfully in Mauritius](#)



The 44th CATA Technical Conference successfully commenced in Mauritius on Tuesday, 22 October 2024 hosted by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA). Heartfelt gratitude to the Commissioner General **Mr M. Sudhamo Lal** and the entire organising committee of MRA technical conference team for establishing a newfound standard of excellence and leaving an enduring impression on attendees with their warm hospitality and the splendid planning of the Conference.

[COMMUNIQUE: 44th CATA Annual Technical Conference](#)

The 44th CATA Annual Technical was attended by over 100 delegates from 23 member states. The conference was also graced with the presence of invited speakers from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), International Bureau for Fiscal Documentation (IBFD), Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Centre for Tax and

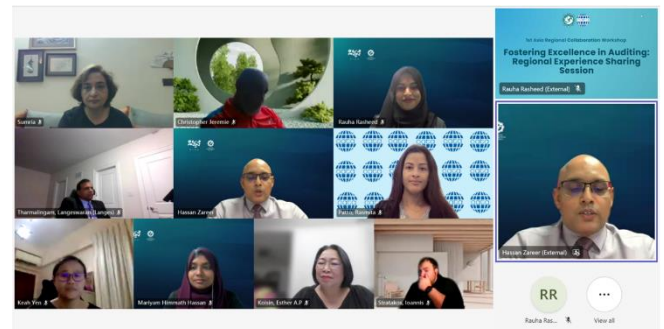
Development (ICTD) and Ernst & Young (EY) London. [Read the Communique here...](#)

[2024 CATA Technical Conference publications](#)

CATA-MRA Conference Editorial team worked really hard during the 2024 CATA Technical Conference in preparing the publications on a daily basis for the members updates.

[CATA Facilitates a Virtual Experience Sharing Session for Auditors, Hosted by the Regional Director for the Asian Region, Maldives](#)

This virtual session was designed to provide a platform for auditors to exchange insights, best practices, and lessons learned. Recognizing the value of peer learning, this session was aimed to enhance collective expertise and foster a culture of continuous improvement across the Asian Region.



[CATA participation at the Regional Consultation on International Tax Developments for Asia and the Pacific in Manila on 2 - 3 December 2024](#)

CATA together with the Pacific Islands Tax Administrators Association (PITAA) and the Study Group on Asia-Pacific Tax Administration and

Research (SGATAR) collaborated with ADB and OECD in hosting the Regional Consultation on International Tax Development for Asia and the Pacific in Manila on 2 - 3 December 2024.



- Forum on Tax Administration (FTA) Plenary



IRD_NZ Online Workshop on "Effective Use of CRS Information"

The workshop covered the many developments in EOI initiatives over recent years, with a central focus on the deployment of the campaign approach to CRS data. Lessons learnt and best practices identified since New Zealand implemented the CRS in 2018 were also traversed.



Year-End Message from CATA President



The dawn of a new year offers an opportunity to reflect on our shared achievements and to chart a course toward an even brighter future for our association.

A defining moment in 2024 was the successful convening of the 16th CATA General Meeting in Mauritius, where we launched the new CATA website. This website is more than just a digital platform—it is a symbol of our collective progress and a tool to enhance connectivity, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building across our member countries.

Strengthening International Tax Cooperation: CATA's Active Role in Global and Regional Forums

In the last quarter, CATA has actively participated in four significant events aimed at addressing international taxation issues and improving tax administration.

- OECD FTA Seminar on Tax Compliance and Global Minimum Tax (GMT) Implementation
- Regional Consultation on International Tax Development for Asia and the Pacific
- Platform for Collaboration on Tax (PCT) Partnership Council

CATA Chairman End of Year Greetings

Throughout the year 2024, the CATA Secretariat in collaboration with its members organised numerous workshops, webinars and capacity-building activities on relevant tax-related topics for the benefit



of all. Among these many activities, included a premiere of a new event, i.e. the Commissioners Connect - Chat Programme at the 44th CATA Technical Conference held in the beautiful island of Mauritius in October 2024. I am sure that the memorable moments from the conference which brought together tax administrators and experts from across the Commonwealth to explore how we can leverage digitalization to enhance tax systems are still being cherished by our members.

End of Year Messages: Special Edition



- End of year message from **Mr Rob Heferen**, Commissioner, Australian Taxation Office.
- Message from **Ms Angela MacDonald**, Deputy Chief Executive and Second Permanent Secretary of HM Revenue and Customs, United Kingdom.
- New Year Greetings from **Mr Hassan Zareer**, Commissioner General of Taxation of Maldives Inland Revenue Authority.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS **By CATA Country Correspondents**

(Please click on the given headlines links to view the full articles on the CATA website)

CANADA



[Canada Revenue Agency News Updates](#)

[J5 countries host fourth Global Financial Institutions Partnership Summit](#) The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), in cooperation with the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Global Tax Enforcement (J5), hosted the fourth Global Financial Institutions Partnership (GFIP) Summit in Ottawa, Canada, on October 22-23.

