

Tax Academy “TA” Alumni Network Event Speech – 30 May 2025

Board Directors, TA Alums, friends

1. A very warm welcome to the Tax Academy Alum Network event!

How Did This Start

2. We have more than 1,000 graduates over the past 19 years from Tax Academy’s Advanced Programmes. These graduates come from all segments of our tax industry.
3. **Fun-fact:** the inaugural ATP intake in 2007 had just 28 participants. These include two current Tax Academy Board Members, Mr Chester Wee (EY) and Mr Daniel Ho (Deloitte)!
4. Our ATP programme has grown in maturity and popularity. Since 2020, we conduct 2 intakes a year, with up to 50 students per intake. From 2012, the Advanced GST programme was opened to the public, with strong demand.
5. The continued success of ATP and Advanced GST is heartening.

Launch of Tax Academy Alum Network

6. Today is not just another party. Rather, it is the launch of our new Tax Academy Alum Network! This is a by-invitation and exclusive network, specially designed for you - graduates of our Level 3 Advanced courses, advanced level trainers, as well as other deserving candidates by-invitation.
7. More than 1,000 invitations were sent since February this year. Almost 500 have signed up to date. We only have 200 at this launch party, so you are the fortunate ones to get a ticket!
8. Think about it - the 200 of you here today have at least 15 years of deep experience in tax, which means 3,000 years (or 3 millennium) of

experience in tax right in one room. We want to create more opportunities for like-minded tax professionals to network and grow.

Plans for Tax Alum Network

9. What plans do we have? - Networking events, fireside chats, priority registration for key events, and more. So please follow us actively on LinkedIn, our mailing list and look out for more details as they are released.

10. This is a network and not a membership club, there are no subscription fees. The value and power of the network is you – top tax professionals.

Looking Ahead for Tax Academy

11. Beyond the TA Alum Network, what lies ahead for Tax Academy?

Better Content and Conferences

12. Some of you would have attended our International Tax Disputes Day Conference held on 22 May. This was the first-of-its kind conference in Asia, jointly organised with Professor Robert Danon of the University of Lausanne Tax Policy Centre. We had Dr Achim Pross from the OECD delivering a keynote.

13. Incidentally, I first met Professor Robert Danon and Dr Achim Pross at the sidelines of the annual IFA Congress in Cape Town, South Africa last year. Through the power of partnerships, this collaboration was born.

14. Our inaugural International Tax Disputes Day conference was a roaring success! If you missed it, look out for our recorded access to the keynote speeches. Registration links are on our LinkedIn and website.

15. We want to bring more of such content into Singapore. TA alums will be given discounts and priority to tickets, so please keep a look out.

New Research Initiative

16. Tax Academy will establish a new research initiative, housed in one of our local Universities. Through this, Tax Academy will get even more internationally renowned speakers, including top tax professors, visiting Singapore. There will be new training and growth opportunities for you, our top tax experts, through a research affiliate programme. Again, stay tuned for more announcements to be made in the second half of this year.

BEPS Book - Singapore Master Guide to BEPS 2.0 – Multinational Enterprise (Minimum Tax)

17. On the topic of research and thought leadership, let me mention this special book – the Singapore Master Guide to BEPS 2.0 – Multinational Enterprise (Minimum Tax); specially prepared as a welcome gift for you today.

18. This special edition has Tax Academy's logo printed on the cover. This a clear and tangible example of how Tax Academy is stepping up to support and grow our local authors (in this case Sam Sim, Theresa Chua and Cindy Wong) to publish in the tax space.

19. I shall leave it to my good Tax Academy Board member and Associate Professor Darren Koh to tell you more about this special book later.

Conclusion

20. I hope you enjoy the good food and great company today.

21. I will conclude with a word of thanks to all our trainers, some of whom are here today. I also appeal to all of you to consider working with Tax Academy, help us with all our training efforts for the next generation of Tax professionals. Pay it forward, just as your predecessors have done so.

22. Have a great afternoon and weekend ahead!