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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 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 of 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 and transition countries.

The Vi membership increased by almost 20 per cent in 2012, to a great extent as a result of broadening the scope of Vi’s work to also include research centres. Six new universities, from Colombia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kenya, Morocco, Russian Federation and South Africa, as well as 7 research institutes from Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Germany (2) and Slovenia joined the Vi, expanding its network to 79 academic institutions in 41 countries.

In 2012, the Vi continued its support to academic institutions in developing and transition countries despite a significantly downsized team. In addition to providing curricular development advice, it published 7 generic teaching materials and modules, and a joint UNCTAD-WTO book titled “A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis”. It offered its first online course, on trade and poverty, graduating 77 researchers from 45 countries; hosted 4 fellows who worked on research and teaching projects with support from UNCTAD experts; and organized 5 study tours and 4 shorter study visits to Geneva-based international organizations for 243 students from member universities. The Vi also completed 3 mentored research studies on mining and economic development in Western Africa, and supported the adaptation of its generic teaching material on Regional Trade Agreements to the context of Tanzania. The networking function of the Vi resulted in an increased exchange of information and cooperation among Vi members. The Vi also continued its efforts to help reflect members’ research in UNCTAD’s work, and make UNCTAD’s research better known to academic audiences.
including through presentations via videoconference or participation of UNCTAD staff in members' events.

Vi activities in 2012 benefited from financial support from the governments of Finland, Norway and Spain. Additionally, the Vi received financial support from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and, for the first time, its activities in Tanzania were funded by the One UN Fund for Tanzania.

The UN Joint Inspection Unit, in its Review of management and administration of UNCTAD (April 2012), says that they were "impressed by the state-of-the-art standard and the relevance of Vi services, as well as their impact on capacity-building in the developing countries concerned". The report also acknowledges that the "Vi has proven to be very useful and instrumental in connecting UNCTAD research and analysis with sustainable capacity-building activities." It concludes that projects such as the Vi "should be further encouraged, supported and strengthened".

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

In 2012, 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, 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 curricular support to the Master in International Economics and Trade Policy at the Belarus State Economic University (BSEU), the first programme on the issue in the country and also the first one entirely taught in English. The goal of the programme, launched in November 2012, is to train professionals with specialist skills and knowledge of international economic and legal topics (WTO mechanisms, regional integration and trade policy implementation, among others) apt to serve the country's government bodies and national enterprises. The Vi supported BSEU not only by advising on the content of the programme, but also by providing publications for its library, and offering capacity building opportunities for its staff. Vi teaching materials and UNCTAD research reports are now used as readings by BSEU students, together with the adaptation of the material on foreign direct investment to the context of Belarus undertaken by one of the Belarusian lecturers with Vi support in 2008. Several of the programme's lecturers were trained through Vi professional development workshops and courses. The Vi was also instrumental in linking the university with the government: the participation of one of the lecturers in UNCTAD's Investment Policy Review of Belarus, as well as contacts with the permanent mission in Geneva, resulted in opportunities of cooperation with government institutions in the country. The networking support from the Vi made it possible for BSEU to participate in a capacity-building project led by the Vi member in Germany, the University of Applied Sciences (HTW) Berlin, which also became another important partner for the development of BSEU's Master's programme.

With regard to the development of teaching materials, 2012 saw the culmination of a long-term project of cooperation on trade data and trade policy analysis between the Vi, the WTO and the UNCTAD Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC): the publication in June of a joint UNCTAD-WTO book titled "A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis". The idea of the book was born in 2005, when the Vi and the WTO Economic Research and Statistics Division, based on the belief that good policy needs to be backed by good analysis, decided to develop a tool to help researchers conduct such policy-relevant research. The first outcome, in early 2008, was the Vi teaching material on trade and trade policy analysis, which was used by 19 university members of the Virtual Institute to teach more than 2300 students in the first year alone. Based on the original Vi teaching material, the new book helps the
reader formulate research questions, choose the most efficient methodology, find the data, and provide useful answers to policy-relevant research questions. It comprises six chapters: Analyzing trade flows (chapter 1); Quantifying trade policy (chapter 2); Analyzing bilateral trade using the gravity equation (chapter 3); Partial-equilibrium trade-policy simulation (chapter 4); General equilibrium (chapter 5); and Analyzing the distributional effects of trade policies (chapter 6). Additionally, the book’s authors developed accompanying exercises and applications that allow a hands-on learning experience for the reader. The book, datasets and command files were included in an accompanying DVD developed by the Vi, and are freely available on a dedicated sub-site of the Virtual Institute (http://vi.unctad.org/tpa).

