



DTL/KDB/MISC/2015/3  
(15/86ams)

## NOTIFICATION

### **Thirty-third Regional Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda Singapore Cooperation Programme 9–27 November 2015**

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that the next regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda, which is designed for the Asia–Pacific economies, will be hosted by the Singapore Cooperation Programme, from 9 to 27 November 2015.

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

- To enhance understanding of the relationship between these areas and their link to country development strategies;
- To 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 Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Singapore experts will also share Singapore's experience in promoting and managing trade, investment, finance and development.

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

The course will be given in English.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development member States of the Asia–Pacific region are invited to present the names and e-mail addresses of qualified candidates to the secretariat by 21 August 2015 through their permanent missions in Geneva. These candidates will then be contacted to complete an application online; this process must also be completed by 21 August 2015. 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 of successful candidates will be notified of the decision of the UNCTAD selection committee by 7 September 2015.

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.

Travel expenses covering the least costly fare will be provided for participants from least developed countries. All selected participants will be responsible for obtaining valid visas to 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 hospitalisation 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.

An outline of the course syllabus, which provides a list of topics, learning objectives and questions to answer (P166.2015.TS.2) and the application guidelines (P166.2015.AG.2) are attached.

For additional information, please contact the Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD by telephone +41 22 917 2516, fax +41 22 917 0050 or e-mail [mohan.panicker@unctad.org](mailto:mohan.panicker@unctad.org).

(p.p. signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

1 July 2015

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**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 also 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 economic and human 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. It will introduce participants to 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 on-going negotiations. The module will also discuss progress in trade facilitation agreement and the possible challenges, as well as 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 authorized economic operator and the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE).

**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. Singapore's best practices in knowledge transfer and the development of a sustainable and vibrant innovation–entrepreneurship-centric culture, as well as its journey into research and development and clustering of industries will be illustrated. Also, the challenges faced by Singapore's small and medium-sized enterprises in international trade and finance, and processes to assist them to grow into international players in trade will be discussed.

**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 of 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 the science, technology and innovation system and capabilities through national policies and by enhancing local productive capacity.

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**Questions for Applicants**

All applicants will be contacted by e-mail to complete an online application. Kindly ensure names and e-mail addresses are sent to the secretariat as soon as feasible; in any event by 21 August 2015.

The online application must include responses to two of the questions provided below. All applicants must answer question 1. They must then answer either question 2 or question 3.

Please ensure that responses take into account the national context with regard to economic development objectives. The reply to each question should not exceed 250 words.

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Question 1 (compulsory and must be answered by all applicants):

How is national development planning undertaken in your country? What are the broad macroeconomic principles and objectives that determine your Government's approach and the choice of policies used? What is the role of economic development and which are the relevant agencies responsible for its implementation? What are the indicators that best measure economic development in your country? What do they show about your country?

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Please choose one of the following two questions:

Question 2:

What roles do trade, investment and finance policies play in addressing economic challenges in your country? What domestic and international constraints affect the choice and design of these policies and their implementation? What are their main effects?

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Question 3:

What roles do technology and/or entrepreneurship and/or trade logistics play in supporting economic development in your country? Are these issues incorporated in your national economic development plans and strategies? If so, how? Give a brief description of the main challenges faced with respect to each of the three issues. If they are not part of your national economic development plans and strategies, explain why.

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**Application Guidelines**

**Applicant profile**

The course is aimed primarily at mid-level government officials dealing with international economic issues, including the formulation and implementation of policies in one or more fields covered in the course syllabus (attached).

To be considered for nomination, candidates should meet the following requirements:

- Have an advanced degree in economics, business, international relations, trade law or public administration. A first degree with proven relevant work experience may also be accepted if places in the course are available;
- Have between 4 and 10 years of relevant professional experience in a national public administration, an international or regional development organization, a research institute or a university dealing with the fields covered in the course syllabus;
- Be in a position to use and disseminate the information and knowledge acquired during the course. In this context, it is highly desirable that participants remain in relevant positions for a sufficient length of time after completion of the course so that the skills and knowledge gained can be disseminated as widely as possible at their workplace;
- Have a full working knowledge of English, the official language of the course, with proven written and verbal communication skills.

**Instructions for submitting applications online**

Candidates will be contacted to complete an online application. Applications must be submitted in English and must include the following four documents:

- Application form;
- Detailed curriculum vitae;
- Letter of motivation stating the following: how the applicant in the discharge of his or her professional duties contributes to policy design and implementation in the areas of trade, investment or finance; how the course will contribute to enhancing his or her professional and personal development; and why the applicant feels he or she should be chosen to attend this course;
- Short paper answering question 1 and one of the other two questions outlined in the course syllabus relevant to his or her national context (no more than 250 words per question).

**Nominations**

Nominations should be submitted to UNCTAD through the permanent mission accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva and contain the names and e-mail addresses of the candidates. Nominated candidates will be contacted with regard to an online application that must be completed by 21 August 2015. It is therefore advisable that names and e-mail addresses are communicated as soon as possible and in any case reach the UNCTAD secretariat no later than 21 August 2015.

Nominations should be addressed to:

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