

# CAREC WTO Accession Knowledge Sharing Program

CAREC Trade Policy Coordinating Committee Meeting  
Hohhot, PRC  
5 June 2012



# Outline

- Introduction
- Experience from the first two WTO seminars
- Suggestions
- Next Seminars in the Series

# Introduction

- Program put forward by the CAREC's Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan (November 2008).
- The two-year Program envisaged a series of 6 seminars
- **1st Seminar: Recent Developments in the Multilateral Trading System in the Agriculture Sector"**
  - 26 Participants from all CAREC countries
  - Held at Joint Vienna Institute, Austria, in March 2012
  - Funded by the World Bank Institute
  - Information and Materials:  
<http://www.carecprogram.org/index.php?page=1st-wto-accession-seminar>.

# Introduction

- **2nd Seminar “Services Liberalization and the WTO”**
  - 27 Participants from all CAREC countries (except for officially nominated participants from UZB)
  - Held at University of International Business, Almaty, Kazakhstan, in May 2012
  - Funded by the WBI
  - Information and Materials:  
<http://www.carecprogram.org/index.php?page=2nd-wto-accession-seminar>
- **3rd Seminar: “Managing WTO Accession Process: Strategies, Challenges and Practices”**
  - To be held at the National Accounting Institute in Shanghai, PRC, in July 2012
  - Funded by ADB, ADBI, and Asia-Pacific Finance and Development Center (AFDC)

# Experience from the first two seminars

- Seminars were **successful** in achieving the envisaged outcomes:
  - Better selected participants for the 2nd Seminar – resulted in more lively discussions, knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences among the participating countries
  - Good resource speakers
  - Broad range of issues: from theoretical to practical knowledge, and exchange of experiences
  - Most active participants: from PAK and KAZ
  - Participants in particular appreciated the real life examples and cases from various countries, and the **pragmatic, practical approaches** to WTO accession discussed at the seminars [examples].

# Experience from the first two seminars

- **Critical need** to send most relevant country representatives in terms of the core topic of the seminar
  - Clarify with UZB on its participation in the Program
- Need for English-Russian simultaneous translation
- Excellent rapport between ADB and WBI in designing and preparing the first two seminars.

# Suggestions

- Now obvious that no line negotiators are present at these workshops, but rather technical staff
  - to focus less on the actual negotiations process, and rather train the participants to act as support staff to line negotiators [for example, to teach them to master a large amount of information quickly and prepare a negotiating brief for their superiors]
- Issues and Suggestions:
  - Governments (through CAREC NFPs) nominate most relevant persons for participation in the seminar;
  - to involve top-notch resource persons in the field, preferably knowledgeable on WTO accession processes specifically in CAREC countries;

# Suggestions

- Issues and Suggestions (cont.):
  - How to disseminate information on the forthcoming seminars and insure participation of independent analytical institutions?
  - to require participants to make short presentations on country experiences in WTO accession; and
  - to allocate sufficient time during the three-day seminar for free exchange of experiences among the experts and the participants.



# Next Seminars in the Series

- The seminar participants suggested, and strongly supported, **the continuation of seminars** under this WTO Accession Knowledge Sharing Program.
- Discuss this at one of the CAREC's SOM (based on proposal by the TPCC) and endorsed by an MC.
- **Factors to consider:**
  - demand from the participating countries;
  - assessment of required resources and perceived outcomes from the held seminars (for ex., the Program could be implemented under the CAREC Institute Knowledge Services component);

# Next Seminars in the Series

- **Factors to consider (cont.):**
  - the varying experiences among countries on WTO accession, and perhaps a more tailored approach to the future seminars;
  - dissemination of information about the seminars in the countries and participation by most relevant representatives;
  - identification of top resource persons in WTO issues, with experience relevant to CAREC countries.

# Next Seminars in the Series

- **Themes/topics for the future seminars:** critical importance for the effectiveness of the Program; these proposals are based on discussions with the participants of the seminars:
  - Regulatory Audit on WTO accession issues for CAREC countries;
  - Series of issues that are generally addressed in the working party report rather than in market access negotiations;
  - Technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures;
  - Dispute Settlement Mechanisms;
  - Intellectual Property Rights (IPR);
  - Trade Remedies: Quantitative Restrictions, Quotas, TRIMS measures;
  - Post-Accession Practices and Experiences; and others.