New members for the Vi makes the network 50 strong

Addis Ababa University (AAU) of Ethiopia and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) became the 31st core and 19th affiliate members respectively this past quarter.

Expanding the African network to eight members, AAU is also the fifth university from a Least Developed Country, along with Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda and Tanzania. Vi participation will be managed through AAU's Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE) and the Faculty of Law. These faculties represent the country's only providers of graduate education in their respective fields of study.

The Department of Economics has a Master's in Economics with branches in International Economics, Economic Policy Analysis, Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, and Human Resources Economics. More recently, the Department provides graduate training to government staff, through recently launched Master's in Competition Policy and Regulatory Economics, and in Applied Trade Policy Analysis. The Department also participates in the Collaborative MA Programme (CMAP) of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), and seeks to strengthen its ties with developed country universities in order to set up a Ph.D. programme in Economics.

The Faculty of Law confers a Bachelor's degree in Law, and has been offering the country's only LLM programme since 2001. One of the specializations of the programme is Public International Law, featuring courses on international economic law and on advanced issues in copyright and patents.

Tekie Alemu Meshesha, Head of the Department of Economics, has been appointed Vi member coordinator for AAU.

DAV, a recently established institution carrying out research in international relations and foreign policy, is the second member university from Vietnam, and the sixth university in Asia to join the network. DAV's application, seconded by core Vietnamese university member, the Foreign Trade University (FTU), expresses an interest in cooperating within the network on course development, human resource capacity building, hosting events, students exchange and dual degree programmes.

DAV offers a range of degree programmes, including Bachelors in International Relations, International Economics and International Law, and a Master's and PhD in International Relations. DAV also offers a Bachelors degree in English and French for international relations, and a Masters on "Francophonie et Mondialisation" (Francophonie and Globalization). Current research topics include Foreign Direct Investment liberalization in East Asia; the Bretton Woods institutions; the vulnerability of the Vietnamese economy; the US financial crisis from the perspective of Information economy and risk management; and the Japanese economic model and its implications. Trinh Hai Yen, who teaches international investment and trade law, Vietnamese law, and the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, will serve as DAV's Vi member coordinator.
Finland increases funding for Vi activities

Long-time Vi supporter, the Government of Finland, has again this year allocated funds to help provide capacity-building services to members from Least Developed Countries.

Even as the financial crisis has shrunk many countries' development funding budgets, Finland has generously increased their annual contribution to the Vi, and has expanded the coverage of activities to include middle-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is great news, particularly for our current members in Kenya and Mauritius.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Government of Finland.

German member granted funding for work with Vi network

The University of Applied Sciences (HTW) Berlin (formerly FHTW) has secured funding from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for a cooperation project involving 10 Vi universities. The project includes capacity-building workshops and fellowships, and a special collaboration with Vi members in Chile, Tanzania and Uganda to develop new Master's programmes.

"This is an excellent model for North-South cooperation within the network," said Vi Chief, Vlasta Macku. "In this project, both sides win: HTW is able to bring in developing country perspectives into their work, while enhancing teaching and research capacity in the developing world."

A workshop scheduled for November 4-7 in Berlin "will both serve as a kick-off workshop for planning the agenda over the coming years as well as to present and discuss research projects of the partners," reports Sebastian Dullien, HTW's Vi member coordinator "Our proposal for this year's research theme is the 'Consequences and prospects of the financial crisis on least developed and emerging economies.'"

Although project funds have initially been allocated for only one year, Dullien hopes that funding will be extended for up to four more years after re-applying this autumn.

Norway-funded project well on its way

The Vi project "Economic capacity building in African Least Developed Countries (LDCs): How academia can support policymaking in the oil/gas and minerals sectors," funded by a donation of more than USD 200,000 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway has taken major steps into its implementation during this quarter.

In cooperation with UNCTAD's Commodities Unit, the Vi has identified qualified experts to develop two new modules on oil/gas and minerals, which can be used by teachers and researchers at their institutions and in executive training with government officials. The module "Minerals and Development" will be finalized by November, with the "Oil/gas and Development" module to follow in February, 2010.

Phase two of the project involves a workshop based on the new materials and targeted to African LDCs whose economies depend on extractive industries or where oil/gas exploration could bring positive results. It is hoped that the Norwegian Oil for Development Initiative will share Norway's experience with management of oil revenues at the workshop. The workshop is planned to take place in June or September of next year.

