



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



Trade Facilitation
Agreement Facility

TFAF

Agreement on Trade Facilitation Capacity Building

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In this presentation:

A. Capacity Building in the WTO

B. Capacity Building for the TFA

C. The Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility
(TFAF)



A. Capacity Building in the WTO

1. Assisting developing countries and LDCs participate more fully in the global trading system is one of the most important activities of the WTO.
2. WTO “technical assistance” focuses on increasing human capacity (i.e. helping officials to better understand the WTO rules), and not on improving infrastructure (dealt by other IOs).
3. Demand-driven; ITTC: several programs; biennial plan



A.1 TRTA/CB: Background

DMD
Para. 38-41

- Trade and economic development
 - Mainstreaming
 - Complimentary domestic policy reforms
- Trade-Related Technical Assistance & Capacity Building (TRTA/CB): core elements of the development dimension of the Multilateral Trading System
- Aid for Trade: Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration (para. 57) →
Nat'l, regional and global reviews

A.2 TRTA/CB: WTO role

Committee on Trade and Development

- Demand-driven/priority determined
- Regular dialogue with donors and beneficiaries
- Technical Assistance and Training Biennial Plan 2014-2015 - [WT/COMTD/W/205](#)
- Results Based Management (RBM) → M&E
- Funding
 - Regular budget
 - DDAGTF (Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund)

A.3 Plan 2014-15: Objectives

WT/COMTD/
W/205

- Institutional and human capacity
- Mainstreaming
- Fuller participation in the Multilateral Trading System
- Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS)

A.4 Plan 2014-15: Partnerships

WT/COMTD/
W/205

- Enhanced Integrated Framework
- Regional partnerships
- Other partnerships
- STDF
- TFA Facility
- Outsourcing

A.5 Plan 2014-15: Products (1)

- Advanced Trade Policy Courses →
Geneva-based (8 weeks): 3 per year
- Regional Trade Policy Courses →
8 weeks, 1 per region (7 per year)
- Specialized courses
- Regional activities
- National activities
- TA provided under art. 27.2 of the DSU

A.6 Plan 2014-15: Products (2)

- Academic support: integrated approach
 - WTO Chairs Programme
 - Geneva-based activities (doctoral studies, visiting professors, research collaboration)
 - Document dissemination
- Geneva weeks for non-resident Members/
Observers → 2 per year
- Trainees and Internships

A.7 Plan 2014-15: Products (3)

IT-based products

- Reference Centres
- E-mail, on-line fora, video-conferencing
- WTO official web-site: <http://www.wto.org>
- E-Learning courses:
<https://ecampus.wto.org>

