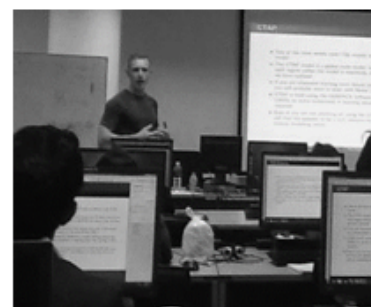
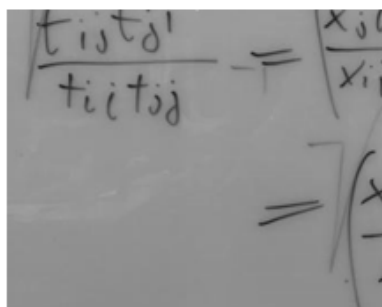
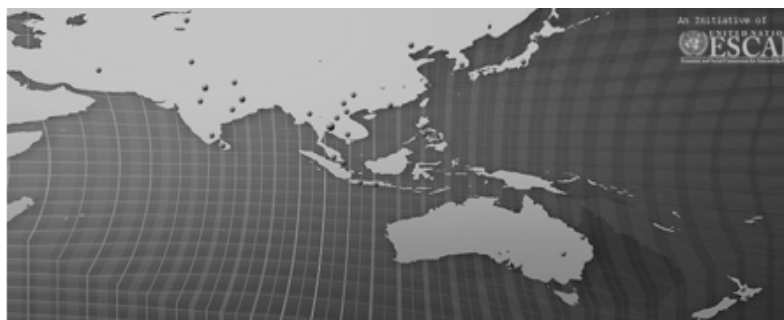
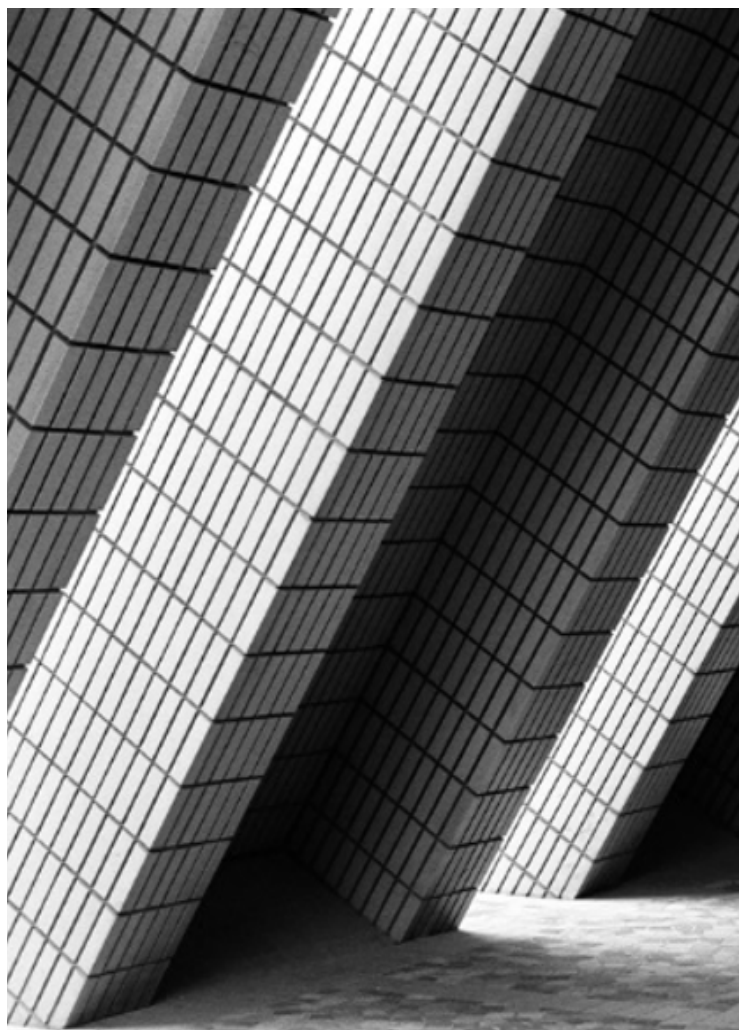




Asia-Pacific Research and Training  
Network on Trade



# An overview of ARTNeT the first decade and beyond



## • • • ARTNeT in brief

ARTNeT is an open regional network of research and academic institutions and think-tanks with a keen interest in addressing key means of implementation for sustainable development: international trade, investment, and technology and innovation policy and facilitation issues in the context of sustainable development.

The Secretariat – provided by the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) – facilitates interactions and communications between policymakers and research institutions at the regional level. The Secretariat at the same time provides access to global trade-related institutions and other important stakeholders in trade, investment and innovation policymaking and research.

Alongside the Secretariat, the work of and under ARTNeT is enabled by steadfast supporters such as advisers and experts who provide guidance in the design and implementation stages of research and capacity building programmes. A range of institutions put in place by the Secretariat – for instance multi-stakeholder meetings and regional consultations – have proved to be of invaluable support to the Secretariat, institutional members and individual researchers.