At the request of the Makerere University Business School, Uganda, and in cooperation with UNCTAD’s Division on Globalization and Development Strategies (GDS), the Vi published a series of teaching modules on contemporary issues in international macroeconomics, trade and finance. The three modules were written by academics from the Vi member in Germany, HTW Berlin. The first module, titled “Beyond Traditional Comparative Advantage: Development Policy Implications of Trade Theory”, reviews standard Ricardian and Heckscher-Ohlin trade models, critically examines how they have performed empirically, and presents the advances in trade theory (productivity-enhancing competition effects of trade, learning-by-doing, technology spillovers and monopolistic competition) that are of special importance for developing country policies. Module 2, “Dutch Disease, Resource Curse and Development”, introduces basic theories and empirical evidence from oil-exporting countries and several country case studies, and discusses policy options for effective resource management and the mitigation of negative effects of commodity booms and slumps. The third module, titled “Capital Account Management in Developing Countries”, analyzes the feasibility, efficiency and effectiveness of capital controls and, in a broader sense, capital account management in developing countries. The teaching material includes readers, lecture notes and PowerPoint presentations to facilitate its use by lecturers at Vi member universities.

The Vi also published a teaching material on the transfer of technology, developed in cooperation with the Division on Investment and Enterprise (DIAE). The material introduces basic terms and concepts related to the transfer of technology (ToT); reviews measures that can facilitate it; analyzes the ToT process and trends in cross-border transfer of technology; looks into the relationship between intellectual property rights and international technology transfer; and examines how international instruments and agreements deal with TOT-related issues.

Another Vi teaching material published in 2012, developed in cooperation with UNCTAD’s Special Unit on Commodities, focuses on the economics of commodities production and trade. Its first module, “Commodity Trade and Development”, reviews the structure of commodity production and markets; analyzes commodity price trends since the 1960s; forecasts future trends for various agricultural commodities, minerals and metals; looks at the developmental aspects of commodity trade - both the positive impact of natural resources on economic growth and poverty reduction, and the negative effects of commodity dependence and related structural constraints facing developing countries - and discusses the ownership or control of resources, the distribution of resource rents and foreign land acquisition. Module 2, titled “Oil, Gas and Economic Development”, discusses oil and gas production and exploration technologies, the global distribution of oil and gas reserves, the features of the international oil and gas markets, and the taxonomy of national and multinational oil and gas companies. It also proposes policies on the use of the revenues from the oil and gas sector to avoid Dutch disease and foster the process of development. Module 3, “Mining and Economic Development”,...
introduces the reader to basic facts about mining and minerals; provides an overview of international trade in minerals and related policies; explains how minerals are traded; and concludes with the role of the mining and metals sectors in economic development and a comprehensive discussion of international policy related to mining.

The development of Vi teaching materials was made possible thanks to the contribution by the Government of Finland, joined, for the modules on mining, and oil and gas, by the Government of Norway.

All the materials, including the WTO-UNCTAD book, were shipped to Vi members to enrich their libraries, and are being used by their staff and students to support trade and development-related academic programmes and research.

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 2011, one localized version of a Vi teaching material on Regional Trade Agreements was completed by lecturers from the University of Dar es Salaam Business School, Tanzania, with funding from the One UN Fund for Tanzania and mentoring support from UNCTAD experts. The localized material focuses on the East African Community (EAC), a regional integration grouping of specific interest for the country, the analysis of trade performance of EAC members and the initiatives to eliminate non-tariff barriers within the community after the creation of the customs union. The university intends to use it in its Master's programmes in International Business and in International Trade, in particularly the course on trade theory, trade policy and market access, and the course on integration economics and regional trading systems, as well as to inform policymakers faced with challenges related to NTBs in the context of EAC.

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 2012, the site hosted 10 generic Vi teaching materials and 25 localizations. It also offered 27 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.