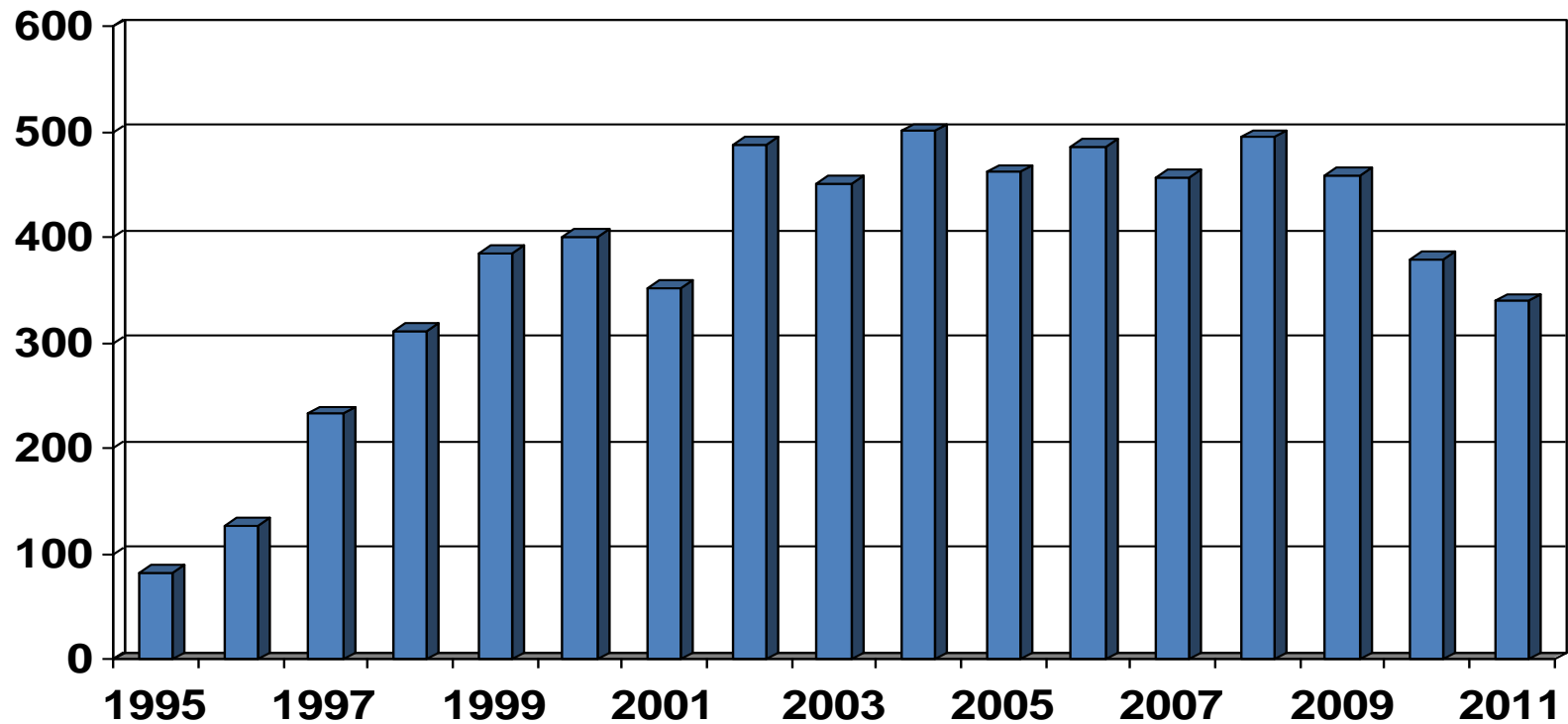
A.8 Plan 2014-15: Outreach activities

- Parliamentarians
 - Regional activities
 - National activities
- Other outreach activities



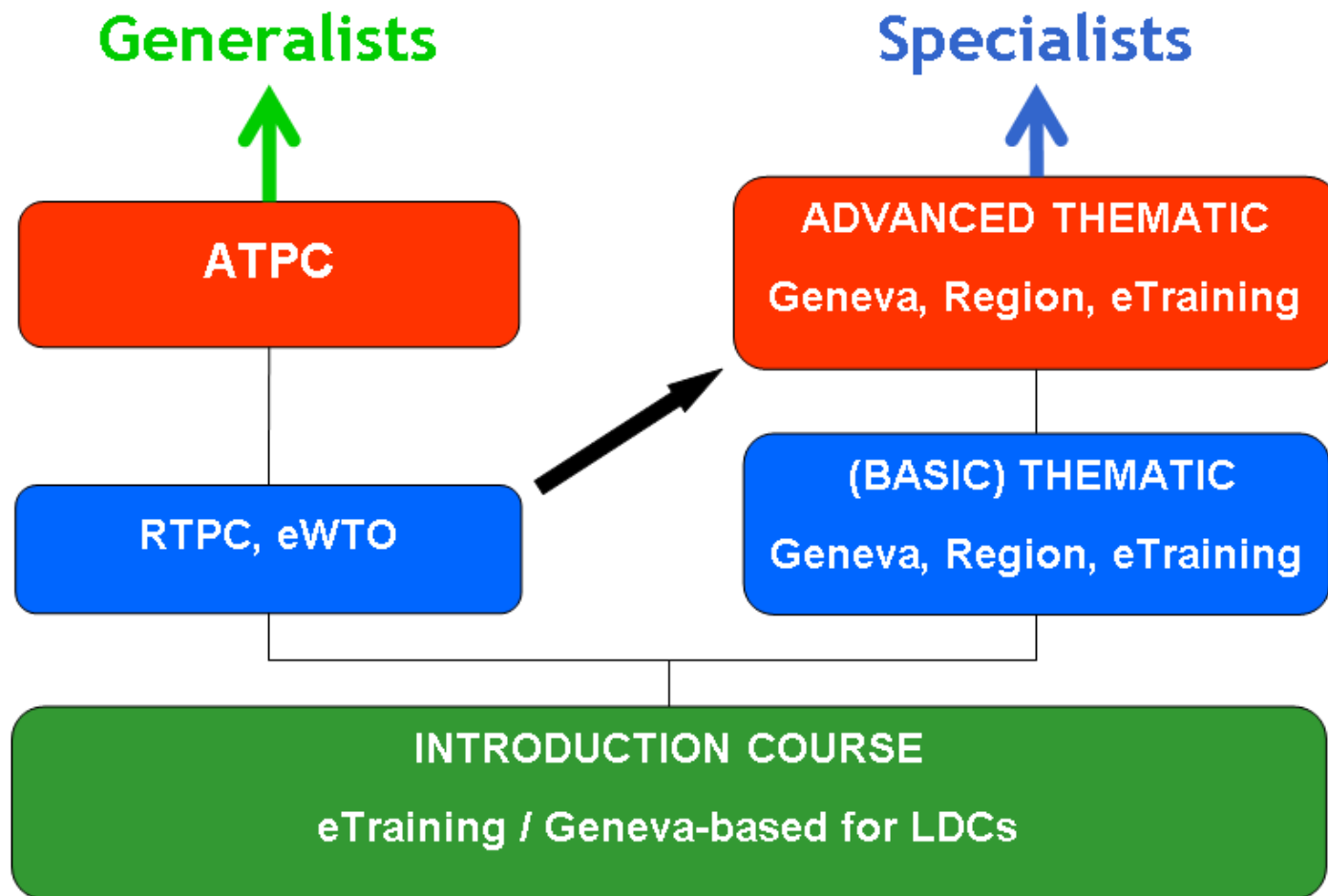
WT/COMTD/
W/205

A.9 WTO TA Activities: 1995-2013



Annual Report 2013 (WT/COMTD/W/205)

A.10 Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS)





B. Capacity Building for the TFA

The TFA acknowledges the importance of assistance and support for capacity building to implement the Agreement

Article 13:2

- Assistance and support for capacity building should be provided .
- The requirement to implement the Agreement is directly linked to the capacity of the country to do so.

