The UHY International Network Celebrates 25th Its Anniversary

UHY Advisors TX, LLC is not the only one with a milestone birthday in 2011. Although not yet celebrating 40 years, such as UHY in Texas, UHY International as a network of Member Firms marks its 25th anniversary this year. Celebrating that anniversary and heralding the accomplishments of Member Firms in cross-border tax consulting projects was the focus of the Tax Session at UHY’s Annual Meeting held last month in London.

Currently, the UHY network consists of 240 offices in 78 jurisdictions around the world. Not all of those jurisdictions have an income tax, but of those that do, the Tax Special Interest Group (“Tax SIG”) of UHY International includes 146 seasoned tax advisors in 69 countries. Tax SIG members share information with UHY International and provide updates at regional meetings of Member Firms and at the annual meeting of UHY International.

It is my privilege to chair the Tax SIG and to have led the Tax Session at the recent Annual Meeting where Tax SIG members spoke about their experiences in serving clients. The theme of the Tax Session at this year’s Annual Meeting was Cross-Border Tax Planning and Cooperation, including the following speakers who serve U.S.-based clients on cross-border tax consulting projects in their countries:

- **Australia**: Michael Coughtrey of UHY Haines Norton
- **Brazil**: Diego Moreira of UHY Moreira
- **Canada**: Brahms Shiller of UHY Victor LLP
- **China**: Melanie Chen, leader of the UHY China Group (based in New York City)
- **Cyprus**: Antonis Kassapis of Antonis Kassapis Limited in (Cyprus)
- **India**: Sunil Hansraj of Chandabhoy & Jassoobhoy
- **Nigeria**: Gabriel Idaahosa of UHY Maaji & Co
- **Russia**: Nikolai Litvinov of UHY Yans-Audit
- **Spain**: Joseph Fay of UHY Fay & Co
- **United Kingdom**: Clive Gawthorpe of UHY Hacker Young in Manchester and Ian Williams of Campbell Dallas in Scotland

The speakers updated the audience on changes in tax law, such as the new transfer pricing rules taking effect January 1, 2012 in Russia, as well as tax savings opportunities they had identified for clients through close consultation with other UHY Member Firms. A unifying theme of these presentations was how UHY tax professionals work collaboratively, across oceans and time zones, to help clients achieve their business goals, including tax-efficient international operations.

Speakers emphasized the role of the UHY tax practitioner as the “trusted advisor” to the client, meaning a commitment not only to obtain tax information from another UHY Member Firm where a cross-border investment is contemplated, but also to work closely with the other Member Firm in identifying all of the potential issues that can arise, even those beyond the realm of taxation. Depending on the rules governing professional practice, matters such as forming a company, drafting employment contracts, and other services may be offered by the Member Firm or by a related company formed to provide corporate services. In meeting the clients’ needs, speakers also emphasized the importance of developing and
maintaining contacts with outside service providers whose skills may be useful, such as immigration lawyers, bankers, payroll companies, etc. In celebrating 25 years of the UHY International Network, attendees were reminded of how personal the founding of the UHY network was, based on trust among professionals and the expectation that their clients would be served as well in another country as at home.

Other activities of the Tax SIG include preparation of the Global Transfer Pricing Guide, whose 2011 publication was highlighted in the September 21 edition of NLS Express. Members of the Tax SIG contributed to the premiere issue of the Global Tax Outlook 2011, earlier this year, and are already preparing for the Global Tax Outlook 2012 which will be published in January. The Tax SIG’s professionals also contribute information on taxation for their country's Doing Business Guide.

For more information on UHY International and its network of Member Firms across the globe, please visit www.uhy.com; also if you have questions, please feel free to contact Meril Markley at 713-407-3206 or mmarkley@uhy-us.com.

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