

# IMF-Japan High Level Tax Conference for Asian and Pacific Countries

2 February 2012

Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore















A Partner of Taxpayers in Nation-Building and Economic Development



### Agenda

- Overview
- Tax System and Administration
  - ☐ Facilitate Economic Growth
  - ☐ Promote Voluntary Compliance
  - ☐ Enhance Process Efficiency
  - ☐ Improve Service Delivery
  - ☐ Strengthen Tax Administration Capabilities
- Challenges



### **OVERVIEW**











# Singapore

Size: 712 sq km

Population: about 5 million

Per Capita GDP: \$\$59,000



### **IRAS**

- agent of the Government and provides services in administering, assessing, collecting and enforcing payment of taxes.
- advises the Government and represents Singapore internationally on matters relating to taxation.

### Vision

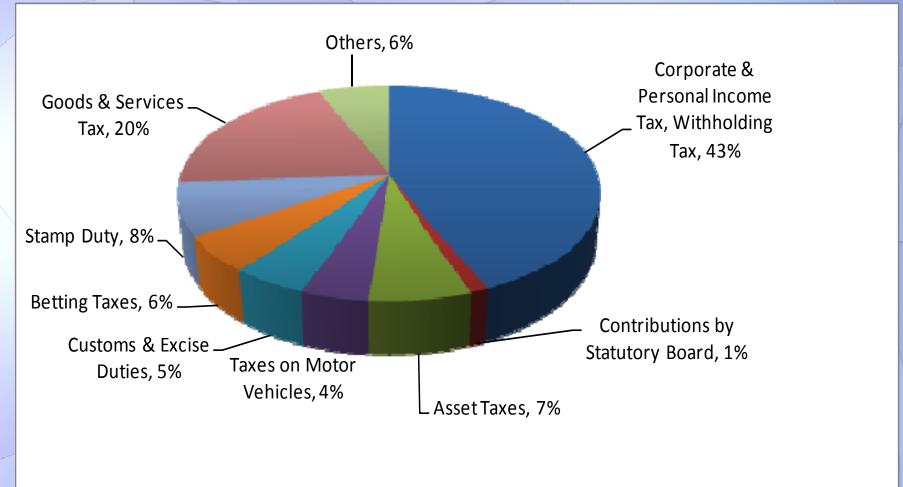
The leading tax administration in the world A partner of taxpayers in nation-building and economic development

An eXcellent team of competent and committed people





### Components of Tax Revenue



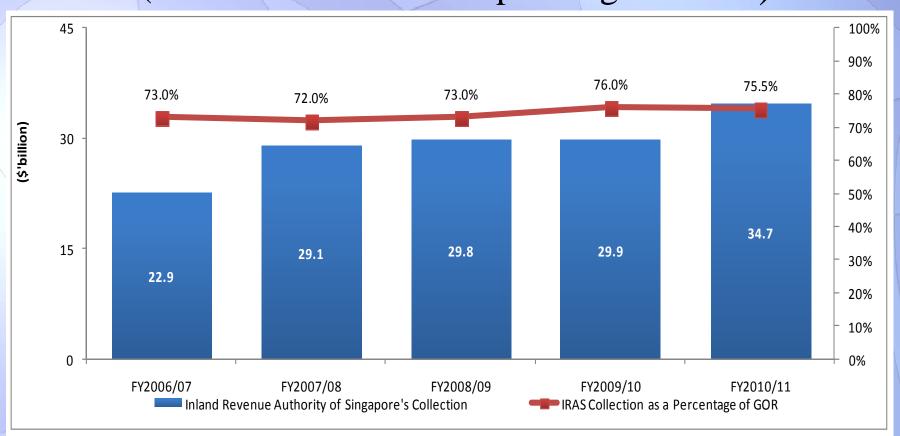
Source: FY2010/11

**Economic Survey of Singapore First Quarter 2011** 



### **IRAS Tax Collection**

(as % of Government Operating Revenue)





### Tax System & Administration

**Public finances** 

Encourage entrepreneurship and hard work

Promote economic and social goals



### Tax System & Administration

Facilitate Economic Growth

Enhance Process Efficiency

Promote Voluntary Compliance

Improve Service
Delivery

Strengthen Capabilities



### Facilitate Economic Growth

Assistance during economic downturn

Promote Productivity and Innovation

Reduce compliance cost

Understand Business Needs



### Promote Voluntary Compliance

#### **OUR VISION**

The leading tax administration in the world
A partner of taxpayers in nation-building and economic development
An excellent team of competent and committed people

