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**PROGRAMME PLANNING AND EVALUATION: MONITORING AND
EVALUATION: REVIEW OF SELECTED PROJECTS IN THE
THEMATIC AREA OF MANAGING GLOBALIZATION**

(Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**WTO/ESCAP PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The present document contains an update of the qualitative assessment of the World Trade Organization/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (WTO/ESCAP) training programme undertaken for the Committee on Managing Globalization at its first session, which was held from 19 to 21 November 2003. The programme was assessed and identified as a flagship initiative of the secretariat aimed at assisting the Commission's members and associate members in meeting the challenges of globalization. In addition to providing updated information, the document reviews new aspects of the programme and proposes follow-up action. The Committee is invited to consider the findings of this report with a view to providing further guidance to the secretariat on its future work under this programme.

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Introduction

1. It is widely recognized that effective implementation of the rules and principles of the multilateral trading system offer the best prospects for developing countries to further their trade and development potential. However, the needs, concerns and interests vary among countries in the region depending on their respective circumstances. While some are concerned with issues relating to their accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), others seek to manage their trade and development challenges within the framework of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. As these issues have increased in number and complexity, this potential outcome is by no means assured. Consequently, there is an increasing need for technical assistance in the developing countries of the Asian and Pacific region. To fill this need, ESCAP implements a technical assistance programme which provides research, information, training and advisory services to developing member countries. A major component of this programme is implemented under the joint WTO/ESCAP training programme.

2. The aims of the joint programme are threefold. First, it increases government officials' understanding of existing WTO rules, enabling more effective implementation of commitments under WTO agreements. Second, it enhances negotiating capacity, which results in more effective participation in those negotiations. Third, it provides a forum for exchange of experiences and views on WTO-related policy options and strategies.

3. To accomplish these aims, the joint programme has at its core a range of training courses and seminars for middle-level officials. From time to time, policy dialogues for high-level policy decision makers are also convened. More recently, the programme has expanded into research and trade policy analysis.

4. A detailed assessment of the programme is contained in document E/ESCAP/CMG/9, which was submitted to the Committee on Managing Globalization at its first session held in November 2003. The following section contains an updated assessment and considers future directions of the programme.

I. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

5. The WTO/ESCAP training programme started on 4 August 1999 with the signature of a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations. A list of 25 activities that were organized under the programme is annexed to the present document (see annex, section A). At the core of the training programme is partnership with WTO in the planning and implementation of activities; funding has been provided by WTO and, through ESCAP, by the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis between WTO and ESCAP. During the period January 2004 to July 2005, over 500 government officials from all developing members and associate members of the Commission, which are either members of WTO or are in the process of seeking membership, participated in the programme. The following table indicates the WTO membership status of ESCAP members and associate members.

Table. ESCAP members and associate members and the status of their membership in WTO

A. ESCAP members^a

| Regional members | | | Non-regional members | |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|----------------|
| WTO members | WTO observers ^b in the process of accession | No WTO status | WTO members | WTO observers |
| Australia | Afghanistan | Democratic | France | – |
| Armenia | <i>Azerbaijan</i> | People's Republic of Korea | Netherlands | |
| Bangladesh | Bhutan | Kiribati | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | |
| Brunei Darussalam | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Marshall Islands | United States of America | |
| Cambodia | <i>Kazakhstan</i> | Micronesia (Federated States of) | | |
| China | <i>Lao People's Democratic Republic</i> | Nauru | | |
| Fiji | <i>Russian Federation</i> | Palau | | |
| <i>Georgia</i> | <i>Samoa</i> | Turkmenistan | | |
| India | <i>Tajikistan</i> | Tuvalu | | |
| Indonesia | Tonga | Timor-Leste | | |
| Japan | <i>Uzbekistan</i> | | | |
| <i>Kyrgyzstan</i> | <i>Vanuatu</i> | | | |
| Malaysia | <i>Viet Nam</i> | | | |
| Maldives | | | | |
| <i>Mongolia</i> | | | | |
| Myanmar | | | | |
| Nepal | | | | |
| New Zealand | | | | |
| Pakistan | | | | |
| Papua New Guinea | | | | |
| Philippines | | | | |
| Republic of Korea | | | | |
| Singapore | | | | |
| Solomon Islands | | | | |
| Sri Lanka | | | | |
| Thailand | | | | |
| Turkey | | | | |
| Subtotal | 27 | 13 | 9 | 4 |
| | | Total 49 | | Total 4 |

