

UNCTAD Virtual Institute on Trade and Development

**Progress Report
(March 2008 – April 2009)**

Structure of presentation

- ❖ Members and partners
- ❖ Services
 - ✓ Course design and materials
 - ✓ Professional development for academics
 - ✓ Training for students
 - ✓ Cooperation within the network

Members and partners

Objectives

- ❖ Long-term in-depth cooperation with a “manageable” number of members
- ❖ Partnerships with other likeminded institutions

Why?

- ❖ Wish to provide personalized service
- ❖ Availability of resources
- ❖ Comparative advantages of partners

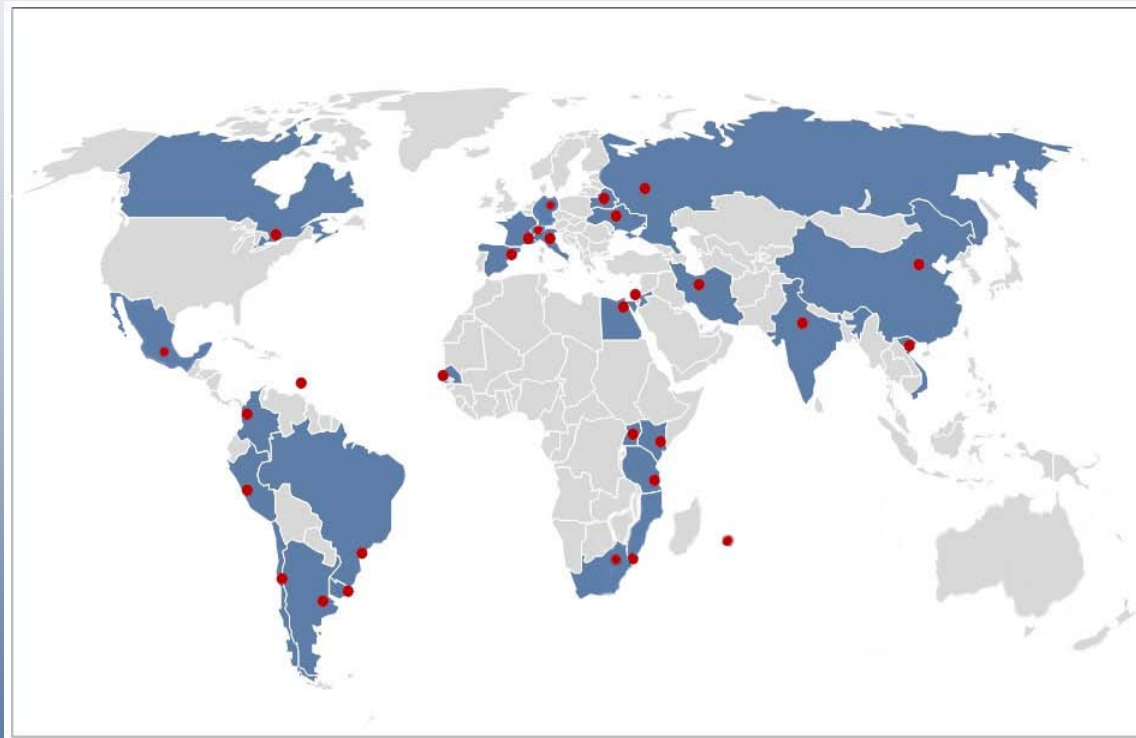
Members

- ❖ Larger teams at existing member universities (from 180 to 300 lecturers...)
- ❖ Moderate increase in developing/transition country membership
 - ✓ Core members from Mexico, Peru and Uruguay
 - ✓ Affiliate members in Brazil, Colombia, Russia, South Africa
- ❖ Substantial increase in developed country membership (Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland)

30 countries represented in the Vi network

**Argentina
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Mexico
Peru
Uruguay
West Indies**

**Jordan
Iran
India
China
Vietnam**



**Belarus
Germany
France
Italy
Russia
Spain
Switzerland
Ukraine**

**Egypt
Kenya
Mauritius
Mozambique
Senegal
South Africa
Tanzania
Uganda**

Partners

- ❖ Members from developed countries
- ❖ UNCTAD divisions and programmes
- ❖ Other international organizations (WTO, ITC, UN regional commissions, World Bank, ICTSD, South Centre....)
- ❖ Donors (currently Spain, Finland, Norway, UN Development Account)
- ❖ Permanent missions of UNCTAD member states

Course design and materials (1)

- ❖ **Advice on course design**
(Uganda, Colombia)
- ❖ **Provision of trade-related publications and resources**
 - ✓ Hard copy supplies for libraries (about 1'600 publications distributed)
 - ✓ Vi digital library (more than 500 topical studies currently available)
 - ✓ Multimedia teaching resources (12)
 - ✓ Vi workshop materials (3)

Course design and materials (2)

❖ Generic Vi materials

- ✓ 2 new materials developed (Transfer of Technology; Environmental Economics with International Dimension)
- ✓ Updates and enhancements (Investment updated; Commodities being updated; Trade Data Analysis being enhanced and converted into a book, in cooperation with the WTO)
- ✓ Used by over 15'000 students; each material used by between 17 and 30 member universities

Course design and materials (3)

❖ Local adaptation of Vi materials

- ✓ 5 materials being adapted (Investment; Competitiveness and Development; RTAs; Trade and Poverty; Trade Data Analysis)
- ✓ 14 localized versions finalized; additional 4 under way
- ✓ Participation of Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritius, Russia, Uganda, Vietnam
- ✓ Own localized materials used in programmes on Economics, Business, Law, and government training
- ✓ 25 per cent of members use materials localized by other members

Professional development (1)

❖ **Regional professional development workshops**

Workshop on Investment for English-speaking Africa

In cooperation with Makerere University Business School

Co-funded by governments of Spain and Finland

❖ **National professional development workshops**

✓ Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights in Vietnam

✓ Workshop on quantitative techniques for trade and trade policy analysis in Senegal

✓ Workshops on international trade logistics and on trade policy and negotiations in Mauritius

✓ ITC workshop on market analysis tools in Uganda

Professional development (2)

❖ **Virtual Institute fellowship programme**

8 fellows from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Russia, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda

Funded by the governments of Finland (LDCs) and Spain (Latin America) and self-funded

❖ **Mentored research projects for LDC researchers**

Application of knowledge from professional development workshops with support of a mentor and a small grant

3 projects on Investment selected – junior researchers from Tanzania and Uganda

Funded by the government of Finland

❖ **Access to other professional development opportunities**

UNCTAD, University of Barcelona, CTPL...

Training for students

❖ **Study tours for Masters students**

Tailor-made training programme at UNCTAD, WTO, ITC, diplomatic missions...

3 tours organized, including one for the University of the West Indies and two for member universities in Russia

❖ **Videoconference presentations by UNCTAD experts**

Trade and Development Report (for Colombia and Jordan)

World Investment Report (for Peru and Russia)

International Investment Agreements (for Chile)

Information economy and electronic commerce (for Russia)

Cooperation within the network

Joint research projects

- ✓ Comparative study on coffee (Colombia-Vietnam)
- ✓ Comparative study on Qualified Industrial Zones (Egypt-Jordan)
- ✓ Joint research project on regional integration in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Spain, Uruguay – funded by the government of Spain)
- ✓ Joint research project on Corporate Social Responsibility (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Spain, Uruguay – funded by the government of Spain)

Contact

Vlasta Macku, Chief, UNCTAD Virtual Institute

tel.: +41-22-917 62 27

fax: +41-22-917 00 50

e-mail: vlasta.macku@unctad.org

web: <http://vi.unctad.org>