

10 November 2021

Bahrain

The GCC launches E-Platform for trade between GCC member states and internationally

The new electronic system was launched to ease the trade procedures between the GCC member states and other countries under a new Free Trade Agreement. The GCC member states are aiming to achieve to trade as a unit and increase their international trade share from 5% to 30% by 2028. The expected start is either by the end of 2021 or the first quarter of 2022.

The National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) shared infographics on the refund approval timeline

The NBR has recently shared infographics on the timeline of the refund approval, which may include a possibility of auditing and reviewing the accounts of the taxpayer to validate the refund request.

Customs Affairs (CA) employees honored by the president of the CA

Employees contributed in the e-Government Excellence Award for the year 2021 have been honored by the president of the CA. The Excellence Award was for best practice of the electronic contribution in the society and the best government proposal for individuals.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) shared a simplified educational journey for e-invoicing

With less than 30 days remaining for the effective date of phase one of e-invoicing, ZATCA has shared a simplified educational journey for everything related to e-invoicing for taxpayers to get their businesses ready before 4 December 2021.

Click [here](#) to access the educational journey site.

ZATCA shared an educational journey on air, land and sea import

ZATCA has shared an interactive educational journey for importation through air, land and sea to educate businesses on the details related to the importation procedures.

Click [here](#) to access the educational journey site.

ZATCA launches the Digital Leader Program in cooperation with the London Business School

As part of ZATCA's partnerships with the Leading Global Educational Institutions, ZATCA launched the Digital Leader Program in cooperation with the London Business School. The program aims to develop ZATCA's managerial resources and capabilities and contributes to achieving digital transformation success.

ZATCA conducts another virtual workshop on e-invoicing

On 9 November 2021, ZATCA conducted another virtual workshop on e-invoicing that carried the same agenda of the previous workshop. The agenda includes the introduction to e-invoicing, implementation and requirements with a Q&A session.

Discussions held for a cooperation with the United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

His Excellency the Governor, M. Sohail Abanmi, recently met with Her Excellency the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Dr. Ghada Wali. During the meeting, aspects of cooperation between the two sides were studied in several areas, most notably the field of detection systems and container control.

ZATCA publishes a new Guideline on Employees Benefits

ZATCA issued a new guideline in Arabic on the VAT treatment of employee benefits which includes special cases of outsourced human capital and secondment.

Click [here](#) to access the guidelines in Arabic.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The Tax Compliance and Enforcement Department (TCE) recently conducted ESR audits

The TCE department of the Federal Tax Authority (FTA), has recently started Economic Substance Reporting tests (audits). The tests are carried through requesting certain documents. The requested documents shall be submitted on the ESR portal withing the prescribed timeline.

The FTA shared infographics on payment options on the electronic platform

The FTA recently shared infographics on the available payment options on the electronic platform to pay tax liabilities. The payment options are available for taxpayers from inside or outside the UAE.

The FTA offers big businesses a service that provides an alternative apportionment mechanism

The FTA offers service for big businesses that provides approval for taxpayers to apply for an alternative input tax apportionment mechanism where the existing mechanism does not reflect the actual use of goods and services by the business.

Qatar

No income tax has been confirmed by the General Tax Authority (GTA)

The president of the GTA Ahmed Bin Issa Al Mohannadi has recently confirmed that the GTA does not have the intention to introduce income tax. However, the introduction of VAT is still being considered.



Can tax policy save the planet?

The KPMG Great Tax Climate Debate



While there has been little commentary to date about the full range of tax measures that could be applied to the climate agenda, history suggests tax policy is one of the most effective tools available to governments to change economic patterns and social behaviors – but, can it save the planet?

The KPMG Great Tax Climate Debate will bring together leading thinkers who will debate this question in a substantive yet entertaining discussion of the issues and tackle tough questions, such as:

- How can tax policy help from a practical perspective? Who bears the cost?
- Can the right tax policies drive sufficient behavioral change?
- Can taxes on carbon be designed so they are not regressive?
- What are the pros and cons of incentivization?
- What sectors are facing the most pressure? Where might compromise be needed?
- How should tax policy factor into the ESG agenda within organizations?

Location: Virtual

Date: 18 November 2021

Time: 08:00-09:45 EST | 13:00-14:45 GMT | 14:00-15:45 CET

Register



The above is for general information only and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular scenario. Please seek professional advice in relation to your particular circumstances.

For a detailed discussion on how the above updates may impact your business, [contact us](#).

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