

Newsletter

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Strengthening the regional dimension of technical assistance





The year 2010 marks the 10th year since the launch of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations, which have been instrumental in placing development at the heart of the WTO Work Programme. The development dimension of the DDA has ensured synergies with many other development initiatives. With development now at the core of the DDA negotiations and the WTO's overall Work Programme, TA and training have taken a whole new dimension. Developing countries now look to the DDA negotiations as one way of getting outcomes that will ultimately lead to a fairer international trade regime to assist their development. Africa is one of the developing regions seeking to attain benefits from this development round. It is on this point of development that the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), which is committed to Africa's economic and social development, converges with the WTO. In pursuance of this common objective, the UNECA and WTO have increased their collaboration on trade-related technical assistance (TRTA), with a view to greater integration of African countries in the multilateral trading system (MTS), and with this integration their gradual economic and social development.

The pinnacle of the collaboration between WTO and UNECA is the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions. The MoU was signed in March 2010, at the UNECA headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This MoU exemplifies this strong spirit of collaboration. As was stated at the MoU signing ceremony, that I presided over together with WTO Deputy Director-General Valentine Rugwabiza, the MoU was not the beginning of collaboration, but the enhancement of a collaboration that had existed since the early days of the WTO. The MoU emphasizes collaboration in actual delivery of activities to African countries, whereby WTO activities would be organized in collaboration with the UNECA, both at the substantive and logistical level. It also calls for collaboration in research projects of benefit to the African countries. The UNECA is also gratified that WTO places emphasis on Africa in the biennial TA Plans. I can only expect this trend to continue for the foreseeable future.

The WTO and the UNECA have also had extensive collaboration on Aid for Trade relating to the Africa region. The UNECA has been actively involved in all the regional reviews on Aid for Trade that have taken place in Africa. In this regard, the UNECA looks forward to the next Aid for Trade Global Review, scheduled for July 2011.

As we have entered a new decade of this century, the UNECA looks forward to continued collaboration with the WTO in our common goal of getting more and more countries integrated into the MTS. This is one contribution to other steps being taken to achieve the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With the personal commitment of the Director-General of the WTO, Pascal Lamy, we are committed to use our collective forces in supporting Africa's efforts in this endeavour.

Abdoulie Janneh
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

ITTC Newsletter online

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Productive partnerships in the planning and delivery of wto technical assistance

As a result of the far-reaching agreements concluded during the Uruguay Round and the number of subjects being negotiated under the DDA, there has been a marked increase in TA requests from developing countries. In 2010, the WTO implemented nearly 450 activities for the benefit of developing countries. Given the limited resources of the WTO and the need for the regional dimension to be fully reflected in TA programmes, the WTO has strengthened its working relationship with a number of key institutions in all geographical regions of the developing world. In Africa, the WTO works closely with UNECA, the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Union (AU). It has also enhanced its collaboration with all the regional economic communities, including the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Cooperation (CEMAC). In Arab and Middle-Eastern Countries, the WTO works closely with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA). In Asia and the Pacific, relations have been strengthened with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat. In Central & Eastern Europe, Central

Asia and the Caucasus, the WTO has enhanced its collaboration with the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI), while in Latin America and the Caribbean, relations with the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL), the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Andean Pact, the Central American Secretariat for Economic Integration (SIECA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) have been further deepened.

In some regions, almost all regional activities are held jointly with our partners. The synergies derived from the enhanced collaboration have been of enormous benefit to beneficiary countries, as they are able to have a holistic view of the issues under consideration enabling them to provide focused advice to further the interests of their countries in the multilateral trading system. Whereas WTO resource persons focus on WTO Agreements and the Doha negotiations, resource persons from partner institutions focus on socio-economic developments in the respective regions as well as national and regional policies that have been adopted to enhance the participation of beneficiary countries in the MTS. They also provide policy advice as and when required. The closer cooperation with regional partners has also been beneficial from a financial perspective, as several of our partners contribute financially and

take care of logistical issues, thereby reducing the burden on the WTO and enabling the WTO resource persons to focus more on the substantive aspects of the training activities.

To build lasting institutional knowledge about trade policy matters in developing countries, the WTO has also been collaborating with a number of academic institutions in the developing world. The assistance has consisted of providing advice on curricula on international trade, the teaching of specific modules in the trade programme and participating in conferences and symposia on international trade organized by the academic institutions. It is the expectation that the collaboration with academic institutions would in the medium to long-term generate a base of competent trainers in the developing world who could provide sound advice on trade-related matters to their governments, regional economic communities and other stakeholders. The flagship programme of WTO's collaboration with academic institutions is the Regional Trade Policy Course (RTPC) which is held with a selected academic partner. Out of the 14 Chairs of the WTO Chair's Programme 13 have been allocated to developing country Universities, namely: Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Argentina; Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT), China; University of Chile, Chile; Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia; University of West Indies, Jamaica; University of Jordan, Jordan; University of Nairobi, Kenya; University of Mauritius, Mauritius; Instituto Tecnológico

Autonomo de Mexico (ITAM), Mexico; Mohammed V University-Souissi, Morocco; University of Namibia (UNAM), Namibia; Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal and Vietnam National University, Viet Nam.

