



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

I am delighted to welcome you to the third edition of our quarterly newsletter for this year. It has been an incredibly productive period since our last update, and I am excited to share the progress we have made together.

We have successfully conducted several workshops that have enriched our collective knowledge and skills. The Commissioners Connect initiative inaugurated in July has been particularly encouraging, with strong support and active participation from our commissioners. This has significantly strengthened our community and fostered a spirit of collaboration.

Our engagement with members has intensified, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our regional directors and country correspondents. Their active roles have ensured that we remain connected and responsive to your needs and suggestions.

I am also pleased to announce that we have developed our 2024-2025 work programme, which incorporates valuable feedback from our members. This programme will focus on regional trainings, both virtual and in-person, to ensure that we continue to build capacity and share expertise across our network.

Looking ahead, I am eagerly anticipating our upcoming Technical Conference in Mauritius. This event will be a fantastic opportunity for us to learn from one another, share best practices, and strengthen our working relationships. I hope many of you will be able to join us and contribute to the success of this conference.

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Upcoming Events

- 44th CATA Technical Conference 2024: 21-25 October in Mauritius
- CATA-IRD_NZ Online Workshop on "Effective Use of CRS Information"
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As always, our members are at the heart of everything we do. Your support and engagement are what drive our progress and success. Thank you for your continued commitment and participation.

Let us continue to work closely together as we welcome the last quarter of the year, and I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

Thank you.

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 Successfully Inaugurated the First Commissioners Connect Special Programme on 17 July 2024](#)



The Commissioners Connect is an exclusive chat programme designed for Commissioners to connect, share issues, concerns, and ideas in tax administration. This 55-minute programme kicked off with an opportunity to hear the 100-day in-office strategy of the newly appointed Commissioner General from Seychelles, along with insights from recently appointed commissioners from Maldives and Rwanda. Importantly, members of the Commissioners Chat had the privilege to reflect on their own 100-day strategies and shared their thoughts on what they would have done differently, considering current developments.

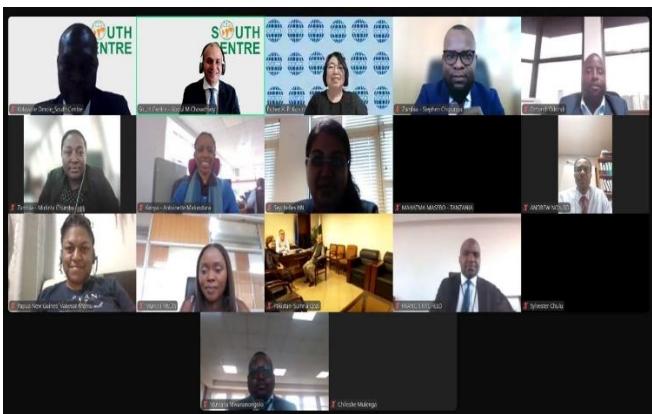
[CATA participated in the COTA General Assembly at St Lucia \(22-26 July 2024\)](#)

The CATA Executive Director, Dr Esther Koisin had the pleasure of participating in the Caribbean Organisation of Tax Administrators (COTA) 26th General Assembly & Technical Conference hosted by the Inland Revenue Department, Government of Saint Lucia in Castries, Saint Lucia on 22-26 July 2024.



[CATA & South Centre jointly held a Virtual Workshop on Globe Rules \(02 Sep 2024\)](#)

Virtual Joint Workshop by CATA and South Centre: Simulation on the GloBE Rules of Pillar Two Held Successfully on 2nd September 2024, focusing on the practical aspects of calculating the top-up tax. Mr. Kolawole Omole, a Research Consultant for the South Centre Tax Initiative, delivered a presentation featuring a simulation of the calculation. [Read further...](#)



CANADA



Canada Revenue Agency News Updates

[The CRA is making it easier to access its digital services](#) During the 2024 income tax season, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) introduced a new identity validation option, known as the document verification service, to make it easier to register for digital services, including the CRA's MyAccount service.

[Over half a million lower-income individuals will receive a SimpleFile invitation this summer](#) In July 2024, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) expanded its SimpleFile services (phone, digital, and paper) to invite more than 500,000 eligible lower-income individuals to file their return and potentially gain access to important benefit and credit payments.

[Learn About Your Taxes](#) The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has launched an online national competition to increase Canadian students' tax literacy.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS By CATA Country Correspondents

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

AUSTRALIA



[2024 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting in Port Vila, Vanuatu, 16-19 September 2024](#) This year, CATA was represented by Australian delegate Frances Horsburgh who took the opportunity as an observer to capture valuable insights on what is top of mind in the Pacific.



JAMAICA



Tax Administration Jamaica Expands Suite of Online Services

Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ) recently added the option to pay Police Record Fee via its Mobile Application, as well as upgraded its website to allow motorists to renew their Motor Vehicle Registration Certificate.