B. ESCAP associate members

| WTO members | WTO observers in the process of accession | No WTO status |
|------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Hong Kong, China | – | American Samoa |
| Macao, China | | Cook Islands |
| | | French Polynesia |
| | | Guam |
| | | New Caledonia |
| | | Niue |
| | | Northern Mariana Islands |
| | Total | 9 |

^a Countries designated in bold are least developed countries, while those in italics are economies in transition.

^b Countries that have been granted observer status must start accession negotiations within five years of becoming observers.

6. Host Governments provided technical, financial and logistical support for activities held outside Bangkok.

7. Complementing this training programme is a series of other technical assistance activities related to research policy analysis and regional policy dialogues in which WTO collaborated with ESCAP as a key partner (see annex, section B). These activities have also involved other partners, notably the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Selected activities have been organized with international and regional organizations, such as the International Telecommunication Union, the European Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Colombo Plan. ESCAP also partnered with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in the delivery of an activity aimed at least developed countries.

8. Extrabudgetary support has also been provided by bilateral and other donors/partners for research activities and multi-stakeholder policy dialogues. The Government of Japan has provided funding, with particular focus on promoting government-to-government exchange of experiences on WTO accession through the ESCAP/WTO/UNCTAD network of WTO acceding developing countries. The Government of Canada, through the International Development Research Centre, is funding a research network, the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), which was initiated by ESCAP. The regional policy dialogue entitled “Delivering on the WTO Round: A High-level Government-Business Dialogue for Development”, in preparation for the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, was funded by the Government of Macao, China, while the WTO/ESCAP Basics Seminar for Cambodia was funded by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ); the European Union is providing financial support to assist landlocked least developed countries, namely Bhutan and possibly Nepal.

II. FINDINGS AND RESULTS

9. The relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the programme were evaluated in detail in document E/ESCAP/CMG/9 (see para. 4 above). Since then, the programme has continued to improve on its delivery in all four aspects, as shown below.

A. Relevance and mandates

10. The continuing, albeit slow, progress in the Doha Development Agenda negotiations has ensured that these issues remain a centrepiece of international economic policymaking. This is even more so in the Asian and Pacific region, as countries continue to pursue outward-oriented, trade-and-investment-driven economic growth strategies. The Doha negotiations have reached a critical stage, with the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, to be held in Hong Kong, China, from 13 to 18 December 2005, expected to point the way towards their conclusion by 2006 or 2007. This will have profound implications still unfolding for both the economies of members and WTO as an institution. Furthermore, the Asian and Pacific region accounts for the largest share of countries currently in the

process of accession (13 out of a global total of 33). Most of these are least developed countries. Accession issues are thus of key development importance to the region.

11. The technical assistance needs and priorities of members and associate members have been well articulated through the Commission's intergovernmental mechanisms. The programme has responded to these needs in a client-oriented, member-driven manner and has thus remained highly topical.¹ This is further evidenced, for example, by the subjects covered in the programme for 2004/2005. They encompassed agriculture, non-agricultural market access, services and trade facilitation, which were the key areas which WTO members agreed in the July 2004 package would form the core of the negotiating agenda.²

12. The important role of the United Nations in this area of work has been emphasized by global mandates, notably the Doha Development Agenda, the Monterrey Consensus and the Shanghai Declaration adopted by the Commission in its resolution 60/1 of 28 April 2004. More recently, of note is the Jakarta Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015, adopted by the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, held in Jakarta from 3 to 5 August 2005, in which the Ministers, inter alia, reiterated their commitment to the Doha Development Agenda negotiations and reaffirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation in the region in fostering greater coherence between the multilateral development agencies and the multilateral financing and trading systems. The Ministers also requested the secretariat to include in the agenda of the sixty-second session of the Commission, to be hosted by the Government of Indonesia in April 2006, an item on modalities for regional implementation of the Declaration.

