

CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

Kulé, please tell us...



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

I am a Kenyan of Somali and Ethiopian heritage. Prior to joining the China Programme, I was based in the UK, where I completed both my undergraduate and postgraduate studies. I hold a BA (Hons.) Finance from the University of Hertfordshire and an MSc in Accounting & Finance (specialism in International Accounting & Finance) from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Why did you apply?

As a Kenyan Somali, I come from a community that unintentionally escaped calamity because of the construct of political borders. While I benefitted from Kenya's war-free stability, the neighboring land of my ancestors has been ravished by conflict. I applied to the accessions internship because it would allow me to contribute to the rebuilding of Somalia's economic framework, while simultaneously equipping me with a deeper understanding of the mechanics of international trade and the respective benefits attached to WTO membership.

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

I was assigned varied tasks during the course of my internship. It was a great opportunity to polish my written communication skills, as I frequently prepared briefing notes, speeches, and reports following high-level meetings. I also supported the planning and preparation of events, including the Second Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions that took place in Djibouti. By far the most interesting part was contributing to the division's "Trade for Peace" initiative. As a result of my work on this project, I was given the unique opportunity to participate on a panel at Geneva Peace Week, alongside the Ambassadors of Afghanistan and Djibouti, and the Former Liberian Minister of Commerce and Industry.

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

Overall, it was a positive learning experience. The internship provided me with a good introduction to the WTO, as the nature of the accessions process exposes you to all areas of the WTO.

What have you done since?

After finishing my internship with the Accessions Division, I worked with the Market Access Division's Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility on a short term contract. Following this, I joined the International Trade Centre (ITC). My work is focussed on trade and gender issues, under the flagship SheTrades Initiative.

Thank you Kulé!