

Invitation to Participate in a Workshop on TAX, POVERTY AND FINANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

(www.aabaglobal.org)

Essex University, 6 - 7 July 2006

In June 2000 Oxfam issued its report *Releasing the Hidden Billions for Development* which helped to focus attention on the harmful impacts on developing countries of tax competition, capital flight and tax evasion. Global attention is increasingly turning towards the role that domestic financial resources, including tax revenues, ought to be playing as the primary driver of development and as a principal means for tackling inequality and poverty.

The need for developing countries to concentrate more effort of mobilising domestic resources and strengthening their tax systems has recently been emphasised by the UN Report of the High Level Panel on Financing for Development of June 2001 (the Sedillo Report); the International Conference on Financing for Development (The Monterrey Consensus) (March 2002); "Developing the International Dialogue on Taxation: A Joint Proposal of the Staffs of the International Monetary Fund, OECD and the World Bank" (March 13, 2002); and most recently at the UN World Summit in September 2005.

International attention has increasingly focused on the need for developing countries to improve their tax administrations and to maximize tax revenues. Coordination by developing countries on tax issues would help developing countries achieve these objectives, but until present this issue has not been the subject of sufficient attention.

The role of tax policy in alleviating poverty and inequality and promoting sustainable growth will be the main theme of the fourth annual research workshop in the current series jointly organised by the **Association for Accountancy & Business Affairs** and the **Tax Justice Network**. This Workshop will bring together researchers, academics, journalists, policy staff of civil society organisations, consultants and professionals, elected politicians and/or their researchers, and government or international organisation officials. The purpose of the workshop will be to facilitate research through open-minded debate and discussion, and to generate ideas and proposals to inform and shape the political initiatives and campaigns already under way.

There will be a small charge for attendance at the Workshop. Participants are expected to finance their own travel. Accommodation at Essex University will be available at modest cost. Anyone interested in participating should provide details of the nature of their interest, affiliations and any relevant research or publications, to:

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Offers of papers are welcome and will be actively considered by the organising committee which comprises:

John Christensen (Tax Justice Network), **Richard Murphy** (Tax Research LLP), **Ronen Palan** (Sussex University), **Sol Picciotto** (Lancaster University), **Prem Sikka** (Essex University).

Further details and a booking form is available on the tax workshop page (<http://visar.csustan.edu/aaba/taxworkshoppage.html>) of the AABA website (www.aabaglobal.org).