The third phase of the project will select three participants from the workshop to participate in a mentored research project, which will stem from the discussion and topics examined during the workshop and contained in the training materials. Their selection will be determined by a competitive process, and will seek input from national policymakers to ensure that the research is policy relevant.
Vietnam member gets EC funding for joint project with Spain
Vi members, Vietnam’s Foreign Trade University (FTU), and Spain’s Universitat de Barcelona (UB), have obtained nearly EUR 240,000 from the European Commission for a joint project to enhance FTU’s trade policy teaching and research activities.

“We highly appreciate your support (Vi’s) during the project preparation process, especially for recommending to us a very competent partner like UB and a considerate and effective coordinator as Professor Ramón Torrent (UB),” writes Thi Mai Khanh, of FTU. “This project is once again evidence of the efficiency and success of Vi network coordination.”

The 30-month project will fund the upgrade of the existing undergraduate programme in international trade, as well as create its equivalent in English. The grant will also fund workshops for entrepreneurs and policymakers and strengthen the university’s Institute of International Trade. UB will provide subject-matter and course-design expertise, visiting professors and training for FTU lecturers.

CEDDET, Vi, partner in distance learning course
The Vi and Spain’s Fundación Centro de Educación a Distancia para el Desarrollo Económico y Tecnológico (CEDDET) have agreed to collaborate on a pilot activity to develop and deliver an English version of the course "Instrumentos Jurídicos de las Relaciones Económicas Internacionales" (Legal Instruments of International Economic Relations) directed by Vi Spanish member coordinator, Ramón Torrent.

The content of the original course will be updated, adapted to a "global" audience and translated into English by end-December 2009. The course will be delivered using the CEDDET’s methodology in the first semester of 2010. Course participants will consist of 30 government officials and academics -- 50 percent will be drawn from Vi university members and 50 percent from government officials. Vi members selected for the course will participate free of charge. Materials developed for the course will be available to Vi university members through the website.

This activity is made possible by generous funding from the Government of Spain.

Vi members report on IELPO course
Virtual Institute members from Cambodia, Colombia and Uruguay recently completed the nine-month Master of Laws in International Economic Law and Policy (IELPO) programme offered by Spanish member university, Universitat de Barcelona.

As they prepare their final research papers, due in October, Vutha Hing, Research Associate at the Cambodian Development Resource Institute, and Laura da Costa Ferré, Economist at Uruguay’s Universidad de la República, share their experience and acknowledge the contribution of the Vi to their success on the website.

Vi organizes trade analysis workshops for members in Tanzania and Uganda
The Vi organized workshops on the "Empirics of Trade" for Makerere University Business School (MUBS) and the University of Dar es Salaam in June and September. A total of 48 lecturers, researchers and students took part in the training.

UNCTAD expert, Marco Fugazza, of UNCTAD’s Division on International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities, delivered each one-week workshop, which included an introduction to STATA econometric software and datasets relevant for the empirical assessment of issues related to trade and its determinants.

"Uganda’s growth will come from trade,” said MUBS Principal, Professor Wasswa Balunywa. “The Virtual Institute is an avenue for us to acquire the skills necessary to prepare students to use the potential we have to change society.”
Vi members complete fellowships
Two lecturers from Tanzania and one from Argentina worked on their research projects with UNCTAD experts in Geneva between June 1 and July 10, as part of the Virtual Institute Fellowship Programme.

Mesia Ilomo (pictured, left) and Chacha Ryoba Magubo (middle), of Vi Tanzanian member, University of Dar es Salaam, spent six weeks in UNCTAD developing their PhD proposals. Marcelo Saguier, of Vi Argentinean member, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), worked on a paper that will be included in the Vi Latin American joint project on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Both Tanzanians worked on their PhD in international economics proposals. Mentorship was provided by Rolf Traeger and Janvier Nkurunziza, of UNCTAD's Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes (ALDC). Saguier worked with Anthony Miller, of UNCTAD's Division on Investment and Enterprise.

Currently the Vi is hosting a fellow from Senegal, and two more fellows, from Argentina and Uruguay, are expected this fall.

The fellowships are funded by the governments of Finland and Spain.

Vi members host launch of UNCTAD flagship reports
Members from Senegal, Peru and Uruguay are working with UNCTAD to present the findings of this year's World Investment (WIR) and Information Economy (IER) reports in their countries.

