



RECIPIENT COUNTRIES	
AFGHANISTAN	LIBYA
EGYPT	SUDAN
IRAQ	SYRIA
JORDAN	WBG
LEBANON	YEMEN

Study Tour on VAT Implementation for the Afghanistan Revenue Department in Lebanon



METAC organized, in conjunction with the Lebanon Value-Added Tax (VAT) Directorate, a study tour on VAT Implementation for the Afghanistan Revenue Department (ARD) in Beirut, Lebanon from September 8 to 12, 2014. A total of 23 delegates from Afghanistan participated in the exercise, including management and technical staff who will be responsible for introducing the tax later this year.

The study tour program included a broad range of VAT implementation issues including communication and taxpayer readiness, registration and compliance management and automated systems, as well as examining problems likely to be faced in the transitional phase while the VAT is being introduced.

The presentation team included senior personnel, who were involved in the launch of VAT in Lebanon in 2002, and much value was placed on the experience and personal insights they were able to share with their Afghan counterparts.

Following the study tour, METAC is continuing to engage actively with the ARD to identify additional inputs that it can provide to support the successful introduction of this important new revenue instrument.

Support for the Introduction of VAT in Egypt

Following a request from the ministry of finance and the Egyptian Tax Authority, Mr. Charles Jenkins, METAC revenue administration advisor, joined an International Monetary Fund headquarters mission from August 31 to September 4, 2014 to review the progress made with preparations to introduce VAT in Egypt. As a result of this mission METAC is in active discussions with the Egyptian authorities regarding the provision of additional support in the period leading up to the launch of the VAT.

Develop Supervisory Colleges in Jordan

In response to a request from the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), METAC organized a banking supervision mission from September 21 to 25, 2014. The mission comprised Mr. Ahmad El Radi, METAC banking supervision advisor, and Mr. Ian Tower, METAC short-term banking supervision expert. The mission assisted the CBJ in establishing supervisory colleges' framework. After reviewing the composition and structure of the banking sector in Jordan and the need to closely monitor Jordanian banks off-shore activities and enhance cross-border supervision, the mission provided advice regarding the appropriate college structure that the CBJ could adopt in order to meet its needs as well as those of the host supervisors.

External Sector Statistics Mission in Egypt

In response to a request from the General Authority for Investment (GAFI) of Egypt and as part of METAC work plan, Mr. Malik Bani Hani, METAC external sector statistics advisor, conducted a mission in Cairo, from September 21 to 25, 2014. The mission assessed progress on the direct investment (DI) survey, its methodology and its adherence to the balance of payments and international investment position manual, sixth edition (BPM6), and its coverage. The mission also reviewed the preliminary results of the DI positions in Egypt, and performed data validation.

Upcoming Regional Workshop

METAC is organizing a three-day workshop during October 21 to 23, 2014, in Lebanon. The workshop is targeted to mid and senior-level officials of the balance of payments and international investment positions statistics compilers, and will focus on improving the quality and coverage of external sector statistics. It will address data consistency issues across external sector datasets, as well as with related datasets.