Our 4 main approaches to enhance voluntary compliance

#### **OUR CORPORATE GOAL**

To ensure compliance by all taxpayers

#### **OUR BELIEF**

Taxpayers are generally compliant

#### TAXPAYER BASE

Voluntarily Compliant

Ignorant

#### STRATEGIC PILLARS

Simple Tax System

Informed
Taxpayers

Credible

**Engaged** 

Community

#### STRATEGIC OUTCOME

**Enhanced Voluntary Compliance** 

More sustainable in the long run



### Promote Voluntary Compliance

#### STRATEGIC PILLARS

Simple Tax System

Informed Taxpayers

Credible IRAS

Engaged Community





- •No -Filing service
- •Simplified filing for businesses and companies
- •Review rules and procedures
- •Advanced Ruling system since 2005



- Educate taxpayers on how to comply with their tax obligations
- e-Tax guides, e-Learning, userfriendly and updated info on website
- Seminars and Dialogues with targeted taxpayer groups



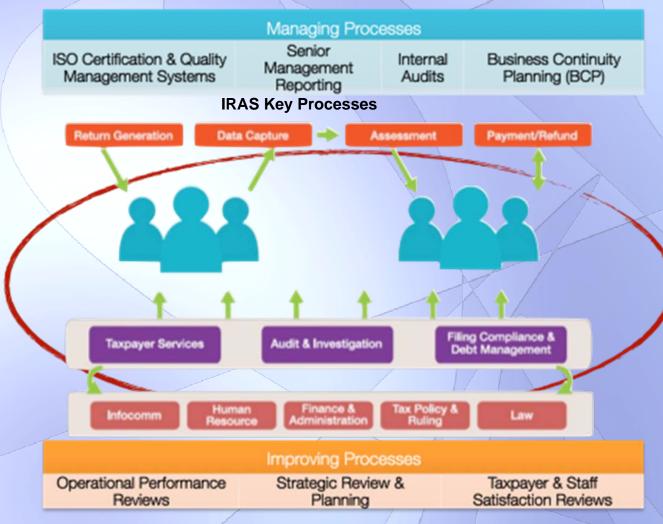
- Take firm action against those who fail to comply
- Public communication of compliance focus
- Prosecution of tax evaders



- Work with community to improve overall compliance
- Co- design compliance programme (ACAP) to help business manage their GST risks
- Enhanced Taxpayer Relationship Programme to engage companies to resolve current /emerging tax issues



### Enhance Process Efficiency



### Our Key Processes:

- Support our mission and corporate goals
- Are designed and managed with taxpayers in mind
- Are highly automated through IRIN
- Are highly robust and efficient



### Enhance Process Efficiency

- Automated set of data matching functions with other government agencies
- Auto-inclusion for various types of income, eg salaries and commission
  - ☐ for taxpayer registration and returns-issuing
  - remove the need for taxpayers to provide information
  - $\square$  No-Filing Service for > 70% of taxpayers
- Automated Pipeline Processing of Assessments/Claims
  - ☐ accuracy and efficiency
  - ☐ re-allocation of resources



# Improve Service Delivery



Customer Centric Organisation Structure

Excellent Service Delivery

Strong Service Culture Proactive Customer Relationship Management

Active Listening & Engagement

Customer Segmentation Strategy



### Improve Service Delivery

Service Strategy (in order of ease of convenience to taxpayers)

Self Help

Call

Email

Post /Fax

Walk-in

Supported by

IRIN

e-Services

Customer Relationship Management Module

Call Center System Complaint Logging

Management

Module

Making it easy for taxpayers

- •Various service channels to meet different taxpayers' needs
- Leverage on technology in service innovation
- Facilitate self-service by taxpayers, thereby reducing compliance costs

Enabling staff

- Comprehensive taxpayer information at fingertips across all contact points
- Ensure high level of responsiveness and accurate advice to taxpayers



### Strengthen Capabilities

- Develop Professional Competence
  - □Structured staff training programmes
  - ☐ Accredited Tax Specialist & Master Tax Specialist programmes

•Raise professional competence among tax community - Tax Academy of Singapore (TA)



### Strengthen Capabilities

- Develop Risk Profiling and Predictive Modelling
  - ☐ Compliance IT Blue Print to facilitate more effective identification and selection of audit and investigation cases
  - ☐ Improve yield of tax recovery

- Knowledge & Information Management
  - □KM systems & repositories
  - ☐ Regular knowledge sharing



## Challenges

Changing Taxpayer Profile

• Technological Development

• Global Financial Crisis



# Thank You