



TRADE POLICY REVIEW

REPORT BY

OMAN

Pursuant to the Agreement Establishing the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (Annex 3 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization), the policy statement by Oman is attached.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The economic policy of the Sultanate of Oman continues to be based on four pillars: Sustainable development with a stable macroeconomic framework; diversified, dynamic and globalized economy; advanced human resource development; and efficient and competitive private sector.

1.2. The Oman Vision 2020 enshrines the long term goals of Oman which are and remained since 1996 when Oman Vision 2020 was launched:

- Development of human resources and upgrading Omani skills and competencies to keep abreast with the technological progress.
- Creation of a stable macroeconomic framework aimed at development of a private sector capable of the optimal use of human and natural resources of Oman.
- Encouraging the establishment of an effective and competitive private sector.
- Providing appropriate conditions for the realization of economic diversification.
- Enhancing the standard of living of the people, reducing inequality among regions and among various income groups and ensuring that the fruits of development are shared by all citizens.
- Preserving the past achievements and safeguarding and developing them.

1.3. The watchwords of strategy are: Liberalization, Diversification, and Privatization.

2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Economic growth

2.1. The economy of Oman has been characterized in recent years by high growth and low inflation. The average growth rate of GDP at current prices during the five years from 2008 to 2012 was 15.4 percent. This is despite the difficult year of 2009 and relative weakness and slow growth of world economy. In the year 2012, the GDP at current prices grew by 11.6 percent. The rate of inflation in 2012 was a low of 2.9 percent.

2.2. The share of oil and gas sector in Oman's GDP in 2012 was 52.2 percent. The share of non-petroleum industrial activities was 4 percent while the share of agriculture and fisheries was only 1.1 percent. Services have the second biggest share in GDP at 35.4 percent in 2012. It is interesting to note that the rate of growth of services was 16.4 percent which is higher than the overall growth rate of 11.6 percent.

2.3. The figures of real GDP for 2012 was 5.7 percent. However, available data shows that the real GDP (at constant prices) grew by 4.5 percent in 2011. The rate of growth of the petroleum sector was 2.4 percent while that of the non-petroleum sector was 5.4 percent. Within the non-petroleum sector, the annual rate of growth of services was 7.8 percent.

2.4. Oman had a fiscal surplus of Rial Omani (R.O.) 525.3 million in 2012 while the current account surplus stood at RO 3.1 billion, which was 10.4 percent of the GDP.

2.5. The Eighth Five Year Development Plan (2011-2015) envisages increased growth rate of the non-oil sector, at 6 percent in real terms and at 10 percent at current prices.

2.2 Diversification of the economy

2.6. Diversification of Oman's economy is one of the important pillars of economic policy and a long term objective as spelt out in Oman Vision 2020. The objective is creating a diversified economy, based on renewable resources, which is highly efficient and integrated with the world economy. The numerical objective is to increase the share of non-oil sector to 15 percent of GDP. The other targets are reducing the share of oil in GDP to 9 % in 2020 and raising the share of gas to 10 percent.

2.7. The strategy of economic diversification is based on:

- Pursuing a high value added strategy characterized by adopting capital intensive production methods, and depending on advanced technology, scientific research and development.
- Adopting an export led growth.
- Developing small and medium scale enterprises.
- Developing a dynamic, efficient and competitive private sector, in addition to pursuing privatization.
- Developing human resources to match the global technological changes.
- Creating a suitable macroeconomic environment for development of productive sectors.
- Furthering the integration of Oman's economy with the world economy.

2.8. The foregoing strategy is being pursued in the Eighth Five Year Development Plan and is producing results.

2.9. The share of non-petroleum activities in GDP increased from 50.2 percent in 2008 to 62.4 percent in 2009 and to 56 percent in 2010. However, it was 53.1 percent in 2012 but that figure may be seen in context of high oil prices. Otherwise the share of non-petroleum in GDP would have been much higher.

2.10. Another dimension of the success of Oman's economic diversification is: exports. Whereas the total exports of Oman increased by 38 percent from 2008 to 2012, the increase of non-oil exports during the same period was 83 percent.

