



DTL/KDB/MISC/2017/5  
(17/110ams)

## NOTIFICATION

### **Thirty-eighth regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda Singapore, 13 November to 1 December 2017**

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that the next regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda, which is designed for Asia–Pacific economies, will be hosted by the Singapore Cooperation Programme, from 13 November to 1 December 2017.

The course will focus on the links between trade, investment, finance and development, including in the context of international trade negotiations. Its aim is as follows:

- To enhance understanding of the relationship between these areas and their links to country development strategies.
- To provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for the design and implementation of trade and development policies, as well as for trade negotiations, corresponding to the needs and interests of their countries.

The course syllabus will draw on the perspective of UNCTAD, its analytical work and lessons learned from its technical cooperation activities and will be enriched by the competence and expertise of representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Experts from Singapore will also share their country's experience in promoting and managing trade, investment, finance and development.

The course is aimed primarily at mid-level government officials in ministries and institutions who are involved in the formulation and implementation of national trade and development policies, and who deal with issues relating to trade, investment and finance, and development. As appropriate, and depending on the availability of space, other applicants, such as university academics, may be considered.

The course will be given in English, and candidates are expected to have a full working knowledge of this language.

There are two steps to the application process. First, UNCTAD member States from the Asia–Pacific region are invited to present the names and email addresses of qualified candidates as soon as possible through their permanent missions in Geneva, at the latest by **Thursday, 14 September 2017**. Second, these candidates will be contacted by the secretariat to complete an online application. **This process must be completed by Thursday, 21 September**. It is therefore advisable that the names and email addresses of candidates be submitted as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for them to apply online. Member States and/or successful candidates will be notified following the decision of the UNCTAD selection committee that will meet on **Thursday, 28 September**.

Member States are encouraged to nominate more than one candidate per country, in which case they may wish to rank the candidates. The selection committee will take this ranking into consideration, provided that the preferred candidates meet the eligibility criteria.

Travel expenses covering the least costly fare will be provided for participants. All selected participants will be responsible for obtaining valid visas for travel to Singapore prior to their arrival. Participants will receive sufficient funds to cover daily meals and miscellaneous expenses. Hotel accommodation for all participants and seminar facilities will be sponsored by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including basic hospitalization and surgical insurance. As this does not cover pre-existing conditions/illnesses and/or outpatient medical/dental treatment, participants must ensure they have adequate medical and travel insurance coverage for the duration of the course.

Attached are the course syllabus, which provides a list and description of topics by module, and expected learning outcomes; a list of essay questions; and application guidelines.

For additional information, please contact the Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD, by telephone (41 22 917 2718) or email ([randajamal@unctad.org](mailto:randajamal@unctad.org)). The course website is available at <https://p166.unctad.org/>.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

8 August 2017

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**Course syllabus**

This syllabus gives a description of the different course modules. For each module, participants who have been selected to attend will be expected to gather information on a number of issues before the beginning of the course so they can contribute to discussions on the different modules by sharing the experiences of their countries.

**Module 1. Development, development policies and the role of international trade and finance in a globalized world**

**Description.** This module highlights topical economic issues at the global level and explores their implications for development strategies. It uses the UNCTAD integrated approach to discuss development challenges, examining the interdependence between different policy areas, including macroeconomic management, international trade and finance, and new views regarding the nature and role of the developmental State in the light of the lingering effects of the global financial and economic crisis. The module also addresses the interdependence between national, regional and international economic realities and their policy implications. The pursuit of national and international development policies and strategies is placed within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, which provide the overall framework for development policies in 2015–2030.

**Expected learning outcome.** At the end of this module, participants will have deepened their understanding of the implications of trade and financial integration for inclusive economic growth, structural change and technological upgrading. They should also be able to understand key challenges of development policies in order to achieve both economic and human development, as well as economic growth. Participants will thus develop capacities to pursue appropriate policies and strategies in these areas at the national, regional and international levels, with a deepened knowledge of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals.

**Module 2. Harnessing benefits from trade: Changing dynamics in the multilateral trading system, trade logistics and regional trade agreements**

**Description.** This module will highlight the role of trade as an enabler of development. It will address best practices and policy norms for harnessing the benefits of trade. It will also take into account the changing dynamics of trade negotiations at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, and the Sustainable Development Goals and their impact on trade agreements. In particular, trade facilitation and trade in services will be discussed as areas of opportunity for the economies of Asia and the Pacific to benefit from ongoing negotiations. In addition, the module will explore progress in trade facilitation agreements and possible challenges, and will introduce participants to transportation and trade logistics as an enabler of regional integration processes and integration into global value chains.

**Expected learning outcome.** At the end of this module, participants will be able to identify and understand key challenges faced and development opportunities offered by the international trading system and regional trade agreements. They will also become cognizant of important factors affecting the design of appropriate national trade policies and development strategies and how to maximize gains from their integration into the global economy. Participants will gain a better understanding of the role of the regulatory environment and of institutional and physical trade infrastructures in fostering international trade competitiveness in terms of supporting productive and trading capacities, including trade facilitation.

### **Module 3. Enhancing productive capacities through foreign direct investment, enterprise development, and science, technology and innovation**

**Description.** The role of foreign direct investment, small and medium-sized enterprise development, and science, technology and innovation in the development process and their place in national development strategies in the context of the globalization of economic activity will be explained and evaluated in this module. These policy areas will be linked with social welfare, economic growth and development. Best practices in knowledge transfer and how to develop a sustainable and vibrant culture centred on innovation and entrepreneurship, research and development, and the clustering of industries, will be illustrated. In addition, the challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises in international trade and finance will be discussed, along with processes that will help them become actors in international trade.

**Expected learning outcome.** At the end of this module, participants will be able to identify the link between foreign direct investment and development, and describe recent trends in foreign direct investment flows. They will also be able to identify the main development and policy challenges of global value chains and highlight effective investment promotion strategies that include attracting foreign direct investment, aimed at maximizing local benefits. This information will be useful in analysing the impact of foreign direct investment on local productive capacity, especially through linkages between multinational corporations and small and medium-sized enterprises. Participants will gain understanding of the following: (a) how to unleash entrepreneurship at the national level, from a policy perspective; (b) the role of science, technology and innovation in growth, economic and social development, and environmental sustainability; (c) the experiences and challenges of developing economies in stimulating technological upgrading and innovation; (d) how policymakers can develop a science, technology and innovation system and capabilities through national policies and enhanced local productive capacities.