As part of its support to teaching, the Vi organized 5 study tours for 154 students (103 women) from member universities in the Russian Federation, the Caribbean, the United Republic of Tanzania, the People's Republic of China, and Colombia, and 4 shorter training sessions for 89 students (55 women) from the University of Barcelona (Spain), the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (People's Republic of China), HTW Berlin (Germany), and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (Russian Federation). The students attended tailored training programmes of up to two weeks delivered by experts from all UNCTAD divisions, as well as Vi partner institutions – the World Trade Organization, the International Trade Centre, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, the International Organization for Migration, the South Centre, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Labour Organization. The tours provided students with an overview of the current international trade and development agenda, and exposed these future trade professionals to the environment of trade negotiations, as well as to international experts and their country or region representatives in charge of negotiations in Geneva.
Virtual Institute study tours and visits 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Universities</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Number of participants/women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Spain</td>
<td>University of Barcelona</td>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>11/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Russian Federation</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>26-30 March</td>
<td>56/43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Barbados</td>
<td>University of the West Indies</td>
<td>14-25 May</td>
<td>14/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 China</td>
<td>Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade</td>
<td>4 July</td>
<td>10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Tanzania</td>
<td>University of Dar es Salaam Business School</td>
<td>9-13 July</td>
<td>23/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 China</td>
<td>University of International Business and Economics</td>
<td>24-28 September</td>
<td>28/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Germany</td>
<td>University of Applied Sciences Berlin</td>
<td>8 November</td>
<td>38/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Colombia</td>
<td>Universidad EAFIT, Universidad EAN, Universidad de la Sabana, Universidad Santo Tomás, Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano, Universidad del Norte, Universidad ICESI</td>
<td>12-16 November</td>
<td>33/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Russian Federation</td>
<td>Moscow State Institute of International Relations</td>
<td>26 November</td>
<td>30/22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feedback from Vi study tours and visits

“We had a wonderful opportunity to act as politicians, to understand their responsibility while making decisions crucial to the national economy. It was an opportunity to implement the knowledge we got during the lectures in practice. It made us think.”

Participant of the study tour for the Russian Federation

“I liked that the various organizations took the time out of their busy schedule to give substantive and stimulating presentations, which were not just lectures but discussions. The areas of discussion were relevant to trade policy and provided a more holistic and thought-provoking mindset on the current debate on trade.”

Participant of the study tour for the Caribbean countries

“You have taken us out of the framework of the Chinese borders. It is an important call for future leaders to understand that a global perspective is important for China.”

Participant of the study visit for the People’s Republic of China

“LDCs, including Tanzania, should form their model of development depending on the country’s environment. Development is a very long process and countries should be prepared for it. Countries should develop productive capacities purposely in the form of product/export diversification.”

Participant of the study tour for the United Republic of Tanzania

“Not only big organizations like the UN, but also single countries and individual people are responsible for world development and peace. The United Nations is where we can have our ultimate goal achieved, should we like to make a difference to the world.”

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

“The first and most important thing I learned is that if you go abroad, you should come back to your country with the knowledge you acquire. That is because the development of your country is in our hands - no one else can do anything.”

Participant of the study tour for Colombia
3. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING: COURSES, WORKSHOPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND MENTORING

Vi professional development courses and 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 university teachers and researchers in developing and transition countries so that they can progressively take on the teaching and undertake the research themselves.

For the first time since its inception, the Vi launched its own online training course aimed at researchers and university lecturers in developing and transition countries in 2012. Building on its earlier work in the area of trade and poverty, undertaken in cooperation with UNCTAD’s Division for Africa and Least Developed Countries (ALDC), which resulted in the publication of a teaching material on this issue, the Vi decided to complement this more “qualitative” material with a more “quantitative” hands-on online course on data sources, tools and methods related to trade and poverty analysis (10 September-30 November 2012). The aim of this course was to train researchers on the empirical tools needed to assess the impact of trade and trade-related policies on poverty and income distribution. This was part of a broader Vi effort to strengthen research capacities in participants’ countries to support governments in the design of pro-poor trade policies and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

The course, designed in cooperation with UNCTAD’s DITC, ALDC and GDS, consists of an introductory module based on the Vi teaching material, 6 specialized modules, a final hands-on exercise involving the use of data and econometric tools, and a final essay relating to the use of workshop tools in research. The specialized modules cover the following issues: trade, growth and poverty (module 1), distributional impact of price changes (module 2), wage income and prices of non-traded goods (module 3), measuring price changes (module 4), special topics (module 5) and ex-post analysis (module 6). For each module, the course provides an online handbook (consisting of a theory reader, an empirical reader, the papers that are analyzed during the course, and data and tools for hands-on exercises), multimedia presentations (filmed expert lectures integrated into PowerPoint presentations) and tests.

