



# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

## EDITORIAL

Dear members,

As we close the third quarter of 2025, I am pleased to reflect on the remarkable progress we have made together in advancing our shared mission. This quarter has been marked by vibrant collaboration, impactful learning, and strategic growth across our network.

We celebrated the success of our 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Heads Meeting and Technical Conference, graciously hosted by Papua New Guinea, which brought together members from across the region to exchange insights and strengthen our collective vision. Equally commendable was the delivery of our flagship residential training programme - the Taxation on International Transactions (TOIT) Workshops, hosted by Malaysia, which continues to empower our professionals with deep technical expertise. The Senior Leadership Programme (SLP) also commenced its First Phase in Uganda, setting a strong foundation for leadership excellence across our tax administrations.

We were also honoured to welcome Mr Rohit Ramnawaz as the new Chairman of CATA, following his appointment as Director General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority on 8 July. Our sincere appreciation goes to Mr Mahmad Noor Oozeer, who graciously served as Chair in the interim following the retirement of Mr Sudhamo Lal on 14 April 2025. His leadership during this transitional period was deeply valued.

I extend heartfelt thanks to our Regional Directors for their unwavering dedication in fostering meaningful peer learning and regional leadership. Their efforts continue to ensure that regional engagement remains a cornerstone of our work. Among the many valuable initiatives this quarter, the joint session on Artificial Intelligence held on 2 September, led by the Pacific and Asia Regional Directors, exemplified the spirit of collaboration and innovation that defines our network.

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#### Upcoming Events

- Management Committee Meeting - 9 Dec 2025
- Commissioners Connect - 10 Dec 2025

We are equally grateful to our Country Correspondents, whose dedication and support are instrumental in ensuring CATA functions effectively and delivers meaningful outcomes for our members.

Our Working Groups remain active and focused. The AEOI, E-Invoicing, and Crypto Assets Groups continue to make strides in their respective areas. We are also proud to announce the establishment of a new Working Group on Cybersecurity, aligning with our strategic priority under the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan to bolster resilience and digital transformation.

International collaboration continues to be central in our approach, and we are proud of the strong partnerships we maintain with global institutions to bring meaningful and relevant capacity-building opportunities to our members. This quarter, one notable success was the HNWI training programme, delivered in joint collaboration with IBFD.

As we move forward, we remain committed to sustaining this momentum and delivering meaningful value to our members. Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Dr Esther A.P. Koisin  
Executive Director

## NEWS FROM THE CATA SECRETARIAT

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

### [Opening Ceremony of the 45th CATA Annual Heads Meeting and Technical Conference, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea - 8 July 2025](#)



The 45th Annual Heads Meeting and Technical Conference of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) officially opened at the Hilton Hotel in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Hosted by the Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) of Papua New Guinea, the event brings together tax leaders and experts from across the Commonwealth and beyond under the theme "Aligning Global Standards with Local Solutions: Evolving Tax Systems in the Digital Age."

### [Day 1 Highlights: CATA Heads Meeting Port Moresby, 8 July 2025](#)



Day 1 brought together tax leaders from across the Commonwealth to explore the future of tax administration in a rapidly digitising world.

Commissioners-General Panel: Leading in a Digital Age, Moderated by Mr Sam Koim, Commissioner General of the Inland Revenue Commission PNG, this high-level panel featured insights from Heads and top officials from tax administrations from Malaysia, India, Uganda, Australia, and Belize.

### [Day 1 Working Groups Highlights: 45th CATA Technical Conference, Port Moresby, 8 July 2025](#)

The first day of the Working Group sessions at the 45th CATA Technical Conference featured dynamic discussions on digital transformation, artificial intelligence, predictive analytics, and the local adaptation of global tax standards. Delegates engaged in practical, forward-looking conversations aimed at equipping tax administrations with the tools and strategies needed to thrive in the digital age.



## Day 2 Highlights: CATA Heads Meeting, Port Moresby, 9 July 2025

Day 2 of the CATA Annual Heads Meeting and Technical Conference continued with a strong focus on the intersection of global tax standards and national priorities. Through a series of high-level panels and interactive discussions, tax leaders explored how to implement international frameworks while preserving sovereignty, building capacity, and fostering regional collaboration.



## Day 2 Working Groups Highlights: 45th CATA Technical Conference, Port Moresby, 9 July 2025

The second day of the Working Group sessions at the 45th CATA Technical Conference provided a platform for in-depth discussions on risk-based audit systems, GST/VAT monitoring systems, and the use of data and innovative technologies to improve tax administration.



