

Newsletter

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The WTO Reference Centre Programme: Promoting the multilateral trading system locally and globally



WTO Reference Centres: creating awareness on WTO and the multilateral trading system (MTS).



Mustapha Sadni Jallab Head, WTO Reference Centre Programme

Reference Centres are often found to be the most practical and effective tool for building knowledge and human capacity; they allow beneficiaries to access relevant information on the WTO via the WTO's Internet-based services. They narrow the gap of geographical distance between capitals and the WTO Secretariat, thus easing lines of communication and facilitating the participation of all WTO Members in WTO discussions, negotiations and decision-making.

A WTO Reference Centre (RC) is defined as a dedicated location open to government officials, business representatives, university professors, students as well as the general public, where WTO information and e-Learning material can be accessed. The RC programme was first launched in 1997 and it has evolved considerably since then, turning RCs into effective learning centres. Efforts have been directed towards further developing and refining the WTO RC programme, ensuring that it responds adequately to primarily the needs of least-developed countries (LDCs), Sub-Saharan Africa, and non-residents. Reference Centres are also established at the headquarters of regional and sub-regional organizations, thus strengthening and deepening the cooperation with agencies and regional partners.

The WTO RC programme continues to be a major source of assistance to beneficiaries in terms of providing access to trade-related information from Geneva to capitals. The strategy behind the RCs aims at utilizing them as "one-stop" information centres on all trade-related issues, but also as valuable tools for the private sector in search of new market opportunities. In 2010, the WTO established several new RCs and upgraded existing ones, thus enabling countries to keep abreast of developments in the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations and the work of WTO bodies.

In line with the Hong Kong Ministerial declaration, the RCs play an indispensable role in achieving the desired objectives of empowering and enhancing the participation of the LDCs in the MTS. In upgrading or establishing a WTO RC, emphasis is put on providing dedicated training on specific subjects related to both the ongoing DDA negotiations and the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements. Specific objectives are geared towards disseminating WTO trade-related information, thus contributing to building the necessary in-country skills and capacities to advance national interests.

With a large number of LDCs not having representation in Geneva, the RCs enable these countries to exercise their rights as Members of the WTO. In addition, the RCs serve as an effective means for undertaking WTO's e-Learning activities, which are an important component of the Progressive Learning Strategy. In addition, the appointment of a dedicated RC Manager facilitates better communication between the beneficiary and the WTO Secretariat and promotes ownership at the national

level. These Managers receive comprehensive and specific training on the access and use of relevant information needed to support their participation in the MTS.

The WTO is organizing a Symposium for RC Managers in Geneva, scheduled in April 2011. This Symposium intends to contribute to further strengthening the interaction between RC Managers based in LDCs and deepening their network. All participants are expected to benefit from the sharing of experiences and knowledge of colleagues working in other trade ministries. Emphasis will also be placed on strengthening the RC network at the national level so as to disseminate wider WTO-related information.

Given the positive contribution that the RCs can make to the attainment of one of the main objectives contained in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO, i.e. to increase the fuller participation of LDCs in the MTS, these efforts to strengthen the RC programme are considered equally important in view of the upcoming LDC IV Ministerial Conference, scheduled in May 2011.

Mustapha Sadni Jallab
Head, WTO Reference Centre Programme

ITTC Newsletter online

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/teccop_e/itcc_newsletter_e.pdf

http://www.wto.org/french/tratop_f/devel_f/teccop_f/itcc_newsletter_f.pdf

http://www.wto.org/spanish/tratop_s/devel_s/teccop_s/itcc_newsletter_s.pdf

Origins of the WTO Reference Centres

The idea of RCs was conceived during a Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP) Needs Assessment mission to Kampala (Uganda) in 1996. The WTO went ahead with the establishment of the first set of "WTO Reference Centres" in 1997: Benin (9-10 October 1997); Burkina Faso (11-13 October 1997); Côte d'Ivoire (6-7, 14 October 1997); Ghana (15-16 October 1997); Kenya (4-5 December 1997); Uganda (8-9 December 1997) and Tanzania (11-12 December 1997).

When the JITAP process was complete, JITAP Reference Centres

were also established in particular for the private sector in JITAP beneficiary countries. There was a clear distinction between WTO Reference Centres (a wider coverage) and JITAP Reference Centres (only in JITAP beneficiary countries). JITAP has left a good legacy in the participating countries with respect to the functioning of information centres.

