

National Workshop on SPS and TBT Agreements; Training on Notifications¹

Kigali, Rwanda
2 - 4 June 2010

Programme

Wednesday, 2 June

09.00 – 09.30 Registration

SESSION I: OPENING SESSION AND WELCOME REMARKS

09.30 – 10.00 Introduction, Mr Robert Lynam, Trade Affairs Officer, AITIC
Welcome and Opening remarks, Dr Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe,
Director General, Rwanda Bureau of Standards

SESSION II: THE SPS AGREEMENT

10.00 – 11.00 **Quick overview of the WTO SPS Agreement – *M.Chinappen***

- The basic goals of the Agreement
- The key provisions of the Agreement

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15– 12.15 **Specific clauses of the SPS Agreement of significant importance to developing countries with exercises – *M.Chinappen***

- Equivalence
- Regionalisation
- Risk Analysis
- Dispute Settlement mechanism
- The role of the SPS Committee
- Role of other Regional Organizations

12.15 – 12.45 **Discussion**

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch Break

¹ This workshop was made possible through funding from DFID

- 14.00 – 15.30 **SPS Transparency Obligations and Notifications**
Maghespren CHINAPPEN
- Publication of measures
 - Notification of measures
 - Role of National Notification Authorities
 - Role of Enquiry Points
 - Coordination of SPS activities at national and regional level
 - Regional cooperation
 - Need to review national legislation to meet transparency provision of SPS agreement.
 - Basic tools/logistics needed to implement transparency measures
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15.30 – 15.45 Tea Break

- 15.45 – 16.45 **SPS Transparency Obligations and Notifications (continued)**
Participants / Maghespren CHINAPPEN / Panos KONANDREAS
- Hands-on Exercises:
 - *Group 1:* defensive interests – draft notifications
 - *Group 2:* offensive interests – draft notifications

16.45 – 17.15 **Discussion**

Thursday, 3 June

SESSION III: THE TBT AGREEMENT

- 09.30 – 10.30 **Introduction to the TBT Agreement - Panos KONANDREAS**
- Background in the context of the WTO system
 - What are TBT measures and differences with SPS
 - The key principles of the TBT Agreement
- 10.30 – 11.00 **The role of the TBT Committee - Panos KONANDREAS**
- Special Trade Concerns (STCs)
- 11.00 – 11.15 Coffee Break
- 11.15 – 12.45 **Transparency Obligations and Notifications**
Panos KONANDREAS
- What does transparency entail
 - Types of Notifications
 - Notification process: what to notify, when, how and to whom
 - Explaining the Notification forms
 - Publication of notice/measure
 - Handling of comments
 - Dissemination of information
 - Role of Enquiry Points
- 12.45 – 14.00 Lunch Break
- 14.00 – 14.45 **Transparency Obligations and Notifications (Continued)**
Panos KONANDREAS/ Maghespren CHINAPPEN
- Hands-on Exercise (two Groups):
 - preparation of draft statement
- 14.45 – 15.15 **Discussion**

- 15.15 – 15.30 **SPS and TBT Online Resources** - *Panos KONANDREAS*
- 15.30 – 15.45 Tea Break
- 15.45 – 16.45 **Transparency Obligations and Notifications (Continued)**
Panos KONANDREAS/ Maghespren CHINAPPEN
- Hands-on Exercises
 - Exercise 1: defensive interests – review of notifications already adopted by Rwanda; identify improvements
 - Exercise 2: offensive interests – react to a new Notification by a WTO Member on a product of export interest to Rwanda; identify relevant national agencies/actors
 - Exercise 3: (Two Groups) identify a Special Trade Concern (STC) of Rwanda that falls under the purview of the TBT, outline course of action, including national consultative process, and draft an intervention to the TBT Committee
- 16.45 – 17.15 **Analysis and Review of the Hands-on Exercises: identify gaps**
Participants - Reports of the three Groups

Friday, 4 June

SESSION IV: PRACTICAL FOLLOW-UP ISSUES

- 09.30 – 10.15 **Rwanda's Experience in dealing with its SPS and TBT Issues**
Lead Officials / Participants from Rwanda
- 10.15 – 11.00 **A Road Map for Rwanda to Participate fully in SPS and TBT**
Participants / Maghespren CHINAPPEN / Panos KONANDREAS
- Role of Government Agencies and Private Sector in Defensive and Offensive Interests
 - Review structure of national regulatory mechanisms (lead agencies, roles and responsibilities, flow of information, technical capacity, etc) of relevance to the SPS and TBT agreements
- 11.00 – 11.15 Coffee Break
- 11.15 – 12.30 **General Revision** - *Participants / M. CHINAPPEN / P. KONANDREAS*
- Overview of understanding of SPS/TBT Agreements and Notification Requirements
 - Recap of the key Principles of SPS/TBT Agreements and their role in facilitating trade
 - Follow-up exercises based on needs and gaps identified
 - Identification of related technical assistance needs
- 12.30 – 13.00 **Workshop evaluation and closure**