



COURSE ON KEY ISSUES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA

Short courses for Permanent Missions in Geneva
Organised by the Division on Technology and Logistics-Knowledge Development Branch
Policy Capacity Building Section / P166 courses

UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport 2020 and key trends in ports and shipping in times of the COVID-19 pandemic

Tuesday, 2 February 2021

Delivered by the Division on Technology and Logistics

PROGRAMME

Geneva, Palais des Nations		Room XX
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome address, Ms. Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics Short course will be moderated by Ms. Randa Jamal, Economic Affairs Officer / Programme Coordinator, Policy Capacity Building Section	
10:15 - 11:00	Session 1 This session will shed light on key trends in maritime transport, including seaborne trade, developments in the industry, and key performance indicators, in line with Chapters 1 to 3 of the UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport 2020. During the pandemic, maritime transport became even a more critical sector, for the delivery of essential supplies and facilitating global trade, in times of crisis and when peoples' movement across the globe is limited. This session will zoom in on the challenges and opportunities during the recovery stage. Presented by Ms. Luisa Rodriguez, Mr. Jan Hoffmann, and Mr. Mark Assaf of the Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD Q&A session	
11:00 - 11:15		
11:15 - 11:45	Session 2 This session will cover the specific challenges and lessons learned from different stake holders during the COVID-19 pandemic, and key legal and regulatory aspects and developments, building on key findings from Chapters 4 and 5 of the UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport 2020. Presented by Ms Frida Youssef, Ms. Anila Premti and Ms. Regina Asariotis of the Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD	
11:45 - 12:00	Q&A session	

UNCTAD's Review of Maritime Transport 2020: Global trends and lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has underscored the global interdependency of nations and set-in motion new trends that will reshape the maritime transport landscape. The sector is at a pivotal moment facing not only immediate concerns resulting from the pandemic but also longer-term considerations, ranging from shifts in supply-chain design and globalization patterns to changes in consumption and spending habits, a growing focus on risk assessment and resilience-building, as well as a heightened global sustainability and low-carbon agenda. The pandemic has brought to the fore the importance of maritime transport as an essential sector for the continued delivery of critical supplies and global trade in time of crisis, during the recovery stage and when resuming normality.

The course will present key findings from the UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport 2020, launched in November 2020, as well as some recent updates on key developments in international maritime transport. It will follow the structure of the report and include the presentation and discussion of the following topics: International maritime trade and port traffic; Maritime transport services and infrastructure supply; Performance indicators; the Covid-19 pandemic: lessons learned from first-hand experiences and Legal issues and regulatory developments.



Dr. Jan Hoffmann

Chief, Trade Logistics Branch
Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Jan joined UNCTAD in 2003 and became Chief of the organization's Trade Logistics Branch in 2016. The Branch is implementing multilateral transport and trade facilitation capacity building programmes, as well as regional and national projects in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jan is co-author and coordinator of the annual UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport, created and co-edits the quarterly UNCTAD Transport and Trade Facilitation Newsletter, and initiated the UNCTAD Maritime Country Profiles and the annual Liner Shipping Connectivity Index.

Previously, Jan spent six years with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago de Chile, and two years with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London and Santiago. Prior to this, he held part time positions as assistant professor, import-export agent, seafarer, translator, and consultant. For eight years, he also worked part time for the family tramp shipping business Hoffmann Shipping, based in Horneburg, Germany, with a tween decker registered in St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.

Jan has studied in Germany, United Kingdom, and Spain, and holds a doctorate degree in Economics from the University of Hamburg. His work has resulted in numerous UN and peer reviewed publications, lectures, technical missions, data bases, and electronic newsletters. Jan is member of AJSL, CPI, IJSTL, INCU, JST, MEL, MPM, and the Propeller Club of Geneva. From 2014 to 2018, Jan was president of the International Association of Maritime Economists (IAME). Jan has had his hair cut in 71 countries. He has three sons and one wife.

