



CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

please tell us...



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

I'm from Turkmenistan. I completed my undergraduate studies in Economics at Kanagawa University in Japan. I later pursued a Master's degree in Investment and Finance at Queen Mary University of London in the UK. Before joining the WTO China Programme, I worked in the International Department of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan. In that role, I was involved in coordinating international financial cooperation and contributing to the development of economic policy.

Why did you apply?

I applied to the WTO China Programme, considering Turkmenistan's recent launch of its WTO accession process. The internship programme offered a valuable opportunity to enhance my understanding of the WTO's functions, particularly the challenges and requirements facing my country during accession. I was motivated to understand better how countries comply with WTO rules and navigate negotiation dynamics. With the knowledge I gained, I aim to contribute more effectively to Turkmenistan's integration into the multilateral trading system.

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

During my internship, I served as a co-secretary for the accession files of Turkmenistan and Ethiopia, where I was involved in preparing documentation, tracking progress, and supporting the technical coordination of the accession processes. I also acted as co-secretary for the Informal Group of Acceding Governments, which allowed me to contribute to internal coordination and information sharing among acceding countries. In addition to attending and assisting with various WTO meetings, I supported the design and delivery of capacity-building trainings for acceding governments, helping to tailor content to their specific stages in the accession process.

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

Looking back, my experience at the WTO through the China Programme was rewarding and transformative. Observing how an international organization like the WTO functions and handles complex global trade issues was fascinating. I had the opportunity to be directly involved in Turkmenistan's accession work and observe Working Party meetings for Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Iraq, which gave me a nuanced, real-world understanding of accession negotiations. The mentorship I received and the chance to collaborate with WTO professionals significantly strengthened my analytical skills, communication, and overall professional growth. It was a defining experience reaffirming my motivation to contribute to Turkmenistan's efforts toward deeper integration into the multilateral trading system.

What have you done since?

After completing the WTO China Programme, I returned to Turkmenistan and began working at the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations. In this role, I continue to support the country's WTO accession process by applying the practical knowledge and insights I gained during my internship. My experience at the WTO has helped me better understand the technical and procedural aspects of accession, which I now use to contribute more effectively to policy coordination, international negotiations, and engagement with development partners.

Thank you!