

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Commerce

No. 5(1)/2022-Admn-I/HR-I

Islamabad, the 18th January, 2023


CIRCULAR

SUBJECT: - WTO REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, GENEVA-SWITZERLAND, 14 -17 MARCH 2023

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of self explanatory email along with its enclosure, received from the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the WTO Geneva on the above mentioned subject for placing on the website of the Ministry of Commerce.

2. Interested officers of the Ministry who fulfill the eligibility criteria may send their nominations for the subject workshop duly approved by their respective Head(s) of the Wing(s) to HR-I Section latest by **24-01-2023 positively.**

Encl: **As Above**


(Muhammad Imtiaz)
Section Officer (HR-I)

**Database Administrator,
Ministry of Commerce,
(Islamabad.)**

WTO23/1 WTO Regional Workshop on the Information Technology Agreement and Digital Transformation, Geneva - Switzerland, 14-17 March 2023

Inbox

haja.ranaivo@wto-pakistan.org

6:00 AM
(15 hours ago)

to me, Sadia, ashfaqdcwto@gmail.com, fahad.raza@wto-pakistan.org, owais.hussain@wto-pakistan.org

Dear Sir,

Kindly find attached the following documents for the WTO regional workshop on ITA and digital transformation that will take place in Geneva from 14-17 March 2023:

- An invitation Letter
- An Application Form (kindly note that the **passport is compulsory**)
- A draft Programme of the Course

Candidacies must be returned, completed and signed, **to this Mission before the 3rd February 2023 to allow the Mission to convey the applications to the WTO.**

Best regards,
Haja

Haja Ranaivo
Trade Development Officer
Delegation Coordinator

Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the WTO
37-39 Rue de Vermont. 1211 Genève
Tel 022 748 70 25 - Fax 022 748 70 29

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WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Direct line: (+41 22) 739 6440
Email: Logistics.Unit@wto.org

EMAIL

To: Heads of Delegation
Members to the WTO
E-mail: List attached
Date: 16/01/2023
From: Bridget Chilala
Director
Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation

Number of Pages (Including this one): 8

Div. Ref: WTO23/1

WTO WORKSHOP ON THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION (IN ENGLISH)

14-17 March 2023

Invitation to Present Candidates

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization is organizing a Workshop on the Information Technology Agreement and Digital Transformation in English. This course will take place at the WTO Headquarters, in Geneva, from 14-17 March 2023.

The Workshop is a specialized training activity that intends to familiarize participants with the provisions of the WTO Information Technology Agreement, to elaborate on the role of the ITA in terms of national IT infrastructure development and digital transformation, and to address selected policy issues linked to attracting foreign direct investment and integrating into global value chains. A team of WTO staff and business practitioners or academic experts will engage with the participants through a series of presentations, exercises, and interactive discussions. A tentative programme for the event is attached.

The course is targeted at capital-based government officials at middle to senior level who have at least five years of relevant work experience. Candidates are required to have a good understanding of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; in addition, they should be willing to share their experiences, to prepare short contributions, and to participate actively in all of the sessions. Candidates who are responsible for formulating national tariff policies, and those who are familiar with their government's IT infrastructure development or digital transformation policies, will be given priority in the selection process.

The Governments of Members and Observers to the WTO, which are eligible to benefit from training and technical cooperation activities, are invited to submit the names of **one or two officials** for consideration in the selection process.

The WTO Secretariat makes available twenty-eight (28) fellowships for this activity. Each fellowship covers the following: a round trip airplane ticket in economy class; daily subsistence allowance; a terminal expenses allowance; and accommodation for the duration of the course.

The WTO Secretariat reserves the right to postpone or cancel this activity in the event of overriding circumstances beyond its control or reasons that render the execution of the activity impracticable.

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WTO OMC

- 2 -

..... The attached Application Form must be returned, completed and signed by the candidate as well as by the nominating national authority which presents the candidate, **via the Permanent Mission/Embassy to the WTO, at the latest by Friday, 3 February 2023**. Please note that, in light of the logistical complexity of the activity, the Secretariat will not be in a position to process applications received after this deadline.

The Application Form should be returned by email to the **WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, Logistics Unit: logistics.unit@wto.org**.

Selected participants will receive confirmation directly. Additional administrative information, travel details and ticket will be sent shortly after the selection has taken place.



WTO APPLICATION FORM

WTO WORKSHOP ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

14-17 MARCH 2023

DEADLINE: 3 February 2023

PART I

To be completed by the Applicant in ENGLISH (In CAPITAL LETTERS if handwritten)

MANDATORY: ALL THE INFORMATION ASKED IN THIS SECTION AND A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT

Dr

Mr

Mrs

Ms

Surname	
Given name	
Birth date <i>day/month/year</i>	
Nationality	
Title/Position	
Ministry/ Government entity	
City	
WTO Member/Acceding Government	
Mobile phone number	
Email addresses*	* Important: all communications and documents will be sent by e-mail

Higher (university) education

When?	Where?	Title of qualification

Work experience

Brief description of your current responsibilities	
On which date did you take up your current functions?	
What was your previous post?	

