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Post attendance report

WTO Summer Programme on International Trade & Development

Geneva, Switzerland
June 30 – July 4, 2014

At the Graduate Institute of Development & International Studies
MAISON DE LA PAIX, Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2, Case Postale 136, 1211 Geneva 21

Prepared for:

Centre for the Development of the Enterprise (CDE), under the Private Sector Development Programme (PSDP) co-sponsorship, Republic of Botswana
Botswana Investment & Trade Centre (BITC), Department of Export Enterprise Development (EED), Export Promotions Division

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Introduction

The field of Export Enterprise Development requires business data collection, analysis, interpretation & problem solving, knowledge and techniques in the field of international trade and a thorough understanding of the world trading system. Officials in this field are also expected to assist in monitoring trade activities within the SADC and Africa region and implement export development initiatives by identifying and capacitating local exporting manufactures to produce to standards and assist in marketing (targeted buyers) for locally manufactured goods.

Charged with this mandate, the Botswana Investment & Trade Centre (BITC) identifies market outlets for Botswana's manufactured goods and services with a major strategic focus on seeking and promoting products that are sustainable for export.

In engagement with manufacturers, BITC participates in active export promotion events in foreign countries in order to:

- Give manufacturers exposure to foreign markets to increase the number of exporting companies
- Increase export sales
- Penetrate new markets
- Expand market share regionally and internationally

Therefore, the WTO Summer Programme on International Trade and Development through the Graduate Institute of Development & International Studies, was identified to offer capacity building to EED personnel to:

- Enhance their interdisciplinary knowledge of the review of the features of international trade and the world trading system from the perspectives of economics, political science and law.
- Provide a better understanding of how trade works for development, and how the development paradigm poses particular challenges to a free-trade regime like the WTO.

The Geneva based Institute has been a long-time neighbor of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) secretariat, and later World Trade Organization (WTO), in Geneva. In addition, it has also developed cutting-edge expertise on the issues and challenges inherent to trade liberalization and



regulation. In its teaching programmes, the Graduate Institute is fortunate to be able to draw on contributions from high-ranking WTO staff and a world-renowned faculty. The Summer Programme on the WTO, International Trade and Development builds upon this long tradition and offers a unique opportunity to observe first-hand the atmosphere and analyses surrounding multilateral trade, as well as witness some of the most important international discussions on the topic.

The Programme provided unique opportunity in entering into the analysis and atmosphere of multilateral trade, just a few meters away from the WTO. Delivered with the Graduate Institute's Centre for Trade and Economic Integration, it combined and integrated economic, legal and political analysis of international trade and development. A lot of benefit was derived from the input of negotiators, academics and issue-based activists, and will experience the field of international trade at first hand.

Background

This programme attendance was co-sponsored by CDE under PSDP of 2014 as a request from BITC's management (See Appendix A).

Botswana is a founding member of the WTO; it joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1987 and opened its mission in Geneva in 2001. The mission also serves other Geneva-based UN and specialized agencies. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is responsible for foreign trade policy formulation and implementation, negotiations on bilateral agreements, licensing and regulation of domestic trade and regulation, and monitoring of domestic consumer issues. Within the Ministry, the Department of International Trade is responsible for foreign trade policy, including co-ordination of WTO negotiations.

In a nutshell, trade agreements at the WTO directly affect its way of doing business with the entire world.

This report attempts to give a bird's eye view of the proceedings from the two weeks programme as attended in Geneva.



Course Content

Week 1 - Core features and Current Issues of the World Trading System

The opening week was an introduction to the World Trade Organization. An interdisciplinary review of the features that make up the international trade and the world trading system was offered. The following lectures and activities ushered participants into the fluent understanding of the economics of free trade, political implications of free trade decisions and the WTO's legal framework:

- **Politics of the World Trading System**

Professor Manfred Elsig of the WTO discussed the international relations theory as to the role of the international institutions; their creation, operation and effects of the multilateral organizations. An introduction to dispute settlement, membership of the Appellate Body, its performance and challenges were also discussed.

- **Visit to World Trade Organization**

During the day, all participants took a trip to the WTO buildings to understand the history and appreciate the different structures that existed in the system. The tour also covered the ancient artistic engravings and the general assembly building. This was followed by a special meeting with the deputy Director General of the WTO, Mr. David Shark.

- **The Law of the WTO and Dispute Settlement**

The second day offered a general overview of the legal structure of the WTO focusing first on the substantive principles of encapsulated in the WTO agreements and the mechanism in place to settle state-state trade disputes. Dr. Jan-Yves Remy from Sidley, Austin explained the four steps; consultations, panel process, appeals and implementation.