The WTO is committed to further strengthening its relationship with regional institutions and universities in developing countries, as by joining forces they can provide targeted TA

to developing countries and facilitate their greater participation in the MTS.

**"The partnership between the African Development Bank and the WTO is key in facilitating the integration of African countries into the multilateral trading system"-
Mr Donald Kaberuka - President of the African Development Bank**



The AfDB is committed to facilitating the greater participation of African countries in the MTS given the role that could be played by trade in alleviating poverty and laying the foundation for sustainable growth and development. With intra-African trade at less than ten per cent and the share of African countries in world trade at three per cent, the AfDB has been working closely with the WTO to build the capacity of African countries

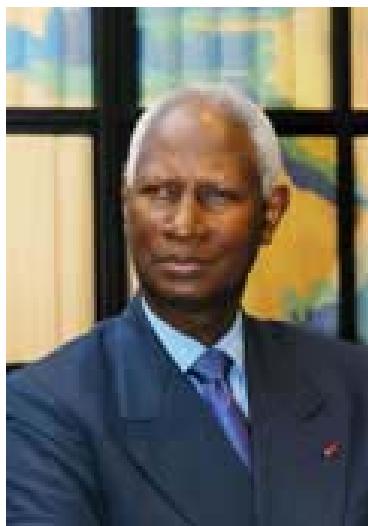
in trade policy matters and also to address the supply-side constraints which have prevented African countries from taking advantage of market access opportunities under bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements.

Since 2002, the AfDB together with the WTO and the UNECA has been holding biennially a trade policy course (TPC) for all African countries. Participants are not only provided with an update in the DDA negotiations, but also briefed on socio-economic developments in Africa. Resource persons from the three Institutions focus on their respective areas of competence, thereby providing the participants with a holistic view of developments in the multilateral trading system and the global economy and how they impact on African countries. The participants get an opportunity to exchange views on good practices

and strengthen their professional relationships. As one of the largest lenders to African countries, the AfDB has also been collaborating with the WTO and other institutions on the Aid for Trade initiative.

The AfDB sees its partnership with the WTO as key in building lasting institutional knowledge about trade policy matters in African countries and would work towards further strengthening this productive relationship."

Cooperation between the Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF) and the World Trade Organization



Among the four goals that it has set itself, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) attaches particular importance to building the national capacity of the French-speaking countries to negotiate and to derive greater benefit from multilateral, bilateral and regional trade agreements. Since 2003, the OIF has been working closely with the WTO to identify the needs of the French-speaking Member countries in a variety of areas,

including the training of government and private-sector officials on multilateral trade agreements; the training and upgrading of trainers/university professors; support for the organization of courses on trade negotiations and their integration in the curricula of identified partner training centres; the setting-up of reference centres in French-speaking countries and institutions; and capacity building of French-speaking parliamentarians on issues relating to the multilateral trading system (MTS).

This partnership is exemplary. On the basis of needs analysis, cost sharing, the supply of experts and the exchange of information, it has been able to attain a number of significant goals: strengthening of inter-institutional links between the OIF and the WTO; extension of relations to other actors in the French-speaking World such as the *Agence universitaire de la Francophonie* (AUF) and the *Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie*; improvement of the

content of training programmes on offer; and finally, diversification of beneficiaries (parliamentarians, academic community and young researchers, economic operators, civil society and non-governmental organizations). Thus, thousands of officials from the French-speaking countries have been trained throughout the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank once again Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the WTO, for his vitality and his thoroughness. Thanks to his commitment and availability, our two Institutions have been able to help our French-speaking Member countries to integrate into the MTS while ensuring that international trade contributes to poverty reduction among their populations and serves as an engine for their development.

Abdou DIOUF
Secretary-General of La Francophonie

Partnering with institutions in Africa in the planning and delivery of technical assistance

There has been an exponential growth in world trade in the last five decades, but Africa is the only continent which has not benefited significantly from this expansion in world trade. However, there are some encouraging signs of growth in recent years partly due to rising commodity prices and sound economic policies being pursued by

many African countries. The feeble participation of African countries in the MTS is a source of concern to the WTO, which has in response, given them priority in its TA and capacity building (CB) programmes. In 2010, African countries benefitted from 40 per cent and 32 per cent of WTO's national and regional TA activities, respectively. Given the numerous

TA demands of African countries and the need for activities to fully reflect the regional dimension, the WTO has forged a number of partnerships with international organizations based in Africa, including the UNECA, with whom the WTO has concluded a MOU and the AfDB. The three institutions hold a biennial activity of two weeks duration for

all African countries during which socio-economic developments in Africa as well as developments in the Doha negotiations are reviewed. The workshop also provides an opportunity for the participants to exchange views and experiences on good practices in the formulation and implementation of trade policy.

