Launch of Trade-in-Services Modules in Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor (TINA)

13 August 2024, 16:00-17:30 (Bangkok time, online)

In 2022, global services exports were valued at $7.1 trillion, representing 7.1% of the world GDP and 23% of total global trade in both goods and services.¹ The Asia-Pacific region contributed 26.2% to global exports and 29.0% to imports in 2022, compared to 39.8% and 36.7% in merchandise trade.² These figures are projected to increase to 26.4% and 29.4%, respectively. Economies are increasingly addressing trade in services within trade provisions (Figure 1).

Trade Intelligence and Negotiations Advisor (TINA - https://tina.trade) is an online tool designed to assist trade policymakers, as well as researchers and consultants supporting them, to carry out many of the analytical tasks commonly conducted in preparation for negotiation. These tasks require specialized analytical and data management skills and are time consuming when performed manually: TINA automates such tasks, enabling countries with limited resources to benefit from the same level of preparation as those afforded by larger economies. Legal TINA (https://legal.tina.trade) is an extension of the original TINA, providing guidance and analytical capabilities to develop the text and legal provisions of trade agreements. It allows users to explore the basic legal framework of trade agreements through questions on specific trade-related issues. It also enables users to easily search and compare texts of over 460 trade agreements, making it easier to understand what text may be most acceptable to negotiating parties involved.

This event will launch and introduce new modules in TINA on trade in services. These new modules offer seamless access to GATS and RTA commitments/reservations in trade in services, enable the comparison of texts between provisions, and provide large language model-based comparisons and interpretations of commitments/reservations. The event will also be used to launch ESCAP’s facilitated course on services trade and services provisions in RTAs 13-16 August 2024 (virtual).³

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¹ https://hbs.unctad.org/total-trade-in-services/
³ ESCAP’s facilitated course on services trade and services provisions in RTAs | ESCAP (unescap.org)
Tentative Agenda

16:00-16:05  
Introduction and setting of agenda  
- Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section (TPFS), Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID), ESCAP

Demonstration of TINA’s new services modules  
16:10-16:30  
- Alexey Kravchenko, Economic Affairs Officer, TPFS, TIID  
- Paul Baker, Director, International Economics & TINA Advisory Board Member

Panel Discussion: Services in Trade Agreements  
Moderator: Rupa Chanda, Director, TIID
16:30-17:30  
- Henry Gao, Professor of Law, Singapore Management University & TINA Advisory Board Member: “Evolution of services provisions in trade agreements”  
- Ishrat Hans, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO: “WTO-WB STRI”  
- Pierre Sauve, Senior Trade Specialist, World Bank & TINA Advisory Board Member: “War forward for services trade negotiations and TINA features”