This was followed by an afternoon Workshop on WTO Role in technical Assistance to Developing Countries with Dr. Maarten Smeets of the WTO.



- **Trade & Copyrights Protection**

The session provided an overview of the copyright property protection in the world trading system, including the copyright provisions of various international agreements and also discussing the connection between copyright protection and development, growth and innovation.

This lecture was followed by a visit to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in the afternoon.

- **Public Panel - Digital Trade & Internet Governance**

In the evening, a public panel was organized to debate on the digital trade and the internet governance. This was an interesting debate with actual Graduate Institute professors and staff of the WTO. In the panel was; Prof. Thomas Biersteker, Ms. Roxana Radu, Mr. Richard Hill of Hill & Associates and Dr. Sacha Wunsch-Vincent, Senior Economist of WIPO.

- **Negotiating Trade: From Domestic Choices to International Strategies**

Day four, with Prof. Cedric Dupont of the Graduate Institute opened the dynamics of negotiations prior to the actual negotiation process. Negotiation strategies were also discussed with the WTO and European Union case studies.

The week ended with interactive **Simulation on Trade Negotiation** with Sir. Bob Weibel on the "Understanding of the Multilateral Negotiations". The group work consisted of the smaller teams and simulated trade.

Week 2: New Issues of the World Trade System

The second week of the programme investigated new issues in international trade pertaining to informal mechanisms in global economics governance as well as the legal mechanisms such as standards, investment and environment.



- **Informal Mechanisms and Global Economic Governance**

Prof. Joost Pauwelyn started the week with examination session of traditional international law and the rise of the new mechanisms of informal international lawmaking.

The Chief Editor of the World Investment Report, James Zhan also the Director of Investment and Enterprise Division at the UNCTAD, followed with the session on “**Global Value Chains : Trade-Investment nexus and Development**”. This was an introductory session on global value chains (GVC) and a presentation of the opportunities and challenges faced by countries when participating in GVCs.

- **Standards and Trade : National vs International Procedures – Dr. Arthur Appleton**

The module introduced the WTO rules applicable to the regulation of industrial and agricultural goods in the perspective of national regulations designed to address carbon emissions, climate change, conservation, animal welfare and other social and environmental issues.

- **Workshop 2 : Trade and Agriculture**

The key provisions of the GATT on Agriculture and to the state of play of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) in the overall context of the evolution of Agricultural policies, agricultural markets and renewed concerns about food security was discussed at length in this workshop. Mr. Cedric Pene of the WTO was leading the discussions.

- **Workshop 3: International Trade Rules and Green Economy in a context of Sustainable Development and Poverty eradication – Dr. Derek Eaton**

This workshop was centered on sustainable development as equated to the social, environmental and economic issues. In the discussion Green Goods



Initiative as a plurilateral agreement was signed and launched at the WTO on the 8th July, 2014 based on MFN principle.

- **Workshop 4: Social Clauses in Trade Agreements**

Dr. Jordi Agusti-Panareda of the ILO led the discussion on this workshop on the legalities of the WTO clauses on social aspects.

- **Panel: New Realities; How can WTO adapt its legal framework**

This public panel discussed a number of issues on the realities on the ground that the WTO faced and how the system can be reviewed to cope or adapt to its legal framework. Panelists were Nicolas Niggi of the embassy of Switzerland and Dr. Janos Vilkai of the WTO.

- **Post Bali: Future Perspectives for world trade**

The guest lecturer from Canada, Ambassador Fried, discussed the perceptions of the Bali and shared his views and opinions on the future of the world trading system.

Conclusion

The course on the WTO International Trade and Development is surely a good learning platform for the export marketing and trade facilitation personnel. BITC's Export Promotion managers can surely build on international trade issues in manufacturing, trade in services, regionalism, trade and intellectual property rights, the links between trade and development as well as the links between trade and climate change.

The modules in this course will definitely attest to the appreciation of the world trading system and understanding trade agreements and how trade disputes are settled in the practical sense.

Attending the course has enhanced my knowledge and skills on the world trading system would allow meaningful contribution to regional trade integration and facilitate promotion of Botswana manufactured goods and services internationally.



Appendix A

- BITC Letter
- Request for Sponsorship
- CDE Sponsorship confirmation



Appendix B

- Funding
- Budget
- Expenditure receipts
 - o Ticket



Appendix C

- Certificate