TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE URUGUAY ROUND

Note by the Secretariat

Technical cooperation

1. The technical cooperation programme of the GATT secretariat was last reviewed by the Committee on Trade and Development at its sixty-ninth session. The Committee had before it, for that purpose, a note by the secretariat in document COM.TD/W/483. That document provided a brief account of technical assistance activities since the start of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

2. Since the last session of the Committee on Trade and Development, the pace and content of the negotiations had a bearing on the technical cooperation programme of the secretariat.

3. An important area of technical assistance has been the organization of seminars, workshops and country missions. During the course of the Uruguay Round negotiations, the secretariat has organized, upon request, national seminars in developing countries covering either all Uruguay Round subjects or only a few selected subjects. In other words, depending upon requests, the seminars were either general or specialized.

4. The GATT secretariat also organized regional and sub-regional seminars, workshops and briefing sessions on the Uruguay Round in Africa, Asia and Latin America for trade policy officials of developing countries. Such seminars and workshops were financed by voluntary contributions by the EEC and by the Governments of Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway.

5. A list of seminars, workshops and briefing sessions organized by the secretariat since the beginning of 1987 is annexed. The list also includes visits of GATT officials to seminars, workshops or symposiums held by other organizations. However, some visits by GATT officials to developing countries with technical assistance component relating to normal GATT activities are not reflected in the annexed list.

Training activities

6. Following a Decision adopted by the Ministerial Meeting in 1982, GATT trade policy courses are now organized twice a year in the English and French or Spanish languages. Participants are government officials from

* GATT document L/6748 provides information on training activities during 1990.

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developing countries, whether contracting parties to the GATT or not, who have responsibilities in the formulation and conduct of foreign trade policy in their administrations. So far 1,219 officials from 114 countries and ten regional organizations have participated in these courses. Twenty-four fellowships are awarded for each course.

7. Government officials who attend the courses contribute to further expand the foreign trade of their countries and promote a more active participation in the multilateral trading system. GATT training courses are therefore viewed as an efficient means to enable participants to become more familiar with trade policy instruments and more aware of the variety of problems a policy-maker has to face in this field. They also aim at providing a detailed knowledge of the activities carried out by GATT and an overall picture of the work undertaken in other relevant international organizations. Particular attention is devoted to issues related to multilateral trade negotiations and negotiating techniques, with special emphasis on the interests of developing countries.

8. The contracting parties have recognized the usefulness of the trade policy courses as a means of further qualifying the technical staff from developing countries. The secretariat is constantly faced with an increased demand for participation in the courses.
ANNEX

SEMINARS AND COUNTRY MISSIONS

1987

I. National seminars/country missions

Bangladesh
Brazil
China
Malaysia
Pakistan
Singapore
Thailand
Tunisia
Yugoslavia

II. Regional seminars (financed by donor countries, organized by the GATT Secretariat)

African Countries, Dakar
SIECA, Guatemala City
ALADI, Montevideo

III. Seminars/workshops by other organizations in which GATT officials participated

CRCGT* Workshop, Geneva
CARICOM, Kingston

*Commonwealth Regional Consultative Group on Trade
1988

I. National seminars/country missions

Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Egypt
El Salvador
Guatemala
Hong Kong
Mexico
Nigeria
Pakistan
Turkey
Tunisia
Zimbabwe

II. Regional seminars (financed by donor countries, organized by the GATT Secretariat)

ESCAP, Bangkok
ASEAN, Jakarta

III. Seminars/workshops by other organizations in which GATT officials participated

Centre for Development of Trade, OIC, Casablanca
Commonwealth, Nairobi
ACP, Lusaka
IRPP*, Nairobi
IRPP*, Abidjan

1989

I. National seminars/country missions

Brazil
Bulgaria
Haiti
Korea

*Institute for Research on Public Policy, Canada
1989 (cont'd)

I. National seminars/country missions

Laos
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
Nepal
Nigeria
Singapore
Sudan
Thailand
Tunisia
Venezuela
Yugoslavia

II. Regional seminars (financed by donor countries, organized by the GATT Secretariat)

Regional seminar for Latin American Countries, Bogotà
Asian LLDC's, Bangkok

III. Seminars by other organizations in which GATT officials participated:

Regional seminar Central-West African Countries, Lomé
Regional seminar Central American Countries, Managua
CRCGT* workshop, Sydney
PTA Countries, Lusaka
ASEAN seminar on services, Jakarta
Inter-regional seminar for least-developed countries, Dhaka
Gulf Cooperation Council, Riyadh

* Commonwealth Regional Consultative Group on Trade
I. National seminars/country missions

Chile
Cuba
Ecuador
Egypt
Indonesia
Malaysia
Nigeria
Paraguay
Philippines
Poland
Romania
Singapore
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
Yugoslavia

II. Regional seminars (financed by donor countries, organized by the GATT Secretariat)

ASEAN, Jakarta
Latin American Countries, Buenos Aires
ESCAP, Bangkok
African Countries, Rabat

III. Seminars by other organizations in which GATT officials participated

PTA, Zimbabwe, Harare
CARICOM, Port of Spain
ASEAN, Kuala Lumpur

1991

I. National seminars/country missions (already held or in planning)

Czech and Slovak Federal Republic
Tunisia
Jamaica