



SECOND CHINA ROUND TABLE ON WTO ACCESSION
FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS)

**THE FUTURE OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM:
PERSPECTIVES OF LDCS AND ARTICLE XII MEMBERS**

Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, 15 October - 18 October 2013

Draft Programme¹@

"Lao PDR is convinced that joining the WTO is not an end in itself, but the beginning of the road to lead our economy into full integration into the Multilateral Trading System." (Statement at the 10th meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of Lao PDR)

- H.E. Dr Nam Viyaket, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR

"China urges WTO Members to resist trade protectionism and maintain an open and fair multilateral trading system, driven by the recovery of the global economy in the backdrop of the current global economic downturn." (Letter to Director-General Designate Roberto Azevêdo.)

- H.E. Mr. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce of China

The "Second China Round Table on WTO Accession for LDCs" will take place from 15 to 18 October 2013, in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. The theme is "the Future of the World Trading System: Perspectives of LDCs and Article XII Members". This Round Table is sponsored by the Government of China, hosted by the Government of Lao PDR, and organized by the WTO Secretariat, as part of the agreed activities in the China/WTO MOU².

¹ Final Programme, presentations and Guidelines for Participants are posted on the Second China Round Table webpage: <http://www.wto.org/chinaroundtable2013>.

² In July 2011, the Government of the People's Republic of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the "China's LDCs and Accessions Programme" ("The China Programme"). This MOU was renewed for 2012-2013. The China Programme created a fund for an internship programme and an annual Round Table on Accessions to build capacity and technical skills in trade policy, including on accession negotiations, for Least-Developed Countries and non-LDCs.

14 OCTOBER 2013

All Day Registration upon arrival at Luang Prabang View Hotel (Phuo Meo, Lao-Thai Friendship Road, Luang Prabang Laos, Tel No +856 71 260 560 Fax No : +856 71 260 234 mailto:booking@lpbview.com)

DAY ONE - 15 OCTOBER 2013

08:30 Group Photograph for the Second China Round Table Participants

08:45 **Opening Ceremony**

- Welcoming remarks by H.E. Dr Nam Viyaket, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR [Confirmed]
- Remarks by H.E. Mr. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce of China [TBC]
- Remarks by H.E. Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the WTO, Nepal LDC Coordinator [TBC]
- Opening remarks by Rt. Hon. Moana Carcasses Kalosil, Prime Minister, Vanuatu, on behalf of Article XII LDCs
- Opening of the Second China Round Table by WTO Director-General [TBC]
"Priorities in the Road Ahead for the WTO"

09:45 Coffee Break

10:00 **Session 1: Trade Policy Developments in the Global Economy**

There have been significant trade policy developments underway in the global economy. These include the emergence of developing countries, the proliferation of FTA and the evolution of regionalization. The 2008 economic and financial crisis have had far-reaching and continuing effects. International trade patterns are rapidly changing. Trade policies of individual countries are going adjustment and change. Paradoxically, in the WTO, lack of progress in the DDA Multilateral Negotiations contrast with significant progress in WTO accession negotiations and outcomes. This session will start with a description of the economic transformation in the past decade, and then provide an analysis of contemporary trade policy developments interacting with changes in the global economy, including the recurrence and emergence of plurilateral negotiations; the surge of preferential/regional trade agreements; industrial policies; global production/value chains; food security and natural resources policies. A policy-relevant perspective on these issues will set the background for this Round Table and for meaningful policy discussions/debates among the participants in the following sessions.

Moderator: Mr. Chiedu Osakwe, Director, Accessions Division [Confirmed]

Speaker:

Mr. Uri Dadush, Senior Associate and Director of the "International Economics Program", Carnegie Endowment for International Peace [Confirmed]

Commentators:

Mr. Bernard Hoekman, GGP Programme Director and Research Strand Director "Global Economics" [Confirmed]

Mr. Long Yongtu, Former Chief Accession Negotiator of China [TBC]

Open Discussion: All participants

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Session 2: Contributions of WTO Accessions to the Multilateral Trading System

