VIRTUAL INSTITUTE
ACTIVITY REPORT 2011
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1. INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS

The UNCTAD Virtual Institute (Vi) works with academia in developing and transition countries to strengthen their teaching and research capacities on trade and development and increase the policy relevance of their work. It does so by: (1) providing support to university teaching, (2) offering professional development opportunities for academics, and (3) promoting cooperation among the members of its global network. The Vi is also disseminates the research of UNCTAD and other international organizations, and facilitates the exchange of information among its members, in particular through the use of information and communication technologies. The Vi supports UNCTAD in its role as a knowledge-based institution by serving as a channel for a two-way exchange with academia, and providing the organization with the opportunity to contribute to developmental thinking and the education of future decision-makers in developing countries.

Vi university membership increased by 16 percent in 2011, as 9 new universities, from Azerbaijan, Benin, Brazil, the People's Republic of China, Colombia (2), the Czech Republic, Ethiopia and Zambia joined the Vi, expanding the university network to 64 institutions in 36 countries.

In December, following the decision of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to streamline the organization's work with academia (universities and research institutes), the Vi was tasked to integrate UNCTAD's Global Network of Development Think Tanks (GNTT) into its membership, and expand the services offered to these research centres. To facilitate the process, the Vi changed location within the UNCTAD organizational structure, and is now hosted by the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, producer of the first UNCTAD flagship publication, the *Trade and Development Report*. Soon after the announcement of the merger, two GNTT members, from Bangladesh and Belgium, reiterated their interest in cooperation with UNCTAD and registered as Vi think tank members.

In 2011, the Vi offered four professional development workshops for 107 academics from its member universities; hosted four research fellows for two- to six-week stays in Geneva; trained 30 Vi members through an online course on international trade law held jointly with partners in Spain; and organized five study tours and three shorter study visits to Geneva-based international organizations for 210 students from member universities. The Vi also produced three teaching materials in cooperation with its members from the least developed countries (LDCs), completed one joint research project, and published a study on capacity building in LDCs. Due to a downsized team and changes in staff profiles, the main focus of the Vi work in
the second part of the year was on the dissemination of UNCTAD's research and the support to academic networking, resulting in an increase in the production of multimedia teaching resources and the number of presentations of UNCTAD's research via videoconferences. In terms of geographic focus, while the thrust of its capacity-building activities was on LDCs, the Vi made every effort to continue offering its members a "menu of services" that would allow members from all regions to participate in its activities.

Vi activities in 2011 benefited from financial support from the governments of Finland, Spain, Norway and Japan. Following the successful implementation of a UN Development Account project – on strengthening teaching capacities and networking of developing country universities (2006-2009) – the Vi was selected by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) to implement another, two-year, project. Focusing on poverty reduction, one of the crucial Millennium Development Goals, this project will combine training for academics with applied research on issues of policy relevance for participants' countries undertaken in cooperation with national policymakers.

2. SUPPORT TO TEACHING: CURRICULAR ADVICE, TEACHING MATERIALS AND STUDY TOURS

In 2011, the Vi continued to support undergraduate and graduate programmes on trade and development issues at its member universities by providing advisory services on the design of academic programmes and courses, developing teaching materials, supporting their adaptation to the context of beneficiary countries, and organizing study tours to Geneva-based institutions for Vi member university students and their professors.

The Vi provided advisory and curriculum support to the Master in International Trade that is being jointly developed by Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano and Universidad del Valle in Colombia.

At the request of the University of Dar es Salaam Business School (UDBS), the Vi developed a short teaching material titled "Introduction to multilateral trade negotiations". The material provides an overview of negotiation theory, examines the patterns of collaborative and competitive strategies, and looks at the mediation role in the framework of a negotiation. It also reviews the structure, process, rules and principles of multilateral negotiations, and proposes several negotiating tools to be considered by developing and least developed countries when preparing and conducting their negotiations. Developed with financial support from the government of Finland, the material was used to teach courses on trade and business negotiations for 27 students of the fourth intake of UD5S's Master of International Trade (MIT). The students in the programme are drawn from various government ministries, departments and agencies responsible for trade and trade-related issues.

In an effort to increase the policy relevance of their teaching and research, two UD5S academics undertook secondments at ministries in their country. One of the objectives of this initiative was to develop a teaching module on "Trade policy and foreign trade performance of Tanzania". The development of the material, sponsored by the Vi with funds from the government of Finland, allowed the lecturers to apply the knowledge gained in an earlier Vi professional development workshop on trade data analysis. Intended for use in UD5S's MIT programme, the material will be integrated in courses on trade, economic growth and competitiveness, and on trade theory, trade policy and market access, among others.

As Vi teaching materials are generic – they are produced for a general developing/transition country audience – they do not contain detailed information and data about each particular country in which they may be used. In order to make them country specific, the Vi provides grants and expert advice/peer review for their adaptation by academics from Vi universities to their countries' local conditions ("localization"). The localization includes elements such as the addition of national/regional data, case studies and information about national policy frameworks, most often in an additional teaching module. In 2010, one localized version of a Vi teaching material, "Competitiveness and development", was completed by lecturers from
the Makerere University Business School (MUBS) in Uganda, with funding from the government of Finland. The localized material was already used to teach a course on trade policy and competitiveness, and seminars I and II in MUBS’ Master of International Business (MIB) programme.

The electronic versions of Vi teaching materials, as well as their local adaptations, are available to all Vi members on the Vi website. At the end of 2011, the site hosted nine generic Vi teaching materials and 25 localizations. It also offered 22 sets of training materials emanating from Vi professional development workshops and study tours, which can serve as teaching resources in support of members’ courses on trade and development issues.

In addition to the materials developed by the Vi, UDBS also received 14 international textbooks which enriched the library of the MIT programme and were used in courses on trade analysis and on intellectual property rights.

