

Yearbook 2021

Online Regional Trade Policy
Course (e-RTPC) for Arab and
Middle East Members and
Observers of the WTO

7 December 2020 to 25 March 2021



Congratulations for completing the online Regional Trade Policy Course (eRTPC) for Arab and Middle Eastern Members and Observers of the WTO (7 December 2020 - 25 March 2021). This was the first eRTPC to be organized for the Arab and Middle East region and much of its success is owed to your commitment, hard work and active participation. We thank you for your dedication and we hope this e-RTPC has provided a unique personal and professional experience that will be long remembered by each of you.

The eRTPC's rigorous training curriculum, the self-study training material, the exercises and case studies, the live webinars by WTO officials and regional trade experts, and the regional roundtable discussion, have deepened your understanding of the WTO and of the Multilateral Trade Agreements; strengthened your capacity to access WTO information and use of the WTO Legal Texts; and, enhanced your understanding of the regional trade policy context. Your strong performance in this course is proof of your newly acquired knowledge and skills and we are confident you are now well-equipped to fulfil the expectations your participation has created in your Capital.

Many RTPCs alumni have progressed to occupy senior government positions with several being posted as delegates in permanent missions in Geneva or elsewhere. In whatever capacity we hope we will have the opportunity to meet in Geneva soon and as a token of our appreciation for participating in and completing this course we would like to present you with this Yearbook 2021 to remind you of your achievements, colleagues and friends.

Our best wishes to you in all your future endeavours.

The RTPC Team



What are the key takeaways
from the eRTPC?



How will the e-RTPC
benefit you?



Antisar Ali Jafar AL-RUBAI

IRAQ



The main objective of this course is to introduce sufficient information about the World Trade Organization and its agreements concluded within the framework of the organization to enhance the capacities of the member countries of the organization as well as the observer countries wishing to join to implement the WTO agreements with regard to trade policies.

The training course includes fourteen training units related to many fields that can be summarized in several axes, the most important of which is the general principles of the World Trade Organization, which are the principles on which all the general and sectoral agreements of the organization are based on, sectoral agreements such as services and agriculture, the negotiation capabilities of the member states of the organization, and how to employ these capabilities to defend its trade interests, the role of the WTO is in sustainable and environmental development, technical barriers to trade , sanitary & phytosanitary barriers related to trade, and regional blocs.



Empowering participants with the necessary skills to improve their negotiating capabilities to defend their countries' commercial interests and to benefit fully from the World Trade Organization agreements. Supporting the participants' abilities to formulate trade policies that serve the common commercial goals of Arab countries, in addition to acquiring the skills of analyzing trade policies of different countries and considering their various repercussions, whether positive or negative, and the ability to use commercial tools such as anti-dumping and evaluation of the rules of origin for commercial goods. To know the technical skills related to the Internet, the ability to identify the different sites of the organization, extract the necessary data related to all the organization's agreements, acquire skills in negotiation, how to read legal texts, and use the system for resolving disputes that arise between member states. An opportunity for the participants to meet with experts from the World Trade Organization who enriched the course with their experiences with the topics raised. The course is considered intensive in view of the topics covered during more than two months, but the good management of the course has a great role in helping us to continue actively and actively to participate in the course, and we have seen a high professionalism by the lecturers in dealing with all aspects related to the course.



Wamidh Mahmood Hussein AL-SUADI

IRAQ



The course have sought to build Arab capabilities to understand the rules and laws of international trade in order to facilitate the implementation of the concluded agreements and to fully benefit from the advantages that countries accede to the World Trade Organization.

Strengthening the human and institutional capacities of the participants to fully benefit from the rules-based multilateral trading system, to deal with emerging trade challenges, and to implement the rights and obligations set forth by the World Trade Organization.

The e-learning of the regional trade policy training course helped to communicate information to the participants and provided them with a solid foundation for building and enhancing knowledge and expertise on WTO issues.

The course is considered an intensive one in view of the topics covered during the two months, but the good management of the course by the organizer has a great role in helping the participants to continue actively participating in the course.



Through practical exercises of the course, we acquired many skills related to discussions and negotiation on various commercial topics and issues.

To know-how to access the most important commercial tools within the various agreements and also to reach information and statistics about trade through the databases of the organization.

Having the ability to better defend our national interests and prepare policies that would contribute to setting up a better trading system at the national and international levels.