2.3 Privatization

2.11. Privatization is an important area and a pillar of Oman's economic policy. It is based on putting the private sector in the forefront of development effort and reducing the role of state in economic activity. The objectives of privatization are:

- Opportunities to the private sector to contribute to the development of national economy and encouragement of foreign investment.
- Creation of competition and enhancement of efficiency of resource utilization.
- Increased employment opportunities for citizens in the private sector.
- Reduction of financial and administrative burden on government.

2.12. Privatization process has progressed in the electricity sector, in power and related water sector, in the telecommunications sector, in transport sector and in waste water and hazardous waste sectors.

2.13. Oman would continue to pursue privatization as an important tool of national economic policy.

2.4 Investment regime

2.14. Investment regime is a priority area of Oman's economic development. As a matter of conscious policy, Oman actively promotes both domestic and foreign investment in order to enhance economic growth and development.

2.15. Oman provides an open and liberal investment policy aimed at attracting and facilitating investments. It offers an investment friendly legislation, a free-market economy and stable macroeconomic environment.

2.16. The corporate tax rates are low while there is no personal income tax. Tax holidays are available for five years extendable for another five years. Repatriation of capital and profits is not restricted. Under the Foreign Capital Investment Law, expropriation or confiscation of foreign investment is prohibited except in case of public interest but that only against fair compensation.

2.17. Oman is a member of international institutions concerned with investment protection and guarantees such as International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes and Multinational Investment Guarantee Agency.

2.18. A One-Stop-Shop has been provided by Oman in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for assisting domestic and foreign investors in meeting all formalities related to investments. This enables investors to set up companies in a very short time, minimizing paperwork and costs.

2.19. Oman is an attractive destination for foreign direct investment because of political stability, a strategic location, highly developed infrastructure and business friendly economic policies.

2.5 Human resource development

2.20. Human resource development is one of the highest important policy areas of Oman. Its importance can be gauged from the sayings of His Majesty the Sultan that human being is the ultimate goal of the development process. Oman has continued to invest resources and efforts in upgrading its human resource capital. The aim is to upgrade the skills of Omani nationals to keep abreast of technological developments and to prepare them to face the challenges and reap the opportunities of the 21st century.

2.21. In the words of Oman Vision 2020, the focus in this area is to develop human resources and capabilities of Omani people to generate and manage technological changes efficiently, in addition to facing the continuously changing local and international conditions.

2.22. The human resource development strategy of Oman is based on:

- Achieving a balance between population and economic growth by reducing the population growth rate to less than 3 percent.
- Provision of health services and reduction of the rate of mortality.
- Dissemination, encouragement and patronage of knowledge and development of education.
- Establishing post-secondary and technical educational system and vocational training.
- Creating employment opportunities for Omanis in public and private sectors.
- Increasing the efficiency of the labour market by narrowing differences between public and private sectors.

2.23. These objectives are sought to be achieved by expansion of university education, raising of enrolment ratios in higher education and professional institutions. Government gives top priority in allocating resources for implementation of programmes relating to education and training sectors.

2.24. A number of high grade educational institutions are operating in Oman, the best of which is the Sultan Qaboos University.

2.6 Important development projects

2.25. Air traffic, both passenger and cargo, has greatly increased over the past few years, especially at the Muscat International Airport. The existing terminal built many years ago is not big enough to cater to the present and specially the future growth of air traffic. The Government has started a massive project of a new airport terminal close to the site of the existing terminal. Work is already in progress and the new terminal is expected to be ready in about two years. The new terminal is designed to handle a capacity of 12 million passengers annually. It will be a state of the art facility with the latest and most modern infrastructure and equipment. It will be a show piece of Oman's development.

2.26. Like other GCC countries, Oman has no railways at present. A railway network is planned for Oman and this rail network will be connected to the proposed networks of other GCC countries. The proposed railway network will connect Muscat with Sohar and with Salalah and eventually to other main cities. Preliminary work of inviting bids for design of the railway service was started in May 2013. This will be another big development project of Oman.

