

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Limited Distribution

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The GATT Commercial Policy Courses

Note by the Director-General

1. Nature of the Courses. The regular GATT Commercial Policy Courses are open to government officials, in principle from developing countries whether contracting parties to the General Agreement or not, who have, or may have in the future, responsibilities in the formulation and conduct of foreign trade policy within their administrations. Interest in these courses has continued to increase, and in recent years the demand for places on these commercial policy courses has far exceeded the number of fellowships available.

2. The principal aim of the GATT Commercial Policy Courses is to help the participants achieve a deeper understanding of trade policy matters, and to enable them to acquire a full, up-to-date knowledge of the GATT and its related instruments and of the work undertaken by it and other international bodies in the field of trade policy which will be helpful to them in work within their own administrations and promote a more effective participation of their countries in GATT activities.

3. The Programme. This covers topical questions in the field of international economic relations. It includes lectures and discussions on the principles and the structure of international trade, the working out and implementation of trade policy, the principal problems and sectors of international trade, the expansion of the trade and promotion of the exports of the developing countries, the provisions of the General Agreement, the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and the various GATT bodies, the relationship between international trade and monetary problems, the agreements negotiated during the Tokyo Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, and the Action Programme resulting from the 1982 Ministerial Meeting. Particular emphasis is laid on practical work which involves the organization of seminars, group discussions and the preparation of studies on subjects of particular interest to participants. In addition to GATT secretariat officials, a number of guest lecturers are invited to contribute to the courses, including senior officials from other organizations, from permanent delegations and from the private sector. Recently a trade negotiation simulation exercise has been added reflecting constant efforts to improve the practical content of the course. Opportunities are also provided whenever possible for participants to attend meetings of GATT, so as to allow them to gain direct knowledge of the methods and procedures followed by the GATT in dealing with specific problems. Towards the end of the course, to round up the training, a fortnight's study tour abroad takes place on the basis of a work programme proposed by the host governments and intended to familiarize participants with the trade policy of the countries concerned, to arrange visits to industrial and commercial centres, and to establish useful relations with both the public and the private sectors. Around the middle of the course a one-week study tour in Switzerland is also undertaken.

4. Activities in 1983. Two courses in commercial policy will have been held in the GATT in 1983. The first, held from 14 February to 7 June was the Fifty-fifth regular English-speaking course, which was attended by 21 officials. The Fifty-sixth course which is French-speaking began in August and will end in mid-December. Twenty-three officials are attending this Course. Annex B contains a list of the government officials who attended courses in 1983. Since 1955, when this GATT activity was initiated, 858 officials from 110 countries and seven regional organizations have attended the regular courses (See Annex A).

5. Study tours. In the autumn of 1982, the participants in the 54th French-speaking Course visited Spain and the EEC in Brussels. In 1983, the participants in the 55th English-speaking Course visited Finland and the Netherlands. The participants in the 56th French-speaking Course will visit Italy and another country towards the end of the Course. For each of these courses, a one-week study tour in Switzerland was also sponsored by the Swiss Authorities.

Miscellaneous

6. Lodging. In view of the increasing difficulties encountered by participants in GATT commercial policy courses in finding reasonably-priced furnished accommodation in Geneva in recent years, the GATT secretariat rented on a trial basis, in 1982, a number of furnished studios to accommodate such participants. As this has gone some way towards alleviating the situation with regard to the psychological and financial demands made on the trainees, the scheme for renting these studios, which is self-financing as lodging is included in the GATT fellowships, has been continued in 1983.

7. Follow-up. For quite some time, both the GATT Secretariat as well as many former participants had felt that there was a need for some form of follow-up activity in connexion with the courses. Many suggestions had been made over the years as to the kind of follow-up to be undertaken. One common element in all these proposals was that the activity should foster and maintain contacts between the GATT and former participants in the courses. After much reflexion it was decided that perhaps the most practical solution would be to create a special "Training Newsletter", for the ex-participants. This project has become a reality and the first such "Newsletter" was sent out to them in July 1982. In view of the favourable response received, it was decided that the project should be continued and that the newsletter would be issued on a periodic basis.

The GATT secretariat is now also sending the regular GATT Newsletter, "FOCUS", and the publication, "GATT Activities", to former trainees.

8. Acknowledgements. The Director-General wishes to express his gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme for its cooperation in the implementation of the fellowships, to the governments and organizations which have kindly received the participants during visits and study tours for their cooperation and hospitality, and to those lecturers from outside the GATT who have given their time to participate in the courses.