B. Quality and effectiveness

13. The programme has continued to build on the effective delivery of high-quality training. This was duly recognized by the Commission at its sixty-first session, when it commended the trade and investment capacity-building programmes and advisory services of the secretariat, particularly those related to capacity-building in the negotiation, conclusion and implementation of WTO agreements. While recognizing that WTO provided technical assistance, the Commission noted the importance of the trade-related programmes of other organizations, such as ESCAP, especially those undertaken in partnership with WTO. The Commission therefore requested the secretariat to continue and intensify those activities.³

¹ For example, the Committee at its first session noted with appreciation that the programme had been very responsive to the needs of Governments, including the least developed countries working towards accession to WTO (E/ESCAP/1307, para. 136).

² After the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003, had ended in deadlock, WTO members put the negotiations and the rest of the work programme back on track through a package (the "July package"), agreed on 1 August 2004, which contains frameworks and other agreements to focus the negotiations and raise them to a new level.

³ See the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session (*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 19 (E/2005/39-E/ESCAP/1359)*), para.134.

14. The ESCAP and WTO secretariats have collaborated closely in designing training courses and ensuring adequate coverage of region-specific examples and content.

15. To supplement observations on work programme matters made by the Commission, the secretariat has relied on replies to monitoring and feedback questionnaires given by participants as an additional means of measuring the effectiveness of the programme. The questionnaires were revised in 2004 to provide more comprehensive feedback on the quality of presentations and training materials as well as the impact of activities. More detailed feedback was collected on how knowledge and skills from the activities under the programme would be used in day-to-day work. This included increased effectiveness in the preparation of country position papers, more substantive briefings to supervisors or ministers and increased dissemination of information to other ministries. Overall, the programme made an impact on improving the formulation of country negotiating positions, with 58.6 per cent of participants answering that the negotiating capacity of their countries had definitely increased and 29.3 per cent that it had probably increased. The most pervasive and repeated request for improvement was that the duration of seminars should be longer (one week being the preferred duration) and that more use should be made of practical exercises.

16. Extensive use is also made of pre-training questionnaires, which seek detailed information on the type of work that participants conduct. It has proved to be a useful tool in improving the selection of participants and the relevance of the training provided. It has also ensured a better match between the expectations of participants and the final outcome of the activities. Of the participants who attended activities in 2004 and 2005 under the programme and completed evaluation questionnaires, more than 90 per cent declared that the objectives of their training had been fully achieved.

17. Further afield, the programme has also received due recognition of its contribution to the programme from WTO itself. WTO stated in its report that WTO and ESCAP had continued their collaboration in the implementation of joint technical cooperation and capacity-building activities for Asian and Pacific economies, and made the following observations:

Distribution of tasks and cost-sharing between WTO and ESCAP expanded and strengthened cooperation between the two institutions. ... Over the years, ESCAP has become a catalyst and facilitator for much greater understanding of WTO negotiating issues, better implementation of WTO Agreements, and more active participation of Asian and Pacific economies in the DDA negotiations. WTO and ESCAP joint technical assistance/capacity-building operations can be viewed as strategic partnership arrangements since ESCAP, as part of the United Nations, contributes both a global and regional development perspective and

facilitates the constructive exchanges between Asian capital-based and Geneva-based trade officials.⁴

C. Efficiency

18. The programme is designed in an efficient and cost-effective way. All activities set out in the Annual Technical Assistance Plan upon which WTO and ESCAP agreed have been implemented. Furthermore, country participants are direct beneficiaries of 80 per cent of the funds available for this programme because substantive delivery is made by secretariat staff of ESCAP and WTO, including expertise provided by the ESCAP regional adviser, instead of externally recruited consultants. Greater efficiency is also achieved by complementing, rather than duplicating, capacity-building efforts and activities. The same principle has been applied to projects and activities implemented through partnerships developed with other concerned organizations.