# ARTNeT's Growth

By January 2019 ARTNeT has

- ✓ Issued **20 research-based books, over 300 working papers and policy briefs** and alerts on topics of trade and investment policy relevance, advancing research techniques and contributing to the body of knowledge arising in the region
- ✓ Held **over 115 workshops** with more than 2,000 participants paying particular attention to enhancing access to qualified female participants
- ✓ Seen a **7x increase in institutional members**, and built a community of **over 1,800 individuals** including researchers, policymakers, government officials and other key stakeholders

## ARTNeT's alignment with SDGs

In 2018, ARTNeT expanded its scope to include other key means of implementation for sustainable development.



**ARTNET on FDI** is a network on foreign direct investment with the aim to ensure investment policies and treaties, FDI promotion and facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region better support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Learn more at [artnet.unescap.org/fdi](https://artnet.unescap.org/fdi)



**ARTNET on STI** is a knowledge platform on science, technology and innovation policies for sustainable development. By means of research, information dissemination and capacity building, our aim is to provide guidance on STI policies to researchers and policymakers in the Asia-Pacific region.

Learn more at [artnet.unescap.org/sti](https://artnet.unescap.org/sti)

## • • • ARTNeT's operational background

Established and supported in its first three phases by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), ARTNeT has grown its core partner base to cover entities such as Agence Française de Développement (AFD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

A number of bilateral donors have also provided additional financial support to the network, e.g., Governments of China, France, India, and Macao, China as well as development agencies and international organizations such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Asian Development Bank Institute, The World Bank, and others.

Since its inception, ARTNeT has focused on increasing the amount and quality of relevant trade and investment applied research in the region. This has been done by harnessing the research capacity already available and developing additional skills through regional team research projects, enhanced research dissemination mechanisms, and increased interactions between policymakers and researchers. The greatest impact in building research capacity thus far has been achieved by establishing technical capacity-building activities catering to researchers and research institutions especially from the least developed countries. ARTNeT looks forward to placing even stronger emphasis on such programs in the future.



## ARTNeT's Vision

ARTNeT was formed in response to regional demand for increased capacity to address obstacles to the development of trade and investment, such as limited access to necessary evidence for trade and investment policy design due to limited research capacity and data limitations, weak and ineffective communication between policymakers and researchers, and a lack of integration of trade and investment policies into national sustainable development strategies.

Since its launch in late 2004, ARTNeT has succeeded in positioning itself as a leading **promoter of local research for evidence-based policymaking and related capacity building underpinning sustainable development.**

Today, ARTNeT supports policymaking by providing researchers with both technical and financial support in undertaking relevant and demand-driven research. It fosters collaborative research by networking of research institutions, universities, think tanks, governments departments and private sector entities.

In particular, ARTNeT is actively engaged with its donors and partners in the issuance of calls for proposals, research grant selection and the dissemination of the conducted research work.

# • • • ARTNeT's areas of activities

The activities of ARTNeT are focused on three pillars, namely:

1. Production of **demand-driven, home-grown and collaborative research to be used as inputs into policies for sustainable development**
2. Building of **research tools, databases and capacity**, particularly that of institutions in countries with special needs
3. **Dissemination of knowledge**, data and information to key stakeholders and translation of research findings into policies

The areas of activities in which policymakers and researchers can benefit from ARTNeT's support include:

- Demand-driven and collaborative research
- Competitive research grant selection based on calls for research proposals
- Access to advocacy forums such as the ARTNeT eForum
- Research dissemination through
  - ❖ Policy Briefs
  - ❖ Working Papers
  - ❖ Books and Research Reports
  - ❖ Book Reviews
  - ❖ Newsletters





- Knowledge platforms including
  - ❖ Asia-Pacific Trade Indicators Portal
  - ❖ Gravity Modeling
  - ❖ Trade Costs Database
  - ❖ Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreement Database
  - ❖ Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation

## ARTNeT's objectives and strategy

### **BUILD RESEARCH CAPACITY AND CAPACITY TO COMMUNICATE RESEARCH**

As many of the countries in the region have yet to evolve trade-related research programmes, ARTNeT strives to build research capacity at home, particularly in least developed countries. This is done through implementation of regional team-based research studies, research grants to junior researchers from least developed countries – with access to team-leaders and advice from established experts in the field – and organization of technical training, especially for junior researchers and policymakers. Going forward, special efforts will be made to enhance the capacity of ARTNeT members and its beneficiaries to effectively communicate the research findings.



## **ADDRESS BOTH PERSISTENT AND EMERGING ISSUES**

While each phase of ARTNeT work has a dedicated theme for a research programme, there is a high degree of flexibility for researchers and partners to be able to embark on any emerging or re-emerging issues of policy relevance. The unique benefit of the programme is its emphasis on multi-institutional and multi-country research studies bringing to the surface common issues and understanding the limits of offering one policy option to all.

