



Asia - Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade Newsletter



Volume 6, Issue 3 / July – October 2010

Dear ARTNeT researchers and friends,

ARTNeT's Phase II (2007-2010) is wrapping up in mid-December 2010 and we are now preparing a proposal for a new phase of the project.

We are proud to report that since September 2007, ARTNeT has awarded 54 research grants for a total of US\$310,000 and published 40 Working Papers, 18 Policy Briefs and 6 Alerts on Emerging Policy Changes. Over the past three years, ARTNeT held a total of 15 capacity workshops on a variety of topics, including gravity modelling, competitiveness analysis, trade and climate change, and trade and gender linkages.

The detailed report of the external evaluation of ARTNeT Phase II, as well as a response by the Secretariat, are available on the ARTNeT website.

Thank you for your active participation in research studies and workshops over the past three years. We look forward to working with you all again in ARTNeT Phase III!

The ARTNeT Secretariat

ARTNeT/ADBI Conference on Reforming services for inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific 11-12 October 2010, Bali, Indonesia

ARTNeT and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) hosted a regional research workshop on Reforming Services for Inclusive and Sustainable Development of Asia and the Pacific. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Bernard Hoekman, (Director, Trade Department, the World Bank, Washington D.C.) on the topic of *Trade in Services and Prospects for Global Inclusive Growth*. The Conference provided an opportunity to disseminate ARTNeT research on regulatory reforms and liberalization in service sector trade and investment and to discuss the impacts of services trade on



poverty and development prospects for the countries in the region.

The presentations made at the workshop are available at: <http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/reformservice.asp>

ESCAP/UNCTAD/WTO/ARTNeT Research Workshop on Trade Diversification in the Context of Global Challenges 27-28 October 2010, Vientiane, Lao PDR

This research workshop was dedicated to the study and discussion of the factors and activities determining economic and trade diversification in developing and least developed countries of the region. The participants examined strategies for the development of new and dynamic sectors of exports.



This workshop was attended by experts from UNCTAD, WTO, ERIT, CIEM, RIS and various other ARTNeT member institutions. Presentation slides and background papers can be viewed at:

<http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/tdgc.asp>

**CPD-ARTNeT Dialogue on
Trade Promotion Through Trade Facilitation
21 October 2010, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Dialogue on Trade Promotion Through Trade Facilitation held in Dhaka on 21 October 2010 was the first event co-organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a Bangladesh think-tank, the ARTNeT cell which it hosts, and the ARTNeT Secretariat.

CPD's Executive Director, Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, chaired the meeting, while Bangladeshi Commerce Secretary M. Golam Hossain was the keynote speaker.

The dialogue highlighted that trade facilitation can significantly lower transaction costs, reduce average transaction times, increase timeliness and even increase compliance with new security initiative requirements. The end result will be improved trade competitiveness and economic growth prospects as a whole.

ARTNeT thanks CPD and the ARTNeT Cell for organizing and hosting ARTNeT's first event in Bangladesh.

**ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop for Trade
Research: Gravity Modelling
23-27 August 2010, Bogor, Indonesia**



Thirty five researchers were trained on how to apply gravity modelling in their research methodology in Bogor, Indonesia. The five-day training was dedicated to hands-on training on gravity modelling, including data sources, dataset preparation, estimation, interpretation and policy applications.

ARTNeT thanks Bogor Agricultural University, and in particular Ms. Rina Oktaviani, for helping to organize this event. All materials relating to the Gravity modelling can be viewed at:

<http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/gravity10.asp>

**ARTNeT/ESCAP/UNDP Workshop on Trade and
Gender Linkages, 15-17 September 2010,
Bangkok, Thailand**

A total of 20 participants from Asia and the Pacific countries attended the first ARTNeT workshop on trade and gender linkages. The three-day seminar included segments on gender-sensitive approaches to statistics including through the use of time-use surveys, modeling with a social accounting matrix, as well as trade facilitation, global value chains, trade negotiations and trade in services.



Participants also had the opportunity to discuss their research proposals with the group and with resource persons.

Presentation slides and reading materials are available at: <http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/tradegender.asp>

**Summary of Survey Findings on ARTNeT Phase III
Priorities**

Many of you will recall that in September 2010, the Secretariat launched an online survey aimed at getting feedback from ARTNeT member institutions and researchers on priority areas for research and training for ARTNeT's next phase. Thank you to all those of you who responded to our survey and provided thoughtful recommendations for ARTNeT's next phase.

The survey revealed that the research areas which ARTNeT researchers and focal points are most interested in are: (1) Trade policy formulation (designing, sequencing), (2) Distributional impacts of trade policies, (3) Comparative analysis of PTAs, (4) Aid for Trade (effectiveness, needs, measurement issues), and (5) Facilitating the participation of SMEs in regional and global value chains. The survey also confirmed the strong interest of ARTNeT researchers in training on general equilibrium modelling, including on GTAP and GAMS.

