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International Property Tax Institute

IPTI INFORMER

Update on IPTI

Seasons Greetings

DECEMBER 2010

Here in Canada, fall is fully upon us and winter is well on its way. With the Holiday Season fast approaching, we'd like to bring you up-to-date on events of the past few months.

2010 has been a pivotal year for IPTI. With the assistance of an outside consultant, a strategic plan has been in the works and is being finalized by the IPTI Advisory Board. The strategic plan, once formalized, will determine IPTI's future scope and direction with implementation planned for 2011.

One important change is a new benefit for all IPTI members. Starting in January 2011, an annual membership will include a subscription to IPTI's on-line international property tax and assessment database, *IPTIpedia*.



A further initiative in 2010 was the redesign of the IPTI website. If you haven't already done so, take a minute to visit www.ipti.org.

We know you will find the website more user-friendly, quicker and easier to navigate. Take a look at the photo gallery of past events; you may recognize someone!

You can now find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. Being a part of the social network allows IPTI to continue building its international network of property tax and assessment experts, as well as making it easier for members to engage with us and each other regardless of where they live and work.

The convenience of learning while at your desk is a significant advantage in today's busy workplace as proven by the success of IPTI's webinars. Our most recent webinar, *Management of Property Taxation in the Current Economic Climate*, held in September, garnered considerable attention. This webinar focused on key issues such as the impact and consequences of the economic crisis on property taxation and assessment around the world and various responses to the crisis, the need to educate management on property tax procedures and municipal policies, as well as the requirement for information and tools to help manage a global property tax portfolio.

As a follow up to this successful webinar, IPTI's Corporate Advisory Committee has approved two related events for inclusion in IPTI's line-up for 2011. The first will be a webinar on *Global Management of Property Taxation*, followed by a workshop, held with the co-operation of an outside agency. Timing of the webinar as well as the date and venue for the workshop have yet to be finalized, but are anticipated to be in the early part of 2011.

As part of IPTI's continuous commitment to keeping its membership informed on international issues, the past few months have seen IPTI representatives involved in various events. Invitations were extended to visiting international speakers who delivered presentations at several information sessions.

One such event in August was conducted dealing with the theme of *Property Taxes in the United Kingdom – Are There Lessons for Ontario?* Presentations covered the challenges, politics, impact, and public acceptance resulting from 400 years of experience with property taxation and tax reform in England and how Ontario could benefit from these experiences. The event, held at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto, featured presentations by:

- Enid Slack, Director, Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto;

- David Magor, Chief Executive, Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) England; and
- Paul Sanderson, Director of Professional Services, Valuation Office Agency (VOA) England

IPTI members, Tony D’Alexander from the United States, Roland Teixeira from Belgium and Jerry Grad from Canada, attended the Council on State Taxation (COST) Annual Meeting, which took place on October 20th, in Phoenix, Arizona. This team delivered a presentation entitled **Centralized Tax Management of Global Sub-National Taxes—Is It Feasible?** COST is an organization that has historically not focused on property tax.

The following day, meetings were held with COST executives which included, on IPTI’s behalf, Doug Turner, Tony D’Alexander and Jerry Grad. Subsequently, COST has become an organization member of IPTI and it is anticipated that our two organizations will provide joint programming in the future.

Professor Riël Franzsen, Director, African Tax Institute



In October, Riël Franzsen, the Director of the African Tax Institute, Department of Economics at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, spoke on **African Property Tax Reform: Current Status and Key Concerns** to invited guests at the University of Toronto Faculty Club.

November 8th-9th saw IPTI members Chengri Ding, Jerry German and Jerry Grad attend at the China Appraisal Society (CAS) offices in Beijing, PRC, to present a two-day workshop to its various members. The workshop was tailor-made to meet the requirements of the CAS and dealt with issues such as property tax policy and principles, property tax and public financing, real estate market developments, concepts in property tax admini-

stration and valuation, computer assisted mass appraisal (CAMA) and GIS, management and administration and many other timely topics of interest to the Society.

IPTI representatives were honored to meet and conduct discussions with the President of the CAS, Ms. Bangjin He, at the offices of the Ministry of Finance.

As always, the organizers of the workshop proved to be gracious hosts and judging from the enthusiasm and depth of interest exhibited by the



Representatives of IPTI and CAS

delegates who attended this event, it was a successful and rewarding experience.

Following on the heels of this successful workshop, an informal discussion was held on Wednesday, November 10th, in the offices of the China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and Agents (CIREA).

Plans are underway for 2011. The annual conference program, being held in partnership with the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) is being finalized and is anticipated to be on-line by early December. We hope you can join us in Dublin, Ireland, in May.

Other plans for upcoming events are in the works and as soon as dates and venues have been finalized the relevant information will be available on IPTI’s web. In the meantime, see the listing below for currently scheduled events and keep checking back at www.ipti.org for detailed information!

Wishing you all the best of the season!



Mark Your Calendar!



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| January 12 | Webinar -How to Get the Most from IPTIpedia |
| April 27-28 (tentative) | Workshop -Evolution and Challenges in Valuation and Taxation of Green Technologies, Vancouver, BC |
| May 10-11 | IPTI/IRRV International Conference , Property Tax Reforms—Challenges and Opportunities, Dublin, Ireland |
| October 2011 | IPTI’s 6th Mass Appraisal Valuation Symposium , Vancouver, BC |