IBFD Global Tax Treaty Commentaries

The encyclopedia on tax treaty analysis

Global coverage • State of the art • All in one place
IBFD

Global Tax Treaty Commentaries (GTTC)

Analytical commentaries on OECD and UN Model provisions, drawing on actual tax treaty practice and country interpretations of the model provisions and their many common variations.

Creation of the collection

A collective undertaking
In 2012, IBFD embarked on a ground-breaking project regarding tax treaties aiming to set a new standard. In order to create the Global Tax Treaty Commentaries (GTTC), IBFD’s publishing and editorial teams undertook a long-term worldwide collaboration with a large group of authors, editors, reviewers and country experts. The objective: to produce a cutting-edge publication on the analysis of tax treaties that meets the need of today’s tax professionals and researchers.

In-depth expert guidance
In selecting contributors to GTTC, IBFD approached top-level academics, senior tax professionals and leaders of the debate on tax treaties – all internationally renowned as the experts on the topic – from tax jurisdictions worldwide. Many of them recognized the potential of the publication and accepted the invitation to share their expertise with IBFD and to lay the foundation for the ultimate encyclopedia on tax treaty analysis. With their command of the subject and experience in the field and the input they receive from over twenty country experts with deep knowledge of their country’s position on each article, the authors provide an authoritative perspective and overview of the relevant material, and shed light on the complex issues that have organically grown regarding tax treaties.

Integration of perspectives
The board of international editors is headed by Professor Richard Vann. It ensures the final publication will not just be a compilation of monographs, but rather, an intricate, connected and organic structure that will do justice to the interaction of the articles of the OECD Model and the UN Model in theory and practice in various countries. And to further enhance the high quality of the contributions, each author’s manuscript is being peer-reviewed by another international tax expert.

Why is GTTC special?

Global coverage
Currently there is no tax treaty commentary that brings a truly global perspective. Most treaty commentaries are European or North-American oriented with little or no regard for tax treaty practice and expertise from other parts of the world. The objective of GTTC is to provide readers with a global perspective, and cover OECD member countries and non-OECD member countries from all continents.

Variations in actual treaties
Furthermore, other existing commentaries focus mainly on the model provisions and the treaty practice of a few major countries, and often disregard the many variations from the models found in actual treaty practice. There is an abundance of material on the interpretation and application of such variations found in many countries but not reflected in the models, which is yet not systematically analysed in a tax treaty commentary. GTTC covers the important variations from the model treaties for the major tax jurisdictions worldwide.

State of the art
In addition, current commentaries do not generally cover the alternative treaty instruments developed in recent years in relation to tax administrative cooperation such as tax information exchange.
agreements (TIEAs) and the multilateral mutual administrative assistance (MMAA) treaty. These instruments are covered in GTTC.

**All in one place**
The article-based commentaries are in a standardized format covering the policy and history of particular provisions, including an assessment of arguments for and against variations from the models. This is followed by a systematic coverage of the contents of the articles, including analysis and assessment of official commentaries on models, official commentaries accompanying treaties, tax administration interpretation and application, case law and doctrine. Finally, the commentary also relates the treaty practice to the fundamental and over-arching principles of international taxation.

**Ability to verify facts**
The GTTC is linked with one mouse-click to an array of other collections and primary materials, utilizing the strength and breadth of the IBFD Tax Research Platform. Authors substantiate their statements by reference to the OECD Model and the UN Model, official commentaries, treaties, case law, journal articles and other sources. In order to not disrupt the flow of argument these sources are accessible via a link to the relevant document, with further links to similar documents or related collections on the IBFD Tax Research Platform for research purposes.

**Comprehensive overview**
It is, of course, impossible to be comprehensive on a matter as extensive as tax treaties. However, IBFD goes to great lengths to compile treaty practices and tax treaty case law relevant to each article of the OECD Model and the UN Model, and to create country tables and bibliographies for each chapter. These will be gradually added to the chapters of the GTTC as they are released.

**Up to date**
In contrast to existing literature on the subject, the GTTC is an electronic resource. The benefit is that it can and will be kept up to date, and thereby facilitate state-of-the-art research. As a consequence, chapters are formatted and structured into short sections with standardized subheadings to help users retrieve quickly what they are looking for.

**User groups**
The GTTC chapters provide a high-level analysis and commentaries with respect to each single article in the OECD Model and the UN Model, and a series of chapters on meta-topics. The GTTC is a source of authority and a research tool for tax treaty practitioners of all kinds – from the advisory and corporate sector, government and the judiciary, treaty negotiation and academic departments - that is unmatched by any existing product.

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The IBFD Global Tax Treaty Commentaries contains the following collections:

- Article 2 "Taxes Covered": Professor Wei Cui (Canada)
- Articles 3, (29, 30 and 31) "Definitions and Scope in Place and Time": Ola Ostaszewska
- Article 4 "Resident": Belema R. Obuoforibo
- Article 5 "Permanent Establishment": Professor Brian Arnold (Canada)
- Article 6 "Immovable Property": Professor Danil V. Vinnitskiy
- Article 7 "Business Profits": Professor Jacques Sasseville (France) and Professor Richard Vann (Australia)
- Article 8 "International Transport and Other Operations": Professor Guglielmo Maisto
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- Article 14 "Independent Personal Services": D.P. Sengupta
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- Article 17 "Entertainers and Sportspersons": Professor Jennifer Roeleveld (South Africa) and Dr. Karolina Tetłak (Poland)
- Articles 18, 19(2) "Pensions": Professor Patricia A. Brown
- Articles 19(1), 19(3) and 28 "Government Service and Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts": Professor Pasquale Pistone (The Netherlands)
- Article 20 "Students, Teachers and Professors": Ruxandra Vlasceanu
- Article 21 "Other Income": Professor Luís Eduardo Schoueri
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- Article 24 "Non-Discrimination": Professor Niels Bammens (The Netherlands) and Professor Frans Vanistendael
- Article 25 "Mutual Agreement Procedure": Professor Scott Wilkie (Canada)
- Article 26 "Exchange of Information": Professor Diane Ring (United States)
- Article 27 "Assistance in the Collection of Taxes": Professor Jennifer Roeleveld (South Africa)

Six meta-topics on "Treaty Interpretation": Professor John Avery Jones (United Kingdom), "The Interaction of Tax Treaties with International Economic Laws": Professor Yariv Brauner (United States), Professor Georg Kofler (Austria) "Time in Tax Treaties": Dr Joanna Wheeler (The Netherlands), "Application of Tax Treaties to Fiscally Transparent Entities": Mr. Mark Brabazon, "Qualification Conflicts": Professor Michael Lang and "Triangular Cases": Professor Kees van Raad and Ms, Shaomei Chen.

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