Furthermore, the WTO has strengthened its relationship with sub-regional institutions, including the SADC, the COMESA, the East

African Community (EAC), the ECOWAS, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the CEMAC. In addition, the WTO has also concluded mutually beneficial arrangements with a number of institutions, particularly with the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), which is very active in French-speaking Africa. Activities held jointly with regional cooperating partners have the advantage of allowing for complementary contributions by resource persons with expertise

in specific trade issues from the Secretariats of the relevant cooperating partner. Such synergies are helpful in building a base of potential trainers within each sub-region, which could gradually reduce the burden on the WTO Secretariat as a result of ever increasing demands for delivery of TA. The regional partners are also increasingly helping with logistical arrangements enabling the WTO to focus more on the substantive aspects of training programmes and making cost savings.

"The COMESA Secretariat has had a very successful partnership with the WTO" - Secretary-General Sindiso Ngwenya



The WTO Secretariat and the COMESA Secretariat have enjoyed a close working relationship over the years. In 2008, the Director-General of the WTO, Mr Pascal Lamy, met with the Secretary-General of COMESA, Mr Sindiso Ngwenya, in Geneva and they agreed to further strengthen the relationship between the two Institutions in the planning

and delivery of TA for COMESA member states. Since then, the Heads of the two Institutions have attended meetings organized by each Institution. The WTO Director-General, for example, attended the COMESA Heads of State Summit in Swaziland from 30 August to 1 September 2010. The WTO Secretariat has established a Reference Centre at COMESA Headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia and conducted training for COMESA officials on WTO Agreements and the Doha negotiations as well as on tariff analysis. It is the expectation of the WTO Secretariat that through these activities, it would be able to strengthen the capacity of COMESA officials to deliver courses on the WTO and the MTS, thereby contributing to the building of institutional knowledge on trade policy matters in COMESA member states.

The two Secretariats have also organized a number of joint training activities for senior trade officials of COMESA member states. In 2009 and 2010, high-level meetings were held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and Victoria, The Seychelles, respectively. These meetings focused on WTO rules relating to regional trade agreements, the agreement establishing the COMESA customs union and also developments in the Doha negotiations. The programmes for the meetings were drawn up by both the WTO Secretariat and the COMESA Secretariat ensuring that regional dimension was fully taken into account. The resource persons from the two Institutions focused on subjects within their competences. The budding partnership between the two Institutions has produced greater synergies and avoided

duplication of functions, and this has tremendously benefitted COMESA member states. It is the

determination of the two Institutions to intensify their collaboration so that they can effectively address

the capacity constraints of COMESA member states and facilitate their full integration into the MTS.

Message from Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)



The UNESCAP has dedicated a sizeable portion of its resources to develop a comprehensive programme to strengthen the capacities of UNESCAP Members and Associate Members for evidence-based trade policymaking including effective negotiation, conclusion and implementation of trade agreements at various levels. The WTO and its Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation

(ITTC) have been partners of the Trade and Investment Division of UNESCAP from the early stages of this programme in 1999. Since then almost 3'000 government officials and policymakers were trained on all topics relevant to trade, trade policies and WTO-related agreements. As special care is taken to include female and young participants, the activities of this programme are contributing towards removing a gender deficit among trade policymakers as well as providing better understanding of issues relevant for inclusive trade-led growth. Furthermore, Asia-Pacific research and Training Network (ARTNeT) has enjoyed support both in terms of financial backing and substantive contributions from WTO staff in developing research capacity on trade by junior analysts and researchers in this region. The long-

standing collaboration between the WTO and the UNESCAP Secretariat enables Members in our region to benefit from the MTS. We are looking forward to expanding this collaboration by putting more focus on the needs of countries which are yet to accede to WTO and on those countries which have experienced difficulties in implementing their international trade commitments.

Heyzer Under-Secretary-General of

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Heyzer".

the United Nations and Executive
Secretary of UNESCAP

Message from H.E. the President, Islamic Development Bank Group



The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, being a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB), has always placed promotion of trade as one of its strategic thrusts to achieve its development objectives. Since its inception in 1975, the Bank is the first MDB which provides trade financing, with a cumulative amount exceeding US\$ 40 billion by 2011, to its member countries. This is a clear

manifestation of IsDB's commitment to enhancement of trade in its constituent member countries. In addition to this, the IsDB has also included trade promotion, trade facilitation and capacity building as important inputs to its trade enhancement activities in its member countries.

In the above context, the IsDB has collaborated with the WTO since the establishment of the Organization in 1995. The IsDB launched a full-fledged WTO-related TA and CB programme since 1997 to enhance the human and institutional capacity of its member countries on WTO-related matters. This program consists of organizing three-week TPCs, seminars, workshops, and consultative meetings to cater to the various needs of the member countries. The WTO has been one of the most important partners in implementing this programme.

With a view to further enhance and institutionalize their cooperation, the two Institutions also signed a MoU in 2003. The two Organizations have enjoyed excellent collaboration in building up the human and institutional capacity on WTO-related trade matters of IsDB member countries, through jointly organizing 24 Short Trade Policy Courses (STPCs) and various Seminars and Workshops on different WTO-related issues, over the course of time.

