

members) from all over the world meet regularly to exchange information and find more effective approaches and solutions to clients' issues. In these meetings, group members keep up-to-date with international information and issues relevant to their practice areas. GGI encourages the exchange of ideas, views and experiences to further strengthen communication among fellow members with common practice backgrounds.

Global Practice Group Chairpersons are responsible for strategic planning, practice group management, delivery of services, and marketing and practice group positioning within GGI.

The meeting started on Friday evening with a welcome dinner at the Brisket Restaurant located in Zurich West,

a formal industrial district recently evolved into a hotspot for those at the forefront of cool in the city. Participants took this opportunity to meet each other for the first time this year in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

On Saturday morning, the main session started with an update and overview on the Practice Groups' mission, objectives, structure and development by Michael Reiss von Filski, Global CEO of GGI. He also addressed some of the challenges faced by the Practice Group Chairs. The meeting continued with a roundtable focused on exchanging experiences and best practices in chairing a practice group.

The second part of the morning session featured a presentation by Christian Bredlow, from Digital Mindset, who

discussed reasons behind current buzzwords, such as "agility" and "New Work". Mr Bredlow explained the importance of the topic for SMEs and their executives, as improved new-work flows and leadership only can be successfully implemented if they are understood and lived by the executives in the firm.

As a conclusion to this year's meeting, the Practice Group Chairpersons were treated to dinner at the Storchen Hotel, in the very heart of Zurich's Old Town.

Next year's Practice Group Chairpersons Meeting will take place in Zurich from 29–31 January 2021, another terrific opportunity to sit together and leverage the experiences of one another in order to improve even further the GGI Practice Group experience.

Frankfurt am Main, Germany
27 February – 01 March 2020

GGI ITPG Global Tax Summit in the City of Skyscrapers

This year's GGI ITPG Global Tax Summit took place in Frankfurt am Main in the very centre of the city, where we were able to reach many attractions by foot – whether for leisure, shopping, dining or just exploring the German centre of finance.

Due to the spread of the new coronavirus, delegates from China and Italy stayed away but in the end there were over 50 participants present.

As usual, the event started on Thursday afternoon with a meeting of the Indirect Taxes Practice Group, led by PG Chairperson Steve McCrindle (from Haines Watts, UK). Among other topics, the import regulations of Germany, the Netherlands and the UK were discussed, with a focus on how to avoid paying import VAT and/or how to register a company for VAT purposes in the post-Brexit trading era.

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Oliver Biernat, Global Chairperson of the ITPG



Participants enjoy great technical presentations, and also the funny ITPG quiz

Thursday evening was the first opportunity for everyone to get together, with dinner at TnT Thurn und Taxis Palais, less than a five-minute walk from the hotel. First-time attendees (new PG members) were able to get an impression of the special and friendly atmosphere within the ITPG.

The ITPG Global Chairperson and Managing Director of this year's host firm Benefitax GmbH, Oliver Biernat, welcomed the delegates on Friday morning on a hoverboard with a surprising video and presentation in Star Trek style. Afterwards, GGI Global CEO Michael Reiss von Filski emphasised in his moving greeting how important it is to meet people from different countries in view of the globally increasing right-wing extremism.

The internal ITPG topics presented by Oliver Biernat and the PG's Regional Chairs included new projects, special offers for member companies, ITPG statistics, personnel and news from the regions.

For the third time, awards were given out for the best presentations made at all ITPG meetings in the previous year. Ashish Bairagra awarded the prize for the Best Technical Tax Presentation to Oliver Biernat for the role-play court case (in Tel Aviv), "Can an Incorrect Transfer Price Send You to Jail?" The award for the Most Innovative Speaker once again went to Jeff Mowery, this time for his presentation in Marrakesh,

"Driving Explosive Growth through Alternative Service Offerings".

Afterwards, Oliver Biernat and Eva Sutter checked if participants had been paying attention to the internal topics by means of a quiz. Six delegates got many answers right and could celebrate themselves as "champions" by singing along to Queen's "We are the Champions". Each of them also received an "Eye-Pad" as a prize. No, not an iPad, but when Oliver announced the prize verbally it sounded as if they would get an iPad (German sense of humour...). Information for all participants: the quiz results are kept in a safe place and will only be used in case of an absolute emergency, whatever that may be.

