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# UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

NEW TECHNOLOGIES, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING BRANCH  
DIVISION FOR SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE EFFICIENCY

## TRAINING AND CAPACITY- BUILDING ACTIVITY REPORT 2005



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DIVISION FOR SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE EFFICIENCY

**TRAINING  
AND CAPACITY-BUILDING  
ACTIVITY REPORT 2005**



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## INTRODUCTION

The individual and collective ability of people in a country to sustain themselves and make progress depends critically on the quality and performance of their institutions and organizations at all levels of society.

Many developing countries, particularly the least developed and landlocked, have difficulties facing the current challenges on the economic agenda, partly because they lack the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to find, analyse, elaborate, and apply relevant information for policy formulation, particularly in relation to trade and development.

These countries have a pressing need for competent decision makers who can define and implement efficient trade and investment strategies for economic and social development. The increased complexity of multilateral trade negotiations makes it vital for vulnerable countries to have well-trained negotiators defending their interests. The UNCTAD secretariat is therefore implementing technical assistance programmes that offer concrete solutions to these needs, and have a proven ability to achieve positive results in the field of human resources development.

These training and capacity-building programmes - the UNCTAD Virtual Institute on Trade and Development, the Training Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda, and TRAINFORTRADE - play a key and growing role in building the capacities of developing countries around the world by strengthening their human resource base and capacity to pursue their own trade and development objectives.

These programmes have recently been strengthened and aligned to provide a more coherent and complementary solution to the many needs of beneficiary countries in the field of human resources development. The pedagogical expertise of these programmes has been placed at the heart of UNCTAD's training and capacity-building efforts. Synergies among these programmes, and between them and other substantive UNCTAD programmes, boost the efficiency of the organization's work in this area.

This report, which presents the activities carried out by these programmes in 2005, is intended to give the reader a global view of the aims and results of their training and capacity-building work for developing countries, particularly the least developed ones.







## 1. A DISTINCT BUT COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH

UNCTAD's Training Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda, the Virtual Institute on Trade and Development (Vi) and TRAINFORTRADE are three complementary programmes that, by developing human resources, seek to build national and regional capacities to formulate, negotiate and implement policies, and to strengthen trade-related skills. Their ultimate objective is to maximize the benefits of globalization for developing countries, particularly for the least developed countries (LDCs), thereby contributing to the implementation of the eighth UN Millennium Development Goal calling for a global partnership for development.

The three programmes have succeeded in offering distinct but complementary capacity-building services for the development of human resources:

- they operate in the fields of international trade, trade-related services, investment, tourism and port management, and create a network of expertise in developing countries, thereby reinforcing South-South cooperation;
- they draw upon UNCTAD's analytical work in the areas of globalization and development, trade and development, infrastructures for trade development, and investment and development. UNCTAD's knowledge, expertise, insights and analysis are transmitted to key actors in developing countries, by means of networking and pedagogical capability;
- the three programmes make extensive use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to disseminate information, exchange experiences and network with trainers and trainees in different parts of the world. The technology chosen for these activities has proved effective even in the least developed countries.

The three programmes all reach out to decision makers involved in formulating and implementing trade-related policies. The Training Courses on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda and TRAINFORTRADE courses are attended by middle and senior representatives of the public and private sectors. The Virtual Institute, on the other hand, works with universities that educate current and future decision makers and provide policy advice to governments on how to design trade and development policies for efficient integration into the world economy.

[1] The mandate of the Virtual Institute on Trade and



The **Virtual Institute**<sup>[1]</sup> supports a global network of institutions of higher learning whose teaching and research programmes are concerned with international trade and development

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