

**Second Technical Capacity Building Workshop on
Afghanistan's Accession to WTO:
Exchanging Policy Options and Business Interests on Priority Issues
17-18 April 2013, New Delhi**

Venue: Conference Hall, ESCAP-SSWA, C-2 Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi

Programme

Wednesday, 17 April 2013 (DAY 1)

09.30 – 10.00 **Registration**

10.00 – 10.30 **Opening Session**

Welcome Address : **Dr. Nagesh Kumar**, Head, ESCAP South and South West Asia
Office and Chief Economist, UN-ESCAP

Opening Remarks: **Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal**, Chief, Business and Trade Policy,
International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva

Keynote Address: **H.E. Mr. Shaida Mohhamad Abdali**, Ambassador of Afghanistan,
New Delhi

10.30 – 10.45 *Coffee/Tea Break*

10.45 – 11.45 **Session 1: WTO Accession of Afghanistan: Status of the Negotiation Process;
Benefits and Challenges**

Speaker: Mr. Hafizullah Baha, Professional Member, WTO Department,
Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of Afghanistan

*Presentation and discussion focusing on the objectives pursued with WTO Membership
of Afghanistan, as well as the accession strategy guiding those objectives. Perspectives
on the unique situation of Afghanistan economy and regulatory environment, as a
background to the Government-led negotiations and reform-process.*

Open Discussion

11.45 – 13.00 **Session 2: Economic, Social and Development Aspects of WTO Services
Negotiations**

Speaker 1: Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, ITC, Geneva

*WTO Accession, and expansion of trade agreements in general, brings about
opportunities and challenges for economic growth, and social development. This session
will introduce participants to the role of services trade in the economy, as well as aspects
of openness and regulation. In specific, this session will highlight how WTO Accession of
Afghanistan may create benefits and challenges for provision and quality of
'infrastructure' and 'social services' in the economy. Equally, highlighting of other
relevant services sectors that are crucial for development and economic growth
(such as financial, infrastructure, energy, telecommunications services)*

Speaker 2: Mr. Habibullah Asad, Trade Policy Advisor, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Government of Afghanistan

Perspectives on Afghanistan services negotiations in the context of its WTO accession process. Specifically, attention will be paid to how domestic business efficiency and competitiveness, as well as social, developmental priorities, are taken into account during the negotiations.

Open discussion

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Session 3: Regulating Financial Services: Experience of India

Speaker 1: Dr. Shashank Saksena, Director, Banking Operations, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Speaker 2: Dr. Mathew Joseph, Professor, Economics and Business Policy, FORE School of Management

Speaker 3: Mr. Deepak Singhal, Regional Director, RBI

Experience from India in opening and regulating its financial services sector (banking, insurance) to foreign investors. Lessons learnt with regard to sequencing, and managing the process.

Open discussion

15.30 – 15.45

Coffee/Tea Break

15.45

Leave for Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi

16.30 – 17.30

Special Session at FICCI
(Council Room, 3rd Floor)

Speakers

Welcome Remarks – Mr. Goutam Ghosh, Director & Head - South Asia & Arab Regions, FICCI

Presentation by : Ms. Nirupama Soundararajan, Additional Director & Head, Banking and Finance Division, FICCI

Open Discussion

Thursday, 18 April 2013 (DAY 2)

09.30 – 11.00

Session 3 (continued) Regulating Financial Services: Banking Sector

Private Bank's Perspective:

Speaker 1: Mr. Saugata Bhattacharya, Senior Vice President, Corporate Banking and Chief Economist, Axis Bank, Mumbai

Experience of Deregulation of Insurance Sector in India:

Speaker 2: Mr. T. Sriram, Executive Director, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority, Hyderabad

Open Discussion

11.00 – 11:15

Coffee/Tea Break

11:15 – 13.00

Session 4: Trade in Transport & Energy Services

Speaker : Dr. Prabir De, Fellow, RIS, New Delhi

This session will introduce participants to the particulars of trade in transport services, the growing economic importance and its relevance for the private sector, especially in landlocked countries.

Open Discussion

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.00

Session 5: Trade Facilitation; Identifying Opportunities through “Afghanistan WTO Accession and Membership?”

Speaker : Dr. Dayaratna Silva, ESCAP-SSWA

This Session will introduce participants to the key issues and challenges in the area of Trade Facilitation while highlighting the importance of trade facilitation for regional integration. This session will also provide an update of current status of WTO negotiations on trade facilitation, the conclusion of which may bring special benefits to LLDCs like Afghanistan.

15.00-16.30

Session 6: Freedom of Transit: Opportunities for WTO Acceding Countries

Speaker : Ms. Angela Strachan, ITC Geneva

This session sets out how WTO GATT Agreement provides rules in relation to ensuring the smooth and non-discriminatory flow of trade across borders for transit. Nowadays, freedom of transit is still problematic for many traders, especially in landlocked countries, where possibilities for transportation are often dependent on relations with neighboring countries. This also session provides insights into benefits and challenges for WTO Acceding countries in the area of freedom of transit. Perspectives on current DDA negotiations in relation to freedom of transit, to improve and further clarify the WTO rules (GATT Article V) in relation to Freedom of Transit.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_7065

