WCP Research Activities: Achievements 2010-2012

WTO Chair Programme
Annual Conference

July 2013
This pillar seeks to promote the generation and publication of research on trade and WTO trade-related policies and issues through the provision of a WTO grant. It also encourages academic cooperation with other institutions under the WCP, including possible joint research and cooperation arrangements such as peer reviews.

In the period 2010-2012, WCP Chairs research activities included:

- 185 research papers;
- 36 journal articles;
- 20 books;
- 27 case studies;
- a journal dedicated to trade and WTO related issues (ITAM: International Economic Law, launched 2010)
Research has covered a wide variety of themes, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Chairs</th>
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<td>Trade in services</td>
<td>FLACSO, Jordan, Mauritius, Barbados</td>
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<td>Regional trade agreements</td>
<td>NUS, UGM/Indonesia</td>
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<td>The Generalized System of Preferences</td>
<td>FLACSO</td>
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<td>WTO Accession</td>
<td>Jordan, Russian Federation</td>
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<td>International Trade Law</td>
<td>Mexico, UGM/Indonesia, China</td>
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Diverse trade-related research agenda implemented

- Chairs focuses mostly on matters directly pertaining to the hosting country's trade agenda.
- In some instances (University of West Indies and University of Jordan), the work of the Chair focused on the broader region.
- Comparative regional studies have also been implemented by joint activities among Chairs (University of Jordan, SPSU, Mohammed V University- Souissi, University of Chile, and ITAM).
- Other Chairs, such as, University of Mauritius are deepening its work on trade in services, especially for RTAs, by establishing a Trade in Services Centre.
Considerable efforts have been made in several institutions to project the Chair as a legitimate voice on trade policy and WTO-related issues at the national level such as:

- Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (SUIBE)
- St Petersburg State University (SPSU),
- Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)
- Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM),
- University of Mauritius,
- Mohammed V University-Souissi
- National University of Singapore (NUS)
- University of Chile

The Advisory Board has noted that the WCP has enhanced their role as reference points on matters related to the multilateral trading system in their respective countries.

The "WCP label" assisted Chairs in attracting research requests and recognizing research skills in the relevant institutions.
• Several Chairs have built teams of WTO-orientated researchers in their respective institutions, going beyond one or two individuals, and laying the ground for the longer-term sustainability of the WCP

Examples include:

- SUIBE
- SPSU
- University of Mauritius
- University of Nairobi
Chair-holders have used incentives, including financial incentive schemes such as essay awards, to solidify their position in their respective trade communities, and reinforce their academic credibility and prestige.

Examples of Chairs that implemented research prizes include:

- SUIBE
- SPSU
- University of Mauritius
- Jordan
- Chile
- FLACSO
Research activities also included an increase in **calls for papers**, a competitive process focusing specifically on eliciting proposals from researchers in developing countries. The calls for papers have provided greater visibility to the WCP.

**Calls for papers were issued by:**

- University of Nairobi (2012)
- University of Jordan (2012)
- Université Mohammed V – Souissi (2013)
In addition, Chairs responded to the call for Aid-for Trade case stories, issued jointly by WTO and OECD in 2011:

- **Mohammed V University-Souissi**: Aide au Commerce: quels enjeux pour le deuxième programme marocain des routes rurales?
- **UCAD-Senegal**: Appui à la mise en œuvre de l’Agence Sénégalaise pour la Promotion des Exportations (ASEPEX)
- **University of Chile**: Chile y las Pymes Exportadoras: “Compartiendo Experiencias”
- **SUIBE**: China-Canada “Small Farmers Adapting to Global Markers” Project
Chairs were encouraged to carry out joint research activities and joint lectures.

Joint research activities were carried out among:

- **Asian Chairs** (SIFT, Universitas Gadjah Mada, and NUS)
- **Latin American Chairs** (FLACSO, ITAM and University of Chile)
- **African Chairs** (UCAD and Mohammed V University- Souissi).
Engaging government agencies in research activities

The importance of links between research work conducted by the Chairs and government agencies and other sectors, such as the business and academic communities, was reflected in the work of most Chairs, with differing degrees of interaction.

Examples include:

- NUS
- SUIBE
- UCAD
- Chile
**Research**

**Summary**

- Since the launch of the programme, a significant number of research projects have been produced on a large variety of themes;
- Numerous research papers have been published in refereed journals or edited volumes;
- Collaboration with WTO counterparts has been very successful in a number of Chairs;
- A number of research projects have been conducted back to back with the organisation of events like colloquia or symposiums.

**Lessons learned**

- Need to enhance and focus reporting on published research (outputs).
- Languages and visibility (local and English) depending on topics and target.
- Synergies among Chairs and with (research conducted in) WTO (HQ) can be better (have not been fully) exploited.
  - Focus on specific (a restricted number of) research themes.
- (There is room to e)Enhancing (the) visibility of WCP research:
  - Enhanced use of available WTO websites (the restricted or the public website(s));
  - The creation of a WCP working paper series;
  - Production of edited volumes collecting WCP research on specific themes.