Since the WTO was established in 1995, 31 Countries or Separate Customs Territories have acceded to the WTO, pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO. These Article XII Members account for about one fifth or 19.5% of the entirety of 159 WTO Membership. Their trade volume corresponds to 16% of the total world trade. The results of WTO accessions, in deposited Packages, have brought direct economic benefits to WTO Members and demonstrable benefits to Article XII Members, as shown in the Director-General's Annual Reports on Accessions. The results from the accession process have contributed to the expansion of the coverage of the rules-based economy to 97.1%. Fundamentally, WTO accession is now widely accepted as an instrument to support the domestic reform process in Acceding Governments. In this session, the speakers will summarize the achievements of the WTO accessions; identify the areas where the WTO rules have been strengthened through the accession process; and discuss the implications of WTO accessions to individual economies.

Moderator:

H.E. Dr Nam Viyaket, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR [Confirmed]

Speakers:**Safeguarding and Strengthening the Rules-Based World Trading System:**

- Overview of the Concluded and Ongoing WTO Accessions
- Pattern and Range of Specific Commitments by Article XII WTO Members³
- Rule-making Process through WTO Accessions

Mr. Chiedu Osakwe, Director, Accessions Division [Confirmed]

How LDCs and Low-income Economies Can Benefit from WTO Accessions

Ms Khemmani PHOLSENA, Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR [Confirmed]

Mr. Saidrahmon NAZRIEV, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan [Confirmed]

Non-LDC Perspectives: Negotiating Experiences: Challenges, Opportunities and Post-Accession

Mr. Maxim Medvedkov, Director of Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation [Confirmed]

H.E. Mr. Valeriy Pyatnitskiy, Commissioner for European Integration, WTO Chief Negotiator Ukraine [Confirmed]

H.E. Mr. Tran Quoc Khanh, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Viet Nam [TBC]

WTO Accession from Members' Perspective: Safeguarding the Rules-based System

Mr. Mark Linscott, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative, the United States [Confirmed]

Commentator:

H.E. Mr. Xiaozhun Yi (China), Former Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Lao PDR to the WTO [Confirmed]

Ms Selina Jackson, Special Representative of the World Bank to the UN and the WTO [TBC]

Open Discussion: All participants

17:00 End of Day One

18:00 Official Dinner Co-hosted by the Minister of Industry and Commerce and the Governor of Luang Prabang Province

Attendance: All participants

³ Dimitar Bratanov, Kebede Lidet, Osakwe Chiedu and Yu Dayong, "Pattern and Range of Specific Commitments by Article XII Members - Strengthening The Rules-Based Multilateral Trading System", Accessions Division Working Paper, 2013.

DAY TWO - 16 OCTOBER 2013**09:00 Session 3: The Macroeconomic Implications of WTO Accessions**

This session will build on a recent study on the effects of WTO accessions by Mr. Alexei Kireyev, Economist of the IMF. Mr. Kireyev's empirical research provides a thorough economic analysis of the post-accession effects: WTO accessions lead to greater openness of economies and better allocation of limited resources, which in itself improves economic efficiency. Greater efficiency in resource allocation leads to higher growth, competition reduces costs and prices, and market access increases consumption. So consumers generally gain. At the same time, certain producers may be affected by increased competition and will face the need for adjustment, in particular in the short run, which in the long term will still lead to improved efficiency. Public policies should be targeted to help countries cope with the adjustment costs by way of providing targeted support to the most vulnerable, while rebalancing the tax system from external to domestic taxes to preserve fiscal revenue.

Moderator:

Mr. Bernard Hoekman, GGP Programme Director and Research Strand Director "Global Economics"
[Confirmed]

Speaker:

Mr. Alexei Kireyev, Economist, International Monetary Fund (IMF) [Confirmed]

Commentator:

Ms. Filomena Vitoria Fialho, Directora-general da Industria e Comercio, Cape Verde [TBC]

H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Trade and Commerce, Cambodia [TBC]

Mr. Jib Raj Koirala, Under Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal [TBC]

Mr. Maxim Medvedkov, Director of Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation [Confirmed]

H.E. Mr. Valeriy Pyatnitskiy, Commissioner for European Integration, WTO Chief Negotiator Ukraine [Confirmed]

HE. Mr. Tran Quoc Khanh, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Viet Nam [TBC]

Open Discussion: All participants

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Session 4: The Future of the Multilateral Trading System

In this session, a summary report will be provided on the ADBI/CTEI Conference "The Future of the World Trading System: Asian Perspectives" that took place at the WTO, in Geneva, on 11-12 March 2013.⁴ Although labelled as "Asian Perspectives", this important Conference brought many valuable and diverse thoughts, ideas, and recommendations for further strengthening and reforming the Multilateral Trading System to address the current dynamics in the international trade arena. The Report will provide a basis for the participants to formulate their own perspectives on the future of the Multilateral Trading System, which will be of the great importance for every WTO Member and acceding government.