For the Senegalese launch of the WIR September 17, UNCTAD chose long-time Vi member, Malick Sané, of Cheikh Anta Diop University, to lead the presentation of this year's theme, "Transnational Corporations, Agricultural Production and Development." The event was presided by the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Dakar, and attended by many students of the university's Master's in International Trade Policy and Negotiations programme, as well as members of the press.

IER national unveilings will be hosted by Vi university member, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, and Universidad de la República (UDELAR) in Uruguay. The Uruguay launch will be led by Scarlett Fondue Gil of UNCTAD's Division on Trade and Logistics, and will feature a presentation via videoconference from Vi member coordinator, Marcel Vaillant, who contributed his research to this year's report. The official publication of the report is scheduled for October 22.

Vi partner trains Senegalese academics on trade negotiations
Vi partner, the World Trade Organization, conducted a workshop on negotiations and trade policy August 5-6 for Senegalese Vi member, Cheikh Anta Diop University's Centre de Recherches Economiques Appliquées (CREA).

"The Vi team spared no effort to make the workshop a reality," writes Ibrahima Thione Diop, the university's Vi member coordinator. "The team put us in touch with the WTO and facilitated discussions with the seminar's presenters during the recent Vi meeting held in Geneva. The Vi was the interface between CREA and the WTO, which permitted the positive results achieved today."

The workshop counted with the participation of 37 lecturers, Master's students and government officials. Topics also included technical cooperation programmes at the WTO, the competitiveness of Senegal, and Cheikh Anta Diop as a training and research hub on trade policy.
Vi plans five Latin American workshops on joint projects, trade databases
Findings from 12 papers on regional integration (RI) and on corporate social responsibility (CSR) -- part of a Spain-funded Latin American Vi project -- will be presented during three workshops to be held in Colombia, Peru and Uruguay before the end of the year.

The first workshop, scheduled for November 19 in Medellin, Colombia, will present the five CSR papers prepared by Vi members from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Spain and Uruguay. Topics include social, legal and labour aspects of CSR, and cover industries such as mining and agriculture.

Two RI workshops will gather Vi members from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Spain, to discuss topics like the financial aspects of South American integration, the impact of regional integration and North-South agreements on Andean countries, and regionalism as industrial policy in developing countries. The workshops will take place in Peru and Uruguay in December.

The Vi has also organized two workshops on trade policy data analysis tools for Vi university members, Universidad de la Sabana (Colombia) and Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. The three-day workshops, scheduled for December 2-4 and 7-9 respectively, will be led by Hiroaki Kuwahara, Chief of the Trade Information Section of UNCTAD’s Trade Analysis Branch. In addition to discussing current WTO negotiations, Kuwahara will introduce basic international trade theory, and present databases such as TRAINS (UNCTAD Trade Analysis and Information System) and WITS (World Integrated Trade Solutions).

Study tour for Colombian members
The Vi is currently organizing a study tour to Geneva-based international institutions working on trade issues for five Colombian member universities -- Universidad ICESI (Cali), Universidad de la Sabana (Bogota), Universidad del Norte (Barranquilla), Universidad EAFIT (Medellin) and Universidad Tecnológica de Bolivar (Cartagena). Overall, around 40 students will participate in the tour.

The aim of this study tour, which will take place October 19-23, is to give students the opportunity to meet and discuss with experts in the field of international trade, investment and development, and with Colombian government representatives based in Geneva.

The program includes presentations from experts at Vi partner organizations ITC and WTO, as well as from the International Labour Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Economic Forum (WEF). Topics of discussion include recently launched flagship publications like UNCTAD’s World Investment Report and the WEF’s Global Competitiveness Report, and successful development cooperation initiatives, such as UNCTAD’s programmes on Business Linkages and Investment Policy Reviews.

Vi gearing up for busy videoconference season
This fall will be particularly eventful as a large number of universities prepare to participate in Vi videoconferences based on the findings of UNCTAD’s flagship reports.

The University of Chile and three member universities from Russia, namely Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), Higher School of Economics and the University of St. Petersburg have scheduled presentations of the Information Economy Report. Chile will also join Alfredo Calcagno and/or Pilar Fajarnes of UNCTAD’s Division on Globalization and Development Strategies via videoconference on November 23 to discuss the findings of this year’s Trade and

Many more university members have expressed interest in conducting videoconferences on one or more of UNCTAD's flagship reports. Among them the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), the University of Jordan, the University of Campinas in Brazil and Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP).