In addition, the IsDB Group has been actively involved with the WTO on the Aid for Trade initiative since it was launched at the 6th WTO Ministerial

Conference. The IsDB Group also participated in the 1st and 2nd Global Reviews on Aid for Trade hosted by the WTO and is looking forward to its active participation in the forthcoming 3rd Global Review. Besides, ITFC, trade arm of IsDB Group, is a member and active contributor of WTO Expert Group on Trade Finance.

The IsDB group stands committed to continue and further enhance its excellent collaboration with the WTO to address the increasing needs of the IsDB member countries on trade-related issues with a view to assisting them in playing an effective role in the multilateral trading system.

Partnership with the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF)



In May 2002, the Secretariat of the WTO and the AMF signed a MoU concerning the Joint Technical Assistance Programme for the Arab Countries. The main objective of the MoU has been to cooperate in training and capacity building for our member countries. The two Organizations conducted many activities totalling nine seminars and seven workshops by May 2011. Those activities covered a variety of topics such as trade negotiations, trade in services, and the DDA.

The sincerity and dedication of the WTO staff conducting those seminars contributed to their success. As a result of a successful and fruitful cooperation, we are looking forward to continuing our excellent relationship with WTO in the coming years for the benefit of our Arab member countries.

Dr Jassim Al-Mannai
Director General Chairman
of the Board
Arab Monetary Fund

Partnership with Regional Institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Desk has strived to enhance WTO's cooperation with regional institutions and partners in Latin America and the Caribbean. The results have been quite successful.

Firstly, they have allowed for cost savings, not a minor endeavour at a time in which many WTO Members, and particularly donors, are engaged in fiscal consolidation. Secondly, it helped us better focus on regional

needs, as our regional partners have a better understanding of regional challenges and opportunities. Thirdly, it has also broadened our regional partners' awareness of multilateral challenges and the need to strive for

coherence in global economic policy making.

Outstanding amongst our regional partners is our very well established cooperative relationship with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) through its Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL). WTO has also gained invaluable success in many activities through the synergies forged with other regional partner organizations, notably those with the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), Organization of American States (OAS), Central American Secretariat for Economic Integration, (SIECA), Inter-American

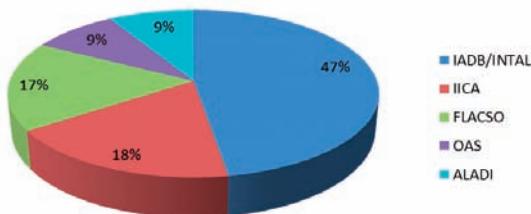
Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Andean Community of Nations (CAN), Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the ECLAC. Thanks to the aforementioned partnerships, to enhanced in-house coordination we have been able to minimize the constraints imposed by staff competing activities.

We have also benefited from partnerships with universities in the region. In 2010, the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO-

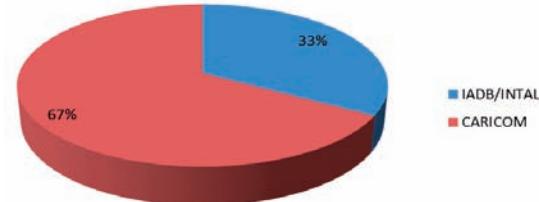
Argentina), a member of our "Chairs Programme"¹, organized two regional seminars for us. One on Government Procurement, and a second one on Trade in Natural Resources (the subject matter of WTO's 2010 World Trade Report). This second "seminar" was actually a "policy dialogue", which gathered government officials and academics from all over Latin America; a format that we intend to use in cases where governments are faced with policy choices not covered by a single WTO Agreement.

¹ aimed at supporting academic institutions and associated individual scholars from developing countries in course preparation, teaching, research and outreach activities.

Partnership 2010: Latin America



Partnership 2010: The Caribbean



Partnership WTO (ITTC) - Latin American School of Social Sciences - (FLACSO) - Argentina

FLACSO-Argentina is a post-graduate Institution that has been pioneer in including international trade issues as a core theme in its training and research programs. As a result, FLACSO's researchers and professors extensively publish on the GATT/WTO (including WTO publications) and participate in WTO's seminars. In the same way, WTO officers participate in many FLACSO's meetings. Against

this backdrop, in 2010, a more formal and continuum partnership has been established through the FLACSO WTO Chair - a WTO initiative aimed at supporting academic institutions and associated individual scholars from developing countries in course preparation, teaching, research and outreach activities related to international trade and MTS. In this sense, we strive to operationalize the

idea that there is much to gain from bridging the gap between academics and international policy making. This is, undoubtedly, a challenge for both the WTO and FLACSO.

In this line, one very positive experience that could serve as a platform to re-think and fine-tune future training endeavours has been the partnership FLACSO-ITTC for



Mr Miguel F. Lengyel and Mr. A. Jara, WTO Deputy Director-General

the organization of two courses. For example, one of the courses was designed to build on the 2010 WTO (Global) Report on Trade on Natural Resources. All issues included in the program were developed from a regional perspective and were tackled through different disciplines (economics, law and international relations, mainly). In addition, the more theoretical issues were

presented by academics in "class-like" sessions while negotiation or public policy issues were presented by public officers in round tables-like sessions. WTO officers participated in all sessions commenting lectures.

