**Vi welcomes new South African affiliate member**
The Department of Economics at Stellenbosch University, in Matieland, South Africa, joined the Virtual Institute in June. One of the top four research universities in the country, its department is one of the oldest of its kind among the universities in Africa. Its research expertise spans from macroeconomics and econometrics to economic development and growth, international trade and finance, monetary economics and public finance. The Department delivers a full range of academic programmes in Economics, starting from undergraduate degrees to Masters and PhDs.

Long-time associate member, Johan Fourie, who participated in our trade data analysis workshop and later became a Vi fellow, has been appointed to serve as coordinator. Fourie specializes in macroeconomics, international trade, and economic development problems in Africa and South Africa. His research interests include trade in services (in particular health services), intra-regional trade and trade infrastructure.

For more information about our new member, take a look at its [university profile](#). Johan Fourie can be contacted at johanf@sun.ac.za.

**Russia and West Indies members see theory in action with study tours**
The Virtual Institute organized two study tours for 70 participants from Vi member universities in Russia and Barbados this quarter. Although a first for the Russian members, it was the fourth for the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Forty-eight professors and students from the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations University and the St. Petersburg State University, took part in the [study tour](#) held in Geneva, March 31 to April 5. The week-long event was designed to complement academic studies in economics and international relations, with exposure to the negotiation process and the workings of international trade and development organizations. The tour included a "how-to" session on the use of trade-related databases and analytical tools, as well as discussions on dispute settlement mechanisms, intellectual property rights and Russia’s accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The final interactive negotiation simulation on trade in services, in particular, generated great enthusiasm among the students.

The UWI study tour brought 22 students on a [two-week study tour](#) (May 5 - 16) of Geneva-based organizations, including UNCTAD, ITC, WIPO, ILO, IOM, AITIC, ICTSD, South Centre and Oxfam. The study tour is a compulsory element of the UWI's professional Masters programme in International Trade Policy which is offered by the University's Shridath Ramphal Centre (SRC). The intention of the tour is to expose students to a more practical dimension of their training, and to provide them with opportunities to discuss trade and development issues with experts and professionals based in Geneva.

In summing up the tour, one student reflected: "The study tour is a great experience for young professionals looking to move into the international trade arena."

**Vi Brazilian member founds Keynesian Association**
The Institute of Economics of the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) hosted an international meeting 16-18 April, in which the Brazilian Keynesian Association was founded. The association hopes to follow John Maynard Keynes' and Raúl Prebisch's concept of the economic system -- that is it not self-adjusting, and that public policies must be devised to increase employment and improve income and wealth distribution.
Vi Mozambican member conference tackles regional integration issues with capacity building

The First International Conference on Regional Integration Issues and SADC Law was organized by the Faculty of Law, Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) in Maputo from 23 to 25 April. Held in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Mozambique, the conference gathered 280 participants from academia, government, and international organizations.

The international conference was part of a wider program for institutional and human capacity building initiated by UEM aiming at mainstreaming the implementation of regional integration policies and the harmonization and unification of the legal frameworks of SADC Member States.

Joint projects bear fruit

EAFIT University hosted a seminar led by Yasir Naqvi, Associate Director and International Trade Counsel of Canadian Vi member, the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL). The seminar was sponsored by the Canadian Studies Centre in coordination with the Department of International Business at EAFIT University in Medellin, Colombia.

This seminar was made possible by the joint project between EAFIT University and the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (Carleton University) sponsored by the Vi last summer. The partnership helped create a link of academic cooperation between the two institutions with the objective of adapting important concepts analyzed within the Program in Trade Law and Commercial Diplomacy (CTPL) for EAFIT audiences.

Belarus: Using Vi video resources in the classroom

Oksana Shkutko, Associate Professor at the Belarus State Economic University, has successfully incorporated one of the recent Vi video resources into her senior class in international economics.

"Together with my students I have organized a workshop, watched and discussed the materials of the video-lecture, Navigating the economic storm," writes Shkutko. "I, personally, would like to make a special mention of the scheme describing the interconnection and interdependence of three economic cycles – housing cycle, credit cycle and economic cycle. We (in the classroom) have discussed the processes described there separately, and found it very interesting to see them all together in interaction and interdependency. I think that this scheme gives the students a great example of how the problems in one particular market may influence the activity on another market."

UNCTAD expert addresses students in Belarus on IPR process

UNCTAD expert on investment policy, Massimo Meloni, on May 14, introduced the objectives and tasks of the Investment Policy Review for Belarus to students and professors of Belarus State Economic University's programme on International Investment.

