Asia Tax Forum
Measuring progress towards creating competitive tax rules

May 9-10, 2012 – Raffles, Singapore

Why attend?
• Meet your peers to share experiences on opportunities and obstacles in tax work
• Learn about the latest developments in tax regionally and internationally
• Find out about how to manage tax risks in Asia now
• Hear about where tax officials will be focusing their efforts in administration in 2012
• Understand how performance management can help your tax department to work better and smarter
• Increase your knowledge about topics such as dispute resolution, tax aspects of FDI and transfer pricing

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The economic slowdown has put the focus on the requirement for sustainable growth and competitive tax systems to ensure future prosperity. Commentators argue over whether spending cuts should be sharp to reduce debt as quickly as possible before strategies for growth are applied, or more gradual and be used alongside tools to revive economies.

What is not in dispute is the need for an economy to raise the required amount of revenue through taxation while making sure the tax system is competitive enough to attract investment.

Join taxpayers, officials and advisers in Singapore at International Tax Review’s seventh annual Asia Tax Forum in May to discuss pressing tax issues in the region and around the world. The two-day conference presents the ideal opportunity for tax executives to meet peers and administrators to exchange ideas and to understand and learn about the management and practice of tax in Asia.
Day 2 - Thursday 10th May

08.15 Registration and breakfast

08.55 Chairman’s opening remarks

Ralph Cunningham, Managing Editor, International Tax Review

09.00 INDIA: Lessons from a reforming tax system

- Direct taxes changes: what the 2012 budget has put in place
- The progress towards a new GST system: when can we expect tangible results?
- What Vodafone has taught us about the official approach to indirect transfers
- The implications for taxpayers of the introduction of IFRS
- Engagement with the OECD: what it means for tax practice in India
- Key rulings from the tribunals and the courts e.g. Sanofi, Rolls-Royce; Samsung

R Mani, Tax Director, Tata Steel
Rabi Dash, Former Director General, International Tax, Indian Government
Gagan Malik, Partner, International Tax Services, Ernst & Young
Andy Baik, Partner, International Tax Services Leader, Far East Region, Ernst & Young

10.15 Tea and coffee

10.45 INTERNATIONAL TAX DEVELOPMENTS: The cross-border issues making a difference

- What hope for tax reform in the US?
- OECD developments: beneficial ownership, PE, intangibles
- 2011 Update to the UN Model Treaty & Commentary
- FATCA – It’s getting closer. What taxpayers need to know
- Recent international tax cases: the global top 10

Steve Towers, Asia Pacific Leader – International Tax, Deloitte, Singapore
David Weisner, US Tax Counsel, Citigroup
Kristy Ton, Director of Tax, Asia, Corning

12.00 Address by Tax Academy of Singapore

12.15 Lunch

1.15 DISPUTE RESOLUTION: How to avoid; how to settle

- Appeals mechanisms in Asia-Pacific: are they working?
- How to prepare if you are caught in a dispute
- When a settlement is the best option
- Tactics for jurisdictions where litigation is most likely
- Lessons from key cases throughout the region: e.g. Hong Kong cases of Li & Fung, CG Lighting and Nice Cheer Investment Limited; Singapore’s first section 33 case

Mukesh Butani, CEO, Taxand India (moderator)
Michael Palumbo, Asia Pacific Tax Director, Baker Hughes
Leon Kwong Wing, Partner, Taxand Singapore
Eugene Gay, Head of Tax, Asia Pacific, GlaxoSmithKline

2.30 Tea and coffee

2.45 How you can improve effectiveness of your tax operations with technology

- Changing role of tax professionals – Leveraging technology to grow beyond compliance and take on strategic value-adding activities
- Achieving accurate, seamless compliance across constantly changing tax environments
- Effectively manage global tax reporting challenges
- Case studies – Transfer pricing, indirect tax technology implementations
- Developing your tax technology roadmap for business success

Ralph Cunningham, Managing Editor, International Tax Review (moderator)
Charlotte Rushton, Managing Director, Asia Pacific, Thomson Reuters Tax & Accounting, Singapore
Robert Lider, Executive Director, Asia Corporate Tax, JP Morgan Chase
Jeff Cozzo, New Business Relationships, ktMINE

4.00 INDIRECT TAX: The challenges in overhauling old systems and putting in new ones

- Further developments on plans for new indirect taxes
- Indirect tax issues and opportunities for the financial services industry
- Transactional taxes in Asia-Pacific and Japan
- Transfer pricing and Customs valuation
- What to watch out for in anti-avoidance strategies
- GST compliance in Singapore: the Assisted Compliance Assurance Programme

Lam Kok Shang, Partner and Head of Indirect Tax, KPMG Singapore (moderator)
Gan Hwee Leng, Tax Partner, KPMG Singapore
Huay Min CHIA-TERN, Deputy Commissioner (GST & Property Group), Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore
Greta Chan, Asia Pacific & Japan Indirect Taxes Manager, IBM Corporation
Kik Hyung, Program Manager, ACVA (Advanced Customs Valuation for transfer pricing), Korea Customs Service

5.15 Chairman’s closing summary

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Raffles Hotel, established in 1887, has over the years gained international recognition as a traveller’s paradise and is consistently heralded as one of the world’s top hotels. Raffles Hotel’s unique charm lies in the harmonious blend of timeless elegance, classical architecture and extensive tropical gardens with outstanding contemporary amenities.

In 1989, Raffles Hotel closed for two and a half years for complete restoration. The restored Raffles Hotel features 103 suites, each tastefully appointed with period furnishings and modern convenience to cater to every discerning traveller. The Hotel features 15 distinctive restaurants and bars and the adjoining Raffles Hotel Arcade houses over 40 international and regional specialty stores.

Raffles Singapore
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REGISTRATION FEE: The registration fee includes participation in the conference, lunches, coffee breaks, documentation material, which will be distributed at the beginning of the event and a cocktail reception at the end of day one. All bookings are binding on receipt of the booking form.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION: Delegates are responsible for the arrangement and payment of their own travel and accommodation.