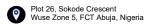# CONCEPT NOTE

ON

A TRAINING PROGRAMME ON:

TAXATION OF INCOME AND WEALTH IN WEST AFRICA

(July 23 – 26, 2024)

INTRODUCTION

Taxation is a critical component of economic development, providing governments with the necessary revenue to fund public services and infrastructure. In West Africa, property taxation is an area with significant potential for revenue generation but is often underutilized due to a number of obstacles such as insufficient data, inaccurate valuation, and limited enforcement capabilities. This training event aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of tax professionals in West Africa in the area of income and wealth taxation, focusing on the property aspects.

In line with its mission to improve tax administration and revenue generation, WATAF recognises the significance of property taxes as a powerful tool to achieve multiple objectives; thereby organising a four-day training program with the aim to offer practical insights into property taxation and the utilization of geospatial data for precise assessment, improved compliance, and increased revenue generation. The training will consist of two distinctive workshops designed to provide participants with actionable strategies for enhancing property and wealth tax efficiency.

OBJECTIVES

The workshop aims to equip tax administrators in West Africa with advanced knowledge and skills in leveraging geospatial analytics techniques for efficient property taxation, particularly focusing on using the techniques to identify High-Net-Worth individuals and businesses. By integrating technology and data analytics, tax administrations can enhance their capabilities to identify, assess, and manage high-value properties, contributing to increased revenue collection and improved fiscal sustainability.

DATE AND VENUE

The workshop is proposed to be hosted by the WATAF in Lagos, from 23rd to 26th July 2024. The specific location will be communicated as soon as concluded.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

This workshop is designed for tax administrators, assessors, and analysts from West African Revenue Authorities extending to subnational revenue administrators, particularly those involved in income and wealth taxation. Representatives from finance ministries, urban planning departments, and related government bodies are also encouraged to attend. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops for hands-on training sessions.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Participants will gain a deep understanding of how geospatial analytics can contribute to accurate property valuation, reducing discrepancies and potential tax evasion.

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2. Implementing geospatial techniques will enable tax authorities to identify and address tax evasion more effectively, resulting in improved compliance and increased revenue collection.

3. Tax administrators will be equipped with the tools to make data-driven decisions, leading to better policies and strategies for property taxation.

4. Geospatial analytics can assist in identifying high-value properties and allocating resources more efficiently for targeted tax audits. The workshop will encourage tax authorities to set up high-net units.

5. The workshop will provide a platform for participants to network, share experiences, and collaborate on common challenges, fostering a sense of regional cooperation.

TRAINING CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

  i.   Principles of Income and Wealth Taxation

  ii.   Overview of Property Taxation

  iii.   Tax Policy and Administration in West Africa

  iv.   Compliance and Enforcement Strategies

  v.   Taxation of Rental Income and Capital Gains from Property

  vi.   Geospatial Data Collection Techniques

  vii.   Application of GIS in Property Valuation

  viii.   Case Studies and Best Practices

  ix.   Hands-on Training on Geospatial Tools for identifying HNW businesses

Workshop 1: TAXATION OF INCOME AND WEALTH IN WEST AFRICA: Understanding Property Taxation Systems in West African countries

The above workshop topic allows for a comparative analysis of property tax systems across different West African countries, highlighting similarities and differences. Based on the overview, participants can develop policy recommendations for improving property tax systems in their respective countries, leading to more efficient and effective tax administration. Overall, the workshop provides a foundational understanding of property tax systems in West Africa, which is crucial for informed decision-making and policy development in the region.

Workshop 2: TAXATION OF INCOME AND WEALTH IN WEST AFRICA: Tailoring Geospatial Techniques in identifying High-Net-Worth businesses and Individuals.

The is expected to offer valuable insights into how geospatial data can enhance the efficiency of property taxation, especially in the context of wealth tax. Here are some key points that could be explored:

1. *Improved Property Valuation: Geospatial data can provide detailed information about property characteristics, location, and neighborhood amenities, leading to more accurate property valuations for both property taxation and wealth tax purposes.*

2. *Enhanced Compliance and Enforcement: Geospatial data can help identify discrepancies between declared and actual property values, leading to improved compliance and enforcement of property and wealth tax regulations.*

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3. *Targeted Tax Policies*: Geospatial data can help identify areas with high concentrations of wealth or properties, allowing policymakers to design targeted tax policies that are more effective and equitable.

4. *Data Integration and Analysis*: Integrating geospatial data with other tax and wealth indicators can provide a more holistic view of an individual's tax liabilities, enabling tax authorities to make more informed decisions.

5. *Overall, the workshop will provide valuable insights into how tax authorities can leverage technology to enhance tax administration and promote fairness in taxation.*

Each session will include presentations, discussions, and interactive exercises to enhance participant learning and engagement. The workshops will provide a platform for participants to apply the knowledge gained during the training to real-world scenarios and develop actionable strategies for improving property taxation efficiency in West Africa.

LOGISTICS

The training program will be conducted in person at the **Colossus Lagos,** a hotel at the Ikeja area of Lagos, Nigeria. WATAF will cover the costs of Venue, Feeding, Interpretations and Translation Services. In addition, WATAF will cater for the flight ticket and accommodation of its staff who will be attending the event, while individual tax administration and other organisations are expected to cover the cost of flight and accommodation for participants representing them.

WATAF seeks the support of the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD) to provide resource person(s) including their ticket and hotel accommodation. Additionally, Mr. Anthony Mwandha, a consulting expert and Data Scientist from Uganda and Mr. Yemi Ojudu, Head Data Application Development Division, Tax Data Management Department of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) Nigeria will resourcefully participate in the training.

CONCLUSION

This four-day training program represents a unique opportunity for West African tax administrations to upgrade their capabilities in property taxation through geospatial analytics. This concept note proposes the integration of geospatial analytics to enhance the efficiency of property taxation systems in the region. By fostering collaboration and providing practical insights, the event will contribute to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of property tax administration in the region.

CONTACT

Mr. Dan-Asabe OZAYASHI
Training and Capacity Development Manager
WATAF Secretariat
Mob: *(+234) 8037318368*
Email: *dan-asabe.ozayashi@wataf-tax.org*

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