

15th Trade Policy Coordinating Committee Meeting

WTO Accession Knowledge Sharing Among CAREC Countries

- Proposed Training Program -

21 November 2011
Baku, Azerbaijan

Outline

- Background
- Progress on WTO Training Program
- Proposed Workshops
- Issues for Discussions

Background

➤ TPSAP objectives

Implement capacity building to facilitate WTO accession and to improve the general institutional environment for trade

➤ Ad hoc advisory support to CAREC countries on the margins of TPCC meetings over 2008-2010



➤ WTO Accession Knowledge Sharing Program 2011-2012 (12th TPCC)

➤ Discussions at 14th TPCC (June 2011, Baku)

- A roundtable discussion on countries' progress and prospects in WTO accession negotiations
- Proposed plans reflect preferences of countries expressed at various TPCCs, including
- ..A more structured and long-term approach to WTO accession training and Focus on practical knowledge
- ..Provide opportunity for more intensive interaction between the trade officials from different countries
- Cover the period of up to two years (5-6 training modules)
- One specific topic (each training lasting 3-4 days)
- Participants (mid- to senior-level trade officials; up to 4 officials from each country)

Progress on WTO Training

- Ultimately, at least 6 workshops
- Preliminary plans for first 3 modules developed (see next slides)
- Draft Budget produced
- ADB and World Bank: funding
- Preliminary Logistics (Timing and Venue)
 - March 2012
 - May 2012
 - August 2012
 - Ideas for venue: Almaty, Bangkok, Bishkek, Shanghai, Vienna

- 3 Proposed Workshops

1. WTO Accession and Services Commitment

➤ Issues:

- Services commitments scheduling
- Services negotiations
- Review of regulatory issues in services sectors of importance
- Sharing of experiences from accession

➤ Framework:

- Legal dimensions of WTO GATS
- Negotiating Services
- Sector Specific Issues (transport services; electricity; finance or telecom)
- Country experiences

2. Recent developments in the multilateral trading system in the agriculture sector

➤ Issues:

- Main features of the multilateral trading system in food and agriculture
- Patterns of trade and protection across regions and across economies
- Main features of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture
- Current negotiations in the Doha Round
- Major impacts of trade liberalization and Doha outcomes on consumers and producers in developing countries

➤ Framework:

- Stylized facts and trends in trade, protection and distortions in the agri-food sector
- Multilateral Disciplines, the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, and Status of current negotiations including rules on subsidies
- Impact of trade liberalization, and Effects of WTO accession (country experiences, including China)

3. Non-Agricultural Market Access and Tariff Liberalization

➤ Issues

- Tariff negotiations
- Analysis of tariff schedules of liberalization

➤ Framework

- Legal dimensions on tariff commitments, safeguards, and special and differential treatment
- Preparation of negotiations and schedules of liberalization: the experience of CAREC and other countries
- Presentation of trade analysis tools to support negotiations.

Issues for Discussions

- Potential Topics for Next Workshops (for discussion)
 - Impact of the CU and CES on the economies of Central Asia
 - Experience of East Asia's FTAs: what can be learned for CAREC countries? ("Spaghetti, noodles, lapsha")
 - CU and CES, EurAsEc FTA, SCO FTA, WTO?
 - Technical issues on WTO accession negotiations

- More inclusive participation
 - Independent researchers in the countries where there is an interest
 - Theme-relevant and budget-permitting

- Other Issues