



NOTIFICATION

Regional Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda EAFIT University, Medellín, Colombia, 24 August–11 September 2009

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that the next regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda for Latin American and the Caribbean will take place from 24 August to 11 September 2009 in Medellín, Colombia. It will be held at EAFIT University, Medellín, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.

The course will focus on the links between trade, investment, finance and development, including in the context of international trade negotiations. Its aims are to:

- Enhance understanding of the interrelationships among these areas and their link to countries' development strategies; and
- Provide participants with knowledge and skills for the design and implementation of trade and development policies, and also for trade negotiations corresponding to the needs and interests of their countries.

The course syllabus will draw on UNCTAD's analytical work and the lessons learned from its technical cooperation activities, with input from the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and from regional and national experts.

The course is mainly aimed at government officials in ministries and institutions who deal with trade, investment, finance and development issues and are involved in formulating and implementing national trade and development policies. Academics from research institutions and universities working on international economic issues are encouraged to apply.

The course will be given in English.

UNCTAD member States from Latin America and the Caribbean are invited to nominate qualified candidates, who will be examined by an UNCTAD selection committee. Nominations will be accepted until 2 July 2009. Member States and successful candidates will be notified of the selection committee's decision by 9 July 2009.

Member States are encouraged to nominate more than one candidate per country, in which case they may wish to rank their candidates. The selection committee will take this ranking into consideration, provided that the preferred candidate meets the eligibility criteria.



UNCTAD will provide hotel accommodation for all participants, who will also receive sufficient funds to cover daily meals and miscellaneous expenses. Travel expenses covering the least costly fare will be provided for participants from least developed countries. Other participants will be responsible for their own travel costs, for taking out adequate travel and medical insurance, and for obtaining a valid visa for travel to Medellín prior to their arrival in Colombia.

An outline of the training syllabus, which provides a detailed list of topics and learning objectives (P166.2009.TS.4), the application guidelines (P166.2009.AG.4) and the application form (P166.2009.AF.4) are attached. Candidates will be considered only if the guidelines and application procedures are followed properly.

For additional information, please contact the Knowledge Sharing, Training and Capacity Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD, *e-mail*: mohan.panicker@unctad.org; *fax*: +41 (0)22 917 0050; *tel*: +41 (0)22 917 2561.

(signed)

Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

11 May 2009

**Regional Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda
EAFIT University, Medellín, Colombia, 24 August–11 September 2009**

Course syllabus

Module 1: Trade, financial flows and macroeconomic policies in a globalizing economy

Objectives: This module introduces participants to UNCTAD's integrated approach to globalization, macroeconomic management, and international trade and finance, and highlights its implications for development policies. Its principal objectives are: (i) to enhance participants' understanding of the increasing integration and interdependence of the world economy and the implications of this for economic growth and structural change; (ii) to help participants to recognize the opportunities and challenges emanating from globalization for development policies, at both the national and the international level, and to create an enabling environment for investment and growth.

Questions:

1. What are the major macroeconomic challenges your country is facing, and how are your country's policies addressing these challenges? What domestic and international constraints affect the choice of policies and their effectiveness?
2. How has your country used foreign trade as an instrument for economic growth? How have your country's terms of trade developed over the past few years? What have the main changes been in the composition of your country's exports and imports in the recent past, and what factors have caused these changes?

Expected outcome: Participants are expected to deepen their understanding of the implications of trade and financial integration for economic growth, structural change and technological upgrading. They should also be able to understand key challenges and opportunities related to international trade in goods and services. Participants will thus develop their capacities to pursue appropriate policies and strategies in these areas at the national, regional and international level.

Module 2: Investment and enterprise development: trade and development implications

Objective: The objective of this module is to define and evaluate the impact of foreign investment on development, and highlight best practices on how to create linkages between transnational corporations (TNCs) and domestic enterprises.

The module will address issues related to international and domestic investment and trade. It will begin by examining the latest trends in flows of foreign direct investment (FDI), corporate strategies, and international systems of production. This will provide a basis for an assessment of the links between investment and international trade – the integration of developing countries into international systems of production (also called global production networks) as suppliers and producers. As FDI is mainly a complement to domestic investment, attention will be paid to enterprise development issues, and to the need to enhance local supply capacity in order for developing countries to benefit from global trade opportunities. The focus during the whole module will be on the policies, institutions and strategies that can best attract FDI and “embed” it in host economies.

