



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



End of year message from CATA President

Dear Esteemed Members of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA),

As we usher in the new year, I am filled with gratitude and pride as I reflect on the remarkable achievements and contributions of our members in the year 2023. It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to each and every one of you. I hope that this message finds you in good health and high spirits as we embark on another year of collaboration, learning, and growth within our esteemed organization.

One of the fundamental mandates of CATA is capacity building, and I am delighted to commend all our members for their unwavering commitment to this cause. Throughout the past year, we have witnessed exemplary efforts from our members in hosting conferences and other capacity building programs, which have significantly contributed to the enhancement of tax administration across the Commonwealth. Your dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all those who have played a pivotal role in advancing our capacity building initiatives.

In 2023, we witnessed several significant global tax issues that have shaped the landscape of tax administration. The discussions surrounding the OECD Pillar 1 & 2 have been particularly noteworthy, as they have the potential to redefine international tax rules. Additionally, the landmark tax convention resolution at the UN Assembly has underscored the importance of international cooperation and inclusivity of all in addressing tax challenges. Furthermore, the rapid advancement in tax technology and digitization has presented both opportunities and challenges for tax administrators worldwide.

In light of these developments, it has become increasingly evident that the need for improved and more comprehensive capacity building for CATA members is paramount. It is imperative that we equip ourselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand these evolving discussions and contribute to the formulation of transparent and beneficial rules for our respective jurisdictions. Moreover, we must be prepared to effectively implement these rules once they are concluded, in order to ensure their successful integration into our tax administration frameworks and maximize the benefit they will bring.

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I would like to specially express my sincere gratitude to the CATA Management Committee and all members who have generously agreed to host CATA programs in 2024. Your willingness to take on responsibilities is a testament to your unwavering commitment to the delivery of CATA's strategic plan. Your support and dedication are invaluable, and I am confident that together, we will achieve great success in the year ahead.

As we look forward to the year 2024, I call upon the cooperation of all members in delivering CATA's strategic plan. It is my fervent hope that each one of you will actively participate in CATA programs, support one another through peer learning and benchmarking visits, and contribute your expertise to promoting the overall mandate of CATA. Our collective efforts will undoubtedly lead to a more robust and effective tax administration across the Commonwealth.

In conclusion, I extend a warm welcome to a prosperous 2024, filled with hope and optimism. I am confident that the impact of CATA's programs will translate into enhanced efficiency in the performance of our respective tax administrations and contribute to improved revenue generation for our countries. Let us continue to work together towards our shared vision of advancing tax administration excellence across the Commonwealth.

Once again, I wish you all a happy and successful new year.

Warm regards,

Zacch Adedeji, PhD

President

Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators

NEWS FROM THE CATA SECRETARIAT

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

[Commonwealth Secretariat releases a report on Vital Role of AO in the CW](#)



An independent study detailing the collective contribution of the 87 non-profit organisations accredited to the Commonwealth was launched by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC.



[CATA hosts the Chair of the NTO Council](#)

The Chair of the NTO council Mr Logan Wort recently paid a courtesy visit to the CATA Secretariat at Marlborough House and was received by Mr Duncan Onduru the Executive Director (CATA).

[Application Programming Interface: presentations by the Australian Taxation Office and FONOA](#)

API: Application Programming Interface reproduced for the convenience of all members are presentations delivered during the virtual ATO and FTA Community of Interest meeting on 18 October 2023.

[Regional Consultation on International Tax Developments for Asia and the Pacific](#)



The Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA), the Pacific Islands Tax Administrators Administration (PITAA) and the Study Group on Asia-Pacific Tax Administration and Research (SGATAR) co-hosted a two-day regional consultation on international tax developments at

the ADB Headquarters in Manila, the Philippines, on November 8-9, 2023, in association with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

93rd CATA Management Committee Meeting held at Commonwealth Secretariat, London

Members of the Management Committee gathered together at The Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House to attend the 93rd CATA Management Committee Meeting on 23 November 2023.



Appointment of New Country Representative for Pakistan



Ms. Aisha Farooq has been appointed as Director General, International Tax Operations, FBR. Consequent to her appointment, Federal Board of Revenue, Pakistan would like to appoint Ms. Aisha Farooq, Director General, International Tax Operations as Country Representative (from Pakistan) under Article 5 of the CATA Constitution.

