



Asia - Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade Newsletter



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Dear ARTNeT researchers and friends,

After an eventful year 2009, ARTNeT has embarked on its new research programme for 2010 with several new calls for research proposals (see page 4). We look forward to reading your research proposals and to working with many of you in 2010!

The ARTNeT Secretariat

Asia-Pacific Trade Economists' Conference: Trade-Led Growth in Times of Crisis

5th Anniversary Conference of ARTNeT



ARTNeT welcomed some 135 trade researchers and policymakers from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond for the celebration of its 5th Anniversary Conference on the topic of *Trade-Led Growth in Times of Crisis* on 2 and 3 November in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the plenary sessions, conference participants discussed the origins of the global economic crisis and its implications for the Asia-Pacific region. The **trade-led growth model followed by many countries in the region was not fundamentally challenged**, though it was suggested that developing countries should rebalance the geographic and product structure of their trade in order to diversify their sources of growth.

Conference participants also stressed the need for governments to **invest more in social programmes** and

ARTNeT Award Winner



Mr. Pahan Prasada of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, was awarded the ARTNeT 2009 Young Trade Economists' Award by Prof. Alan Dearnorff for his paper *What type of institutions matter more to world trade – national or supranational?*

Congratulations!

called for more **political leadership on trade matters coming from the Asia-Pacific region** to provide new impetus to the negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda. A summary of the Conference's conclusions prepared by the Conference rapporteur Prof. Simon Evenett are available at the link below.

Following the plenary sessions, some 50 papers were presented by researchers. Topics included trade governance, protectionism, services and trade facilitation. All presentations, papers and photos are posted on the Conference website at www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/artnet_conference.asp. In addition, the ARTNeT Secretariat is currently compiling a publication which will include a number of papers presented at the Conference.

ARTNeT thanks all its friends, including especially its core partners, who made this event possible!



For more information, please contact the ARTNeT Secretariat, Trade Policy Section, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). ARTNeT is a joint initiative of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada) and ESCAP, supported by WTO, UNDP and UNCTAD as core ARTNeT Partners. ARTNeT GMS is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Government of France. Email: artnetontrade@un.org; website: www.artnetontrade.org

ARTNeT Third Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee Meeting



The Third ARTNeT Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee was convened on 1 November 2009 in Bangkok to review past ARTNeT activities and to discuss future research priorities. The policymakers and researchers who attended the meeting discussed ways to better link policymaking and research and to tailor capacity-building activities to the needs of research institutions. Participants also encouraged the Secretariat to promote closer partnerships among ARTNeT members and policymakers.

Research Workshop on Rising Non-Tariff Protectionism and Crisis Recovery



A research workshop on non-tariff protectionism and crisis recovery was held in Macao, China on 15 and 16 December 2009 under the Macao Regional Knowledge Hub (MARKHUB) research workshop series sponsored by the Government of Macao, China, in cooperation with UNCTAD, the World Trade Organization and ESCAP.

The workshop focused on the study and discussion of the non-tariff based protectionism affecting developing and the least developed countries of the region. 9 policymakers from 7 Asian countries and 29 researchers from 24 research and government institutions participated in the event. A large number of interesting presentations on protectionism were made, all of which can be viewed at <http://www.unescap.org/tid/projects/ntp.asp>.

Launch of new ARTNeT Regional Trade Facilitation Study on

Enhancing Regional Import-Export Procedures and Processes

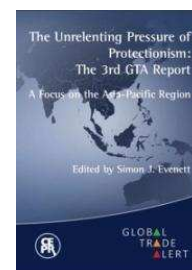
A new trade facilitation study was launched in November 2009 to conduct a detailed analysis of export processes for specific products (e.g. garments, cotton, shrimp, auto parts, etc.), identify relevant procedures and processes and map these processes using Business Process Analysis methods, and estimate time and costs of the relevant procedures and processes for exporters.

Researchers from ARTNeT member institutions in seven countries were selected to contribute to the study (China, Bangladesh, India, Japan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand). A first research team meeting was organized on 23-24 November 2009 in Bangkok to discuss methodologies and implementation.

ARTNeT Advisors for the study include Mema Beye of the World Bank's Doing Business Team as well as H.E. Sok Siphana, Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia. This new initiative is an attempt to bridge trade facilitation research and implementation, and to deliver actionable analytical results, in collaboration with the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade (UNNEXT).

Launch of 3rd Global Trade Alert Report at Research Workshop on Rising Non-Tariff Protectionism and Crisis Recovery

ARTNeT researchers contributed to the 3rd Report of the Global Trade Alert issued on 14 December 2009 at the Research Workshop on Rising Non-Tariff Protectionism and Crisis Recovery (see column to the left). The Global Trade Alert is coordinated by the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London, United Kingdom.



The full report can be viewed at <http://www.globaltradealert.org/>.

