ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop on Trade Research
UNESCAP in cooperation with UNCTAD and WTO

Bangkok, 22-24 March, 2005

An introduction to international trade research

• Research and trade policy formulation
• The state of play in the Doha negotiations
• Some topical research questions
Research and trade policy formulation

• What policymakers need to know: the role of research
• Empirical research and theory
• A fundamental distinction in empirical research:
  – Understanding policy relationships
  – Predicting the consequences of policies
• Research versus description
• Research versus advocacy
Research and trade policy formulation (cont.)

• Quantification, estimation and evaluation – commonly applied techniques:
  – Partial equilibrium models
  – General equilibrium models
  – Gravity models
  – Case studies

• Aggregation, generalization and the challenge of being relevant

• Where do we get the numbers?
The state of play in the Doha negotiations

• From Doha to Cancún, to the July 2004 Package, to Hong Kong, China (December 2005), and to the end of the negotiations

  – Market access
    • Agriculture
    • Non-agricultural market access
    • Services
  – Development, S&D, implementation
  – Trade facilitation
  – Rules, regionalism

• The Doha Work Programme
Agriculture

- Progress so far with the agriculture negotiations
- The three pillars of liberalization:
  - Export subsidies
  - Domestic support
  - Market access
- S&D in agriculture
Non-Agricultural Market Access

• Outstanding issues
  – The formula
  – Calculation of AVEs
  – Flexibilities
  – Unbound tariffs
  – Preference erosion
  – Sectoral tariff negotiations and other modalities
Trade in Services

• Progress so far
  – Trade liberalization offers
  – Rules-related negotiations
    • Regulation
    • Safeguards
    • Subsidies
    • Procurement
    • Nomenclature and other scheduling issues
Development issues in the Doha Negotiations

• Addressing special and differential treatment
  – Policies to assist developing countries
  – Rules and flexibility for developing countries
  – Market access
• Implementation
• Technical assistance
Development issues in the Doha Work Programme

• Trade and technology transfer
• Trade, debt and finance
• Small economies
Trade facilitation

• The trade facilitation mandate
  – Transit
  – Fees and formalities
  – Transparency

• Trade facilitation and development
Rules

• Trade remedies (anti-dumping and countervailing duties)

• Subsidies disciplines

• Fisheries subsidies

• Regionalism