

SINGAPORE

WHAT IS YOUR AID FOR TRADE STRATEGY?

1. Do you have an aid-for-trade strategy and what are the key elements in this strategy?

Singapore has been sharing our development experiences with other countries in the form of technical assistance under the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) since its inception in 1992. To date, the SCP has trained more than 50,000 participants from 166 countries in a wide range of fields.

As a strong supporter of free trade, Singapore has committed substantial resources to help strengthen the human resource and institutional capacity of developing countries in harnessing trade as an engine of growth and development. Through the SCP, Singapore has been organising technical assistance programmes on trade policies and regulations to equip developing countries with the requisite knowledge on trade opportunities and skills to access them. We also formulate a range of programmes to help enhance the economic infrastructure and productive capacity of developing countries in fields such transport and logistic management, customs administration, tax systems, product testing.

2. How has this strategy evolved since the December 2005 WTO Ministerial Conference?

To facilitate a successful Doha Round, Singapore has focussed our attention on assisting other developing countries to strengthen their knowledge of the trade opportunities and capacity to benefit from them. Since the December 2005 WTO Ministerial Conference, we have committed additional resources to programmes targeting specific areas. We have also enhanced our programmes by co-ordinating closely with the WTO and other international partners (such as the IMF, ITC, WIPO, Commonwealth Secretariat, JICA and the EU, among others) in organising more joint technical assistance programmes in trade-related fields.

3. How does this strategy address regional aid-for-trade challenges?

Singapore's strategy has helped to raise the overall awareness of other developing countries of the opportunities for trade and development in an open world market and to strengthen their national capacity to tap on these opportunities. This has helped other developing countries to be better placed to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system.

HOW MUCH AID-FOR-TRADE DO YOU PROVIDE?

SCOPE

4. *How do you define aid-for-trade (i.e. which types of programme and project do you consider trade-related)?*

The SCP conducts a wide range of programmes, focussing on trade policy, building up economic infrastructure and increasing the productive capacities of developing countries, to enable them to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system. These programmes include courses, workshops, study visits and attachments. On trade policy and regulation, the SCP programmes cover trade policy and planning; trade liberalisation; regional trade agreement; trade negotiation and facilitation; dispute settlement; custom clearance; border management; and promotion of international trade; and investment. On economic infrastructure, the programmes cover sea and airport management; logistics and distribution; and Information, Communications and Technology. On increasing production capacity, the programmes cover banking; trade financing; enterprise development and competitiveness; and seafood safety codes. At the general support level, the SCP organises programmes and study visits, focussing on Singapore's experience in macroeconomic reforms and trade liberalisation.

METHODOLOGY

5. *How do you allocate the aid-for-trade share in individual projects and programmes?*

Given that the SCP programmes are targeted at specific fields related to trade, the aid-for-trade share in these individual specific programmes is 100%. Overall, more than 60% of the SCP's scope of activities is targeted, directly or indirectly, at enhancing other developing countries' capacities to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system.

COMMITMENTS

6. *According to your aid-for-trade definition, what were your commitments by category for the period 2002-2005 and in particular for 2005?*

For the period of 2002-2005, actual disbursement to aid-for-trade is S\$37 million. For 2005, the actual expenditure amounted to about S\$10 million.

PLEDGES

7. *Describe any aid-for-trade pledges you have made at or since the December 2005 WTO Ministerial Conference.*

Singapore did not make any specific aid-for-trade pledges at the December 2005 WTO Ministerial Conference. However, Singapore has continued to allocate sufficient resources to programmes which serve the objectives of aid-for-trade.

8. *What is your medium-term (beyond 3 years) financial plan for aid-for-trade?*

Singapore remains committed to its efforts and assistance in raising the capacity of other developing countries to integrate into the multilateral trading system. Additional resources will be allocated as and when necessary and based on our overall capacity to contribute. Singapore will also strengthen

our collaboration with the WTO and other multilateral, regional and bilateral partners, and nurture new international partnerships in Third Country Training Programmes (TCTP) to deliver projects that can better meet the needs and requirements of their participants.

HOW DO YOU IMPLEMENT YOUR AID-FOR-TRADE STRATEGY?

MAINSTREAMING

9. How do you ensure that aid-for-trade is effectively integrated in your overall development strategy and programming both at head quarters and in-country?

