



3 January 2012

Mr. Hasan Nawaz Tarar
Additional Secretary
Economic Affairs Division
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Statistics
Room No. 401, 'C' Block, Pakistan Secretariat
Islamabad, Pakistan

Dear Mr. Tarar,

As you recall, at a Trade Policy Coordinating Committee (TPCC) meeting held on 21 November 2011 in Baku, Azerbaijan, a discussion took place on a training program under the CAREC WTO Accession Knowledge Sharing program. The purpose of the program is to implement capacity building to facilitate WTO accession in relevant CAREC countries, and to improve the general institutional environment for trade. Further, a broad agenda for the first three seminars was discussed and agreed at the TPCC.

We are pleased to inform you that the first seminar under the program, "**Recent Developments in the Multilateral Trading System in the Agriculture Sector**", will be held on **12-14 March 2012** at the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI) in Vienna, Austria, under the auspices of the World Bank Institute (WBI). The workshop will discuss the key features of the multilateral trading system in food and agriculture, focusing on patterns of trade and protection across regions and economies, main features of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture and the Doha Round negotiations, as well as impacts of trade liberalization on agricultural producers and consumers. The preliminary outline of the seminar and information on resource speakers are attached for your information.

The seminar is targeted to middle- to senior-level trade officials (approximately Directors of relevant departments to Vice Ministers) from CAREC countries. Non-WTO CAREC countries would be expected to send officials who are working in the accession team and are dealing with agricultural issues, and WTO CAREC countries would ideally send officials who were involved in the accession process. We are kindly requesting you to identify two such relevant officials for this seminar. In addition, we encourage you to identify one more participant from a broader analytical community in the country (eg., from research organizations, think tanks or academia) who might be involved, or interested, in the agricultural issues in the WTO accession process. As was discussed during the TPCC meeting, it will be beneficial to involve local think tanks and researchers whose analytical resources could be drawn upon by the authorities during the WTO accession process.

The WBI will cover all costs associated with participation in the workshop (eg., air transportation and transfers, visa expenses, accommodation, and per diem expenses including meals). The working language of the seminar is English, and hence all three identified participants would need to have at least a working level of English language proficiency.

To help us with a successful preparation of the workshop, we will appreciate if you could disseminate this information among the relevant Ministries, offices, and a broad analytical community in your country; identify the qualified participants; and send us the following information on each participant, latest by **23 January 2012**: (i) full name; (ii) title and work position; (iii) passport details; and (iv) responsibility, if any, in the WTO accession process, or research interest. In addition, please indicate whether there are any specific issues which are deemed relevant to your country and which you prefer to be included in the seminar agenda.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jean-Christophe Maur at the WBI (jmaur@worldbank.org), Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova at the ADB (lsabyrova@adb.org), and Mr. Dmitriy Rozhkov (drozhkov@imf.org) at the IMF, should you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to holding this important first training seminar in this series, and hope that it will benefit the institutional trade environment in your country.

Sincerely yours,



Raj Nallari
Manager
Growth and Competitiveness
Practice
World Bank Institute



Ronald Antonio Q. Butiong
Officer in Charge
Regional Cooperation and
Operations Coordination Division,
Central and West Asia
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Ana Lucía Coronel
Division Chief
TPCC Co-Chair
International Monetary Fund

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Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Commerce

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Islamabad, the 19th January, 2012

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Copy of Economic Affairs Division's letter No. Nil, dated 03-01-2012 is forwarded with the request that nomination of suitable officers duly approved/recommended by their respective officer may kindly be furnished to Admn-I Section latest by **20-01-2012**.



(MARIA KAZI)

Section Officer (Admn-I)

Preliminary Outline of the Seminar

The workshop will discuss the main features of the multilateral trading system in food and agriculture, with a focus on and the main topics will cover the patterns of trade and protection across regions and across economies, the main features of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, the current negotiations in the Doha Round which build upon that Agreement, and the major impacts of trade liberalization as well as the likely effect of the Doha Round outcome on producers and consumers, including those in developing countries.

The preliminary proposed outline is as follows.

Day 1: Stylized facts and trends in trade, protection, and distortions in the agri-food sector.

Day 2: Multilateral Disciplines, the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, and Status of current negotiations including rules on subsidies.

Day 3: Impact of trade liberalization, and Effects of WTO accession (country experiences, including the People's Republic of China and Ukraine); sharing of the CAREC countries' experiences and insights.

Experts/Resource Speakers:

David Laborde Debucquet, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Soamiely Andriamananjara, Senior Economist WBI, World Bank

Tim Josling, Professor Emeritus, Stanford University (tbc)

Will Martin, Research Manager, DEC Agriculture and Natural Resources, World Bank