



CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

ALUMNI STORIES

Mariam, please tell us....

Where are you from, and what have you studied before joining the China Programme?

I am from Mali. I have completed a Master in International Trade.

Why did you apply to the China Programme?

As an International Trade student, getting an experience at the World Trade Organization was my dream. I applied to the China Programme because it was more than an internship. I saw that it was specifically designed to help young professionals from developing and least-developed countries to increase their understanding of the WTO. As a current intern, I can indeed confirm that my understanding of the multilateral trading system has evolved beyond what we learn in classrooms.

What kind of work have you been assigned to during your internship so far?

So far in my internship I have:

- o acquired substantive knowledge on WTO Agreements and an understanding on the functioning of the WTO Secretariat by completing the e-learning course on WTO accession; and, participating in meetings, conferences and courses on WTO-related issues.
- o co-authored a chapter with a colleague on the role of the private sector in trade/accession negotiations, which will be published in a forthcoming joint publication by the Cambridge University Press and the WTO.
- o supported Secretaries of Working Parties, including on the Accession of Azerbaijan.
- o assisted in the organization of the launch of the book "African Perspectives on Trade and the WTO".
- o provided assistance in the preparation of post-accession support for Liberia and Afghanistan.
- o contributed to the final proofing/testing phase of the Accessions Intelligence Portal (AIP).

What do you think of your work/experience at the WTO so far?

China programme interns are well integrated and involved in all areas of the Accessions Division work. As a result, my professional skills, my confidence and most importantly my knowledge of the multilateral trading system have tremendously improved. So far, my work experience at WTO has been exceptional.

What's next?

I want to become a trade specialist. In order to attain this goal, I must gain solid experience in the multilateral trading system. I believe that the China programme has laid the foundation.

Thank you, Mariam!

Mariam Soumaré
@ the WTO in
Geneva, Switzerland,
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