[Tax Administration Jamaica Commissioner General Addresses Taxation Webinar Staged by Accountants](#) Ainsley Powell, Commissioner General, Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ), recently shared updates from TAJ with about 350 members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica (ICAJ) at their Tax Webinar held on September 18, 2024.

MALDIVES



The Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA) marked its 14 Years of service

The Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA) marked its 14 Years of service

marking over a decade of progress towards becoming a more approachable and facilitative tax administration.



The primary focus of MIRA has now shifted to improving the services, fostering collaboration with taxpayers and enhancing its transparency across the organization.

MAURITIUS



[MRA hosted OECD Practical Workshop on Common](#)

[Reporting Standard Compliance Audits](#) From 16 to 18 September 2024, the Mauritius Revenue Authority co-organized with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Global Forum Secretariat a Practical Workshop on Common Reporting Standard (CRS) Compliance Audits.



NEW ZEALAND



[Compliance Reset In New](#)

[Zealand](#) Inland Revenue's overall approach to compliance is to make it easy to get it right, make

it hard to get it wrong and make it costly for the few who deliberately try to avoid their obligations.

PAKISTAN



[Federal Board of Revenue \(FBR\), Pakistan is focusing on](#)

[efforts and interventions for broadening the tax base](#) by bringing the untaxed/un documented economy into the tax net. As part of its outreach efforts, the Public Relations Team of FBR conducted Tax Awareness sessions at Universities in Islamabad.



SINGAPORE



[Over 30 participants from 16 jurisdictions participated in the Common Reporting](#)

[Standard \(CRS\) workshop](#) jointly organised by IRAS and the Global Forum Secretariat in July 2024.



The three-day workshop aimed to assist jurisdictions in the Asia and the Pacific region in their efforts to ensure effective compliance of Reporting Financial Institutions with their due diligence, reporting and record-keeping obligations.

UNITED KINGDOM



[HMRC clarifies some common myths about Self-Assessment tax returns](#): Anyone who needs to complete a Self-Assessment tax return for the first time to cover the 2023 to 2024 tax year, should tell HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) by 5 October 2024. Read full [Press release](#)

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS WEBSITES

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

BARNADOS



[BRA Head Reflects on Achievements for 10th Anniversary](#): It was a time of reflection on successes and challenges held on September 6, 2024) when Barbados Revenue Authority staff joined parishioners in fellowship to celebrate the institution's 10th Anniversary with a thanksgiving church service at St. Mary's Church in Bridgetown.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



[Corporate Income Tax Socialisation Session](#): The Revenue Division, Ministry of Finance and Economy (MOFE) held a Socialisation Session on Corporate Income Tax on Monday, 21st October 2024 which took place at Bilik Serbaguna 2, Level 3, MOFE.

CYPRUS



[The Republic of Cyprus provided consent under IF/OECD to the Pillar 2 safe harbour rules](#): The Republic of Cyprus, even though not a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for political objections and not able to partake to the relevant consultations at the Inclusive Framework (IF) OECD level, it has been supportive of the OECD/G20 BEPS actions

and the work undertaken so far by the OECD/G20 and the Inclusive Framework on BEPS in the international tax field.

THE GAMBIA



[WATAF Convenes Annual High Level Policy Dialogue Meeting in Guinea Bissau](#): Mr. Yankuba Darboe, Commissioner General of the Gambia Revenue Administration who also doubles as the Chairman of WATAF, expressed his gratitude to the diverse attendees and the host country for organizing such a well-attended event.



The sixth edition of the HLPD is set to uphold its reputation, featuring esteemed experts and participants from various sectors and ECOWAS Member Tax Administrations, including the ECOWAS Commission, Ministries of Finance, Parliamentarians, Tax Administration officials, Academia, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Development Partners, Donor Agencies, Financial Institutions, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), Corporate Organizations, and other key stakeholders. These participants will share insightful perspectives on the theme, "Improving Tax Systems to Promote Economic Growth and Social Development in Africa," from September 11-13, 2024, in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau.

KENYA



[Tax Authorities Urged to Embrace Technology and Collaboration for Revenue Growth](#): Speaking at the launch of the KRA Summit 2024, the Prime Cabinet Secretary emphasized the need for tax authorities to adopt technology-driven solutions that facilitate trade

and enhance domestic resource mobilization. He urged a re-evaluation of traditional tax frameworks to implement global solutions that ensure equitable contributions from all sectors to the national tax base.

SEYCHELLES



[SEYCHELLES REVENUE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATION PLAN:](#) The Seychelles Revenue Commission (SRC) has today announced a new strategic transformation plan aimed at enhancing operational efficiencies to

drive the sustainable development and growth of the Commission.

UGANDA



[IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOMESTIC TAXES COMPLIANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN \(CIP\) FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25:](#) Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) informs the general public that it has embarked on plans to optimise revenue mobilization to drive Uganda's economic growth and development through the Compliance Improvement Plan (CIP).



Dr Esther Koisin



Rasmita Patro