



PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Aug. 24, CMC – The Association of Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Companies (ATTIC), has applauded the government on the signing of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), saying that it has removed some uncertainty in the financial services industry.

“The IGA (Inter-Governmental Agreement) means that local reporting financial institutions will supply information to the local tax authority, who will then report to the US tax authority,” the association said.

On August 19, Finance Minister Colm Imbert and US Ambassador John Estrada signed the agreement which is expected to enforce the requirement for citizens of the United States, including those living outside of the US to file yearly reports on the non-US financial accounts.

“The law was enacted in the United States in March 2010 and now ATTIC commends the T&T government for signing onto the agreement.”

Compliance with FATCA reporting is essentially mandatory as non-compliance would have resulted in the imposition of withholding taxes on remittances out of the US.

The agreement is a model IA IGA, which is designed to improve international tax compliance through mutual assistance in tax matters based on an effective infrastructure for the automatic exchange of information.

The Ministry of Finance described the signing of the IGA as “another milestone in the relationship between both countries on tax matters.”

The signing brings to an end about three years of negotiations between the United States and the twin island republic on the Agreement.

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