

# 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](mailto:vlasta.macku@unctad.org)

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