THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF TAX ADMINISTRATORS

NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

Once again we come to the end of "another *successful* year." This is a message typically announced around this time of the year, more often than not at Christmas parties, end of year parties or however the accomplices wish to describe the festivities that happen around this time of the year. The statement is often followed by raised glasses of some alcohol laced drink that will leave its drinkers regretting the copious amounts they had taken the night before. Unfortunately these events don't lend themselves to reflecting on what success means to them as individuals and as organisations. This is often left to the CEOs and heads of departments and our opportunity to reflect only arises when the anticipated bonus doesn't show itself in our Christmas stocking. Success is defined by the Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary as "*the fact that you have achieved something that you want and have been trying to do or get*". It therefore involves a number of aspects to it which when put together will determine ones success or failure. Firstly, it requires an achievement. The claimant of success must achieve something. Secondly, it requires activities geared towards achieving success. The claimant must undertake activities necessary to achieve success. Windfalls cannot therefore be considered as being the result of success. There must be active and deliberate participation in the claimed success. The Dictionary unfortunately doesn't highlight one very important detail - the success must be measured against objective criteria. In other words, success must be measured against criteria that, if the aspirant fails to achieve, is failure. At this time of the year we want to be showered in praise during our Christmas parties and be told of our ample success. Admittedly, news of failure doesn't liven the Christmas spirit nor is it a popular party favour. However, it is important as we come to the close of the year to remember, both as individuals and as organisations that success can only be achieved through hard work and perseverance and setting realistic goals within our sphere of influence. It is that message that I invite us all to take into the new year once we have recovered from the abundant festivities that happen around this time of the year.

I wish you all a very happy festive time of the year with your families and friends and that you all look forward to setting achievable goals and working hard to achieve them during 2013.

Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year

Tutu Bakwena
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Issue 4

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- Starbucks pressured into paying more corporation tax in the UK

For more information on CATA activities and events visit www.catatax.org

CATA EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE, MALTA 2012

The 33rd Annual CATA Technical Conference was held in Floriana, Malta between 14th and 19th October 2012. The topics discussed this year were **Self Assessment: Issues and Challenges and ICT as a Platform for Modern Revenue Administration.** With participants from 27 Member countries together with 6 organisations represented by OECD, CIAT, Crown Agents, Adam Smith International, IBFD and International Tax Dialogue, plus guests from Azerbaijan and China, the Conference was a very big success with insightful deliberations and detailed discussions. Many delegates will agree that Malta was a very warm and gracious host and provided the backdrop for a successful Conference. Further details of the Conference proceedings can be found in the Members Area of the CATA website *(www.catatax.org)*

12TH GENERAL MEETING HELD IN MALTA

The 12th General Meeting of the Association was held on the 14th October 2012. 25 Members were represented and reviewed the activities of the association between 2009 and 2012 together with deliberating the short and medium term aspiration of the Association. During the Meeting Members also elected a new Management Committee and President to take the Association into the next triennium. A communique of the Meeting is available on the CATA website at *www.catatax.org*

THIRTY-FOURTH CATA ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE, RWANDA 2013

The thirty-fourth CATA Annual Technical Conference will be hosted by the Rwanda Revenue Authority from 20th to 25th October 2013 and will be held at the Kigali Serena Hotel. Further details on the topics for discussion at the Conference will be communicated in due course.

Invitations to Members and Special Guests will be sent out early in 2013 and further information on the Conference will be on the CATA website as soon as it becomes available.

ACHIEVING MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL and COMMONWEALTH TAX INSPECTORS COURSES (AMP & CTIC) 2013

Her Majesties Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will once again host the 2013 AMP and CTIC programmes in 2013. Information on the programmes together with details for application will be made early in 2013.

As usual we invite participants from the length and breadth of the Commonwealth to participate in the programmes and look forward to their enthusiastic participation at these two rigorous and highly enriching courses. Look out for further information on the programmes at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/intassist/cata_course.htm early in the new year.

TAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS WORKSHOP(TOIT) 2013

The Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia (IRBM) will be hosting the CATA TOIT Workshop in 2013 between the 3rd and 21st June 2013. We invite participants from all CATA members to apply for participation at the Workshop to enrich their knowledge and skills in international taxation. Information on the Workshop together with details for application will be made available early in 2013.

VACANCY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CATA

The position of the Executive Director will become vacant in August 2013. Applicants from Commonwealth Member States are invited to apply for this position. Details of the procedure for applications together with details of the position are available on the CATA website at *www.catatax.org*

CATA ON FACEBOOK

In our efforts to improve the visibility of the Association we have launched a CATA facebook page that we hope to populate with Members stories and pictures. Visit us on www.facebook.com/pages/The-Commonwealth-Association-of-Tax-Administrators

APPOINTMENTS & DEPARTURES

Country Representatives

Australia: Mr Brendon Shannon, Acting Assistant Commissioner has replaced Mr Brad Ed wards at the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), Canberra.

Brunei Darussalam: Mdm Rokiah Haji Badar, Acting Director has replaced Mr Hj Hisham bin Hj Mohd Hanifah at the Revenue Division, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Gambia: Mr Essa Jallow, Commissioner of Domestic Taxes has replaced Mr Bakary Sanyang at the Central Revenue Department, Banjul.

Jamaica: **New Acting Commissioner General and CATA Country Representative for JAMAICA** - On October 1 2012, Mr Ainsley Powell was assigned as the new Acting Commissioner General of Tax Administration Jamaica. As a result of the assignment, Mr Powell is now the CATA Country Representative.

Malawi: Mr John Biziwick, Commissioner General has replaced Mrs Roza Mbilizi, at the Malawi Revenue Authority.

Pakistan: Mr Ejaz Hussain Shah, Member (Inland Revenue) has replaced Mr Shahid Hussain Asad at the Federal Board of Revenue, Islamabad.

Singapore: **Appointment of New Commissioner of Inland Revenue, SINGAPORE** - Dr Tan Kim Siew has succeeded Mr Moses Lee as the new Commissioner of Inland Revenue (CIR) with effect from November 2, 2012. Prior to Dr Tan's appointment as CIR, he served as the Permanent Secretary (Defence Development) in the Ministry of Defence.

Sri Lanka: Mrs Mallika Samarasekara, Commissioner General has replaced Mr K M B Kandegedara at the Department of Inland Revenue, Colombo.

Trinidad & Tobago: Mr Dave Ramroop, Commissioner of Inland Revenue has replaced Ms Deokie Hosein at the Inland Revenue Division, Ministry of Finance, Port of Spain.

CATA MEMBERS NEWS

Australian Taxation Office (ATO) Managing and Monitoring the Wealth of Wealthy Individuals

Australian Correspondent, Mr Brendan Shannon reports that in 2012-13 the ATOs compliance program will continue to have a strong focus on highly wealthy individuals (HWIs) and wealthy Australians (WAs). We will ensure that these individuals understand and meet their tax obligations and that they pay their fair share of tax.

For the ATO, HWIs are defined as Australian residents who, together with associates, control $30 million or more in net wealth. WAs are resident individuals who, together with associates, control a net wealth of ..... Read more

Minister Shea Announces New Measure to Cut Red Tape

Canadian Correspondent, Ms Rose Jarawan reports that on October 1 2012 the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of National Revenue unveiled important new measures the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is undertaking as part of the Government's ambitious and far-reaching plan to cut red tape... Read more

The Canada Revenue Agency: Protecting Canadians from Gifting Tax Shelter Schemes

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is taking steps to better inform and protect taxpayers from gifting tax shelter schemes. This is the time of year when promoters are heavily marketing their tax schemes to Canadians. For this reason, the CRA is reminding Canadians that if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. ..... Read more

