

**BUSINESS COUNCIL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
SEMINAR
ON THE
MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM'S
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION AGREEMENT
AND OTHER RULES
ON
TRADE IN GOODS
9TH NOVEMBER 2006**

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

The objective of the seminar is as follows:

- ❑ To provide the participants with a greater understanding of the rules, operations and impact of the WTO Multilateral Trading System, including the work program set out in the Doha Development Agenda (DDA), and of the relevant regional trading arrangements;
- ❑ To enhance the ability of members of the BCPNG to effectively participate in the work of the WTO, in particular to implement the WTO Agreements domestically;
- ❑ To assist participants in devising strategies for meeting the challenges of, and benefiting from, global trade liberalization and regional economic integration;
- ❑ To enhance the ability of participants to more effectively contribute to the formulation of contributing trade policies and strategies for mainstreaming trade into national development and poverty reduction policies and to translate national and regional policy objectives into governments' negotiating positions in international trade negotiations.

By the end of the course participants were able to have a more comprehensive understanding of the following:

- ❑ To list the main implications of the WTO Agreements domestically, which may require amendment of legislation (both procedural and regulatory) and policies to ensure consistency with WTO rules;
- ❑ To understand the WTO Dispute Settlement procedures and to determine its role in the domestic context;
- ❑ To summarize the role of domestic, regional and international agreements and procedures (including the WTO dispute settlement system) in enforcing trade rules and disciplines;
- ❑ To describe the evolving processes of regional economic integration, including through APEC, and their relationship to multilateral trade, and
- ❑ To identify ways in which countries of Asia-Pacific, including APEC members, may work together to facilitate multilateral trade liberalisation and economic reform in the region.

THE SESSIONS

The presentation by Mr. Douveri Henao and Dr. Eric Kwa provided an overview of the International Trade Environment to provide a context to PNG's interests and commitments relating to Trade in Goods.

- *Background on the development of International Trade Rules based systems.*

This included the formation of the GATT in 1947 and how international trade is used as a device of harnessing development such as: Tariff Rounds, Non Tariff Rounds; the Uruguay Round and the Marakesh Agreement, and the formation of the WTO.

- *An examination of the operations of GATT 1994 and associated agreements.*

The session was divided into three parts: Tariffs - Schedule of Concessions; Administrative Non Tariff Arrangements such as Rules of Origin, Pre shipment Inspections and Custom Valuations; and Contingency Measures.

- *Regional Trade Agreements: MSGTA, PICTA & EPA Negotiations.*

This session discussed the regional trade agreements and arrangements PNG is party to and focused on the MSGTA, PICTA, PACER and the EPA Negotiations.

- *National Legislation and Policies.*

The session looked at how PNG has implemented the Agreements and considered relevant policies and legislations that apply.

- *The DOHA Development Agenda.*

This discussion focused on the suspended negotiations on the DOHA Development Agenda and PNG's position in Multilateral Arrangements.

In conclusion, The Business Council of PNG was invited to put forward recommendations on particular gaps in the legislations for the Government agencies to pursue.

THE WAY FORWARD

In summarising the proceedings, the following recommendations were put forward by the delegates:

1. Papua New Guinea urgently needs a 'National Trade Policy' to push economic growth under the Government's development strategy. The Trade Policy must outline the requirements for local manufacturers to access overseas markets;
2. The BCPNG to obtain an up to date list of the MSG Trade Agreement and product List from the Department of Commerce & Industry;
3. The BCPNG to obtain a copy of the PICTA and PACER Agreements and the negative list from the Department of Commerce & Industry;
4. The BCPNG to establish a clear dialogue with the appropriate Government Agencies to address the WTO, MSG, PICTA and the PACER Agreements and Private Sector's contribution to such agreements and amendments;
5. Mr. Douveri Henao and the BCPNG Executive Officer to setup a 'formal framework' of names and programs that are in place for 2007 that relate to the above agreements;
6. BCPNG to secure a copy of the "Application for Intervention by Customs" and establish closer working relationship with IRC and IPA on the process for recording Intellectual Property Rights and management of imported 'counterfeit' goods into Papua New Guinea;
7. BCPNG to establish closer links with Government Agencies and extend invitations to Members to be actively involved in the proceedings;
8. BCPNG to approach the National Working Group (NWG) Trade Sub Committee and request an update from the current Chairman on progress to date; and
9. BCPNG to facilitate additional information sessions on similar topics.