

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 2(9)/2015-Admn-I
Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Commerce



Islamabad, the 11th May, 2016.

C I R C U L A R

Subject:- WTO Advanced Course on RTA's Geneva, 26-30 September 2016.

Director, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, WTO Geneva has invited one or more nominations for fully funded Advanced Course on Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs). The course is a "Level 3" training activity in the WTO Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS), representing the highest level among WTO training activities. The course is targeted at participants who possess a sound knowledge of the WTO system in general and of WTO rules on RTAs in particular.

2. This course will take place at the WTO in Geneva from 26-30 September 2016. Last date for sending the nominations is **20-05-2016**. The invitation letter alongwith application forms can be downloaded from the website of this Ministry.

3. The officers having relevant experience and / or who dealing with the relevant subject matter may kindly forward their consent/nominations duly recommended /endorsed by their respective heads of Wings to this office by tomorrow, i.e. **12-05-2016** along with details of trainings already availed.



(Muhammad Suleman Mahsud)
Deputy Director (MOC)

Forwarded to:-

- i. All JSs/ DGs, Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad.
- ii. ✓ Copy to Network Administrator with the request to upload the subject invitation letter as well as WTO Application form on the Ministry's website immediately.



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Direct line: (+41 22) 739 50 18
Direct fax: (+41 22) 739 57 24
Email: logistics.unit@wto.org

FAX

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| To: Heads of Delegation Developing Country Members and Observers | Fax No: See list attached |
| From: Bridget Chilala Director Institute for Training and Technical Co-operation | Date: 25/02/2016 |
| Willy Alfaro Director Trade Policies Review Division | |
| Number of Pages (including this one): 7 | Div. Ref: TC-16/4 |

ADVANCED COURSE ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS AND THE WTO (IN ENGLISH)*

Geneva, Switzerland, 26-30 September 2016

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization is organizing an Advanced Course on Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and the WTO. This course will take place at the WTO in Geneva, from 26 to 30 September 2016.

The Course is a "Level 3" training activity in the WTO Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS), representing the highest level among WTO training activities. The Course is targeted at participants who already possess a sound knowledge of the WTO system in general and of WTO rules on RTAs in particular. Through group work and interactive panel sessions, participants will be exposed to issues such as adherence to WTO rules on RTAs, transparency of RTAs in the WTO system, coexistence of regional and multilateral trading systems as well as issues related to the Nairobi's MC10 follow-up. The global coverage of the Course will also allow for a broad exchange among participants of their diverse regional experiences on RTAs and related issues.

A team of WTO staff will tutor participants during the course. Delegates based in Geneva and officials from various Regional Secretariats will be invited to contribute to the discussions on specific topics. Participants will also attend one session of the meeting of the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements scheduled to take place on 27 and 28 September 2016. A tentative programme is attached to this invitation.

Your government is invited to nominate one or more candidates to be considered for participation in this activity. Please note that as a "PLS - Level 3" Course, candidates will be considered for selection only if the following criteria are met:

- (a) **The Course will be conducted in English. All-round proficiency in English is therefore an essential prerequisite for participation.**

- (b) Participants shall be directly involved - at a technical, practical and/or policy level - in the negotiation and/or implementation of RTAs, and possess sound knowledge of WTO rules on RTAs.
- (c) Preference will be given to candidates who have completed the on-line E-Learning course on Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO (further information on <http://etraining.wto.org>). The completion of a "Level 2" generalist WTO training activity (either a Regional Trade Policy Course or the E-Learning course "The Multilateral Trade Agreements") will also be taken into account in the selection process;
- (d) A pre-Course evaluation questionnaire that relates to RTAs and the WTO will be sent to the selected participants. Participation in the Course will be subject to the completion and return of the questionnaire to the WTO Secretariat by the indicated deadline.

The Secretariat of the WTO will make available 25 fellowships for this activity. Each fellowship covers a round trip airplane ticket in economy class, Daily Subsistence Allowance, a Terminal Expenses Allowance, and lodging for the duration of the course.