Expected outcome: At the end of this module, participants will be able to define and evaluate the impact of foreign investment on development. Participants will also be able to identify the policies, institutions and strategies that can be put in place to attract and enhance the impact of foreign investment through technological and financial spillovers, growth of employment and exports, and linkages between TNCs and local enterprises. Participants will also have a firm grasp of global trends in foreign investment flows.

Questions:

1. National FDI policies: What are the perceptions of the role of FDI in your country? Does your country receive enough, too much, or too little FDI? Does it receive the right kind of FDI? Is the role of FDI positive or negative? Has your country developed a national policy on FDI? If so, what are the key objectives and instruments of this policy? What institutions are responsible for the implementation of the FDI policy in your country? What are their mandates, as regards FDI policy?
2. National enterprise development policies: Are there any links between large foreign companies and local enterprises in your country? Looking at the domestic enterprise sector, is there any positive spillover in terms of technology transfer? What are the policies that the Government has put in place to support the small and medium-sized enterprise sector? Are there clusters of sectorally specialized companies that have been successful in attracting FDI and have become internationally competitive?

Module 3: The knowledge economy: key policy issues

Objective: The objective of this module is to familiarize participants with the key implications – from a development-policy perspective – of science, technology and innovation, with special emphasis on information and communication technologies (ICT).

Within the general context of the economic changes brought about by science, technology and innovation, participants will be briefed on ICT and e-commerce strategies, using – as examples – initiatives such as e-tourism and activities such as the outsourcing of business services to evaluate the effects of ICT on business organizations and operations.

Emphasis will be placed on the effects of ICT on productivity (both at the microeconomic and macroeconomic levels) and hence on the performance of economies. The role of e-business, including e-commerce as well as in intra- and inter-firm communications and transactions, will be examined in this context. The module will provide a regional perspective, including regional efforts to measure the use, access and impact of ICT.

This module will also introduce participants to different regulatory aspects, and also to the current issues on the international agenda, which are vital for the development of the information economy. In particular, it will highlight the role of Governments in enhancing efficiency and stimulating the take-up of ICT by enterprises and households.

Expected outcome: Participants should be able to understand the role of science, technology and innovation, and of ICT in particular, in economic and social development. Participants should also be able to identify the key elements of a national innovation system and a national ICT strategy. Participants should develop an enhanced capacity to propose and develop comprehensive policies in their area of expertise that take into account the implications that such policies have on the ability to use ICT and to mobilize science, technology and innovation for development.

Questions:

1. Regarding the ICT policies of your Government, please describe, in your own words, which ICT policies have been implemented, and which ICT policy areas still need to undergo further refinement.
2. Please indicate how information and communication technologies are supporting the tourism sector in your country.

Module 4: International transport and trade facilitation

Objective: The objective of this module is to introduce participants to key issues in international transport, trade logistics, and trade and transport facilitation, with an emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean. Also, participants will learn how to discuss trade facilitation measures within the context of the WTO negotiations, by gathering the preliminary elements required to establish a national position in these negotiations. For this purpose, the module will look at the role of international transport for the trade competitiveness of countries in the region, global transport networks, trade support services and institutional frameworks, as well as customs issues and trade facilitation measures that are presently being negotiated at the World Trade Organization (WTO). In this context, the module will also elaborate on countries' needs and priorities, capacity-building, and technical assistance, as part of the modalities of a potential negotiation of new binding rules on trade facilitation at the WTO.

Expected outcome: Participants should better understand the role of institutional and physical trade infrastructures in fostering trade competitiveness in terms of supporting productive and trading capacities; they should also grasp the relevance of trade and transport facilitation and the importance of ICT in trade transactions, both at national and multilateral levels.

Questions:

1. Please describe one practical example from your country where insufficient or inadequate transport services are an obstacle to trade competitiveness. Please discuss the possible roles of national Governments, port authorities, Customs, international organizations, the private sector and neighbouring countries (e.g. for transit trade) in overcoming this obstacle.
2. From the list of trade facilitation measures that have been negotiated at the WTO (see the latest revision of WTO document TN/TF/W/43), select three measures that, in your view, are already implemented in your country, and could therefore reasonably be accepted by your Government as measures to possibly be included in a WTO rule on trade facilitation. For each one of these measures please gather information from the national institutions concerned, about the extent to which the measure has already been implemented in your country (fully/ partially/not at all). If the measure is not fully implemented, what would be required for its effective implementation?