2.27. The third major development project is the Duqm Special Economic Zone (SEZ). With a land area of 1,777 square Km and 80 Km of coastline along the Arabian Sea, the Duqm Special Economic Zone is the largest in the Middle East and North African region and ranks among the largest in the world. It has long been envisioned as a project that will balance regional development in addition to diversifying sources of national income and creating job opportunities

for Omanis. The SEZ is a model of an integrated economic development comprising a sea port, industrial area, fishing harbour, tourist zone, a logistics centre and an education and training zone. The Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZAD), which was established by Royal Decree in October 2011, will be the regulatory and supervisory body for the SEZ, responsible for managing and developing all economic activities. The Authority will be the focal point for potential investors and would have a one – stop – shop to help and guide investors.

3 TRADE POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Objectives of trade policy

3.1. The trade policy of the Sultanate of Oman is rooted in the principles and rules of the multilateral trading system. As an old trading nation, Oman is conscious of and recognizes that a rule-based international trading system and open and liberal markets are important for world economy, for economic development and for raising the living standards of people around the world, especially for the populations of developing countries.

3.2. It is in its firm belief in the foregoing principles that the Sultanate of Oman joined the World Trade Organization in 2000. Even before joining the WTO, Oman had in practice been following the rules and basic principles of the multilateral trading system. Since its accession to the WTO, Oman has strictly abided by the provisions of the WTO agreements and it expects all WTO Members to adhere to the mutually agreed rules. Oman strongly believes that adherence to WTO rules would ensure expansion and liberalization of international trade for the welfare and prosperity of people around the world. An open and liberal trade policy is welfare oriented and people-centric.

3.3. The broad objectives of Oman's trade policy are:

- Expansion of trade leading to economic development of the country.
- Expansion and growth of production of tradable goods and services.
- Securing greater market access for Omani goods and services.
- Creation and expansion of employment opportunities for Omani people.
- Ensuring availability of goods and services at reasonable prices in the domestic market.
- Protecting the interests of consumers.
- Raising the living standards of the people of Oman.

3.4. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is the focal point for formulation and implementation of Oman's trade policies. Proposals for formulation of specific trade policies are initiated by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, where relevant in consultation with concerned Ministries. The proposals after approval by the Council of Ministers are implemented, as appropriate, either by issuance of Sultani decrees, subject to the approval of His Majesty the Sultan, or by Ministerial decisions.

3.5. The importance of trade policy is reflective of Oman's high dependence on foreign trade; the trade to GDP ratio of Oman is 108.4 percent.

3.2 Tariffs

3.6. Oman has a simple, uncomplicated tariff regime. Tariffs are the main instrument of Oman's trade policy. These are applicable to imports on an MFN basis, except for imports from WTO Members with which Oman has regional trade agreements or free-trade arrangements.

3.7. Oman has bound import tariffs on all agricultural and non-agricultural products with no exceptions. The simple average of its bound tariffs for all products is 13.7 percent, that for agricultural products is 27.7% and for non-agricultural products it is 11.6%. The non-agricultural products of Oman are a little more than 88 percent. As a result of binding 100 percent of its tariffs, Oman provides stable and predictable conditions of access to its market for WTO Members. Bound tariffs for non-agricultural products range from 0 to 25 percent. However, for more than 97 percent of non-agricultural products, these are 15 percent or less.

3.8. The actually applied tariffs of Oman are very low, at 4.8 percent. It may be argued that there is quite a gap between bound and actually applied tariffs. However, that is neither unusual nor against WTO rules. The GATT/WTO rules clearly say that import duties should not be higher than bound rates, which means that these can be lower than the bound rates. The rules do not say and do not imply, directly or indirectly, that the applied tariffs should be at or close to bound rates.

3.9. All tariffs of Oman are at *ad valorem* rates. There are no specific duties. Oman also does not apply any tariff quotas.

3.3 Other measure affecting imports

3.10. Oman has bound other duties and charges at zero in its Schedule of Tariff Concessions and Commitments and it is strictly abiding by this commitment. Similarly, Oman does not apply any internal taxes to imports such as VAT, sales tax or excise duties. However, GCC Member States are preparing to implement. With respect to regulations and requirements affecting internal sale, purchase, transportation, distribution or use of products, Oman is committed to the disciplines of Article III of the GATT 1994.

