

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/485
22 October 1990

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

Committee on Trade and Development
Sixty-Ninth Session
12 and 16 October 1990

Original: English

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE URUGUAY ROUND

Communication from the World Bank

In May 1988 and in June 1989, the World Bank advised the Committee on the development, jointly with UNCTAD, of its technical assistance activities under the project for Software for Market Analysis and Restrictions on Trade ("SMART") see doc. COM.TD/W/465 of 29 July 1988 and COM.TD/W/472 of 21 June 1989. We would now like to up-date this information and inform the Committee of the completion of the Project.

SMART was designed primarily to help developing countries by providing them with basic information on trade-, tariff and non-tariff measures of their trading partners and improving their capability to manipulate and analyze such data.

The system was developed, field tested and improved over a two year period (1987-1989) mainly under the regular budgets of UNCTAD and the Bank. It was subsequently modified to take account of comments by developed and developing country governments and the GATT Secretariat. The system uses data of the GATT Tariff Study with the permission of participating governments. The data were kindly copied to us by the GATT Secretariat. UNCTAD made available data on non-tariff measures. UNDP funded the preparation of the manual, data sets and system diskettes and a series of regional and subregional workshops and country missions.

Since the last report to the Committee, the World Bank and UNCTAD have completed the training of developing country officials in the use of the final version of the system. Jointly organized national and regional workshops were held in a number of capitals. In all, training was provided to officials of some 50 developing countries. All these countries received the system and appropriate data diskettes. (See Annexes).

The data bases used by the system are kept and updated by GATT and UNCTAD as part of their regular work programs. If governments renew their permission for the data to be used for this purpose, the International Computer Centre has expressed its willingness to communicate the data to authorized users by diskettes or through electronic means, at a nominal cost. The World Bank, for its part, will continue to update and improve the software used for analysis. Whether there can be continued arrangements for active dissemination and technical assistance in its use will depend on demand, and on budgetary and related decisions yet to be made by the Bank itself, by UNCTAD and GATT of course, by UNDP.

ANNEX I

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Regional Workshop - Caracas

Colombia
Costa Rica
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Mexico
Nicaragua
Venezuela

Regional Workshop - Santiago

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Paraguay
Uruguay

Regional Workshop - Jakarta

Indonesia
Malaysia
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand

Regional Workshop - New Delhi

Bangladesh
India
Myanmar
Sri Lanka

Regional Workshop - Cairo

Cameroon
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Malta
Nigeria

Regional Workshop - Nairobi

Kenya
Malawi
Mauritius
Tanzania

ANNEX 2

COVERAGE BY COUNTRY MISSION
AND NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Brazil
Bangladesh
Barbados
Bolivia
Botswana
Chile
China
Cuba
Ecuador
Ethiopia
Hong Kong
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Korea *
Morocco *
Myanmar
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland *
Tunisia
Turkey
Venezuela
Yugoslavia
Zambia
Zimbabwe

* bi-national workshop