"Students shared with me their impressions afterwards," said BSEU's Vi member coordinator, Alena Petrushkevich. First of all, they are proud of having the opportunity to communicate face-to-face with the experts from the international organization that publishes the documents they use widely in their studies and in research.

"The trick is that students always think that international organizations are somewhere on the top of the world and impossible to reach for common people. That is why the event is recognition of the importance of the dialog with the new generation of Belarusian economists. This fact motivates much."
UNCTAD contributes to Mauritian member MBA
UNCTAD's Trade Facilitation Chief, Jan Hoffmann, held classes for more than 20 students and professors from the University of Mauritius' Master of Business Administration, May 5-9. The lectures covered: globalization, transport costs, logistic services and transport modes, business key players, the challenges and opportunities of connectivity and the role of trade facilitation. The week culminated with a field trip visit to a local port.

"Jan went much beyond our expectations by giving real data and presenting cases of successful restructuring of ports, as well as those which did not do too well. He even discussed some of the empirical research works that UNCTAD did -- and of which he was also an author," said UOM professor, Sawkut Rojid.

The Vi coordinates UNCTAD expert guest lectures as part of the programme's services to assist members with student teaching and with capacity building of local professors, who will progressively integrate UNCTAD's material into their own courses.

Members get new batch of publications
In addition to this quarter's featured publications, Vi university members will receive more than 30 other publications - a special service from the Vi to enrich its members' university libraries with topical resources twice a year. In addition to UNCTAD publications, the package includes contributions from other Vi partners such as the WTO, the South Centre and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

We would like to express our thanks to new Vi partner, UNECE, for allowing the Vi to publish and distribute its publications.

> UPCOMING EVENTS

Teaching and researching IIAs workshop set for November in Uganda
A professional development workshop based on teaching materials developed by the Vi and UNCTAD's Work Programme on International Investment Agreements (IIAs) will take place in Kampala, Uganda, 10-14 November. The workshop is organized in cooperation with Vi member, Makerere University Business School, and funded by the Government of Spain. University lecturers and researchers from developing, and in particular from the Least Developed Countries in English-speaking Africa, may submit applications before September 22.

The workshop, dealing with both economic and legal aspects of IIAs, will include the following topics: economic aspects of foreign direct investment (FDI); national policies and IIAs; key issues and features of agreements; interaction with other economic and social areas, such as, intellectual property rights, technology transfer and the environment.

Discussions will be held about topical policy-oriented research questions in the area, research methodologies, links between research and policymaking and the ways of using the knowledge and material acquired at the workshop in courses at the participants' universities and the participants' research work. Participants will also be asked to present their own research and teaching work, as well as information about FDI and IIAs in their countries.

Call for applications for next UNCTAD regional course
Western Asian Vi members are invited to apply for the next UNCTAD Course on International Economic Issues to be held in Manama, Bahrain, from October 26 to November 13. The course -- to be delivered in English -- will focus on the links between trade, investment, finance and development, including in the context of international trade negotiations. Deadline for applications is August 28.

Since 2006, about 25 Vi members have taken part in the courses. The current course, taking place in Minsk, Belarus, June 23 - July 11, counts with the participation of five Vi members from the region (four from Belarus, one from Russia), including Belarus State Economic University's Vi member coordinator, Alena Petrushkevich, who contributes as resource person to the module on foreign direct investment and enterprise development.

Information and application forms are available on the Vi website.
**Vi joint research report published - RTAs: A Comparative Study**
The joint research report on Regional Trade Integration written by eight scholars from Vi member universities in India, Jordan and Mauritius is a milestone for the network. The study analyzes and compares three regional integration schemes in terms of their impact on intra-regional trade: the Great Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the South Asia Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA). Using revealed comparative advantage and regression analyses, the study finds that there is very limited potential for intra-regional trade within each of the three regions; that there was no substitution effect of the trade agreements between intra-regional trade and trade with the rest of the world; that there was not much trade created by the agreements; and that intra-regional trade was characterized by a high level of geographical concentration, mainly among neighboring countries. A number of obstacles to trade are identified, which are somewhat similar across regions. Finally, policy recommendations are given to tackle these obstacles, which stem from political, economic, administrative, tariff and non-tariff, transportation and external factors.

