



OECD WORKSHOP

REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Co-organised with
the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and
the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)
Tokyo, 19-20 June 2007

AGENDA

Workshop website : www.oecd.org/environment/rtaworkshop

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Purpose of the workshop

The OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE) is currently examining the various linkages between the environment and regional trade agreements (RTAs).¹ It has recently finalised a report looking at countries' experience with negotiating and implementing provisions on environment in RTAs. The report will be published as a book and distributed at the workshop. It is also available on the workshop webpage.

The purpose of this workshop is to disseminate the findings of the report and share countries' experience in dealing with environmental issues in RTAs – with a particular focus on FTA negotiations in Asia. The workshop also aims to discuss new developments on environmental issues in RTAs and to collect experts' input for the development of a checklist on environment for RTA negotiators.

Experts and participants

This workshop is organised under the aegis of the OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE). The workshop is open to representatives from OECD countries, observers to the JWPTE as well as experts from non-OECD countries and non-governmental organisations.

Funding of non-OECD participants' travel has been possible thanks to voluntary contributions from Japan and New Zealand.

Background material and discussion

All participants will receive a copy of the OECD book on Environment and Regional Trade Agreements, which will serve as background document for the workshop.

The workshop intends to facilitate dialogue among experts from OECD and non-OECD countries. Therefore, each session will only have few formal presentations, which will be kept short (10 minutes) in order to allow ample time for interventions from other participants. Each participant will intervene in his/her personal capacity.

Japanese-English interpretation will be available during the workshop.

Venue

The workshop will be held in the Elizabeth Rose room of the United Nations University, situated at 53-70, Jingumae 5-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925. Directions and logistical information on nearby hotels is provided on the workshop webpage (www.oecd.org/environment/rtaworkshop).

¹ For the purposes of this project, the term RTA includes bilateral and regional trade agreements, free trade agreements (FTAs), economic partnerships and other arrangements aiming at trade liberalisation between the Parties.

AGENDA

DAY 1 (19 June 2007)

10:00 – 10:30 **OPENING SESSION**

- Opening remarks by Mr. H. Minamikawa (Japan) and Prof A. H. Zakri (UNU-IAS)
- Regional trade agreements: enlarging the coverage of trade-related issues, Mr. D. Andrew (OECD)
- Presentation of the book “Environment and Regional Trade Agreements”, Ms. C. Tébar Less (OECD)

SESSION I: EXPERIENCE WITH ENVIRONMENT AND REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

This session, spanning over the whole day, will focus on countries' past and current experience with the negotiation and implementation of environmental provisions in regional trade agreements.

10:30 – 12:30 ***Session 1.1: Approaches to environment in regional trade agreements***

Countries have chosen different approaches to incorporate environmental issues in RTAs and to put those approaches into practice. In this session experts will discuss their experience with different ways of integrating environmental issues into RTAs and the practical aspects related to their implementation.

Chair: Prof. M. Yamaguchi (Japan)

Speakers: Mr. P. Caridi (EU), Ms. K. Lang (New Zealand), Ms. Y. Li (China), Ms. K. Mishra (India)

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 – 15:30 ***Session 1.2: Factors that facilitate the negotiation of environmental issues in regional trade agreements***

This part of the session will focus on the negotiation process and will deal with issues such as mandates to include environmental issues in trade agreements, coordination between Trade and Environment Ministries, public consultation, etc.

Chair: Mr. B. Longley (New Zealand)

Speakers: Mr. Y. Miyake (Japan), Ms. Hang (Vietnam), Ms. E. Rossi (Chile); Mr. P. Dev (CUTS CITEE*-India)

* *CUTS CITEE - Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment*

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00 – 17:30 ***Session 1.3: Experience with environmental co-operation and capacity building in regional trade agreements***

Most recent RTAs dealing with environmental issues also contain provisions on environmental co-operation and capacity building. Participants will discuss experience with these approaches, in particular, practical aspects, such as funding, and co-ordination with other ongoing co-operation and capacity building approaches.

Chair: Mr. B. Longley (New Zealand)

Speakers: Ms M. Tabucanon (Thailand), Ms. L. Dhewanthi (Indonesia), Ms. N. Rohr (Norway)

18:00 – 20:00 **Reception hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan**

DAY 2 (20 June 2007)

09:30 – 11:00 **SESSION 2: CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES THROUGH RTAS**

This session will explore how regional trade agreements can best contribute to addressing specific trade and environment objectives. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss how rRTAs can support and complement multilateral efforts in the areas of trade and environment.

Chair: Mr. Julius Langendorff (EU)

- RTAs and recyclable materials (Mr. E. Ouano, Philippines)
- Promoting trade in environmental goods: how can RTAs contribute? (Mr. M. Sugathan, ICTSD*)
- Contributing to environmental objectives through RTAs: trade in organics and in renewable energy technologies (Mr. M. Elder, IGES*)
- RTAs and environment: complementing the multilateral agenda (Dr. A. Najam, Tufts University)

* *IGES - Institute for Global Environmental Strategies*
ICTSD - International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30 – 12:30 **Continuation of Session 2**

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 – 16:00 **SESSION 3: ELABORATING A CHECKLIST ON ENVIRONMENT FOR TRADE NEGOTIATORS**

In this session participants will be invited to provide ideas and suggestions for a possible "checklist" on items to consider when negotiating environmental provisions in RTAs. It will also include a presentation of the APEC draft model chapter on environment.

Chair: Ms. Salomé Steib (Switzerland)

Speakers: Ms. E. Rossi (Chile), Mr Hu Tao (China), Ms M-L. Hassall (New Zealand), Dr. K. Hayashi (Japan)

16:00 – 17.00 **Concluding session**

Chair: B. Gillespie (OECD)

Summary of findings from Sessions 1, 2 and 3

Concluding remarks and end of workshop