The Application Form must be returned, completed and signed by the candidate as well as by the national authority which nominated the candidate, VIA THE PERMANENT MISSION/EMBASSY TO THE WTO NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY 20 MAY. Applications submitted after this date or not via the Permanent Mission/Embassy WILL NOT be considered. The Application Form shall be returned to the Logistics Unit, WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, (Fax no: +4122 / 739 57 24; E-mail: 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.

An Application Form is attached to this invitation.

Yours sincerely



Willy Alfaro
Director
Trade Policies Review Division



Bridget Chilala
Director
Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation

Francais/Espagnol

* L'Organisation Mondiale du Commerce organise un cours avancé d'une semaine sur les Accords commerciaux régionaux à l'OMC, à Genève, du 26 au 30 Septembre 2016. Ce cours étant donné en anglais, l'invitation et les formulaires de candidature et de nomination sont distribués en anglais uniquement.

* La Organización Mundial del Comercio organiza un curso avanzado de una semana sobre los Acuerdos comerciales regionales en la OMC, en Ginebra, del 26 al 30 de septiembre de 2016. Este curso será dado en inglés, por consiguiente, la invitación y los formularios de candidatura y de nominación serán distribuidos sólo en inglés.

ADVANCED COURSE ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS AND THE WTO (Level 3 – Specialist)

Geneva, Switzerland, from 26 to 30 September 2016

WTO APPLICATION FORM

This four-page form should be returned, filled out, stamped and signed,
by the candidate and the government official presenting the candidate,
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 20 MAY 2016 to this fax number OR e-mail ONLY

Fax: +41 22 - 739 5724 OR logistics.unit@wto.org

VIA THE PERMANENT MISSION/EMBASSY

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms ☐ Miss

First name(s): (as in passport)

Family name(s): (as in passport)

Date of Birth: Day: Month: Year:

Nationality:

Position post:

Department:

Ministry:

Address:

.....

City: Postal code:

Country:.....

Official telephone - country code: + ; tel. number:

Cellular telephone - country code: + ; tel. number:

Fax - country code: + ; fax number:

Official E-mail address in CAPITAL LETTERS:

Personal E-mail address in CAPITAL LETTERS:

**Language knowledge: If English is not your working language,
a language proficiency certificate MUST be attached**

| | Advanced | Intermediate | Basic |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| English | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Travel itinerary preferences in the event you are selected (taken into account but not guaranteed)

NAME of candidate:

Higher education

| When | Where | Title of qualification |
|------|-------|------------------------|
| | | |
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Work experience

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| Description of your work, including your personal responsibilities | |
| What date did you take up your current functions? | |
| Area of WTO-related work in which you are currently working | |
| Previous post | |

Check the appropriate box

- Are you in the process of completing/have you completed the WTO on-line Course "Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO"?

Yes ☐ No ☐
- Have you completed the WTO on-line Course "The Multilateral Trade Agreements"?

Yes ☐ No ☐
- Have you completed a Regional Trade Policy Course? Where, When?

Yes ☐ No ☐

| Please list all other WTO training undertaken (including E-Training) | When |
|--|------|
| | |

To be filled in by the National Nominating Authority

NAME of candidate:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| The Government of | |
|-------------------|--|

Nominates the candidate who filled the Application Form to attend this WTO training course. This nomination is subject to the selection of the candidate by the WTO Selection Committee.

Details of the responsible government official supporting this candidate

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Family name / First name | |
| Title | |
| Ministry | |
| Country | |
| Telephone | |
| Email address | |

Signature and official stamp

Candidate

Nominating Authority

Date:

1. Travel, air-tickets, visas, transit visas, accommodation and subsistence allowances:

Countries are implementing very strict visa policies. Before you fill in this application form, please enquire several weeks in advance on the visas and transit visas you need. Make the necessary arrangements in your country to obtain them for your full roundtrip. The WTO Secretariat is not authorized to intervene in this matter and is not responsible for visa fees and related financial issues.

You will not be consulted for your travel itinerary. However, if there is any special travel itinerary to be examined before issuing and sending your air-ticket, please clearly submit your preferences.