The Vi provides videoconference services to facilitate a "real-time" two-way exchange between its members and UNCTAD experts. The videoconferences give members the opportunity to better understand the impact of the organization's findings on their countries, while connecting UNCTAD to local expertise.

18th UNCTAD regional course
The next UNCTAD Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda will take place in Jakarta, Indonesia, November 2-20. Two lecturers from Vietnamese Vi member, Foreign Trade University, Do Ngoc Kien and Ly Hoang Phu, as well as a former Vi workshop participant, Vadsana Chanthanasinhhave, of Laos, have been selected to participate.

The three-week program will look at the complex relationships between trade, finance, investment and development and their link to countries’ development strategies. The course will also provide participants with knowledge and skills related to the design and implementation of trade and development policies, and to trade negotiations.

Vi members hold international conferences
The conference, "Trade in the ASEAN Region under the Global Crisis," organized by Vietnamese member, Foreign Trade University (FTU), will take place in Hanoi on December 7. The keynote speech will be given by Vi Swiss member coordinator, Pierre Sauvé, of the World Trade Institute. The main goal of the conference is to provide an opportunity for policy makers, academics and professionals with a broad trade policy background to share and exchange practical research findings and views on measures that can be taken by stakeholders to increase trade within South East Asia.

The University of Jordan (JU) will hold a conference on "Regulation and Competition Policy for Development: Challenges and Practice," January 27-28 in Amman. The objective of the conference is to examine the experience of Middle East countries in the field of regulation and competition practice, to explore the analytical challenges for regulatory policy design and implementation, and to develop practical guidelines for policymakers in meeting the challenge of effective regulation for development.

Vi members may apply to FTU and JU for a waiver of conference registration fees.

>_TEACHING RESOURCES

Joint project produces new teaching material on Trade and Environment
A new teaching material, “Environmental Economics with an International Dimension,” has been produced as a result of a joint research project between Vi members in Colombia and India. Comprised of five modules, the material addresses a wide spectrum of trade and environment issues including: the environmental aspects of regional trade agreements, trans-frontier environmental issues, environment and economic growth (module 1); effect of trade liberalization on the environment and social welfare, environmental regulation and trade
competitiveness (module 2); environmental governance (module 3); environmental goods and services with a focus on the ongoing WTO negotiations (module 4); corporate environmental initiatives, eco-innovation and building consumer awareness (module 5).

The material, along with the recently published joint projects on Qualifying Industrial Zones (Egypt and Jordan) and on the coffee industry (Colombia and Vietnam), are now available on the website's resources section.

**Published localizations**

The latest VI localization, three modules based on the Transfer of Technology teaching material, has been developed by researchers affiliated with the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). The first module provides a theoretical analysis and historical development of the Russian National Innovation System (NIS), an overview of industrial technology alliances and a case study on the influence of technoparks in Russia on stimulating the transfer of technology. The second module focuses on research and development flows and Russia's participation in international scientific and technological projects. The third module explores the role of Intellectual Property Rights, with a special focus on information technology and software. It also sets out the legal framework, in particular the multitude of Free Trade Agreements that stimulate investment, trade and the transfer of technology in the Western hemisphere and the Asia Pacific region.

The teaching material on "Trade Policy Analysis" has been localized by Jordan, providing an assessment of measures and indicators that cover the essential aspects of Jordanian international trade flows and policy. It analyzes trade performance in terms of volumes and composition. In addition, it looks at the regional intensity of trade using the gravity equation.

The teaching material on "Regional Trade Agreements" (RTA) has been translated in Spanish by the University of Chile. Furthermore, a module has been created to amend the teaching material to include Latin American integration processes -- an overview of MERCOSUR, the Andean Community and the Central America Integration System, among others. The module also examines the RTA strategy designed by Chile and Mexico.

**Two new multimedia teaching packages now online**

Based on expert presentations at UNCTAD, the VI has developed multimedia resources on investment promotion and on a new model for better managing world food shortages while contributing to Africa's development.

The first package, from a recent UNCTAD Short Course for Geneva-based delegates, includes three multimedia files featuring Paul Wessendorp, Chief of the Investment Facilitation Section, and Programme Officer Natalia Guerra, both of UNCTAD's Division on Investment and Enterprise. Wessendorp gives an overview of global foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, along with strategies that governments, especially diplomats in foreign offices, can adopt to minimize the impact of the crisis on FDI flows. Guerra explains the concept of investor targeting, and runs through each stage of the decision-making process from the investors perspective. To illustrate the efficacy of this approach, in the second part of her presentation she presents a successful case study of an investment promotion strategy developed in Peru.

