



UPDATE

The Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism

As a platform for communication and view exchange, the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism (BRITACOM) held a series of virtual meetings including high-level meetings and working-level seminars to ensure that all BRITACOM parties stay connected during this critical moment of global fight against COVID-19 from June 2020 to April 2021.

Virtual events

1) High-level Virtual Conference on 2 June 2020

The BRITACOM Secretariat organized its first virtual event entitled *Responding to Covid-19: BRITACOM Perspective* on 2 June 2020. Heads and representatives of tax administrations or finance departments from 36 jurisdictions and 7 international organizations, and 10 members of the Advisory Board attended this meeting and exchanged views on how to apply fiscal and tax policies to fight COVID-19.

See more at: <http://www.britacom.org/news/meeting/>

2) High-level Virtual Conference on 15 December 2020



BRITACOM High-level Virtual Conference themed as *New Challenges, New Opportunities and New Future — Development Planning of Tax Digitalization in the Context of the Global Pandemic*

The BRITACOM High-level Virtual Conference featuring *New Challenges, New Opportunities, and New Future: Development Planning of Tax Digitalization in the Context of the Global Pandemic* closed with a full success on 15 December 2020. Transcending time and space, heads and representatives of tax administrations or finance departments from 47 jurisdictions and 9 international organizations, and a number of businesses as well as 9 members of the BRITACOM Advisory Board gathered together online for this spectacular and productive event. Joint Statement was issued and invaluable common understandings were reached on strengthening multilateral tax cooperation, digitalizing tax administration and drawing a blueprint for the future BRITACOM.

See more at: http://www.britacom.org/news/HighLevelConference/HighLevelConference_sy/

3) Working-level Seminars Featuring Tax Digitalization

The series of virtual meetings, including 3 twin-events (one working level seminar plus one follow-up meeting for each twin-event), specifically focusing on tax digitalization were held from July 2020 to April 2021.

Seminar 1 and its follow-up meeting themed as *Business Continuity in Response to COVID-19* were held last July and August, Seminar 2 and its follow-up meeting focusing on Digitalization of VAT were hosted last October, and Seminar 3 and its follow-up meeting with the theme of Tax-related Data Governance and Application were finished this April.

The close of the Seminar 3 is the end of this series of seminars featuring tax digitalization, and more virtual events have been planned to provide a platform in this difficult time for the taxing and taxed sides so that they could remain engaged and connected with each other.

See more at: <http://www.britacom.org/news/seminar/>

Five Task Forces

Five virtual seminars on the five task forces (raising tax certainty, expediting tax dispute resolution, enhancing tax administration capacity, streamlining tax compliance, and digitalizing tax administration) have been launched during August to September 2020 respectively among group members to review the interim reports, identify room for improvement, and voice views on the future development of these task forces. All of the five task forces have finished the interim reports, which have been circulated among Council Member Tax Administrations. The five final reports are scheduled to officially come out on the occasion of the Second BRITACOF.

Progress of the BRITACEG

Up to now, the BRITACEG have set up 4 BRITAs, which are based in Nur-Sultan of Kazakhstan, Beijing, Yangzhou and Macao Special Administrative Region of China respectively in a bid to enhance tax administration capacity of BRI jurisdictions through tax-related trainings, research and technical assistance programs by giving full play to their existing training institutions and distinctive expertise. In 2020, 7 BRITACEG training programs have been held with 449 tax officials from 35 jurisdictions and 1 international organisation in attendance, which were generally well received by participants. The third online training program on Expediting Tax Dispute Resolution has been held from 11 January 2021. Up to now, 296 tax officials from 22 jurisdictions have joined the program. From 15 to 17 March, the IMF, BRITACOM, and STA China co-hosted a virtual course on “International Issues in Tax Law Design” with 30 participants from 13 jurisdictions in attendance.

Official Website of the BRITACOM



The official website of the BRITACOM (www.britacom.org) was launched in June 2020. It consists of quite a number of modules including BRITACOM news release, publications, COVID-19 special column, etc.

Event registration function is available now, which has been applied for Seminar 3 and its follow-up meeting. Questionnaires could also be filled in on the website.

Belt and Road Initiative Tax Journal



As an important platform for communication and cooperation among tax administrations of BRI jurisdictions and beyond, the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Journal (BRITJ) was officially launched last June, for BRITACOM Member Tax Administrations, Observers and other parties to share insights for the formulation and development of effective tax policies and tax systems, and exchange innovative practices and invaluable experience of tax administration.

As a bi-annual journal, the BRITJ has released 2 issues last June and December focusing on Responding to COVID-19 and Digital Transformation respectively. The third issue will be released in the coming June featuring business environment improvement.

Download at: <http://www.britacom.org/gkzljxz/dzqk/>

The Special Edition of the BRITACOM Update on COVID-19

At this challenging moment of tackling the COVID-19, the Special Edition of the BRITACOM Update on COVID-19 is issued, where BRI tax administrations and other parties could exchange views and share experiences in responding to the current pandemic.



Measures and policies rolled out by tax administrations, and views and comments provided by international organizations and experts are circulated through this section of the website. Up to now, 21 Issues have been published and circulated online.

See more at: <http://www.britacom.org/gkzljxz/ssqtk/>

Next Steps of the BRITACOM Development

In 2021, the BRITACOM will continue to play its role as a collaborative platform for its stakeholders to exchange views and express concerns in their joint efforts to build a growth-friendly tax environment.

➤ **Preparation for the Second BRITACOF**

The Second BRITACOF is planned to be held virtually in September 2021 themed as digitalization of tax administration. The Secretariat is currently working on the overall plan of the BRITACOF, designing subtopics, making the invitation list, and coordinating with the State Revenue Committee of Kazakhstan (SRC), host of the BRITACOF, for relevant details.

To work out more substantive outcomes, the Secretariat is drafting the new action plan, which will conclude the experiences and lessons of the Wuzhen Action Plan (2019-2021), and also include the priority of the BRITACOM for the immediate future.

➤ **Virtual Seminars**

Besides the Second BRITACOF, the Secretariat is planning to hold a series of virtual seminars to keep BRITACOM parties connected in the COVID times. We are also sharing resources of other international organizations to provide various channels for BRITACOM parties to get access to cutting edge tax knowledge. So far, we have shared some virtual seminar details hosted by the

World Bank Group on tax administration digitalization among BRITACOM parties.

➤ **Five Task Forces**

The BRITACOM will continue to make sustainable efforts to implement the Wuzhen Action Plan (2019-2021) and complete high-quality final report of five task forces.

➤ **BRITACEG Training Courses**

The BRITACEG will continue to launch online courses in 2021 tentatively with the theme of tax dispute resolution, tax administration digitalization, taxpayer services, and VAT administration. Currently, the Secretariat is designing the course handouts of the above mentioned topics, soliciting experts, and drafting rules and regulations for the operation of the BRITACEG.

➤ **Website and Journal**

The Secretariat will constantly improve the BRITACOM official website and BRITJ to make sure they are effective and concrete platform for BRITACOM parties to exchange views.



BRITACOM Update

Editor: Secretariat of the BRITACOM

Issue: 5