



IMPLEMENTATION OF WTO PROVISIONS AND BUSINESS AWARENESS OF WTO ACCESSION

22 May 2012, Dushanbe

MAKING THE MOST OF WTO ACCESSION: LEARNING PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESS MANAGERS

Benefits and challenges of WTO accession, as well as lessons from other countries' WTO accession process and membership will be under the focus of a 1, 5-day training in Dushanbe city.

"Making the most of WTO accession: services negotiations and liberalization lessons from other countries" training will be held on 22-23 May, 2012 at the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan. The training will be held under the recently approved and introduced project on "Implementation of WTO provisions and business awareness of WTO Accession" funded by the Government of Switzerland through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

The present project is implemented by International Trade Centre (ITC) in close collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, selected business associations and service providers. The project is a component of SECO's Trade Cooperation Programme (TCP) in Tajikistan. The TCP's overall objective is to contribute to the implementation of complex domestic reforms of Tajikistan to become a full member of the WTO. The project focuses on sectors of agro industrial products, textiles, and financial, telecommunications, transport and energy services.

Representatives of all relevant ministries, agencies, international organizations and the private sector will come together today and tomorrow to learn about the regulation of services trade under WTO and the role of services in the accession process, as well as the experiences of recently acceded countries in relation to the above-mentioned services. Ms. Svetlana Zaitseva from the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine will share Ukraine's experience in WTO accession with the participants.

Mr. Arif Hussain, ITC Senior Adviser on WTO accession and former Director of the WTO Accessions Division) will introduce the training participants with the concepts of public private dialogue and business advocacy, as well as illustrations of experience of countries where collaboration between government and private sector in the process towards WTO accession, and trade policy negotiations has taken place. Mr. Hussain says: *"The ability of the private sector to seize the opportunities presented by this system depends to a great extent on the Government's commitment to implement the domestic policy reform agenda based on solid consensus among the major stakeholders. The Government must establish a business environment which is conducive to private investments in the economy"*.

Mr. Jean-Sebastien Roure, Senior Officer, ITC Business & Trade Policy Section says: *"WTO membership no doubt obliges Member Governments to complete domestic reforms. It is also well recognised that in order to advance the process of Tajikistan's WTO Accession, both multilaterally (rules and regulations) as well as bilaterally (market access negotiations), the progress on services sector reforms is of utmost importance"*.

Access to competitive infrastructure services, such as telecommunications, energy and transport, as well as public private consultation on the WTO accession negotiations and the services commitments are in the list of the main themes to be discussed at the training.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations who's goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business. The organisation has 155 members and 2 more countries have already completed their accession

negotiations and are now awaiting ratification of their accession package. Another 22 governments, including Tajikistan, have applied to accede to the WTO, which are at different stages in the process.

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