D. Long-term impact and sustainability of the programme

19. As mentioned previously, the secretariat has mobilized additional extrabudgetary resources from interested bilateral and other donors/partners. This support strengthens the sustainability of the programme. For example, the European Union will be providing 400,000 euros over three years to assist in building a skilled human resource base in Bhutan for its accession and future membership in WTO, while a similar project for Nepal is at the pre-approval stage. The government of Macao, China, has provided funding and is hosting the pre-Hong Kong Conference regional policy dialogue, while collaboration with the Colombo Plan secretariat and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) has not only augmented the financial resources available for selected programme activities but also ensured a greater impact by combining resources while avoiding the duplication of activities.

20. Notwithstanding these positive developments, the long-term impact and sustainability of the programme remain the most significant challenges that have yet to be adequately addressed.

21. It has proved difficult for the secretariat to keep pace with the needs expressed by members and associate members owing to insufficient multi-year regular and extrabudgetary resources. For example, all activities under the portion funded by the regular budget scheduled for the biennium 2004-2005 were completed by mid-2005.⁵ Subject to the availability of funds, there is scope for increasing the number, duration and intensity of some of the activities, with a particular focus on the development of practical and country-specific pilot projects from which lessons could be learned by others.

⁴ World Trade Organization, "Annual report on training and cooperation (1 January to 31 December 2004)" (WTO/COMTD/W/139), submitted to the WTO Committee on Trade and Development, paras. 113 and 114.

⁵ The portion funded from extrabudgetary sources continued to be delivered.

III. FUTURE DIRECTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

22. The WTO/ESCAP joint technical assistance programme is a flagship initiative which has successfully provided much-needed technical assistance to enable ESCAP members and associate members to meet the challenges of globalization. Created in response to an emerging issue, the aims of the programme are clearly relevant, the roles of WTO and ESCAP are well defined and complementary and the programme is strongly supported by the Commission. Furthermore, the programme content has evolved and continues to evolve in tandem with the unfolding WTO negotiations. The future directions proposed in the present report are aimed at increasing the value of this technical assistance programme set within the managing globalization framework.

23. The ESCAP secretariat is currently working with the WTO secretariat to develop the joint training programme on the Doha Development Agenda for 2006-2007. In line with the evolving and increasing expertise available at the government level, this programme will be oriented more to seminar-type participatory discussions with a focus on analysis of the decisions emanating from the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference and implications of the conclusion of the Doha Round. This will form the core nucleus of the programme.

24. The programme will be supplemented and complemented by a series of activities related to trade and trade policy research recently launched by ESCAP, ARTNeT, referred to earlier, and by a new, and still unfunded University Outreach Programme designed to strengthen the WTO component of academic teaching programmes. Teaching programmes aimed at youth, who will be the future decision makers, have a key role to play in building up a country's human resource base. In the long run, as human and institutional capacities continue to strengthen, the secretariat foresees that training activities will be increasingly organized and implemented by training and research centres of excellence in developing countries. A first such activity was successfully implemented with IIFT under the memorandum of understanding between the Government of India and ESCAP concerning the third country training programme. The ESCAP and WTO secretariats would provide supplementary expertise, from regional and global perspectives, with the impartiality expected of international organizations.

25. Bearing in mind that institutional and human resource capacity-building is a long and resource-intensive process, the WTO secretariat will remain a core partner of ESCAP in the implementation of this training programme in the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, the secretariat will, in consultation with WTO, explore the involvement of other United Nations organizations, notably ITC, UNCTAD and UNDP, as well as bilateral donors, in the expansion of this programme.

26. The secretariat, together with UNCTAD, is also examining ways of expanding this programme through the establishment of informal occupational networks among officials of the region and the conduct of distance learning sessions.