The dissemination of the course prospectus triggered 377 candidatures from researchers and university lecturers in 76 countries. The selection committee then chose 102 participants from 54 countries, including 28 participants from 15 LDCs, to participate in the course. The selection was based on the applicants’ profile and the usefulness of the course for their work and that of their institutions (as evidenced by their expressed motivation, and the nomination letter from the sending institution). Special attention was paid to attracting qualified female candidates - consequently, 31 women were selected to attend the course. Thanks to the financial support from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Government of Finland, all the selected participants were exempt from course fees.
To run the course, the Vi developed an online platform ("Vi e-learning"). It also produced a DVD with course material for all participants to facilitate their studies and alleviate the connectivity problems that they may face. Throughout the course, whose emphasis was on the manipulation of data and the use of econometric tools, the participants received support from 2 substance matter tutors and 1 technical tutor.

A key element of the course was to raise participants' awareness of policy-relevant questions that could be addressed using the tools introduced in the course and to facilitate their future involvement in such research. In addition to analyzing policy-relevant research papers during the course, a specific online forum was opened on policy questions related to trade and poverty. The final assignments of the course included a hands-on exercise analyzing the impact of trade on poverty, with a focus on gender, and an essay proposing a research idea on a trade and poverty issue of relevance to national policymaking.

Seventy-seven researchers, including 29 women, from 45 developing and transition countries successfully completed the course. In the end-of-course evaluation questionnaires, 94 per cent of them said that the course had "extremely" (highest of the 5 ratings) or "very much" (second highest of possible ratings) enhanced their knowledge in the area covered by the course. Seventy-one per cent stated that they could now independently undertake policy-relevant research on trade and poverty, and/or teach their students about the tools and methods used in the analysis of trade and poverty, with an additional 26 per cent saying that they could capably contribute to such research in partnership with a more experienced researcher.

All successful participants were issued certificates of completion. The top 27 graduates additionally received a prize in the form of the book "A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis" mentioned above, and the UNCTAD discussion paper "Trade, Income Distribution and Poverty in Developing Countries: A Survey". They were also invited to submit research proposals for the subsequent phase of the Vi trade and poverty project in which 10-15 selected researchers, in cooperation with national policymakers, will write papers on trade and poverty topics of policy interest to their countries, with coaching support from UNCTAD experts and financial grants from the Vi.

About the course

"This was my first time to do an online course and I was ‘blown apart’ by the technology and level of order and organization.”

Isaac Shinyekwa, Economic Policy Research Centre, Uganda

"I was so far more in macro, both in terms of theoretical knowledge and econometric methods. Almost entire knowledge I gained and methods I learned have been a novelty for me.”

Marjan Petreski, University American College Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

"This is the first course on trade where I have been able to link theory to practical/real examples in trade analysis.”

Mary Odongo, Institute of Economic Affairs, Kenya

"I thought I would learn more about new methods. What I really appreciate is that I learned more about policy relevance. Before attending this course, I was giving priority to how complicated my methodology should be. But now, I have learnt that it is all about policy relevance.”

Christian Otchia, University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

"The course took us step-by-step through the sources of data, tools and methods of analysis and what to include in a research problem to catch the attention of the policy maker.”

Camara Kwasi Obeng, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

1 From Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, People’s Republic of China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Kenya, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Viet Nam and Zambia.
"I used to teach international economics at the undergraduate level but I could hardly find an empirical case that I could analyse step by step with my students. With the tools we had in the course, I have seen several applications and the database that I can use to tackle the issues with them. Also, since the discussions I used to make were based on the foundations of international trade, my teaching materials were not really focused on policy relevance. I have gained a lot in that regard and I will work so as to account for policy orientations in future discussions with my students."

Christian Kamala Kaghoma, Catholic University of Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo

"Before I attended this online course, I had little knowledge about the research on trade and poverty. Upon completion of this course, I have learnt the mechanisms through which trade affects poverty and also mastered some tools that I can use to analyze the specific situation in China."