Module 5: The multilateral trading system and regional trade agreements: an insight from the perspective of Latin American and Caribbean countries

Objectives: This module will (i) review developments in multilateral trade negotiations under the WTO Doha Work Programme, (ii) examine their implications and the policy options for Latin American and Caribbean countries, and (iii) examine issues of interest to these countries in their efforts to assure development gains from the international trading system and trade negotiations, including the realization of the development promises made at the Doha Ministerial Conference and of the Millennium Development Goals. The module will shed light on policy debates and options surrounding regional trade agreements and their relationships with the multilateral trading system, in particular in the context of the post-Hong Kong phase of the Doha Work Programme. The module is expected to provide a set of policy recommendations regarding how developing countries could best utilize both processes and achieve coherence in maximizing development gains.

Expected outcome: Participants should be able to understand key challenges and opportunities in the international trading system, and thereby develop their capacities to pursue appropriate policies and strategies to maximize gains from their integration into the global economy.

Questions:

1. Could you list the conditions under which your country is most likely to gain from the international trading system, and explain why?
2. Explain the challenges, risks and opportunities in the interface between multilateral and regional trade negotiations.
3. In your opinion, what could be a way forward in the multilateral negotiations to overcome the current deadlock? Explain why this deadlock might present a certain risk for developing countries' interests.
4. Explain why trade liberalization in agriculture might have a divergent impact on developing countries.

Module 6: Simulation exercise on the multilateral trade negotiations (11 September 2009)

Objective: Simulation of the dynamics of a multilateral trade negotiation. Participants will be exposed to different negotiating positions of both developed and developing countries. The exercise will be based on a current negotiation issue tabled at the WTO. Participants will draft proposals and attempt to achieve a national consensus on a specific multilateral trade provision.

Expected outcome: Participants should be able to understand the dynamics and the challenges of international trade negotiations, and thereby develop their negotiating skills.

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Application Guidelines

Applicant profile

The course is aimed at:

- Government officials dealing with international economic issues, including the formulation and implementation of policies in one or more of the fields covered in the attached training syllabus;
- Academics involved in teaching and researching international economic issues at national universities or research institutes.

Participants should:

- Have an advanced degree in economics, business, international relations, international law or public administration. A first degree with proven relevant work experience may also be accepted if places on the course are available;
- Have a minimum of four up to a maximum of fifteen years of relevant professional experience in a national public administration, an international or regional development organization, a private institution, a university or a research institute dealing with the above-mentioned areas;
- Be in a position to use and disseminate the information and knowledge acquired during the course. In this context, it is desirable for participants to remain in relevant positions for a sufficient time after the course so that the skills and knowledge gained are disseminated to the fullest extent possible in their workplace;
- Have a good working knowledge of English, the official language of the course. Simultaneous interpretation into Spanish will be provided throughout the course, but most of the training and background reading materials will be in English.

Instructions on completing and submitting applications

Candidates are required to submit their applications in English. Applications must include the following four documents:

- An application form (P166.2009.AF.4);
- A detailed curriculum vitae;
- A motivation letter stating (1) how the applicant, in the discharge of his professional duties, contributes to the design and implementation of policy in the areas of trade, investment or finance; (2) how the course will contribute to enhancing his/her professional and personal development; and (3) why the applicant feels that he/she should be chosen to attend this course;
- A short paper answering any two questions in the training syllabus (one paragraph only per question) relevant to his/her national context.

Applications should:

- Be submitted to UNCTAD through the permanent missions accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
- Contain all the documents requested;
- Be addressed to:

Mr. Mohan Panicker, Project Coordinator,
Knowledge Sharing, Training and Capacity Development Branch, DTL
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Fax: +41 22 917 0050

E-mail: mohan.panicker@unctad.org

Applications must reach the UNCTAD secretariat by 2 July 2009 and must contain all the documents requested.

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Application Form (please print or type)

Last name:				First name:		
Middle initial:		Maiden name:			Gender (F/M):	
Job title:						
Ministry/institution:						
Postal Address:						
Tel. no.:				Fax no.:		
E-mail address:						
Date of birth:				Place of birth:		
Nationality:				Passport no.:		
Signature of candidate:				Place and date:		
Name and title of supervisor:						
E-mail and/or fax of supervisor:						

I am submitting my application to UNCTAD through the Permanent Mission of _____, accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva, together with the following documentation (please check boxes):

A detailed curriculum vitae

A motivation letter, stating my competencies and motivation for this course

A short paper answering any two questions in the training syllabus (one paragraph only per question) relevant to his/her national context

Applications must reach the UNCTAD secretariat by 2 July 2009