Results worthy to note: participants (public officers) acknowledged the benefits of a theoretical-practical approach, the locally-grounded

agenda and, the fact that it was an interactive process in which the agenda was set through a bottom-up approach. This process simultaneously allowed the WTO team to better grasp regional challenges, and the FLACSO team to broaden its awareness of multilateral challenges.

FLACSO-WTO Chair is coordinated by Valentina Delich

More information:

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Miguel F. Lengyel
Director
FLACSO-Argentina

Partnership between the WTO and the Inter-American Development Bank

For more than a decade now, the WTO and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have been working together to build the international trade capacity of the countries of LAC. Courses and workshops have been organized to provide updates on the content and progress of the multilateral trade negotiations.

The effectiveness of this joint capacity-building programme rests on a formula which combines a number of different factors. First of all, it provides knowledge and information to a considerable

number of government officials on subjects and aspects that are not very accessible to any but the few directly involved in the subject matter under negotiation. Thus, the training contributes to the institutional development of the agencies and of the officials working in them, and hence to the formulation of government policy in that area. The actual dynamics of the activity, which involves representatives of different countries in the region working together, is favourable to the exchange of ideas and experiences and helps to build up a social network

that is essential to trade negotiations and to cooperation at the regional level.

Secondly, the discussions are enhanced by the inputs and vital experience of the technical staff of the WTO and IDB, which also work closely with the countries of the region, providing technical assistance and loans for the implementation of the trade agreements and for trade facilitation, as well as investing in the economic infrastructure needed for trade.

Thirdly, the joint programme has led to effective inter-agency cooperation between the WTO's Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation and the IDB, via the Integration and Trade Sector of the IDB's Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL), through which each one of the entities involved can channel its specific contributions, the results of which benefit the final recipients, i.e. the countries.

Thus INTAL, as a unit of the bank located in the field, has acted as a regional platform for these activities, which take place either at INTAL headquarters (Buenos Aires, Argentina) or in the different capitals

of LAC. In 2011 courses were held, among other places, in Montevideo (Uruguay), Kingston (Jamaica), Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago), and San Salvador (El Salvador). The contribution consists of providing the required logistical, technical and financial resources.

Although this experiment has been consolidated over the years and indicators suggest that its impact is considerable, the value of the training and the effectiveness of the programme's activities are constantly being monitored. Thus, both Institutions are regularly involved in updating the content imparted each

year and constantly evaluating the results.

Ricardo Carciofi
Director Institute for the Integration
of Latin America and the Caribbean
Country Vice-Presidency

Antoni Estevadeordal
Manager Integration and
Trade Sector
Vice-Presidency of Sectors
and Knowledge IDB

Message from the Director – Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), WTO's New Partner for the Asia-Pacific Regional Trade Policy Course (RTPC)



It is indeed a matter of great pleasure and pride that the Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT is partnering with the WTO Secretariat to host the prestigious three-month RTPC on WTO for Asia-Pacific countries in the IIFT campus in New Delhi. I am confident that the interaction and partnership between the two

Institutions will enrich both. It not only provides a unique opportunity to establish synergies between the highly accomplished resources persons of WTO with their Indian counterparts in this training programme, but also presents wider possibilities to explore other joint activities between the two Institutions in areas of teaching and research, which hopefully will culminate into establishment of a WTO Chair in IIFT. We expect this partnership to also cement linkages of the Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT with other institutions of the Asia-Pacific region working on trade and WTO-related issues. India has for long played an active role in the negotiations in WTO and now the time has come for her to play an equally important role in disseminating knowledge on

WTO through activities of training, seminar and workshops- and for this no partner can be more valuable and preeminent than the WTO Secretariat itself. I am confident that this is the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship!

K.T.Chacko
Director, IIFT

Remarks by the Rector of Abomey-Calavi University on the Regional Trade Policy Course Organized by the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation in Partnership with his University



Since 2008, my University has been conducting a very interesting experiment with the WTO's

Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC) in connection with the organization, in Benin, of the RTPC. The fact is that in the space of three years, my University has developed a partnership with the ITTC which has enhanced its influence in the subregion. Moreover, this Course has opened up previously unforeseen possibilities of cooperation with the national entities responsible for multilateral trade issues and the negotiation of trade agreements. We have also established contacts with universities and professionals that are involved as regional experts

in the training of course participants. Finally, and most importantly, the RTPC has enabled us to start acting and to plan future efforts to ensure the sustainability of the benefits that the course has brought us.

In other words, my University has profited considerably from this partnership with the ITTC. Let me finish these remarks by thanking our WTO partners.

Rector of the UAC
Professor Cossi Norbert AWANOU

Partnership with the Sergio Arboleda University, Bogota, Columbia



It is a great and highly significant honour for Sergio Arboleda University to have been able to develop a solid relationship with the WTO, a relationship which has already lasted three years during which we have hosted the RTPC for Latin America. Other important achievements include:

- Training of more than 60 officials from 16 different countries of Latin America;
- organization of three forums on the WTO, open to the general public;
- visits from more than 40 world-class lecturers working directly with the WTO and the top universities of Latin America.
- participation, in Geneva (Switzerland), in three preparatory workshops, attended by at least ten professors from our University;
- joint project with the WTO involving the writing of cases in international trade to be used as teaching material in that area;
- pioneering the massive use of the virtual classroom for courses, thereby saving the resources such as paper and contributing to their rationalization;
- support for the implementation of two trade policy courses in Africa, one in Benin (Abomey-Calavi University) and one in Swaziland (University of Swaziland).
- strengthening of the academic curriculum, with the recent approval of the Masters in International Trade.