Despite the good foundations laid by JITAP, many challenges remain and many countries especially the LDCs still need an information centre where dedicated information and trainings on WTO and the

MTS remain available. The biggest challenge is ensuring continuity of support to these information centres, whether by continuing the upgrading of these centres and/or providing specific training. The new strategy of the RC programme implemented since 2010 targets those specific challenges.



The First Establishment of Reference Centres: Memories from staff involved in the programme by Ms Laoise NiBhriain, Document Services Assistant at the WTO Information Management Service

In the second half of the 1990s information technology seemed to offer the promise of eliminating space and distance through the click of a mouse. At the High-Level Meeting on the Trade of the LDCs held in October 1997 it was decided to set up RCs under the WTO Information Technology for Development Project. The aim was to enable trade ministries to maintain an ongoing, electronic contact with the WTO so they could keep abreast of new developments and thereby reduce the distance between them and Geneva, virtually. Between October and December 1997 a pilot programme was undertaken establishing the first seven centres in Africa and by end 1998, 20 reference centres had been set up in LDCs.

The first missions were carried out by staff from IMRD and the Informatics Division. Two PCs equipped with a modem for internet access were installed in each trade ministry and during the mission ministry officials were shown how to access WTO resources, either on-line or pre-installed on the PCs. It was a challenge in some ministries to ensure continuous electricity and a dedicated telephone line for the internet connection. In one ministry a phone line was installed by WTO staff to hook up the modem; plugs, screwdrivers and adaptors were an essential part of the WTO toolkit to match Swiss PCs and modems to

local plugs and sockets. For several ministries the WTO-provided PCs were their first computers.

For many of the officials it was not only the first time they saw the Internet but also the first time to have regular access to a PC and the advantages and opportunities offered were immediately appreciated. For WTO staff, "technical mission" took on a new meaning as we introduced the theory of IP addresses and Internet service providers, POP3 and proxy servers. Far removed from the theory of international trade agreements was the hands-on training; RC coordinators were shown how to use the mouse to access WTO databases and click through the Website pages and resources as well as how to change toner and to ensure that printers, modems and faxes were properly connected.

Those first missions in 1997 and 1998 were exciting and challenging as the WTO moved into new areas and information technology offered new possibilities. The RC programme encouraged the development of WTO interactive training guides and other on-line resources which have become an important part of the WTO technical cooperation and training activities since then.

The WTO Reference Centres and Academic Support for Capacity Building

By providing direct access to WTO-related documents and publications, and becoming a gathering point for individuals interested in following closely the work of the WTO, RCs offer a valuable instrument for government officials, scholars and the public at large to enhance their knowledge about trade policy matters, the WTO Agreements and their related disciplines. Users also have direct access to information allowing them to keep up to date with the work of the WTO. Traditionally established in government office space specifically allocated to host them, the RCs are open to the public and in some cases provide a number of services, including training activities on WTO-related matters.

In the context of streamlining and improving the internal coherence of its technical assistance and training activities (TAT), the WTO secretariat has been implementing ways to combine existing programmes in order to enhance their impact in beneficiary countries, such as in the case of the RCs and the Academic Programme, by the establishment of WTO RCs in universities. A number of potential benefits could be derived from this, including enhancing WTO services and products provided to academic communities, increasing the available resources for scholars and students to conduct research, as well as providing valuable information resources for the design

of courses and their delivery. Of particular importance would be fact that hosting a WTO RC at a university would broadly open access to the student population to direct sources of WTO and trade policy-related information.

For several years the WTO has been implementing a strategy aimed at supporting the development of capacities in academic institutions, focusing on research, teaching and curriculum development, and

partnering with these in training and outreach activities. Academic institutions have a fundamental role to play in educating and informing societies; in the field of trade policy, the analytical work conducted by researchers can greatly contribute to the formulation and implementation of the country's trade policy. Moreover, universities can become partners of the WTO in the provision of information on public interest matters, such as international trade issues. This seems to be particularly

relevant in an international context characterized by integrated production chains which interconnect national economies through trade, making them more interdependent. In this sense, the establishment of RCs in universities can facilitate the organization of public events involving the academic, public and private sectors, and the general dissemination of WTO-related information to the broader public.

