



DTL/KDB/MISC/2016/1  
(16/110ams)

## NOTIFICATION

### **Thirty-fifth Regional Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Oman 9–27 October 2016**

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that the next regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda that is designed for economies in Western Asia will be hosted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Oman, and will take place from 9 to 27 October 2016.

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:

- (a) Enhance understanding of the relationship between these areas and their links to country development strategies.
- (b) Provide participants with knowledge and skills 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 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and of national experts in these areas of work.

The course is mainly aimed at mid-level government officers in ministries and institutions dealing with trade, investment and finance and development issues, who are involved in the formulation and implementation of national trade and development policies. As appropriate, and depending upon the availability of places, other applicants, such as university academics, may be considered.

The course will be given in English, with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic.

UNCTAD member States from Western Asia are invited to present the names and e-mail addresses of qualified candidates as soon as possible through their permanent missions in Geneva and no later than 25 July 2016. These candidates will then be contacted by the secretariat to complete an application online; **this process must be completed by 1 August 2016**. It is therefore advisable that the names and e-mail addresses of candidates be submitted as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for them to submit their applications through the online process. Member States and successful candidates will be notified of the decision of the UNCTAD selection committee by 19 August 2016.

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 candidate meets the eligibility criteria.

UNCTAD and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will provide hotel accommodation for all participants, who will also receive sufficient funds to cover daily meals and miscellaneous expenses. Selected participants will be responsible for their own travel expenses and for obtaining adequate travel and medical insurance and valid visas for travel to Oman prior to their arrival. Travel expenses covering the least costly fare will be provided for participants from least developed countries.

An outline of the course syllabus, which provides a list of topics, learning objectives and questions to answer (P166.2016.TS.2) and the application guidelines (P166.2016.AG.2) are attached.

For additional information, please contact the Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD, by telephone: 41 22 917 2718, fax: 41 22 917 0050 or e-mail: [randajamal@unctad.org](mailto:randajamal@unctad.org).

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

28 June 2016

**Thirty-fifth Regional Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda**  
**Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Oman**  
**9–27 October 2016**  
**Course syllabus**

This syllabus gives an overview of the content 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 may 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 will highlight topical economic issues at the global level and explore their implications for development strategies. The UNCTAD integrated approach will be used to discuss development challenges, examining interdependence between different policy areas, including macroeconomic management and international trade and finance, and new views regarding the nature and role of the developmental state in the light of the global economic crisis. The module will also address the interdependence between national, regional and international economic realities and related policy implications. Opportunities to discuss national and regional experiences on country-specific aspects will help promote the sharing of national experiences from across the region. Singapore's experience in developing a vibrant international trade and finance hub will be shared.

**Expected 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 the key challenges of development policies in order to achieve both human and economic development and economic growth. Participants will thus develop their capacities to pursue appropriate policies and strategies in these areas at the national, regional and international levels.

**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 for development. It will address best practices and policy norms for harnessing benefits from trade. It will also take into account the changing dynamics of trade negotiations at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, and will introduce participants to 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 Asia-Pacific economies to benefit from ongoing negotiations. The module will also discuss progress in trade facilitation agreements and the possible challenges, and will introduce participants to transportation and trade logistics as an enabler for the regional integration process and integration into global value chains. Finally, it will introduce participants to the authorized economic operator concept and the World Customs Organization SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade.

**Expected outcome:** At the end of this module, participants will be able to identify and understand key challenges and development opportunities in the international trading system and regional trade agreements. They will also be 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 also better understand the role of the regulatory environment and 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 from Singapore in knowledge transfer and developing a sustainable and vibrant culture centred on innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as research and development and the clustering of industries, will be illustrated. In addition, the challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises in Singapore in international trade and finance will be discussed, along with processes for assisting them in growing into international actors in trade.

**Expected 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 transnational corporation and small and medium-sized enterprise linkages. Participants will also gain understanding in how to unleash entrepreneurship at a national level, from a policy perspective, as well as the role of science, technology and innovation in growth, economic and social development and environmental sustainability. Participants will thus gain further understanding in the experiences and challenges of developing economies in stimulating technological upgrading and innovation. Finally, participants will better understand how policymakers can develop a science, technology and innovation system and capabilities through national policies and by enhancing local productive capacity.