Details on the survey findings can be found in this presentation:

http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/steercom10_phase3res.pdf

Short-Term Research Grants Awarded 2010 After Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research

Following the organization of the WTO/ESCAP 6th ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research during 21-25 June 2010 in Lao PDR, the following 4 studies were selected to receive short-term research grants:

- Uddin, Md. Gazi Salah, **Emissions, Energy Consumption, Trade and Output Dynamics in South Asia** (Bangladesh).
- Kyophilavong, Phouphet, **Will Trade Liberalization Help or Hinder the Impact of Climate Change? Evidence from Laos and Bangladesh** (Lao PDR).
- Charoensetasin, Tawechai, and Tirasopin, Kittiphol, **Border Carbon Adjustments: Impacts on and Adaptation of Developing Countries-the Case of Thailand** (Thailand)
- Pham, Thai Minh, Tien, Dao Ngoc, and Thuy, Le Thanh, **Determinants of Trade Flows Among Asia-Pacific Countries: the Importance of Trade Specialization and Facilitation** (Vietnam)

We hope to publish these studies as ARTNeT Working Papers in the coming months.

Recent ARTNeT Policy Briefs



- Messerlin, Patrick, **Climate Change and Trade: from Mutual Destruction to Mutual Support**, Brief No. 26, July 2010
- Wermelinger, Martin and Barnes, Ian, **Climate change mitigation policies in the Asia-Pacific: A concern for trade policymakers**, Brief No. 27, September 2010

- Shepperd, Ben, **Facilitating Services Trade in the Asia Pacific**, Brief No. 28, forthcoming
- Nanda, Nitya, **Carbon Standards and Carbon Labelling: An Emerging Trade Concern**, Brief No. 29, forthcoming

Recent ARTNeT Working Papers

- Truong P. Truong, **Review of Analytical Tools for Assessing Trade and Climate Change Linkages**, ARTNeT Working Paper No. 81, July 2010
- Raychaudhuri, Ajitava and De, Prabir, **Trade, Infrastructure and Income Inequality in Selected Asian Countries: An Empirical Analysis**, ARTNeT Working Paper No. 82, August 2010
- Evenett, Simon J., and Wermelinger, Martin, **A Snapshot of Contemporary Protectionism: How Important are the Murkier Forms of Trade Discrimination**, ARTNeT Working Paper No. 83, August 2010
- Kharel, Paras and Belbase, Anil, **Integrating Landlocked Developing Countries into International Trading System Through Trade Facilitation**, ARTNeT Working Paper No. 84, September 2010
- Dat, Vu Hoang and Tien, Nguyen Van, **Differential impacts of trade facilitation on homogeneous and differentiated products in East Asia**, ARTNeT Working Paper Series, No. 85, August 2010



Recent ARTNeT Alerts on Emerging Policy Changes

- Truong, Truong P., and Mikic, Mia, **Trade and Climate Change-Development of the Emission Intensity Indices**, ARTNeT Alert No. 6, August 2010
- Ramjoué, Melanie, **Can trade policies promote gender equality? Exploring the Trade–Growth–Gender Nexus**, ARTNeT Alert No. 7, November 2010



ARTNeT distinguished researcher

Prabir De is a Fellow at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, a long-standing ARTNeT member institution. Prabir has worked extensively in the field of international trade and development, regional economics, trade facilitation and trade costs. He has contributed numerous research papers to ARTNeT, international journals and multilateral organizations on these topics.



Prabir De
Fellow, RIS

He is also the managing editor of the *South Asia Economic Journal*, published by Sage, and edits a policy brief series called *Mekong–Ganga Policy Brief*. His most recent book includes *Globalisation and the Changing Face of Port Infrastructure: The Indian Perspective*, Peter Lang, 2009. Prabir has been an important contributor to ARTNeT over the past years, both as a researcher and resource person. We would like to thank him for his contribution and dedication to the ARTNeT community.

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Call for expressions of interest

The ARTNeT Secretariat is seeking expressions of interest from any of its members interested in hosting ARTNeT trainings and dissemination events in 2011 (both computer lab and classroom-based). Please contact the Secretariat by email at artnetontrade@un.org. Thank you!

ARTNeT Multi-stakeholders' Steering Committee Meeting – Introducing ARTNeT Phase III
29 October 2010, Vientiane, Lao PDR

The ARTNeT Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSC) Meeting, the main advisory body to the ARTNeT Secretariat which is composed of policymakers, research institutions, international organizations, and civil society and private sector representatives, held its annual meeting on 29 October 2010.

This Steering Committee discussed ARTNeT activities in Phase II, the recent external evaluation of the project, as well as lessons learned and suggestions for network development and priorities for ARTNeT Phase III. The Steering Committee provided valuable recommendations which the Secretariat will incorporate into its proposals for ARTNeT's next phase. The Secretariat's presentations to the Steering Committee are available for viewing at:

<http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/steercom10.asp>

Welcome to three new ARTNeT members!

The ARTNeT Secretariat would like to congratulate and welcome The Energy and Resources Institute (India), the Foreign Trade University (Vietnam) and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) as the latest ARTNeT members! The complete list of ARTNeT members can be viewed at: <http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/member.asp>

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ARTNeT Phase III activities
Coming soon!

Please visit our website at www.artnetontrade.org for more details.