3.11. Oman has no prohibitions or quantitative restrictions on imports except a few which are justified under Articles XX and XXI of the GATT 1994, for security, health or safety reasons or necessary to protect public morals. Oman has been submitting periodic notifications on Quantitative Restrictions to the WTO Secretariat.

3.12. As for valuation of imported goods, Oman has implemented the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation, through the GCC Common Customs Law and its Implementing Regulations.

3.13. It may be of interest to WTO Members to know that Oman does not use import licenses for any purpose.

3.14. Preferential rules of origin are applicable to imports from GCC Member States and from Arab countries members of the Pan Arab Free-Trade Area as well as imports from the United States of America and Singapore.

3.4 Trade remedy laws and measures

3.15. The GCC Member States, of which Oman is one, have a common trade remedy law, which was revised to bring it into conformity with the WTO Agreements on Anti-Dumping, Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and Safeguards. Oman has, however, not applied any anti-dumping or countervailing duties or any safeguard measures since its accession to the WTO, nor has it initiated or held any investigations.

3.5 Measures directly affecting exports

3.16. Oman does not apply any export duties. However, it reserves the right to apply export duties, as permissible under WTO rules, if and when it deemed necessary. There are no export licensing requirements or procedures nor any export performance requirements. Export prohibitions are very few, relating to antiques, ancient manuscripts, old coins and date seedlings. Three species of fish are subject to export restrictions during breeding and reproduction season, for environmental reasons.

3.17. There are no special procedures or requirements for exports. Any firm or individual, Omani or foreign, which has relevant commercial registration can engage in export trade.

3.6 Exports subsidies and TRIMs

3.18. In terms of its commitment at the time of its accession to WTO, Oman does not provide, maintain or introduce any prohibited subsidies as defined in the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

3.19. Oman does provide domestic subsidies to industries in the form of soft loans by Oman Development Bank. However, these are non-specific, available to all industries and to all enterprises.

3.20. The Export Credit Guarantee Agency (ECGA) provides credit insurance and financial services with a view to promoting non-oil exports of Oman.

3.21. Oman does not apply any prohibited trade-related investment measures (TRIMs).

3.7 Trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS)

3.22. Oman has an array of intellectual property laws which provide protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights equal to or even surpassing the standards and requirements of the TRIPS Agreement.

3.23. Oman has enacted and has been implementing the following IP laws:

- Copyright and related rights.
- Industrial property rights (Patents- Utility model certificates – industrial designs – layout – designs (topographies) of integrated circuits – Trademarks – Geographical indications).
- Plant breeders' rights.

3.24. Copies of these have been submitted to the WTO Secretariat.

4 SECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 Agriculture and fisheries

4.1. Agriculture and fisheries is a smaller sector of Oman's economy. The share of agriculture and fisheries in the GDP was only **1.2** percent in 2012. In terms of nominal GDP, agriculture and fisheries sector's growth in 2012 was **9.0** percent. However, this sector has a big social impact in terms of rural development, food security and employment in the countryside.

4.2. The main target of Oman's agriculture sector is to achieve food security. Because of that it does not grant any export subsidies. And, Oman has made a commitment not to grant export subsidies. Based on 2012 data, Oman is 62% self-sufficient in vegetables, 72% in fruit, 23% in red meat, 31% in poultry, 41% in milk and milk products and 48% sufficient in eggs.

4.3. In order to improve the agriculture sector, The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries carried out many research and extension activities to educate the farmers and increase their awareness. In 2012, the Ministry completed 41 research projects and 78 are still on-going. These research activities include genetic resources, toxic residual, soil and water management and biological control. The Ministry also implemented about 111,097 extension activities in 2012.

4.2 Manufacturing

4.4. The manufacturing sector growth from 2008 to 2012 was around 25 percent. The growth rate in 2011 was 22.6 percent but it declined to 2.5 percent in 2012. The share of manufacturing in Oman's GDP in 2012 was 10.1 percent.

4.5. The Oman Vision 2020 has set a target of raising the share of manufacturing to 15 percent of the GDP by 2020.

4.6. The Eighth Five Year Development Plan (2011-2015) envisages annual growth rate of 10 percent at current prices and 6 percent at constant prices.