Information Management: a key to the success of the Reference Centre programme, by Matthew Baker, WTO Chief Librarian

Throughout 2010, the Reference Centre Unit (RCU) worked closely with the Library and Documents Online teams to ensure that a strong information management component was represented in the RC programme. Information management skills, including organizing and ensuring ready access to relevant information resources, are essential for managers who are responsible for disseminating information on the WTO in the member countries.

Members of the Library and Documents Online team have developed RC-specific training and presentations which focus on three main areas: 1. locating trade-related information in WTO resources (Website, Documents Online and Library services); 2. organizing information, including cataloguing and indexing; and, 3. search skills and techniques. The training also emphasizes reference and outreach services to government officials, the private sector and local

students who rely on WTO-specific information for their activities.

There will be a significant information management presence in the upcoming Symposium to be held in April 2011. In addition to acquiring solid information management skills, it is expected that participants will return home with a basic catalogue in which they can record and keep track of the documentation in their centre.

National Seminar and Reference Centre Training at the Ministry of Trade in Luanda, Angola

From 13-15 December 2010, the WTO led a technical cooperation mission to the Ministry of Trade in Luanda, Angola. In collaboration with Dr Luansi Lukonda, Mission of Angola, Matthew Baker, WTO Chief Librarian and Ms Françoise Guei, formally from the Mission of Côte d'Ivoire, conducted a National



Opening of the National Seminar by Trade Minister Idalina Valente (from the *Jornal de Angola*, 16 December 2010).



Françoise Guei presenting at the National Seminar.

Seminar on the DDA negotiations and re-opened a national RC.

Speaking at the opening of the National Seminar, Trade Minister Idalina Valente said that the Doha Round is “crucial” for the country, adding that it would allow Angola to further advance through trade.

The National Seminar covered topics of particular importance to Angola, including agriculture, non-agricultural market access (NAMA), trade facilitation, trade and environment, Aid-for-Trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). Additional information was provided on the WTO and the MTS, Angola’s participation at the WTO, and the role of the African Group. These sessions were reinforced by a presentation on locating relevant information on these issues through the various WTO information resources, including the WTO Website, Documents Online and Library catalogue.

A separate training session was also held for the re-opening of the RC, which is housed in the Ministry of Trade and open to the public. Matthew Baker encouraged

participants at both events to use the Centre as a resource of WTO information, centre for distance learning opportunities, and contact point with the WTO Secretariat.

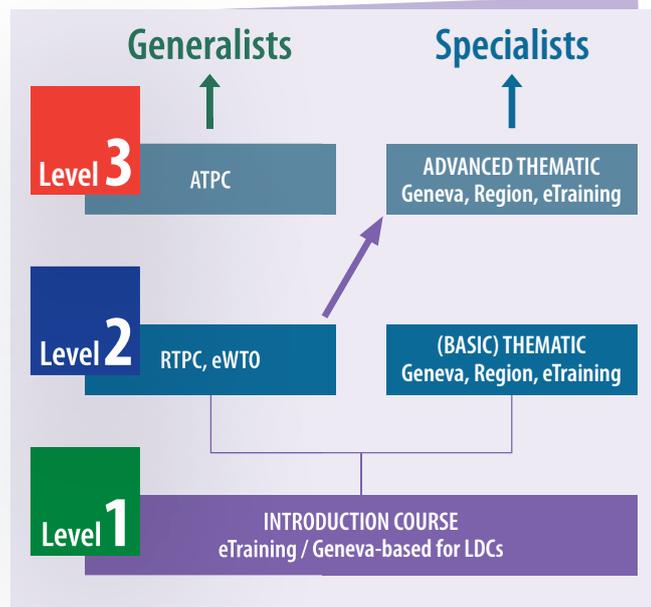


Matthew Baker being interviewed for the national television news.

The events, which attracted around 40 participants from various government ministries and the private sector, were extensively covered by the national media.

Reference Centres and Progressive Learning Strategy – a perfect match!

In the context of the Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS) put in place by the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC), the RCs have the opportunity to play a central role. Three levels of training are offered by ITTC. The most accessible, as it is offered through the Internet, and most required is the level1 “Introduction to the WTO” online course offered by the WTO e-Learning Team. No doubt that the RCs can offer, through this means, an essential service to government officials in many countries. By making access to the Internet possible and informatics equipment,



many more government officials can fulfil the pre-requisite that will be requested to apply to WTO courses at higher levels.

