



Asia - Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 1 / January – May 2009

Dear ARTNeT researchers and friends,

2009 is a special year for ARTNeT, as it is the year of its 5th anniversary! We are proud that ARTNeT has achieved as much as it has in only five years. We are also very grateful to ARTNeT's members and partners for their continued support of ARTNeT's activities.

The studies launched during 2008 have progressed well and are now in their final stages. A number of policy briefs and working papers have been derived from research associated with those studies and have already been published on the ARTNeT website (see details on page 3). Completed studies will also be published as edited volumes. Meetings to disseminate research findings have already been set, and the next newsletter will report more fully on these.

We are pleased to announce that close to ten Short-Term Study Proposals were selected for grants by the WTO. ARTNeT expects that these will be finalized by mid-2010. Four short term studies from 2008 have already been successfully completed.

We are happy to report that the ARTNeT family keeps on growing, as the number of members, partners and advisers increases.

The ARTNeT Secretariat

Regional Policy Forum on Trade Facilitation and SMEs in Times of Crisis

In cooperation with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the World Bank Research Group, ARTNeT organized this forum in Beijing from 20 to 22 May to disseminate initial results from its on-going regional research study on the impact of information-technology based trade facilitation measures on SMEs.



The event provided a unique opportunity for participating policymakers, researchers and the private sector from over 15 Asian countries to share national experiences and expertise with each other and to identify practical recommendations that may be considered by governments to enhance trade competitiveness in times of crisis.

Meeting papers and documents are available at: http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/tf_sme.asp

5th Anniversary Conference of ARTNeT : Trade-Led Growth in Times of Crisis

ARTNeT will be celebrating its 5th Anniversary with a conference on *Trade-Led Growth in Times of Crisis*, to be held on 2 and 3 November in Bangkok, Thailand. ARTNeT researchers and policymakers will be joined by researchers from outside the region to discuss the economic crisis and its impacts on trade, investment and growth.

The conference will address many topics, including: global production networks, advances in CGE modeling, gravity modeling, the role of stakeholders in the formulation of inclusive policies, and promoting open-border green growth. [continued on page 4]

For more information, please contact the ARTNeT Secretariat, Trade Policy Section, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). ARTNeT is a joint initiative of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada) and UNESCAP, supported by WTO, UNDP and UNCTAD as core ARTNeT Partners. ARTNeT GMS is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Government of France.

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Research Workshop on Emerging Trade Issues for Policymakers in Developing Countries of Asia and the Pacific

Co-hosted by the Philippines Institute of Policy Studies (PIDS) in Manila, Philippines, ARTNeT and the WTO teamed up to organize the Third Research Workshop on 4-5 March 2009 on Emerging Trade Issues for Policymakers in Developing Countries of Asia and the Pacific. This year, the workshop focused on a new era of trade governance. The volume of contributions from last year’s workshop was distributed during the meeting and is available online at <http://www.unescap.org/tid/publication/tipub2526.asp> (see also page 3).



ARTNeT Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee Meeting

The ARTNeT Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee was convened on 5 March 2009 in Manila, Philippines to review past ARTNeT activities and to discuss future research priorities. Members of the steering committee favorably assessed the activities undertaken since December 2007, when the Steering Committee last met, and encouraged the ARTNeT Secretariat to continue the expansion of ARTNeT members and to strengthen the work on bridging the gaps between policymaking and analysis so that policymaking increasingly becomes evidence-based and supported by local research. Details on the 2009/2010 research program are available at <http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/res/research0910.pdf>.

On track in the delivery of ARTNeT Phase II Research Programme

ARTNeT Short-Term Study Proposals 2009

Following the call for short-term study proposals issued in February 2009, ARTNeT short-listed ten short-term studies which will benefit from WTO funding.

These studies relate to the broader ARTNeT 2009/2010 theme *Trade and Investment-related Policy Coherence for Inclusive and Sustainable Development*, as well as the following topics:

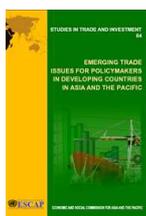
- Facilitating the participation of LDCs and/or Landlocked countries in international trade
- “Behind the border” factors affecting trade and investment
- Rules of Origins: Impact on inclusive national and regional development



National Workshop on WTO Matters for Thai scholars

As part of the academic outreach programme of the WTO Training Institute, ARTNeT in February 2009 co-sponsored a workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, together with International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD). The workshop provided a broad overview of WTO regulations and current WTO issues such as the Doha Development Round.

Emerging Trade Issues for Policymakers in Developing Countries in Asia and the Pacific



Emerging Trade Issues is a compilation of papers presented at a workshop that took place in 2007. Topics addressed in this new publication include: rethinking trade for developing countries, trade and production sharing, trade in services, trade poverty and equality, and managing regionalism.

Emerging Trade Issues for Policymakers in Developing Countries in Asia and the Pacific and other recent editions of the *Studies in Trade and Investment* Series can be found at: www.artnetontrade.org.

Alerts on Emerging Policy Challenges



Two new issues of ARTNeT Alerts were released in the first quarter of this year: *Preferential Trade Agreements: An Insurance Against Protectionism*, and *Trade Finance in Times of Crisis and Beyond*.

