

Course Announcement:
Preferential Trade Agreements for Development: Issues and Implications

May 11th - May 15th, 2009
World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC

Application deadline is March 15th 2009

Description

Preferential trade agreements are an increasingly present feature in trade policy making: in recent years, preferential trade agreements have proliferated in the developing world, with many countries belonging to more than two agreements. Agreements are also becoming more complex as the scope of cooperation covered go well beyond industrial tariffs reductions into services trade liberalization, regulatory disciplines and other areas of economic international cooperation.

The objective of this new course is to convey some of the most recent thinking on regional trade integration, to increase awareness and offer a forum to discuss in detail the main economic implications of regional trade agreements, and in particular what is the impact of negotiating on some the new issues covered by them. It also aims at providing participating policymakers and analysts with the appropriate knowledge and tools to analyze (and design) such agreements and ensure that regional agreements help maximize the benefits from more open trade for developing countries.

In particular the course will aim at:

- Gathering in a coherent structure the core concepts discussed in the theoretical and empirical literature on trade and regionalism.
- Conveying recent analysis on regional trade integration, focusing on the specific conceptual characteristics of preferential trade liberalization compared to multilateral or unilateral reforms.
- Increasing the awareness of participants to the main policy issues they should consider when designing and implementing preferential trade agreements.
- Providing participants with, or guide them towards, the appropriate knowledge and tools (literature and case study review; policy guidance; analytical tools) to analyze (and design) such agreements, investigate the specific issues raised by regional liberalization, and ensure that regional agreements help maximize the benefits from more open trade.

- Offering a forum to discuss in detail the economic implications of preferential trade agreements.

Course Topics

- A review of the static and dynamic impact on trade and welfare of preferential trade liberalization
- Regionalism and Multilateralism
- Agricultural Trade
- Rules of origin
- Services and Investment
- Safeguards and Contingent Protection
- Product Standards, technical barriers to trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
- Customs and Trade Facilitation
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Regional Institution Design
- Diagnostics tools to assess regional integration

Further information will be posted on the [course website](#).

Course Faculty

The Course will be designed, and taught by an international faculty and World Bank staff with first order experience in contributing to the theory and application of regional trade integration. Expected faculty for this course include:

- Prof. Richard Baldwin (Graduate Institute of International Studies Geneva)
- Prof. Simon Evenett (U. St Gallen)
- Prof. Carsten Fink (U. St Gallen)
- Prof. Michael Gasiorek (U. Sussex)
- Prof. Thomas Prusa (Rutgers U.)
- Dr Paul Brenton (Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, World Bank)
- Dr Caroline Freund (Research Department, World Bank)
- Dr Aaditya Mattoo (Research Department, World Bank)

Application

Further information about the application process can be found by following the weblinks below:

For **External Applicants** please go to: [WBI Core Course - Preferential Trade Agreements for Development](#).

For **World Bank staff members** please go to: [MyLearning](#) (near the date of the course).

The maximum number of participants will be 40.

Application deadline is March 15th 2009

Participants will be notified of their acceptance on April 1st 2009.

Fees

Participants from least developed countries (LDCs) and International Development Association (IDA) countries: \$200

Participants from developing countries: \$400.

Participants from developed countries and donor agencies: \$800.

For more information, please contact

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