

OECD GLOBAL FORUM WELCOMES FIRST STAFF FROM INDIA

In 2009, breakthrough progress has been made towards better transparency and tax cooperation. As stated by the G20 Leaders at their Summit in London “the era of bank secrecy for tax purposes is over”.

In this context, the Global Forum¹ has been restructured and its membership extended to more than 90 countries on an equal footing.

1. The Secretariat of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes is based in the Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (CTPA).

Its mandate: to ensure rapid and effective implementation of the OECD standards of transparency and exchange of information on a global scale through an in-depth and robust peer review mechanism.

The Secretary-General is authorised to appoint nationals from any of the Global Forum's member countries to be part of its Secretariat—and, importantly, as OECD officials. This is an incredible breakthrough, giving us the scope to open up our recruitment base and hire the top specialists of the tax world.

We are delighted to welcome aboard Mr. Sanjeev Sharma from India, who joined the 14 members of our team on 1st April to work on the country reviews. Sanjeev was formerly with the Indian Government, at the Ministry of Finance, and, most recently, in the Tax Tribunal representing the Revenue position on Transfer Pricing cases. Prior to

that, he supervised the tax audits of Foreign Companies working in India. Sanjeev is also familiar to us as he spent three months in the CTPA last year, on loan to the Global Relations Division through the InWENT-Capacity Building International institution in Germany. He now returns as a fully fledged member of staff.

Sanjeev is the first Indian, and one of the first people from a non-OECD country, to become a full official of the Organisation. We have had close relations with India for a long time. India, which is a G20 member, is an Enhanced Engagement country, and also a prominent member of the Global Forum (a member of its Steering Group and a Vice-Chair of the Peer Review Group). This new collaboration is a further step towards making our working ties even stronger.

**Pascal Saint-Amans
Head of Programme**



Putting India on the map: Pascal Saint-Amans (left) and Sanjeev Sharma