

## **Suggested issues and questions for preparation of Government officials and policymakers to the Third ARTNeT Consultative Meeting (1-2 Nov. 2006)**

*In order to facilitate discussions during the consultative meeting, Government officials and policymakers are kindly requested to think about some of the issues and questions below that may be of particular interest to them. No formal statement or write-up is required; this note is only provided to make the meeting as useful and beneficial as possible.*

### **Session 1 – Update on the ARTNeT Thematic Study on Trade Facilitation**

Related documents available:

- ARTNeT working papers: No. 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19  
<http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/pub/wp.asp>
- ARTNeT Policy Brief No.5 (Dec. 2005)  
<http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/pub/polbrief.asp>
- Summary and recommendations of UNDP/ESCAP ARTNeT Consultative Meeting on Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration (Aug. 06)  
<http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/tfri.asp>

Is(are) any of the papers produced through ARTNeT as part of the Thematic Study on Trade Facilitation of particular interest to you or your government and do you agree with the findings of that study/paper? What more could be or should be done in this area? Do you have any specific research questions in mind that either ARTNeT or the relevant national-level research institution member of ARTNeT could tackle? Do you consider your country to have “best practices” in trade facilitation (or related areas) which could be shared with others in the region? [*note: responses to these questions and related comments may also be made in Session 5 if the time allowed for discussion in this session runs out*]

### **Session 2 – Selected ARTNeT Short-term studies**

*Research is on-going and preliminary results will be presented during the meeting.*

Is (are) any of the topics presented of particular interest to you or your government and do you agree with the preliminary findings/implications of that study/paper (if possible you may provide an example from your own country)? What questions may need to be addressed in more details in the draft papers? In the case where a study focuses on another country or subregion, do you still see implications for your own country or subregion.

Are any of the short-term studies already released as ARTNeT working papers (No.1, 3, 7, 13 available at <http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/pub/wp.asp>) of particular interest to you? If so, do you have any suggestions for further related analysis? [*note: responses to these questions and related comments may also be made in Session 5 if the time allowed for discussion in this session runs out*]

### **Session 3 – ARTNeT Regional Study on Services Trade and related research**

*Research is on-going and preliminary results will be presented during the meeting*

[see also ARTNeT policy briefs No. 3 and 4 (Sept. 2005)

<http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/pub/polbrief.asp> ]

What are your government's priorities and/or your concerns about services trade liberalization? Is there a particular sector that requires particular attention in your country or in the region (if possible you may provide an example from your own country)? [*note: responses to these questions and related comments may also be made in Session 5 if the time allowed for discussion in this session runs out*]

### **Session 4 – ARTNeT Website and other tools for trade policymakers**

The ARTNeT website is available at: [www.artnetontrade.org](http://www.artnetontrade.org) . Do you find information on the ARTNeT website useful? Do you have any suggestions on how to improve the site or on new services which could be added to enhance its usefulness and relevance?

### **Session 5: ARTNeT Research Programme 2007 and beyond**

The purpose of this session is to discuss the draft research programme and what specific issues may need to be included under the various subsections of the programme (namely, *follow-up to the thematic study on trade facilitation, follow-up to the thematic study on agricultural trade liberalization, follow-up to the regional study on services trade liberalization, and proposed regional study on trade and investment*).

In addition, the following inputs would be useful, preferably after substantive comments have been exhausted:

- 1- What are your government trade policy research needs? How can ARTNeT, through its research programme and other activities, better address these needs?
- 2- Are working papers and policy briefs a good way to disseminate research?
- 3- How can governments be more involved in the ARTNeT research effort? How can
- 4- What are some key factors that should be taken into account when selecting research teams and institutions to implement the approved research programme (balance between capacity building and quality of outputs)?