4.7. The manufacturing sector is largely based on products of chemical and allied industries, articles of base metals, plastic, rubber and articles thereof and textiles, clothing and made-ups.

4.3 Oil sector and mining

4.8. Oil and gas sector dominates Oman's economy. Its share in GDP in 2012 was 52.2 percent. The importance of this sector can be gauged from the fact that oil and gas revenues as a percentage of GDP were 40 percent in 2012, and 85.4 percent of government revenues. The share of oil and gas in Oman's exports in 2012 was about 70 percent.

4.9. The production of crude oil increased by 4.1 percent in 2012, giving a daily average of 918 thousand barrels.

4.10. Oman has pursued a policy of economic diversification by utilizing more and more hydrocarbon resources to develop value-added industries based on oil and gas. These include petrochemical and energy-intensive industries.

4.11. Mining and quarrying is a relatively small sector of Oman's economy but it has a big potential. Oman is pursuing a policy of exploiting this sector within the framework of its economic diversification strategy. Some 110 companies are conducting mineral exploitation and operations in Oman. The major mining products are limestone, gypsum, marble, iron and chromite.

4.4 Service, banking and financial, telecom and tourism

4.12. Services is an important and growing sector of Oman's economy. It comprises mainly of banking and financial services, telecommunication services, tourism and related services and business services.

4.13. The share of services in GDP increased from 34 percent in 2011 to 35.4 percent in 2012. The value added in the services sector increased in 2012 by 16.4 percent over the previous year. Oman has made specific commitments in 10 sectors and 97 sub-sectors of services.

4.14. The banking sector comprises 18 banks, which include 7 local commercial banks, 9 foreign banks and two specialized banks (Oman Housing Bank and Oman Development Bank). Since Oman's accession to the WTO in November 2000, four foreign banks were licensed in Oman raising the number of foreign banks from 5 to 9.

4.15. The financial services sector (other than banking) includes 6 non-bank financial and leasing companies, 20 insurance companies (of which 11 are local and 9 foreign), 15 insurance and reinsurance brokers, 48 money exchange establishments and 20 stock brokers.

4.16. Telecommunication services sector is regulated by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA). The Ministry of Transport and Communication role is to formulate policies related to the sector. Currently there are three companies offering landline telephone and internet services namely Omantel, Nawras, and a consortium of Awaser Oman and PCCW International. There are two mobile operators namely Oman Mobile and Nowras Telecom. A third mobile phone license is under consideration for issuance.

4.17. Tourism and related services development is an important government objective aimed at diversification of the economy. The Ministry of Tourism is responsible for the comprehensive development of the sector.

5 FREE-TRADE AGREEMENTS

5.1 Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

5.1. Oman is one of the six Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, along with Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. The GCC was established in November 1981 with a Free-Trade Area under which customs duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce were eliminated on all trade among GCC countries.

5.2. The Free-Trade Area was converted into the GCC Customs Union from the beginning of 2003. A common external tariff (CET) was established with rates of 0 percent and 5 percent for almost all tariff lines with a few exceptions.

5.3. The average applied tariff of GCC Member States is 4.8 percent.

5.4. Non-tariff measures and other regulations of commerce on intra-GCC trade have either been eliminated or harmonized. The GCC has a Common Trade Remedy Law and a Common Customs Law, and some other common laws are in the making.

5.5. In addition to the Customs Union, the GCC has also liberalized services trade. Some 100 sub sectors including telecom services, banking and financial services, distribution services, professional services, some business services, tourism services, education and health services, have been liberalized. The liberalization process would continue progressively.

5.2 PAFTA

5.6. The Pan-Arab Free-Trade Area was established in 1998. Oman is a member of PAFTA along with Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen and the Palestinian Authority. The transition period of PAFTA was shortened from the original 10 years to 8 years, so that from the beginning of 2005 tariffs were eliminated on substantially all trade between Member States of PAFTA.

5.3 Bilateral agreements

5.7. Oman has a bilateral Free-Trade Area Agreement with the United States.

5.8. The GCC Member States (including Oman) have concluded Free-Trade Area agreements with EFTA and Singapore.

6 OMAN, WTO AND DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

6.1 Oman and WTO

6.1. Oman became a member of WTO in November 2000 through the difficult and time consuming process of accession to the WTO. It was in the belief that the WTO provides a framework of mutually agreed, legally enforceable rules for the conduct of world trade, an effective mechanism for the implementation and enforcement of these rules, an elaborate and well-functioning system of dispute settlement and a multilateral forum for trade negotiations.