In *Preferential Trade Agreements: An Insurance Against Protectionism*, Mia Mikic and Melanie Ramjoué examine to what extent WTO rules and preferential trade agreements can prevent a surge in trade protectionism. With the global economic crisis causing many countries to consider reverting back to protectionism to protect national industries and jobs, this brief argues that preferential trade agreements can act as a brake on protectionist tendencies.

In *Trade Finance in Times of Crisis and Beyond*, Wei Liu and Yann Duval examine how the recent economic crisis has affected the availability of trade finance. The recent crisis has illustrated how essential trade finance is to international trade, and this article looks at what the crisis can teach us about finance going forward.

ARTNeT Alerts can be downloaded from the ARTNeT website.

Recent ARTNeT Policy Briefs

• De, Prabir, **Inclusive Growth and Trade Facilitation: Insights from South Asia**, Brief No. 16, January 2009.



• Sudesh, Ratna, **Promoting South-South Trade: Recent Developments and Options**, Brief No. 17, February 2009.

• Tambunan, Tulus, **Why Do Least Developed Countries in Asia Not Benefit from Transfers of Technology**, Brief No. 18, April 2009.

• Shepherd, Ben, **Enhancing Export Diversification Through Trade Facilitation**, Brief No. 19, May 2009.

Recent ARTNeT Working Papers

• Yang, Junsok, **SME Adjustments to IT in Trade Facilitation: The South Korean Experience**, AWP No. 61, January 2009.



• Khan, Mostafa Abid and Farhad, Mohammad, **Duty-Free Market Access in the Republic of Korea: Potential for Least Developed Countries and Bangladesh**, AWP No. 62, March 2009.

• Whalley, John, **On the Effectiveness of Carbon-Motivated Border Tax Adjustments**, AWP No. 63, March 2009.

• De, Prabir, **Global Economic and Financial Crisis: India's Trade Potential and Future Prospects**, AWP No. 64, May 2009.

• Wijavasiri, Janaka and Jayaratne, Suwendrani, **The Impact of IT in Trade Facilitation on SMEs in Sri Lanka**, by Janaka Wijayasiri and Suwendrani Jayaratne, AWP No. 65, May 2009

• Chaturvedi, Sachin, **Impact of IT related Trade Facilitation Measures on SMEs: An Overview of Indian Experience**, AWP No. 66, May 2009.

All policy briefs and working papers are available online at www.artnetontrade.org. If you wish to contribute an ARTNeT policy brief or working paper, please email your drafts for consideration to artnetontrade@un.org.

Asia-Pacific Trade Economists' Conference: *Trade-Led Growth in Times of Crisis*

[continued from page 1] We have selected over 40 abstracts covering a wide range of trade topics and are excited at the prospect of interesting research work over the coming months.

We are pleased to give ARTNeT's members a preview of the Conference in November. The following eminent people have already confirmed their participation: Mr. Kym Anderson (Adelaide University, Australia), Mr. Richard Baldwin (University of Geneva, Switzerland), Mr. Alan Dearnorff (University of Michigan, USA), Mr. Biswajit Dhar (Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India), Mr. Simon Evenett (University of St. Gallen, Switzerland), Mr. Saman Kelegama (Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka), Mr. Patrick Low (WTO), Mr. Fukunari Kimura (Keio University, Japan), Mr. Hank Lim (Singapore Institute of International Affairs), Mr. Kishore Mahbubani (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore), Mr. Patrick Messerlin (Sciences Politiques, France) and Mr. Jun Zhang (Fudan University, China).

While ARTNeT funding for participation in the conference is limited, all ARTNeT members are invited to participate in the conference on a self-funded basis. Registration fees do not apply.

We will be updating information on the conference over the coming months on the web at http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/artnet_conference.asp.

ARTNeT Young Trade Economists' Award 2009

Call for Papers

We are pleased to announce that ARTNeT will make an award for the best paper in the area of international trade and investment submitted by a young scholar (35 or younger) who is a citizen of a developing or least developed country in Asia and the Pacific. Preference will be given to nationals of countries with national institutions who are ARTNeT members. Papers should relate to one of the thematic areas of the Trade Economists' Conference which will take place on 2-3 November 2009.

The winning researcher will be invited to attend the High-Level Trade Conference in Bangkok from 2 to 3 November 2009, with travel and accommodation expenses paid for, and will have the opportunity to present his/her paper to a distinguished audience of trade specialists.

The deadline for papers is 1 July 2009.

For more information, please visit the ARTNeT website at: www.artnetontrade.org.

Upcoming Events

- **ARTNeT GMS Consultative Meeting on *Bridging the Development Gap in the Greater Mekong Subregion***, 1-2 June 2009, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- **ARTNeT GMS Capacity Building Workshop on Competitiveness Analysis**, 3-5 June 2009, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- **ARTNeT/UNESCAP/WTO Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research**, 22-26 June 2009, Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop will address challenges faced by trade researchers with particular reference to climate change and trade, international cooperation in services, and trade finance. Resource persons include Patrick Low (WTO), Nadia Rocha (WTO) and Edward Tower (Duke University, USA).
- **Seventeenth Annual Short Course in Global Trade Analysis: Introduction to Applied General Equilibrium in a Multi-Region Framework**, 8-14 August 2009, Bangkok, Thailand.
- **ARTNeT 5th Anniversary Conference: Trade-Led Growth in Times of Crisis**, 2-3 November 2009, Bangkok, Thailand.