



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

EDITORIAL

This is the first quarter of our financial year which ended on 30th June 2023, and it is a good time to reflect on our journey over the past one year. With easing of covid restrictions, we have had increased in-person activities and our capacity building events have registered very impressive participation.

It is also a year when our member tax administrations continue to face daunting resource challenges as they face continuous budget squeeze impacting on their ability to fulfil their obligations to our organization. Going forward, we must explore other innovative ways of service delivery that ensures full engagements of all our member countries.

Part of this strategy is to leverage partnerships that CATA has built over the years. Currently, we work with a number of regional and international tax organizations, research and academic institutions. Such partnerships have enabled us to widen the reach of our capacity building programs and increase our offerings.

But beyond this, collaboration among our members cannot be overstated. In the current dispensation, effective taxation requires a collaborative approach. The interconnectedness of the global economy offers both opportunities and challenges to tax administrations and partnerships provide a powerful means to address the arising complexities.

We appreciate CATA member who have often come forth to facilitate some of our events either by providing logistical support or technical expertise as well as sharing country experiences on diverse areas of tax administration. One critical area of discourse is the subject of digitalization of tax administration and the taxation of the digital economy. Data forms the fundamental pillar on which future tax administration will be built and to prepare for this future, partnership and collaboration is indispensable.

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NEWS FROM THE CATA SECRETARIAT

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

[NRD_CATA Webinar on data exchange and effective use of data in compliance held on 20th July](#)

CATA WORKSHOP on the topic “Data Exchange and Effective use of Data in Compliance” was held on Thursday, 20th July 2023.

The webinar was presented and hosted by John Nash (Strategic Advisor, International, Inland Revenue, New Zealand) and Anu Anand (Service Leader, International Revenue Strategy, Inland Revenue, New Zealand)

[WILTON PARK Dialogue: 'The use of Information Technology to drive efficiency and efficacy in Tax Administration'](#)



WILTON PARK Round Table Conference on the “*The use of Information Technology to drive efficiency and efficacy in Tax Administration*” was successfully held from Monday 24 - Wednesday 26th July 2023 at the Wilton Park in West Sussex, England.

[ATO CATA WEBINAR on Cooperative Compliance Workshop held from \(3rd - 4th August 2023](#)

The purpose of this two-day virtual workshop was to share learnings on how the ATO has applied this framework in practice. The workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to share their tax administrations vision for cooperative compliance in their own jurisdictions, as well as challenges and lessons learned. Click the below link for more details:

[Day-1: 3rd August 2023](#)

[Day-2: 4th August 2023](#)

[CATA-ATAF Webinar on Digital Transformation held on 23rd August 2023](#)

The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) together with the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) extended an invitation to participate in a joint webinar under the theme; “Digital Transformation of Tax Administrations” which was held on 23 August 2023. The webinar provided insights into the digital transformation journey of tax administrations, presentation from the OECD’s Forum on Tax Administration (FTA) on the Digital Transformation Maturity Model (DTMM) and provided practical insights on its application from revenue administrations.

[2nd NTO Technical conference held from \(5th - 7th September 2023\) at Cape Town, South Africa](#)



The 2nd Network of Tax Organisations (NTO) Technical Conference under the theme, “Digitalisation of Tax Administrations and Contemporary Issues” was successfully held from 5 to 7 September 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa. This year’s conference discussed the digital transformation of tax administrations, tax compliance and enforcement technology, and emerging technologies and their potential impact on revenue administrations. Key highlights of the Conference were the country case studies, empirical research on the impact of digitalisation on tax administration, and the lessons regions can draw from these both collectively and individually.

[2023 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting held from \(25th - 27th September 2023\)](#)

20th Pacific Islands Tax Administrators Association (PITAA) Annual Heads Meeting was held in Mount Hagen Western Highlands Province Papua New Guinea.



[CATA Welcomes Mr. Adedeji as New CATA President](#)



Mr. Zacch Adedeji has been appointed as the new Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service of Nigeria. He takes over from Mr Mohammed Nami whose tenure of service has come to an end.

[New Country Representative For India Appointed](#)



India has appointed Mr. Bhaskar Goswami, Joint Secretary (FT&TR-II), Central Board of Direct Taxes as their new Country Representative to CATA.