ANNEX AArea Distribution of Participants in the Geneva Courses
from December 1955 to December 1983

	Fellowship Holders	Non-Fellowship Participants
<u>Africa</u> (Forty-three countries) (Four organizations)	<u>267</u>	<u>4</u>
Angola	1	
Algeria	3	
Benin	8	
Burundi	7	
Cameroon	8	
Central African Republic	7	
Chad	3	
Comoros	1	
Congo	9	
Egypt	25	1
Ethiopia	3	
Gabon	5	
Gambia	2	
Ghana	13	1
Guinea	5	
Guinea-Bissau	2	
Ivory Coast	3	
Kenya	5	
Lesotho	1	
Liberia	1	
Libya	2	
Madagascar	19	
Malawi	11	
Mali	9	
Mauritius	2	
Morocco	5	
Niger	2	
Nigeria	15	1
Rhodesia and Nyasaland (ex. Fed. of)	4	
Rwanda	3	
Senegal	11	
Sierra Leone	5	
Somalia	3	
Sudan	6	
Swaziland	1	
Tanzania	8	
Togo	12	
Tunisia	10	
Uganda	4	
Upper Volta	3	
Zaire	12	
Zambia	3	1
Zimbabwe	1	

	Fellowship Holders	Non-Fellowship Participants
<u>Africa (cont'd)</u>		
CEAO	1	
CEPGL	1	
OAU	1	
UDEAC	1	
<u>Asia (Excluding Middle East)</u> (Twenty-four countries)	<u>183</u>	<u>12</u>
Afghanistan	1	
Bangladesh	7	
Burma	10	
China	3	
Fiji	2	
Hong Kong	9	8
India	26	
Indonesia	16	
Iran	5	
Japan		3
Kampuchea	3	
Korea	11	
Lao	2	
Malaysia	12	
Nepal	4	
Pakistan	15	
Papua New Guinea	1	
Philippines	16	
Singapore	5	
Sri Lanka	15	
Thailand	13	1
Tonga	2	
Vietnam	3	
Other	2	
<u>Middle East (Seven countries)</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>1</u>
Iraq	3	
Israel	13	1
Jordan	1	
Lebanon	5	
Saudi Arabia	1	
Syria	12	
Turkey	24	

	Fellowship Holders	Non-Fellowship Participants
<u>Latin America and Caribbean Area</u> (Twenty-three countries) (Three organizations)	<u>197</u>	<u>18</u>
Argentina	20	
Barbados	3	
Bolivia	6	
Brazil	19	
Chile	14	1
Colombia	15	
Costa Rica	3	
Cuba	17	4
Dominican Republic	3	
Ecuador	8	
El Salvador	1	
Guatemala	1	
Haiti	11	
Honduras	3	
Jamaica	4	
Mexico	10	3
Nicaragua	3	1
Panama	2	2
Paraguay	5	1
Peru	16	
Trinidad and Tobago	5	2
Uruguay	9	1
Venezuela	10	3
LAFTA (ex.)	6	
SIECA	2	
Andean Common Market	1	
<u>Europe (Thirteen countries)</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>11</u>
Bulgaria	12	1
Cyprus	2	
Czechoslovakia	1	2
Finland	3	
Germany, Fed. Rep. of		2
Greece	19	
Hungary	11	
Malta	3	1
Poland	17	3
Portugal	7	1
Romania	17	
Spain	1	1
Yugoslavia	13	
TOTAL (One hundred and ten countries and seven organizations)	812	46

ANNEX B

PARTICIPANTS IN THE COURSES IN 1983

1. Fifty-Fifth Commercial Policy Course (English-speaking) -
February-June 1983

Country	Name and Title
Bangladesh	Mr. Shafi U. AHMED, Section Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka.
Burma	U KHIN SOE, Assistant Director, International Trade Department, Ministry of Trade, Rangoon.
Chile	Mr. Felipe ORTIZ Rojas, Chief of International Economic Organizations, Economic Direction, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Santiago de Chile.
Fiji	Mr. Viliame R. NAVOKA, Manager, Trade and Marketing Division, Economic Development Board, Suva.
Ghana	Mr. William K. LARBI, Assistant to Director of Foreign Trade, Foreign Trade Division, Ministry of Trade, Accra.
Honduras	Mrs. Laura CACERES, Special Technical Assistant, General Directorate for External Trade, Ministry of Economy, Tegucigalpa.
Hong Kong	Mr. Patrick LIN Fai-ming, Trade Officer, North America Division (Commercial Relations), Trade Department, Hong Kong.
Indonesia	Mr. Hartawan ADANG, Chief of Section, Food and Commodity Affairs Section, Directorate of Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Department of Foreign Affairs, Djakarta.
Israel	Mr. Ilan WULICHMAN, Assistant to International Organizations Director, International Organizations Department, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Jerusalem.
Korea	Mr. Dai-Sup SHIM, Deputy Director, Tariffs Division, Bureau of Customs, Ministry of Finance, Seoul.
Liberia	Mrs. Joetta C. DENNIS, Director of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Transportation, Monrovia.