Dahai Fu, Central University of Finance and Economics, People's Republic of China

"The way in which trade and poverty was presented during the course is very interesting. Some case studies dealt with a very specific topic in a way opening a new field of research. Moreover, the issue of links between the research of this topic and the practical policy is crucial to figuring out solutions to one of the most important economic and social problems, poverty."

Andres Blancas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

"After completing my course, I am eager to do policy research on trade and poverty, such as on the impact of exchange rates, trade facilitation measures and transport infrastructure, because our country, Myanmar, is just opening the doors, changing a lot and needing right policies to get growth and reduce poverty."

Thida Kyu, Yangon Institute of Economics, Myanmar

"Most of the ongoing SACU negotiations have benefited from external consultants to undertake impact assessments on the region. With the Tripartite Free Trade Area between SADC, COMESA and EAC still at its infancy, the course material will be handy in doing relevant research that the SACU region or its member states need in preparation for these negotiations."

Khutasafalo Sekolokwane, South African Customs Union Secretariat

"All I can say is good job, well planned and well executed. Keep it up, this is a very useful course, especially for the developing world. Due to the research that you have shared, countries would know what to expect from trade opening, impact on nations and communities at large."

Lillian Mookodi, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis

The participants were also requested to provide specific examples of how they plan to use the knowledge and skills gained in the course in their teaching, research and policy advice work.

With regard to teaching, 28 participants said that they had already started to integrate or would integrate materials from the course in their university teaching at the undergraduate, graduate and PhD levels. The courses in which they intend to use their new knowledge and skills relate to economics (international economics, development economics, applied economics), economic/trade theory and (public) policy, international trade, trade and development, and international economic relations. Four participants said that they would like to attract students to do their Master's research in this area and/or that they would also use the course to provide research guidance to students. Two participants specifically mentioned their intention of providing training for the government. Six participants planned to share the knowledge with other colleagues who did not have the opportunity to participate in the course.

The majority of examples provided by the participants concentrated on research. They mentioned 62 specific papers of relevance to their countries on which they would like to work. An additional 23 of them formulated their intentions with regard to research in more general terms, such as specific areas in which they would like to work or specific methods or data they would like to use. One researcher planned to write a journal article about the methodologies taught in the course. Six participants stated that the course would help them in the work on their PhD theses. Two participants reported that they were already in touch with other participants with a view to undertaking joint research in the area of trade and poverty. Twelve participants gave examples of use of their intended research for specific government policies in their countries; and one planned to write a policy brief for a regional grouping her
country is part of and for the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry to facilitate policy intake of her research.

The Vi believes that the measure of success of its professional development activities lies in the extent to which the graduates apply the new knowledge in their work. For this reason, participating academics are always contacted 6-9 months after the event to ascertain the impact of Vi training activities. Results from the follow-up evaluation of the October 2011 Vi inter-regional workshop on “Tools and methods for trade and trade policy analysis” funded by the Government of Finland show that participating academics used the knowledge and skills from the workshop to enrich their university courses, develop research papers, and provide training or research inputs to governments. Lecturers from Bangladesh, Burundi, Egypt, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Nigeria and Togo, for example, used workshop materials to add content to their existing courses. The tools and knowledge from the workshop helped researchers from Bangladesh, Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, South Africa, Togo, Uganda and Vietnam refine the focus of their current research, and write or finalize research papers. The workshop was also useful in strengthening the link between researchers and policymakers. Participants reported that they were better able to communicate their research findings to policymakers and enhance cooperation with them as a result of the workshop.

Use of the knowledge from the Vi trade policy analysis workshop

As a lecturer, I was able to update my notes with the most up-to-date information gotten from you. I teach International Trade and most of the material on Tariffs and Non-Tariff Measures came very handy in my course.”

Montseng Tsolo, National University of Lesotho

“I am using materials and skills from the training for my lecture on Applied Econometrics, and I am going to use some of this material to produce a textbook on Applied Econometrics for undergraduate students.”

Phouphet Kyophilavong, National University of Laos

“Using some of the materials from the workshop, I was able to complete my ongoing proposal on Product Standards and Africa’s Agricultural Exports, which was accepted for a grant not only for a year, but two years, under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).”

Olayinka Kareem, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

“The workshop enabled me to open up my vision and think of new variables and issues while researching international trade, beyond traditional ones. This was useful to my ongoing research project on the analysis of China’s cotton market with focus on Egyptian cotton. Based on the workshop, I decided to rethink my assumptions and consider, for the first time, the influence of factors such as the Tariff Rate Quota and other related variables, which made me expand my research questions and led to more interesting results”.

