



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

End of year message from CATA President



Welcome to 2023!

The year 2022 has been an eventful one, filled with glamor, experiences, lessons and great achievements. The year 2023, we believe would be much better. If we are to go by the testaments from the preceding year, we can be very hopeful that 2023 would be a propitious year.

Coming from the devastation left on our economies by the covid-19 pandemic, worsened by the impact of the Russia – Ukraine war, many feared that the year 2022 would hit hard on countries across the globe, especially developing ones—it did, but not as disastrous as predictions stated.

Recoveries, in many quarters were slow-paced, revenue sources were drying up, and the burden to fund ambitious government estimates rested on the shoulders of tax men, like us.

In all these we did not despair. We came together, forged strong alliances, and dealt with the challenges that faced us. One of the major challenges we faced was the disruption by technological advancements; ironically, a major tool we found handy in responding to these disruptions has also been technology. It is little wonder that the theme of our 42nd Annual Conference in 2022, which Nigeria hosted, was themed: “Tax Administration in the Digital Era.”

This conference was a resounding success: members took home a basket-full of ideas, lessons from other countries, and partnerships that would ensure we forge towards 2023 in a stronger and more resilient way—especially in this digital era we live in.

In 2022, we made significant progress on many fronts: We set out a three-year Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2025 which was approved by our Management Committee. We forged strong and beneficial partnerships with various multilateral organisations and tax initiatives. We also joined the Asia-Pacific Tax Hub.

A major highpoint of the 42nd Annual Conference of 2022 was the MOU CATA signed with the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF). This partnership will provide more opportunities for capacity-building programmes for our members on the African continent.

It is in the spirit of reinforcing the capacity of our members to be in tune with the 21st century taxman that we have assisted our members to engage actively in the ongoing discourse around digital economy taxation by partnering with relevant regional tax organisations to organise consultative meetings and workshops. We are grateful to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for facilitating this.

As we look forward to 2023, we hope to consolidate on the many gains we have achieved. We can do more and better. We intend to build on the digitisation, digitalisation, and digital transformation agenda which we have set for ourselves as an association in 2023.

I believe that the forthcoming year has greater days in store for us—as long as we continue to cooperate, communicate, collaborate, and build capacity. Our best days are indeed ahead!

I wish us a celebration in this Yuletide, and a Happy New Year!

Muhammad Nami,
President, CATA (Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service – FIRS)

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NEWS FROM THE CATA SECRETARIAT

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

[42nd CATA Technical Conference a great success](#)



The 42nd CATA Technical Conference hosted in Abuja during the week beginning 26 November by the Federal Inland Revenue Service of Nigeria was hailed by all concerned as a great success. Many thanks are due to the Chairman of FIRS Mr Muhammad Nami and the entire organising committee for the warm hospitality and the splendid planning of the Conference. This was the first Conference to be held ‘face to face’ since the start of the coronavirus pandemic and provided a very welcome opportunity for tax officials to share work experience again. The theme was “Tax Administration in the Digital Era”.

[CATA and ATAF signed a MOU at 42nd CATA TECHNICAL CONFERENCE](#)



The two organizations CATA and ATAF (The African Tax Administration Forum) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the closing ceremony of the 42nd CATA Technical Conference, held on 30th November 2022 at Abuja, Nigeria. The MoU will seek to provide more opportunities for capacity-building programs for CATA members on the African.

[Daily News Highlights from 42nd CATA Annual Technical Conference 2022](#)



During the conference FIRS produced a daily conference newsletter that was both entertaining and informative. Links are on the CATA web site, together with [links to a photo gallery](#) and comprehensive you tube videos of the proceedings.

[2022 TOIT Programme](#)

The 26th Commonwealth Association of Tax



Administrators Taxation of International Transactions (TOIT) workshop was also held “face to face” this autumn. This was the first time this had been possible since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. After two years of conducting the workshop online, it was successfully held in person at the Malaysian Tax Academy (MTA) during the weeks of 31 October and 7 November 2022.

[Regional Consultations on International Tax Matters](#)



The Power Point presentations relating to these virtual regional consultations (CATA/ OECD and IOTA, November 2022) have now been published, and are available on the CATA web site.

PCT Released its Progress Report 2022



The Platform for Collaboration on Tax (PCT), a joint initiative of the OECD, World Bank, IMF and the UN, recently released [its Progress Report 2022](#) on various workstreams undertaken by the Platform. Among the workstreams highlighted includes Tax and Sustainable Development Goals; International Taxation; and Medium-Term Revenue Strategy, among other areas.

Secretariat welcomes a new member



The Secretariat has a new Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director. Rasmita Patro, who holds a bachelor's degree in commerce and Computer Applications, joined us in November 2022 as a successor to Megan Jones. She is very much delighted to be a part of CATA's family and is enjoying her new role. She feels blessed and honoured to have attended her very first CATA annual technical conference at Abuja, Nigeria and is looking forward to working with all our members across the Commonwealth.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS By CATA Country Correspondents

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

CYPRUS



[Farewell letter from Athina Stephanou](#)

Athina is retiring after many years involvement with CATA. The Secretariat send her their deepest thanks and best wishes for the future.

MALDIVES



[Maldives: increases its GST rates from January 2023](#)

MAURITIUS



[MRA introduces online application facility for the Tax Arrears Settlement Scheme and other news.](#)

NEW ZEALAND



[Compliance Focus for Individuals: New Zealand's Inland Revenue reveals the Offshore Compliance Focus Package.](#)

UNITED KINGDOM



CATA [Senior Leadership Programme - Phase 1](#) held successfully in September 2022 at Nagpur, India.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS WEBSITES

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

AUSTRALIA



Australian taxation article on “How to Help Small Businesses thrive and Survive” [How can we continue to work together to help small businesses thrive and survive | Australian Taxation Office \(ato.gov.au\)](#)

CAMEROON



Indebtedness: A credible and sustainable mobilization, the country intends to increase its external fundraising capacity to 45% of GDP by 2023.

FIJI



The Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) [FRCS Surpasses November 2022 Revenue Target](#)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



[MOU signed between IRC and the WHP Government in Mutual Partnership with the Mt Hagen City Authority to Enhance Effective Tax Collection.](#)

SEYCHELLES



[SRC LAUNCHES 2023 -2025 STRATEGIC PLAN](#): The Seychelles Revenue Commission (SRC) has launched its new strategic plan outlining the commission’s strategic priorities and roadmap for the period 2023-2025.

ZAMBIA



[The Zambia Revenue Authority \(ZRA\) is committed to ensuring it incorporates Gender as Equality and Social Inclusion a tax administrator.](#)

Wishing you A Happy Holiday Season and A Wonderful New Year 2023!



London Christmas lights: The Spirit of Christmas at Regent Street and St James's Square.



Duncan Onduru



Rasmita Patro



Gerry Cook