



UNCTAD/SDTE/MISC/2007/3
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NOTIFICATION

**Short Courses on Key International Economic Issues
for Permanent Missions in Geneva**

Second semester 2007

Following the successful experience of the first semester 2007, the UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce a series of short courses on Key International Economic Issues for Heads and staff of Permanent Missions in Geneva for the second half of 2007.

This cross-divisional effort aims to provide Permanent Missions with an opportunity to follow a shorter and more focused version of the programme that is otherwise only accessible through three-week courses on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda organized by UNCTAD at the regional level. It will also make it possible for delegations to become acquainted with topical issues in some of the main areas of UNCTAD's work. More detailed information about the content of individual courses and a schedule of deliveries can be found in the attached programme.

The courses will take place on Friday, 21 September, Tuesday, 30 October, and Friday, 23 November 2007, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Palais des Nations. Rooms for individual sessions will be announced at a later stage.

The courses will be delivered in English, with simultaneous interpretation into French.

The secretariat invites Permanent Missions to nominate staff that follow both UNCTAD and WTO matters in Geneva to this course, using the attached application form. The secretariat would appreciate it if registrations could be made, at the latest, one week before the date of the course.

Any queries with regard to the programme should be addressed to:

Ms. Vlasta Macku, vlasta.macku@unctad.org; telephone: 022 917 62 27) or
Mr. Mohan Panicker, mohan.panicker@unctad.org; telephone: 022 917 25 61.

(p.p. signed: L. Puri

Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

14 August 2007

**Short Courses on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda
Second semester 2007**

PROGRAMME

21 September 2007: Development dimensions of intellectual property rights (IPRs)

Intellectual property rights (IPRs) issues are intensely discussed and debated in many of the Geneva-based intergovernmental forums, including the WTO, WIPO and the WHO Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property. IPR provisions appear in many preferential trade and investment agreements, many of which contain provisions that go beyond minimum standards established by the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (“TRIPS-plus”). National IP policies are shaped in those international forums, and negotiators should be aware of how those discussions will impact on development objectives in important areas such as technology transfer, public health and education. This course will first discuss the development dimension of IPRs, examining how IP is as much a development issue as it is an economic and legal issue. The second part of the course will study how certain international agreements have built in flexibility to help developing countries achieve a better balance between exclusive rights and the public domain, in pursuit of important development objectives.

Delivered by: Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development

30 October 2007: How to make debt safer

The second half of the 1990s and the early years of this century have been characterized by series of devastating financial crises, often originating from public borrowing. The objective of this course is to discuss what countries can do to limit the risks arising from public sector debt. Two risks will be introduced: the first has to do with debt explosions and the probability of debt crises, while the second has to do with the fact that high levels of "risky" debt may limit a country's ability to implement its preferred economic policies. The first message of this course is that debt structure matters and that the structure of public debt may matter more than the debt level. After a discussion of the risks of public debt, the course will address a series of policies and proposals that can reduce those risks. Proposals in this regard include both domestic policies (among other things, a possible trade-off between currency and maturity risk will be discussed) and reforms of the international financial architecture.

Delivered by: Division on Globalization and Development Strategies

23 November 2007: The development interface between the multilateral trading system and regional trade agreements

Regional trade agreements (RTAs) have proliferated worldwide to become a prominent feature of today's international trade scene. This trend is likely to be here to stay, affecting, together with the multilateral trading system (MTS), developing countries' prospects for beneficial integration into the global economy. Simultaneous engagement in multilateral and regional agreements and negotiations in itself represents a challenge for policymakers in designing coherent strategies and negotiating adequate terms of agreements that are

consistent with their national developmental objectives, needs and priorities. Against this background, the course will examine developmental implications of RTAs and their interface with the MTS. Specifically, the course will provide an overview of recent trends and evolving features in RTAs and discuss their implications for developing countries. The course will also address the ways in which RTAs and the MTS interact with each other in order to draw practical lessons in approaching both processes in a holistic manner.

Delivered by: Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities