



AFGHANISTAN	LIBYA
EGYPT	SUDAN
IRAQ	SYRIA
JORDAN	WBG
LEBANON	YEMEN

Study Mission for Afghan Officials to the Tax Department in Beirut

From September 17 to 20, 2012 METAC organized a study mission in Beirut for a high-level delegation from the Afghanistan Revenue Department (ARD), Ministry of Finance, comprising senior officials from the tax and customs departments. The Government of Afghanistan had committed to introduce VAT in March 2014. The purpose of the study mission was to enable senior ARD representatives to benefit from Lebanon Tax Department's experience and expertise in Value Added Tax (VAT) administration pre, during and post implementation. It was designed to support Ministry of Finance's capacity building required for the preparation and introduction of VAT in Afghanistan.

Islamic Sukuk Workshop in Jordan



METAC organized a regional workshop on "Sukuk, Developing Government Securities under Islamic Finance" in Amman from September 23 to 25, 2012. Gathering 27 officials from METAC and non-METAC countries, the workshop covered the key Islamic Finance principles, Sukuk issuance process under the existing assets model and the new assets model, the legal and regulatory environment, case studies from different countries and the impact of active Sukuk market on economic and financial development. The workshop also provided a great opportunity to share experiences and best practices in Sukuk.

The workshop was led by Mr. Ghiath Shabsigh, Assistant Director of the IMF's Money and Capital Market Department, Ms. Nelly Batchoun, METAC Resident Advisor in Debt Management, Mr. Ayman A. Khaleq, METAC short-term expert, and Mr. Hatem Ghouma from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

Producer Price Index in Sudan

As a follow-up to the April 2012 IMF mission, Mr. Adnan Badran, METAC short-term expert visited Khartoum, from September 2 to 13, 2012 to assist the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) with the finalization of the Producer Price Index (PPI) for Sudan, and in particular, in calculating weights at product level and in selecting products that broadly represent the total value of production for each selected industry. Based on a system developed by the mission, a preliminary quarterly PPI was calculated and validated. The CBS intends to release officially the PPI in October 2012.

Capacity Building in Jordan

METAC organized a mission in Amman from September 2 to 13, 2012 to provide the staff of the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Jordan with hands-on training and capacity building in debt sustainability model to formulate a debt strategy that is both cost-effective and sustainable. The mission was led by Ms. Nelly Batchoun, METAC Debt Management Advisor, and Mr. Per-Olof Jönsson, METAC short-term expert. A simple cost and risk model was developed that could be used to analyze different borrowing options and provide guidelines for a debt management strategy.

Macro Fiscal Unit Mission in Lebanon

METAC organized a mission in Beirut from September 24 to 28, 2012 to strengthen the Macro Fiscal Unit (MFU) at the Ministry of Finance. The mission was led by Mr. Jacques Charaoui, METAC Public Financial Management Advisor, and Mr. Amgad Hegazy, METAC short-term expert. The mission conducted an on-site workshop to strengthen the capacity of the MFU staff; assessed the MFU structure, organization and output; reviewed the existing reports and proposed enhancements; and shared lessons from the experience of the establishment of the relatively successful Egyptian MFU. The mission recommended a set of measures to strengthen the work of the MFU.

METAC Annual Report

METAC's Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 (May 2011 to April 2012) was published this month. The report describes METAC's technical assistance and training activities, key achievements and the main features of the work plan for FY 2013. This year's report dedicated a section to Results-Based Management (RBM) framework and an overall strategic regional log frame for FY13-15. The report will be available shortly on the website at

www.imfmetac.org

