

Government of Pakistan
FINANCE DIVISION
(Quality Assurance –I Section)
HRM Wing

CIRCULAR

Subject: - **NOTE VERBALE FROM (ESCAP) REGARDING AN INVITATION TO TWO REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON TAXES AND DIGITALIZATION, 25 AND 26 OCTOBER, 2022.**

Economic Affairs Division vide their OM No. 3 (1) UNESCAP/2022/UN-II dated 06.09.2022 has inform that Economic and Social Commission And the Pacific (ESCAP) is organizing **two days regional online workshop** on taxes and digitalization to be held from 25 & 26 October, 2022 for the members and associate members of the commission. The first one, on **“Taxation of the Digital Economy in Asia and the Pacific”** will take place on 25 October 2022 the second one, on **“The Digitalization of Tax Administrations in Asia and the Pacific”** on 26 October 2022. Officer (BS-17 & above) of Finance Division, are requested to furnish their nominations duly recommended by the AFS/head of the concerned Wing to **QA-I Section before or on 23.09.2022**. After seeking approval the participant may register themselves at following link by 1st October, 2022 <https://forms.office.com/r/I4fRGQ2NeQ>.

2. The workshop **“Taxation of the digital Economy in Asia and the Pacific”** will bring together the United National and National Experts, policy makers, and tax administration officials to discuss recent advances in policies on the taxation of the digital economy in Asia and the Pacific and beyond. The workshop on **“The Digitalization of Tax Administration in Asia and the Pacific”** will bring together e-government experts and officials from selected tax administration of Asia and the Pacific to discuss experiences and lessons learned related to digitalization of taxation systems. **The enclosed concept notes and tentative programs** contain additional information about the two workshops.

Note:- “In addition to the eligibility criteria specified for a training, all officers who are working on contract basis/fixed pay package or having less than two years continuous government service or less than three months of service in Finance Division or against whom disciplinary proceedings/inquiry is in progress, may need not to apply”.


(Matiha Rafique)
Section Officer (QA-I)
Ph: 9208523

All Officers (BPS-17 & above), Finance Division, Islamabad

Finance Division U.O F.No.2 (12)/2014-QA-I Islamabad, the 15-09-2022

Copy to:-

Mr. Faheem Anwar, Webmaster, with the request to upload the circular for information on Finance Division's website

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

OES/B/7

The secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) presents its compliments to the members and associate members of the Commission and has the honour to invite the members and associate members of the Commission to participate in two related regional workshops on taxes and digitalization. The first one, on "Taxation of the Digital Economy in Asia and the Pacific," will take place on 25 October 2022 and the second one, on "The Digitalization of Tax Administrations in Asia and the Pacific," on 26 October 2022. Both workshops will be held online.

The workshop on "Taxation of the Digital Economy in Asia and the Pacific" will bring together the United Nations and national experts, policy makers, and tax administration officials to discuss recent advances in policies on the taxation of the digital economy in Asia and the Pacific and beyond. The workshop on "The Digitalization of Tax Administrations in Asia and the Pacific" will bring together e-government experts and officials from selected tax administrations of Asia and the Pacific to discuss experiences and lessons learned related to digitalization of taxation systems. The enclosed concept notes and tentative programmes contain additional information about the two workshops.

The members and associate members of the Commission are invited to nominate government officials with responsibilities on tax policy and tax administration to participate in these workshops. To this regard, the secretariat would appreciate if the attached concept notes and tentative programmes could be forwarded to the relevant offices. The Government's nominees are invited to register at the following link <https://forms.office.com/r/J4fRGQ2NeQ> by 18 October 2022. Registered participants will receive an email with all required information to join the workshops. Questions related to the regional workshops may be addressed to jianz@un.org and isgut@un.org.

The secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the members and associate members of the Commission the assurances of its highest consideration.



31 August 2022

Attachment

Members and Associate Members of the Commission



The Digitalization of Tax Administrations in Asia and the Pacific

Virtual Event

26 October 2022, 14:00-17:00 Bangkok time

CONCEPT NOTE (as of 29 August 2022)

Description

A common definition of digitalization is the use of digital technologies to change a business model and provide new revenue and value-producing opportunities.ⁱ Tax administrations in advanced countries started to digitalize tax systems as far back as the 1990s with the introduction of electronic filing of tax returns or e-filing. This modality disseminated around the world, including in Asia and the Pacific, in the 2000s and 2010s. Recent developments include the automation of tax reporting and compliance processes in the tax administrations' back end, which can benefit from innovative solutions involving artificial intelligence, machine learning, and customer assistance processes.

In the current context, Asia Pacific countries are beginning to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a robust 5.1% growth forecast for 2022ⁱⁱ. Nevertheless, the region's recovery remains weak due to the lingering consequences of the pandemic. As a result, countries must bolster their state coffers to ensure that sufficient resources are available to rebuild their economies, for which improving tax compliance can be very helpful.

Despite the benefits offered by digitalization for tax administrations, developing countries have varying capacities and readiness to take full advantage of it. Because of the digital divide, capacities in information and communication technology (ICT) vary across countries, and some developing countries in the region face challenges in the identification, implementation, and usage of ICT technologies for tax administration purposes.

As more solutions become available on the market and their prices decrease, tax authorities have a better chance to enhance procedures, prevent and detect criminal behavior, greatly improve revenue collection, and raise the efficacy of their operations. In this context, an update on good practices and technological options could be useful for tax administrations in developing countries. The workshop will examine options to facilitate tax collection, such as e-filing and electronic payments. It will also illustrate digital tools to enhance tax administrations and tax compliance such as AI-powered chatbots and risk management tools, as well as other innovative ICT technologies such as cloud computing, big data analytics, blockchain, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Objective

This workshop aims at sharing knowledge and experiences among tax administration officials on the current state of tax administrations' digitalization in Asia and the Pacific to identify challenges and solutions. Areas of focus include the following:

- Options to facilitate tax collection, such as e-filing and e-payments.
- Digital tools to enhance capacities in tax compliance.

- Advanced IT methods applied to tax administration such as cloud computing, big data analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning

The workshop will also examine good practices in the adoption of e-taxation tools in the region and discuss specific actions governments can take to improve tax compliance using e-taxation tools.

Tentative programme

Time	Sessions
14:00 ~ 14:10	Opening remarks Mr. Hamza Malik, Director, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, ESCAP
14:10 ~ 15:40	Session 1: State of digitalization of tax administrations in Asia and the Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Mr. Andrew Bloomfield on how tax administrations use technologies today • Experience sharing by representatives from national tax administrations Moderator: Mr. Alfonso Pellegrino, ESCAP
15:40 ~ 16:55	Session 2: Advanced digital tools for tax administrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Prof. Frank Chan on factors affecting ICT systems successful implementation in Tax Administrations • Experience sharing by representatives from national tax administrations on advanced digital tools (these could include digital tax payments at ATMs, blockchain based e-Vat, blockchain e-invoice system, chatbot to facilitate tax payments) Moderator: Mr. Frank Chan, ESSEC (École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales) and ESCAP
16:55 ~ 17:00	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Alberto Isgut, Economic Affairs Office, Financing for Development Section, ESCAP

Endnotes

ⁱ (Gartner's IT Glossary)

ⁱⁱ (World Bank, 2022 - Global Economic Outlook 2022)