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

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

AUSTRALIA



[AEOI SELF-REVIEW GUIDE & TOOLKIT](#): The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is responsible for data collection and exchanges with foreign jurisdictions for 2 automatic exchange of information (AEOI) regimes: the United States of America's *Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act* (FATCA) and the Common Reporting Standard (CRS).

CANADA



[CRA: Change of Minister and other news](#)

- Change of Minister at the Canada Revenue Agency
- Canada Revenue Agency Commissioner to co-chair the Forum on Tax Administration Plenary in October
- CATA 43rd Technical Conference presentations on the [Knowledge Sharing Platform for Tax Administrations](#) (KSPTA)

GUYANA



[ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRA 2023](#): The GRA continues to strengthen its tax administration efforts to optimize revenue collections, build internal capacity and fortify our legislation provide the legal wherewithal to execute our functions.

[Legislative Changes relevant to the Guyana Revenue Authority for 2023](#)

LESOTHO



[Finance Minister appoints Mrs. Mathabo Mokoko as RSL Commissioner General](#): The Honourable Minister of Finance and Development Planning Dr. Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane has appointed Mrs. Mathabo Mokoko as the new Commissioner General of the Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL).

MALDIVES



[MIRA CELEBRATES 13 YEARS IN SERVICE](#): Maldives Inland Revenue Authority celebrated 13th Anniversary, symbolizing a transformative journey towards modernization and digitalization of tax administration in the Maldives.

MAURITIUS



[MRA launched its Chatbot “MyRA”](#): In its endeavor to provide better and quality services to taxpayers, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has launched its chatbot named MyRA. The launching took place during the MRA’s press conference held on the last day of August 2023.

NEW ZEALAND



[REVISITING INLAND REVENUE’S STRATEGY](#): New Zealand Inland Revenue is revisiting its strategy now that its major business transformation programme is complete, and the department is operating in a very different environment. The existing strategy, *Inland Revenue for the Future*, set out the organisation Inland Revenue needed to deliver a business transformation and has been in place since 2011.

NIGERIA



[New Executive Chairman of FIRS Nigeria has been appointed](#): “Our aspiration is audacious - to surpass Africa's average tax-to-GDP ratio of 16.5% and achieve an impressive 18% within three years. By doing so, we aim to reduce our nation's reliance on borrowing and ensure financial sustainability.” Mr. Zacch Adedeji stated this during the handover ceremony where he took over from the former Executive Chairman, FIRS, Mr. Muhammad Nami, on 19th September 2023 at the FIRS Headquarters in Abuja.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



[UNLEASHING THE POWER OF DATA: REVOLUTIONIZING IRC THROUGH DATA MANAGEMENT STRATEGY](#): The PNG Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) celebrated a significant milestone in its journey toward a more advanced and efficient tax administration system as the Commissioner General Mr Sam Koim announce the launch of its Data Management Strategy, a pioneering initiative for IRC and, believe to be of the first of its kind in the public sector in PNG. The launch took place on August 9, 2023.

[PAPUA NEW GUINEA joins global tax forum](#) through ratification and deposit of key tax treaties

UNITED KINGDOM



His Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) Director recently published [HMRC's evolving approach to tax compliance for the largest businesses](#)

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS WEBSITES

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

KENYA



[KRA Unveils Online Auction](#) After Collecting Kshs 37.5 Million During Piloting

MALAWI



[MRA signs tax stamps contract with SICPA](#): The Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) has today, Tuesday 26th September 2023, signed a contract on the excise of tax stamp with Societe Industrielle et Commerciale de Produits Alimentaires (SICPA) of Lausanne, Switzerland.

MALDIVES



[MIRA collects MVR 1.60 billion as revenue in August 2023](#)

PAKISTAN



[FBR SURPASSES TARGET BY RS. 63 BILLION](#): For the first quarter of current financial year, FBR has collected Rs. 2,041 billion (2022: 1644 billion) against assigned target of Rs. 1,978 billion thus exceeding the target by Rs. 63 billion.

SINGAPORE



[IRAS Annual Report FY2022/23](#): The Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) collected a total of \$68.6 billion in tax revenue for Financial Year (FY) 2022/23, 13.1% higher than that of FY2021/22.

ZAMBIA



[LOCAL AUTHORITIES SCORE AS TAX AGENTS: BRING IN K7.5 MILLION IN TAXES](#): The Zambia Revenue Authority is elated with the Councils' contribution of K7.5 million to revenue collection under the previous contracts which expired this year.



Duncan Onduru



Gerry Cook



Rasmita Patro