WTO training undertaken

Have you successfully completed a WTO e-Learning course(s)? If so, which (with dates)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES If so, which (with dates)?	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Other WTO course(s) undertaken & dates		

What is the objective that you would like to achieve by participating in this activity?

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Additional information about the activity

Background: Preference will be given to applicants having a demonstrated background in Information Technology Agreement-related trade policies and direct responsibility in formulating digital transformation policies in governments. The Organizers reserve the right to select candidates and to decline the candidature of applicants not meeting these requirements.

Language skills: This activity will be delivered in English. Participants are required to have full command of English and be able to make presentations as appropriate. By signing this application form the Applicant and Nominating Authority certify that the Applicant meets this requirement.

PART II	To be completed by the Nominating Authority
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The Nominating Authority	
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- Officially nominates:

Name of candidate	
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- to attend the WTO Workshop on Information Technology Agreement and Digital Transformation, on 14-17 March 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland;
- confirms that the candidate has direct responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in ITA-related matters, has full command of English, and will be able to successfully and actively participate in the programme; and
- is fully aware that this nomination is subject to the decisions of the WTO Selection Committee and to the conditions described in the Annex to this application, which we have thoroughly read and accepted.

Details of the official responsible for nominating this candidate:

Surname	
Given Name	
Title/Position	
Organization/Entity	
Telephone	
Email address	

By signing this form, the Candidate and the Nominating Authority certify that all the information included is complete and correct

Date & signature (Candidate)	Date, <u>signature</u> & STAMP (Nominating Authority)

ANNEX: CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN WTO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

Please note that the WTO Secretariat DOES NOT assume financial or any other responsibility for items not explicitly mentioned in this Note as being covered. This means that the WTO Secretariat assumes NO responsibility for, among others, the following items:

1. Expenses incurred in connection with the participant's preparations for undertaking the Workshop: xxx.
2. Salaries of the participants during their participation in the Activity.

I, the undersigned Applicant, declare that I have carefully read this application form and that I accept the aforementioned conditions:

Date, name, signature of the candidate & stamp



THIS COMPLETED FORM SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY YOUR PERMANENT MISSION/EMBASSY, WITH A PDF COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS ONLY, AT THE LATEST BY THE DEADLINE MENTIONED ON PAGE 1

**Logistics Unit
Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation
Email: Logistics.unit@wto.org**

INCOMPLETE/ILLEGIBLE FORMS, OR FORMS NOT PRESENTED BY THE PERMANENT MISSION, OR PRESENTED BY THE PERMANENT MISSION AFTER THE DEADLINE, WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

**WTO Workshop on Information Technology Agreement
and Digital Transformation**

**Geneva, Switzerland
14 – 17 March 2023
Training Room T5**

Tentative Program

14 March (Tuesday)

- 09:00 – 09:15 **Registration**
Venue: Training room T5
- 09:15 – 09:30 **Introduction of administrative arrangements**
Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation
- 09:30 – 09:45 **Welcome Address**
- 10:00 – 10:15 **Pre-Workshop Quiz**
- 10:15 – 11:15 **Session 1: WTO Agreements in General: *Principles, Schedules, Disciplines on Tariffs***
Market Access Division
- 11:15 – 11:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:30- 13:00 **Session 2: Overview of the Information Technology Agreement: Provisions and Obligations**
Market Access Division
- 13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**
- 14:30 – 16:00 **Session 3: Why an LDC chose to join the ITA? National Experience of Lao PDR, followed by Group Discussion**
External Speaker
- 16:00 – 16:15 **Coffee break**
- 16:15 - 17:00 **Session 4: WTO Members' ICT development practices: from an TPR perspective**
TPRD

15 March (Wednesday)

- 09:00 – 10:00 **Session 5: Introduction of ITA Expansion Agreement (ITA2) and ITA Committee's Work**
Market Access Division
- 10:00-10:15 Coffee break
- 10:15 – 11:45 **Session 6: FDI and Global Value Chain in IT Sector**
UNCTAD
- 11:45 – 12:45 **Session 7: Digital Transformation and E-Commerce**
External speaker
- 12:45 – 13:00 **[Group photo]**
- 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 – 17:00 **Session 8: Global IT trade development and how to use WTO database and IT tools to obtain ITA-related tariff information: hands on practices**
ERSD and Market Access Division

16 March (Thursday)

- 09:00 – 10:00 **Session 9: ITA and digital infrastructure in developing countries: Experience and Challenges**
Presentations by participants on national experience and challenges of digital transformation
- 10:00 - 13:00 **Session 10: Case Study in Groups**
- 13:00 - 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 – 17:00 **Session 11: Dialogue with ICT industry representatives: new technology and new products and Global Value Chain**
External Speakers

17 March (Friday)

- 09:00 – 11:45 **Session 12: Group Discussions on strategy on digital transformation**
- 11:45 – 13:00 **Session 13: Workshop Review and Q&A Session**
Market Access Division
- 13:00 - 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 – 15:00 **Post-Workshop Quiz and Evaluation**
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Closing Remarks**
- 15:30 **Close of the Workshop.**