

African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF)

AGENDA

MAY 25, 2015

VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

BY:
GORAN TODOROV

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| ORGANIZER | ATAF, Executive Secretary, Logan Worth |
| DELEGATES | Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Niger, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Benin, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal, Sweden |
| HOST | ZIMRA, Commissioner General, Gerhem Pasi |
| SPONSORS | AVATAR-DTI / SAP / TWENTY THIRD CENTURY SYSTEMS / EOH / MICROSOFT / ORACLE / INSPUR and RIGHTLUX (from China) / DEXEL / AFRICOM / CSG INTERNATIONAL |

Sessions held on 20, 21 and 22 May

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| SESSION 1 (DAY 1) | <p>LEVERAGING GLOBAL ICT TRENDS TO ENHANCE MODERNISATION OF AFRICAN TAX ADMINS. Chairperson (WCO) Discussants (SARS, Swedish Tax Agency, GIZ) <i>Africa does not have to re-invent the wheel. It is heading where others have been and are striving to improve upon. Industrialised nations have led the way in adoption of modern technology in their day-to-day operations including tax administration. Their perspective on the modernisation path can illuminate the path for their African counterparts who have decided to chart the same course. This session will delve on global ICT initiatives with a bias on those applicable in the African context.</i></p> |
| SESSION 2 (DAY 1) | <p>ESTABLISHING AN INTERGRATED REVENUE COLLECTION PLATFORM: A COUNTRY PERSPECTIVE Chairperson (Zimbabwe) Discussants (Kenya, Botswana, Mauritius, SAP) <i>A number of African tax administrations are in charge of a multiplicity of revenue streams and functions. Specifically Domestic Taxes and Customs operations have been paired under the same roof for a number of administrations. In addition for efficiency, more functions have increasingly come under the ambit of respective administrations. Due to inevitable dependency, there is need for all such functions to be interlinked for effectiveness. This calls for running them on a unified platform. This session will explore available integration options based on country experiences.</i></p> |
| SESSION 3 (DAY 2) | <p>EXCISE TAXATION: USING TECHNOLOGY TO MITIGATE CHALLENGES OF TAX EVASION AND DIVERSION OF EXPORT PRODUCTS. Chairperson (Swaziland) Keynote Address (Africom AND Techno Brain, Togo, Kenya, Zambia) <i>Diversion of export products to domestic use is a common challenge among tax administrations. It not only denies the government revenue, but also puts genuine local traders in similar products at a competitive disadvantage. Several countries have adopted effective means of tracking export products from production up to the time they exit the respective jurisdictions. This session will explore technologies available to deter such illicit activities.</i></p> |
| SESSION 4 (DAY 2) | <p>ELECTRONIC RETURNS FILLING, PAYMENT AND INVOICING: NEW FRONTIER OF GROWTH Chairperson (Togo) Discussants (Senegal, South Africa, Rwanda, Mozambique, Inspur) <i>Online services, provide a host of self-service opportunities to taxpayers. Among the areas that benefit include; returns filing, self-assessment, payment and accessing account status among others. Furthermore, tax administrations can keep real time track of VAT payment through fiscalisation. In addition it would be possible to analyse trends and forecast revenue. Participants will share views on opportunities presented by electronic services as a critical area of growth</i></p> |
| SESSION 5 (DAY 2) | <p>MOBILE MONEY SYSTEMS & TELECOMMS TAXATION Chairperson (Madagascar) Discussants (CSG, Mauritius, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe) <i>The challenge for Tax Authorities is to validate the accuracy of returns and monitoring of the taxes generated from mobile transactions and telecoms. Tax Authorities require data analytical systems for interrogating data from the telecoms systems.</i></p> |
| SESSION 6 | <p>ICT GOVERNANCE: CHALLENGES AND RISKS OF AUTOMATION IN TAX ADMINISTRATIONS Chairperson (Ghana)</p> |

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| (DAY 2) | <p>Discussants (Botswana, Liberia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Microsoft) <i>Automation comes with risks and challenges which may be both human and technical. A glaring challenge is ICT security. Tax administrations are custodians of data critical to national security, individual taxpayers and corporations. These challenges if not addressed would make use of ICT counterproductive. Tax administrations therefore ought to put in place pragmatic ICT governance structures in mitigation.</i></p> |
| SESSION 7 (DAY 3) | <p>CUSTOMS AUTOMATION: OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENUE ENHANCEMENT AND TRADE FACILITATION Chairperson (WCO) Discussions (Uganda, Korea Customs, Ghana, Nepal) <i>Customs function provides the link with the global community through trade facilitation, border protection and revenue collection. Customs operations globally have been standardised through interventions of World Customs Organisation. There is thus a more elaborate web of interlinkage between customs functions world-wide. Success stories in automation from respective jurisdictions in Africa and beyond, provide a good benchmarking opportunity among administrations. The session will also look at modalities of linking customs systems and those of domestic taxes while focussing on areas requiring critical attention.</i></p> |
| SESSION 8 (DAY 3) | <p>RISK MANAGEMENT: USING TECHNOLOGY FOR RISK INTERVENTIONS Chairperson (Malawi) Discussants (AVATAR-DTI, Nepal, Lesotho) <i>Due to resource constraints, revenue collection and protection interventions have to be based on risk profiling. Technology can play a key role in supporting business intelligence as it is more agile and accurate compared to human intervention. Proper use of technology in risk profiling is likely to yield better results. The session will also explore the opportunities and challenges of using ICT for risk interventions.</i></p> |
| SESSION 9 (DAY 3) | <p>THE ROLE OF THIRD PARTY DATA IN TAX ADMINISTRATION Chairperson (Mozambique) Discussants (Zimbabwe, South Africa, Benin, Niger) <i>In discharging their mandate, tax administrations often have to rely on information from third parties. Some of these parties are significantly computerised. Convenient access to information they hold would enhance efficiency of tax administrations. This calls for electronic links to be established with relevant third parties. Further, appropriate infrastructure and legal framework would be needed to facilitate information access and data movement.</i></p> |
| SESSION 10 (DAY 3) | <p>WAY FORWARD FOR AUTOMATION IN TAX ADMINISTRATIONS Heads of Administrations <i>A high-level summary will be given of the key outputs of the conference.</i> CLOSING REMARKS Executive Secretary ATAF, Mr. Logan Wort CLOSING REMARKS Chairman ATAF and Commissioner General ZIMRA, Mr. Gershem Pasi</p> |