The RCs can therefore act as a catalyst for promoting government officials to get involved in their

own training paths with the courses offered on the Internet and CD-ROMs. Besides, the material that is posted on the WTO e-Learning Website is now accessible to anybody who is interested in learning more about the WTO, from the very beginning to the most

technical. The RCs which are familiar with this approach are in a position to explain it to their visitors and users as well as promote the use of this powerful tool.

Establishment of a Reference Centre at the Viet Nam Institute for Trade (VIT), Ministry of Industry and Trade, Hanoi, Viet Nam – 10 -11 January 2011

Following an official request by Viet Nam, a RC was established at the VIT, Ministry of Industry and Trade in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

In parallel with the establishment of the RC, training on accessing WTO information resources, including tariff profiles and commitments of WTO Members, the Global Trade-Related Technical Assistance Database (GTAD) and other WTO databases, reports of WTO bodies and developments in the Doha negotiations, was provided to the RC Manager, senior officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The RC Manager and staff members also received training on information management techniques to assist them in better organizing and providing access to WTO information resources. The Centre will serve as the interface between the WTO and the Ministry, and will be accessible to the general public as well as the private sector and the academics. The creation of this RC at the VIT was welcomed by many officials and is going to be used also as a learning centre where



Opening Ceremony of the Reference Centre at the Viet Nam Institute for Trade.

e-training courses will be available and encouraged. The Government of Viet Nam has also decided to finance entirely a second RC located to the Viet Nam Institute for Trade and Industry Studying. The Rector of this Institute requested WTO's assistance in the development of a comprehensive curriculum on international trade and also to receive a set of publications.

The Vice-Minister of Industry and Trade, Prof. Dr. Le Danh Vinh,

welcomed the WTO representatives, and warmly thanked the WTO Secretariat for establishing the RC. During the opening ceremony, he also expressed his appreciation for the trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) received from the WTO, particularly the national and regional seminars in which many officials are invited to participate. He recalled that this RC is one of the outcomes of the meeting held between the Prime Minister of Viet Nam, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung and WTO

Director-General Lamy in January 2010 and warmly thanked the WTO on behalf of the Prime Minister.

The Director of the Viet Nam Institute of Trade indicated that this Centre will primarily work as a WTO national enquiry point coordinated by the

Ministry of Trade and Industry as well as a national window through which the country would access all kinds of WTO documents.

Establishment of a Reference Centre at the University of Harare – Zimbabwe



Academics following a presentation at the Reference Centre

The WTO established a RC at the Department of Economics, University of Harare on 22 February 2011. This was followed by a seminar on the WTO and the MTS for academics

from universities in Zimbabwe and for senior government officials. In his speech, the Registrar of the University, Mr Sergent Chevo, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, said that the establishment of the RC by the WTO demonstrated its commitment to strengthening the capacity of Zimbabwe in trade policy matters and facilitating its greater participation in the MTS. He noted that the Centre would be a useful resource for both the professors and students who would be able to consult the documentation provided by the WTO and also download trade-related information

from the WTO Website. The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Rudo Gaidzanwa, said that the establishment of the RC at the University had come at an opportune time considering the strategic objective of the University to start offering only postgraduate courses in the near future. The Centre should assist professors and students in their research of topical trade issues of interest to Zimbabwe and other African countries. She thanked the WTO for this initiative and expressed the hope that the WTO would continue to provide support to the University.

Interview Responses to Dr E. Kessie's Questions, by Dr T. Mumvuma, Chairman of the Economics Department, University of Zimbabwe

Question 1: Do you currently teach courses on international trade?

The Economics Department currently offers courses on International Trade at both the undergraduate and post graduate levels. At the undergraduate level, all students at the second-year level are required to undertake a course called International Trade Theory & Policy. A course on "International Economics" is taught as an option at both the undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

Question 2: Given the University's strategic objective to focus on post graduate programmes, do you intend to introduce a dedicated course on international trade and the WTO?

The Economics Department is very keen on introducing a dedicated course on International Trade and the WTO, especially given the fact that there is a huge demand for this kind of course both locally and regionally.

