

# TRADE-LED DEVELOPMENT IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

VENUE: HILTON COLOMBO HOTEL, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA  
26-28 OCTOBER 2016

## Draft Programme

### **Objectives:**

The workshop aims to provide participants with an understanding of the issues of the linkage between trade and development. In addition, the activity will endeavour to provide the participants with a greater understanding of various factors that can enhance developmental gains from trade. The workshop will also focus on future development challenges for the Multilateral Trading System, including the role of trade in the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, reducing trade costs to link into global and regional value chains and e-commerce.

### **Wednesday 26 October 2016**

9.30 – 10.00	<b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Opening statement by Mr. Shishir Priyadashi, Director, WTO</li><li>- Opening statement by Ms. Mia Mikic, Chief, ESCAP</li><li>- Welcome speech by Mrs. Sonali Wijeratne, Director General of Commerce</li><li>- Inaugural address by Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce</li></ul>
10.00 – 11.15	<b>The linkages between trade and development</b> <p><i>This session will aim at making participants understand how trade contributes to economic growth and development. The questions that will be discussed include: How can trade facilitate development? What does the empirical evidence show? What needs to be done institutionally, by the trading partners and by countries themselves for trade to lead to development?</i></p> <p>WTO</p>
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 12.30	<b>The evolution of development issues in the GATT/WTO</b> <p><i>This session will examine the evolution of trade and development in the GATT and in the 20 years since the establishment of the WTO. How did development issues become centre-stage in a rule making organization? What has been achieved? What lies ahead?</i></p> <p>WTO</p>
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 15.30	<b>Trade and development in the regional context</b> <p><i>This session will examine how trade and development are being promoted in the different regional integration initiatives in Asia and how they complement the multilateral trading system.</i></p> <p>Mr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, IPS (ARTNeT member)</p>

15.30 – 15.45	Coffee break
15.45 – 17.00	<p><b>The role of trade in the Agenda 2030 in a Post-Nairobi framework</b></p> <p><i>This session will examine in detail how trade issues are reflected in the Agenda 2030, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development Declaration.</i></p> <p>ESCAP (Mr. Arun Jacob, TIID)</p>
<b>18.00</b>	<p><b>Cocktail Reception</b></p> <p><b>Hosted by Department of Commerce, Government of Sri Lanka</b>  <b>Place: Hotel Galadhari – ‘Salon Orchid’*</b></p> <p><b>*200m away from the Hilton Hotel. Map is attached.</b></p>

**Thursday 27 October 2016**

9.30 – 10.45	<p><b>An overview of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration and its implications for trade and development</b></p> <p><i>This session will assess the outcome of the Nairobi Ministerial from the point of view of development. What was achieved? What couldn't be achieved? Where are the differences? And the way ahead to MC11.</i></p> <p>WTO</p>
10.45 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.30	<p><b>Assessment and current status of the LDC package adopted at MC9 &amp; MC10</b></p> <p><i>This session will have an in-depth assessment of the decisions taken in favour of LDCs at MC9 &amp; MC10. This will include a discussion on the progress made in the implementation of LDC decisions, including duty-free and quota-free market access, Preferential Rules of Origin and LDC Services Waiver.</i></p> <p>WTO</p>
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 15.30	<p><b>Reducing trade costs and promoting economic diversification to enhance participation in the multilateral trading system and integrate into regional and global value chains</b></p> <p><i>This session will look at the importance of reducing trade costs and diversifying exports to achieve competitiveness and integrate into regional and global value chains. It will also address role of services and services trade liberalization.</i></p> <p>ESCAP (Ms. Mia Mikic, TIID)</p>
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee break
15.45 – 17.00	<p><b>E-commerce as a tool for development</b></p> <p><i>This session will examine how e-commerce is treated in the framework of international rules and how it can be used as a tool for inclusive trade led</i></p>

	<p><i>economic growth.</i></p> <p><i>ESCAP (Mr. Arun Jacob, TIID) +WTO + Mr. Anushka Wijesinha (CCC)</i></p>
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**Friday 28 October 2016**

9.30 – 11.00	<p><b>The WTO's Aid for Trade initiative</b></p> <p><i>This session will provide the latest trends and developments in the WTO's Aid for Trade initiative, including current work programme on "Promoting Connectivity". The monitoring and evaluation exercise for the sixth Global Review to be held in July 2017 will be explained.</i></p> <p><i>WTO</i></p>
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.45	<p><b>Country experiences on Trade and Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Presentations on Sri Lanka's experiences on WTO and developmental needs</i></b></li> </ul> <p><i>Representative from Government of Sri Lanka</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Presentation on Republic of Korea's Aid for Trade Initiative</i></b></li> </ul> <p><i>Mr. Jun Ho Shin, Director, Policy Assessment Division, Ministry of Strategy and Finance, Republic of Korea</i></p> <p><b><i>Sharing of experiences by the participants</i></b></p>
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 15.30	<p><b>Investment issues of interest to developing countries in the context of multilateral negotiations and regional agreements</b></p> <p><i>This session will examine the importance of a framework of rules in the area of investment facilitation for developing countries, advances made at the regional level in Asia, and what could be possible rules at the multilateral level.</i></p> <p><i>ESCAP (Mr. Rajan Ratna, TIID)</i></p>
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee Break
15.45 – 16.30	<p><i>Round table – Trade and development- priorities for South-South cooperation in the context of the multilateral trading system</i></p> <p><i>Panellists to be confirmed:</i></p> <p><i>To be moderated by Mr. Taufiqur Rahman, WTO</i></p>
16.30 - 17.00	<b>Evaluation and closing</b>

### Map to Hotel Galadhari

