

# Capacity Development Activities on Trade Facilitation of the Asian Development Bank<sup>1</sup>

by

Teruo Ujiie

Trade Specialist

Economics and Research Department

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The logo of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consisting of the letters 'ADB' in a white, serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

# Background: 2002 ADB Reorganization

- Creation of Governance, Finance and Trade Division at Reg. Depts to better serve trade needs of DMCs
- Conclusion of an MOU on TA cooperation with WTO

# ADB's WTO-related Capacity Building (CB) Initiatives

- APEC Darwin Trade Minister's Meeting, June 2000, launched a WTO-related CB initiative
- Request to President by Government of Japan on behalf of APEC economies to create a capacity building program in 2001
- ADB's decision to establish an ADB-wide program funded by Japan Special Fund for 34 DMCs in the region (24 WTO members and 10 WTO applicants)

# 3 Objectives of the Program

To assist DMCs in:

- implementing WTO agreements so that they are integrated into the WTO trading system;
- actively participating in the Doha Round;
- acceding to WTO

# Deliveries So Far of 3 Projects in 2002-2006

- 3 high-level meetings on WTO Doha Round for DMC negotiators – keynote speakers: Dr. Supachai, Ms. Carla Hills and Mr. Clayton Yeutter, former USTRs
- 8 training courses: trade facilitation/revised Kyoto; customs valuation; TRIPS; anti-dumping; rules of origin; investment; accession; and dispute settlement
- Collaborators: Canada/Japan/Philippine Customs; WCO; WTO; WIPO; UNCTAD, etc.

# Fourth ADB CB Program – Trade Facilitation

- Objective: To assist DMCs in developing an implementation plan for an agreement on trade facilitation to be agreed upon at WTO Doha Round (currently being suspended)
- 4 components
- Recipients: 24 DMCs (WTO members)
- Kick-off: Customs DG-Commissioner Meeting, ADBI, 13-15 Feb. 2007

# Activities to follow

## 3 Intensive Courses on:

- Obligations of Customs Administration under the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF);
- Possible Measures and Changes Required to Implement ATF; and
- The Implementation Plan of ATF

# Intensive Course on Obligations of Customs Administration under ATF

## Contents of Activities:

- Examine the contents of ATF;
- Identify the obligations to Customs Authorities;
- Once a first draft of ATF has been submitted, this and two other courses will be organized.

# Intensive Course on Possible Measures and Changes Required to Implement ATF

- Examine the differences between the current legal framework (i.e. customs-related laws and regulations) and the obligations under ATF;
- Examine options to amend either laws, regulations or directives in accordance with own legal framework, to reflect the differences;
- Create a comparison table showing these differences.

# Intensive Course on the Implementation Plan of ATF

- Main activity – country presentations on implementation plan, based on the exercise from the previous course (i.e. comparison table);
- Experts (e.g. WCO) to provide technical advice on the plan as appropriate

# Appeal to DGs and Commissioners

- Most of provisions/articles of ATF – customs procedures (WTO paper);
- To implement ATF – Leading to the modernization of customs systems and organization;
- To nominate director or equivalent in charge of TF for ADB TF program – to get maximum benefit from the program & ensure continuity

**Thank you**

**ADB**