Rodrigo Noguera Calderón
Rector
Sergio Arboleda University

Partnership with the University of Swaziland



The partnership between the University of Swaziland and WTO on the RTPCs has raised the level of awareness, knowledge and skills of the participants in the English-speaking African region in terms

of WTO trade and negotiations protocols, policies, rules, regulations and procedures. One is confident that the participants would be able to take well-informed positions in regional and global trade negotiations. Since the WTO TA harmonizes the trade issues in key areas such as theory of trade in goods and services, trade policy, market access, regionalism, to name of few, then the participants will have a common understanding of the bilateral and MTS.

Furthermore, networking within the RTPC community opens up opportunities for sustained collaboration and consultations beyond the life of the course. A striking feature of the RTPC is its

ability to provide a platform for the cross-fertilization of knowledge between trade theorists drawn from academia and trade policy practitioners representing state institutions.

Prof. C. M. Magagula
Vice Chancellor
University of Swaziland

Advanced Trade Policy Course (ATPC) : 31 January – 21 April 2011

The Director of the ITTC, Mr. Hakim Ben Hammouda, along with the Patroness of the Course Ms Hilda Al-Hinai Deputy Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman closed the 2011 ATPC in Geneva on 21 April 2011. The ATPC, one of two ATPC's to be held this year, was held in English and represents the highest level of learning ('level 3') in the WTO's progressive learning framework. Twenty Government officials from developing countries and LDCs, as well as economies in transition that are WTO Members and Observers successfully concluded the course. Participants rated the Course in their evaluation forms as very successful. Ms Vonai Muyambo and Mr. Roberto Fiorentino were the ITTC's trainers in charge of the course.

The ATPC exposed participants to the different areas of WTO work through the consideration of, not only the legal aspects of the WTO Agreements and use of certain trade policy instruments, but also the economic implications of implementing the Agreements and making use of these instruments. This was achieved by encouraging 'learning by doing' through shifting the focus from lecture-based teaching to interactive teaching methods including case studies and exercises; the objective being to promote critical thinking by the participants about trade policy formulation. The latter was put to practice through the completion of an individual trade-related project, the findings of which each participant presented at the final workshop to

a panel of experts consisting of Mr. Patrick Low, Director of the Economic Research and Statistics Division; Mr. Raymundo Valdes, Counsellor in the Intellectual Property Division; and Ms Susan Hainsworth, Head, Geneva-Based Courses Unit of the ITTC. As with the previous ATPC, and in line with the Director-General's initiative towards a 'paperless' Secretariat, each participant was provided with a laptop for use over the three-month period to facilitate access to a 'virtual classroom' in which all documentation was available as well as completion of the individual projects.

Participants benefited from hearing from WTO experts as well as experts from other international organizations.



Participants in the ATPC

In addition, they benefited, on several occasions, from meeting with the Patroness of the course, Ms Hilda Al-Hinai, including at an informal dinner organized specifically for them at her residence. During one of her addresses to the participants, Ms Al-Hinai shared her experiences of being part of a small delegation in Geneva as well as her insights on the benefits and challenges of acceding to the WTO. The participants found these exchanges to be particularly beneficial as they provided them with an opportunity to frankly discuss issues related to the challenges of WTO Membership as well as the

implications of a conclusion or non-conclusion of the Doha Round with someone exposed to the daily functioning of the WTO and involved in the on-going negotiations. The Patroness commended the participants for their hard work and commitment during their three-month stay in Geneva and expressed her willingness to continue to guide them in the future should the need arise. The participants also benefited from an informal session with Deputy Director-General (DDG) Valentine Rugwabiza. This informal exchange covered matters of concern to the participants in relation to the DDA,

their own country's trade policies and the Course itself. The DDG's contribution to the course was very well received by the participants.

The next ATPC will be held in Geneva for Spanish-speaking developing countries from 12 September to 1 December 2011.

Reference Centres Symposium - Strengthening the Network: 18-21 April 2011



Ms Arancha González Laya and Mr. Hakim Ben Hammouda at the opening of the Symposium

The first Reference Centres (RCs) Symposium was held in Geneva from 18 to 21 April 2011. The RC coordinators from the least-developed countries (LDCs) and the countries without any representation in Geneva were able to meet for the first time. More than 35 participants from 34 LDCs attended. In her introductory address, Ms Arancha González, the Director-General's Head of Cabinet, recalled that the main purpose of the RCs was to act as focal points for the WTO in the field, both for the transmission of information and for following up technical assistance activities with a view to strengthening the participation of the LDCs in the MTS. She further stressed that the RCs served as centres for training as well, in particular via eLearning in the framework of the progressive learning strategy (PLS). Mr Hakim Ben Hammouda, Director of the ITTC, recalled the importance of the RCs in WTO TA and the need to strengthen the reference centre coordinators' network. He also stressed the role of the RCs within the countries in disseminating information, reports and any other documents relating to

the MTS, thereby contributing to the decentralization of trade information.

