

I. WTO Training Programme on “Trade and Development” (21 -25 May 2012)

A WTO Training Programme, which was held at the Headquarters of AALCO from 21st May to 25th May’ 2012, was jointly organized by WTO Headquarters, Geneva and the Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign trade (IIFT), New Delhi. The Programme was attended by more than 35 Participants including Representatives from 14 Member States of AALCO.

At the Inaugural Session, Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, the Secretary General, AALCO delivered the Introductory Remarks highlighting the need on the part of developing countries to take the institution of WTO seriously. It was followed by a wonderful Key Note Address delivered by Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director General, Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. During his presentation, he had focused attention on to the Trade-

Development nexus in its historical aspect and explained its significance to the Doha round. In the Substantive Session of on the first day of the training programme, two consecutive lectures were given by Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, Director, Development Division, WTO on 'Trade and its Linkages with Development' and 'The Role of South-South Cooperation in Trade and Development' respectively.

The Second day of the training programme got momentum by the enthusiasm of the trainees and Prof. Sajal Mathur from the Centre for WTO Studies spoke eloquently on Special and Differential Treatment in GATT and WTO which was followed by another interesting discussion triggered by the lecture of Prof. Shashank Priya, from the Centre for WTO Studies.

The Third day saw Prof. Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies discussing "Important Development Issues in NAMA Negotiations" in all its complexities including the principal issues that block the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round. He also delivered a lecture on 'Important Development Issues in Agriculture Negotiations' during which he clearly highlighted the problems inherent in the subsidies issue that form the core of the Doha round.

On the fourth day of the training programme, Prof. Madhukar Sinha from the Centre for WTO Studies consecutively spoke on 'Important Development Issues in Service Negotiations' and 'Important Development Issues in TRIPS Negotiations'. The need to balance the rights of patent holder's vis-à-vis the right to health of the global poor was clearly articulated by him.

The last day of the training programme saw Prof. Sajal Mathur from Centre for WTO Studies speaking on 'Issues of Concern for Least Developed Countries and Small and Vulnerable Economies' and 'Aid for Trade'. He noted that unless issues pertaining to the developing world are addressed, we could not break the impasse of the Doha round. At the Valedictory Session, Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO proposed the vote of thanks and the Training Programme came to an end with the granting of certificate of Participation to all the Participants by the Secretary-General of AALCO and Prof. Abhijit Das of the Centre for WTO Studies.