

WTO Accession Knowledge Sharing Program Among CAREC Countries

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Background of the Initiative

- The initiative included in the Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan (TPSAP) to support WTO accession process of non-WTO CAREC countries.
- Training topics proposed by 5 non-WTO CAREC countries at the 10th TPCC meeting in May 2009.
- 13th TPCC meeting in Cebu endorsed tentative proposal for WTO accession knowledge sharing program.

WTO Accession Knowledge Sharing Program 2011 - 2012

- **Objective**

- exchange knowledge on lessons learned during accession processes; strategies that work best; actual outcomes and implications of reforms and accession; skills required to address specific accession issues; and approaches to managing negotiating teams or committees for the accession process,
- strengthen networking among the trade officials and facilitate sustainable peer-to-peer knowledge sharing.

- **Main Benefits**

- Strengthened capacities of trade officials to use the system efficiently to optimize their negotiation strategies, advance their national interests, and gain faster entry in WTO.
- Greater understanding of policy options and implications.
- Greater ability to identify opportunities under WTO when challenges are well managed.
- Smoother implementation of required pre-accession economic adjustments (to be in line with WTO rules) and post-accession agreements.

WTO Accession Knowledge Sharing Program 2011 - 2012

- **Format**

- A series of forums in which trade officials would come together to exchange practical experiences and knowledge of the WTO accession process.
- Each forums will last 2-3 days, depending on the topic.

- **Forum Topics (proposed by the non- WTO country delegates)**

- Building the trade negotiating team
- Effective inter-agency coordination and consultation mechanisms
- National consensus building and managing stakeholders
- Pre and Post -accession strategies and challenges
- Agriculture and services

WTO Accession Knowledge Sharing Program 2011 - 2012

- **Participants**

- The targeted participants are senior-level trade officials (directors to vice ministers) from CAREC countries who are involved in the WTO accession process in their respective countries.
- The program will support up to four officials from each CAREC country
- Approximately 45 participants will attend each forum

- **Proposed Schedule**

Subject to funding availability, the preliminary schedule of the forums is:

Forum 1: Building the trade negotiating team, and Effective inter-agency coordination and consultation mechanisms; second half of 2011

Forum 2: Pre and Post -accession strategies and challenges; first half of 2012

Forum 3: Agriculture and services; second half of 2012

WTO Accession Knowledge Sharing Program 2011 - 2012

- **Resources**

- The two-year program is estimated to cost \$800,000
- IMF, ADB, and possibly other institutional partners will mobilize the financial support for the knowledge sharing program, covering the costs of meetings, participants' and resource persons' travel, and per diems.
- If events are held in the CAREC countries, the host government would be expected to co-finance the activities to the extent possible, such as providing facilities for the forum.

- **Current Status**

- Seeking ADB approval of CAREC Institute Work Plan 2011 – 2013
- Seeking ADB supplementary funding for implementing CAREC Institute Work Plan 2011-2013
- Mobilizing financial support for the program from other institutional partners.

Thank You