

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

CANBERRA

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

FOR

THE ALLOCATION OF TAXING RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN INCOME OF
INDIVIDUALS

AND

TO ESTABLISH A MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE IN RESPECT OF TRANSFER
PRICING ADJUSTMENTS

Done at Majuro on 12 May 2010

Not yet in force

[2010] ATNIF 36

The Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (“the Contracting States”),

Recognising that the Contracting States have concluded an Agreement for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes, and

Desiring to conclude an Agreement for the allocation of taxing rights with respect to certain income of individuals and to establish a mutual agreement procedure in respect of transfer pricing adjustments,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

PERSONS COVERED

This Agreement shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

ARTICLE 2

TAXES COVERED

1 The existing taxes to which this Agreement shall apply are:

(a) in Australia, the income tax imposed under the federal law of Australia;

(hereinafter referred to as "Australian tax").

(b) in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, income tax imposed under the national laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

(hereinafter referred to as "Marshall Islands tax").

2 This Agreement shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are imposed after the date of signature of this Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other within a

reasonable period of time of any substantial changes to the taxation laws covered by this Agreement.

3 This Agreement shall not apply to taxes imposed by states, municipalities, local authorities or other political subdivisions, or possessions of a Contracting State.

ARTICLE 3

DEFINITIONS

1 For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) the term "Australia", when used in a geographical sense, excludes all external territories other than:
 - (i) the Territory of Norfolk Island;
 - (ii) the Territory of Christmas Island;
 - (iii) the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands;
 - (iv) the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands;
 - (v) the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands; and
 - (vi) the Coral Sea Islands Territory,

and includes any area adjacent to the territorial limits of Australia (including the Territories specified in this subparagraph) in respect of which there is for the time being in force, consistently with international law, a law of Australia dealing with the exploration for or exploitation of any of the natural resources of the exclusive economic zone or the seabed and subsoil of the continental shelf;

- (b) the term "the Republic of Marshall Islands" means any land territory within the territorial limits of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and includes the internal waters and territorial sea of the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
- (c) the term "competent authority" means in the case of Australia, the Commissioner of Taxation or an authorised representative of the Commissioner and, in the case of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Secretary of Finance or an authorised representative of the Secretary of Finance;

- (d) the term "Contracting State" means Australia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as the context requires;
- (e) the term "national", in relation to a Contracting State, means any individual possessing the nationality or citizenship of that Contracting State;
- (f) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
- (g) the term "tax" means Australian tax or Marshall Islands tax as the context requires; and
- (h) the term "transfer pricing adjustment" means an adjustment made by the competent authority of a Contracting State to the profits of an enterprise as a result of applying the domestic law concerning taxes referred to in Article 2 of that State regarding transfer pricing.

2 As regards the application of this Agreement at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that State, for the purposes of the taxes to which this Agreement applies, with any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that State.

ARTICLE 4

RESIDENT

1 For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means:

- (a) in the case of Australia, a person who is a resident of Australia for the purposes of Australian tax; and
- (b) in the case of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, a person who is a resident of Marshall Islands for the purposes of Marshall Islands Tax.

2 A person is not a resident of a Contracting State for the purposes of this Agreement if the person is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State or, in the case of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, is not subject to the most comprehensive taxation provided under the national tax laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

3 Where by reason of the preceding provisions of this Article a person, being an individual, is a resident of both Contracting States, then the person's status shall be determined as follows:

- (a) the individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which a permanent home is available to that individual; if a permanent home is available in both States, or in neither of them, that individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State with which the individual's personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
- (b) if the State in which the individual has their centre of vital interests cannot be determined, the individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State of which the individual is a national;
- (c) if the individual is a national of both States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve the question by mutual agreement.

4 Where, by reason of paragraph 1, a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which its place of effective management is situated.

ARTICLE 5

PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

1 Pensions (including government pensions) and retirement annuities paid to an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State. However, pensions and retirement annuities arising in a Contracting State may be taxed in that State where such income is not subject to tax in the other Contracting State.

2 The term "retirement annuity" means:

- (a) in the case of Australia, a superannuation annuity payment within the meaning of the taxation laws of Australia;
- (b) in the case of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, a superannuation annuity payment within the meaning of the taxation laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and
- (c) any other similar periodic payment agreed upon by the competent authorities.

ARTICLE 6

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

- 1 (a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, other than a pension or retirement annuity, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.
- (b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that State and the individual is a resident of that State who:
- (i) is a national of that State; or
 - (ii) did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.

2 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration in respect of services rendered in connection with any trade or business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof may be taxed in accordance with the laws of a Contracting State.

ARTICLE 7

STUDENTS

Payments which a student or business apprentice, who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is temporarily present in the first-mentioned State solely for the purpose of their education or training, receives for the purpose of their maintenance, education or training shall not be taxed in that State, provided such payments arise from sources outside that State.

ARTICLE 8

MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE IN RESPECT OF TRANSFER PRICING
ADJUSTMENTS

1 Where a resident of a Contracting State considers the actions of the other Contracting State results or will result in a transfer pricing adjustment not in accordance with the arm's length principle, the resident may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present a case to the competent authority of the first-mentioned State. The case must be presented within three (3) years of the first notification of the adjustment.

2 The competent authorities shall endeavour to resolve any difficulties or doubts arising as to the application of the arm's length principle by a Contracting State regarding transfer pricing adjustments. They may also communicate with each other directly for the purposes of this Article.

ARTICLE 9

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement. Information may be exchanged by the competent authorities for the purposes of this Article in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes concluded by the Contracting States (whether or not this Agreement, in whole or in part, forms part of the domestic law of either Contracting State).

ARTICLE 10

ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Contracting States shall notify each other, in writing, through the diplomatic channel of the completion of their constitutional and legal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last notification, and shall, provided an Agreement for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes is in force between the Contracting States, thereupon have effect:

- (a) in respect of Australian tax, for any year of income beginning on or after 1 July in the calendar year next following the date on which this Agreement enters into force; and

- (b) in respect of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, for any year of income beginning on or after 1 October in the calendar year next following the date on which this Agreement enters into force;

ARTICLE 11

TERMINATION

1 This Agreement shall continue in effect indefinitely, but either of the Contracting States may give to the other Contracting State through the diplomatic channel written notice of termination.

2 Such termination shall become effective:

- (a) in respect of Australian tax, in the year of income beginning on or after 1 July in the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination is given;
- (b) in respect of Marshall Islands tax, in the year of income beginning on or after 1 October in the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination is given.

3 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 or 2, this Agreement shall, on receipt through the diplomatic channel of written notice of termination of the Agreement for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes between the Contracting States, terminate and cease to be effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six (6) months after the date of receipt of such notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Majuro, this twelfth day of May 2010, in duplicate.

**For the Government
Australia**

**For the Government of the
Republic of the Marshall Islands**

H.E. Susan Cox OAM
Ambassador

Brendan Wase
Acting Minister of Finance