As part of its support to teaching, the Vi organized five study tours for 151 students (94 women) from member universities in the Russian Federation, the Caribbean, the United Republic of Tanzania, the People’s Republic of China, and Colombia, and three shorter training sessions for 59 students (36 women) from the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (People’s Republic of China), the University of Applied Sciences Berlin (Germany), and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (Russian Federation). The students attended training programmes of up to two weeks at UNCTAD and Vi partner institutions – the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), the International Organization for Migration (IMO), and the South Centre. The tours provided students with an overview of the current international trade policy and development agenda, and exposed these future trade professionals to the environment of trade negotiations, as well as to international experts and their country representatives in charge of negotiations in Geneva.

Virtual Institute study tours 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Universities</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Number of participants/women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Russian Federation</td>
<td>Higher School of Economics, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance, North-West Institute</td>
<td>4-8 April</td>
<td>56/42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Caribbean countries</td>
<td>University of the West Indies</td>
<td>16-27 May</td>
<td>11/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 United Republic of Tanzania</td>
<td>University of Dar es Salaam Business School</td>
<td>20-24 June</td>
<td>29/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 People’s Republic of China</td>
<td>University of International Business and Economics</td>
<td>26-30 September</td>
<td>26/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Colombia</td>
<td>Universidad EAFIT, Universidad EAN, Universidad ICESI, Universidad Sergio Arboleda, Universidad del Norte, Universidad de la Sabana, Universidad de Santo Tomas</td>
<td>14-18 November</td>
<td>29/19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Feedback from Vi study tours

"The choice of subjects seemed quite balanced, as it combined theoretical and practical elements, as well as global trends and issues specific to Russia. The conclusion of the tour (the business simulation) was great, as it forced us into fruitful cooperation and allowed us to apply theoretical concepts to real-life issues."

*Participant of the study tour for the Russian Federation*

"The choice of subject matter was excellent and especially relevant and important in the context of the Caribbean region."

*Participant of the study tour for the Caribbean countries*

"The sessions added to my understanding of trade issues and the examples were relevant, as they mattered to my country."

*Participant of the study tour for the United Republic of Tanzania*

"It really stimulated our passion for discussion and during this process we could get much knowledge about the subject. It’s an honour to learn from experts of UNCTAD, there is no better than that."

*Participant of the study tour for the People’s Republic of China*

"I have learned a lot on very actual topics important for our economy. I hope to be able to contribute to our society and to have an opportunity to teach others all that I have learnt during this incredible experience abroad."

*Participant of the study tour for Colombia*

### 3. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING: WORKSHOPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND MENTORING/PEER REVIEWING

Vi professional development workshops aim to enhance the knowledge and research skills of participating academics on specific trade and development topics and analytical tools, including those covered by Vi teaching materials. The goal is to transfer this knowledge and skills to staff of member universities so that they can progressively take on the teaching and undertake the research themselves.

This year, the Vi organized one inter-regional professional development workshop (for Africa and Asia), as well as three national workshops for academics in LDCs, for a total of 107 participants, including 23 women.

The inter-regional workshop on "Tools and methods for trade and trade policy analysis" (Geneva, 10-14 October) was organized by the Vi, the UNCTAD Division on International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities, the WTO Economic Research and Statistics Division, and the ITC Market Analysis Section. It responded to requests from Vi members for training on quantitative methods, highlighting the importance of quality analysis of trade data for decision-making both in the government and the business sector, and the role of academic institutions as educators of future decision-makers and suppliers of research for their governments.

The Vi received 179 applications for the 20 places available. The final selection included 22 university lecturers and researchers (5 women) from 20 African and Asian countries (12 men and 1 woman). The workshop was attended by two participants from Laos, Phouphet Kyophilavong from the National University of Laos and Sharif Hossain from Jagan Nath University, Bangladesh, who were working on a data analysis exercise.
LDCs). The participation of academics from Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe was funded by the government of Finland, while the participants from Egypt, South Africa and Vietnam came self-funded.

Consisting of a mixture of interactive presentations and hands-on exercises, the workshop covered recent developments in the international trading system; possible research questions of relevance to participants’ countries; sources of trade data and tools for data extraction (WITS and MACMaps); and econometric tools used for trade policy analysis (gravity model, partial equilibrium model and general equilibrium model).

As the VI is particularly concerned with the use of research findings in policymaking, its workshops usually include a dialogue between researchers and policymakers – each side presenting its expectations and constraints – to help feed analysis into countries' policies. This workshop took advantage of the presence of the policymaking community at permanent missions in Geneva for the organization of a round-table discussion between the participants and a panel of policymakers. The panel included H.E. Faizal A. K. Ismail, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the WTO, Permanent Mission of South Africa; Elijah Manyara, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Kenya; Leulseged Tadese Abebe, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia; and Guillermo Valles, Director of UNCTAD's Division on International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities, and former Ambassador of Uruguay to the WTO.

The round table resulted in an updated version of the VI recommendations "Research-based policymaking: Bridging the gap between researchers and policymakers" (http://vi.unctad.org/images/files/recommendations.PDF). The recommendations provide a set of practical suggestions that should help both groups better interact and work together to increase the use of locally produced research in policymaking. The guidelines are structured around four topics: (1) how to establish contact and cooperation; (2) how to make applied research policy relevant; (3) how to communicate research findings to policymakers and disseminate research; and (4) how to secure funding, and build sustainable capacity for research.

**About the workshop**

"The three most important messages/findings from the workshop that I am taking back home are: (a) how to select the research technique, i.e. the appropriate methodology for empirical research, especially in the field of international trade; (b) the recent developments in databases in the field of international trade, i.e. the different trade indices which have been developed and also in most cases have been made public (this will help immensely in doing policy research by saving time when responding to quick requests), and finally (c) the importance of communicating research findings to policymakers and how to do that."

_Tariqur Rahman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh_

"The messages I am taking from the round table are that we need to understand the development plans of the government in order to address issues which they in the government would like to listen to. We also need to involve policymakers, especially at the inception and at critical stages of the research, so that they ‘buy in’ and feel ownership of the results and facilitate implementation. We also need to package the results in ways that policymakers appreciate and understand easily, and avoid complicated outputs. The independence of research results without pressure from policymakers is crucial to effective provision of solutions to people’s problems. Also, there is a need for researchers to understand politicians and policymakers as a group that seeks and works for the electorate. This means policy recommendations should consider the electorate."

