

**Workshop on
“Vietnam after its WTO accession:
Opportunities and challenges ahead”**

16 April 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

*Jointly organized by IDEAS Centre and
Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation Geneva Office*

Background:

On 11 January 2007, Vietnam became the 150th WTO member after having negotiated its accession for 12 years. WTO accession was another building block in the country's strategy to open up its economy (*doi moi*), which started in 1986 and was reflected e.g. by its ASEAN membership and the Bilateral Trade Agreement with the US. During the last 20 years, the country transformed its economy from a socialist dominated to a more market oriented economy. WTO accession requires the implementation of a number of WTO agreements, which poses challenges on domestic regulation, such as in the case of intellectual property rights or standards. Moreover, development strategies in the agricultural, industrial and services sector have to be in conformity with WTO rules and will, thus, be different from the ones that Asian neighbors pursued before.

Which opportunities and challenges lay ahead for Vietnam as a WTO member? How to reform the national trade and industrial policy in order to widely profit from WTO accession and use the available policy space effectively? Where are the bottlenecks to make trade work better for development?

Objectives:

- (i) to reflect on Vietnam's accession process and discuss lessons learnt for countries, which are in the process of acceding to WTO;
- (ii) to discuss the implementation challenge, i.e. the design of pro-poor and pro-trade policies;
- (iii) to present a study that analyzes the opportunities and challenges for Vietnam's trade and industrial policy arising from its WTO accession;
- (iv) to discuss WTO's Aid for Trade initiative, i.e. how to make trade work for development.

Venue: World Meteorological Organization (Press Room)

Participants: Geneva delegations, relevant international organizations, research institutions, representatives of labour and business groups, and concerned non-governmental organizations.

Language:

English

Organizers:

Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES) Geneva Office

The Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation is a German Political Foundation, non-profit organization and largely public funded. FES strives to promote political participation, social justice and international understanding. The FES Geneva Office works on trade and development, international labor issues and human rights, conducting policy analysis, research and capacity building measures.

Contact:

Steffen Grammling
Program Officer (Trade and Development)
6 bis, Chemin du Point-du-Jour
1202 Geneva, Switzerland
T 0041 (0) 22 733 3450
F 0041 (0) 22 733 3545
E fes.geneva@econophone.ch
W www.fes-geneva.org

IDEAS Centre

IDEAS Centre is an independent non-profit organization, which offers policy advice services to developing and transition country governments in the areas of international trade, development and economic governance. In relation to the World Trade Organization (WTO), IDEAS Centre helps low-income countries defend their trade interests and thus use their WTO membership in a way that supports their development.

Contact:

Lilja Olafsdottir
10, rue de l'Arquebuse
1204 Geneva, Switzerland
T 0041 (0) 22 807 17 40
F 0041 (0) 22 807 17 41
E lilja.olafsdottir@ideascentre.ch
W www.ideascentre.ch

Programme

Workshop on “Vietnam after its WTO accession: Opportunities and challenges ahead”

16 April 2007

World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Geneva, Switzerland

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome addresses <i>Erfried Adam</i> (Friedrich Ebert Foundation) <i>Nicolas Imboden</i> (IDEAS Centre)
09:15 – 10:45	Vietnam’s WTO accession process: Experiences and lessons learnt <i>Ambassador NGO Quang Xuan</i> (Mission of Vietnam) <i>Nguyen Van Long</i> (NCIEC, Hanoi)
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:30	The implementation challenge: Pro-poor and pro-trade policies <i>Le Dang Doanh</i> (Advisor to the MPI – Minister, Hanoi) <i>Nicolas Imboden</i> (IDEAS Centre) <i>Jean-Sébastien Roure</i> (ITC)
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Opportunities and challenges for Vietnam’s trade and industrial policy <i>Jürgen Wiemann</i> (German Development Institute) <i>Steffen Grammling</i> (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)
16:00 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 18:00	Aid for Trade: How to facilitate that trade works for development <i>John Hancock</i> (WTO) <i>Esperanza Durán</i> (AITIC)