



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

Welcome to the first edition of the CATA Quarterly newsletter for 2025. I would like to extend my warmest wishes for a productive and prosperous year ahead. This year, we embrace the theme of Commonwealth Day, "Together We Thrive," which perfectly encapsulates our collective spirit and determination.

In 2025, we are excited to introduce more capacity-building programmes aligned with the key priorities identified by our members and outlined in the Strategic Plan. These initiatives aim to enhance our skills and knowledge. Our commitment to fostering an environment of collaboration and learning remains steadfast. Through our knowledge-sharing calls, we will continue to encourage the exchange of experiences and best practices, ensuring that we all benefit from the wealth of expertise within our CATA family.

We are also eagerly anticipating the upcoming meetings in May. First, we will have the pleasure of welcoming our Regional Directors and Country Correspondents. Their role is pivotal in bridging the gap between our central organisation and the diverse regions we serve. Their insights and local knowledge are invaluable in addressing the unique challenges and opportunities within each region. Additionally, the Management Committee will convene to discuss and strategize on key initiatives. This committee plays a crucial role in guiding our organisation, ensuring that we remain focused on our goals and effectively address the needs of our members and regions. The Management Committee's insights and decisions are vital to our collective success.

Let us remember that together, we can achieve much more than we can alone. Together, we will thrive and achieve greater success in 2025.

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News from the CATA Secretariat

- Commissioners Connect: 2025 as a year of "Action, Implementation and Empowerment"
- The Australian Taxation Office: Practical Experience of Pillar Two Implementation
- CATA_NADT (Modern Techniques of Investigations and Intelligence Gathering) Workshop Successfully held in Nagpur from 10-14 February 2025
- CATA as new head of NTO council with ATAF, CIAT, IOTA and WATAF
- CATA's SLP 2024-25 Phase-3 event held successfully in London from 24 Feb - 7 March 2025
- 1stCATA-SOUTHERN AFRICAN Regional Collaboration Workshop on AUDITING successfully held on 25 February 2025
- 2nd CATA-Asia Regional Collaboration Workshop successfully held on 26 FEB 2025 on the Topic Effective Communication
- Commonwealth Day 2024
- Wilton park Dialogue: Simplification and Digitisation of Tax Systems for the Commonwealth

News from CATA Country Correspondents

- | | |
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| • Barbados | Canada |
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Updates from Member's Websites

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| • Australia | Cyprus |
| • The Gambia | Lesotho |
| • Mauritius | Papua New Guinea |
| • Sierra Leone | Tanzania |
| • Uganda | |

Upcoming Events

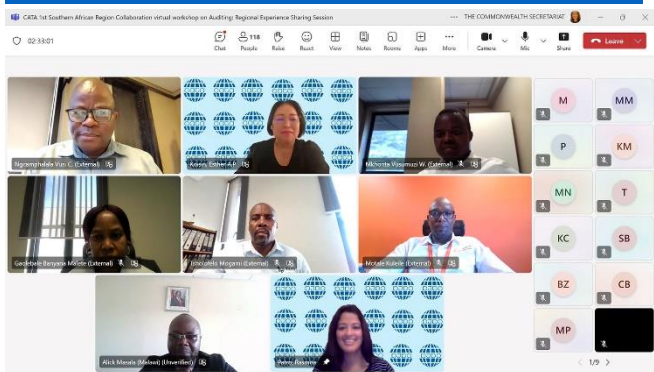
- CATA 2nd Regional Directors and Country Correspondents Meeting on 20 & 21 May 2025, London
- CATA 96th Management Committee Meeting scheduled for 22 & 23 May 2025, London
- IRBM_CATA: Workshop on Taxation of International Transactions (TOIT) - Tax Treaties (30th June to 4th July 2025)
- IRBM_CATA: Workshop on Taxation of International Transactions (TOIT) - Transfer Pricing (7th to 11th July 2025)

CATA as new head of NTO (Network of Tax Organisations) Council



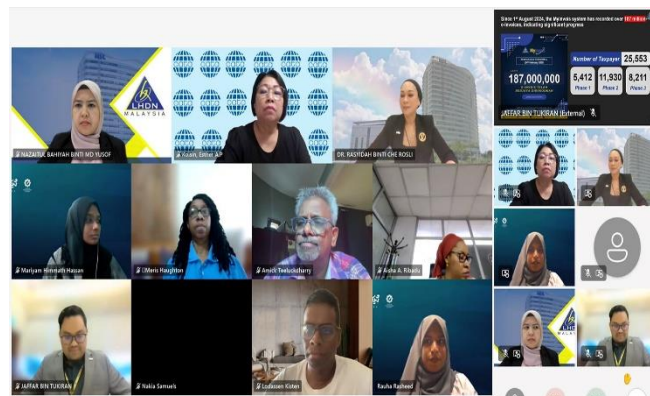
CATA has been elected as the new head of the NTO Council with ATAF, CIAT, IOTA and WATAF making up the new Council members for the period 2025-2027 at the 7th NTO General Assembly in Panama City.