_Isaac Shinyekwa, Economic Policy Research Centre, Uganda_
"I have never been exposed to such type of a highly organized and fully loaded with excellent material workshop. I benefited a lot beyond what I have expected. I have been equipped with a lot of material both for my research and my teaching career. I did not have a clear picture of what I should specialize in at my PhD level, but during the workshop I concluded that I have to specialize in international economics. I was impressed with the way the workshop was organized - it was just awesome. The Virtual Institute is worth existing."

Manfred Kouty, Université de Yaoundé II, Cameroon

All the participants of the workshop expressed their intention to use the workshop materials and knowledge in their work, be it teaching or policy-oriented research. They also planned to share them with their supervisors, colleagues within and outside their institutions, and policymakers. The Vi made the materials available to all the applicants who could not be selected to attend the workshop and received positive feedback from many of them.

**About the workshop materials**

"I am planning to venture into some of the material that I got in this workshop for my course outline so as to pass the knowledge I gathered here to my students. They are tomorrow's researchers; hence it would be beneficial for them to learn these things as well."

Tariqur Rahman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh

"I intend to improve my international trade course outline. I have always taught only trade theory, omitting the other important part of trade policy issues, so with the material I got here I intend to use it. Also, I will try and provide recent real life examples to enable the students to understand better."

Willy-Marcel Ndayitwayeko, National University of Burundi

"I liked the way Roberta Piermartini presented the material, so clear in her explanation, no panic, very confident, well composed and always mindful of the fact that various participants were at different levels. And that is the best way of teaching. I want to go implement this style of presentation back home."

"I am currently working as a member of the team preparing the trade policy for our country where we are taking into consideration different policies based on the analysis of trade performance of our country. However, as a specific example, in our study we were not able to do any welfare analysis based on trade performance - which we will be able to do after attending this workshop."

"My PhD research falls into gauging the impact of agricultural trade of Burundi with other members in the East Africa Community, in line with fighting food insecurity and hunger in our region. The model to be used is the augmented gravity model which I learned deeply in this workshop."

The recommendations on linking research with policymaking already served to support a presentation by a workshop participant, Apronius Mbilinyi, researcher at Tanzania's Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), at the "Dialogue on the Use of Research-Based Evidence in Policy Process and Practices in Tanzania," held on 22 November in Dar es Salaam. Organized by ESRF and the Commission for Science and Technology, the dialogue was attended by representatives from research institutions, universities, policymakers, government officials, the private sector and the media.

"Your document was very helpful," reported Mbilinyi. "We researchers need to be a bit proactive and work closer with the policymakers; be strategic to market our product (research findings). We also need to create credibility so that our output is trusted by the actors who might need to use the findings for policymaking or make changes needed in the society."

The Vi received several requests for national professional development workshops from its member universities in LDCs which felt the need to strengthen their teaching or research capacities in specific areas. In response, the Vi organized three specialized workshops for
academics from Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda, in cooperation with relevant UNCTAD Divisions, using funding from the government of Finland.

**Vi national professional development workshops in 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Number of participants/ women</th>
<th>Resource persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Ethiopia</td>
<td>Addis Ababa University</td>
<td>International investment law</td>
<td>21-23 February</td>
<td>14/3</td>
<td>Claudia Salgado, Investment Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Republic of Tanzania</td>
<td>University of Dar es Salaam Business School</td>
<td>Industrial development and globalization</td>
<td>17-20 May</td>
<td>36/8</td>
<td>Milasoa Chérel-Robson, Bineswaree Bolaky, Division for Africa and LDCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Makerere University Business School</td>
<td>Panel data methods applied to international trade</td>
<td>15-19 August</td>
<td>35/7</td>
<td>Marco Fugazza, Trade Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The request for the workshop on international investment law was motivated by the need to strengthen teaching capacities on this topic at regional Ethiopian universities. "Currently there are more than 20 law schools in the country implementing the new curriculum for undergraduate law students," wrote Martha Belete Hailu, a former Vi fellow from Addis Ababa University (AAU). "However, many of these schools do not have an academic staff member having a specialization in the area of investment, making the teaching-learning process a little difficult."

Lecturers from twelve universities benefited from this workshop, hosted by AAU, Vi’s Ethiopian core member. Several participants have already been able to use the workshop materials and knowledge in their investment law courses. For instance, Tilahun Weldie, from Bahir Dar University, integrated specific topics of the workshop – nature and scope of investment, bilateral investment treaties and settlement of disputes – into his teaching in the spring semester of 2011. The workshop helped another participant, Charra Tesfaye, from the Mekelle University College of Law and Governance, redesign the investment law course he was teaching. Gashahun Lemesa, from Jimma University, is only scheduled to teach the course in spring 2012, but is already planning to include the concepts and issues from the workshop. Finally, Tilahun Ismael, from Haromaya University, inspired by the way the workshop was conducted, revisited his teaching method by including the frequent use of case studies. Hailu also used some of the cases that were discussed at the workshop in her investment law class that started in October.

Vi workshops also serve to update the knowledge of participating academics on topics that have been gaining in policy importance. This was the case with UDBS, United Republic of Tanzania, which requested a workshop on industrial policy. In addition to presenting the theoretical underpinnings of the role of industrialization in economic development, particularly in Africa, the workshop highlighted the challenges and opportunities for the continent, both in the international and regional contexts. Through a simulation exercise, where participants produced a draft industrial policy document for Tanzania, the training also built practical skills in data collection and analysis useful to inform policymaking.
In addition to using the workshop material in teaching in academic programmes, such as the MIT and the MIB, participating academics also found the new knowledge, in particular the methodology and references, useful for their research tasks; such projects include the review of the 2003 national trade policy (chapter on investment and industrial performance of Tanzania) for the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the national strategy for harnessing the benefits of regional integration (chapter on Tanzania production characteristics compared to selected economies) for the President's Office Planning Commission.

