

WCP Pillars



Research - Promoting original research on trade and WTO issues and extending specialized knowledge to both governments and the private sector.



Curriculum Development - Supporting the development and delivery of courses on trade policy and WTO-related matters in academic institutions for students, government officials, businesses, trade professionals and other stakeholders.



Outreach - Disseminating research and information on international trade issues to policy makers in capital as well as delegations based in Geneva, businesses, civil society, and the general public.



Richard Newfarmer, Country Director, International Growth Center, Member of the Academic Advisory Board



“One of the unsung virtues of the WTO Chairs Programme has been its catalytic role in prompting South-South discussions of trade and cross-country learning. These types of connections would simply have not happened had it not been for the WTO Chairs Programme.”

Join the WCP

Chairs are selected through a competitive process.

More information regarding the next selection will be published on the WTO website and at wtochairs.org. Register your interest in joining the programme at the email address below in order to be notified of the next call for candidates.

Deputy Director-General Xiangchen Zhang



“I am confident that in the coming years the WCP will continue to grow organically. Newcomers benefit from the constant know-how transfer from more experienced Chairs and the WCP Network. The resulting outputs have had an impact not only on the national level, but also at regional and cross-regional levels, delivering research to policymakers on a more frequent, specialized, customized and sustained level.”

Contact details

World Trade Organization

Academic Outreach and WTO Chairs Programme Section,
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WTO Chairs Programme

Fostering research, training, and outreach activities of relevance to governmental policy makers and other stakeholders at universities in developing countries and least developed countries

WTO Director-General

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala



“Developing countries need a better understanding of negotiating priorities that benefit their vital interests. As neutral researchers, WTO Chairs can provide such facts, figures, and policy advice. This fosters economically and legally sound policy choices on the ground in beneficiary countries. It also builds capacity for their active and successful participation in WTO work including negotiations.”

- Aims at enhancing knowledge and understanding of the multilateral trading system among academics, policy makers and civil society in developing countries and LDCs by stimulating teaching, research, and public debate on international trade at universities and research institutions.
- Fosters research and capacity building of relevance to government policy makers and other stakeholders and adapted to circumstances on the ground.
- Provides financial and substantive support to Chairs over a four-year programme cycle as part of the WTO's technical cooperation mandate of enhancing human and institutional capacities of beneficiary Members to take full advantage of the rules-based multilateral trading system.
- Comprises a total of 35 institutions with a cohort of 16 Chairs participating in the current four-year cycle and 19 Chairs funded in previous programme cycles actively engaged in the network.



WTO Chairs

2022 – 2026 Cycle

- Cameroon, **Prof. Alain Didier Olinga**, Institut des Relations Internationales du Cameroun
- China, **Prof. Xinquan Tu**, University of International Business and Economics
- Colombia, **Prof. Rene Urueña**, Universiades de los Andes
- Costa Rica, **Prof. Rosmery Hernández**, Universidad Nacional
- Ecuador, **Prof. Michel Levi**, Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar
- Egypt, **Prof. Chahir Zaki**, Cairo University
- India, **Prof. James Nedumpara**, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
- Lesotho, **Prof. Motlamelle Kapa**, National University of Lesotho
- Nepal, **Prof. Achyut Wagle**, Kathmandu University School of Management
- Pakistan, **Prof. Azam Chaudhry**, Lahore School of Economics
- Peru, **Prof. Victor Saco**, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
- Rwanda, **Prof. Jonas Barayandema**, University of Rwanda
- Chinese Taipei, **Prof. Tsai-yu Lin**, National Taiwan University
- Tanzania, **Prof. Caiphos Chekwoti**, Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa
- Uzbekistan, **Mr. Umid Yakubkhodjaev**, University of World Economy and Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan
- Vietnam, **Prof. Huong Trinh Thi Thu**, Foreign Trade University

Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director, Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa, Member of the Academic Advisory Board



“The WCP has become a community of practice, learning and collaboration across academic institutions, regions and trade-related disciplines. WCP projects are capacitating and empowering stakeholders to participate in the development of inclusive trade policy processes – an important and necessary step to ensure that trade policy and trade contribute to the achievement of their country’s sustainable development objectives.”

World Trade Organization Chairs Programme

a total of 35 institutions



Ambassador Oudot de Dainville, Permanent Representative of France to the World Trade Organization



“Now more than ever, research is necessary to help us collectively understand the ramifications of new topics which gather much interest among WTO Members.”

The work of the Chairs, experts in the field, will encourage political decision makers to think outside the box and will help us achieve more ambitious and informed results.”

Director-General Cynthia Zimmermann, Ministry for Labour and Economic Affairs of Austria



“With the Chairs Program, the WTO extends the reach of its technical assistance activities by involving university Chairs serving as multipliers in beneficiary countries. The program plays a key role in building human and institutional capacities in beneficiary countries to empower each of them to take full advantage of the rules-based multilateral trading system.”

WCP Network

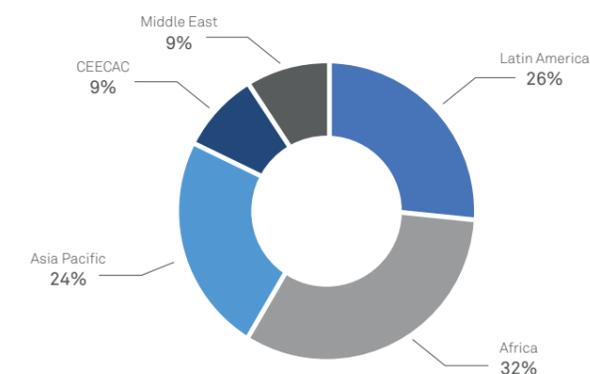


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In addition to the 16 Chairs of the current four-year cycle, the network comprises 19 Chairs from previous programme cycles actively engaged in the activities of the WCP.

For further information on all chairs of the WCP network please scan the following code.

Regional Representation of WCP Participants



WCP Academic Advisory Board

The WCP Academic Advisory Board is an external body composed of more than a dozen experienced academics and other experts from all geographical regions. The Board provides strategic guidance to the Secretariat. Its involvement and support ensure the academic quality of the programme.

Henry Gao, Professor, School of Law, Singapore Management University, Member of the Academic Advisory Board



“The Chairs in many countries have become the “go-to” think-tanks on trade-related issues.”