

2008

OECD Conference on Tax Administration

Pretoria, 7 January 2008 - South Africa this week hosts the fourth meeting of the Forum on Tax Administrators (FTA) in Cape Town at the Grand Westin hotel (formerly the Arabella Sheraton) from 10 to 11 January 2008.

The FTA, a forum of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), seeks to provide strategic direction and leadership support for revenue and customs administration across the world. FTA meetings which take place about every 18 months, represent the most significant assembly of heads of revenue and customs from over 100 countries. Among those attending will be heads of the UK, Australia, Sweden, Canada, Ireland, Chile, France, Singapore and US tax authorities.

The FTA meeting will focus on improving compliance through risk management and enhanced relationships. At the last FTA meeting in Seoul, it was agreed that tax administrations needed to adapt to the changing global environment of transnational business operations and, international markets aided by new information technology. The discussion will explore ways of collaborating to address new avenues of tax evasion that pose a threat to government social security and country development programmes.

There will also be a special session attended by key international corporate leaders to present their views on global trends in business and wealth management. The panelists include Anita Fung of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation; Chris Lucas, Global CFO of Barclays, Gill Marcus, Chair of ABSA; Phuthuma Nhleko, CEO of MTN SA; Saroj Poddar of Gillete India and Mike Rake of British Telecom.

This is the first time the meeting will be held in Africa. A special session will be devoted to Governance and capacity building for tax administrations in Africa with the idea of creating a North South partnership to assist this process. Improved revenue collection forms a key feature of economic self reliance for African countries.

The meeting will be opened by Finance Minister, Mr. Trevor A. Manuel, MP. The opening plenary will also be addressed by Commissioner Pravin Gordhan and OECD Deputy Secretary General Mr Pier Carlo Padoan. The media are invited to attend this session scheduled for 9h00.

The meeting will conclude with a press conference and media interviews can be arranged with selected conference delegates on request.