**Feedback from workshop participants**

“My expectation was to learn how developing countries could use industrialization to reap the opportunities of globalization. Indeed, this expectation was met.”

“The issue of integration of industrial policies and economic integration in the world and Tanzania as well gives an input on how to handle good industrial policy and the ongoing East African Community economic integration process.”

“The role playing gave me an opportunity to internalize theoretical knowledge for policymaking.”

The workshop on panel data methods applied to international trade was a follow-up to an earlier, thematically broader Vi workshop on trade data analysis for the Makerere University Business School. The participants of that course felt that they still had a specific skills gap with regard to the use of panel data, and requested that a more focused workshop be organized on this topic. MUBS also invited other Ugandan universities and research centres to this workshop. "I learned the use of Stata commands, and this will help me handle data analysis in several situations," said one of the participants at the end of the workshop. "What I (also) found interesting was sharing knowledge with friends/colleagues during the workshop.”

The enhanced econometric skills of university staff were put to good use in teaching quantitative techniques in undergraduate programmes in Economics and in Economic Policy Management, as well the MIB programme. In particular, it was possible for the university to better blend theory with practical applications of different tools using panel data analysis following the workshop. Participants were also able to apply workshop knowledge to their research work. For instance, Isaac Shinyekwa from the Economic Policy Research Centre completed a paper on "Uganda's revealed comparative advantage with EAC and China", a study that he presented at conferences and policy dialogues in the country. Another participant, Benard Wabukala of MUBS, used panel data analysis in his study on "Uganda's food export potential using the gravity approach" which will be completed in spring 2012.

Now in its sixth year, the Vi fellowship programme provides support to developing country academics seeking to develop their research skills, prepare new courses for their institutions, and get access to the expertise of UNCTAD and other Geneva-based international organizations. In 2011, the programme continued on a more limited scale, due to a lack of office space. Despite this constraint, arrangements were made for three fellows from LDCs to work at UNCTAD for a period of six weeks in the spring; the fellowships were funded by the government of Finland. A fourth fellow from the Russian Federation was sponsored by her university and used the facilities available at the UN library. The fellows devoted their time in Geneva to the development of research projects on a wide range of trade and development issues – foreign direct investment, competition policy, trade-related dispute settlement, and industrialization. All of them benefited from the support and guidance of experts from UNCTAD and other organizations working in their fields of study.
Vi fellowships 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Name of fellow</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Areas of work during the fellowship</th>
<th>Mentor/resource person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Senegal</td>
<td>Université Cheikh Anta Diop</td>
<td>Chérif Sidy Kane</td>
<td>7 April-24 June</td>
<td>Socio-political risks of FDI in Western Africa (research)</td>
<td>Kalman Kalotay, Astrit Sulstarova, Investment Division, UNCTAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Cameroon</td>
<td>Université de Yaoundé II</td>
<td>Jean-Pierre Tchanou</td>
<td>18 April-27 May</td>
<td>Analysis of efficiency of competition authorities in the CEMAC region (research)</td>
<td>Yves Kenfack, Trade Division, UNCTAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Cameroon</td>
<td>Université de Yaoundé II</td>
<td>Henri Atangana Ondoa</td>
<td>16 May-24 June</td>
<td>Factors of industrialization in Africa (research)</td>
<td>Rolf Traeger, Division for Africa and LDCs, UNCTAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Russian Federation</td>
<td>St. Petersburg State University</td>
<td>Alexandra Koval</td>
<td>5-16 December</td>
<td>Dispute settlement among Latin American countries (research)</td>
<td>WTO (María Pereyra), Advisory Centre on WTO Law (Alejandro Sánchez, Fernando Piérola)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the fellowships' experience

"The fellowship gave me a significant opportunity which I wouldn't have in Russia, firstly, because of the interviews with the experts - who gave their views on my research and provided me with interesting and useful information, which couldn’t be found in any book. Secondly, because of the enormous database of the UN/UNCTAD library with journals and books not available in my country."

*Alexandra Koval, St. Petersburg State University, Russian Federation*

"The stay at UNCTAD helped me finalize two most important parts of my paper on foreign direct investment in Western Africa, namely the review of literature and the methodology. In my opinion, the fellowship programme must be continued so as to give the opportunity to lecturers/researchers from African universities to access the data necessary for the publication of research papers and to benefit from the experience of UNCTAD experts."

*Chérif Sidy Kane, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal*

The fellowship helped Chérif Sidy Kane from Senegal to finalize his article, "Socio-political risks and foreign direct investment in Western Africa," which was accepted for publication at the *Revue Ouest Africaine des Sciences Économiques et de Gestion*. He also used the information acquired and the findings of his research to enhance his teaching of an undergraduate course of development economics, and to prepare a seminar for African students on the links between socio-political environment and investment flows in Western Africa and the world.

Jean-Pierre Tchanou from Cameroon, who developed a methodology for the evaluation of the efficiency of competition authorities during his fellowship, started to apply this methodology by circulating questionnaires to countries in the CEMAC (Central Africa Economic and Monetary Community) region. So far he has received some very positive feedback, suggesting that there may be a wider applicability of his tool – not only for the evaluation of competition authorities, but also for the evaluation of government institutions in developing countries in more general terms. His work on a paper emanating from the fellowship is underway. The draft was discussed at the *Cadre de Réflexion sur la Réglementation et la Concurrence* (Framework for Reflection on Regulation and Competition) and with the President of UEMOA’s (West African Economic and Monetary Union) Competition Commission, who appreciated the fact that the methodology is easily understandable, and expressed interest in discussing its potential use.
for his region. Tchanou also used the evaluation approach in the dissertation, "Energy hub as the future of Cameroon," which he is currently preparing for the executive Master in International Oil and Gas Leadership at the Graduate Institute in Geneva.

