



IFA Branch Development Fund

Background information

The establishment of an IFA Branch Development Fund (“BDF”) was proposed by Honorary President Porus Kaka. This proposal was discussed during the EC Meeting in Rio (2017). Following IFA’s motto “growing local, becoming global”, the overall objective of the BDF is to promote and enhance IFA and its objectives worldwide, via a continuing development of its branches.

The BDF serves as an equivalent programme to the David R. Tillinghast Programme, which has the objective to support not-for-profit academic institutions who wish to organise an academic or scientific conference on matters of international or comparative taxation. The DRT Programme specifically states that IFA Branches are not eligible.

This proposal sets out the objectives of the BDF, the criteria for application, its administration and its procedures for selection.

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Branch Development Fund Regulations

Objectives

The overall objective of the BDF is to promote IFA and its objectives by:

- supporting and encouraging activities and the development of especially smaller and underdeveloped Branches by organising Branch activities and visibility and by increasing membership;
- enhancing the cooperation between Branches to develop the regions;
- creating more awareness and connection between the whole IFA community.

An example is to assist Branches with organising a conference or seminar attractive for the region. Smaller and especially newer Branches often wish to organise a conference or seminar not only to attract members in their own jurisdiction but also to establish a network of cooperation with their surrounding Branches. The Branch fund can assist in providing or advancing funds for expenses to be prepaid for the conference or seminar. There should also be some coordination with the PSC to avoid overlapping scientific programmes and to coordinate the timing of the various IFA conferences during the year.

Criteria applications

A Branch or Branches can send in an application in which they propose to organise an IFA exclusively conference or any other IFA exclusively activity, which serves the abovementioned objectives. They should submit a detailed proposal to the Committee (see below), which provides sufficient information as to:

- the organisers;
- the objective of the conference or activity;
- the practical and theoretical relevance of the topic to be discussed;
- the relevance for the international tax world, noting that a partly regional focus is possible;
- the draft scientific (and social) programme;
- the envisaged speakers;



- an explanation on how the conference or the event is expected to help the applicant grow, become more visible, or in any way reach the objectives of the BDF;
- any potential sponsors;
- an indication of how the event will be available on line
- a view on how existing participating members/branches and potential new members may benefit from the event.

Branches from developing and emerging countries and smaller Branches are specifically encouraged to apply.

Branch Development Fund Committee

A dedicated Committee will assess these applications on the criteria set out above and decide on attribution of funds/guarantees. The tasks of the Committee are in particular:

- to process and select applications;
- to issue guidance on the content and the organisation once an application is selected;
- to determine on a case by case basis the amount of support to be given;
- to provide regular (quarterly) reports on the progress to the EB+/EC.

The Committee will consist of:

- The Secretary General
- The Chair or Vice Chair of the PSC, to be determined by the EB+
- Two individuals appoint by the EB+

The Committee may consult with one or more current or former EB+ members, including Honorary IFA Presidents. The Committee will be assisted by the General Secretariat.

Operational & Financial

The Branch Fund will include a founding contribution of Euro 15'000 from Mr Porus Kaka, Honorary President of IFA. IFA will reserve Euro 35'000 to the BDF. The BDF will be open to any further funding from any other source or donor. Ultimate supervision of the financial aspects of the BDF lies with EB+.

Operations will be as follows:

- A call for applications will be sent out once every two years, alternating with the DRT programme;
- Applications are to be studied and decided upon by the Committee following the established criteria;
- A regular (bi-monthly) progress report by the Branch/Branches selected including scientific programme is sent to the Committee.

It is also possible for the Committee to take the initiative to undertake and fund activities in line with the purpose of the BDF.

All sorts of combinations to support activities of the branches are possible such as full grant, or grants combined with loans. Branches must remain motivated in making the conference/activity a success, including on its financial aspects. That is where a combination of grant and loan may be envisaged. However, it is not the objective that Branches should be obliged to eat into their Branch funds. Additional funding of conferences/activities might be provided by other IFA Branches or sponsorship by third parties following IFA's sponsorship guidelines.

The Committee is not committed to grant any fund/guarantee in any specific year, nor is it limited in its capacity to select multiple applications.