

## chapter 13

# The 5<sup>th</sup> Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Forum

### Mega Event in the International Tax Community

The Department hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Forum (BRITACOF) at the AsiaWorld-Expo from 24 to 26 September 2024. This marked a significant milestone as it was the first time Hong Kong staged this prestigious event in the international tax community. As the largest international tax event organized by the Department, the 5<sup>th</sup> BRITACOF was also featured on Hong Kong's 2024 Calendar of Mega Events.



The Forum attracted approximately 500 delegates, including tax officials, experts and representatives from international organisations, academic institutions and business enterprises across 50 countries and regions. Participants gathered to discuss emerging tax issues and share insights on tax administration. Distinguished officiating guests included the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee and the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui. The Chief Executive delivered the welcome address at the opening ceremony, and formally inaugurating the Forum.

The 5<sup>th</sup> BRITACOF, themed “Deepening Tax Administration Cooperation for High-Quality Belt and Road Development”, featured in-depth discussions on five key topics: raising tax certainty, promoting tax administration digitalisation, improving tax environment, reinforcing capacity building of tax administration and optimising tax administration measures in the financial sector. A dedicated Business and Industry Dialogue session fostered interactive communication among tax officials and stakeholders from business and industrial sectors. The then Deputy Commissioner, Mr Benjamin Chan, delivered keynote speeches and participated in the panel discussions, sharing Hong Kong’s practices and experiences, and served as moderator for the session on optimizing tax administration in the financial sector.



### *Fruitful Results Yielded*

The 5<sup>th</sup> BRITACOF served as an pivotal platform for strengthening tax administration cooperation and capacity building among the Belt and Road Initiative jurisdictions. Over the three-day forum, participants reached consensus on deepening future collaboration and achieved significant outcomes, including four outcomes of the task forces of the Nur-Sultan Action Plan (2022-2024), the release of the Joint Statement of the 5<sup>th</sup> BRITACOF and the Hong Kong Action Plan (2025-2027), the Annual Report of the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism (BRITACOM) (2024), the admission of Maldives Inland Revenue Authority as a new BRITACOM Council member tax administration, and the establishment of the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Academy-Algiers.



## Deepening Regional and International Tax Cooperation

Hong Kong leveraged the 5<sup>th</sup> BRITACOF to deepen tax cooperation within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and with the international community. On the sidelines, The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee met with Mr Hu Jinglin, the Commissioner of the State Taxation Administration, and to witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on tax cooperation within the GBA among the finance and taxation departments of Guangdong Province, Shenzhen, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) and the Macao Special Administrative Region. The MOU aims to promote the co-ordination of tax administration and services in the GBA and facilitate Hong Kong's active integration into the overall national development. The deepened tax cooperation in the GBA can enhance Hong Kong's tax competitiveness and create a more favourable business environment.



On international front, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui held bilateral meetings separately with representatives from Kazakhstan, Maldives, Tajikistan and Türkiye to discuss deepening tax cooperation. Our Commissioner also participated in the bilateral meetings. At the margin of the Forum, Mr Christopher Hui signed a comprehensive avoidance of double taxation agreement (CDTA) with the Government of the Republic of Türkiye on behalf of the Hong Kong SAR Government, marking a step forward and further expanding our CDTA network.

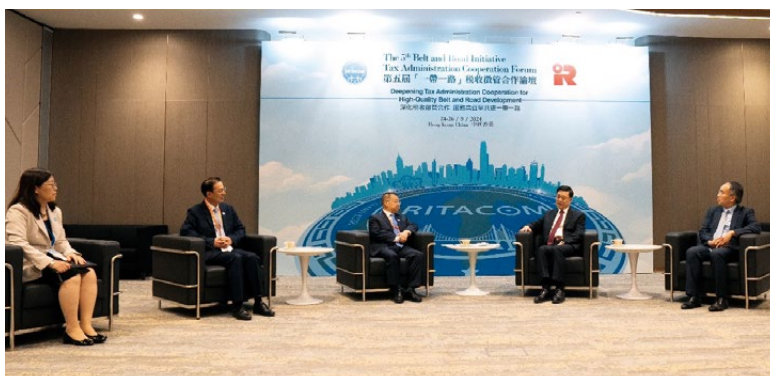
## Cementing Hong Kong's strategic role

The 5<sup>th</sup> BRITACOF's significant outcomes advance the Belt and Road Initiative's goals. Hong Kong, with its globally renowned simple, transparent tax system and efficient administration, is uniquely positioned as "super-connector" and "super-value-adder" for the Belt and Road tax cooperation. Hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> BRITACOF cemented Hong Kong's role as a key functional platform for the initiative and its contribution to a sustainable tax environment. The insights gained are invaluable for enhancing the quality and capacity of our tax administration.

## Showcasing Hong Kong



To showcase Hong Kong's hospitality and tell the good story of Hong Kong, we welcomed delegates with various cultural experiences, including a lion dance and a face-changing performance at the welcome dinner, a Victoria Harbour cruise, visits to the Hong Kong Palace Museum and M+ museum, and rides on Ngong Ping 360 cable cars, highlighting Hong Kong's unique East-meets-West character.



## Looking ahead

The Department will continue to participate in international tax fora, including BRITACOM and the coming BRITACOFs. This allows Hong Kong to contribute expertise to shaping international tax rules while elevating its global profile. We will leverage our unique position and strength for maintaining deep international connections.

## The BRITACOM



The Department became a founding member of the BRITACOM in 2019. Established under the lead of the State Taxation Administration, the BRITACOM is a non-profit official mechanism for tax administration cooperation amongst the jurisdictions that subscribe to the Belt and Road Initiative. The BRITACOM consists of the Council, the BRITACOF, the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Capacity Enhancement Group and the Secretariat.

With the vision of facilitating cross-border trade and investment and fostering regional economic growth, the BRITACOM aims at removing tax obstacles and building a growth-friendly tax environment through cooperation and sharing of best practices on tax administration matters, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of inclusive and sustainable development. With the strong support from the international community, the BRITACOM has been a multilateral cooperation platform in taxation promoting knowledge sharing and collaborations among tax administrations of the Belt and Road Initiative participating jurisdictions.

The BRITACOF is a non-profit official event hosted every 12 months by member tax administrations in rotation. The BRITACOF serves as an effective platform for tax administrations to have in-depth discussions on tax issues of common interest and to engage in active dialogues with business representatives. The first five BRITACOFs were hosted by the Chinese Mainland, Kazakhstan, Algeria, Georgia and Hong Kong, China respectively. The 6<sup>th</sup> BRITACOF was hosted by Nepal in September 2025 and the 7<sup>th</sup> BRITACOF will be hosted by Indonesia in 2026.