Based on the work undertaken during the fellowship, Cameroonian member, Henri Atangana Ondoa, drafted two articles on the factors of industrialization in Africa, and on the impact of North-South and South-South trade on economic growth in Africa. These articles are currently being peer-reviewed for publication. The author was also invited to present his research findings at the conference "Africa and the Challenges of the Twenty First Century," held in Morocco in December 2011 and organized by the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA).

Alexandra Koval from the Russian Federation used her two weeks in Geneva to gather information from experts at the WTO and the Advisory Centre on WTO Law, and to interview representatives of Latin American countries in Geneva. This allowed her to significantly beef up her research on the fora and mechanisms (regional and WTO-based) used by Latin American countries to settle trade disputes. She plans to publish the results of her research in a Russian peer-reviewed journal and possibly also an international journal, and to integrate them into her teaching in the Master programme in the International Trading System (courses on dispute settlement, and on legal instruments of international economic relations and regional integration) at her university.

It often takes more than a couple of months after a professional development workshop or a fellowship for participating academics to implement the projects they intended to put in place.

This year, some of the participants of the July 2010 regional Vi professional workshop on natural resources and development, co-funded by the governments of Norway and Finland, were able to concretize their plans for applying the knowledge acquired on oil, gas and minerals to their teaching, research, and policy-related activities. In Mozambique, for example, the materials from the workshop were incorporated into an upcoming Master's course on Mineral Resources Management. In Zambia, they enhanced a course on economic development, and in Togo they served as a basis for lectures in French for students in the Master's of Economics programme. The workshop also sparked the publication of a paper on mining investment in Zimbabwe. Ideas from the workshop are making their way into policymaking, as one participant was appointed to the board that will plan and manage monitoring and evaluation of Uganda's national oil and gas policy, while another plans to co-author a paper on the mining industry in Zimbabwe with the Chief Government Mining Engineer and the Technical Advisor of the Chamber of Mines. Synergies with policymakers are also taking place in Togo, Zambia and Guinea.

Similarly, three researchers who benefitted from the Vi fellowship programme in 2010 were able to achieve important results in 2011.

Pablo Moreno Alemay of Universidad de la Sabana, Colombia, organized Colombia's First Congress on Derivatives Markets on Agricultural Commodities as a result of the research that he had started at UNCTAD. The congress, held on 1 June 2011 and attended by nearly 200 participants, including bankers, traders, practitioners, lecturers and students, gathered Colombia's main experts in the field. Moreno's research, based on interviews with financial and agricultural experts on factors that would explain why this specific market is not a reality in the country, was also presented at the congress. Nearly 75 percent (the highest percentage) of respondents considered that a lack of awareness was a primordial factor to explain why these financial instruments are not offered in Colombia. Based on the findings, the congress constituted a good step to work on this limitation.

Martha Belete Hailu of AAU, Ethiopia, published her Vi fellowship research as a chapter in a book titled "Acceding to the WTO from a Least-Developed Country Perspective: The Case of
Ethiopia," co-authored by Markus Krajewski, and AAU colleague and former Vi fellow, Fikremarkos Merso Birhanu. In the chapter on "Consequences of agricultural trade liberalization: A food insecure country’s perspective", Hailu takes a look at challenges the country may face during its accession process and the compatibility of some of its agricultural trade instruments with WTO rules. Drawing on the experience of two recently acceded LDCs, Cambodia and Nepal, Hailu proposes measures addressing accession issues in light of Ethiopia's food security concern.

Danilo Torres Reina of Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano in Colombia received his university's approval to extend the research he began during his Vi fellowship. His paper, "Situación Reciente de las Exportaciones Industriales de Colombia (1990-2009)," assesses Colombian industrial exports in the last two decades. "This document has allowed us to formulate a proposal for a far-reaching study that includes a second chapter on the situation of industrial exports to 10 countries in Latin America, the United States, the European Union and Korea, and a third chapter analyzing two or three sectors of successful Colombian exports," Torres Reina said. "From this work, we hope to extract lessons for public policy."

In addition to its fellowship programme, the Vi continued to provide guidance and peer review to individual academics from Vi member universities on the localization of Vi teaching materials, the development of teaching modules (see section 2 above) and the development of joint research projects (see section 4 below).

4. COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE VI UNIVERSITY NETWORK: JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS, NORTH-SOUTH AND SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

In 2011, researchers from Vi member universities in India (Jawaharlal Nehru University) and Russia (Moscow State Institute of International Relations), completed a joint research project on carbon emissions funded by the government of Japan. The project, which had been selected through a call for proposals, explores the linkages between international trade and carbon leakage. It explains how to quantify CO₂ emissions that are embedded in a country's trade, demonstrating in quantitative terms the net carbon balance of bilateral trade flows between India and Russia and their main trading partners. The paper also includes recommendations for national and international policies to reduce future emissions, and facilitate the negotiating process for signing a new international climate agreement. The Virtual Institute provided overall guidance to the research project. UNCTAD peer reviewers were also involved to ensure the academic quality of the research work, contributing thus to the strengthening of research skills of participating academics. The findings of the research have been integrated into a new undergraduate course on "Environmental aspects of international economics" for fourth year students of international economics at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations.

In addition to cooperation activities directly implemented by the Virtual Institute, the Vi also continued leveraging its networking capacity to facilitate North-South and South-South cooperation projects among Vi members.

In the framework of a capacity-building project undertaken by the University of Applied Sciences Berlin with nine Vi members from developing and transition countries, the Vi, with funding from the government of Finland, provided two experts, Rolf Traeger, of UNCTAD's Division for Africa, Least
Developed Countries and Special Programmes, and Mehdi Shafaeddin, of the University of Neuchâtel, for a research \textit{workshop on challenges and opportunities for Least Developed Countries}. The workshop, organized by the Makerere University Business School and Uganda's Economic Policy Research Centre on 24-26 May, was based on the premise that although substantial research has been dedicated to study institutional settings of LDCs, arguably less attention has been given to the analysis of broader economic theories and policies from their perspective. The debate, which brought together more than 80 participants, therefore addressed the problems and opportunities for LDCs from an economic perspective, around the themes of macroeconomics, trade, and development and financial economics. In an effort to foster interaction between researchers and policymakers, the workshop also included a half-day policy dialogue with Ugandan government officials.

