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Capability Assessment Program Mission in Libya

METAC Revenue Administration Advisor, Ms. Manal Assir, participated in a Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) led mission to Libya from September 28 to October 6, 2013. The objective of the mission was to conduct a capability assessment for the Ministry of Finance (MoF) under the Capability Assessment Program (CAP), providing the authorities with an evaluation of the MoF's capacity to carry out, and coordinate between, its core functions in the areas of Public Finance Management (PFM), Tax Policy (TP), and Revenue Administration (RA). After reviewing the resources available to the MoF in each functional area, the assessment identified a number of issues and gaps that need to be addressed to strengthen expenditure management and enhance revenue collection in the near term and promote fiscal stability and economic development in the long term. Action plans for each functional area were developed, and discussed with the MoF at the conclusion of the mission. The CAP also included technical assistance (TA) and training plans that would help the authorities with implementing key reform measures over the next four years.

Officials from the Yemen Tax Authority visit Lebanon

From September 23 to 27, 2013, Ms. Manal Assir, METAC Revenue Administration Advisor, organized a study mission in Beirut for a high-level delegation from the Yemen Tax Authority (YTA), comprising six senior officials. The main purpose of the study mission was to enable senior YTA representatives to benefit from Lebanon's Tax Department's experience and expertise in administering Income Tax and Value Added Tax (VAT) with particular focus on computerized tax administration business processes and risk-based compliance and enforcement schemes.

During the visit, YTA delegates were provided with a complete perspective on key tax administration topics and had the opportunity to examine particular implementation issues.

Farewell to Rachid Awad



Mr. Rachid Awad, METAC Banking Supervision Advisor for the past two and a half years, accepted an offer to join the International Monetary Fund, Monetary and Capital Markets Department in Washington D.C. as a senior financial sector expert.

Mr. Awad served METAC membership with devotion and worked diligently to achieve results on the ground. His work has been highly appreciated by beneficiary institutions in METAC countries. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude for Rachid's work during his tenure with METAC and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Cash Management Mission in Lebanon

A METAC mission took place in Beirut, this month to provide TA and training to the Cash Management Department (CMD) at the Ministry of Finance, and take stock of progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2009 METAC TA missions.

The mission comprised Mr. Mike Williams, METAC Short-term Expert, and Mr. Jacques Charaoui, METAC Public Financial Management Advisor.

The mission (i) provided specific recommendations to strengthen internal coordination between the different departments involved in cash management; (ii) assisted the CMD in improving the cash flow forecasts, identifying possible policy responses to cash flow fluctuations; (iii) reviewed the reports produced by the CMD and suggested some enhancements; and (iv) proposed an action plan to move towards a full-fledged Treasury Single Account, and a further reduction on the number of bank accounts.

