

INDIVIDUAL COURSE DETAILS

Specialised Training on Emerging Issues in WTO and International Trade

A. Name of the Institute	Centre for WTO Studies
B. Name/Title of the Course	Specialised Training on Emerging Issues in WTO and International Trade
C. Course Dates with Duration in Weeks <i>[note: dates may be fixed keeping in mind festivals, holidays, weather conditions, availability of accommodations, etc. No request for change in dates, once approved/ circulated will be entertained]</i>	From 4 March to 13 March 2024 Duration: Two weeks
D. Eligibility Criteria for Participants 1. Educational Qualifications 2. Work Experience required, if any 3. Age Limit <i>[note: ITEC norms is 25-45 years]</i> 4. Target Group <i>[Level of participants and target ministries/departments etc. may be indicated]</i>	Minimum Educational Qualification should be Graduation. The course is aimed for middle/senior government officials working in the Trade or Commerce Ministries in developing and least developed country, with a specific interest and knowledge in the identified areas.
E. Aims & Objectives of the Course	The main objective of the course is to enhance the understanding of the participants of the legal provisions of the various WTO Agreements and deepen their understanding on the important areas of these Agreements where work is in progress; emerging issues in WTO

	negotiations and new issues in International Trade.
F. Course Contents / Syllabus <i>[please attach course details / profile in Word Format for uploading on ITEC website]</i>	As per Annex II.D.1
G. Mode of evaluation of performance of the participants	This is a Certificate course

Specialised Training Programme on Emerging Issues in WTO & International Trade

From 04 March to 13 March 2023

Background and Rationale for Training

The establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has created a complex, rules-based system wherein developing and least developed countries are faced with a number of opportunities and challenges. It becomes imperative for policy makers and negotiators to have a comprehensive understanding of these issues, particularly in the context of the Work Programme of the WTO post-Ministerial Meeting of WTO held in Buenos Aires in December 2017. Complexity of negotiating issues, coupled with constraints in human resources, pose challenges for developing countries to participate effectively in WTO negotiations. The proposed Specialised Course on Emerging Issues in WTO & International Trade seeks to bridge this gap. This would facilitate effective participation in the multilateral trading system, particularly on the so-called “New and Emerging Issues”.

Among the areas in which discussions, and possibly even negotiations, are likely to be actively pursued at the WTO include the so-called New Issues, such as Investment Facilitation, Electronic Commerce, Labour, Trade & Gender, MSMEs, Industrial Subsidies, State-owned enterprises etc. It is important to take up these issues for an intensive study, so the trade negotiators from developing countries can take negotiating positions that are consistent with their development needs and domestic imperatives, without getting swayed by unverified claims of huge gains for them that may be made by the developed countries and various international organisations. Further, developing countries need to intensely study the pros and cons of initiating negotiations on the new issues, and whether the outcome of negotiations can provide mutual gains to WTO members. All these issues will be studied in depth from the perspective of developing countries.

Course Structure and Duration

Given the rationale for the training, the Centre has developed a capacity building programme towards enhancing the understanding of these specific issues as they come under the purview of the WTO, their context, scope and coverage, rights and obligations of member countries under the various agreements, special provisions for developing and least developed countries, and negotiating dynamics.

The training will be imparted through classroom sessions including lectures, training tools such as case studies and group work. The tentative programme agenda and schedule for the training is provided at **Section II.D.2** of the Annex.

The duration of the training programme will be eight working days and a weekend in between. The classroom sessions and field visits will be scheduled during the course of the eight working days and a cultural visit to the Taj Mahal at Agra will be organised during the intervening weekend.

Eligibility for Participation

The programme is intended for senior and middle level Government officials working in the Trade or Commerce Ministries in developing countries, with a specific interest and knowledge in the identified areas.

Faculty and Pedagogy

Experts and Resource Persons specialising in the identified components of the trade discourse would conduct the classroom sessions. These include faculty of the Centre for WTO Studies and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, senior officials of the Department of Commerce, Government of India and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, as well as representatives from international institutions.

The pedagogy for the programme will include lectures, discussions and panel presentations as well as case studies and group work to provide participants with opportunities to develop their skills. Indian trade negotiators at the WTO will also be invited to provide their insights and stimulate discussion in these sessions.

Medium of Instruction

The medium of instruction will be English and no translation will be available.

Organisation of Training Programme

It is proposed that the Centre organise the training programme in collaboration with the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Tentative Programme**Specialised Training Programme on Emerging Issues in WTO & International Trade****From 04 March to 13 March 2023**

Day 1, Classroom	
0930-1000 hrs	<i>Registration and Group Photograph</i>
1000-1100 hrs	<i>Inaugural Session</i> Welcome Address Inaugural Address Vote of Thanks
1100-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 1</i> Overview of WTO, Doha Round and beyond
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 2</i> Fair and Equitable Reform in Agriculture
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>
1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 3</i> WTO and Food Security
Day 2, Classroom	
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 4</i> Investment Facilitation
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 5</i> Problems in Dispute Settlement mechanism of WTO
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>
1400-1730 hrs	
Day 3, Classroom	
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 6</i> FTAs: Turning GATS Architecture on its Head
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 7</i> Special and Differential Treatment at GATT/WTO
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 8</i> WTO TRIPS Waiver
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>
1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 9</i> WTO Response to Pandemic (1)
Day 4, Classroom	

1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 10</i> WTO Response to Pandemic (2)	
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 11</i> E-commerce: Developments at the WTO & FTAs (1)	
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 12</i> E-commerce: Developments at the WTO & FTAs (2)	
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 13</i> Trade and MSME	
Day 5, Classroom		
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 14</i> Trade and Labour Linkage: Implications	
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 15</i> Trade and Environment (1)	
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 16</i> Trade and Environment (2)	
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 17</i> Trade and Gender	
Day 6, Visit to Taj Mahal, Agra		
Day 7, Holiday		
Day 8, Classroom		
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 18</i> Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations at WTO	
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>	
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 19</i> New Disciplines on Industrial Subsidies	
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 20</i> Emerging Issues: priorities for Developing Countries	
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 21</i> Emerging Issues: priorities for Developing Countries	
Day 9, Classroom		
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 22</i> Reforming the WTO (1)	
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>	
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 23</i> Reforming the WTO (2)	
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 24</i> State Owned Enterprises-Emerging Rules in FTAs	
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>	

1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 25</i> Regulatory Coherence and Good Regulatory Practices	
Day 10, Classroom		
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 26</i> Joint Statement Initiative on Domestic Regulations	
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>	
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Valedictory Session</i> Feedback from Participants Distribution of Certificates	
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>	