<http://JanHoffmann.live>

https://twitter.com/JanHoffmann_gva

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/DrJanHoffmann>

<https://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=gdWrCjEAAA>

Ms. Luisa Rodriguez

Luisa Rodriguez is Venezuelan. She studied international relations, business administration and Environmental Governance.

She has been working in UNCTAD for 12 years, almost 4 of which on trade logistics. She has prior experience in trade diplomacy, working on trade agreements, trade negotiations and trade policy analysis. Within the team drafting UNCTAD's annual Review of Maritime Transport, her area of focus is mapping and analyzing trends related to the supply of maritime transport services and infrastructure.



Mr. Mark Assaf

Chief
Human Resources Development Section - TrainForTrade
Knowledge Development Branch
Division on Technology and Logistics
United Nations Conference on trade and development
(UNCTAD)

Mark Assaf is the Chief of the Human Resources Development Section-TrainForTrade at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva, Switzerland. He holds an Advanced Degree in Economics from the Free University of Brussels (Belgium).

Early in his career he built experience in commercial management and trade in Europe and in Africa for the multinational BIA Group. He joined the UN 20 years ago covering the West and Central Africa region based in the Port of Cotonou (Benin). He later moved to Geneva headquarters and became responsible for the renowned TrainForTrade Port Management programme covering 4 linguistics networks and 60 countries throughout Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean with the goal to support efficient and competitive port services. He also oversees major technical assistance projects in the field of international trade statistics and eCommerce to support sustainable economic development.

Mr. Assaf believes in building sustainable networks of knowledge to enhance national ownership and international cooperation as per SDG 17. He is a strong promoter of digital solutions and innovative thinking to enhance capacities of international trade players. He dedicates his efforts to support development-oriented trade policy to reduce poverty and to promote transparency and good practices within UN member states.

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Ms. Regina Asariotis

Regina Asariotis is Chief of the [Policy and Legislation Section](#) (Trade Logistics Branch) in the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD, where she is responsible for the Secretariat's work in the field of transport law and policy. Substantive areas of work cover a broad range, including international trade and transport law, maritime security, marine environmental law and policy, as well as [implications of climate change](#), with a focus on climate change impacts and adaptation for coastal transport infrastructure, notably seaports and airports, including in [SIDS](#).

Before joining UNCTAD in 2001, Regina was a Senior Lecturer in Maritime Law and Member of the Governing Board of the Institute of Maritime Law at the University of Southampton, where she taught for more than 10 years. She holds a law degree from the University of Augsburg, an LL.M from the University of Southampton and a Dr. jur. from the University of Hamburg and is a Barrister (England & Wales) and Attorney at Law (Greece), as well as Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb).

Ms. Frida Youssef

Chief of Transport Section, Trade Logistics Branch/DTL

Frida Youssef first started her career at UNCTAD in 1997. She has more than twenty-five years of professional experience in areas related to transport, trade, commodities, finance and sustainable development which gave her the opportunity to build, lead and motivate research and technical assistance programmes, geared towards developing countries, in broad range of issues including transport and logistics, shipping and ports, corridors, and cross-cutting issues such as sustainability, finance and public private partnerships (PPPs). She is a co-author of the UNCTAD annual Review of Maritime Transport. Ms. Youssef holds an MBA from Boston University and an MA in International Affairs from the Hautes Etudes Internationales - Paris.

Ms. Anila Premti

Anila Premti is a legal specialist working at UNCTAD in Geneva on issues of maritime transport and trade since 2004. She holds a Master of Laws degree with specialization in maritime law from Tulane University (USA), and is co-author of the UNCTAD annual publication Review of Maritime Transport, in particular its chapter on legal and regulatory developments. In addition to dealing with a wide range of maritime transport and trade issues at UNCTAD, she has had a diverse experience of over 25 years, having worked also in the UN Office of Legal Affairs in New York, as a legal officer in the field, and in diplomacy.