Studies on Trade and Poverty Reduction in the Asia-Pacific Region

This project will build on the success of the recent publication of another Institute-managed project, “Managing the Challenges of WTO Participation: 45 Case Studies” edited by Andrew Stoler, Patrick Low and Peter Gallagher and published by Cambridge University Press*. The new collection of thematic papers and case studies will aim to shed light on the complex relationship between trade liberalisation and deep-rooted poverty. Experienced researchers, policy makers and community leaders contributing to this project will be asked to evaluate the impact of trade reform and global economic developments on some of the most disadvantaged groups in the Asia-Pacific community with a view to offering informed analysis on appropriate trade strategies and capacity-building measures for long-term sustainable development and poverty reduction in these communities.

Timing
The project will be undertaken in several stages over the period December 2006 to June 2008. Contributions from participating researchers will be required in the first nine months of 2007, with the first collection of case-studies being commissioned from February to June 2007.

Framework
The project will be built around five keynote thematic papers of approximately 10,000 words, supported by five or six case studies of approximately 5,000 words. The keynote thematic papers planned will focus on:

- Migration and Labour Mobility
- Trade Priorities for Small Economies and Remote Communities
- The Future of Trade in Services for Developing Countries
- Transnational Companies and the Global Supply Chain
- Agriculture and Trade Solutions for Rural Poverty

It is intended there be a focus on gender issues throughout the case-studies.

Process
Researchers interested in contributing to the project should contact the project managers at the Institute (see below) and indicate the thematic area in which they envisage making a contribution. They will then be provided with relevant information on the thematic paper and a template outline for their use in preparing a short (800-word) outline/abstract of their proposed contribution to the project. Where the outline/abstract is approved, researchers will be given a contract to prepare their case study with payment made upon successful completion of the case study and its submission to the Institute.

Output
The output will be a book incorporating the thematic papers and their supporting case studies.

Contact Points

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* This book can be purchased from Cambridge University Press or through the WTO Bookstore in both hard- and soft-cover versions. The individual case studies are also available to the public through the WTO website (www.wto.org).