The first technical presentation of the event was provided by Prof Roberto Cagnazzo (from Studio Tributario Cagnazzo, Italy) as the only Italian attendee with "Taxation of Cross-border M&A in Italy". Carlos Frühbeck Olmedo (from Ficesa Treuhand, S.A.P. Auditores y Asesores Fiscales, Spain) followed with a presentation on "Application of the Spanish Participation Exemption Regime in Corporate Tax". Nick Brennan (from Citroen Wells Chartered Accountants, UK) talked about "Cross-border Estate Tax Planning – a UK Perspective", and Graeme Saggars (Nolands SA, South Africa) reported on "Exchange of Information: Does it Work? A South African Perspective". Prof Robert

Anthony (from Anthony & Cie, France) dealt with "CFC and Substance".

The afternoon technical contribution was a case study, "Residency Traps", led by Ashish Bairagra (from M L Bhuwania and Co LLP, India). Participants worked together in international teams to solve different problems that may arise when foreigners become resident in another country and the tax implications that may have. All presentations were followed by Q&A sessions and lively discussions. After a long day with a lot of expert knowledge exchanged, some relaxation was necessary – and so we learned and experienced from Kathrin Arrocha, qualified yoga teacher (and also representing ATG Allgäuer Treuhand GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft, Germany), how important and health-promoting meditation and yoga are. The short breathing exercises at the end of the session was very relaxing.

We spent Friday evening in a cozy, typical Frankfurt restaurant with local specialties and used the time for extensive networking.

The Saturday was also packed with top-class topics: Jean-Pierre Verlaine (from Engelwood Global Services Sarl, Luxembourg) started with a very vivid presentation and case study on "DAC 6 - Mandatory Disclosure Regime (MDR) – A New European Tax Transparency Regime", after which a lively discussion and numerous questions arose. Marc Niederöst (from



Ashish Bairagra awarded the prize for the Best Technical Tax Presentation 2019 to Oliver Biernat



The award for the Most Innovative Speaker 2019 went to Jeff Mowery

Treuhand- und Revisionsgesellschaft Mattig-Suter & Partner, Switzerland) spoke about "The Swiss Tax Reform for Enterprises 2020", and Bärbel Wierzoch (from Kieffer Stübben & Partner Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft, Steuerberatungsgesellschaft, Germany) chaired a panel discussion on "Country-by-Country Reporting: First Experience". Panellists were Fernando Lopez (from US firm, Prager Metis International LLC), Claudine Heinrich (from Hans & Associés, France), who also presented the Italian point of view on behalf of Matteo Bedogna (from Baldi and Partners, Italy), and finally Ashish Bairagra (from Indian M L Bhuwania and Co LLP), who also represented Glen Wei (from Horizon Group, China) with the Chinese view.

The last speaker of the day was Jeff Mowery (from Mowery & Schoenfeld LLC, USA). With his lecture on "Time is Money: Managing Ourselves

against the Clock", he gave numerous valuable and unconventional tips on time management.

Following lunch, the participants used the afternoon for shopping, a guided tour through the city of Frankfurt, workout or a nap in order to get ready for a long but rather exciting evening.

The "Genussakademie Frankfurt" provided an excellent backdrop for the



Delegates enjoyed preparing their own dinner

evening, where the delegates had to prepare their own dinner. With a total of nine courses under the guidance of professional chefs, the dishes were prepared at individual stations and in the end a (seemingly) huge chaos turned into a delicious dinner. Everyone agreed that cooking is a wonderful way to network. In addition, the host firm Benefitax had brought along glow sticks from which the participants made colourful jewellery and decorations – from chains to flowers, glasses and much more.

All in all, the GGI ITPG Global Tax Summit was once again a great success. Newcomers became friends. Friends strengthened their relationships, and all learned new tax topics from the wonderful presentations and lively discussions. It has been reported that some have also started cooking their own meals at home...



Participants showing off their self-created accessoires made from glow sticks