In the second resource, developed from UNCTAD's Trade Development Board's Panel on African food security: Lessons from the recent global food crisis, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, Vice-President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) gives an overview of the current agricultural situation in the continent and lists the measures required to unlock Africa’s growth and rural development.
UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2009: Responding to the Global Crisis. Climate Change Mitigation and Development

The Trade and Development Report series explores current economic trends and major policy issues of international concern, and makes suggestions for addressing these issues at various levels. This year's report analyses the ongoing global financial and economic crisis. It looks at the channels through which the crisis is spreading from developed countries to developing and transition economies. It examines the short-term policy responses of governments and discusses their respective advantages and disadvantages. By conducting an in-depth analysis of the causes and contributing factors of the current crises it emphasizes the need for a reform of the monetary and financial system both on the national and the international level. Given the pressing preoccupation with global warming, the report also addresses the question of how forward-looking development strategies and rapid growth in developing countries can be reconciled with climate change mitigation.

UNCTAD World Investment Report 2009: Transnational Corporations, Agricultural Production and Development

This year's World Investment Report (WIR) concentrates on the changes in the FDI landscape induced by the current economic and financial crisis. Global FDI flows have been severely affected, and investments to developing and transition economies, which surged in recent years, are expected to suffer from a decline in 2009. This poses challenges for many developing countries, as FDI has become their largest source of external financing. The impact is analyzed in detail, and regional trends for developing and developed countries are identified in the first part of the WIR. The second part of the report looks at transnational corporations (TNCs), Agricultural Production and Development. Foreign participation can play a significant role in agricultural production in developing countries. Therefore, the report proposes that governments should formulate an integrated strategic policy and regulatory framework for TNC activities in agricultural production, considering business as well as social and environmental interests.

UNCTAD Least Developed Countries Report 2009: The State and Development Governance

The global crisis has undermined the factors that enabled strong GDP growth performance in LDCs in 2002-2008, exposing once again both the lingering structural weaknesses of their economies, and the myth of self-regulating markets. Despite their recent strong growth performance, few LDCs have managed to spur structural change and pursue a sustainable diversification of their economies, while many have actually experienced de-industrialization. This year's report suggests LDCs should focus their macroeconomic policies long-term on boosting the productive capacities of their economies and on establishing the infrastructure -- such as roads, bridges and electricity supply -- that empowers such progress. It adds that they should nurture and steer their fledgling private banking sectors into investing in productive activities instead of government portfolios and real estate.

> _LINKS_

Focus on Vi meetings with special website section for members

Ever wanted to recover that excellent Vi meeting presentation of a fellow network member, but could not seem to find the event's CD? No need to fret. University members can now access (after logging in) all documents -- and photos! -- related to Vi meetings to date through a sub-section of the "Members" menu.
New team members for the Vi

Piergiuseppe Fortunato, (pictured, right) from Italy, joined the Vi in August, after working on the World Economic and Social Survey at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in New York. Previously, he was assistant professor in economics at the University of Bologna (Italy) and a research fellow at the Equipe de Recherche en Economie Quantitative (EUREQua) of the Université Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris). He has been doing extensive research on economic development, international trade and political economy, publishing his papers on various international journals. At the Vi, Piergiuseppe (Pepe) is currently responsible for the regional integration joint research project, the organization of study tours to Geneva-based international organizations and mentored research studies.

Stefan Hildebrand is from Germany and holds a Bachelor in Economics. He is currently enrolled in a Master's course in International Economics in Göttingen, Germany, with a focus on Development Economics. Stefan is Vi's web development intern and has been working on the upgrade of the website and the digital library. After his internship, which runs from mid-July to mid-October, he plans to write his Master's thesis on the effects of ICT on inequality in developing countries.

Ina Peters is Vi's project management intern. Also from Germany, she is a Carlo Schmid scholarship holder, with a Bachelor's Degree in International Business Administration and a Master's Degree in European Culture and Economy. Her Master's thesis, "Interest and ideas in multilateral trade relations - An analysis of Brazil's position in the DDA- and FTAA negotiations" will be published soon. Her studies have focused on international political economy, trade and development. She is especially interested in capacity building and has taught at Shandong Agricultural University, Taian, China. After her assignment at UNCTAD (September - February) she hopes to work in an international organization or research institution, preferably with a focus on Latin America.

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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