

ESCAP-WTO WORKSHOP ON AID FOR TRADE

25 August 2011

Meeting Room, TID, Block –B, 4th Floor, United Nations ESCAP, Bangkok

Background

Since the launch at WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting in 2005, the Aid for Trade (AfT) initiative has made good progress. Several global or regional events have been organized focusing on this subject including the latest, the Third Global Review in Geneva in July 2011. With the greater scale of AfT initiatives, agencies involved in Aid for Trade (AfT) are increasingly faced with the question of coordinating with each other to take this agenda forward at both regional and global level.

The OECD-WTO survey reported that more than half of the partner countries (out of 83) fully mainstreamed trade into their development plans. Majority of the rest of the countries had partially done so. However, effective implementation, strong institutional arrangements and stakeholder participation (private sector and others) still remain a major challenge.

While collaboration among development partners has improved over time, there is room for improvement particularly among bilateral donors and international financial institutions at regional level. Lack of coordination among donors and partner countries also pose a challenge to effectively deliver AfT. The WTO work programme 2010-11 has also encouraged organizing regional events to further improve collaboration among donors.

Whether AfT initiative is contributing to new trade creation and poverty reduction is a major question that both donor communities and the member countries are concerned about. Moreover, identifying appropriate indicators at national and regional levels for measuring progress of AfT programmes is necessary. There is a general consensus among the donors and partner countries that the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness should direct the delivery of AfT. However, there is a strong need for scaling up the monitoring and evaluation of AfT programmes.

Asia and the Pacific region have taken the lead in promoting AfT initiative including the preparation of an AfT roadmap for the member countries of the SPECA and the regional meeting on Aid for Trade for Asia and the Pacific in Siem Reap, Cambodia in May 2009. WTO and ESCAP have jointly organized this event with a hope to brainstorm on the major issues of AfT and discuss the collaborative efforts for Asia and the Pacific region.

Objective

- Support greater regional cooperation and coordination among the actors of Aid for Trade in Asia and the Pacific.
- Advance the discussion on effective monitoring of results and evaluation of impacts of Aid for Trade programmes

Programme

08:45 – 09:00

Registration

09:00 – 09:10

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

09:10 – 10:10

Session 1: Identifying and Addressing the Outcomes of the third Global Review of Aid for Trade

- *What are the main elements from the third Global Review of importance to the work of the organisations in the Asia-Pacific region?*
- *How can the region more effectively share its experience and expertise and support cross-regional learning in Asia and between Asia and the developing world?*

10:10- 10:20

Coffee Break

10:20-11:40

Session 2: Monitoring and Evaluation

- *What are the fundamental lessons emanating from these regional initiatives which can be shared across programmes and across regions?*
- *How can organisations (ESCAP, APEC, ASEAN, ADB etc.) in the region better publicise and share the outcomes and impacts of these Aid for Trade interventions?*
- *How can trade objectives be best identified and indicators most effectively designed in these projects and programmes?*
- *How can the experiences in the different regions such as in South Asia and the Pacific be highlighted?*

11:40 – 12:40

Lunch Break

12:40- 14:10

Session 3: Innovative Techniques

- *What innovative techniques and methodologies for evaluation can be identified for more focused attention?*
- *How best can countries map national and trade development objectives and monitor and evaluate the impact of Aid for Trade on these priorities?*
- *How can the work being undertaken by ESCAP on its ARTNeT gravity modelling initiative and by the Asian Development Bank Institute in CAREC be galvanised and harnessed?*

14:10-15:10

Session 4: South-South and Triangular Co-operation

- *Is there scope to develop best practices on triangular co-operation and South-South co-operation?*
- *How can cross-regional learning be effectively promoted?*
- *Can the in-kind assistance offered by South-South partners be quantified?*
- *How can the growth in countries such as China and India be best harnessed to enhance trade for the region?*

15:10

Closing