



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter for 2025. It was a pleasure to reconnect with many of you during the Management Committee Meeting and the Regional Directors and Country Correspondents Meeting held in May. The energy, commitment, and collaboration displayed were truly inspiring, and it is heartening to see how much progress we have collectively made since our last edition.

We are especially delighted to welcome Gibraltar as our newest member, following the endorsement of the Management Committee in May. This expansion reflects our continued growth and the increasing relevance of our work across jurisdictions.

Another significant milestone was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Growth Centre (IGC), based at the London School of Economics and Political Science. This partnership marks an exciting step forward in our engagement with academia. Through this collaboration, we aim to strengthen our capacity to deliver evidence-based policy advice, particularly in critical areas such as tax policy and revenue mobilisation.

We also continued our capacity building programmes throughout the second quarter. These initiatives are central to our mission, and we extend our sincere thanks to all members for their ongoing support of peer learning and knowledge sharing, especially those efforts led by the various regions within the CATA family. Your contributions are vital to fostering a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement.

Looking ahead, we are eagerly preparing for the Annual Heads Meeting and Technical Conference, scheduled to take place from 7-11 July in Papua New Guinea. This event promises to be a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, strategic dialogue, and collective advancement.

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Upcoming Events

- The 45th CATA Annual Heads Meeting and Technical Conference, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 7-8 July 2025

Thank you for your continued dedication and support. We look forward to sharing more updates and achievements in the months ahead.

Dr Esther A. P. Koisin
CATA Executive Director

NEWS FROM THE CATA SECRETARIAT

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

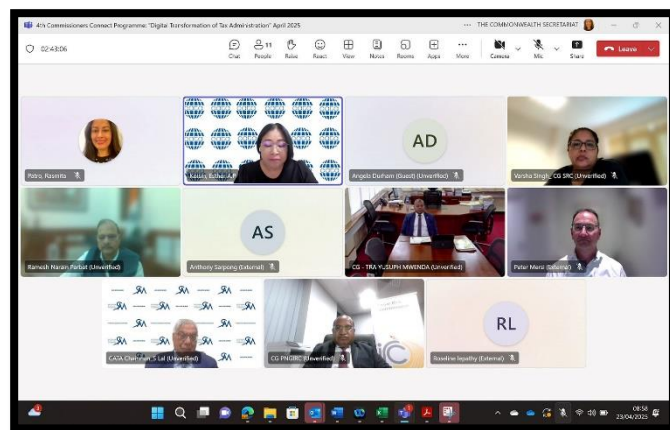
[CATA welcomes Honourable Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey as the 7th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth](#)



Hon Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, former Ghanaian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, assumed office as the 7th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth on 1 April 2025. She pledges to advance Commonwealth values in a divided world. She said in her speech, “The value of our Commonwealth stands in bold relief, in a time like this. For over 75 years, the Commonwealth has been a unique and powerful force for good. Now we must seize the moment to realise the transformation our societies seek.”

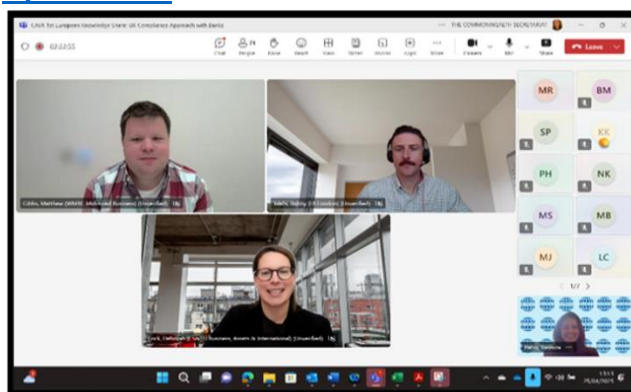
[CATA Commissioners Connect - 23 April 2025: Digital Transformation of Tax Administration](#)

The Commissioners Connect online session held on 23 April 2025, moderated by the Commissioner General of IRC Papua New Guinea, Mr Sam Koim, brought together Commissioners General from Barbados, Ghana, Malawi, Mauritius, New Zealand, Seychelles, and Tanzania, along with a Board member from CBDT India.



This session marked the 4th Commissioners Connect since its launch on 22 July 2024. The programme, held quarterly, includes one in-person session during the CATA Conference and three online sessions. It has become a valuable platform for Commissioners General to connect, share experiences, discuss challenges, and offer support to each other in the field of tax administration.

[1st European Knowledge Share: UK Compliance Approach with Banks, 25 April 2025](#)



HMRC, UK held a virtual session on 25 April 2025 on Banking Sector Compliance, covering key topics such as the UK tax environment, sector-specific taxes, compliance yield, and HMRC's organisational structure. The agenda also included discussions on the Large Business London team, the Customer Compliance Manager (CCM) model, Business Risk Review Plus (BRR+),

international collaboration, mid-sized business financials, and cross-boundary working practices.