Under the same project, a book titled \textit{"The Financial and Economic Crisis of 2008-2009 and Developing Countries"} was published by the UNCTAD Division on Globalization and Development Strategies and the University of Applied Sciences Berlin. Six of the twelve research papers included in the collection were developed by academics from Vi member universities in Brazil, Chile, Germany and India. The book examines how countries in the South were affected by the crisis and how they responded. It also reflects on the lessons the South should take away from the experience and on the policy agenda necessary for supporting the interests of developing countries, LDCs and emerging-market economies.

Finally, based on the pilot delivery at the August 2010 Vi workshop on modern teaching methods for the Makerere University Business School, organized in cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences Berlin, the German university developed a “digital handbook for academic lecturers” that was made available to all Vi members through the Vi website. Geared towards improving teaching styles in graduate courses in economics and business, the online training aims to both assist beginners in teaching, and help more experienced staff to consider anew their way of teaching. The handbook was used to train a group of teachers at Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano in Colombia.

In cooperation with the University of Barcelona and the Vi distance-learning partner in Spain, the CEDDET Foundation, the Vi co-organized the second English-language edition of the online course on \textit{Legal instruments of international economic relations and regional integration} (10 October-11 December). Through funding from the government of Spain, the Vi sponsored 33 participants from the Vi network to attend the course tuition free. Under the guidance of Spanish Vi member coordinator, Ramón Torrent, 91 percent – an unusually high rate for an online course – of the enrolled participants\(^1\), successfully completed the course.

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|}
\hline
\textbf{Feedback from participants} \\
\hline
\"The content was extremely interesting and informative for me. It greatly stimulated my awareness of international law, especially in my professional and research areas. Now I can more clearly recognize that some aspects of my previous findings need to be questioned from another point of view."
\hline
\"I would rather that you start offering this programme at Master's level, especially to those from developing nations. You see most of the experts in signing trade agreements don't understand the legal instruments and cannot interpret articles properly. They sign agreements they don't even understand. This becomes difficult to take disputes to WTO dispute settlement system by developing nations. This programme could help many developing countries."
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

As with the previous edition, the participants plan to integrate the material into their courses and research work, as well as share it with their colleagues. Impact is already being felt at Vi

\(^1\) From 25 developing and transition countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, People's Republic of China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia.
affiliate member, St. Petersburg State University, where Alexandra Koval, former Vi fellow and participant of the 2010 edition of the course, began to impart the knowledge from the course in her lectures for the university’s Master’s in the International Trading System.

Also this year, the University of Barcelona offered a third scholarship to Vi members for its Master’s in International Economic Law and Policy (IELPO). In a competitive process, Henok Birhanu, from Jigjiga University, Vi’s affiliate member in Ethiopia, was awarded the scholarship for the 2011-2012 edition of the programme and also benefited from the Vi support. Birhanu had brought his university to the network after attending the 2010 edition of the online course on Legal instruments of international economic relations and regional integration. Ramón Torrent, Vi member coordinator at the University of Barcelona and online course director, also recruited him as part of the team that will guide the soon-to-be-launched International Economic Relations Network, an online platform of exchange for course alumni.

The long-standing collaboration developed after the Vi meeting in Geneva in June 2009 by Alena Petrushkevich of Vi core member, Belarus State Economic University, and Michele Barbieri, of Italian core member, Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, produced a joint article based on their research on foreign investment in Belarus. The article, titled "Foreign investment in Belarus: Recent developments in regulatory issues", and published in the Italian review Diritto del Commercio Internazionale (International Trade Law), 2010, Vol. XXIV, No. 4, examines the policy and legal frameworks governing foreign direct investment in Belarus and their consistency with commitments undertaken by the country through bilateral trade agreements.

Building on the successful experience from 2010 with a series of lectures by a Chinese lecturer, the University of Dar es Salaam Business School and the Addis Ababa University took advantage of a simultaneous stay of their representatives in Geneva in February 2010 during a Vi study tour and the fellowship programme to discuss the idea of another South-South teaching project. In the framework of this project, financially supported by the government of Finland, FikreMarcos Merso Birhanu, of Vi’s Ethiopian member, Addis Ababa University, conducted a series of lectures on intellectual property rights for 27 students of the MIT programme at Tanzanian Vi member, the University of Dar es Salaam, 23-27 May. His lectures presented the existing legal framework for the protection of IPRs, including related international legal and institutional aspects. "International Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights is one of the elective courses in our MIT programme," said George Gandye, Tanzanian Vi member coordinator. "While the country and university realized the increasing importance of this topic right from the inception of the MIT programme, we had not been able to deliver it to our past graduates. It has clearly been a bonus to our prospective MIT graduates now. The students work with various government ministries, departments and agencies of Tanzania. This means that the spillover effect is very strong in the government policymaking process".

5. DISSEMINATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE SERVICES: VI DIGITAL LIBRARY, SUPPLIES TO UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, MULTIMEDIA TEACHING RESOURCES, VIDEOCONFERENCES, NETWORK INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND VI NEWS/NEWSLETTER

In 2011, to complement its activities in the area of capacity building for university teaching and research, the Vi stepped up its efforts aimed at the dissemination of research from UNCTAD and other international organizations to academia.

The Vi website (http://vi.unctad.org) continued to be the backbone of the Vi's dissemination efforts. By the end of 2011, 2,552 individuals from 157 countries had registered as users of the site. In 2011, the site recorded 1,795,153 annual hits, an increase of 440,266 from the 1,355,487 total hits for 2010. The average monthly hits varied between a low of 119,423 to a high of 184,019. More than 1,000 resources – articles, papers, reports and briefs related to trade and development – were available to Vi members and outside users in the Virtual Institute's digital library at the end of 2011. These documents, emanating from UNCTAD as well as other Vi content partners – WTO, World Bank, South Centre, ICTSD, UN regional
commissions – can be browsed according to thematic category, author, title and year of publication. The library also includes a full-text search engine and an e-mail alert system to which members can subscribe according to their topics of interest.