1st CATA-SOUTHERN AFRICAN Regional Collaboration Workshop successfully held on 25 February 2025 on AUDITING



2nd CATA-Asia Regional Collaboration Workshop successfully held on 26 Feb 2025 on the Topic Effective Communication

The 2nd Asia Regional Collaboration Workshop, titled Effective Communication: Regional Experience Sharing Session, was conducted virtually on 26th February 2025. Organized jointly by the CATA Secretariat and the Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA), the workshop aimed to



enhance collective expertise on effective communication in tax administration. The session was focused on fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration across the Asian region, with the primary objective of improving taxpayer engagement and compliance through effective communication strategies.

HAPPY COMMONWEALTH DAY 2025 - "Together We Thrive."

The Commonwealth Service, a celebration of the Commonwealth marks its 76th anniversary this year and successfully took place at Westminster Abbey on Monday, 10 March 2025. This year's theme is 'Together we Thrive' which celebrates the enduring spirit of the Commonwealth family. [Read full articles here...](#)

Commonwealth Day Message from The Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland KC, Commonwealth Secretary-General



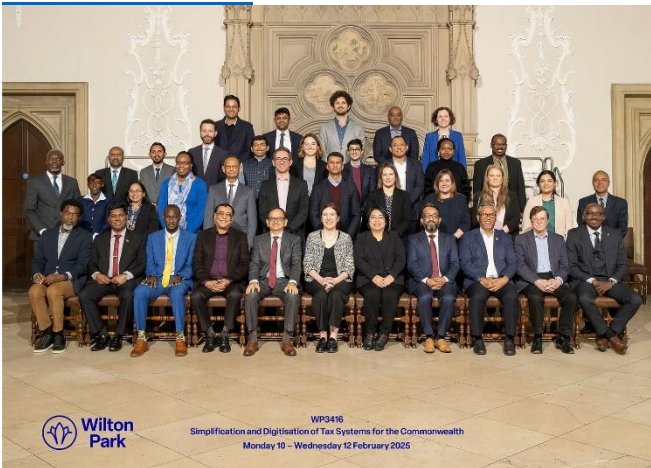
(PC: The Commonwealth)

CATA's SLP (Senior Leadership Programme) 2024-25 Phase-3 Event: CATA Senior Leaders bring sunshine to London!



The final phase of the CATA Senior Leadership Programme 2024-25 opening ceremony event held at The Marlborough House in London on Monday, 17 February 2025. We were delighted to welcome 31 senior leaders from 23 tax administrations in the Commonwealth and beyond for phase three of the CATA Senior Leadership Programme (CATA SLP) 2024-25 held in London from 24 February - 7 March 2025.

Wilton park Dialogue: Simplification and Digitisation of Tax Systems for the Commonwealth



The second Commonwealth tax dialogue at Wilton Park on 10 - 12 February 2025, explored various aspects of tax simplification and digitisation led by tax practitioners, academia and private sector experts from the UK, India and other Commonwealth countries including Australia, Barbados, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS By CATA Country Correspondents

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

BARBADOS



[BRA Provides Access to Land Tax Clearance Certificates Online:](#)

Revenue Commissioner, Louisa Lewis-Ward, stated that this feature eliminates the need for manual applications and is part of the Authority's ongoing thrust to provide greater convenience, faster processing and improved service delivery.

[Read full article here](#)

CANADA



[CANADA REVENUE AGENCY: News Updates](#)

For Canada's 2025 personal income tax season, the Canada Revenue Agency has published a series of articles to help ensure all Canadians understand the benefits of filing their tax return, including Canadians with a modest income, new Canadians, students, and northern residents.

JAMAICA



[Tax Administration Jamaica introduced Special Arrears Settlement Programme:](#)

At the end of January 2025, Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ) announced the launch of a Special Arrears Settlement Programme, designed to waive/remit Interest, Penalty and Surcharge (IPS) accrued once outstanding principal taxes are paid by March 31, 2025.