ARTNeT Alerts on Emerging Policy Changes



• Nitya Nanda, **Climate Change and Trade Policy: A Preliminary Discussion**, Issue 4, December 2009

• Sasidaran Gopalan and Ramkishan S. Rajan, **India's FDI Flows: Trying to Make Sense of the Numbers**, Issue 5, January 2010

ARTNeT GMS Discussion Papers



• Saing Chan Hang, **Export competitiveness of the Cambodian rubber sector relative to other Greater Mekong Subregion suppliers: A simple descriptive analysis**, ARTNeT Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Initiative Discussion Paper Series, No. 1, July-2009

• Le Dang Trung, **Exchange rate policy and trade competitiveness: A firm-level analysis of Viet Nam food and beverage industry**, ARTNeT Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Initiative Discussion Paper Series, No. 2, July 2009

• Various authors, GMS Political Economy Research Team, **Towards a better understanding of the political economy of regional integration in the GMS: Stakeholder coordination and consultation for subregional trade facilitation in Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Thailand, and China**, ARTNeT Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Initiative Discussion Paper Series, Numbers 3 to 7, August-September 2009

• Khin Maung Nyunt and Aung Kyaw Oo, **Liberalization of the Telecommunications and Financial Services Sectors in Myanmar**, ARTNeT Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Initiative Discussion Paper Series, No. 8, September 2009

ARTNeT Alerts and GMS Discussion Papers can be downloaded from the ARTNeT website.

Recent ARTNeT Policy Briefs

• Ma. Joy V. Abrenica, **New technologies, domestic regulation and telecommunications Liberalization**, Brief No. 22, October 2009



Recent ARTNeT Working Papers

• Sothy Khieng, **Towards a better understanding of the political economy of regional integration in the GMS: Stakeholder coordination and consultation for subregional trade facilitation in Cambodia**, ARTNeT Working Paper Series, No. 75, September 2009



• Syed Saifuddin Hossain, Uttam Deb and Muhammad Al Amin, **Impact of information technology in trade facilitation on small and medium-sized enterprises in Bangladesh**, ARTNeT Working Paper Series, No. 76, September 2009

• Xiong Bin and Wen Shuhui, **Towards a better understanding of the political economy of regional integration in the GMS: Stakeholder coordination and consultation for subregional trade facilitation in China**, ARTNeT Working Paper Series, No. 77, September 2009

ARTNeT GMS Notes



• Saing Chan Hang, **Trade Competitiveness of SMEs: Importance of Finance and Policy Options / Government Roles**, ARTNeT GMS Notes No. 1, August 2009

• Le Dang Trung, **Trade Competitiveness and Exchange Rate Policies: Recent issues and lessons for developing economies**, ARTNeT GMS Notes No. 2, September 2009

All policy briefs and working papers are available online at www.artnetontrade.org. If you wish to contribute an ARTNeT policy brief or working paper, please email your drafts for consideration to artnetontrade@un.org.

Calls for Abstracts / Proposals

- **ARTNeT Call for Short-Term Research Study Proposals (deadline 22 February 2010).** Details on this call are available at www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/callprop10.pdf.
- **ARTNeT / Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) Call for expressions of interest / abstracts on: Regulatory reforms and liberalization in services sector trade and investment: examining impacts on inclusive and sustainable development (deadline 31 March 2010).** Details on this call are available at www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/callexp10.pdf.
- **Ongoing Call for Policy Briefs, Working Papers and Alerts on Emerging Policy Changes (ongoing throughout 2010).** If you have interesting research in the area of trade and investment that you would like to share with the ARTNeT research community and policymakers in the region, please submit it to the ARTNeT Secretariat at artnetontrade@un.org for consideration and possible publication. Details regarding Policy Briefs can be viewed at www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/pub/polbrief_call.pdf.

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News from ARTNeT's Partners

The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) is offering a limited number of places for fixed-term Visiting Researchers and Visiting Fellows to allow researchers to work in Tokyo on a topic of mutual interest to ADBI and the fellows/researchers. Details can be viewed at www.adbi.org/visiting.researchers.fellows/.

The World Trade Institute recently announced its new e-learning programme and other courses for 2010. Details can be viewed at www.wti.org

Upcoming Events

- **Trade, Investment and Regional Integration: Lessons for Policymakers**, 11-12 March 2010, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, India.
- **Poverty and Economic Policy Research Network (PEP)/ARTNeT Workshop on the Global Economic Crisis**, 7-8 June 2010, Bangkok, Thailand (*tentative*).
- **13th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis: "Sustainable and Inclusive Trade for Growth and Development,"** 9-11 June 2010, Bangkok, Thailand. See details on paper submissions and registration at www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/events/Conferences/2010/default.asp.
- **6th WTO/ESCAP ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research**, 14-18 June 2010, Bangkok, Thailand.