Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) Results and Findings

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CNA Purpose

- To better inform the design and execution of the activities under the CBTA.

- Maximize the positive impact of these activities in recipient country governments.

- Recall that the overarching purpose of the project is to build trade negotiating capacity within recipient country governments .

CNA Methodology

Carried out in 3 phases

1. Preparatory phase (mobilize and design).
2. Data-gathering or fact-finding stage via two distinct surveys targeting different levels of government ("macro" and "micro").
3. Interpreting and analysing survey results, reporting on conclusions.

CNA Experience

1. First survey for members of the RTG produced feedback from 10 respondents, one each from 10 CAREC DMCs.

2. Second survey for more technical level staff or staff from supporting (non-lead) ministries drew responses from 29 respondents, also from 10 CAREC DMCs.

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Summary of Results (1)

1. Composition of the RTG mostly comprises representatives from ministries of trade or commerce, suggesting some degree of existing technical knowledge.

2. Consistently low headcount data (between 1 and 8 pax) suggest severe resource constraints in staffing those units directly responsible for FTA negotiations.

3. Technical skills vital to the proper conduct of trade negotiations distributed throughout other government departments in functional units like intellectual property agency, customs, quarantine service, standards body, etc.

Summary of Results (2)

1. Many officials had deep exposure to their particular area of expertise and also in some cases substantial experience supporting FTA negotiations.

2. Also, many had highly relevant tertiary educational backgrounds as well as dedicated practical training on trade-related issues.

3. The implication is that capacity building activities will need to cater to varying levels of pre-acquired knowledge, but also that these activities will **not** need to start at an assumed level of zero knowledge on the part of participants.

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Operational Findings (1)

We grouped countries into three tiers, depending on their existing level of capacity as follows:

Tier One – **Highest Priority**

Turkmenistan.

Uzbekistan.

Azerbaijan.

Mongolia

Tier Two - **Medium Priority**

Tajikistan.

Kyrgyz Republic.

Kazakhstan.

Tier Three – **Normal Priority**

PRC.

Georgia.

Pakistan.

Operational Findings (2)

We grouped training needs into three sets of differing skill-types:

Block One – Technical Skills

1. Trade-policy related econometric analysis.

2. Trade-related legal skills.

3. Trade-related regulatory impact assessment

Block Two - Substantive Expertise

4. Trade in goods

5. Trade in services

6. Trade remedies

7. Technical barriers to trade

8. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures

9. Trade in services

10. Financial services

11. Telecommunications services

12. Professional mobility

13. E-commerce/Digital trade

Block Three – Soft Skills

14. Negotiations.

15. Strategic planning

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Operational Findings (3)

Delivery of Training Activities

- We propose to organize all training resources in the form of both downloadable educational videos, online courseware – including quizzes – and online interactive sessions (in real time) that will allow participants to engage with trainers and each other.

- We propose to partner with CAREC Institute for the hosting of online content and the organization of real-time online interactive training sessions.

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Concluding Remarks

Thanks to Participating Respondents

Thanks to all those members of the RTG and their colleagues in their respective governments for taking the time to respond thoughtfully to our survey.

Thanks to CAREC Institute

Thanks to CAREC Institute for their strategic insights in designing the CNA and providing feedback to better inform our findings.

Thanks to ABD

Thanks to ADB for their support and their analytical feedback to our draft report.

Want to read the full report?

The report with the full results of the CNA is available from the ADB.

Questions?