[From Tax Administration Jamaica's Annual Special Taxpayer Assistance Programme \(STAP\) Benefits Small Business Operators](#)

KENYA



[The Role of Customs in Border Security and Societal Protection:](#)

Lessons from Kenya's Customs Administration. The Customs

administration has adopted a proactive approach to border security, recognizing that the challenges of globalization, terrorism, and transnational crime require dynamic and adaptive solutions.

MALDIVES



[MIRA Launch its Strategic Plan for 2025-2028](#): The major highlight of the new strategic plan for the next 4 years is the

use of Objectives and Key Results (OKR) in monitoring strategic objectives which improves performance, drives change, and creates better alignment through constant adaptation, tracking and re-evaluation.

MAURITIUS



[Benchmarking visit on Automatic Exchange of Information](#): The MRA is amongst one of the African Tax

Administrations which have operationalized Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) and the in-person visit was an opportunity for the delegates to learn from the Mauritian experience to gain first-hand knowledge on our good practices, operational frameworks and technological innovations.

NEW ZEALAND



[Inland Revenue \(IR\) New Zealand: Compliance Tip-offs](#): Within the tax system, a sense of fairness and equity is crucial

for fostering compliance. Compliance tip-offs are one way Inland Revenue (IR) helps create the all-important 'level playing field' and support the work to help New Zealand taxpayers get things right.

SEYCHELLES



[SRC Team Enhances Services For Lodgement and Payment Of Taxes For Applicable Year 2024](#):

As customary, March is the last month recognised in the Republic of Seychelles as the deadline for filing and payment of the annual business and presumptive tax to the Seychelles Revenue Commission (SRC).

SINGAPORE



[IRAS's Transformation: From Paper to Digital](#):

Explore IRAS' history through our Digital Gallery and see how they have redefined tax administration for a digital future.

UGANDA



[THE UGANDA REVENUE AUTHORITY \(URA\) TAX](#)

[ACADEMY: SHAPING TAX PROFESSIONALS](#): Like a tree rooted in fertile soil, the URA Tax Academy stands as a testament to growth, resilience, and opportunity. Its establishment on August 1, 2024, following the transition from the Learning and Development function to a fully-fledged Department, was more than just a change in name, it was testament of how URA nurtures and develops its people. As the saying goes, "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link," and at URA, we've recognized that our most vital link is our staff.

UNITED KINGDOM



[New Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive at HM Revenue and Customs\(HMRC\)](#):

John-Paul Marks announced as the new Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive at HM Revenue and Customs.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS WEBSITES

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

AUSTRALIA



[ATO releases new small business benchmarks for 100 industries](#):

CYPRUS



[President of the Republic of Cyprus - Presentation of the project “Cyprus Tax Reform: Recommendations for a Modern Tax System”](#)

The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Nikos Christodoulides, addresses the presentation of the project “Cyprus Tax Reform: Recommendations for a Modern Tax System”.

THE GAMBIA



[GRA Conducts Due Diligence Visit to Côte D'Ivoire for E-Invoicing Implementation](#): This

initiative is a crucial step in modernizing Value Added Tax administration for enhanced revenue collection.

LESOTHO



[Revenue Services Lesotho \(RSL\) sensitized leaders of initiation schools and traditional doctors](#)

[about Lesotho's tax system and the benefits of paying taxes during the Moshoeshoe Cultural Festival workshop at Khutsong Lodge, Thaba Bosiu:](#)

MAURITIUS



[TAX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS: MRA engaged 12,000 students over five years](#): The Mauritius

Revenue Authority (MRA) organized an educational tour at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC) in Plaine Magnien on March 7, 2025

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



[IRC set to Launch Modern Integrated Tax Administration System \(ITAS\)](#):

SIERRA LEONE



[NRA Commissioner General Highlights Revenue Growth and Digital Transformation](#)

[Miatta Conference Hall, 18th March 2025:](#)

TANZANIA



[TRA AND CTI TO COLLABORATE IN ADDRESSING TAX CHALLENGES](#):

The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has pledged to collaborate with the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) to address the tax challenges facing industry owners in the country to facilitate their operations and promote the growth of the industrial sector.

UGANDA



[Electronic Document and Records Management System \(EDRMS\) Launched](#):

The Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PSST), Ramathan Ggoobi has launched the EDRMS at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.



Dr Esther Koisin



Rasmita Patro