27. Further, the secretariat is seeking more effective ways of including stakeholders other than government officials in these activities. For example, particular attention will be paid to the involvement of parliamentarians, who play a key role in trade issues as both legislators and representatives of the electorate. The private sector, civil society, academia and other stakeholders are also key players in the national dialogue and consensus-building on trade liberalization and trade policy decision-making, for which ESCAP will be seeking closer partnerships along with other organizations of the United Nations system.

28. In conclusion, it appears that the quality, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the programme could be significantly enhanced if the following could be done:

- (a) More regular budget and extrabudgetary resources were made available;
- (b) More frequent follow-up activities at the sectoral level were organized targeting the same participants;
- (c) More activities were organized at the national level, particularly for countries in the process of accession, or having recently acceded, to WTO. Besides being more cost-efficient than regional activities, national-level activities target a broader audience with an impact that is easier to measure;
- (d) The secretariat were to develop training materials with region-specific case studies and practical exercises;
- (e) Stronger emphasis were placed on building the research and analytical capacity of research and training institutes;
- (f) Activities included participants other than government officials, in particular parliamentarians, the business sector and civil society;
- (g) Distance learning and the establishment of e-networks were used for that purpose.

29. The Committee is invited to consider these findings and provide further guidance to the secretariat.

Annex

**LIST OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE WTO/ESCAP PROGRAMME OF
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

A. Core WTO/ESCAP training activities

| No. | Title | Dates and venues | Type of participant |
|------------|--|--|--|
| 1. | First WTO/ESCAP Trade Policy Course on WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for Asian Developing Economies | 8-26 May 2000, Bangkok | Middle-ranking government officials working at least two years on trade-related issues and directly involved in work relating to WTO agreements |
| 2. | Second WTO/ESCAP Trade Policy Course on WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for Asian Developing Economies | 21 May-1 June 2001, Bangkok | As for 1 above |
| 3. | Third WTO/ESCAP Trade Policy Course on WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for Asian Developing Economies | 18-29 March 2002, Bangkok | As for 1 above |
| 4. | First WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Dispute Settlement Procedures and Practices and Dispute Settlement Understanding Negotiations for Asian Economies | 10-12 April 2002, Manila | Capital-based officials whose responsibilities directly involve WTO dispute settlement, including the dispute settlement understanding negotiations foreseen in this area |
| 5. | WTO/ESCAP/ASEAN Regional Seminar on the WTO Agriculture, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Textiles and Clothing Agreements | 23-26 April 2002, Bangkok | Senior officials from the 10 ASEAN member States whose responsibilities directly involve trade policy in general and trade issues related to textiles and clothing and agriculture in particular |
| 6. | Second WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Dispute Settlement Procedures and Practices and Dispute Settlement Understanding Negotiations for Asian Economies | 4-7 June 2002, Bangkok | As for 4 above |
| 7. | WTO/ESCAP/ASEAN Regional Seminar on Facilitating Trade through Implementation of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement | 29-31 October 2002, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam | Senior officials from the 10 ASEAN member States and China whose responsibilities directly involve trade policy in general and trade issues related to textiles and clothing and agriculture in particular |
| 8. | Fourth WTO/ESCAP Trade Policy Course on WTO Agreements and the Doha Development Agenda | 18-29 November 2002, Bangkok | As for 1 above |
| 9. | Fifth WTO/ESCAP Trade Policy Course on WTO Agreements and the Doha Development Agenda | 18-28 February 2003, Bangkok | As for 1 above |
| 10. | Third WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Dispute Settlement Procedures and Practices and Dispute Settlement Understanding Negotiations for Asian Economies | 10-13 March 2003, Ulaanbaatar | As for 4 above |