Leadership Transition at CATA

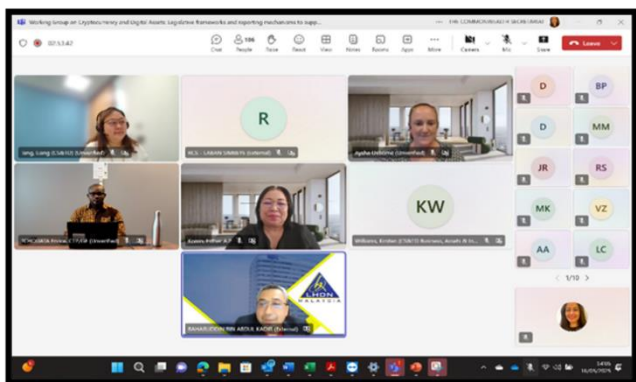


We extend our heartfelt gratitude and deepest appreciation to Mr. M. Sudhamo Lal, G.O.S.K, C.S.K, who recently retired as Director General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority, for his distinguished service and exemplary leadership as Chairman of CATA.

We are pleased to welcome Mr Noor Mahmad OOZEER, Acting Director General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority, as Chairman of CATA with effect from 15 May 2025. With over 45 years of experience in tax and revenue administration, Mr. Oozeer brings a deep understanding of the field and a strong track record of leadership.



CATA Working Group on Cryptocurrency and Digital Assets, 16 May 2025



The CATA Working Group on Cryptocurrency and Digital Assets held virtually on 16 May 2025. The session focused on legislative frameworks and reporting mechanisms to support the taxation of cryptocurrencies. The session addressed the growing interest and ownership of crypto assets across Commonwealth countries and the resulting challenges for tax administrations. A presentation was delivered on legislative approaches, followed

by a Q&A, targeting officials responsible for developing or implementing crypto tax policies.

CATA's 2nd Regional Directors and Country Correspondents Meeting successfully held at CATA Secretariat, Marlborough House



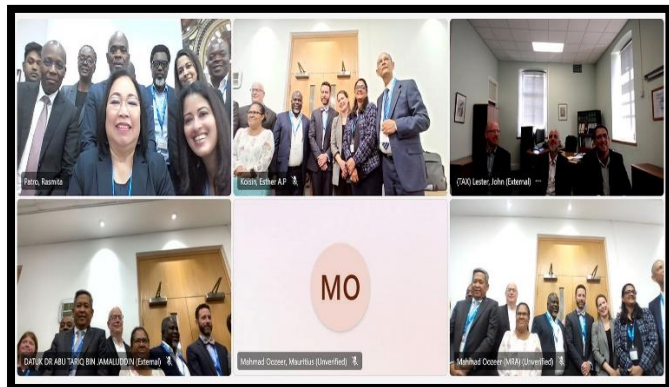
CATA 2nd Regional Directors and Country Correspondents Meeting held successfully on 20-21 May 2025, where Regional Directors reported on activities in their regions and Country Correspondents shared perspectives, proposals, and challenges. The meeting included the presentation of the CATA Strategic Plan 2025-2028, followed by discussions on its implementation and monitoring, as well as engagement with international partners and tax organisations.

96th CATA Management Committee Meeting held successfully at London

Members of the Management Committee gathered together at The Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House to attend the 96th CATA Management Committee Meeting on 22-23 May 2025 with major highlights including the approval of Gibraltar's membership application and the signing of an MoU with the International Growth Centre (IGC).



Gibraltar Becomes the 48th Member of the CATA Family



CATA proudly welcomes Gibraltar as the newest member of the CATA family. This milestone reflects our continued growth and our commitment to fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing across the Commonwealth.

CATA and IGC Collaboration

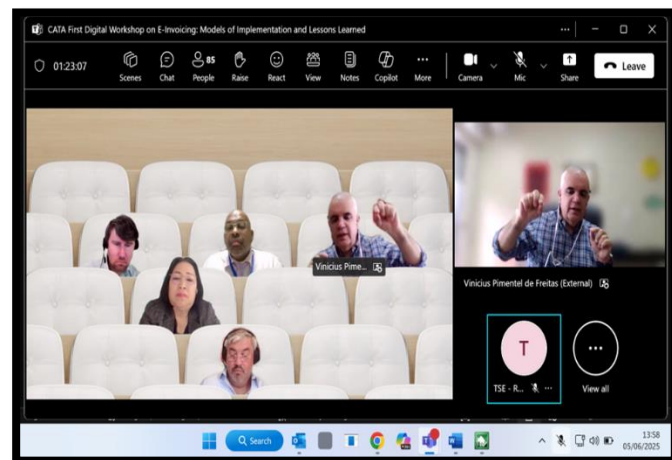


CATA and International Growth Centre (IGC) of London School of Economics and Political Science signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 22 May 2025, marking the start of a partnership aimed at supporting CATA member countries through collaborative research and the exchange of ideas on tax related matters.

