



The Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism

Virtual Meeting "Responding to Covid-19: BRITACOM Perspective"



On June 2 2020, the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism (BRITACOM) virtual meeting was held with the theme of "Responding to Covid-19: BRITACOM Perspective". Heads and representatives of tax administrations or finance departments from 36 jurisdictions and 7 international organizations, and 10 members of the Advisory Board attended the meeting to exchange views on fighting COVID-19 and BRITACOM development, and reached broad consensus.

Wang Jun, Chair of the BRITACOM Council and Commissioner of the State Taxation Administration of China (STA) pointed out that the virus respects no borders, and that solidarity and cooperation is the global community's most effective weapon to defeat the virus. He also praised the joint efforts made by all Council Member Tax Administrations, Observers and other stakeholders of the BRITACOM to defeat the virus, and put forward proposals on further promoting the development of the BRITACOM.

Heads and representatives of tax administrations shared their experience on the fiscal and tax policies, and collection and administration measures to respond to the pandemic, and experts from the Advisory Board and international organizations analyzed and reviewed policies and

measures and provided suggestions for tax administrations.

Wang Daoshu, Executive Secretary of the BRITACOM Secretariat and Chief Auditor of the STA, updated the BRITACOM progress since the First Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Forum (BRITACOF) and welcomed new friends to join BRITACOM family. Some representatives also share their valuable views and suggestions to the BRITACOM developments.

Enhance BRITACOM's Profile



The BRITACOM Secretariat gradually enhanced the profile and global recognition of the BRITACOM among stakeholders and beyond by presenting BRITACOM as guest speakers with flyers circulated on relevant international meetings and fora. Various BRITACOM work progress and updates have been regularly posted on the BRITACOM official website (www.britacom.org). Recent attention has switched to focus on sharing experiences on fighting Covid-19. The Secretariat has sorted out tax policy and administration tools adopted by tax administrations worldwide in response to the health crisis in the form of special editions of Update. So far, 4 regular BRITACOM Update Issues and 14 Special Editions of the BRITACOM Update on COVID-19 have been released on the official website.

Expand BRITACOM Family



Since the First BRITACOF, Pakistan and Ethiopia tax authority have joined the BRITACOM as Council Member TAs. Germany, Ecuador, Myanmar, Spain, Liechtenstein tax authorities, and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) have joined the BRITACOM as Council Observers. Four renowned experts (Prof. Guglielmo Maisto, Prof. Dr. Stefano Grilli, Prof. Dr. Christian Kaeser, and Dr. Rup Khadka) have joined the Advisory Board. Mr. Philip Mills was recommended by Mr. Dan Lange to replace his place due to their position change. Besides, Thailand and Malaysia tax authorities are in the process of completing the procedures of joining the BRITACOM as Observers.

Preparation for the Second BRITACOF

Based on extensive research and analysis, the BRITACOM Secretariat drafted the theme, topics, design of the tentative agenda and the exhibition area plan together with the host country, Kazakhstan. Affected by the pandemic, the Conference will be postponed to 2021, and a formal letter of postponement has been sent to all BRITACOM stakeholders. The Secretariat has already made adjustment to the preparation in the days to come.

Five Task Forces

Robust actions in implementing the *Wuzhen Action Plan (2019-2021)* have taken place. The interim report aims to comprehensively analyze the current situation of tax collection and administration, share best practices, put forward customized recommendations and provide useful reference for BRI jurisdictions. Five task forces have conducted surveys during the interim report drafting.



Furthermore, the Secretariat assisted Chair of each task force to hold seminars to draw up working regulations, timeline, interim report framework, etc.

Progress of the BRITACEG



BRITA-Yangzhou

BRITA-Beijing

BRITA-Nur-sultan

BRITA-Macao

The operation of the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Enhancement Group (BRITACEG) has been enhanced through building the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Academy (BRITA) and launching training programs. Up to now, the BRITACEG have set up BRITAs in mainland China. Most BRITACEG training programs in 2019 were carried out in BRITA-Yangzhou. The launch of BRITA · Nur-Sultan and BRITA · Macao are slightly postponed due to the unexpected COVID-19 outbreak, but well on track. In the meantime, the Secretariat keeps the communication with relevant BRITACOM Council Members on setting up more BRITAs.

Meanwhile, great progress has been made in the BRITACEG training. In 2019, with generous support of the OECD and IMF, the BRITACEG has hosted 13 workshops with 12 in China and 1 in Kazakhstan, attended by 340 tax officials from 62 jurisdictions.

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Official Website of the BRITACOM



A dedicated webpage was released last May to share relevant information and latest news about the BRITACOM timely. To enrich the functions of the online platform, the official website of the BRITACOM has been online, and the address is www.britacom.org. The website will serve as BRITACOM portal, releasing regular updates, exchanging experiences and views as well as a platform for event registration, questionnaire distribution and online training, etc.

Belt and Road Initiative Tax Journal

The long-awaited Belt and Road Initiative Tax Journal was recently launched. The electronic copy of this inaugural issue has been uploaded on our website for free download. The articles focus on tax policies and measures taken by tax administrations in response to the COVID-19 with analysis and recommendations given by experts.



Next Steps of the BRITACOM Development

- Host a series of virtual meetings, including discussions on the interim report, and digitalization of tax administration, to provide a platform for information and experience sharing and international taxation cooperation, which would further the preparation of the Second BRITACOF in 2021.
- Make sustainable efforts to implement the Wuzhen Action Plan (2019-2021) and complete the high quality interim report of five task forces in time.
- Proceed the preparation for the Second BRITACOF to lay a solid foundation for a successful event.

- Strive to set up BRITAs and create online curriculum to facilitate the capacity building of BRI jurisdictions.



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