It gave us the opportunity to get to know our colleagues from Arab countries, as well as with experts in the World Trade Organization, exchange information and experiences, and benefit from the discussions and conversations that took place between the participants during the course.

We hope that cooperation will continue with colleagues on trade issues within Arab countries.



Salma Y M S BINMUTLAQ

KUWAIT, STATE OF

1

The outcome that I have been obtained so far from the eRTPC is the ability to conversant with the articles and provisions given through the WTO legal text. The major benefit of this course is the ability of building a deep understanding of the WTO Agreements, Regulations and functions in addition to the rules and procedures that I may conflict in the future. Before joining the eRTPC one of the obstacles I faced during my tasks was understanding the SPS and TBT Agreements; however, due to the skillful presenters and their methods to simplify these agreements it became much clearer and more easier to implement. To sum up everything that has been stated so far, this course has given me access of knowledge and experience with other fields irrelevant to my division.

2

The eRTPC will benefit me though providing assistance on issues that I have learned through this course to other colleges in other governmental institutions to achieve collaborative team work by clarifying the articles in the WTO legal text in their specialties, so this won't conflict with any agreement signed by my country that they may fall from it inadvertently, especially when hiring new employees under training.



Farah DOUGHAN

LEBANON



For me RTPC covered all basic international trade issues and essential concepts for the World Trade Organization.



These issues are at the core of my work and I benefit from them in all the agreements that I work on.



Hawraa HAMMOUD

LEBANON



Knowing about all the WTO Agreements in one single course.



Getting a solid background in all the WTO Agreements and a basic to delve into more details about each one of them.

Building a network of WTO experts and trade experts from the Arab countries.



Violette ABI ABBOUD

LEBANON

1

There are a lot of key subjects that I have learned; on one hand, I have enhanced my knowledge in different areas, especially Tariffs and the different set of rules and regulations governing trade, and on another hand, I have been introduced to the new concept of online courses through the platform of the WTO.

2

I have already started applying what I have learned so far in my daily work. Furthermore, on a personal level, I found it a thrilling experience to have met new colleagues with whom I can share common knowledge with in order to make the best out of the course on the long run.



Najiya Issa Said AL SAADI

OMAN

1

My takeaway form this course is getting the overarching knowledge required to stepup to the WTO world. Pleased with the ability to navigate through the website with an ability to access the available data and knowing how to follow up a matter of interest. Moreover, the interaction with all participants despite of their varying range of background is a huge plus.

2

eRTPC will help me to set a plane of actions for my employer to a related trade matter and to design a training programs meets the entity needs.



Zainab Waleed Khamis AL-ZADJALI

OMAN



It was a pleasure to participate in this course, there are many key takeaways I recognized from this course, such as:

- Diversification in Education, distance study is not difficult.
- Teamwork is fun.
- There are always alternative opportunities for continuity.
- Learning by doing, not to be afraid of failure.
- Meeting new people, earning new experience.



e-RTPC helps me to understand the WTO agreements, the functions, rules, and procedures. Also, it strengthens my capacity to access WTO Information resources and the ability to find relevant provisions in the WTO legal texts. Moreover, it helps me to understand relevant trade policy issues. I use this information in my professional life as the Head of the International Trade Department. I prepared notifications for agriculture and trade facilitation. Also, I worked in antidumping issues in my country. Furthermore, I discussed non-tariff definitions for agricultural products. My future plan will be to focus on using what I learned in this course and which is related to my current job and it will help me to be more productive.



Sultan ABOALELA

SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF

1

The regional trade policy course was an excellent and well-organized overview of the WTO agreements, functions and procedures. The RTPC was well supplemented by references both to the WTO legal texts and to many of the related DSB rulings and recommendations. Each module was well supported by many case studies that complemented the module texts and discussions.

2

The regional trade policy course helped in sharpening my knowledge and understanding of the full range of the WTO agreements as well as its functions and procedures and to navigate through the various resources that the WTO provide. The RTPC also enhanced my understanding of the various trade policies as well as the cross-cutting issues.



Hend Abdullah AL-DHUBAYI

SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF

1

My biggest takeaway from this course is the individualized and differentiated learning. Also, this course covered much more than what I expect. So, what we take away from this course it depends on what our goals are.

2

Joining to this course “e-RTPC” will boost my self-confidence, that because it took me the responsibility of creating a foundation for getting me closer to my career goals. Also I’m sure this course will help me develop my skills for any career. Because of what I got from this course, such as the collaboration while we work as a team and this is an invaluable require for all careers. I’m very thankful for your cooperation and kindness.



