

CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

Esau, please tell us...



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

I am a Zambian. Prior to joining the China Programme, I was based in the Russian Federation, where I completed both my undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

I hold a bachelor's degree in economics (World Economics) and a master's degree in economics (International Economics) both from Belgorod State University "National Research University".

Why did you apply?

I have always had interest in international trade throughout my tertiary education life and this inspired me to apply for the China Programme to help me get a better understanding of the multilateral trading system through practical experience.

What kind of work were you assigned to during your internship?

I was assigned varied tasks during the course of the China Programme such as general organizational support to Accession Working Parties, update of the handbook on accession to the WTO and African regional trade integration research. Among the memorable moments during the China Programme was the participation in the fourth meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of the Comoros.

Looking back, what do you think of your work experience at the WTO, and as participant of the China Programme?

My experience at the WTO enhanced my understanding of the multilateral trading system and how least developed countries can actively and positively participate in this system.

What have you done since?

I returned to Zambia after finishing the China Programme where I worked for the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute where I was part of the team that worked on the working paper “Sowing Seeds of Success: A Regional Perspective on the Development of the Seed Industry in the COMESA Region” using my trade experience from the WTO. I am currently working for the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) as an Assistant Research Associate (Socio-economic Programmes) on Sustainable Intensification of Smallholder Farming Systems in Zambia.

Thank you, Esau!