WCP 2015-2016 research pillar activities & achievements

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Geneva, November 2016
## WCP 2015-2016 research pillar activities & achievements

### OUTLINE

1. **Context**
   - North-West University (NWU)
   - TRADE (Trade and Development) research entity

2. **Outputs**
   - Conference papers
   - Publications
   - WTO bursaries for PhD and Master’s students

3. **Professional development and capacity building**

4. **Inter-WTO Chair collaboration**

5. **Influencing the trade policy landscape**
   - Policy briefs
   - Outreach activities and media releases

6. **Allocation of WTO funds to research pillar**

7. **Challenges**
1. Context:
TRADE research entity (WTO Chair 2014-2018)
North-West University, South Africa

- Specialists in international trade and economic development
- 18 full-time researchers
- Offer MCom & PhD in:
  - International Trade
  - Economics
1. Context:
About the North-West University (NWU)
1. Context:
About the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

- 132 Academic Personnel
  - 65 with PhD
  - 25 with MCom

- Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences
  - 3 Research Entities
  - 6 Schools
  - 106 Articles published in 2016

- 4694 Students
  - 3339 Undergraduates
  - 620 BCom Hons
  - 420 Master's
  - 93 PhDs
  - 178 Postgraduate Diplomas
1. Context:
TRADE (Trade and Development) research entity

Vision of the TRADE research entity:

“To be a respected authority and leading research entity in the fields of international trade and sustainable economic development, delivering well-rounded graduates, relevant, high-quality and focused research, as well as commercialised expertise, thereby supporting the NWU, government and private sector in their endeavours to bring about a more inclusive and competitive economy, and productive society.”
2. Outputs:
   a) Publications

7 WTO-related articles published in peer-reviewed journals

- South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences
- Journal of Economic and Financial Sciences
- Southern Africa Business Review
- Social Work
- International Business and Economic Research Journal
- Journal of Applied Business Research (2)
2. Outputs:

a) Publications

- 2 WTO-related working papers published

- 2 ERSA (Economic ResearchSouthern Africa) working papers, both focusing on the informal economy in South Africa:
  - Barriers preventing improvements in socio-economic conditions
  - Analysis of income in the informal economy for street waste pickers
2. Outputs:
a) Publications

2 WTO-related material published in other media

- ICTSD (International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development) BRIDGES AFRICA publication: ‘Harnessing the potential of the services sector in Africa’
- Econ 3x3 online forum: ‘Day labourers and the role of foreign migrants: for better or for worse’
2. Outputs:
   a) Forthcoming publications


- Chapter in a CROP (Comparative Research Programme on Poverty) book: ‘Generation Nowhere: The youth in the informal economy of South Africa – the case of day labourers and street waste pickers’ (Blaauw, D.)

- Journal article: ‘Factors influencing the competitiveness of the South African wheat industry: A hedonic price model’ (van der Merwe, J.)
J.C., ek dink ons moet hier 'n artikel kies wat 'n WTO-tema het - dalk een van Marianne en Carli in SAJE?
Wilma, 07/11/2016
2. Outputs:
   b) Conference papers (International)

Five papers presented at international conferences

- IFAMA World Conference in Aarhus, Denmark (2)
- WTO Public Forum in Geneva, Switzerland (2)
- NIDA International Business Conference in Bangkok, Thailand (1)
2. Outputs:
b) Conference papers (National)

- Two papers presented at national conferences
  - 6th Biannual Value Conference held at Zebula, North West Province
  - ICTSD (International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development) conference on trade in services held in Johannesburg
2. Outputs:
c) WTO bursaries for PhD students

3 WTO bursaries for PhD students

Lorraine Ferreira
(Regional integration and economic development in Africa)

Anita Schaap
(Border management in Southern Africa)

Carli Bezuidenhout
(Exporting and productivity of SA firms)
2. Outputs:
c) WTO bursaries for Master’s students

2 WTO bursaries for Master’s students

Gabriel Mhonyera
(Increasing SA’s export competitiveness through regional integration in SADC)

Jacob van Rensburg
(Factors influencing port selection in South Africa)
3. Professional development and capacity building

On-going enhancement of TRADE team members’ writing capabilities and outputs

- Academic article writing workshop, 1-3 June 2016
  - Target group: Eight TRADE researchers (Economics and International Trade)
  - Aim: To assist researchers in conceptualising, structuring and writing high-impact academic articles that meet criteria of esteemed journals
  - Output: A submission-ready article that meets target journal’s criteria and has a strong WTO theme
4. Inter-WTO Chair collaboration

Collaboration with fellow WTO Chairs

- **WTO Chair Brazil**: Prof Lucas Ferraz from Fundação Getulio Vargas and the São Paulo School of Economics in Brazil:
  - GTAP introductory workshop (5-9 September 2016)
  - Seminar: Trade Facilitation, Global Value Chains and Income Inequality workshop (8 September 2016)

- **WTO Chair Mauritius**: Chair is external examiner for MSc International Business Management degree (2016-2018)
5. Influencing the trade policy landscape: Policy briefs

Policy briefs developed in collaboration with government and private sector

- Two TRADE-WTO policy briefs:
  - ‘Policy uncertainty: How it affects South Africa’s growth and development prospects’
  - ‘Paving the way for South Africa’s (re)industrialisation including the “local content” vs. the “local spend” debate’
5. Influencing the trade policy landscape: Outreach activities and media releases

Media releases developed and disseminated (also an important component in the outreach pillar)

- Five TRADE-WTO media releases:
  - July 2015: Decision Support Model showcased at WTO’s 5th Global Review of Aid for Trade
  - May 2016: Services under the spotlight: New driver of Africa’s growth and sustainability?
  - February 2016: Launch of Policy Uncertainty Index (PUI) for South Africa
  - July 2016: SA economy uncertainty following Brexit
  - September 2016 (2016/2017 year):
    - Zimbabwe-South Africa relations under pressure: An eye for an eye or turn the other cheek?
    - A global paradigm shift in global trade relations — implications for South Africa’s industrial and trade policies
    - More inclusive trade – a new global imperative
6. Allocation of WTO funds to research pillar

Allocated funds for research pillar (66 % of total budget) 2015/2016

- M and PhD bursaries (49%)
- Support for conferences (27%)
- Support for publications (12%)
- Writing workshop (9%)
- Development of policy briefs and media releases (3%)
7. Challenges

- Prevailing climate of policy uncertainty in South Africa in face of volatile political and economic environment

- Insufficient avenues for engagement between government, and business and academia

**Tackling challenges by:**

- Building long-term relationships with national and provincial government, thereby influencing strategic thinking and priorities re trade and development. Formal partnerships (with a developmental component) with:
  - Department of Trade and Industry (the dti)
  - Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
  - North West Provincial Government Department of Finance, Economy and Enterprise Development (FEED)
  - North West Development Corporation (NWDC)
  - Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN)
  - Western Cape trade promotion authority (Wesgro)
  - Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDT)

- Engaging in research partnerships and projects with entities further afield to promote developing countries’ interests, e.g.
  - Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC)
  - International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)
  - International Trade Centre (ITC)
  - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- Running an active media campaign (covering outreach activities, commentary on global and regional developments)
Thank you

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