6.2. Oman believes that WTO is the best available forum for liberalization and expansion of international trade and a bulwark against protectionism. The rule-based system of the WTO is of benefit to all Members, but in particular to the smaller, developing countries. The WTO has stood the test of time and proved its utility and effectiveness in the Great Recession of the first decade of this century.

6.3. Oman is an active participant in the regular activities of the WTO. It participates in the meetings and deliberations of important Councils and Committees of the WTO, in particular the General Council, the Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services, The TRIPS Council, The Committee on Trade and Development and various other Committees and Working Parties.

6.4. Oman collaborates with all Members of the WTO on important on-going activities. It collaborates closely with developing countries, with members of the Arab Group and in particular with its GCC partners.

6.5. Oman has not been a party to any dispute either as a complainant or as a defendant, but it closely follows the working of WTO's dispute settlement system.

6.2 Doha Development Agenda

6.6. Oman had attended the Doha Ministerial Conference in 2001 as a full Member of the WTO and had supported the Doha Ministerial Declaration and the program of work including the subjects for negotiations. The DDA negotiations were launched with great promise. Its objectives

are laudable. However, it is a matter of regret that even after 13 years these objectives are not nearer achievement.

6.7. Oman had been actively participating in different areas of negotiations, of course focusing on its particular interests. Oman had also made contributions in different areas, including in-built contributions during its accession process. Oman could consider further contributions commensurate with its position as a small developing country with a narrow export base (other than oil). Oman's objectives in the negotiations are greater and liberal market access on a predictable basis for its non-oil exports. Additional objectives include improvement of WTO rules and dispute settlement procedures where relevant.

6.8. Oman continues to support the original objectives of the DDA which should remain undiluted. The interests of developing countries must remain at the heart of DDA negotiations. A lot of time and effort has been invested in these negotiations. The result of these efforts in the form of understandings reached on different subjects and issues must be protected. Settled issues should not be reopened. Oman would join other countries and would urge all WTO Members to bring DDA negotiations to a successful conclusion within a reasonable time frame with a substantial package of results. That would enhance the status and credibility of the WTO.

6.9. The Bali Ministerial Conference was a rare but an important success for the WTO. Oman has supported the Bali package. It has re-established the authority and the image of the WTO as a forum for multilateral trade negotiations. Bali however is not the end. It is the beginning of a process of breathing new life in Doha Round. Bali should serve as a stepping stone for the successful conclusion of Doha Round negotiations.

7 FUTURE DIRECTION OF OMAN'S TRADE POLICY

7.1. Oman would continue to pursue an open and liberal trade policy based on the principles and rules of the multilateral trading system. It would continue to abide by its WTO commitments and would continue to work with other WTO Members to ensure that all Members fulfill their commitments in letter and in spirit. Oman would cooperate with other countries to strengthen the WTO, especially its rather tarnished negotiating functions.

7.2. Oman would continue with its policy of considering the WTO as the primary forum for trade negotiations. Oman has and would selectively conclude preferential trade agreements within the framework of the GCC. However, Oman considers preferential regional trade agreements as complimentary to the multilateral trading system and not a substitute for it.

ANNEX-TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF OMAN

Oman is grateful to the WTO Secretariat for providing technical assistance in the past years. However, technical assistance is always needed and is welcomed by Oman. Below are the priority needs of Oman:

- More training facilities for Omani officials in Trade Policy Courses.
 - Organization of general and subject-specific trade policy seminars and workshops in Oman.
 - Organization of more regional seminars, workshops and trade policy courses in the GCC region.
 - Organization of trade policy seminars for the business community in Oman.
 - Help and assistance in meeting numerous notification obligations.
 - Upon request, to prepare background papers and notes on different subjects and issues under discussion in the WTO Councils and Committees and in the multilateral trade negotiations.
 - Upon request, to prepare technical and explanatory notes on specific dispute settlement cases.
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