

INDIRECT TAXES

Communication, communication, communication

The Indirect Taxes PG is weaving a world wide web

By Steve McCrindle

In issue No. 84, July 2016, Insider, Pages 25 and 26, I outlined our vision for the Indirect Taxes Practice Group (PG). I would like to share with you some great news about what we have achieved.

1. Structure

We now have a foothold with Indirect Taxes regional representatives in all five GGI Regions, as follows:

Asia-Pacific – Robert Yam (Robert Yam & Co, Singapore)

MEA – Graeme Saggars (Nolands, RSA)

North America – Pablo Garciga (Funaro & Co, USA)

Latin America – Carlos Vargas (VAG Peru)

Europe – Toon Hasselman (European Regional Chair), and Andrea Angheludu (Comma 10, Italy) and Raluca Tutu (Mirus Group, Romania) – (European Regional Vice-Chairs)

We will be adding further to the expansion of our regional presence and indeed, we have positive interest from another member in the Asia-Pacific Region.

After the World Conference (Bangkok, Thailand) next month, we will devote attention to putting in place the planned Editorial Board, which will be responsible for producing or editing all technical content for the PG, whether for onward submission for GGI publications, presentations at GGI or ITPG events, or internal technical communications within the PG. We are seeking these specialists now, no matter what their location.



Steve McCrindle



Toon Hasselman

2. Activity

With the World Conference almost upon us, it is timely to let you know that we will be running an Indirect Taxes PG session there.

The main element of our session will flow from a guest speaker from the world of international logistics. Peter Emblin of host Firm and GGI member MBMG has asked Roy Tan of Thailand based Crane Worldwide Logistics (Thailand) Co., Ltd, the SE Asia arm of Crane Worldwide a multi-billion US dollar business, to present an overview of Cranes activities and how it 'bumps' into Indirect tax 'obstacles' along the way. He's already told Toon and me one funny story, and I am trusting and sure he has many more with which to punctuate his presentation. We will then explore some of the synergies between Roy's business and Indirect taxes. And of course, there will be more

technical delights to savour.

We are hoping you will all join us, not least for the drinks, nibbles and good company towards the end of the session, where you will have the opportunity of talking to Roy, and chat to the Indirect taxes community about any matters of specific interest to you.

3. Communication

To add to the aforementioned article in Insider issue No. 84, we have produced an Indirect Taxes Newsletter with 12 articles, which, as I write is with GGI for final proofing prior to issue. It should be with you shortly. Given the location of the forthcoming World Conference, I asked Bangkok based Peter Emblin if he could organise the lead article on an Indirect taxes issue(s) of local interest. The article will certainly give you a better idea of Indirect taxes in Thailand and how they are policed.

Readers will also see from Pablo Garcia's article that the USA is grappling with 'place of supply/taxation' issues in the SALT arena (sales and local taxes), similar to those experienced in the EU and other VAT/HST/GST jurisdictions. It is an excellently crafted article.

There are many good and topical articles from 4 of our 5 Regions and I commend their reading to you. We will seek to make the Indirect Taxes Newsletter a regular publication.

Website

I mentioned in my previous Insider article that we are also looking at developing our own website/community. Toon Hasselman has been busy with this project and reports as follows:

"The brain storm for an Indirect Taxes PG website is still in full progress, but some decisions have already been made. The website's front end will be client driven (marketing) and the back end will be focused on building a GGI indirect tax community (communication between PG members). On the content side, we have adopted the idea put forward by Raluca Tutu of having indirect tax information for each country to be presented in a compact format (a 'page'). Our current thinking is that this 'page' can be adopted for a fee per member Firm, who will be responsible for keeping the page up to date and for

providing news items. The participating member(s) will be fully presented on the page. Members from the same country that are active PG members will be shown in the general overview of participating members per country. The fee will fund the running costs of the website and is as yet to be determined, but is not expected to be onerous. It is anticipated that the website will also have additional features, such as an event calendar, a chatbox facility for website visitors. Also under consideration are trending topics, news flashes, rolling news banner, newsletters (both for the PG and technical ones), blog options, links with social media... We would also like to have theme options, e.g. e-services indirect tax consequences worldwide e.g. EU VAT, US SALT and Australian GST. The goal of the website is to exchange information between indirect tax specialist and interested parties (also between those that cannot come to events) and to show that we have a global Indirect Tax PG of substance that assists clients and GGI member Firms worldwide. Ultimately, we aim to produce quality work opportunities and referrals for participating GGI members."

In conclusion, Toon and I are working hard to build an active Indirect Taxes PG of substance that is truly global and produces quality work opportunities and referrals for participating GGI members. We have a good foothold for

our structure in all regions, but still need volunteers in all regions (except Europe) for, either, Regional Chairs or Vice-Chairs and as mentioned, volunteers, irrespective of their location, for our Editorial Board. Those interested in being part of something exciting should contact either myself or Toon. Likewise, if you are interested in assisting with our work on developing a website/community, you should contact Toon or myself.

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more than 60 offices throughout the UK

Steve McCrindle, Global Chair
Indirect Taxes Practice Group
E: smccrindle@hwca.com
W: www.hwca.com

GGI member firm

Limes International tax + expat

Advisory, Fiduciary & Estate Planning, Tax

Valkenburg ZH, The Netherlands
Toon Hasselman, Global Vice Chair
Indirect Taxes Practice Group
E: toon@limes-int.com
W: www.limes-int.com