## **CONSULT AND SEEK FEEDBACK FROM POLICYMAKERS**

The ARTNeT research programme has been developed in close consultation with policymakers, research institutions, and other stakeholders, and it is implemented by developing country researchers and research institutions with significant input from advisers and experts associated with the network. Research findings are likewise disseminated through the same channels.

## **PROVIDE FREE AND RELIABLE ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

ARTNeT members' and partners' research has been disseminated through a dedicated website including a series of publications and a regular monthly ARTNeT Newsletter. All capacity building materials are available freely online and datasets are accessible on request. ARTNeT outreach is assisted through its social media platforms as well as through collaboration with sister networks and global NGOs.



# • • • • Our network structure

ARTNeT Membership is categorized into three types:

## **Institutional Members**

Institutional members are research institutions, think-tanks, research-generating and training organizations, and government departments from the region, with an established record in high-quality research and/or training, but a need for capacity building and bridging the gap in communicating with policymakers.

## **Core Partners**

ARTNeT core partners are governmental or intergovernmental institutions who provide significant and regular support to ARTNeT activities in the form of financial contributions, expertise, and substantive inputs for research. At present the core partners include (in alphabetical order) AfD, ESCAP, IDRC, UNCTAD, UNDP and WTO.

## **Associate Partners**

Associate partners are international or regional institutions and think-tanks who participate in ARTNeT activities or collaborate with ARTNeT institutional members and the Secretariat for organization of capacity building activities or consultative policy meetings; joint research projects; sharing and cross-dissemination of research outputs; and other areas.

# • • • • In the words of our beneficiaries

## **ON ARTNeT's PUBLICATIONS**

*"Whenever I need some input or background information to prepare an executive briefing paper for my job relating to policy, I refer and use ARTNeT Policy briefs, which has been very useful and time-saving for me."*

## **ON ARTNeT's SEMINARS**

*"Participation in ARTNeT Consultative Meetings [of research institutions and policymakers] has allowed me to more closely interact with the government trade policymakers. Later on, when trade policies were designed, I was sought out for policy advice and suggestions."*

## **ON ARTNeT's TRAININGS**

*"I highly value the role of ARTNeT in enhancing my empirical research capabilities, I am proud to have been associated with ARTNeT, and I look forward to contributing to this network, where possible, in the future."*



# Looking forward

## NEW INITIATIVES IN THE PIPELINE

### ○ Women in ARTNeT (WIA)

WIA is a new project undertaken by ESCAP's Trade, Investment and Innovation division. It aims to bring more women into the ARTNeT community and to support junior women academics, analysts, practitioners and policymakers to upskill themselves in trade-related disciplines and to either become involved in or enhance their influence on policymaking. This will ultimately make ARTNeT a more inclusive network and strengthen its capabilities to address a more diverse set of policy-relevant research questions and provide richer policy solutions to the developing countries in the region.

### ○ Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor (TINA)

TINA is an online portal that aims to assist ESCAP member States in the negotiation of trade agreements, with the ultimate objective of enhancing trade in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides insights into existing trade agreements and tariffs, and the scope for and impact of associated negotiations. The portal is available online on [tina.negotiatetrade.org](https://tina.negotiatetrade.org) and is currently in a testing phase.

# • • • Looking forward

## **WHY SUPPORT ARTNeT TODAY?**

As economies and societies in the region continue to grow, they need to adapt to new challenges and conditions. **ARTNeT keeps evolving to respond to this changing environment faced by policymakers, analysts, researchers and other stakeholders.** However, what will not change is ARTNeT's commitment to valuing consultation, collaboration and cooperation.

ARTNeT Secretariat will continue to work with partners to strengthen this established collaborative platform in order to enable its members to embark onto new and ever-more challenging areas of research covering contemporary concerns in trade, investment, competitiveness, inequalities, inclusive growth, and ecological sustainability – all essential issues in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals.

While **ARTNeT has already been recognized as an effective model for pursuing trade policy research, networking and capacity building**, more still needs to be done. In particular, ARTNeT calls for a helping hand to broaden its platform for learning from each other and to create new evolved and more adept policies based on homegrown lessons, research and experiences. Strengthening ARTNeT's presence in the least developed countries and expanding ARTNeT's activities are high on the current agenda. Establishing new partnerships and continuing the highly successful trainings and seminars will be essential for ARTNeT's continued success.

• • • • Join us

## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN ARTNeT

- Improved regional dissemination of your own research to policy makers through ARTNeT website, ESCAP publications, and ARTNeT meetings;
- Networking with other trade researchers, institutions and networks such as Virtual Institute and PEP;
- Enhanced opportunities to participate in ARTNeT research projects and projects from relevant international institutions;
- Opportunities to participate in technical training workshops for junior researchers and analysis in both research and government institutions; and
- Enhanced access to other capacity building activities including emerging-issue-workshops, consultation seminars and conferences by ARTNeT and its members



Find us and subscribe to our newsletter at [artnet.unescap.org](http://artnet.unescap.org)



@ARTNeTontrade



ARTNeTonline



ARTNeT group

