



INLAND REVENUE
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Country Report

Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore

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About IRAS

- Statutory Board
 - Under the purview of the Ministry of Finance
 - Agency fees for functions rendered
 - Financial & personnel autonomy
 - Staff strength of about 1,700

To act as an agent of the government and provide services in administering, assessing, collecting and enforcing payment of taxes

IRAS MISSION

To advise the government and represent Singapore internationally on matters relating to taxation



Report Contents

- Features of IRAS' training strategy
- Developments in IRAS' training management system in recent years
- Evaluation of staff training programmes
- Challenges in planning and implementing training



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Developments in IRAS' training management system in recent years



Before 2006

- Training efforts were largely inward-looking and focused on IRAS' needs
 - support our official assessment regime
 - equip our officers with skills to identify taxable income and deductible expenses



Before 2006 (Singapore)

- Existing training resources fragmented
 - Training of tax authority and tax firms operating separately
 - Each firm has own training programmes, small firms have less access to good training
 - Need for robust training platform, particularly for small tax firms
- Need to grow and deepen tax expertise to better support Singapore's business hub role
 - Tax an essential professional support and service for multinational enterprises with cross-border investments



2006: Set-up of Tax Academy

- Set up by IRAS in Aug 2006
 - Operates as a separate legal entity
- In collaboration with the international accounting firms - Deloitte & Touche, Ernst & Young, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers, Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore & Law Society of Singapore

Mission

- Raise professional competency of tax community
- Develop Singapore into regional tax knowledge hub



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Cooperation between IRAS and Tax Academy

- Tax Academy provides all tax training for IRAS.
- IRAS identifies training needs for officers.
- Tax Academy provides relevant training to meet those needs.
- IRAS pays Tax Academy for courses attended by officers.



Premier Centre for Tax Education

TA's Structured Tax Training Framework

- Provides essential building blocks in tax education for public and private sectors
- 3 levels of tax programmes - Basic, Intermediate and Advanced courses
 - Curriculum and contents co-developed with IRAS, industry and academia
 - Facilitated or taught by IRAS tax specialists & recognised experts from industry

Structured Tax Training Framework

Postgraduate Programme

- Masters in Taxation (MTax) awarded by UniSIM



Intermediate Level Programme

For candidates with foundation knowledge in taxation and 1-2 years' relevant working experience

- Income Tax - Business and Corporate
- Goods & Services Tax



Advanced Level Programme

- Suitable for candidates seeking a specialist career in taxation with more than 2 years' relevant experience.



Basic Level Programme

- For candidates seeking foundation knowledge in
- Income Tax - Individual
 - Goods & Services Tax



Premier Centre for Tax Education

- Improve tax capability of smaller tax agent firms
 - Raising competency to help improve tax compliance
- Improve access to training for small firms
 - Support with \$1.3 mil tax capability development fund for structured tax courses (wef Jan 2009)
 - Joint funding by IRAS and ICPAS
 - Provides up to 65% of course fees for Basic/Intermediate Courses



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Premier Centre for Tax Education

- Customised courses for IRAS officers
 - Basic/Intermediate/Advanced Property Tax Course
 - Advanced Goods & Services Tax Course



Premier Centre for Tax Education

Regional recognition of Tax Academy's standards
in delivering high quality tax education

- CPA Australia signed MOU with Tax Academy on 5th Aug 2009
- Tax Academy to design, develop and deliver the Singapore taxation course for CPA Australia programme
 - first local variant of taxation segment in CPA Australia programme



Regional Tax Knowledge Hub

Tax Academy as catalyst towards Regional Tax Hub

- Enhance professional capacity for cross-border tax advisory services
- Support Singapore's regional growth

To grow and deepen international tax expertise

- Partnership with world-renowned Leiden University (International Tax Centre), Netherlands
- Joint executive programme on international taxation
 - Grow local tax expertise, Attract regional tax professionals
 - Public and private sector participants for regional networking



Regional Tax Hub

International Tax Programme

- Designed with industry professionals & tax advisors
- Leverages on key strengths of 2 institutions
 - Leiden on core, foundational concepts in tax treaties: principles and applications, international conventions, global treaty developments
 - Tax Academy with Big 4 international accounting firms to give Asia-Pacific focus on current topical subjects - practical applications of treaty conventions in emerging business developments e.g. Supply Chain Management, Cross-Border Restructuring and Mergers & Acquisitions etc.



Regional Tax Hub

Regional tax seminars

- Updates on regional tax developments e.g. Budget Changes in India, Tax Reform Updates on China
- Attended by IRAS officers as well private practitioners

Regional tax courses

- Collaborations with OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration
- Participation by IRAS and foreign tax officials
- Past courses on Tax Treaties, Transfer Pricing (international developments, transfer pricing audits)



Platform for Tax Exchange

Platform for exchange of views on taxation

- Annual Budget Seminars & Signature Conferences by Tax Academy
 - IRAS officials and tax practitioners in panel discussions, share stage in addressing tax questions
 - Attended by IRAS officers and private practitioners



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Thank You