

TAX INSPECTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

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TIWB in the new year

by Angel Gurria & Achim Steiner

We are excited to launch the Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) new e-newsletter which will keep practitioners and policymakers up to speed on our activities and achievements, as well as offer lively insights by stakeholders into key issues and developments in the international tax field.

TIWB is a joint OECD-UNDP initiative and is at the forefront of efforts to build tax audit capacities in developing countries.

Last year saw important progress towards creating a fairer international tax system.

- More countries are collaborating to close tax loopholes, improve transparency, and ensure that multinational enterprises pay tax where they operate.
- 149 countries and jurisdictions are committed to the [Global Forum](#)'s standards, transparency and exchange of information
- Implementation continues on measures to reduce tax avoidance by multinational enterprises under the G20/OECD [Base Erosion and Profit Shifting](#) project in 113 countries and jurisdictions.

These developments are bearing fruit, with billions of additional dollars of tax revenue resulting from voluntary compliance mechanisms and off-shore investigations. This additional revenue can help countries to mobilise more resources domestically in support of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals - resources that are very much needed.

While there is considerable positive momentum, last year's Panama Papers revelations also remind us that much more can be done to tackle tax avoidance and evasion. Work on the international tax agenda has become more inclusive in recent years and has demonstrated the power of multilateral co-operation to deliver global solutions to global problems. Continued political leadership and advocacy will be vital.

» [read more on TIWB.org](#)

By the numbers...

- 3 South-South programmes
- 8 Partner Administrations
- 26 current programmes
- 40 roster experts
- 100 programmes by 2020
- 328M USD in increased tax revenues to date

TIWB Objective = 100 Deployments



Experts Roundtable & Stakeholders Workshop

TIWB hosted an international tax experts roundtable and stakeholders workshop in November 2017 in Paris. Tax experts from all over the world shared their experiences, discussed some of the challenges and reflected on how to better support developing country tax administrations to build their tax audit capacity to increase domestic revenues in support of the SDGs.

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Announcements

- UNDP Administrator, Mr. Achim Steiner has replaced Ms. Helen Clark as Co-chair of the [TIWB Governing Board](#). Mrs. Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (Netherlands), has replaced former Governing Board member, Mrs. Lilianne Ploumen.
- TIWB hosted, « [Diamonds: Uncut. The Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Challenges](#) » as part of the [Platform for Collaboration on Tax](#) conference at UN Headquarters in New York on 15 February 2018.
- Radha Kulkarni represented TIWB at the [Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation's](#) engagement workshop (19 - 20 March 2018) and the [Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development](#) (21 - 23 March 2018) held in Bonn, Germany.
- Dr. Amna Khalifa will participate in and present TIWB programmes at the German Tax Forum (23 - 26 April 2018) being held in Thüringen, Germany, organised by the [Federal Central Tax Office](#) under the German Federal Ministry of Finance.

TIWB provides impetus to implementation of transfer pricing law in Jamaica

Jamaica, a small island country in the Caribbean is well-known (and loved) for its music, pristine beaches and waters. Beyond tourism, the economy is heavily reliant on sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and forestry, metals and mining (bauxite/alumina). With high debt levels - amongst the highest in the Caribbean at 122.8 percent of GDP (World Bank, 2016), domestic resource mobilisation has been identified as a key policy priority for the country. In 2012, Jamaica embarked on an [Economic Reform Programme](#). Some of the key components include improving Jamaica's tax policy, tax legislation and tax administration processes. Through this process, Jamaica seeks to create a more equitable tax environment. Tax-to-GDP ratio improved to 26.1 percent (World Bank, 2016) and remains relatively stable.

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UNDP Country Office Spotlight: Uganda

“Harnessing Domestic Resources through Improved Tax Compliance by Multinational Companies”

To support domestic resource mobilisation, the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), in partnership with the OECD and the World Bank Group (WBG) has, since early 2016, been providing to Uganda a technical assistance programme on international tax issues. To complement that technical assistance, TIWB has partnered with UNDP Uganda in supporting a tax audit capacity building programme for the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) implemented jointly by TIWB (facilitated by ATAF) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The programme is running a series of capacity building missions in international tax audits, with each organisation providing a specialised audit expert to provide hands-on training in transfer pricing audits of multinational companies. These experts bring a mix of experiences from South Africa and Australia.

