

Trade Logistics Branch,
Division on Technology and
Logistics



UNCTAD's Course on Key
Issues on the International
Economic Agenda for
Permanent Missions in Geneva

Short courses for Permanent Missions in Geneva

Transport and trade facilitation: infrastructure and services to enhance the competitiveness of landlocked and transit developing countries

Palais des Nations, Geneva May 28, 2010

Biographical note

Jan Hoffmann is Chief of the Trade Facilitation Section in the Trade Logistics Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). With UNCTAD since 2003, he is, inter alia, project manager for the organization's Trust Fund to support the negotiations on trade facilitations at the WTO, as well as several other national and global trade and transport facilitation projects. He is responsible for the quarterly *Transport Newsletter* and co-author of the *Review of Maritime Transport*. Previously, he spent six years with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Chile, and two years with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in the United Kingdom and in Chile. Prior to this, he held part time positions as assistant professor, import-export agent, translator, consultant and seafarer for a shipping company. Jan specializes in trade facilitation, freight costs, sea-ports, liner shipping, and international transport policies. His work has resulted in numerous United Nations and peer reviewed publications, lectures and technical missions, as well as the Internet "Maritime Profile", the "International Transport Data Base", and various electronic newsletters. Jan holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Hamburg; he also studied in Spain and in the UK.



Maria Misovicova is a trade economist at the Trade Facilitation Section, Trade Logistics Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). She manages various capacity building projects, activities and research on trade facilitation, including the work on trade facilitation and regional trade agreements, South-South cooperation issues, "Engaging the Trading Community" series as part of the capacity building support under the WTO trade facilitation negotiations assistance, and the Trade and Transport Facilitation Project in Pakistan (Phase 2). Maria is a project leader of the Single Window Interoperability Project Group under the UN/CEFACT International Trade Procedures Working Group (TBG15). Previously, Maria spent four years with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, and over two years with the Geneva-based United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, where she led various trade facilitation related technical assistance projects.



She participated in the development of trade facilitation guides and recommendations, and served as a secretary to the UN/CEFACT Legal Group and UN/CEFACT International Trade Procedures Working Group (TBG15). Prior to joining the United Nations, she held various positions as a civil servant with the Government of the Slovak Republic, including a diplomatic position as a representative of the Slovak Republic to the World Trade Organization at the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva, Head of the Negotiating Group on Free Provisions of Services within Slovakia's accession to the European Union, services negotiator within the Slovakia's accession to OECD and Director of the WTO Department at the Ministry of Economy. Maria authored and co-authored a number of publications and papers on international trade and trade facilitation, including *Designing and Implementing Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific* (ADB/UNESCAP, 2009), *Guide to Business Process Analysis to Simplify Trade Procedures* (UNESCAP, 2009), *Towards a Single Window Trading Environment: Gaining Support from Senior-level Policymakers* (UNESCAP, 2009), *Trade Facilitation in Selected Landlocked Countries in Asia* (UNESCAP, 2006), and *Beyond Enlargement: Trade, Business and Investment in a Changing Europe* (UNECE, 2003).



Vincent Valentine is a transport economist and Officer-in-Charge of the Transport Section of the Division on Technology and Logistics at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva, Switzerland. He is a principle author and the team leader responsible for the annual publication titled *Review of Maritime Transport*. He was promoted to this position after having served in the Transport Division of the UN's regional commission in Bangkok, Thailand. Prior to joining the UN he worked in the private sector negotiating settlements for a leading maritime transport insurer and then as a Lloyd's of London broker. In addition to these roles he was also a senior lecturer in international maritime commercial practice during which time he was awarded a Ph.D. for his research into container port efficiency.

Copyright © 2010 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

vlasta.macku@unctad.org, mohan.panicker@unctad.org