

# From the Commissioner

---

The environment surrounding the tax administration is fundamentally changing due to the advance in globalization and digitalization of the economic society, etc. Even under such unprecedented situation, the NTA needs to firmly fulfill the mission of “helping taxpayers properly and smoothly fulfill their spontaneous tax duties.”

To respond to the Covid-19 pandemic as well, usage of digital is rapidly expanding in all areas including tax administration in recent years.

If usage of digital further expands in the tax system, it is expected it would help taxpayers not only in terms of simplification of tax procedures but also in terms of improved accuracy through prevention of simple errors as well as improved productivity through better operational efficiency, etc. In addition, for the tax authorities, too, we believe we would be able to further improve efficiency and realize sophistication of the taxation and tax collection operations, through improved efficiency in operational processing and using the obtained data.

Thus, in June 2023, we released “Digital Transformation for Tax Administration: Future Vision of Tax Administration 2023,” which was a revision of the “Future Vision of Tax Administration 2.0” released in 2021, for demonstrating that we will further promote DX for tax administration.

Towards the future vision of realizing a “society where all tax procedures can be performed without going to a tax office,” we will comprehensively review our services for taxpayers (such as improved convenience by using e-Tax, etc. and provision of more consultation channels) from the viewpoint of taxpayers perspective. Going forward, e-Tax and cashless payment will become more convenient, so we would appreciate it if you use them.

The Invoice System for consumption tax will take effect in October 2023.

For the smooth introduction of the Invoice System, each business operator needs to deepen the understanding of the system and deal with and prepare for the system in accordance with the real status of each business operation. To help such endeavors, we have taken various measures as follows through collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies: send lecturers to and conduct explanatory sessions for relevant business associations, etc.; conduct enlightening PR activities using various media, etc. In addition, a range of burden-mitigating measures will be implemented in accordance with the tax system revision for FY2023.

There will be only some more months before the system takes effect. Until then, we will keep striving to provide business operators with necessary information including those on the tax system revision as well as to do our best to respond to individual consultation requests, using all opportunities.

---

Regarding the efforts to realize appropriate and fair taxation and tax collection, we strive to protect the rights and interests of taxpayers as well as to take rigorous measures across the organization against malicious taxpayers not to make the taxpayers who have filed tax returns and paid taxes adequately feel unfair. Particularly, we proactively address the following as priority issues: wrongful request for refund of consumption taxes, cross-border avoidance of tax payments, etc.

Regarding these points, we strive to further ensure appropriate execution, as consumption tax is one of the major tax items in terms of the size of tax revenue and people of the country have high awareness of the tax. Particularly, regarding the cases of wrongfully trying to obtain refund through false tax returns, we endeavor to properly respond to the cases that are getting more complicated and sophisticated, with a strict stance against them.

In addition, as for overseas investment and overseas transactions on the rise, we implement in-depth investigations and ensure adequate collection through information exchange and collaboration with the tax authorities of foreign countries.

Also, we strive to ensure higher efficiency in and sophistication of taxation and tax collection by using various data, for appropriately responding to the incessant changes in economic activities in line with the digitalization of economic society.

Through such various measures, we will further ensure that taxpayers properly and smoothly submit tax returns and pay taxes. These measures can be smoothly implemented only when taxpayers understand them and cooperate with us.

This National Tax Agency Report provides taxpayers with easy-to-understand descriptions on the annual activities of the NTA and relevant topics, using statistical materials, charts, photos, etc.

We would be happy if this report, the “National Tax Agency Report 2023,” helps you better understand tax administration.

June 2023

阪田 渉

Sakata Wataru

Commissioner of the National Tax Agency, Japan