



**International Conference on Institutional Taxation Analysis  
HM Revenue & Customs  
Great George Street, London**

**Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 September 2009**

**Introduction – Dr Partho Shome, Chief Economist, HMRC**

Good morning.

Welcome to this International Conference on Institutional Tax Analysis. We are here today and tomorrow on a special mission, to share some of HMRC's work on institutional tax analysis and to discuss similar work from administrations across the world, from academia, and from tax practitioners and researchers. We have 30+ papers and many more participants. Our international tax administration participants have come from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain and United States. Other Government departments including HM Treasury and DFID are participating. Many highly regarded University professors and eminently placed research and practitioner institutions are participating. In particular, we are happy that our joint sponsor - the Economic and Social Research Council, are also participating.

We deeply appreciate that Mr. Timms is here to give us his reflections and that we have, amidst us, many high ranking officials of Her Majesty's Government. We welcome you all.

In HMRC, Knowledge, Analysis and Intelligence (KAI) is the main repository of tax analysis, which has analysts from various professions including economists, operations researchers, social researchers, and statisticians. Studies from all branches are planned to be presented. We set up a sift panel to select from submitted proposals from across the world, and had to leave out some excellent

ones. You will find that we included several on multiple analytical aspects of compliance, as this has attracted much attention recently. Nevertheless, other areas are also, hopefully adequately, represented.

KAI has recently introduced several knowledge sharing tools. Let me mention a handful. Through an electronic portal that we have named *i-know*, we populate project updates where ongoing projects are listed and analysts can dialogue on matters of interest. Second, we have a Working Note series where analysts have the opportunity to put up succinctly, their progress on analytical approaches. Third, we have a KAI seminar series in which we invite external guests from all over the world as well as provide opportunities to our own analysts to share their approaches and findings. I thank those of our external guest who accepted our invitation to present additional seminars on September 23 and 24 to our staff. Fourth, with the support and encouragement of the officials on this stage, collaboration of ESRC and, with some perseverance on our part, we have now embarked on this two-day programme to present the best of analysis on institutional tax issues from within Her Majesty's Government, academia and research organisations, and international fiscal administrations.

Turning to the speakers on this podium, I can safely claim that we are fortunate to have a representation of stalwarts in their respective fields: Stephen Timms, Financial Secretary to the Treasury; Dave Hartnett, Permanent Secretary for Tax; Mark Neale, Managing Director for the large portfolio of Budget, Tax and Welfare at HM Treasury; Juan Toro, Chief of Revenue Administration in the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department.