Thanks to the Symposium organized on their behalf, RC coordinators were provided with the tools necessary to the proper functioning of a centre, in particular with respect to information management and access to trade and tariff statistics. At the same time, they were trained in how to improve the training function in their RC, particularly through the presentation of online courses. Their presence in Geneva also provided

them with an excellent opportunity to acquire information on the status of the ongoing negotiations and on subjects of importance to the LDCs, such as Aid for Trade, the Integrated Framework, and the impact of the financial crisis on international trade. In addition to contributions by some 15 professionals and several of the Secretariat's substantive divisions, the Symposium also provided various partners, such as the ITC and the OIF, the opportunity to address the participants and remind them of the different tools that they were making available to the centres. Finally, this first meeting provided an excellent framework for strengthening the WTO RC network by fostering an exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences essential to the vitality of the programme.

Participants were able to return to their capitals with great enthusiasm and much the wiser, bearing with them the task of turning the RCs into the WTO's windows to the world.



Participants in the Symposium

Regional Advanced Trade Negotiations Simulation Skills Courses

1. NAMIBIA, 21-25 March 2011

Regional Advanced Trade Negotiations Simulation Skills Course for English-speaking African countries was held from 21 to 25 March 2011 in Windhoek, Namibia. Thirty-six senior level officials (21 men and 15 women)

participated in the Course. Working document, comprising 75 agricultural tariff lines and 30 non-agricultural market access (NAMA) tariff lines, was used for the first time in this course for English-speaking African countries. Prior to the TA activity, 56 per cent of

participants had limited knowledge of the subject matter. After the TA activity, 80 per cent of participants had substantial knowledge of the subject matter. All participants found the TA activity professionally useful or relevant.



Participants in the RATNSSC - Namibia

2. CHINA, 11-15 April 2011

Regional Advanced Trade Negotiations Simulation Skills Course for Asia and Pacific Islands was held from 11 to 15 April 2011 in Beijing, China. Thirty-six senior level officials

(24 men and 12 women) participated in the course. Working document, comprising 75 agricultural tariff lines and 30 NAMA tariff lines, was used for the second time in this course for Asia. Prior to the TA activity, 55 per cent of participants had limited knowledge

of the subject matter. After the TA activity, 75 per cent of participants had substantial knowledge of the subject matter. Ninety-seven per cent of participants found the TA activity professionally useful or relevant.



Participants in the RATNSSC - China

3. THAILAND, 2-6 May 2011

Regional Advanced Trade Negotiations Simulation Skills Course for Thailand was organized in partnership with Thailand Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) from 2 to 6 May 2011 in Pattaya,

Thailand. Thirty-four senior level officials (18 men and 16 women) participated in the course. Special working document, comprising 126 agricultural tariff lines and 30 NAMA tariff lines, was used for the first time in this course. Prior to the TA activity, 65 per cent of participants

had limited knowledge of the subject matter. After the TA activity, 88 per cent of participants had substantial knowledge of the subject matter. Ninety-four per cent of participants found the TA activity professionally useful or relevant.



Participants in the RATNSSC - Thailand

Regional Trade Policy Courses (RTPCs) - News on that front



Participants in the RTPC for Latin America with their diploma

The RTPC for Latin America, which was organized and conducted in partnership with the University Sergio Arboleda in Bogota, Colombia, ended on 15 April. Twenty proud participants received a diploma issued jointly by the WTO and the partner Institution. This training activity, which had started on 29 January, was the third to be organized in Bogota. The activity was considered as a success by all and

will be conducted again in 2012 with the University Sergio Arboleda.

On 9 May 2011, the RTPC for English-speaking African countries was officially opened by high-level officials from the Kingdom of Swaziland, including H.R.H. Prince Matsisela, Regional Administrator, as well as by WTO Deputy Director-General Harsha V. Singh.

Twenty-six participants from 18 countries in the region will be attending daily classes for a period of 12 weeks. The modules, delivered jointly by WTO officials and regional resource persons, will provide participants the opportunity to increase significantly their knowledge on WTO issues, with a focus on the regional dimension. This course will end on 30 July.