In addition to disseminating UNCTAD’s research in an electronic format, the Vi also sent hard copies of UNCTAD publications to enrich Vi member libraries with up-to-date policy oriented research reports. Almost 1’700 publications, including a DVD compilation of the year’s Vi multimedia teaching resources, were shipped to universities in 2011.

In 2011, the Vi also developed 17 new multimedia teaching resources for its members, up by 70 percent from 2010, as a means of disseminating the research undertaken by UNCTAD and other international experts.

The Vi multimedia teaching resources attracted more than 6,300 hits, with the highest interest recorded in the presentation on the role of the South in the global economy (926 hits), followed by the presentation on the role of technology in enhancing food security in Africa (874 hits) and a presentation about the economic crisis (727 hits).

### Vi multimedia teaching resources 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Resource person(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 It ain’t over ‘til it’s over: Legacy from the crisis</td>
<td>Heiner Flassbeck, Diana Barrowclough, Alfredo Calcagno, Globalization Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Improving agricultural commodity markets</td>
<td>Yan Zhang, Special Unit on Commodities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Answers for LDCs may come from the South</td>
<td>Taffere Tesfachew, Division for Africa and LDCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 What is wrong with the international financial architecture?</td>
<td>Alfredo Calcagno, Globalization Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Pursuing effective industrial policy</td>
<td>Jörg Mayer, Globalization Division; Richard Kozul-Wright, Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Developments and challenges in commodity markets</td>
<td>Samuel Gayi, Alexei Mojarov, Special Unit on Commodities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Reality check: The truth about public debt</td>
<td>Ugo Panizza, Globalization Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 How much is too much? Price volatility and developing countries</td>
<td>Experts from IFPRI, IADB and Association Nationale de La Meunerie Française</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Combating poverty with ICTs</td>
<td>Scarlett Fondeur Gil, Technology and Logistics Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 STI policies and development - A primer</td>
<td>Michael Lim, Technology and Logistics Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Governance, development and LDCs</td>
<td>Charles Gore, Division for Africa and LDCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 The rise of the South: New paths to development</td>
<td>Pierguseppe Fortunato, Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 WIR 2010: Investing in a low-carbon economy</td>
<td>Astrit Siustarova, Nicole Moussa, Investment Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 TDR 2010: Budding economic recovery still fragile</td>
<td>Heiner Flassbeck, Globalization Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Meeting the MDGs in developing countries</td>
<td>Richard Kozul-Wright, Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries; Giovanni Valensisi, Division for Africa and LDCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Enhancing food security in Africa through science, technology and innovation</td>
<td>Angel Gonzalez-Sanz, Technology and Logistics Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 South-South cooperation: Origins, trends and challenges</td>
<td>Richard Kozul-Wright, Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Vi **videoconferences** aim to disseminate the findings of UNCTAD research, in particular its flagship reports, to the members of the Virtual Institute and their students. Videoconferences feature an expert from the concerned division, who first presents the report's findings, then relates them to the country/region of the university and answers questions from professors and students. Geneva mission representatives are also invited to participate.

In 2011, the Vi used a videoconference for the first time not only to present and discuss research undertaken by UNCTAD, but also research originating at member universities. This "première" took place during an **interactive research seminar** with the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in December. During this event, students of a graduate course on international IT business presented their research on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing information technology sectors in BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) countries and received feedback from UNCTAD expert, Diana Korka.

The videoconferences were filmed and posted on the Vi website as multimedia teaching resources. In 2011, the Vi organized 10 videoconferences, up by 25 percent from 2010, for a total audience of more than 500 university students, lecturers and researchers.

### Vi videoconferences 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Universities</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
<th>Resource person(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 <strong>Russian Federation</strong></td>
<td>Higher School of Economics, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, State University of Management, St. Petersburg University of Economics and Finance, St. Petersburg State University, North-West Institute</td>
<td>Trade and Development Report 2010</td>
<td>10 March</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Heiner Flassbeck, Globalization Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 <strong>Russian Federation</strong></td>
<td>Moscow State Institute of International Relations</td>
<td>Creative Economy Report 2010</td>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Edna Dos Santos, Trade Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 <strong>Russian Federation</strong></td>
<td>Moscow State Institute of International Relations</td>
<td>Information Economy Report 2010</td>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Scarlett Fondeur Gil, Technology and Logistics Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 <strong>Brazil</strong></td>
<td>University of Campinas</td>
<td>Trade and Development Report 2011</td>
<td>26 September</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Heiner Flassbeck, Globalization Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 <strong>Russian Federation</strong></td>
<td>Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance, North-West Institute</td>
<td>Trade and Development Report 2011</td>
<td>6 October</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Diana Barrowclough, Globalization Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition to virtual dissemination via videoconferences, the Vi also used face-to-face means whenever possible, in the form of either presentations by UNCTAD experts at member universities, or the organization of official launches of UNCTAD flagship reports by academics at Vi member universities.

The Vi thus facilitated **face-to-face presentations** of UNCTAD's research on investment and finance by UNCTAD experts for students and academics at member universities in Brazil, the Russian Federation and Jordan. Alfredo Calcagno from UNCTAD's Division on Globalization and Development Strategies delivered a presentation on strategies and alternatives to finance development at a workshop on "Financial sector development for sustained growth" organized by the University of Applied Sciences and the University of Campinas on 27-29 September in Campinas, Brazil. Masataka Fujita, from UNCTAD's Division on Investment and Enterprise, conducted a lecture based on the UNCTAD World Investment Report for lecturers and students of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russian Federation, on 6 October. Finally, Mahmoud Elkhafif from the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies conducted a series of lectures related to international finance and globalization for academics and Master's and PhD students at the University of Jordan on 15 December.