Country	Name and Title
Nepal	Mr. Shambhu S. RANA, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Kathmandu.
Nigeria	Mr. Ebenezer O. OYESIKU, Principal Trade Officer, Federal Ministry of Commerce, Lagos.
Pakistan	Mr. Ahmad S. HUDA, Deputy Secretary (Imports), Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad.
Panama	Mrs. Angela VELASQUEZ Hull, Analyst of Trade Policy, Ministry of Commerce, Panama.
Philippines	Mrs. Elisa T. CAOYONAN, Assistant Chief, International Division, Policy Coordination Staff, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Manila.
Sierra Leone	Mr. Ahmed B. KAMARA, Administrative Officer (Trade), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Freetown.
Sri Lanka	Mr. Douglas S. JAYAWARDENA, Assistant Director of Commerce, Department of Commerce, Colombo.
Thailand	Miss Siriporn SACCHANAND, Economist, Department of Business Economics, Ministry of Commerce, Bangkok.
Uganda	Mr. Augustine OKELLO, Commissioner for Commerce, Ministry of Commerce, Kampala.
Venezuela	Mr. Oscar FORNOZA Fernández, Planning Officer for International Affairs, Directorate for International Organizations, Institute for Foreign Trade, Caracas.

2. Fifty-Sixth Commercial Policy Course (French-speaking) -
August-December 1983

Country	Name and Title
Argentina	Miss Reina Y.J. SOTILLO, Secretary of Embassy, Sub-Secretariat for International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Buenos Aires.
Benin	Mr. Innocent V. FABOUMY, Research and Synthesis Officer, Research and Synthesis Service, Ministry of Trade, Cotonou.
Bolivia	Mr. Romel ANTELO Mejia, Head of Trade Policy Department, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, La Paz.
Brazil	Mr. Luiz Carlos SOARES DA SILVA, Economist, Customs Policy Commission, Ministry of Finance, Rio de Janeiro.
Bulgaria	Mr. Ilian N. BOZEV, Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Sofia.
Cameroon	Mr. Pierre J.M. ESSOMBA, Deputy Head of Economic Relations Service, Directorate of Trade, Ministry of Trade, Yaoundé.
Central African Republic	Mr. Timothée NDILNE, Director, Directorate of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Bangui.
Chad	Mr. Hamid MAHAMAT ZENE, Head, Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economy and Trade, N'Djamena.
Colombia	Miss Stella BLANCO Hernández, Foreign Trade Specialist, Colombian Institute of Foreign Trade (INCOMEX), Bogota.
Congo	Mr. Gabriel NGUENGUE MONTSE, Head of Co-operation Service, Secretariat of the Ministry of Trade, Brazzaville.
Gabon	Mr. Christian ODDOU-MBA, Deputy Director of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Trade, Libreville.
Guinea	Miss Diaka KEBE, Economist, Officer for GATT and UNCTAD, Ministry of International Co-operation, Conakry.
Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Idrissa DABO, Director, Directorate of Economic Control, Ministry of Trade and Crafts, Bissau.

Country	Name and Title
Haiti	Mr. Fritz DESHOMMES, Head of Economic Studies and Research Section, General Customs Administration, Port-au-Prince.
Madagascar	Mrs. Anjavololona RAVELOJAONA, Head of Division, Europe/America-DRM Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Antananarivo.
Mali	Mr. Cheick Oumar SIDIBE, Head of Service, Division of Foreign Trade, State Ministry for the Economy and the Plan, Bamako.
Morocco	Miss Zineb FILALI, Trade Inspector, Directorate of Foreign Trade, Division of Foreign Relations, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rabat.
Romania	Mr. Vasile MITU, Legal Affairs Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bucharest.
Togo	Mr. Kouami A. IHOU, Head of Import-Export Division, Directorate of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Trade and Transport, Lomé.
Tunisia	Mr. Naceur A. SOUDANI, Deputy Director, Multilateral Relations, Ministry of National Economy, The Kasbah, Tunis.
Turkey	Mr. Etem BASA, Deputy Director of the GATT and Customs Valuation Section, General Directorate of International Treaties, Ministry of Customs and Monopolies, Ankara.
Venezuela	Mr. Edgar ALVES de O, Economist, International Economic Policy Directorate, Institute of Foreign Trade, Caracas.
UDEAC	Mr. Grégoire N'GUEMA-EDOU, Expert, Department of Industrial Harmonization, Secretariat of UDEAC (Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa), Bangui (Central African Republic).