

Session 6

Proposal: WTO Accession Knowledge Sharing Among CAREC Countries

13th CAREC Trade Policy Coordinating Committee Meeting
30 October 2010
Cebu, Philippines



TPSAP and WTO Accession

- WTO membership for all by 2013
- Calls for workshops on WTO accession experiences
- Contributions from PRC, Mongolia, and Kyrgyz Republic
- Seminars from World Bank experts

Why TPCC Support?

- WTO conclusion:
 - “Threshold” level of human and administrative capacity and resources are needed to implement WTO agreements and to maintain an effective presence “at the table” of WTO negotiations
- Peer-to-peer learning

Key Functions of Trade Officials in WTO Accession

- Identify goals;
- Assess options based on model simulations;
- Formulate negotiating strategies and fall-back options;
- Manage the national negotiating team and committee;
- Communicate with public and private sector stakeholders.

Possible Pitfalls

- Unprepared for negotiations
- Less advantageous accession terms
- Disenchantment with WTO (and the government)
- Obstacles to reforms
- Delayed entry into WTO

Proposed Program Highlights

- Practical, actual experiences (non-rules-based knowledge)
- Two-year, regional approach
- Focus on lessons, strategies, outcomes, skills, and team management

Outcome and Benefits

- Better manage the accession process to serve trade interests of each country
- Benefits:
 - Strengthened capacities to optimize negotiation strategies
 - Understanding of policy options and implications
 - Identify opportunities
 - Smoother implementation of pre and post-accession requirements and adjustments

Proposed Format

- Series of 2-3 day forums on selected topics
 - One every four months
- Participants: Mid to senior trade officials (45)
 - Those who have gone through accession
 - Those going through accession
 - Trade experts from international organizations
- Exchange experiences on topics; pose questions; develop information papers
- Briefing sessions in home country

Proposed Topics

- Based on TPCC May 2009 inputs and WTO's *Managing the Challenges of WTO Participation: 45 Case Studies*
- Possible topics and dates:
 - Forum 1: Building the trade negotiating team; March 2011
 - Forum 2: Effective inter-agency coordination and consultation mechanisms; July 2011
 - Forum 3: National consensus building and managing stakeholders; November 2011
 - Forum 4: Pre-accession strategies and challenges; March 2012
 - Forum 5: Agriculture and services; July 2012
 - Forum 6: Post-accession strategies and challenges; November 2012