

TRADE DISPATCH

2006 – Q4

NEWS FROM COs & BRC

Meeting with CO Trade Focal Points

During the ‘Responsible Investing’ conference in Vienna the BRC trade team met with CO trade focal points to discuss the **Central Asia Project on Ethical Sourcing of Cotton, WTO Regional Workshop for Central Asia, Western CIS and Caucasus** (to be held in November 2006) and **Central Asia Rural Artisans Initiative**. The purpose of the meetings was to brainstorm effectively about these initiatives, get feedback on how to best structure them to meet CO needs and discuss next steps and activities.

CO Support

From 1 to 7 July the **Regional Trade Advisor** has undertaken a mission to **UNDP Georgia** to determine the potential for trade development interventions. The main findings and recommendations for UNDP intervention include policy analysis and development, regional economic development, as well as utilization of existing trade agreements. Consequently, it is suggested that the UNDP CO concentrates its efforts in the following areas: supporting strategic pro-poor economic planning, trade policy analysis and development, build capacity to participate in international trade regimes, build trade and investment capacity in the regions and improve regional trade.

From May 19-20 the **Regional Trade Advisor** participated in the meeting of the Central Asia Cluster in Berlin to provide input onto regional trade development programming. Major recommendations were to create a focused regional strategy on trade building on existing efforts, and to position UNDP properly amongst other institutions. As well, to leverage the capacity on analyzing and designing trade policy from a human development perspective that exists in other UNDP global and regional bureaus (such as BDP and Asia).

RESOURCES, PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS

Trade Sub-practice Website

Trade sub-practice website has been launched. Please go to: <http://europeandcis.undp.org/>, click on “Poverty Reduction”, then on “Private Sector Development” and finally on “Trade Sub-practice”. On this site you will find information on UNDP trade activities, RBEC trade map, trade dispatch, trade corporate resources and events. The website will serve primarily as a resource of knowledge and information sharing for the sub-practice members, so we would like to encourage you to contribute to its contents. If you have any interesting materials or information which could be valuable to other members of the sub-practice, please send them to Henrieta Capkovicova at henrieta.capkovicova@undp.org who will post them on the site.

Visit the website at: http://europeandcis.undp.org/?wspec=subpractice-112_h_9

Managing the Challenges of WTO Participation: 45 Case Studies, WTO

This compilation of 45 case studies documents disparate experiences among economies in addressing the challenges of participating in the WTO. It demonstrates that success or failure is strongly influenced by how governments and private-sector stakeholders organize themselves at home. The contributors, mainly from developing countries, give examples of participation with lessons for others. They show that when

the system is accessed and employed effectively, it can serve the interests of poor and rich countries alike. However, a failure to communicate among interested parties at home often contributes to negative outcomes on the international front. Above all, these case studies demonstrate that the WTO creates a framework within which sovereign decision-making can unleash important opportunities or undermine the potential benefits flowing from a rules-based international environment that promotes open trade.

To download:

http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/casestudies_e/casestudies_e.htm

World Development Indicators 2006, World Bank

World Development Indicators (WDI) publication is the World Bank's premier annual compilation of data about development. The 2006 WDI includes more than 900 indicators in over 80 tables organized in 6 sections: World View, People, Environment, Economy, States and Markets, and Global Links.

To download:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/DATASTATISTICS/0,,contentMDK:20899413~pagePK:64133150~piPK:64133175~theSitePK:239419,00.html>

Assessing World Bank Support for Trade, 1987-2004: An IEG Evaluation, 2006

The comprehensive appraisal analyses Bank's contribution to freer trade in developing countries and makes concrete recommendations on how to boost trade opportunities to better alleviate poverty in the future. Between 1987 and 2004, 8.1 percent of total Bank commitments (US\$ 38 billion) went to 117 countries to help them become better integrated into the global economy. The report finds that although the World Bank was successful in opening markets, the net result was not as directly beneficial to the recipients of trade assistance as initially envisaged. IEG recommends that the World Bank focuses on alleviating shocks and social inequalities that may result from opening markets to trade.