Question 3: How useful would the Reference Centre be

to the Department of Economics and the University of Zimbabwe generally?

The Reference Centre is going to be very useful to both students and academic staff of the Economics Department and the University at large. They would have the opportunity to access trade-related information and data directly from the WTO website which should assist them in their research of various trade policy issues. They would be able to keep abreast of developments in the Doha

negotiations and in the multilateral trading system generally. The Centre will also be useful to professors and students who would like to complete WTO e-training modules. In summary, the Centre will enhance the understanding of the academic community in Zimbabwe about the WTO and the multilateral trading system.

Question 4: How do you see the relationship between the WTO and the University of Zimbabwe evolving?

It is very clear that the University's relationship with the WTO has started on a positive note taking into consideration the seminar held at the University last year, and this year's successful launch of the WTO Reference Centre and the hosting of the training workshop for academics on the WTO and the Doha Development Agenda

Negotiations. As a result of this, opportunities abound for further collaboration between the WTO and the University of Zimbabwe in the area of training and capacity building, particularly when it comes to offering short training courses and Masters programmes in International Trade and Trade Policy. The launch of joint policy relevant research programmes is another area where a strong relationship can be created.

Question 5: Can you briefly describe some research projects you intend to undertake in the near future?

After exchanges of views and ideas with the WTO experts during last year's seminar and this year's training workshop for academics, there are a lot of research opportunities that will be of great relevance to African policy makers that the Department can competently undertake. For a

start three areas of research are of interest to the Department; namely:

- Trade Facilitation – there is a need to undertake research to quantify the cost of doing business in some selected African countries;
- Trade in Services – there is a need to carry out an analysis of the opportunities and challenges for African countries; and
- An analysis of the impact of Non-Tariff Barriers on African trade.

We anticipate to produce papers on these issues and any support that can be given by the WTO will be appreciated.



Participants of the training delivered during the occasion of the opening of the WTO Reference Centre.

WTO Reference Centre in Honduras (housed in the Executive Directorate of Revenue)



Lesly Lagos, Director of the WTO Reference Centre in Honduras

We have a WTO RC in Honduras! It is already open to the public and is housed in the Executive Directorate of Revenue (DEI). The challenge for us now is to make its existence known to as many users as possible.

We are using the DEI's intranet to send out lists of books and CDs available from the Centre, information on internships and titles of online courses provided by the WTO as well as its newsletters.

We are also giving presentations on the WTO and the role of the RC to

DEI personnel as well as customs agents in Tegucigalpa.

Talks are given all over the country and target both internal and external audiences. The priorities are major business zones such as San Pedro Sula, where a series of meetings are scheduled this coming July with business operators, members of the public sector and academic circles. At the end of each introduction day, participants are shown the Centre's facilities and can see for themselves the variety of documents and electronic materials available.

Another way of presenting the Centre is through wall posters informing people of the existence and functions of the RC. We will be putting up posters announcing the opening of the Centre in trade and education establishments.

Lesly Lagos

Director of the WTO Reference
Centre, Honduras

Students from the University of Delaware Visit Headquarters of the WTO Secretariat

In the context of the WTO's University Programme, a group of students from the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics, University of Delaware (United States) spent an entire day visiting WTO Headquarters this past 18 January 2011. Every year, the University of Delaware sends a group of students on a month's visit to Geneva to become acquainted with the international organizations and with trade diplomacy and international development issues. The purpose of these visits is to give students the opportunity to exchange views directly with professionals in charge

of such matters and to further their knowledge of these issues. It also gives the students a chance to visit European capitals and the headquarters of various international institutions.

This group of students specializing in international economics was led by Professor Burton Abrams of the University of Delaware – Economics Department. Several officials from the WTO Secretariat gave the group presentations on the functions of the WTO, the principles on which the MTS is based on and the trade challenges of global economic

governance. The students were also made aware of the issues at stake in the current Round of international trade negotiations, trade in services and dispute settlement. The students and Professor Abrams expressed warm thanks to the WTO officials who led the various debates.



Group of students from the University of Delaware.

Advanced Trade Policy Course (ATPC) Opens in Geneva

The Patron of the ATPC, Ms Hilda Al-Hinai, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman, with ITTC Director Hakim Ben Hammouda, opened the 2011 ATPC (English) in Geneva on Monday 31 January 2011. Twenty-one candidates were selected to participate in this ATPC, from: Armenia, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, Cameroon, Croatia, Gambia, Hong Kong China, Iraq, Jordan, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Oman, Peru, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago and Zimbabwe.

