



Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT)

Call for ARTNeT Short-Term Research Study Proposals

(Deadline 22 February 2010)

1. Background

ARTNeT, a joint initiative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), aims to increase the amount of policy-oriented trade research in the Asia-Pacific region by harnessing the research capacity already available and supporting additional capacity through regional team research projects, enhanced research dissemination mechanisms, increased interactions between trade policy makers and researchers, and specific capacity building activities catering to researchers and research institutions from least developed countries. Core ARTNeT partners include UNCTAD, UNDP and the WTO. Please visit www.artnetontrade.org for more information.

2. Priority areas for short-term research studies

ARTNeT invites interested researchers to submit proposals for short-term research studies relevant to ARTNeT's current research programme focusing on *Trade and Investment Related Policy Coherence for Inclusive and Sustainable Development*. All research studies must be completed for dissemination by late September 2010. Priority areas for short-term research studies include:

- Enabling the participation of least developed and/or landlocked countries in international trade and investment
- Trade policy measures to address climate change and environmental sustainability issues.
- Impacts of the global economic crisis on trade and investment
- Trade and gender impacts
- "Behind the border" factors affecting trade and investment
- Regional integration (e.g. the impacts of the so-called WTO-plus regional trade agreements; the effects of the spread of regionalism in Asia on low-income developing and least developed economies))
- Using Public-Private Partnerships to promote trade and investment

3. Eligibility

Researchers from ARTNeT member institutions and other research institutions and universities located in countries in Asia or the Pacific which are members of ESCAP may submit proposals for funding. Participating institutions need not be members of ARTNeT at the time of submission of proposals, but will need to apply and be granted membership in the event their proposal is

selected for funding¹. Preference will be given to proposals from developing country institutions and researchers, particularly those from least developed countries.

4. Proposal Submission (Deadline: 22 February 2010)

- Researchers and/or research teams are invited to submit short research proposals to the ARTNeT Secretariat no later than 22 February 2010 (to be sent to artnetontrade@un.org). Earlier submissions are strongly encouraged.
- Research proposals should be less than 5 pages. The proposed outline is as follows:
 1. Title
 2. Research Problem [1/2 page]
 3. Literature Review [1/2 to 1 page]
 4. Research Question(s) and Scope of Study [1/2 page]
 5. Methodology and Data [1 page]
 6. Expected research outcome and policy relevance [1/2 page]
 7. Proposed research team (include CVs) and timeline (6 months maximum)
 8. Budget (depending on scope of work and extent of primary data collection)

5. Proposal Selection (to be announced around 15 March 2010)

The proposals will be reviewed by the Secretariat with help from external advisors and collaborating institutions. The following criteria will be used for the evaluation:

- Relevance of the proposal
- Relevance of the expected results to policy makers in the Asia-Pacific region
- Technical quality and clarity of the proposal
- Research experience of the research team
- Potential contribution to trade research capacity building in the region.

6. Implementation (April 2010– October 2010)

- ESCAP and other ARTNeT core partners (including WTO) will enter into appropriate contractual arrangements with the researcher(s) whose proposals have been selected for funding.
- The final study should include a table of content with titles and subtitles, as well as an executive summary of 400 words focusing on policy implications. Studies must be written in proper English, so that they may be distributed to stakeholders without major revisions or corrections. Authors may be requested to prepare a shorter version of the study to be published as a policy brief or similar publication. Final publications will be issued under the authors' names (and not that of their institutions).
- Researchers are expected, upon invitation and subject to availability of funds to cover travel costs, to participate and present their results at relevant ARTNeT Consultative Meetings of Policy Makers and Research Institutions within six months following the completion of their study.

7. Contact information

Please visit www.artnetontrade.org for more information and/or email the ARTNeT Secretariat at artnetontrade@un.org if you have any questions.

¹ Membership is free. For details, please consult ARTNeT membership guidelines in the ARTNeT members section of the www.artnetontrade.org website.