To download:

http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/trade/docs/trade_evaluation.pdf

Trade Progress Report: The DOHA Development Agenda and AID for Trade: Hong Kong and Beyond, IMF – World Bank, 2006

The report outlines a number of scenarios for the Doha Development Agenda and reviews the progress that has been made thus far. The report urges all WTO Members to increase their efforts to reach a satisfactory outcome. The report calls attention to the importance of agriculture to a successful conclusion of the negotiations, and summarises progress that has taken place in the various negotiating groups and the amount of work left to be done before modalities can be established. Appended to the report is a table summarizing the evolution of negotiating positions chronologically since the Doha Mandate categorized according to the relevant trade issues.

To download:

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/20890708/DC2006-0005\(E\)-TradeProgress.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/20890708/DC2006-0005(E)-TradeProgress.pdf)

Bulgaria's Integration into the Pan-European Economy and Industrial Restructuring, World Bank, Working Paper, 2006

This paper looks at Bulgaria's industrial restructuring through the lenses of its evolving specialization in international division of labor and integration into international markets

with a special emphasis on EU markets. Its major findings can be summarized as follows: (i)

Developments in Bulgaria's exports, its major drivers and factor content, during the 'second transition' following the 1996 crisis have become reminiscent of developments in the early 1990s in European transition economies that have stayed the reform course. (ii) Evolution of Bulgaria's total exports in terms of factor intensities before the 'second transformational' recession was a testimony to aborted economic reforms.

To download:

<http://wdsbeta.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2006/02/23/00001640620060223112530/Rendered/PDF/wps3863.pdf>

Agricultural Policy and Trade Reform: Potential Effects At Global, National and Households Levels, OECD, 2006

A just released report shows that a simultaneous reform involving a halving of trade protection and domestic support across all sectors could potentially generate USD 44 billion in welfare gains globally. Most of these gains arise from agricultural reform and most of these agricultural gains come from reform of market access measures.

For more information, visit:

http://www.oecd.org/document/14/0,2340,en_2649_37431_36888846_1_1_1_37431,00.html

OECD Trade Policy Working Paper No. 34: Liberalising Network Infrastructure Services and the GATS

This study reviews key issues in liberalizing network infrastructure services including telecommunications, postal/courier, energy, water and sewage . in the national and multilateral contexts. The economic and social significance of these services means that they are high on the list of development priorities in many countries. Enhanced trade and investment in network infrastructure services can help achieve these development goals. Liberalization, however, is no easy task and requires sound regulation and effective institutions to address market failures and ensure public policy objectives. If appropriately designed, bound liberalization under the GATS can contribute to the advancement of national objectives by improving investors confidence when countries decide to allow private sector participation in these services.

For more information, visit:

[http://webdomino1.oecd.org/olis/2004doc.nsf/43bb6130e5e86e5fc12569fa005d004c/ef08eb5af0467176c12571760033b342/\\$FILE/JT03209280.PDF](http://webdomino1.oecd.org/olis/2004doc.nsf/43bb6130e5e86e5fc12569fa005d004c/ef08eb5af0467176c12571760033b342/$FILE/JT03209280.PDF)

EVENTS, CONFERENCES

Regional Workshop on Trade Facilitation for Central Asian and Eastern European Countries, 21-25 August 2006 (location to be announced later)

Workshop organized by the World Trade Organization in cooperation with UNCTAD and the World Customs Organization. Building on the regional workshops on trade facilitation that were conducted by the WTO in 2005, the objective of this workshop is to facilitate - through presentations and working group exercises - more effective participation of developing and least-developed countries in the final phase of the WTO negotiations on Trade Facilitation.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.gfptt.org/Entities/EventProfile.aspx?id=e533aefc-4421-45ac-8550-e4a15651337d>

ETSG 2006 Vienna Eighth Annual Conference, WIIW and University of Vienna, 7-9 September 2006

ETSG conferences are open to any researcher with an interest in international trade issues. This is the eighth conference in what is now the largest (and friendliest) annual conference on international trade in the world.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.univie.ac.at/etsg06/Index.htm>

UNCTAD Expert Meeting on Trade Facilitation, 16-18 October 2006, Geneva

Theme: Efficient transport and trade facilitation to improve participation by developing countries in international trade

Topic: ICT Solutions to facilitate trade at border crossings and ports

For more information, visit:

<http://www.gfptt.org/Entities/EventProfile.aspx?id=f951ab45-eb33-42ce-97f4-f419de202c1a>