



AUSTRALIA

Country Correspondent

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The FTA JITSIC Network [CATA article]

As vice-Chair of the OECD's Forum on Tax Administration (FTA), Australia's Tax Commissioner Chris Jordan, has taken on a leading role to revitalise the Joint International Tax Shelter Information & Collaboration (JITSIC) Network. The purpose of the new FTA JITSIC Network ('the Network') is to broaden the reach of JITSIC to all FTA member countries and create a wider-reaching platform to address global tax risks.

As a result, the Network has garnered significant interest with 29 FTA Member countries making a commitment to the Network and nominating a *Single Point of Contact*. These *Single Points of Contact* will act as the gateways for cross-jurisdiction cooperation and coordination of activity in their participating country.

Establishing projects for the Network

The Network will continue to establish collaborative projects that deal with industry or taxpayer risks.

The former JITSIC's project on the 'Digital Economy', is an example how a collaborative project approach can be beneficial for a number of jurisdictions. This project focuses around the tax risk arising from multinational enterprises in the digital space. After the sharing of risk profiles and other intelligence, each country used domestic information powers to establish key facts and issues. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom produced position papers which led to negotiated settlement on behalf of all project members and resulted in a large apportionment of profits being moved out of low tax-rate jurisdictions and into normal tax-rate jurisdictions.

An example of a new project the FTA JITSIC Network has initiated, which is being led by Australia, is around 'Offshore Disclosure Voluntary Initiatives'. Using Australia's *Project DO IT* and other similar initiatives across Project Member jurisdictions, the project will work collaboratively to establish a broader global

intelligence, understanding of shared risks and will further allow cross-jurisdictional sharing of best practice on disclosure initiatives.

Moving forward

With its Network members, the FTA JITSIC will continue to further encourage project participation and collaboration.

FTA member countries that are not yet part of the Network are encouraged to be part of the expanding FTA JITSIC Network by contacting the FTA Secretariat.