Be advised that the WTO Secretariat will provide you with an economy-class round-trip air-ticket (excursion fare, if applicable), hotel accommodation and daily allowance. On the opening day of the activity you will receive a daily subsistence allowance from the first night to the last night of your stay only and terminal expenses at the applicable WTO rate. Other administrative and logistical arrangements will be communicated to you directly, by e-mail or fax.

2. The WTO Secretariat does not assume financial or any other responsibility for:

- a) Expenses incurred in connection with foreign travel formalities (visas, transit visas, taxes, travel to get visas, medical examinations, vaccinations, etc.).
- b) Salaries of the participants during their stay at the meeting.
- c) Travel or other expenses of any additional persons accompanying the participants.
- d) Travel or accident insurance, medical treatment or hospitalisation during travel or attendance at the meeting.
- e) Loss or damage to the personal effects of the participants during travel or attendance at the meeting.
- f) Any modification made by you regarding the hotel booking and the related logistical arrangements.
- g) Any personal service or facility you may request during your stay in the hotel where you are accommodated by the WTO such as business centre, internet connections, room service, laundry, mini-bar or any kind of ground transport.
- h) Any modification made BY THE AIRLINE OR BY YOU in connection with the itinerary or the air-tickets issued by the WTO Travel Agency in Geneva. Any additional fees, charges and/or penalties for the air-ticket modifications WILL BE COVERED BY YOU AND NOT BY THE WTO.

This four-page form should be returned, filled out, stamped and signed by the candidate and the government official presenting the candidate

NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 20 MAY 2016 to this fax number OR e-mail ONLY

Fax: +41 22 - 739 5724 OR logistics.unit@wto.org

VIA THE PERMANENT MISSION/EMBASSY

INCOMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS OR FORMS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE OR NOT PRESENTED VIA THE PERMANENT MISSION/EMBASSY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR SELECTION

I, the undersigned designated Official, certify that I carefully read this application form and I accept the aforementioned conditions.

Family name and signature of the nominee:
and official stamp from your Institution/Agency.

2016 ADVANCED COURSE ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS (RTAs) AND THE WTO
26-30 September 2016, Geneva

Draft Programme

Monday 26 September

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|-------------|--|
| 9:30-10:30 | Opening Of The Seminar Introduction To The Course And "Tour De Table" |
| 10:45-12:30 | RTAs Trends And Characteristics Brief Reminder Of Wto Rules On RTAs |
| 12:30-14:00 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 14:00-15:30 | RTAs And The WTO: Transparency Mechanism For RTAs |
| 15:45-17:00 | Exercise 1 - Notification Exercise 2 - Analysis Of A Factual Presentation: Instructions |

Tuesday 27 September

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|-------------|---|
| 9:00-9:40 | WTO Committee On Regional Trade Agreements (CRTA): Briefing |
| 9:50-13:00 | Attendance At The CRTA |
| 13:00-14:30 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 14:30-15:00 | Debriefing On The CRTA |
| 15:00-17:00 | WTO And RTAs On Trade In Services |

Wednesday 28 September

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|-------------|---|
| 9:00-10:00 | WTO Databases: RTA-IS: Lecture And Exercises |
| 10:00-11:00 | Measuring Trade In Services And Related Databases |
| 11:15-12:30 | WTO Databases On Services: RTAs Commitments In I-TIP |
| 12:30-14:15 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 14:15-17:00 | WTO Databases: I-TIP For Goods Market Access Databases: IDB, TAO - Lecture And Exercises |

Thursday 29 September

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|-------------|---|
| 9:00-10:30 | WTO And RTAs: A Way Forward - Presentations By Geneva-Based Delegates |
| 10:45-12:30 | Presentations By Regional Secretariats |
| 12:30-14:00 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 14:00-15:00 | Presentations By Regional Secretariats (Cont.) |
| 15:15-17:15 | Architecture Of WTO Rules On RTAs: Pyramids And Loopholes |

Friday 30 September

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|-------------|--|
| 9:00-10:30 | WTO, RTAs And Trade In Goods: Selected Issues |
| 11:00-12:30 | Exercise 2 - Analysis Of A Factual Presentation - Correction |
| 13:00-14:30 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 14:30-16:00 | General Discussion, Evaluation, Closing And Diplomas |