**Vi joint research project on the Textile/Garment Sector in Senegal and China finalized**
A new research report, titled "Implications of the Asian Miracle on Africa: A Comparative Analysis of the Textile/Garment Sector in Senegal and China" presents an analysis of the developments of the textile sectors in Senegal and China. While the sector is booming in China, it is experiencing tremendous difficulties in Senegal. In addition to in-depth analysis of the causes of these developments, the paper recommends support of Chinese/Senegalese joint ventures in order to further intensify trade flows between both countries, and to reap additional benefits. An interesting feature of the paper is a section on Chinese traders based in Dakar and their particular challenges and opportunities, which resulted from a series of interviews.

**Online videos: Your input requested**
The production of multimedia resources has been intensified to give Virtual Institute's members up-to-date information on policy makers' discussions, expert meetings and conferences tackling trade and development issues. Results of our recent survey indicate that the videos have helped to enhance the content of professors' lectures, and/or are being used in discussions with students.

Different types of video aim to better meet the requirements of VI members. In the last month, two new productions were published: the short video-introduction on "South-South Trade and Regional Trade Agreements," with excerpts of a pre-UNCTAD XII conference and interviews with experts, and the IMF presentation on the "World Economic Outlook," a report which tackles the impact of recent shocks on the global economy.

Although the results from the survey so far indicate that members find them useful, they have requested a downloadable format so that they can then project them in class, even when there is no Internet connection available. We are working on this.

If you have not already done so, please complete the survey!

**Commodities material localized by Vi members**
In addition to the Argentinean localization of the commodities material, two more are available for Mauritius and Senegal. The Mauritian localization has been integrated into modules 1, 2 and 4 of the generic material, thus all files are available as a localized version. They deal with African commodity trade trends, giving special attention to the main commodities traded by Mauritius and neighboring countries; export structures of African countries, applying concentration and revealed comparative advantage measures; the impact of the dismantling of the Multi-Fiber Agreement on Mauritius; sugar exports from Mauritius; intra-industry trade in commodities within Africa; sources of commodity market information for Africa; micro financing and Islamic trade finance in Mauritius; and a simulation exercise tailored to the situation of the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region and current Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).
negotiations.

The Senegal localization (in French) focuses on Modules 2 (National Policy and International Cooperation on Commodities) and 4 (Market Access and Market Entry) of the package. It includes a wide-ranging review of Senegal's macro-economic policies and their effect on the commodities sector, which also includes discussion of technical assistance and bilateral and international cooperation. Module 4 reviews Senegal's agricultural policies and reform of the sector, and gives an overview of product exports and market access, including a discussion of tariff and non-tariff barriers. The material also contains discussion questions. The localization is a useful overview and summary of Senegal's agricultural sector, the problems it faces at the international level, and the response of the government.

>PUBLICATIONS

The Creative Economy Report 2008
With the contribution from four other United Nations organizations, UNCTAD published the first study to present the United Nations' perspective on the evolving concept of "creative industries". These industries are at the crossroads of arts, culture, business and technology and use intellectual capital as their primary input. The report discusses concepts and the structure of the creative economy, analyses its impact on international trade in order to enhance policy makers' understanding in this field. There is also a chapter dedicated to the role of intellectual property and technology. A statistical annex provides trade data of creative goods and services.

Assuring Development Gains and Poverty Reduction from Trade: The Labour Mobility and Skills Trade Dimension
The paper gives an introduction to the issue of development gains and losses of migration for sending and receiving countries, by looking at temporary mobility of skilled and unskilled workers. It sets out the problem of labor mobility, the state of play in the global labor market, push-pull factors that cause worker mobility and, succinctly, describes seven inconsistencies of the labor movement conundrum. The author argues that progress in allowing temporary movement of workers by means of multilateral and regional/bilateral agreements is important to further the global governance, coherence and solidarity necessary for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The paper concludes with policy recommendations aiming at ensuring the sustained positive effects of migration on development for all sides. By giving an overview of the various economic implications, the paper provides a good introduction to economic evaluation of migration.

This year's report provides some perspective on the volatility in financial markets that have characterized the past 12 months, in particular the credit crisis and the collapse of the US sub-prime market. The report concludes that "overly benign financial conditions" caused the crisis to spread to other housing sectors in the US and then to other countries. Prior to July 2007, the relationships between liquidity markets in the US and other mature economies were "virtually non-existent," yet during the past 12 months these relationships intensified to the point that several European banks have now been affected by the crisis. The report provides three case studies of intervention by the US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and the Bank of England, contrasting their response to the spread of inter-bank illiquidity and the increasing reliance of commercial banks on central bank intervention. The report also highlights the problems of structured finance, and the complex financial instruments whose innovation outpaced the risk management practices of banks and other financial institutions. Lack of disclosure and underwriting (insurance against default), and the practice of moving risks off balance sheets in the form of structured investment vehicles (SIVs) created enormous problems for banks in the form of "extreme maturity mismatches". While the report offers some useful analysis on the scale of the crisis so far, which has reached $945 billion in loses on mortgages, related securities and loans in the US alone, it warns that there could be future reverberations. Feedback effects to the
banking sector and the economy in general, as well as other factors such as the risk of litigation over contract performance, could further increase the costs of the crisis.