H.R.H. Prince Matsisela, Regional Administrator

List of Technical Assistance Activities for the Period 01 June 2011 to 31 August 2011 (as at 23 May 2011)

Conferences/meetings

■ 01/06/2011 - 03/06/2011

Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and the Asian Development Bank Institute Inaugural conference. ADBI-PECC Conference on «Strategies to Enhance competitiveness and facilitate regional trade and investment in services»
Hong Kong, China

■ 07/06/2011 - 07/06/2011

Second Forum on International Trade in Services
Colombia

■ 07/06/2011 - 09/06/2011

Participation as Technical Advisor in the AGRODEP members meetings on 7-8 June, and Participation as member in the Scientific Advisory Board Meeting scheduled on 9 June 2011
Senegal

■ 08/06/2011 - 09/06/2011

Participation in a conference on «The Emerging Markets Decade» - Challenges for the Emerging World
Brazil

■ 13/06/2011 - 14/06/2011

Regional Meeting on Aid for Trade for ASEAN and the DDA
Indonesia

■ 16/06/2011 - 18/06/2011

Academic Conference: Quantitative analysis of global economic issues. Particular emphasis will be placed on applied general equilibrium methods, data, and application. Related theoretical and applied work
Italy

■ 21/06/2011 - 21/06/2011

WCP Annual Conference and meeting of the WCP Advisory Board
Switzerland

■ 10/07/2011 - 15/07/2011

UNITAR Workshop on International Trade
United States

National activities

■ 07/06/2011 - 08/06/2011

Accession to the WTO-Meeting with Members of Parliament
Algeria

■ 10/06/2011 - 10/06/2011

Seminar on RTAs and the WTO (regionalism)
Belarus

■ 13/06/2011 - 15/06/2011

Seminar on SPS and TBT Agreements
Iran, Islamic Republic of

■ 14/06/2011 - 16/06/2011

Joint ITC/WTO seminar for academic and private sectors in Belarus
Belarus

■ 18/06/2011 - 23/06/2011

Trade Policy Review (TPR) of Saudi Arabia Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

■ 22/06/2011 - 29/06/2011

National Seminar on the WTO Agreements on Government Procurement; Wu Han, 22-24 June, for sub-central government officials and Beijing, 27-29 June, for central government officials, and related meetings
China

■ 27/06/2011 - 01/07/2011

Capacity Building Workshop on WTO Principles and the DDA negotiations
Lesotho

■ 25/07/2011 - 29/07/2011

WTO Chairs Programme: Training at the University of Chile on the «Use of statistics for trade policy», «regionalism» and «quantitative methods for trade analysis»
Chile

Regional activities

■ 06/06/2011 - 08/06/2011

5th Doctoral School and 7th International Conference organized by the *Laboratoire prospectives, stratégies et développement durable* (Forward Studies, Strategy and Sustainable Development Laboratory) of the University of Tunis
Tunisia

■ 12/06/2011 - 01/06/2011

Intensive Course on Trade Negotiations Skills for Arab and Middle East Countries (English)
United Arab Emirates

■ 12/06/2011 - 16/06/2011

Intensive Course on Trade Negotiations Skills for Arab and Middle East Countries (English)
United Arab Emirates

■ 20/06/2011 - 01/07/2011

Advanced Training Programme for Senior Government Officials in Latin America (Spanish)
United States

■ 22/06/2011 - 24/06/2011

Preparatory Workshop for University Professors Involved in the Regional Trade Policy Course for Asia and Pacific Economies
Switzerland

■ 12/07/2011 - 15/07/2011

Workshop on Market Access Issues (Rules of Origin, Customs Valuation, Import Licensing, etc.) - (French)
Burkina Faso

■ 12/07/2011 - 14/07/2011

Seminar on Accession Issues for Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus organized in partnership with the JVI
Austria

■ 20/07/2011 - 22/07/2011

Preparatory workshop for University professors involved in the Regional Trade Policy Course for African countries (French)
Switzerland

■ 25/07/2011 - 27/07/2011

WTO/ESCAP Regional Workshop on WTO Rules and Procedures Relating to Regional Trade Agreements for the Asian Region
Thailand

■ 25/07/2011 - 29/07/2011

Advanced Training Course on WTO Dispute Settlement
Taipei, Chinese

■ 26/07/2011 - 29/07/2011

Applied training in the SPS Agreement
Barbados

■ 27/07/2011 - 29/07/2011

Workshop on Government Procurement
for African countries (English)
Ghana

■ 02/08/2011 - 04/08/2011

Advanced Workshop on the GATS and
the Services Negotiations for African
Countries (English)
Botswana

■ 02/08/2011 - 05/08/2011

Workshop on Market Access Issues for
African Economies (English)
South Africa

■ 03/08/2011 - 05/08/2011

Seminar on Trade and Development for
Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia,
and the Caucasus
Georgia

■ 08/08/2011 - 10/08/2011

Trade and Development for African
countries (English)
Kenya

■ 23/08/2011 - 25/08/2011

WTO Regional Workshop on Trade
and Development for Asia and Pacific
Economies
Nepal

Geneva based activities**■ 06/06/2011 - 17/06/2011**

Advanced Thematic Course on TBT
(English)
Switzerland

■ 20/06/2011 - 01/07/2011

Joint WIPO/WTO Colloquium for
Developing Country University Teachers
of Intellectual Property
Switzerland

■ 22/06/2011 - 01/07/2011

Follow-up Session of the Advanced
Course on SPS (English)
Switzerland

■ 11/07/2011 - 29/07/2011

19th Introduction course for
Least Developed countries (French)
Switzerland

■ 18/07/2011 - 20/07/2011

Third Global Review of Aid for Trade and
Launch of the World Trade Report
Switzerland