



STUDIES IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT
57

An exploration of the need
for and cost of selected trade
facilitation measures in Asia and the
Pacific in the context of
the WTO negotiations



United Nations
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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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Preface

This publication brings together the main research outputs produced by the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) and its members on the need for and cost of trade facilitation measures related to GATT Articles V, VIII and X between April 2005 and April 2006. Research in this area was undertaken following approval of the ARTNeT Research Programme by participants to the First ARTNeT Consultative Meeting of Policymakers and Research Institutions on 29 October 2004.

The research was conducted by a regional team of researchers from five research institutions in the region, including two institutions in least developed countries. Participating researchers and research institutions were selected based on the twin ARTNeT objectives of building national and regional trade research capacity and of delivering quality analysis to policymakers from the region.

This publication is divided into two parts. Part I features a synthesis of country studies conducted in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia and Nepal by Debapriya Bhattacharya and Syed S. Hossain, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD, Bangladesh), Chen Wenjing and Li Wei, Chinese Academy for International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC, China), Sachin Chaturvedi, Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS, India), Yoze Rizal Damuri, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS, Indonesia) and Pushpa Raj Rajkarnikar, Nephil M. Maskay and Shiva R. Adhikari, Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD, Nepal), respectively. It also includes the main results of an international trade facilitation expert survey on the cost of implementation, prioritization and sequencing of trade facilitation measures conducted by Yann Duval, Trade and Investment Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (TID, ESCAP).

Part II consists of the individual summaries of the six ARTNeT studies on which the synthesis is based, complemented by a CD-ROM featuring the full text of the background studies as well as related studies by ARTNeT members and partners and templates of the survey instruments developed as part of these studies. All six ARTNeT studies were earlier released as ARTNeT Working Papers No. 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10 (see www.artnetontrade.org) following presentation of preliminary results during the Second ARTNeT Consultative Meeting of Policymakers and Research Institutions held in Macao, China in October 2005. Results and policy implications of these studies were also presented at the OECD Global Forum on Trade Facilitation held in Colombo in October 2005 and at the UNDP/ESCAP ARTNeT Consultative Meeting on Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration held in Bangkok in August 2006.

This research effort was carried out with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre, (IDRC, Canada) and additional financial support of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The regional research team was coordinated by Yann Duval. Guidance and advice provided by Florian Albuero, University of the Philippines, Donald Lewis, Hong-Kong University, and Evdokia Moise, OECD, as external ARTNeT advisers on trade facilitation, are gratefully acknowledged. Editorial and secretarial assistance by Christopher Kuonqui and Tavitra Ruyaphorn, respectively, are also gratefully acknowledged.

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