> _LINKS

**WTO Trade Policy Reviews (TPRs)**

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp_rep_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp_rep_e.htm)

This link contains reviews of the national trade policies of all WTO members published by the WTO. The reviews take place in the Trade Policy Review Body - comprising the WTO’s full membership. The reviews are therefore essentially peer-group assessments, although much of the factual research is done by the WTO Secretariat. The reports consist of detailed chapters examining the trade policies and practices of the member and describing trade policymaking institutions and the country’s macroeconomic situation. The chapters are preceded by the Secretariat's summary of the report and perspective on the member's trade policies. The TPRs are browsable by country or chronological order. Summaries of reviews from the last 12 months include the United States, China, Mauritius, Mexico, Turkey, Ghana and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

**Trade, Production and Protection Database, 1976-2004**

[http://go.worldbank.org/EQW3W5UTP0](http://go.worldbank.org/EQW3W5UTP0)

This free database from the World Bank offers a comprehensive dataset on trade flows, production and trade protection, covering 100 developing and developed countries over the period 1976-2004. In contrast to other references, this database is compiled from different resources into one classification: the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), Revision 2, which makes it very user-friendly. This site is highly recommended for students and beginners who aim to analyze distinct features of the trade between two countries by using a gravity model, as the database provides the ‘Gravity Type Variables’ necessary, such as GDPs and distance measures between two countries.

> _PEOPLE

**Vi Senegalese member newly appointed Dean**

Aly Mbaye, long-time Vi member coordinator of Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, has been named Dean of the Faculty of Faculty of Social Sciences and Management. The faculty counts with 8000 students, three departments, two private schools and two research centres. Before his appointment, Mbaye served as Director of the faculty’s Centre for Applied Economic Research (CREA).

"I am now in a better position to advance the Vi agenda in the university," he writes. "And you can believe that I will."

Aly may be reached at ambaye@refer.sn.

**Vi coordinator changes for Senegal and Brazil**

Taking over for Aly Mbaye (see article above) at Senegalese Vi member, Cheikh Anta Diop University, is Ibrahima Thione Diop, Head of the Department of Economics at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Management, and a former Vi fellow. His areas of expertise include public and financial economy, international monetary economy, international financial system and banking techniques. He can be reached at thionediop@yahoo.fr.

Antonio Carlos Macedo e Silva, Professor at the Institute of Economics of the University of Campinas since 1983, has been appointed Vi member coordinator for the Brazilian member. With expertise in macroeconomics and international economics, his fields of interest also include development and history of the economic thought. He can be reached at acmacsil@gmail.com.
Canadian Vi member publishes book on trade and health

The recently published "Trade and Health: Seeking Common Ground" seeks to analyze the integration of health objectives and international trade policies. The book was co-edited by Chantal Blouin, Vi member coordinator at Centre for Trade Policy and Law, Carleton University, Ottawa.

The book offers "a number of case studies on how best to achieve policies that integrate health objectives," according to the publication's website. "The contributors represent the full range of stakeholders in the trade-health debate - medical professionals, civil society representatives, academics from a range of disciplines, and negotiators and policy-makers at the national and global levels."

Chantal can be reached at Chantal_Blouin@carleton.ca.

>_FEEDBACK

The Virtual Institute welcomes any feedback, both positive and critical, about the Vi Newsletter. Is it clear? Are the links helpful? Do they work? Equally, if there is any aspect of UNCTAD's work that you would like to see reported in the newsletter, please make suggestions and we will try to cover it. We would also welcome any news items from member universities about their current activities. Send all comments and document requests to: susana.olivares@unctad.org

Previous issues are available online.

ALSO, if you haven't already, please have a look at our website and familiarize yourself with its structure and content.

The UNCTAD Virtual Institute on Trade and Development is a capacity-building and knowledge-sharing programme designed to strengthen the capacities of academic institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to teach and research trade issues.

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