

**PUBLIC PRACTICE**

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**MEMBERS' TECHNICAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION --- 8 OCTOBER 2013 (2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.)**

The Public Practice Committee (PPC) successfully organised the **Members' Technical Round Table Discussion** recently. There was excellent attendance and participation by members, many of whom had sent their technical issues in writing before the event. The event was chaired by the PPC Chairman, Mr Poon Yew Hoe.

The discussion was conducted by the Chairman of Technical Committee – Direct Taxation (I), Ms Phan Wai Kuan, Chairman of Technical Committee – Direct Taxation (II), Ms Renuka Bhupalan and Chairman of Technical Committee – Indirect Taxation (TC-IT), Mr David Lai. The discussion was robust and lively with many members sharing their thoughts and experiences. Some of the issues discussed were as follows:

- Whether the gains on a real property transaction, under various specific circumstances, is subject to income tax or real property gains tax.
- Applicability of withholding tax on travelling expenses incurred by a foreign director
- PCB on foreign workers who have a service contract of more than 6 months
- Whether the landlord of an educational building/hotel which is approved by the relevant authority, is eligible to claim IBA against the rental income of building?
- Interpretation of Section 21C of the Promotion of Investments Act 1986
- Tax treatment of gains/losses arising from foreign exchange conversion?
- Imputation of interest on interest-free financial assistance between connected parties
- Deductibility of commitment fees for banking facilities

Issues relating to the treatment in connection with the transition from Sales Tax into the impending Goods and Services Tax (GST) regimes and GST tax agent licensing process, were raised and discussed. The Chairman of TC-IT also discussed the work of this committee.

The discussion provided a platform for members to share their thoughts and experiences on tax issues and practices. The Institute welcomes the participation of more members in the event future dialogues are held.

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