| No. | Title | Dates and venues | Type of participant |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 11. | WTO/ESCAP Regional Training Workshop on Multilateral Negotiations on Agriculture | 21-23 July 2003, Bangkok | Senior-level officials with direct responsibilities in the area of agricultural trade policy and decision-making and/or officials involved in the current multilateral trade negotiations in agriculture and agriculture-related issues within the framework of the Doha Development Agenda |
| 12. | International Telecommunication Union/ESCAP/WTO Regional Seminar on Telecommunications and Trade Issues | 28-30 October 2003, Bangkok | Senior-level officials directly involved in the negotiation and implementation of the WTO agreements |
| 13. | WTO/ESCAP/Ministry of Commerce/Peking University Advanced Programme for Senior Government Officials on the Doha Development Agenda Negotiations (This meeting was originally scheduled for 31 March-11 April 2003; however, it started on 31 March 2003 and was cancelled on 2 April 2003, following a WHO travel advisory). | 27 October-1 November 2003, Beijing | Senior government officials (vice ministers) of WTO members and observers from developing economies and economies in transition with analytical tools needed to formulate appropriate negotiating positions on issues central to the Doha Development Agenda and with work directly related to the Agenda negotiations, including the design of their Government's negotiating position, as well as participation in the negotiations themselves |
| 14. | Sixth WTO/ESCAP Trade Policy Course on WTO Agreements and the Doha Development Agenda | 10-21 November 2003, Manila | As for 1 above |
| 15. | Seventh WTO/ESCAP Trade Policy Course on WTO Agreements and the Doha Development Agenda | 8-12 March 2004, Bangkok | As for 1 above |
| 16. | WTO/ESCAP Regional Workshop on Trade in Services Negotiations for Asian and Pacific Economies | 25-27 May 2004, Dhaka | Middle-level government officials involved in policy-making and/or negotiations in trade in services |
| 17. | WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Trade and Development | 29 June-1 July 2004, Bali, Indonesia | Middle- and senior-level government officials involved in development and trade policies |
| 18. | WTO/ESCAP Regional Training Workshop on Multilateral Negotiations on Agriculture | 13-14 September 2004, Colombo | As for 11 above |
| 19. | WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Customs Valuation, Trade Facilitation and Rules of Origin | 27-29 September 2004, Yangon | Middle-level government officials involved/interested in policy-making/negotiations in the areas of customs valuation, trade facilitation and rules of origin |
| 20. | WTO/ESCAP/Administrative State College of India Regional Seminar for Asian and Pacific Economies on Competition Policy, Development and the Multilateral Trading System | 6-8 October 2004, Hyderabad, India | Middle- and senior-level officials involved in policy formulation related to competition |
| 21. | WTO/ESCAP Regional Training Workshop on Multilateral Negotiations on Agriculture | 26-27 January 2005, Kuala Lumpur | As for 11 above |

| No. | Title | Dates and venues | Type of participant |
|-----|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 22. | Eighth WTO/ESCAP Trade Policy Course on WTO Agreements and the Doha Development Agenda | 7-11 March 2005, Bangkok | As for 1 above |
| 23. | WTO/ESCAP Regional Workshop on Trade Facilitation | 5-7 April 2005, Hangzhou, China | Middle-level government officials involved in trade facilitation issues |
| 24. | WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Non-agricultural Market Access Negotiations for Asian and Pacific Countries | 25-27 April 2005, Yangon | Middle-level and senior government officials involved in trade policy formulation and negotiations related to non-agricultural market access |
| 25. | WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Trade in Services [Forum on World Trade in Services, 9-10 June, held as part of the seminar] | 6-10 June 2005, Shanghai, China | As for 16 above |