CATA's First Webinar on E-Invoicing: Models of Implementation and Lessons Learned

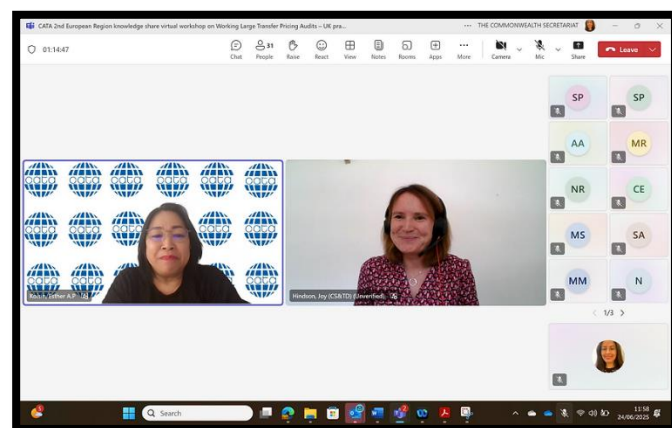
On 5th June 2025, the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) successfully launched the first in a series of webinars focused on E-Invoicing. The inaugural session, titled

"Models of Implementation and Lessons Learned," was delivered by esteemed colleagues from the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT) and attracted a global audience of tax professionals.



CATA-Europe 2nd Knowledge Sharing Call: UK's Practical Perspective on Large Transfer Pricing Audits successfully held on 24 June 2025

The Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) successfully hosted its second Europe Knowledge Sharing Call on 24 June 2025. This virtual session provided a deep dive into HM Revenue & Customs' (HMRC) approach to managing large transfer pricing (TP) audits, offering participants valuable insights into the UK's practical experience and strategic frameworks in this complex area of international tax.



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

By CATA Country Correspondents

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

KENYA



United against illicit goods and counterfeits: In recent years, Kenya has made significant strides in combating illicit goods and counterfeit products. Proliferation of fake and substandard goods continues to undermine the economy, endanger public health, and stifle legitimate businesses. While government agencies like the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) have been at the forefront of this fight, the role of ordinary citizens cannot be overstated. It is time for every Kenyan to take a stand against this menace and actively participate in safeguarding our nation's future... [Read full article here](#)

Kenya's Tax Amnesty: A Road to Clean Taxpayer Data: [Read full article here](#)

MALDIVES



Maldives Hosts 8th Meeting of the Asia Initiative: The 8th Asia Initiative Meeting of the Global Forum on Tax Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes was held in the Maldives from May 26 to 28, 2025, at the Villa Nautica Resort. This regional gathering brought together 70 representatives from 12 countries, 4 development partners, and 3 observers... [Read full article here](#)



MAURITIUS



Tax highlights 2025 Mauritius Budget: The National Budget 2025-26 for Mauritius was presented on 5 June 2025 under the theme-“From Abyss to Prosperity: Rebuilding the bridge to the future”. A snapshot of some of the measures under the various tax types is provided... [Read full article here](#)

NEW ZEALAND



New Zealand Inland Revenue Receives a Funding Boost: New Zealand's Budget for 2025 was delivered on 22 May 2025. The primary focus was on stimulating economic growth and addressing the cost of living. Importantly, from an Inland Revenue perspective, we received a major increase in funding to boost collection activities and invest more in tax compliance... [Read full article here](#)

SINGAPORE



The Commissioner of Inland Revenue (CIR) delivered the opening address at the 'International Tax Disputes Day: The Asian and Global Landscape' conference on 22 May 2025. CIR highlighted Singapore's commitment to tax certainty as a foundation for sustainable growth. [Read full article here](#)



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS WEBSITES

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

BARBADOS



[BRA RELEASES 2025-2026 LAND TAX BILLS:](#) The Barbados Revenue Authority (BRA) has issued the 2025-2026 Land Tax bills.

CYPRUS



[Signing of the Convention on the Elimination of Double Taxation in Relation to Taxes on Income and on the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance, as well as the relevant Protocol between the Republic of Cyprus and the Kingdom of the Netherlands on Curaçao](#)

THE GAMBIA



[The Gambia Revenue Authority \(GRA\), in partnership with RippleNami, conducted a training today on the newly implemented Rental Income Tax System.](#)

LESOTHO



[Revenue Services Lesotho Hosts Tax Inspectors Without Borders \(TIWB\) Mission in Collaboration with UNDP and OECD](#)

MALAWI



[TAA TO IMPROVE TAX ADMINISTRATION IN MALAWI:](#) The Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) says the introduction of the Tax Administration Act (TAA) and the Revenue Appeals Tribunal will play a key role in improving tax administration in Malawi.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



[PNG Implementation of Transparency Standard on Exchange of Information \(EOI\) for Tax Purpose:](#) Papua New Guinea can now request and exchange tax information through the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (MAAC).

TANZANIA



[TAX SYMPOSIUM ATTRACTS STAKEHOLDERS:](#) Taxpayers who participated in the Tax symposium held on May 8, 2025, in Dar es Salaam, organized by the Institute of Tax Administration (ITA), expressed their appreciation for the event, noting that it provided a valuable platform to extensively discuss the challenges they face and to suggest ways to broaden the tax base.



Dr Esther Koisin



Rasmita Patro