

**WTO Committee on Trade and Development Meeting**  
July 2010, Geneva  
Regional Technical Group (RTG) Updates on Aid for Trade for the Asia-Pacific  
**Report by the RTG Co-Chairs**

1. The formation of the Regional Technical Group (RTG) on Aid for Trade for Asia-Pacific is a key milestone of the 2009-2010 WTO Aid for Trade Roadmap for Asia-Pacific. Since its inception in March 2009 and under the stewardship of co-chairs, Japan and Cambodia (Mr. Tomochika Uyama, Minister, Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, and Mr. Sok Sopheak, Director-General for International Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia), the RTG continues to serve as the coordinating body and a regional forum for discussing Aid for Trade issues and proposals; sharing good practices; taking stock of available analytical work on Aid for Trade in the region; building partnerships among actors and stakeholders; and formulating an integrated approach to operationalizing Aid for Trade in the medium-term in line with the Paris Principles on Aid Effectiveness. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) serves as the secretariat to the RTG and maintains a website with related resources, projects and events (<http://www.aric.adb.org/aid-for-trade-asia/>).

2. The third RTG meeting, hosted by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) was held in Tokyo, Japan on 10-11 May 2010. H.E. Mr. Koichi Takemasa, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, hosted a dinner for RTG members and delivered remarks. The RTG members engaged in the following: (i) discussion on the draft RTG report and collecting of inputs on the general messages for the report; (ii) RTG Work Plan for 2010-2011, including a tentative timeline on the formal submission of the RTG report, future presentation of the RTG report at various regional and global forums, and a future Regional Aid for Trade event to lead up to the Third Global Aid for Trade Review in Geneva in late 2011; and (iii) new partnerships, membership expansion, and funding options for the RTG process.

3. The RTG co-chairs report, *Aid for Trade in the Asia-Pacific: Its Role in Trade-Driven Growth*, will cover the following key messages:

- Historic links between trade-led growth, FDI and ODA have contributed to the region's transformation and growth and have led to the rise of 'Factory Asia'. But underlying this growth story is Asia's alarming heterogeneity in trade performance and development.
- Additional and better targeted-coordinated Aid for Trade flows are needed for the region to narrow these gaps in trading capacity between high performers and LDCs and small states. Combined with complementary economic policies and reforms, private capital and FDI flows, Aid for Trade is a critical instrument to achieving more inclusive development goals across the Asia-Pacific.
- An integrated regional approach backed by national development strategies is the optimal means to operationalize Aid for Trade for the medium term and to maximize the impact and effectiveness of flows. This strategy includes the following key elements: strong country ownership, mainstreaming into national development strategies, public-private sector partnerships, strong donor coordination, and triangular/South-South cooperation.

4. The RTG aims to finalize the report by the third quarter of 2010. The report is expected to be submitted at the WTO Committee on Trade and Development meeting in Geneva on October 2010 and subsequently presented at other regional and global forums as appropriate.

5. A fourth RTG meeting is planned in the Asia-Pacific in the first quarter of 2011. Other regional events leading up to the Third Global Aid for Trade Review meeting will be explored.