The Course, which will run until 21 April 2011, represents a "level 3" training activity, the highest level of learning in the WTO's PLS. As a

PLS "level 3" activity, the Course is targeted at participants who already possess a sound knowledge of the WTO rules and disciplines and seeks to enhance their autonomy through – among other elements – consolidating their knowledge of the WTO rules and disciplines, consideration of how these disciplines relate to trade policy formulation and enhancing their analytical and negotiating skills. This will be achieved through a multidisciplinary learning approach which considers both the legal aspects and economic impact of implementing the WTO rules. The interactive training methodology, comprising lectures, roundtables, exercises and simulations, seeks to encourage the active involvement of

participants and promote learning by doing. In addition, by the end of their three-month stay, participants' will be expected to complete a project on the analysis of a trade policy issue or topic of their choice. Networking will be encouraged both within the WTO, through access to WTO experts, delegates and representatives from Missions, as well as to experts from other international organizations active in trade-related matters. Attendance to selected meetings of WTO bodies will expose participants' to the daily functions of the Secretariat, while briefings on WTO work-in-progress will keep them up to date on the WTO work agenda.



The Patron of the ATPC, Ms Hilda Al Hinai, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman, with ITTC Director Hakim Ben Hammouda, opening the 2011 Advanced Trade Policy Course (English) in Geneva.

Opening of the 3rd Regional Trade Policy Course (RTPC) for Latin America, Organized in Partnership with the University Sergio Arboleda



The Vice-Rector of the University, Mr Germán Quintero, with Mr Serafino Marchese from the WTO.

The Third RTPC for Latin American countries organized in partnership with the Universidad Sergio Arboleda was officially opened in Bogota, Colombia, on 24 January. A ceremony attended by senior officials from the partner institution, a representative from the Ministry of Trade, Serafino Marchese representing the WTO, and the Patron of the promotion, was held in the evening of the first day.

Twenty participants coming from 13 countries in the region are expected to work hard in order to assimilate the intensive programme which reflects its level in the PLS –level 2 – and shows the adjustment resulting from internal discussions held under the Progressive Learning Action Network (PLAN) in 2010. This programme

is better aligned for “generalist” participants and provides them with an exhaustive training programme better adapted to the targeted audience.

The partner institution, the University Sergio Arboleda, provides excellent facilities and support to the participants. On the academic side, the partner institution is extremely active with the launch of various projects: commission of case studies from the network of regional experts and regular events aimed at disseminating to various audiences a better knowledge of trade issues. Moreover, the partner institution has been extremely helpful for the implementation of the virtual

classrooms for all RTPCs by providing support based on their own model.

The Course will end on 15 April, after 12 weeks of intensive training based on a vast array of methodologies: case studies, simulations, quizzes, debates, etc.

WTO e-learning

WTO e-Learning aims at providing online training on matters related to international trade and the multilateral trade agreements to government officials from developing Members and Observers, within the progressive learning programme in the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC).

The following online courses will be available in English, French and Spanish throughout the year in 2011 at the WTO e-Learning website at <http://etraining.wto.org>:

- Introduction to the WTO – Level 1
- Technical Barriers to Trade in the WTO – Level 2
- Trade Remedies and the WTO – Level 2
- Agriculture in the WTO – Level 2
- Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights – Level 2
- Sanitary and PhytoSanitary Measures – Level 2
- Trade and Services in the WTO – Level 2

- Market Access for Trade in Good – Level 2 (English only)
- The Multilateral Trade Agreements and the WTO – Level 2

Participants can start their course at their own convenience and enjoy access to the course for a three-month period, within which they are free to organize their study pace according to what suits them the best. They are assisted by a trainer throughout the duration of their course and receive a Certificate after they pass the exams. Registered participants also have the opportunity to discuss trade issues in the online Forum and have real-time conversations with WTO experts in Chat Sessions.

Registration for online courses is at two track process. To register TWO FORMS are to be filled and submitted:

1. Online Registration Form

Interested officials shall register online first. After the duly completion of the online registration form at <http://etraining.wto.org>, the system will generate a registration number, which candidates will need to fill the Nomination Form.