Working Group 1 - Session 3: Risk-Based Audits: Balancing Global Standards and Local Priorities, Moderated by Sh Prabodh Yadav, Central Board of Direct Taxes India. This session considered how tax administrations can implement risk-based audit systems that both align with global standards and address local realities. [Read more...](#)

## Day 3 Highlights: CATA Heads Meeting Port Moresby, 10 July 2025



Day 3 of the CATA Annual Heads Meeting and Technical Conference brought leaders together to discuss the principles for agile leadership in tax administration. In an inspiring discussion, Commissioners set the scene for a day of conversation on responsive and dynamic leadership across revenue authorities. [Read more...](#)

## Day 3 Highlights: Working Groups, Port Moresby, 10 July 2025

Working Groups met for a final combined workshop on Day 3 of CATA's Technical Conference and Heads of Administration meeting. Drawing together the key themes of adapting global norms and implementing new technologies, participants explored how to apply an agile approach to support digital transformation. [Read more...](#)



## Closing Ceremony of the 45th CATA Annual Heads Meeting and Technical Conference at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea - 10 July 2025

The 45th Annual Heads Meeting and Technical Conference of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) closed with actionable recommendations from Rapporteurs and an inspiring address from CATA's president on collaborating for a resilient tax future. [Read more](#)

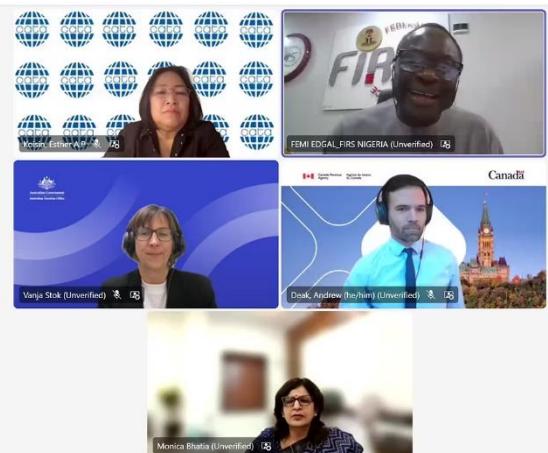


## The Appointment of Mr Rohit RAMNAWAZ as Director General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority and Chairman of CATA



CATA is pleased to share the announcement of the appointment of Mr Rohit RAMNAWAZ as the new Director General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA). In line with this appointment, Mr Ramnawaz will also assume the role of Chairman of CATA, effective immediately.

## CATA Launches First AEOI Roundtable: A Milestone in Peer Learning and Implementation Support



The AEOI Roundtable series is part of a broader initiative led by the AEOI Working Group, which was established during the CATA Annual Technical Conference held in Mauritius in 2024. The Working Group is chaired by Mr Gautham Mukundan of India, with Mr Femi Edgal of Nigeria serving as Vice Chair. [Read more...](#)

## CATA Leads Strategic NTO Workshop at Marlborough House

On 4 September 2025, CATA, in its capacity as Head of the Network of Tax Organisations (NTO), hosted a high-level Workshop at Marlborough House, London. The event brought together senior representatives from NTO member organisations—including ATAF, CATA, CIAT, COTA, CREDAF, and IOTA—to deliberate on the Future Governance, Structure, and Strategic Direction of the NTO. [Read more...](#)

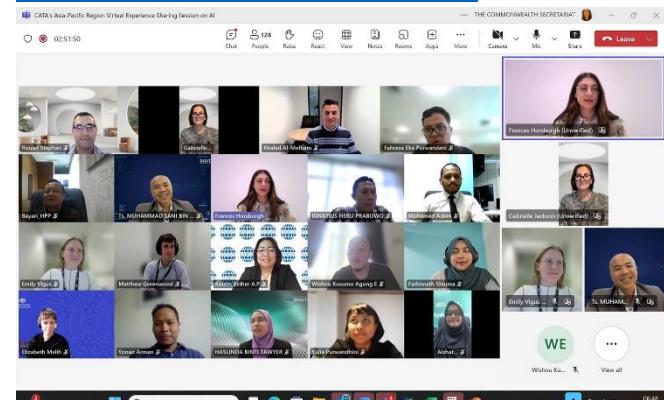


## [CATA and IBFD Hold Joint Training on Taxation of High-Net-Worth Individuals](#)

The Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) and The International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD) concluded a highly successful week-long training course on the taxation of High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs) on 4 September 2025. Five of CATA's six regions were represented, demonstrating the resonance of this issue across the Commonwealth. [Read more...](#)



## [Enhancing Data Governance and AI Capability in the Asia Pacific](#)



In a recent virtual session jointly hosted by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia (IRMB), participants engaged in a rich discussion on the principles of data governance and responsible data use. The event was opened by the Regional Directors for Asia and the Pacific, who emphasised the value of collaboration and mutual learning in strengthening tax administration across jurisdictions. [Read more...](#)