Vi members also organized official **launches of UNCTAD flagship reports**. For the third time in a row, Malick Sané from the Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal, presented the **World Investment Report 2011** in Dakar in July. Vi core members, Université de Yaoundé II, Cameroon, and Universidad EAFIT, Colombia, hosted, for the second consecutive year, national launches of UNCTAD's Information Economy Report in October. The Cameroonian Vi member coordinator, Henri Ngoa Tabi led the presentation along with Assiga Ateba Modeste, Technical Counselor to the Prime Minister. In Colombia, Felix Londoño González, Director of Research and Teaching, once again presented the findings of the report, which were webcasted by Vi members, Universidad EAFIT and Universidad EAN.

In addition to disseminating UNCTAD's research, the Vi also uses virtual tools to spur the exchange of information among the members of its network. The Vi website contains a section with profiles of individual academics, as well as their universities, aimed to facilitate the search for partners for academic cooperation. A section with information about graduate programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)</th>
<th>Trade and Development Report 2011</th>
<th>31 October</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>Heiner Flasbeck, Globalization Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Catholic University of Peru</td>
<td>Trade and Development Report 2011</td>
<td>24 November</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Alfredo Calcagno, Globalization Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg State University of Finance and Economics, North-West Institute</td>
<td>World Investment Report 2011</td>
<td>2 December</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Kalman Kalotay, Investment Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>University of Jordan</td>
<td>Trade and Development Report 2011</td>
<td>8 December</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Diana Barrowclough, Globalization Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Moscow State Institute of International Relations</td>
<td>Research seminar on ICTs in emerging countries</td>
<td>19 December</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Diana Korka, Technology and Logistics Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vi member, Malick Sané, of Senegal's Université Cheikh Anta Diop, conducts national launch of UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2011**
underway at Vi member universities provides ideas on the design of trade-related programmes for members that envisage updating current programmes or developing new ones.

Members of the Vi increasingly use the network as a channel to disseminate their calls for papers, scholarships and teaching opportunities. A recent call for papers from Vi’s Argentinian core member, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, for example, awarded top place and two honourable mentions to three Vi members from Jamaica, Colombia and Nigeria.

The Vi also maintained an active "News" section on its site, with 64 news items published in 2011. In addition, it produced four quarterly electronic newsletters which kept universities and individuals up to date on network activities, research and teaching opportunities and newly available resources, web links and publications. The newsletter was distributed by e-mail to all registered Vi website users, former Vi and UNCTAD workshop participants, Geneva missions, Vi partners and other contacts. Currently the e-distribution list contains nearly 4,700 recipients.

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**6. STUDY ON CAPACITY BUILDING ON TRADE FOR ACADEMIA IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

After its first study on academic capacity building in 2010 aimed at developing countries in general, the Vi published another study, this time specifically focusing on LDCs, thanks to funding provided by the government of Finland.

The study, titled "Trade-related capacity building for academia in African least developed countries: Development of human resources and policy support", was authored by a former Vi member coordinator at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Francis Matambalya, and prefaced by H.E. Dr. Mary Nagu, former Minister of Industry, Trade and Marketing of the United Republic of Tanzania and current Minister of State. It takes stock of capacity-building needs and activities in African LDCs, surveying key actors and highlighting the characteristics of effective trade-related capacity building. Based on the premise that LDCs lack a critical mass of qualified experts to manage their countries’ development agendas, the study looks at the potential of academic institutions to ease this constraint – by providing education and training to current and future trade experts, undertaking research to inform policymaking, and engaging in policy advocacy. It also examines the specific case of the UNCTAD Virtual Institute and acknowledges the contribution that it has made to strengthening academia’s ability to teach and research trade and development topics in these countries.
## Core university members

1. Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Buenos Aires, Argentina
2. Azerbaijan State Economic University (Baku)
3. Belarus State Economic University (Minsk)
4. Université d’Abomey-Calavi, Benin
5. University of Campinas, Brazil
6. Université de Yaoundé II, Cameroon
7. Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
8. Universidad de Chile (Santiago de Chile)
9. University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, People’s Republic of China
10. Universidad EAFIT, Medellín, Colombia
11. Metropolitan University Prague (Czech Republic)
12. Cairo University, Egypt
13. Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
14. Université Pierre Mendès France, Grenoble, France
15. University of Applied Sciences, Berlin, Germany
16. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
17. School of International Relations, Tehran, Iran
18. Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
19. University of Jordan (Amman)
20. University of Nairobi, Kenya
21. University of Mauritius (Réduit)
22. Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico
23. Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, Mozambique
24. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
25. State University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russian Federation
26. Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal
27. University of Pretoria, South Africa
28. University of Barcelona, Spain
29. World Trade Institute, University of Berne, Switzerland
30. University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania (United Republic of)
31. Makerere University Business School, Uganda
32. Vadym Hetman Kiev National Economic University, Ukraine
33. Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay
34. Foreign Trade University, Hanoi, Vietnam
35. University of the West Indies (Cave Hill Campus, Barbados)
36. Copperbelt University, Zambia

## Affiliate university members

1. Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina
2. Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
3. Federal University of Viçosa, Brazil
4. Institute for Applied Policy Research (IPEA), Brazil
5. São Paulo State University, Brazil
6. University of São Paulo, Brazil
7. Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, People’s Republic of China
8. Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade, People’s Republic of China
9. Fundación Universitaria Konrad Lorenz, Colombia
10. Fundación Universitaria Politécnico Grancolombiano, Colombia
11. Academia Diplomática de San Carlos, Colombia
12. Universidad Autónoma de Occidente, Colombia
13. Universidad de Bogotá Jorge Tadeo Lozano, Colombia
14. Universidad de La Sabana, Colombia
15. Universidad de los Andes, Colombia
16. Universidad del Norte, Colombia
17. Universidad del Rosario, Colombia
18. Universidad del Valle, Colombia
19. Universidad EAN, Colombia
20. Universidad Icesi, Colombia
21. Universidad Sergio Arboleda, Colombia
22. Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar, Colombia
23. Jigjiga University, Ethiopia
24. Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), Russian Federation
25. St. Petersburg State University, Russian Federation
27. Stellenbosch University, South Africa
28. Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

## Think tank members

1. Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh
2. Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, Belgium