2. Nomination Form

The nomination form can be downloaded at <http://etraining.wto.org>. The registration number will be required. Nomination forms should be endorsed by government authorities and sent by e-mail (scanned) to elarning.registration@wto.org or by fax to +41 22 739 5191.

Once the registration process is complete, a username and password is sent to each participant by e-mail. The access codes are available for a three month period, starting from the date of the first login into the website.

Registration

Online registration throughout the year at <http://etraining.wto.org>

More Details and Contact Point

<https://etraining.wto.org> or elarning@wto.org

While the WTO e-Learning material is freely available in the WTO e-Learning website, participants have to register and submit a nomination form in order to participate in a monitored course, access the module exams and obtain a WTO certificate.

List of Technical Assistance Activities for the Period 1 March 2011 to 30 April 2011 (Updated as at 24 February 2011)

Conferences/meetings

■ 09/03/2011 - 11/03/2011

Participation in the 6th international symposium on Finance and International Trade organized by the Sousse Institute of Management with WTO support Tunisia

National activities

■ 07/03/2011 - 08/03/2011

Trade Policy Review (TPR) of Kuwait Kuwait

■ 08/03/2011 - 09/03/2011

Technical Barriers to Trade Serbia

■ 09/03/2011 - 11/03/2011

Trade Policy Review (TPR) of Zimbabwe Zimbabwe

■ 14/03/2011 - 18/03/2011

Workshop on Government Procurement (Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai) India

■ 14/03/2011 - 15/03/2011

Launching of the WTO Chairs Programme at the University of Namibia Namibia

■ 22/03/2011 - 24/03/2011

Trade in service Paraguay

■ 28/03/2011 - 30/03/2011

Seminar on Services Madagascar

■ 04/04/2011 - 04/04/2011

Workshop on the TBT Agreement Qatar

■ 04/04/2011 - 08/04/2011

Establishment of a Reference Centre, Azerbaijan State Economic University / Academic Seminar Azerbaijan

Regional activities

■ 24/01/2011 - 15/04/2011

Regional Trade Policy Course for Latin American countries Colombia

■ 28/02/2011 - 04/03/2011

Special Training Course on Accessions for Select Acceding LDCs and Developing Countries India

■ 08/03/2011 - 11/03/2011

Workshop on TRIPS aimed at public officials of the Latin and Central Americas region, dealing in particular with public policies and intellectual property rights, with Articles 31bis and 27.3(b) of the Agreement, and with the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and public health Costa Rica

■ 15/03/2011 - 18/03/2011

Workshop on Market Access Issues (Rules of Origin, Customs Valuation, Import Licensing, etc.) Barbados

■ 21/03/2011 - 25/03/2011

Intensive Course on Trade Negotiations Skills for African countries (English) Namibia

■ 23/03/2011 - 25/03/2011

Joint WIPO/WTO Colloquium for Developing Country University Teachers of Intellectual Property Switzerland

■ 28/03/2011 - 30/03/2011

Workshop for ASEAN Civil Society and the media in Asia Thailand

■ 04/04/2011 - 08/04/2011

Symposium on Trade Facilitation: participation in WTO Trade Facilitation negotiations Switzerland

■ 05/04/2011 - 07/04/2011

Training on the implementation of the TBT Agreement for Arab and Middle East countries Qatar

■ 10/04/2011 - 14/04/2011

Advanced Training Programme for Senior Government officials in Arab and Middle East countries United Arab Emirates

■ 11/04/2011 - 15/04/2011

Intensive Course on Trade Negotiations Skills for Asia and the Pacific Islands China

■ 13/04/2011 - 14/04/2011

Short Trade Policy Course on Agriculture, in cooperation with IICA Costa Rica

■ 18/04/2011 - 22/04/2011

(Basic) or (Advanced) Training Course on WTO Dispute Settlement Austria

■ 19/04/2011 - 21/04/2011

Trade and Development for African countries (French) Congo

Geneva based activities

■ 31/01/2011 - 21/04/2011

Advanced Trade Policy Course (English) Switzerland

■ 11/04/2011 - 14/04/2011

Seminar on WTO Reference Centres for RC Managers and Coordinators based in LDCs and Members or Observers without Permanent Mission in Geneva Switzerland.