Based on this Report, other speakers and participants will review questions, pertinent to the reform of the Multilateral Trading System. Discussions will revolve around the implications of global/regional value chains; effects and management of preferential/regional trade; trade and investment questions and the engagement of the private sector; and the importance of a rule-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive Multilateral Trading System. The future of the WTO is particularly important for the 31 Article XII Members, who have undertaken specific commitments to accede to the WTO; and, for the 24 Acceding Governments in the process of domestic reforms linked to their WTO accession process.

Moderator:

Mr. Uri Dadush, Senior Associate and Director of the "International Economics Program", Carnegie Endowment for International Peace [Confirmed]

⁴ Ms Maika Oshikawa will report on the outcomes of this conference.

Speakers:

Report on ADBI/CTEI Conference "The Future of the World Trading System: Asian Perspectives"

Ms Maika Oshikawa, Chief, Asia and Pacific Desk, ITTC, WTO Secretariat [Confirmed]

Mr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Director of Research, Asian Development Bank Institute [TBC]

China's Perspectives on Doha Round and the Future of the WTO

Mr. LU Xiankun, Counsellor, Head of Division, Permanent Mission of China to the WTO [Confirmed]

New Factors Shaping International Trade: Global/Regional Value Chains, Preferential Trade, Changing Patterns of FDI

Selina Jackson, Special Representative of the World Bank to the UN and the WTO [TBC]

The Relevance of the Multilateral Trading System and Reform Perspectives

Mr. Chiedu Osakwe, Director, Accessions Division [Confirmed]

Commentator:

Mr. Uri Dadush, Senior Associate and Director of the "International Economics Program", Carnegie Endowment for International Peace [TBC]

Open Discussion: All participants

17:00 End of Day Two

DAY THREE - 17 OCTOBER 2013**09:00 Session 5: Effective Participation of Article XII Members and Acceding Governments**

There could be different views on the road ahead for the Multilateral Trading System, but there is no doubt that the future of the system will depend on the active participation of its membership. This is particularly true for Article XII Members and Acceding Governments, since one of the most important objectives to become a WTO Member is to participate in the process of implementing the existing rules and improving the system through the development of new rules. In this session, the roles of Article XII Members, LDCs and acceding governments would be explored. The perspectives and views to be expressed will help all participants to better understand the spectrum of priorities of different Member Groupings and individual Members, and contribute to ongoing thinking and priorities and strategies for their participation.

Moderator:

Ms Selina Jackson, Special Representative of the World Bank to the UN and the WTO [TBC]

Speakers:**Priorities for LDC Acceding Governments**

H.E. Mr. Mozammil Shinwari, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Afghanistan [TBC]

H.E. Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewal Meka, Minister of Trade and Industry, Ethiopia [TBC]

H.E. Mr. Axel M. Addy, Minister of Commerce, Liberia [TBC]

H.E. Dr. Saadaldeen Ali Salim Talib, Minister for Industry and Trade, Yemen [TBC]

Participation as a New WTO Member - Approaches and Experiences***LDC Perspectives:***

H.E. Mr. Yong Chanthalangsy, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO of Lao PDR [Confirmed]

Mr. Jib Raj Koiara, Under Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal [TBC]

Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, H.E. Mr. Saidrahmon Nazriev, Tajikistan [Confirmed]

Non-LDC Perspectives:

Mr. Maxim Medvedkov, Director of Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation [Confirmed]

H.E. Mr. Valeriy Pyatnitskiy, Commissioner for European Integration, WTO Chief Negotiator Ukraine [Confirmed]

Priorities for LDC Article XII Members

H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Trade and Commerce, Cambodia [TBC]