Given Singapore's firm belief in harnessing trade to attain growth and development, trade-related capacity building programmes have been mainstreamed into our development strategy and programming. As noted earlier, a substantial proportion of Singapore's technical assistance programmes has and will continue to be geared towards enhancing the trade-related capacity and infrastructure of other developing countries, particularly those within our region.

10. Have you recently strengthened your in-house aid-for-trade expertise and how is this expertise deployed to link policies with operations?

Singapore has continuously built on our existing pool of experts to effectively implement our development programming strategy. Singapore also sends our experts for continuous training programmes, to enable them to keep abreast of the latest trends and developments. We also work closely with key multilateral, regional and bilateral partners, such as the WTO, IMF, ESCAP and Commonwealth Secretariat, to improve and update our joint programmes and benefit other developing countries, especially those within our region.

OWNERSHIP

Refers to developing countries exercising effective leadership over their development policies and strategies and co-ordinating development efforts.

11. What approach do you follow in your country assistance plan, when national development strategies lack a strong trade development component?

Singapore has leveraged on own development experience to promote the benefits of more open world markets, in our interactions with other developing countries under the SCP. During our consultation with these countries, we make a conscious effort to identify training programmes relating to trade skills, economic infrastructure and productive capacity that would help facilitate trade and development in them.

12. How do you encourage and support policy dialogues on aid-for-trade among key stakeholders in partner countries?

Singapore has actively supported international events that promote and facilitate dialogue on trade and development issues. In addition, the SCP organises a range of training and study visit programmes for senior officials who are in a position to shape domestic opinions and/or provide policy advice to their governments. We have also invited policy makers and senior officials to Singapore to observe first-hand the critical role that trade has played in the development of Singapore.

ALIGNMENT

Refers to donors basing their overall support on partner countries. national development strategies, institutions and procedures.

13. Are you using the partner countries' policy planning and budgeting framework as the basis for the provision of your aid-for-trade programmes?

Under the SCP, we have been designing programmes based on our technical expertise and experience in specific areas, while taking into account the development needs of other developing countries, as well as their respective policy planning and budgeting frameworks. In line with the growing emphasis on aid alignment and coordination, we have also been working closely with our multilateral, regional and bilateral partners, such as the WTO, ESCAP, ITC, WIPO and Commonwealth Secretariat, in tailoring our trade programmes to the needs of developing countries.

HARMONISATION

Refers to donors. actions being more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective.

14. Do you coordinate aid-for-trade analyses and programming with other donors at the country level, given that its scope often exceeds the capacity of any single donor?

The SCP has forged more than 30 international partnerships with developed countries, international organizations and non-governmental organisations in conducting our TCTPs. Through these TCTPs, we have been able to mutually leverage on our partners' resources and align our efforts to bring about an optimal outcome.

15. Are you increasing the amount of aid-for-trade for regional and/or multilateral programmes? (If you are a regional or multilateral agency, are you managing an increasing amount of aid-for-trade?)

Singapore's contribution to development assistance under the SCP has been increasing steadily over the years. Likewise for the amount allocated to trade-related capacity building programmes. The increases are made as and when necessary and within our overall capacity to do so.

MANAGEMENT FOR RESULTS

Refers to both donors and partner countries managing resources and improving decision making for results.

16. What objectives and timeframes do you set for your aid-for-trade strategy and programmes? How do you measure success?

The main objective of the trade-related programmes conducted under the SCP is to build up the capacity of developing countries to participate effectively in the multilateral trading system. As development is an evolving and dynamic process, we do not set specific timelines. Some broad indicators of success include feedback from other developing countries on how they have benefited from our programmes, changes in their state of economic activities and trade volume, as well as any overall improvement in their standard of living.

17. What evaluation methodologies do you apply to your aid-for-trade projects and programmes?

Post-course surveys and evaluation sessions are conducted at the end of the programme to assess if the programme objectives have been met. Regular consultations are also held with other developing countries to evaluate the impact of the programmes conducted.

18. Do you cooperate with partner countries, other donors and stakeholders in joint monitoring and evaluation of aid-for-trade projects and programmes?

Singapore engages closely with other developing countries, donor partners, as well as stakeholders to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation and outcome of our programmes.

DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS?

Mutual accountability refers to donors and developing countries providing timely, transparent and comprehensive information in order to jointly assess development results.

19. Do you engage with partner countries, regional organisations, other donors and stakeholders in reviewing progress towards the fulfilment of your aid-for-trade policy and programme commitments?

Singapore conducts regular review sessions with other developing countries and TCTP partners to evaluate whether the programmes have achieved the policy and programme objectives.