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(17/19ams)

NOTIFICATION

Thirty-seventh regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda EAFIT University, 24 July to 11 August 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 the Latin American and Caribbean economies, will be hosted by EAFIT University with the support of the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from 24 July to 11 August 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:

- (a) Enhance understanding of the relationship between these areas and their links to country development strategies.
- (b) 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 Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and of national experts in these areas of work.

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, with simultaneous interpretation into Spanish provided by EAFIT University. Training materials will be made available in English, with some documentation in Spanish. Candidates are expected to have a full working knowledge of English.

There are two steps to the application process. First, UNCTAD member States from Latin America and the Caribbean are invited to present the names and e-mail addresses of qualified candidates as soon as possible through their permanent missions in Geneva, at the latest by **12 May 2017**. Second, these candidates will be contacted by the secretariat to complete an online application on the course website; **this process must be completed by 19 May 2017**. 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/or successful candidates will be notified following the decision of the UNCTAD selection committee that will meet on 30 May 2017.

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.

UNCTAD will provide hotel accommodation for all participants. They will also receive sufficient funds to cover daily meals and miscellaneous expenses. Travel expenses covering the least costly fare will be provided as well. All selected participants will be responsible for obtaining valid visas for travel to Colombia prior to their arrival.

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 e-mail (randajamal@unctad.org).

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

14 March 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 the 2015–2030 period.

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 for 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 Latin America and the Caribbean to benefit from ongoing negotiations. The module will also 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 also 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 transnational corporation and small and medium-sized enterprise linkages. Participants will also gain understanding in how to unleash entrepreneurship at the 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 capacities.

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Essay questions for applicants

All applicants will be contacted by e-mail to complete an online application. Kindly ensure that names and e-mail addresses are sent to the secretariat as soon as possible, no later than 12 May 2017.

The online application must include responses to two of the questions listed below. All applicants must answer question 1 and either question 2 or question 3. The online application must be submitted by 19 May 2017.

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.

Question 1 (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?

Please answer one of the two following 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?

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 into 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 above-mentioned 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 space is available in the course.
- 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 online applications

Candidates will be contacted to complete an online application. Applications must be submitted in English and contain the following items:

- Application form.
- Detailed curriculum vitae.
- Letter of motivation stating 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 essay answering question 1 and one of the other two questions in the course syllabus relevant to his or her national context (no more than 250 words per question).

Nominations

Nominations containing the names and e-mail addresses of the candidates must be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat through the permanent mission accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva by **12 May 2017**. Nominated candidates will be contacted with regard to an online application that must be completed by 19 May 2017.

Nominations should be sent to the following address:

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CH-1211 Geneva 10
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