Kwather Abbas Mohamed GUDA

SUDAN



Interactive during the meeting which makes it real, through the discussions, using tools: polls, quizzes, platform and chat box for participants to converse with the presenters, organizers eRTPC (all of them are experts from different fields related to the WTO).

Participants pace themselves, through the Virtual Classroom which gives them control of their topic materials, participants be able to access the content- read articles, play videos and do practice questions at any time.

Quick responses to the participant's e mails and prompt feedback within 24 hours.

Informal communication with the participants let the personality out (Tuesday webinar).

Collaboration encouragement within the break room- the participants' groups place to discuss and chat their exercises.



We all know that change is hard, especially when you must learn a new process or system like an e-RTPC, which depends on face to face interactions, but I'm grateful for being involved in this course, for the benefits that I gained for my personal level, some of these are:

- New technical skills.
- Flexibility and self-paced learning.
- Improved virtual communication and collaboration.

Concerning my work, the e- RTPC, will help to formulate our national Trade policy within the WTO context, in particular, I was included in a new committee to work on the actual summary of Sudan accession processes.

As a COMESA staff, and the RTAs in main pillars of the international Agreements as well as WTO Agreements, to this end, the knowledge I gained about all issues concerning the WTO will enhance and develop my work.



Lamis Kamal HASSAN AHMED

SUDAN



Good understanding of all aspects of the WTO, including the agreements. improved analytical and negotiating skills.

Cover Trade Policy topics (Market Access, Trade Remedies, and Agriculture Agreements).

Understand all the above topics and we can share our colleges in Ministry of Trade the information we had , and advice them with the right conceptions we get.

We can determine the size of markets for the output of firms and the influence of trade policies on the investment climate we became an expertise, yes thats it.



Improve, extend knowledge and understanding of the trade policy.
Strengthen legal and economic analysis skills through practical exercises.
Improved analytical and negotiating skills.

Successfully increased our understanding on the Agreements of the WTO (Trade in Services, Trade in Goods, SPS, TRIPS, DS) and Development Dimension (Doha Development Agenda, Aid for Trade, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and Technical Assistance (TA) and Training (or TRTA).



Abdalla Elamin Musa KOKO

SUDAN



First of all, thank you for allowing me participate in the eRTPC definitely it is useful because the knowledge I have learnt in this course will help me to improve my career.

Generally, eRTPC was well organized in terms of the contents and presentations which to some extent fulfilled its objectives.

Regarding experts who delivered course topics were knowledgeable each in his topics and they are ready to devote more time to explain and answer further questions. In term of class time RTPC unit managed it efficiently, but I think more sessions are needed.

Finally, the idea of virtual training is good, but internal problems such as unstable internet and you have to do your daily work during the course these may defeat the idea.



I found Trade Facilitation Agreement & Trade Remedies very helpful in providing the bigger picture to participate effectively as member of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation, as well as a responsible from the file of drafting Trade Remedies Act.

I knew from TFA among others, there must be cooperation between trade related agencies, publication of trade related information through internet. These will help us to implement NTFC mandates e.g, "coordination of government agencies related to foreign trade and the private sector, providing a trade database, identification of electronic trade documents... etc" efficiently.



Mouna KEFI EP BAHRI

TUNISIA



The most important key i learn from the eRTPC is regardless of the challenges, willingness and perseverance will lead to achieve a great job. The Covid crisis was not an obstacle in front of the e-RTPC unit because they give us very successful course.



The eRTPC present a great learning opportunity for me to enhance my knowledge in the field of trade Policy and world Trade organization. Since the first day of this training program, we are surrounding by passionate dedicated persons their main objective is giving us maximum assistance and best learning experience for each participant. eRTPC gives us the opportunity to share experiences and different overview on trade. In addition to the very informative lecture session, the experience with the regional expert was very benefit for giving us an over view on trade issues on the region.



Abdulla Ali ALDHUHOORI

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

1

The greatest thing about the eRTPC is helping the participants to have a deeper knowledge for the most essential topics in the WTO, and by being able to interact with all these experts, eRTPC successfully was one of the best courses for me. Looking forward to have the next course in Geneva!

2

By the end of this course and by having the chance to go through all of these topics, now I will have the opportunity to decide in which area that I want to focus more in, in other words let's say that I will be able to specialize in one topic.

RTPC Team



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