
Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

16th Session
5-7 July 2017
Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Wednesday, 5 July 2017
Afternoon Session

**Agenda Item 3a. Capacity-building and technical assistance
activities implemented**

Contribution by
Korea Fair Trade Commission
Republic of Korea

This material has been reproduced in the language and form as it was provided. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

Written Contribution on Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance on Competition Law and Policy

KFTC

Korea's government-led policy to promote economic growth has shifted to privately led market economy, which prompted the introduction of the Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act in 1980 as one of the most fundamental laws representing market economy. This has served as an important turning point in the history of economic growth. Moreover, the change in the tone of the economic policy had been functioning as a critical driving force of Korea's economic development. Since then, a number of developing nations has realized that the development of market economy is most important to achieve continuous economic growth, and thus requesting technical assistance to the Korea Fair Trade Commission (hereinafter "KFTC") to learn about Korea's competition law and enforcement experiences.

The KFTC has been seriously carrying out various technical assistance activities in the area of competition law since the mid-1990. The two main focus of the KFTC is training and consulting.

In terms of training, the KFTC holds the International Workshop on Competition policy and provides internship programs for competition authorities in developing countries. The International Workshop on Competition Policy has been held annually for 20 years since 1996, in which the governmental officials from competition agencies gather to talk about a variety of competition issues and share their experiences and opinions with other countries. In 2016 alone, about 40 working-level officials from 16 countries attended the workshop, where each country presented on how to overcome difficulties when introducing or enforcing competition law, how their authority is organized and handles cases, and how to provide effective technical assistance to other countries.

The internship program, another important technical assistance program provided by the KFTC, is to invite members of competition authorities in developing nations to the KFTC for about a month, and let them understand a wide range of competition law and enforcement know-how, and have hands-on experiences of the KFTC's work. The program began in 2008, and has invited 26 members from nine countries to the KFTC since then.

The KFTC also offers expert dispatch program as technical assistance provided through consulting. The dispatch program sends members of the KFTC for up to three months to developing competition authorities to help them cope with problems that arise in the process of introducing and managing competition law by providing policy advice. In 2016, the KFTC has dispatched a member to Laos, which introduced competition law the previous year, and provided consultation for drafting sub-regulations of the competition law.

The technical assistance provided by the KFTC has contributed to introducing competition law and policy in developing countries, building up capability of competition law enforcement, as well as establishing ties with the assistance recipient countries. Furthermore, the KFTC will

continue to keep enhancing the effects of each technical assistance program and creating synergy by linking internship and dispatch program. In order to carry out an effective technical assistance, we need to consider the economic condition and progress of recipient countries. To do so, the KFTC will conduct an exhaustive survey on the demand of technical assistance, thereby encouraging recipient countries to actively participate in the process of designing technical assistance programs. Also, the KFTC will continue to make endeavors to improve the program by taking feedback after the program is completed.