



Responding to COVID-19: BRITACOM PERSPECTIVE, 2 June 2020

Script of speech

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Honorable Chair and Dear colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to give you a very brief account on the development of Tax Academy in Macao SAR (BRITA Macao) so far. The establishment of the four BRITAs in China, Kazakhstan and Macao SAR is one of the landmark outcomes of the first BRITACOM meeting held in Wuzhen last year. But as we all know, things change a lot since then, because of the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to our original plan, we intended to deliver our first training course to the tax officials of the Portuguese-speaking countries in June this year. In fact, we expected to do four separate training courses in the second half of this year, two in June and two in October. Each of these courses is designed to have a duration of 4 to 5 days. The purpose of these courses is to provide participants with an in-depth exposure to the conceptual and practical issues on topics of relevance for the BRITACOM initiative. The four proposed topics include: (1) Tax treaties and the multilateral instrument, (2) Prevention and resolution of cross-border tax disputes, (3) Taxation of digitalized economy, and (4) Transfer Pricing (Fundamentals).

However, under the current circumstances, it is very unlikely that we would be able to continue carry out our work according to the previous schedule. We probably will have to postpone all training activities to next year, and whether the training would be conducted in the first half or the second half of 2021, we still need to wait and see for further development of the global pandemic. It seems we will only be able to make a decision until the virus is being effectively contained, and even then, we still need to take all necessary pre-cautionary measures to ensure the health of the course participants and the instructors.

Besides training, the COVID-19 pandemic also has some negative effect on the progress of the construction and interior decoration of the “China and Portuguese-speaking countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform Complex”, a building in which BRITA Macao will be located and carry out its future training activities. In view of the current progress, we expect that BRITA Macao will only be able to move into the Complex and start operating by the end of 2021. Because of this reason, the liaison office of BRITA Macao continues to operate in the Financial Services Bureau at the moment.

This is the end of my report. Thank you.