## Vi Newsletter
### July 2004, issue 1

The aim of this newsletter is to provide members with details of the current activities and future projects of the Virtual Institute, abstracts of recent UNCTAD publications, and links to other trade and development related sites. The newsletter will also serve as a means by which the network of members can communicate and share ideas on a regular basis. In between receiving newsletters, you will be able to keep up-to-date on important issues by accessing the News section on the home page of the Virtual Institute that will be developed shortly.

Our next newsletter will be posted in September. We invite you to submit suitable material for inclusion in it by the end of August. Material may consist of articles, abstracts, reviews or letters relating to development issues and/or news concerning your university department.

### Link to the Interactive Thematic Session at UNCTAD XI on 17 June 2004, which concluded with the official launching of the Virtual Institute –

**Launching of the Virtual Institute in UNCTAD XI.** The official launching of the UNCTAD Virtual Institute on Trade and Development on 17 June 2004 during UNCTAD XI was a great success. We have put together press clippings from various newspapers and articles from specialised press.

### Vi website

**Design of the web.** In accordance with the feedback received from the members concerning the design of the website, we are looking into different ways of improving the site. Future newsletters will provide further details.
### Useful links

**Interesting links:** One of the requests we have received from our Members is to provide information about the WTO negotiations. As UNCTAD does not produce regular updates of the state of play of the WTO negotiations, we are providing below various links to sites where this information can be found. Members may also wish to consult the WTO site. The following sites could be of some interest as well:

- Link to this website will be provided soon.
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In addition, we would like to suggest the following site that contains the findings of a conference on “Developing Countries and the Trade Negotiation Process”. During this conference, which took place in UNCTAD on 6-7 November 2003, Professor John Odell (School of International Relations, University of South California) and Dr Cedric Dupont (Political Science, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva) launched a new research project on trade negotiations. The findings of the conference and the related papers can be found at the following site: Link to this website will be provided soon.

### Information about courses at the University of Jordan

**New syllabi posted on the Vi website.** As you already know, the University of Jordan has become Vi member. Professor Talib M. Awad has sent us the syllabi of various courses given by the University such as International Finance, Theory of International Trade and Commercial Policies (given by Professor Talib Awad), Economics Development (given by Dr. Abed Kharabsheh), Economic Feasibility Study (given by Dr. Amir Bakir) and Financial Economics. You can consult these syllabuses by logging in the Network area of the Vi website and then clicking on Resources, By Institute, University of Jordan.

### UNCTAD Training and Reference Material

**Training material and other relevant UNCTAD material:**

**Simulations:** Various members have requested simulations on development issues to be carried out via the Vi website or offline. UNCTAD has developed several such simulations. Among them are two issue-specific simulations: one on agriculture and one on genetically modified organisms. These exercises simulate WTO
multilateral negotiations and are designed to help participants to understand both specific WTO negotiating issues and the dynamics of multilateral trade negotiations. We also have a simulation exercise dealing with various WTO issues, which focuses on national-level bargaining. The main aim of this exercise is to train participants to integrate international economic issues such as trade agreements into the domestic policy agenda. And finally, for the courses on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda we have developed a simulation on attracting foreign direct investment.

Members who are interested in working with us to customize these simulations to their needs and to use them in their teaching are asked to contact Marisa Henderson at Marisa.Henderson@unctad.org.

**GLOBSTAT: New database connected to the Vi site.** A new reference tool that has been developed by UNCTAD’s statistics branch is available for consultation on the Vi site. "Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures" (GlobStat) describes major developments in the world economy over the past 40 years and highlights the evolution of developing countries, particularly in the context of globalization. This quick-reference tool presents tables and charts supported by essential definitions and short explanatory texts, analyzing key statistics. It covers international trade, external finance, foreign direct investment, commodities and manufactures. It includes essential data on several country groups, in particular the least developed countries. GlobStat is available both in electronic format on the Vi website and in hard copy. Hard copies can be obtained by members free of charge. Interested members can send requests to Marisa.Henderson@unctad.org. Please include your mailing address.