

15 May 2008

INTERNATIONAL FISCAL ASSOCIATION (IFA) SECOND ASIA/AFRICA IFA CONFERENCE 8TH AND 9TH MAY 2008

Conference Theme: IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL TAXATION ON CROSS BORDER TRADE AND INVESTMENTS

On 8 and 9 May 2008, the second Asia/Africa IFA conference took place in Mauritius where tax professionals and financial adviser from Asia and Africa had the opportunity to network and share experiences.

This gathering brought together high calibre delegates including tax advisers who increasingly influence decision making in cross border business restructuring. It was a great opportunity to promote Mauritius to the delegates as an IFC and reinforce our relationship with IFA and other tax professionals locally.

Kamal Burun, Tax Manager, Global Business HSBC MAR was amongst the guest speakers. His speech was based on "**New Focus on Transparency and Confidentiality**". Commenting on the conference, Kamal said: "Over the last 18 months we have been the leading bank in the global sector in the country, seeking to increase business flows through Mauritius. The IFA conference, with its high calibre of speakers and delegates from Africa and Asia, will help reinforce the country's position as a growing international financial centre. HSBC is pleased to be associated with this event."

Interviewed on Business Watch Africa, Blair Harden, Head Global Business, HSBC Bank (Mauritius) Limited said: "Increasingly, African countries are attracting interest from developed and emerging economies including India and China, who need to access new raw materials sources to sustain their own development. With its strategic location, Mauritius is positioning itself as the preferred international financial centre for these investments."

The Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Rama Sithanen addressed a message to the attendees.

Welcoming the delegates at the IFA conference, the Minister said: "I would like to congratulate the Mauritian Branch of the International Fiscal Association (IFA) for holding this conference. The IFA can certainly play a major role to help promote a better understanding of international taxation and its incidence on cross border trade and investment since it has a wide network of 11,500 knowledgeable members, intellectual resources and institutions in 102 countries across the globe."

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Commenting on the growth of the global business sector in Mauritius, the Minister said: “Since the creation of the Offshore Financial Centre in 1992, Mauritius has smoothly paved its way for integration into the international financial system and the global economy. The liberalization of international financial markets, a flexible operational and legal environment and an attractive tax regime, have contributed to the development of Mauritius into an important financial centre in the region.”

<http://www.ifa.nl/index.htm>

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