Article 14:1(c): Self-designation of categories, including Category C.



B.2 Needs Assessment

For developing countries and LDCs:

- ✓ Implementation linked to capacity to implement
- ✓ Members decide when they can implement each trade facilitation measure
- ✓ Member decides technical assistance needs
- ✓ Must fulfill notification requirements to benefit
- ✓ Assessment will determine needs and prepare for notification and implementation of obligations



B2. Several notifications required



1. Categories (A, B, and C) / indicative dates for implementation
2. Assistance and support required to implement
3. Arrangements to provide assistance and support for capacity building
4. Arrangements / indicative dates to implement
5. Progress reports
6. Definitive dates to implement
7. Possibility of extension and shifting

B3. Article 21: Provision of assistance and support for capacity building



1. Donor Members agree to facilitate TACB on mutually agreed terms
2. Focus is to implement TFA, Section I; sustainable capacity
3. Could be bilaterally or through appropriate international organizations
4. Provided in a way that does not compromise existing development priorities
5. Members shall endeavour to apply predefined principles (e.g. overall development framework, promote coordination, use of in-country structures, etc.)





C.1 The Facility

1. Launched by the WTO Director General on [22 July 2014](#).
2. Became operational on 27 November 2014
(i.e. together with the Protocol)
3. The Facility will complement existing efforts by regional and multilateral agencies, bilateral donors, and other stakeholders to provide Trade Facilitation-related technical assistance and capacity-building support.



C.2 The Facility: Main areas of work



**Technical Assistance
and Capacity Building
(TACB)**



**Implementation
Assistance**



Grants

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (TACB)

- Needs Assessments
- Regional workshops for Parliamentarians
- E-learning tools
- Thematic workshops
- Outreach
- Dissemination of information



- Assist in the match-making
- Information about the Donors
- Developing country contact information
- Database of TACB programs of donors, WCO other international and regional organizations
- Case studies
- Link to training materials



Grants

- Project preparation (max \$30,000)
- Project implementation (max \$200,000)
- After entry into force and receipt of Category C notification
- If can't find assistance needed, the Facility will try to find donor

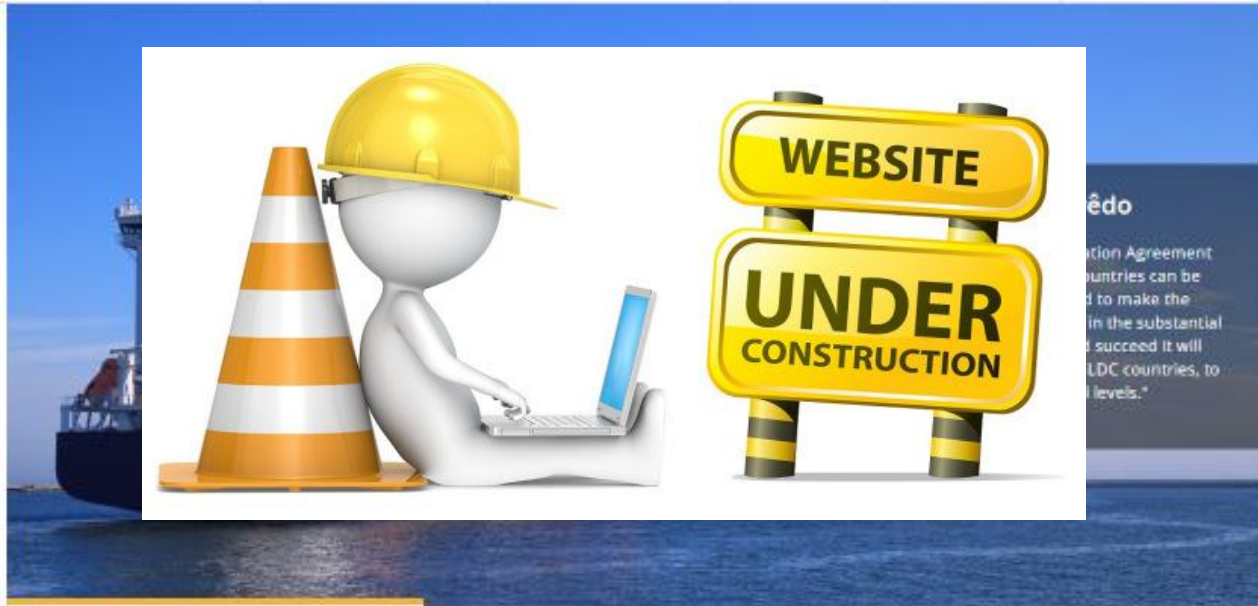




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Director-General Roberto Azevêdo



Check the implementation progress



The latest news from our members



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Thank you!