[CRA's Financial Literacy Month](#): To mark Financial Literacy Month in Canada, in November, the

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) published a series of articles based on the theme: "Money on your mind? Let's talk about it!" The CRA is dedicated to increasing Canadians' tax literacy by helping them understand their tax responsibilities as well as the benefits and credit payments available to them.

[CRA's Financial Literacy Month \(FLM\)](#): Let's talk about savings!

[CRA mail to go online](#): Businesses, are you ready! Starting in spring 2025, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will transition to online mail as the default method of delivering most business correspondence. This change is part of the CRA's ongoing efforts to improve service delivery by making it faster, easier, and more secure for businesses to manage their tax obligations online.

JAMAICA



[Tax Administration Jamaica Celebrates 10th Anniversary as a Tax Authority with a Tax Week](#)

In celebration of its 10th anniversary operating as a Semi-Autonomous Revenue Authority (SARA), Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ) recently hosted a Tax Week, under the theme Celebrating 10 Years of Service Excellence.

[Tax Expands Its Schools Tax Education Programme \(STEP\) Through Partnership with Junior Achievement Jamaica](#): Coinciding with TAJ's 10th anniversary as a Tax Authority, TAJ has deepened its partnership with Junior Achievement Jamaica, an organisation dedicated to empowering young people through business and financial education.

MALDIVES



[Maldives Making Strides in the International Arena](#)

Maldives has been making strides in the global tax arena in 2024. This year, Maldives has joined the Belt and Road Initiative (BRITACOM) and attained active roles in Commonwealth Association for Tax administrators (CATA) and Asia Initiative.

MAURITIUS



[MRA revealed its Taxpayer Satisfaction Survey 2024 findings](#)

As a good governance

practice, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) conducts every year the Taxpayer Satisfaction Survey (TSS) to gauge the quality of services it offers to its taxpayers and stakeholders.

NEW ZEALAND



[New Zealand Inland Revenue: Multinational Enterprises Compliance](#) Focus International tax matters have always been a priority within New Zealand Inland Revenue's tax compliance programme.

SEYCHELLES



[SRC PROMOTES DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE WORKPLACE](#)

SINGAPORE



[IRAS: new e-GIRO service](#)

Taxpayers in Singapore now have access to a quicker and simpler way to manage their tax payments through the new eGIRO service introduced by DBS and the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS).

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS WEBSITES

(Please click on the given headline links to view the full articles on the members website)

BARBADOS



[Barbados Joins Global Leaders in Crypto-Asset Transparency And Reporting](#) Barbados has taken a major step in advancing international tax transparency by signing key agreements to implement the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF) and the updated Common Reporting Standard (CRS 2.0).

ESWATINI



[Eswatini Revenue Service Launches Electronic Certificate](#)

[of Origin](#) The Eswatini Revenue Service (ERS) is proud to announce the launch of the COMESA Electronic Certificate of Origin (eCertificate of Origin), a groundbreaking digital tool that empowers local traders to expand their businesses across any of the 21 COMESA member states.

THE GAMBIA



[Validation Workshop of GRA's](#)

[5th Corporate Strategic Plan \(2025-2029\)](#) October 3rd 2024, the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA) held a key event at the Senegambia Beach Hotel: the Validation Workshop for its 5th Corporate Strategic Plan (CSP). This plan lays out GRA's strategic vision for the next five years, spanning 2025 to 2029, with a key emphasis on Digital Transformation across Domestic Tax, Customs, and Support Services. The primary goal is to enhance revenue mobilization in support of national development.

KENYA



[Tax Authorities Urged to Embrace Technology and Collaboration for Revenue](#)

[Growth](#) Speaking at the launch of the KRA Summit 2024, the Prime Cabinet Secretary emphasized the need for tax authorities to adopt technology-driven solutions that facilitate trade and enhance domestic resource mobilization.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



[IRC Launch of Tax Audit Modern](#)

[Letter Templates](#) This modernized suite of templates is the second of such following the launch of similar letter templates earlier in the year which are now being used in business process within the Debt Collections Operations Division (DCOD).

[IRC Celebrates 65 Years of Service and Dedication](#)
Discover more about the IRC’s journey over the past 65 years in our dedicated section, where you can explore archival photos, learn about the organisation’s history, and view the full gallery of photos from this remarkable anniversary celebration: <https://irc.gov.pg/pages/ircs-65th-anniversary>

SIERRA LEONE

[NRA HOSTS MEDIUM TAXPAYERS IN A DIALOGUE](#) In a continued effort to promote

tax compliance and strengthen relationships with taxpayers, the National Revenue Authority (NRA) has on 20th November 2024 hosted a stakeholder engagement with Medium Taxpayers on Thursday, 20th November 2024.

UNITED KINGDOM



[No tax changes for online sellers](#)

There are no new tax obligations for people selling services or unwanted items online as platforms start sharing sales data with HMRC from January 2025.



Dr Esther Koisin



Rasmita Patro