There is an urgent need to mobilise more resources for service delivery and respond to the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) calling on governments to mobilise domestic resources for development. UNDP Uganda, through its inclusive and effective governance portfolio, partnered with TIWB through a commitment letter to build URA's capacity in transfer pricing audits.

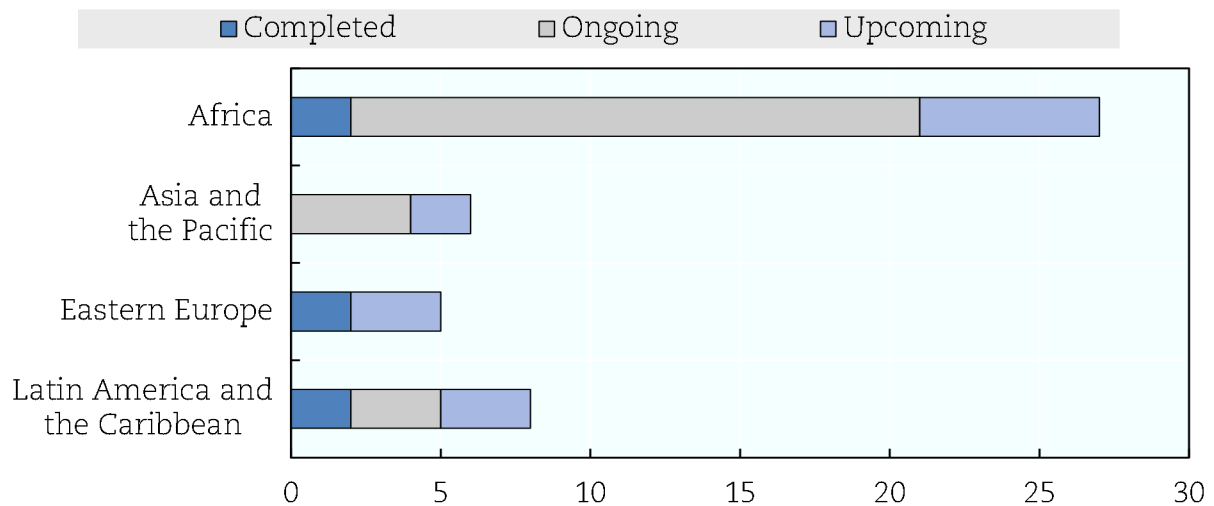
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Recommended Reading

- » [Enhancing the Effectiveness of External Support in Building Tax Capacity in Developing Countries](#)
- » [Handbook on Selected Issues in Protecting the Tax Base of Developing Countries](#)
- » [Transfer Pricing Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and Tax Administrations 2017](#)
- » [Practical Manual on Transfer Pricing for Developing Countries](#)
- » [Report on the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#)
- » [Toolkit for Addressing Difficulties in Accessing Comparables Data for Transfer Pricing Analyses](#)

Regional Distribution of TIWB programmes

TIWB aims to maintain a regional balance in the support it provides through its [global programmes](#). The graph below highlights the number and status of TIWB programmes by region.



Reflections by Bob Hamilton, TIWB Governing Board member



Q: Please tell us more about Canada's role in TIWB

A: As with many of my [Forum on Tax Administration](#) (FTA) counterparts, Canada continues to explore effective ways to support the important work of TIWB and ensure the objectives of the initiative are achieved. There is great value in peer-to-peer assistance—tax inspectors in one jurisdiction helping tax inspectors in another—which is the hallmark of TIWB. For the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) specifically, we anticipate that our recently retired audit experts can serve as a key resource to assist other countries under TIWB.

As you may know, Canada is very supportive of this initiative and has been since its inception. In fact, TIWB will soon launch a Community of Practice on the Knowledge Sharing Platform — an online tool for sharing tax knowledge and expertise among tax administrations around the world.

[» read more on TIWB.org](#)

“One of the most rewarding aspects of the job is getting to know the local team and seeing their confidence, knowledge and capabilities increase from one visit to the next.”

Chris Brolly, TIWB Expert for Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) deployed in Ethiopia



Press Articles

- OCDE : pour une industrialisation «propre» de l'Afrique (11 Nov 2017)
- Fraude fiscale: comment l'OCDE récupère des millions dans les pays en développement (22 Nov 2017)
- UNDP Blog: Taxing multinationals is pivotal to finance development (13 Dec 2017)
- International Tax Review: Global Tax 50 (13 Dec 2017)