



The key meeting of tax policy officials, practitioners and scholars in the Asia Pacific region

In an advanced and dynamic economy, and where tax reform is at the top of the agenda

The Sixth Meeting of the Asia Tax Forum

InterContinental Hotel
Sydney, Australia

6 – 8 April 2009

www.asiataxforum.org

Hosted By:
Australian Taxation Office
&
The Centre for Customs and Excise Studies
University of Canberra



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office



Centre for Customs and Excise Studies
University of Canberra

A select meeting of leaders in government, business and academia at a neutral table to discuss indirect tax policy

A warm welcome

... from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO)

"In the twenty-first century, more so than at any previous time, economic activity is shaped significantly by what happens at the global level. The benefits of a more open economic environment are accompanied by the challenges of ensuring that taxpayers meet their obligations under the laws of their respective countries and that international tax evasion and avoidance is curbed.

The ATO's current focus on international issues and our strengthening of ties with overseas tax administrations are responses to these trends. In addition, information technology offers public administrations a variety of opportunities to use new preventative measures to improve compliance, as well as opportunities in improving risk assessment and monitoring and analysis of financial activities"

Michael D'Ascenzo,
Australian Commissioner of Taxation

13 March 2008

The 6th meeting of the Asia Tax Forum continues to build on the success of the past years, and has become a leading event in indirect taxation policy and administration in the region. This event, hosted annually by finance ministries and tax administrations, is a unique opportunity for policy officials to meet their peers and representatives of leading businesses in an informal, collegial setting, to discuss immediate tax policy challenges and future tax systems.

This year's forum will be held in Sydney, Australia – one of the world's most beautiful cities.

Australia is currently undergoing one of its most comprehensive reforms to its tax and income support system, and the 2009 Forum will give participants a first-hand opportunity to learn more about this historic reform.

The head of Australia's Tax reform review, Robert Heferen, will give a first hand presentation about the process of moving towards a new era of tax reform.



An agenda covering key topics in tax policy and administration in the region

How will tax policymakers in the region respond to the first major economic crisis in the "Asian Century"? As the demand for scarce resources intensifies, how do producer nations balance current revenue needs with the demands for long term investment? As the debate continues on how to meet the challenges of climate change, how do governments in fastest growing economies respond? In the aftermath of the implosion of the finance world, how do regional economies maintain an enabling environment for financial services vital for development?

ATF facilitates public sector officials in the region to discuss problems, learn from comparative experience and tap business expertise in developing effective and innovative economic and tax initiatives to help meet these challenges. Private sector delegates benefit from gaining insight into government thinking and in presenting their problems in a transparent but off-the-record setting.

The 2009 Forum will address cutting edge issues, and will draw on some of the world's best strategic thinkers on tax policy design and implementation.

Key policy project areas in 2009 include:

- Environmental Taxation reform
- Natural resources taxation
- Tax expenditures analysis in indirect tax policy
- Best practice in tax administration worldwide
- Indirect taxation of financial sector services
- Administering Tax Incentives Efficiently

Speakers in 2009 will include:

* Professor Sijbren Cnossen
University of Maastricht

* Professor David Widdowson
Centre for Customs and Excise Studies, University of Canberra

* Mr Robert Heferen
Australian Treasury

* Professor Stephen Phua
University of Singapore

* Mr Adrian Cooper
Oxford Economics

* Professor Joosung Jun
Ewha University

* Professor Lee Burns
University of Sydney

ATF participating public sector officials from prior meetings:

Australia

Cambodia

China

Chinese Taipei

India

Republic of Korea

Malaysia

New Zealand

Pakistan

The Philippines

Singapore

Sri Lanka

Thailand

Vietnam

Possible new participants from the Pacific Islands may include:

Cook Islands

Vanuatu

Papua New Guinea

Timor Leste

Proudly organised and hosted by:



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

The Australian Taxation Office is the Australian Government's principal revenue collection agency, with a primary role to manage and shape tax, excise and superannuation systems that fund services for Australians.

www.ato.gov.au



The Centre for Customs and Excise Studies, University of Canberra, provides an international focal point for education, training, consultancy services and research capabilities relevant to customs and excise administrations, related border management agencies, and the private sector.

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The Public Finance Institute of the Philippines is a non-profit organization that advocates the formulation and implementation of good policies in public finance through the conduct of research, provision of advice and technical assistance, and empowerment of the public through the dissemination of information in public forums and tri-media.



The International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC) is an independent non-profit research and education foundation. ITIC brings together Western business experts with government policy makers to address a range of issues and problems.

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How to register:

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