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Subject : Julapun Amornvivat, Thailand's Deputy Minister of Finance presided over the opening ceremony of the 52nd SGATAR Annual Meeting

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Today (31st October 2023) Mr. Julapun Amornvivat, Thailand's Deputy Minister of Finance presided over the opening ceremony of the 52nd Study Group on Asia-Pacific Tax Administration and Research (SGATAR) Annual Meeting, hosted by Thailand's Revenue Department from 31st October 2023 to 2nd November 2023 at the Pullman Phuket Karon Beach Resort Hotel in Phuket, Thailand. The Director-General of Thailand's Revenue Department and the Phuket Provincial Governor participated in the ceremony, along with all the 52nd SGATAR Annual Meeting participants.

The Deputy Minister of Finance addressed the economic challenges that have escalated following the spread of COVID-19 during the opening ceremony. He said that in the short term, the Thai Government aimed to boost spending, while in the medium and long term, the focus would be on increasing income, reducing expenses, creating opportunities, decreasing inequality, and improving the quality of life for the people.

Mr. Julapun highlighted the impact of technological advancements and interconnections among jurisdictions, necessitating adjustments in tax regulations and collection methods, such as updating VAT rules for cross-border supplies of goods and services, implementing global minimum tax under OECD's Pillar 2, and deploying data analytics in tax compliance. He emphasised to the participants that due to unprecedented global interconnections, jurisdictions must collaborate more intensively to ensure that tax administration in this changing landscape becomes highly effective.

The Deputy Minister of Finance also gave prominence to the capability of Phuket as a destination for international meetings.

SGATAR was established in 1970 as an annual forum for tax administrators to enhance cooperation among tax administrations, improve tax administration, and discuss issues related to tax administration. At present, there are 18 member jurisdictions. This year marks the 6th time Thailand has hosted the SGATAR Annual Meeting. There are over 150 participants, including executives and officials from tax administrations in 18 member jurisdictions, as well as representatives from various international organisations.