## [Barbados Revenue Authority Appoints New Revenue Commissioner](#)

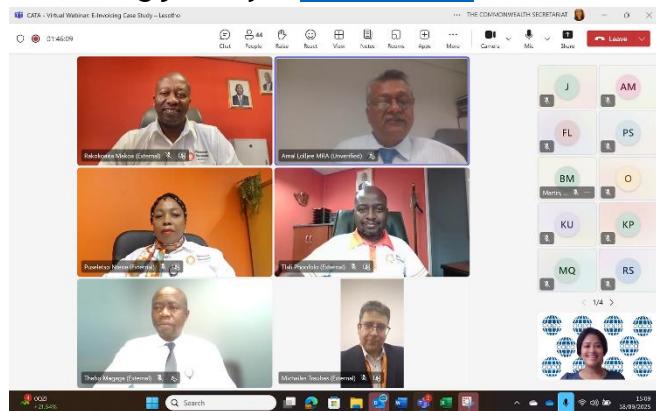


The Barbados Revenue Authority (BRA) has announced the appointment of Mr Jason King, CPA, FCA, as Revenue Commissioner, effective September 15, 2025.

## [Lesotho Showcases e-Invoicing Journey in CATA Experience-Sharing Webinar](#)

The Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL), in collaboration with the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA), hosted a highly informative virtual session titled "E-Invoicing Case Study: Lesotho" on 18 September

2025. The webinar brought together CATA members and stakeholders to explore Lesotho's e-Invoicing journey – [Read more...](#)



## [CATA Working Group on Cybersecurity Holds Inaugural Meeting and Confirms Membership](#)

CATA is pleased to announce that the Working Group on Cybersecurity has held its inaugural meeting today, marking a key milestone in advancing CATA's strategic priority on cybersecurity and fraud resilience. [Read more...](#)



## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS By CATA Country Correspondents

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

### JAMAICA



[Jamaica Implements Electronic Motor Vehicle Registration Certificates \(EMVRC\):](#) This fundamental change to now issue an eMVRC, supported by legislative change to the Road

Traffic Act, is the digital replacement for the paper Motor Vehicle Registration Certificate and the physical licence decal, previously issued to confirm that a vehicle is legally licensed and registered under Jamaica's motor vehicle licensing regime.



[Administrative Changes to Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness](#)

### MALDIVES



[MIRA celebrates 15 Years of Service to the Nation:](#) This year marks a significant milestone for the Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA) as it celebrates 15 years of dedicated service to the nation. Established on 2 August 2010 with just 40 employees, MIRA has grown remarkably to a workforce of over 300 staff members and now operates 18 offices nationwide, making it one of the largest state institutions in the Maldives.

### MAURITIUS



[Mauritius Revenue Authority Tax Club Project – Shaping Tomorrow's Tax-Responsible Citizens:](#) In a proactive step towards cultivating tax awareness among youth, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA)—in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources—has launched the Tax Club Project across secondary schools.

### NEW ZEALAND



[Feedback sought on the future of the New Zealand tax system:](#) How can we design a durable tax system in the face of long-term

fiscal pressures? This is one of the key questions facing all tax authorities and the central issue raised in a briefing released recently by Inland Revenue for public consultation.

## SINGAPORE



### [IRAS Hosts Inaugural Global Workshop on the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework \(CARF\)](#)



## ZAMBIA



### [ZRA Conducts Exchange of Information \(EOI\) Auditor Training Under Global Forum Train the Trainer Programme](#)



## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS WEBSITES

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

## AUSTRALIA



### [ATO hosting key international forum: The ATO hosts the 54th SGATAR annual](#)

[meeting to further enhance the cooperation of tax systems from the Asia-Pacific.](#)

## BARBADOS



[Barbados Joins OECD's Carbon Mitigation Framework: August 28, 2025](#) - Barbados has joined the Inclusive Framework on Carbon Mitigation Approaches (IFCMA), the OECD's leading initiative on global climate cooperation. The framework now includes 60 jurisdictions committed to advancing transparency, coordination, and effective action on emissions.

## FIJI



### [FRCS Promotes Tax Awareness Through FBC Radio Talk-Back Shows](#)

[Shows:](#) FRCS was pleased to participate in FBC's Domo-ni-Vanua and Drishtikon radio talk-back shows this week, as part of its ongoing public education and awareness initiatives.



## THE GAMBIA



[The African Tax Administration Forum \(ATAF\) is providing technical assistance in transfer pricing to the Gambia Revenue Authority](#)

## MALAWI



### [IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN: The Malawi Revenue](#)

Authority wishes to inform all exporters, importers, manufacturers, producers, clearing agents and the general public that the Authority is now issuing electronic certificates of origin under both the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) Trade Protocols.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA



[IRC Marks PNGs 50th Jubilee Celebrating History Inspiring the Future on 12 September, 2025:](#) The staff of the Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) celebrated Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Day at Revenue Haus, Champion Parade, under the theme "Celebrate Our History, Inspire Our Future."



**Dr Esther Koisin**

## SIERRA LEONE

[WATAF SUMMIT IN SIERRA LEONE : A UNIFIED CALL FOR TAX REFORM ACROSS WEST AFRICA](#)

## 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).



**Rasmita Patro**