B. Complementary WTO-related activities undertaken in close collaboration with WTO and other international organizations

| | | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 1. | ESCAP/UNCTAD High-level Meeting of ESCAP Developing Countries in Preparation for the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference | 24-25 September 2001, Bangkok | Senior trade policy decision-making officials of ESCAP member countries |
| 2. | Trade Policy Course for Countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion | 26-28 September 2001, Bangkok | Junior/middle-ranking officials from ministries/organizations of GMS countries that deal with international trade matters |
| 3. | ESCAP/Ministry of Commerce Training Workshop on WTO Agreements, Trade and Investment Opportunities for Myanmar | 30 January -1 February 2002, Yangon | Government officials, academia and the private sector |
| 4. | Regional Seminar on Facilitating the Accession of ESCAP Developing Countries to WTO | 18-21 February 2002, Bangkok | Senior trade policy decision-making officials of ESCAP member countries |
| 5. | High-level Regional Meeting on the WTO Negotiating Agenda in Preparation for Cancún | 10-12 June 2003, Bangkok | High-level policy decision-making officials |
| 6. | Regional Seminar on Facilitating the Accession of ESCAP Members to WTO through Regional Cooperation | 12-13 June 2003, Bangkok | Top negotiators of countries in the process of accession to WTO |
| 7. | Trade Policy Course on WTO Agreements and Procedures | 27-31 October 2003, Almaty, Kazakhstan | Policy makers, trade negotiators, private sector, academia, parliamentarians, civil society etc. from Central and Caucasian countries |
| 8. | Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Post-Cancún Agenda for WTO Trade Liberalization and Its Implications for Developing Economies | 18-19 November 2003, Bangkok | Experts on WTO issues |
| 9. | National Conference on Negotiations in the World Trade Organization | 16-17 February 2004, Islamabad | Government officials at middle and senior levels involved and/or interested in the WTO agreements and negotiations, private sector, academia, civil society, media etc. (Pakistan) |

| No. | Title | Dates and venues | Type of participant |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 10. | Regional Workshop on Market Access Negotiations on Non-agricultural Products for Asian and Pacific Countries | 29-31 March 2004, Phnom Penh | Government officials involved/ interested in non-agricultural market access negotiations |
| 11. | Regional Policy Dialogue: Post-Cancún Regional Trading Environment | 30-31 March 2004, Bangkok | Senior government officials involved in trade policy formulation and trade negotiations; private sector, academia |
| 12. | Regional Policy Dialogue: Facilitating the Accession of Developing Countries to WTO | 31 March-1 April 2004, Bangkok | Top negotiators of countries in the process of accession to WTO |
| 13. | ESCAP/WTO Advanced Course on the Doha Development Agenda | 10-13 May 2004, Yerevan | Middle-level government officials from Central Asian/Caucasian countries and Mongolia |
| 14. | Colombo Plan/ESCAP Training Programme on Regional Dialogue on the Role of Regionalism and Multilateralism in Shaping the International Trading System | 15-19 May 2004, Tehran | Middle-level government officials from Colombo Plan member countries |
| 15. | Colombo Plan/ESCAP Training Programme on the Institutional Process and Initiatives for Developing Country Positions in WTO Negotiations | 22 June-3 July 2004, Seoul | Middle-level government officials involved in trade policy formulation/negotiations from Colombo Plan member countries |
| 16. | Commonwealth Parliamentary Association/WTO Regional Workshop for Parliamentarians, WTO, the Doha Development Agenda and the Role of Parliamentarians | 8-10 November 2004, Singapore | Parliamentarians from selected Asian developing countries |
| 17. | WTO/ESCAP Basics Seminar for Cambodia | 17-19 November 2004, Phnom Penh | Policy makers, private sector, academia, civil society and other stakeholders in Cambodia involved or interested in WTO issues |
| 18. | International Institute for Trade and Development/WTO/ESCAP National Seminar on Trade in Health Services | 28 January 2005, Bangkok | Government officials and other stakeholders of Thailand involved/ interested in trade in health services |
| 19. | Indian Institute of Foreign Trade/ ESCAP Training Programme on Globalization: WTO and Developing Countries | 14-18 February 2005, New Delhi | Middle-level government officials from selected least developed countries |
| 20. | Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) Capacity-building Workshop on Trade Research | 22-25 March 2005, Bangkok | Middle-level government officials and researchers from ARTNeT |
| 21. | Trade Policy Basics Course for Mongolia | 7-9 September 2005, Ulaanbaatar | Policy makers, trade negotiators, private sector, academia, parliamentarians, civil society etc. from Mongolia |
| 22. | Delivering on the WTO Round: A High-level Government-Business Dialogue for Development (in preparation for the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference) | 4-6 October 2005, Macao, China | Senior officials, private sector from Asian and Pacific developing countries involved in trade policy negotiations |