



August 1,2019 Issue 2

# UPDATE

## The Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism

### Recent Progress of the BRITACOM

Dear colleagues,

Greetings and compliments from the Secretariat of the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism (BRITACOM ).

Time flies so fast, more than 3 months have passed since the end of the First Conference of the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Forum (BRITACOF). During the past 3 months, the Secretariat operated smoothly and made some progress with the guidance of the Wuzhen Action Plan (2019-2021). With this email, we would be very glad to update you on the recent progress of the BRITACOM.

#### **1.New applications to join the BRITACOM**

Following the First Conference of the BRITACOF, some tax administrations (TAs) have expressed their willingness to join the BRITACOM. The Secretariat makes further communication with the potential Member/Observer TAs to clarify the relevant procedures of joining the BRITACOM. Up to now, the Federal Board of Revenue, Pakistan sent us the written request to apply to be a Member of the BRITACOM. The Federal Ministry of Finance of Germany, the Ecuadorian Tax Administration and the Internal Revenue Department of Myanmar sent us the written request to apply to be an Observer of the BRITACOM. The competent tax authorities of Bolivia, Spanish, Egypt, Azerbaijan, Liechtenstein, Ethiopia and Laos as well as The International Chamber of Commerce also expressed their willingness to join the BRITACOM.

Meanwhile, the Italian Revenue Agency has recommended Prof. Guglielmo Maisto, a very well-known tax expert, to join the Advisory Board, which will be officially submitted to the next Council Meeting for consideration.

## **2. Progress of the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Capacity Enhancement Group (BRITACEG)**

The BRITACEG office has been established under the Secretariat. With the guidance of Mr. Anatoliy Aleksandrov, director of the BRITACEG, five training sessions have been held at the BRITA Yangzhou since the close of the BRITACOF, which were strongly supported by Members and Observers. Upon the invitations by the BRITACEG, nearly 100 officials from more than 20 jurisdictions have participated in these training sessions including Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Suriname, Tajikistan and Ukraine etc, and positive feedback has been received from the participants.

### **3. Set up of task forces**

According to Part G of the Wuzhen Action Plan (2019-2021), five task forces should be set up by the end of June 2019 to implement the action plans. So far most Members and Observers have chosen to join at least one task force and appointed fixed contact person to each. Based on the feedback from Members and Observers, we have sorted out the grouping situation of each task force as the following table:

<b>Task Force</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Observers</b>
<b>Raising tax certainty</b>	Macao China, Uruguay, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, Suriname, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Algeria, P.R. China, Djibouti.	Qatar, ITIC(International Tax and Investment Center), BIAC(The Business and Industry Advisory Committee at OECD).
<b>Expediting tax dispute resolution</b>	Hong Kong China, Mongolia, Senegal, Kuwait, Rwanda, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Algeria, P.R. China, Djibouti.	New Zealand, Singapore, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, BIAC(The Business and Industry Advisory Committee at OECD).

<p><b>Enhancing tax administration capacity</b></p>	<p>Sudan, Uruguay, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Angola, Tajikistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Gabon, Samoa, Algeria, South Sudan, P.R. China, Djibouti.</p>	<p>Ukraine, Armenia, Qatar, CIAT(Inter-American Centre of Tax Administrations), ITIC(International Tax and Investment Center), WATAF(West African Tax Administration Forum), IBFD(International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation).</p>
<p><b>Streamlining tax compliance</b></p>	<p>Georgia, Serbia, Cambodia, Slovakia, Gambia, Somalia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Samoa, Algeria, P.R. China, Djibouti.</p>	<p>Armenia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Qatar.</p>
<p><b>Digitalizing tax administration</b></p>	<p>Kazakhstan, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, Senegal, Somalia, Bangladesh, The United Arab Emirates, Rwanda, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Algeria, Nepal, P.R. China, Djibouti.</p>	<p>Ukraine, Armenia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Peru, Qatar, Morocco, CIAT(Inter-American Centre of Tax Administrations), IBFD(International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation).</p>

#### 4. Preparation for the Second Conference of the BRITACOF

Mr. Liao Tizhong, Executive Secretary of the BRITACOM visited Kazakhstan in May 2019. Mr. Liao

Tizhong and Mr. Yermek Kozhabergenov, deputy Executive Secretary of the BRITACOM, discussed the agenda and other preparatory work of the Second Conference of the BRITACOF that will be held next year in Nursultan with focus on Digitalization of Tax Administration. Also, according to Article 19.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism (MoU), the Business and Industry Tax Dialogue will be established under the framework of the BRITACOM. It will be incorporated into the agenda of the Second Conference of BRITACOF for businesses and other stakeholders to communicate on tax matters and voice their suggestions and concerns.

#### **5. The launch of the BRITACOM website**

The website of the BRITACOM ([http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/eng/britacom\\_index.html](http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/eng/britacom_index.html)) is open for use since May 10, 2019 with related documents and latest news available thereon. We will enrich the contents of the website to serve all participants of the BRITACOM and expand the influence of the BRITACOM.

The above is the summary of our work for the time-being. With the joint effort of all parties, we believe that our goals of building a growth-friendly tax environment will be achieved successfully.

With kind regards,

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#### **BRITACOM Update**

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