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

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

BARBADOS



[The Barbados Revenue Authority \(BRA\) was pleased to host the first residential phase of the 2023 CATA Senior Leadership Programme \(SLP\) from September 4th - 15th.](#)

CANADA



[2023 PLENARY MEETING OF THE OECD FORUM ON TAX ADMINISTRATION \(FTA\)](#)

KENYA



[Mr. Humphrey Mulongo Wattanga is the newly appointed Commissioner General for Kenya Revenue Authority \(KRA\).](#)

MALDIVES



[Maldives Completed Second Exchange of AEOI Data](#)

MAURITIUS



[The Mauritius Revenue Authority released preliminary results of its Taxpayer Satisfaction Survey](#)

NEW ZEALAND



[Inland Revenue's Refreshed Strategy: New Zealand Inland Revenue \(NZIR\) has revisited its strategy now that its major business transformation programme is complete, and the department is operating in a very different environment.](#)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



[Farewell Message: Marilyn Watuna](#)

SINGAPORE



[Singapore commits to implement the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework](#)

UNITED KINGDOM



- [HMRC and KRA complete TIWB pilot](#)
 - [UK unveils white paper to set approach to global development.](#)
 - [HMRC and OECD Pillar Knowledge Sharing Network](#)
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NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS WEBSITES

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

AUSTRALIA



[Appointment of next Commissioner of Taxation: The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer announces the appointment of Rob Heferen as the next Commissioner of Taxation.](#)

BARBADOS



[International Joint Statement on the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework:](#) The UK and other jurisdictions including Barbados announce their intention to implement the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's latest tax transparency standard, the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF).

CANADA



[The Canada Revenue Agency continues to invest in free tax clinics:](#) Free tax clinics made it possible for more than 649,000 Canadians with a modest income to file their taxes and receive more than \$1.75 billion in benefits, credits, and refunds last year, announced the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of National Revenue.

THE GAMBIA



[CG Darboe Concludes Study Tour by Paying Courtesy Call on his Ugandan Counterpart:](#) The purpose was to gain insights into the implementation of a Rental Tax Mobilisation System which RippleNami successfully secured through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) - Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) procurement arrangement for The Gambia Revenue Authority.

GHANA



[Amendments Of Tax Laws:](#) The Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) announces for the information of the general public the coming into force of the amendments of the following tax Laws

INDIA



[Saint Lucia's Tax Inspectors without Borders \(TIWB\) programme launched in partnership with India:](#) Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD), launched a programme in Saint Lucia on 14th December 2023. India has been chosen as the Partner Administration and will provide Tax Experts for this programme.

LESOTHO



[Full Roll-Out of Income Tax on E-Taxation Platform:](#) Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) proudly announces the successful roll-out of the Income Tax module on the E-Taxation platform. This significant milestone marks a transformative leap toward a more efficient, transparent, and taxpayer-friendly experience.

MALAWI



[MRA holds workshop to review BMS performance:](#) The Commissioner General of the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA), John Biziwick, has underscored the need for members of staff in MRA to work extra hard and collect more revenue to finance various Government development projects.

PAKISTAN



[FBR REFORMS ON TRACK: PM FBR MAKES HISTORY: COLLECTS MORE THAN 1 TRILLION GROSS REVENUE IN A SINGLE MONTH FOR THE FIRST TIME](#)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



[PROPOSED TAX LEGISLATIVE CHANGES ON THE 2024 BUDGET](#)

SEYCHELLES



[SRC REVISES ITS TAXPAYERS CHARTER TO ENHANCE ENGAGEMENT WITH TAXPAYERS](#)

SIERRA LEONE



[PARLIAMENT APPROVES NRA COMMISSIONER GENERAL MRS. JENEBA KPAKA-BANGURA](#)

SINGAPORE



[New Digital Solution Ideas, Deepening Partnerships at the 16th Forum on Tax Administration Plenary 2023](#)

ST KITTS AND NEVIS



[Tax Administration System “SMARTS and E-Government Portal” to go live January 2024](#)

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024!!!



Duncan Onduru



Gerry Cook



Rasmita Patro