Ms. Nella Levy, Principal Foreign Service Officer (Trade), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa [TBC]

H.E. Mr. Roy Mickey Joy, Ambassador to the European Union and the Kingdom of Belgium, Vanuatu [TBC]

Package for MC9

H.E. Mr. Triyono Wibowo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the WTO, Indonesia [TBC]

Commentator:

H.E. Mr. Steffen Smidt (Denmark), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee for LDCs and Working Party Chairperson on the Accession of Ethiopia to the WTO [Confirmed]

Ms. Chai Xiaolin, Director-General, WTO Department, Ministry of Commerce of China [TBC]

Open Discussion: All participants

13:00 Lunch

14:00 **Session 6: Technical Assistance for the LDC Acceding Governments**

Capacity-building provides the foundation for knowledge of the accession process. Knowledge of the rules-based Multilateral Trading System and the application of WTO principles and agreements to the national legal framework are prior conditions for WTO membership. Over the past years, the Accessions Division of the WTO Secretariat has developed an Accessions Toolbox to facilitate the accession processes. Various technical assistance programmes are available from the WTO, ITC, UNCTAD, World Bank, IMF, ADB (CAREC) and other international organizations, as well as individual Members. Better coordination is required; more timely delivery and stronger partnership are of urgent necessities. This session will discuss both the demand and supply sides of technical assistance to explore a strategy for addressing the real demand of LDCs in achieving their accession goals. The session will also explore strategies for intensifying outreach efforts with both domestic stakeholders and external partners so as to ensure a smoother and faster accession process. Issues to be discussed include:

- technical assistance and capacity-building programmes by international agencies;
- technical assistance by individual Members;
- "Geneva Week" platform;
- WTO Reference Centre;
- external and domestic outreach in supporting acceding LDCs;
- visits of Chairpersons to acceding LDCs;
- the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF); and
- Accessions Toolbox: ACDB; Accessions Newsletter; Accessions FAQ; Accession Fact Sheet; Legislation Database; AIMS (Accession Information Management System) Database; Register of Bilateral Market Access Agreements; and DG's Annual Report on Accessions.

Moderator:

H.E. Mr. Steffen Smidt (Denmark), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee for LDCs and Working Party Chairperson on the Accession of Ethiopia to the WTO [Confirmed]

Speakers:

Ms Maika Oshikawa, Chief, Asia and Pacific Desk, ITTC, WTO Secretariat [Confirmed]

Mr. Emil P. Bolongaita, Unit Head, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), ADB [Confirmed]

Ms Mona Haddad, Sector Manager, International Trade Department, the World Bank [TBC]

Mr. Chiedu Osakwe, Director, Accessions Division [Confirmed]

Commentator:

Mr Sonam P Wangdi, Director General, Department of Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs Bhutan [TBC]

Mr. Abdou Nassur Madi, Ministère Délégué Chargé de l'Économie, du Commerce Extérieur et des Privatisations, Comoros [TBC]

S.E. Sr. José Jaime Ondo Ndong, Viceministro, Ministerio de Economía, Comercio y Promoción Empresarial, Equatorial Guinea [TBC]

Mr. Fernando Amadeu Dos Santos Pereira, Direction du Commerce, Ministère de la Planification et du Développement Sao Tome and Principe [TBC]

Mr. Abdelrahim Ahmed Khalil Eltayeb, Acting Secretary General, National Secretariat for WTO Affairs, Ministry of International Cooperation, Sudan [TBC]

Mr. Nagib A. Hamim, Economic Attaché (WTO Affairs), Permanent Mission of Yemen [TBC]

Open Discussion: All participants

16:30 **Closing Session:**

- Remarks by Mr. Chiedu Osakwe, Director, Accessions Division, WTO Secretariat
- Remarks by LDC Coordinator
- Remarks by Ms. CHAI Xiaolin, Director-General, WTO Department, Ministry of Commerce of China [TBC]
- Closing of Round Table by Khemmani PHOLSENA, Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR [Confirmed]

17:00 **End of Day 3****DAY FOUR - 18 OCTOBER 2013**

9:00 **Official visit to factories or economic zones (TBC, 3 hours)**

WORKSHOP FOCAL POINTS

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