Tax Administration Jamaica rolls out comprehensive Taxpayer Education Programme

Jamaican Correspondent, Miss Meris Haughton reports that in a move aimed at increasing taxpayer awareness, Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ) has renewed its thrust to educate the public about the wide range of services it offers, new tax measures introduced and the rights and responsibilities of taxpayers. The improved effort forms part of the administration's National Compliance Programme which focuses in part, on engaging taxpayers ..... Read more

Revenue Measure introduces Guest Accommodation Room Tax

As part of the revenue measures for the fiscal year 2012-2013 the Government of Jamaica introduced a new Guest Accommodation Room Tax (GART) which came into effect on September 1 2012. This means that operators of guest accommodations failing in any of the following categories are now required to pay the tax ..... Read more

Jamaica signs TIEA with Macao

The Government of Jamaica has signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China, to exchange information on taxation matters aimed at guarding against tax evasion by residents of either country ..... Read more

CATA MEMBERS NEWS

Mauritius Correspondent, Mukhta Toofanee reports on the following:

1. **Treaty Negotiations:** Mauritius is in the process of negotiating and signing various new treaties including with other CATA members such as Nigeria and Lesotho ... Read more
2. **Study Tours:** Mauritius Revenue Authority hosted a number of study tours for other tax administrations ..... Read more
3. **Educational Campaign:** MRA is promoting tax education in schools ..... Read more
4. **VAT Refund Scheme for Agro-Industrial and Fisheries Sector:** New VAT refund scheme to benefit planters, horticulturists, breeders, apiculturists ..... Read more

Using XBRL in Tax Administration: The UK Experience

United Kingdom Correspondent, Roy Warden reports that the administration of Corporation Tax in the UK is becoming increasingly automated. Before 1990, it was a system almost entirely dependent on paper, with human intervention required at all stages including opening envelopes, banking cheques and moving files around. Since then, the pace of automation has been increasing and will continue to do so. The aim is for as much as possible of the engagement between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and companies and their agents to be digital or electronic. ..... Read more

IRAS receives global award for excellence

Singapore Correspondent, Vicky Ang reports that Dr Tan Kim Siew has succeeded Mr Moses Lee as the new Commissioner of Inland Revenue (CIR) in the year in which the IRAS is celebrating 20 years as a Statutory body. The IRAS is also the proud recipient of the World Class Global Performance Excellence Award for 2012. ..... Read more

TAX RELATED NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD*

*The news articles referred to in this section are not authored by CATA, its Secretariat nor its Members. They are extracted from various news sources around the world. The CATA Secretariat or its Members do not therefore take responsibility for their authenticity or for the contents therein.

- ## Coffee drinkers not the taxman forced Starbucks to start paying tax in Britain, Treasury Minister admits.

  The threat of a huge boycott by customers forced coffee giant Starbucks into paying tax in the UK, Treasury Minister Danny Alexander admitted today.

  After months of HM Revenue and Customs being accused of being too lenient on multi-national firms who find ways to avoid paying tax, the Lib Dem Cabinet minister said the change of heart of 'more of a reflection' of coffee drinkers threatening to take their custom elsewhere.

  Read more: http:// www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2241759/Coffee-drinkers-taxman-forced-Starbucks-start-paying-tax-Britain-Treasury-minister-admits.html#ixzz2EGpa2DOk

- ## Tax Evasion Robbing Africa of Billions

  A report shows that multi-national companies are fleecing African countries of billions by finding ways to flout local tax laws.

  Read more at http://www.bet.com/news/global/2012/11/30/tax-evasion-robbing-africa-of-billions.html

- ## Canadian business tax rate among world's lowest

  Canada has moved up three places to eighth in a global comparison of the most advantageous place to pay corporate taxes, placing the country in the top 10 for the first time.

  Read more at: http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/story/2012/12/03/corporate-tax.html

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