Assem Abu Hatab, Suez Canal University, Egypt; currently on a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Uppsala, Sweden

“I have so far used the techniques learnt at the workshop to present my work to policymakers in what we term ‘targeted dissemination’. I presented two papers to this effect. Overall, there has been demand for our work by the Ministry of East African Community Affairs.”

Isaac Shinyekwa, Economic Policy Research Centre, Uganda

“I have been able to use not only the materials distributed, but also the knowledge shared/transferred by the resource persons and the diplomats in policy advice to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Investment in Nigeria (through the Chair of Institutional Framework sub-committee of the Nigeria Trade Policy Review Committee) and consultancy work on the Trade Policy Review of Nigeria, which we have just concluded early this year.”

Olayinka Kareem, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
Vi national professional development workshops on the gravity model and the World Integrated Solution (WITS), delivered by UNCTAD’s DITC in October and December 2009 at Colombian affiliate member, Universidad de la Sabana, spurred research resulting in the publication of several articles. Catherine Pereira, Vi member coordinator at the university, published four articles in 2011 and 2012 applying the skills gained through the workshops. The most recent, titled “The Colombia-Canada Free Trade Area: A Partial Equilibrium Simulation,” uses disaggregated trade data for 2010 and applies ex-ante partial equilibrium modeling to calculate the impact of the preferential trade agreement between Canada and Colombia. Findings show a positive effect for Colombia, with larger trade creation, and an increase of about 10 per cent in trade between the two countries. Two more articles are in the pipeline.

Launched in 2006, 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 2012, 4 fellows came to work at UNCTAD on research and teaching projects of interest to their universities and their own professional development. The fellows from Brazil, Colombia and Senegal came self-funded while the fellowship for the academic from Tanzania was sponsored by the One UN Fund for Tanzania. All the fellows benefited from the support and guidance of experts from UNCTAD and other organizations working in their fields of study.

**Vi fellowships 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country, university</th>
<th>Name of fellow</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Areas of work during the fellowship</th>
<th>Resource persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil, State University of São Paulo</td>
<td>Enéas GONÇALVES DE CARVALHO</td>
<td>15 September 2011-28 February 2012</td>
<td>FDI and outsourcing of R&amp;D in automotive industry: case of Brazil</td>
<td>Astrit Sulstarova, DIAE, Alfredo Calcagno, Antonio Carlos Macedo e Silva, GDS, Alfredo Saad Filho, South-South Cooperation Unit, UNCTAD; experts from ITC, UNIDO and ILO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia, Universidad EAFIT</td>
<td>Maria Alejandra CALLE</td>
<td>26 June-11 July</td>
<td>Process and production methods in the context of WTO law and international environmental governance</td>
<td>Eduardo Escobedo, Alexey Vikhlyaev, DITC, UNCTAD; experts from the WTO and the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the WTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senegal, Université Cheikh Anta Diop</td>
<td>Sidy KOUNTA</td>
<td>5 October-2 November</td>
<td>Effets des règles d’origine sur les flux commerciaux dans la zone CEDEAO (Impact of rules of origin on intra-ECOWAS trade)</td>
<td>Samuel Munyaneza, Marco Fugazza, DITC, Cristian Ugarte, Vi, UNCTAD; experts from ITC and WTO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania, University of Dar es Salaam Business School</td>
<td>Cosmas MASANJA</td>
<td>29 October-7 December</td>
<td>Development of lectures for a graduate course on the economics of commodities production and trade</td>
<td>Yan Zhang, Taro Boel, Alexei Mojarov, Claudine Sigam, Special Unit on Commodities, UNCTAD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On the fellowships’ experience

“The fellowship program offers important opportunities in terms of access to data, information and experts, and an international exchange of high level that are not usually available to researchers/professors at most universities in the emerging and/or in less developed countries.”

Enéas Gonçalves de Carvalho, State University of São Paulo, Brazil

“The fellowship has been very useful for my research. The meetings with experts have helped me test my assumptions and do a ‘reality check’. The feedback obtained and the information collected are unlikely to be found in books, reports and official documents because they are mainly related to the experience of the experts I have consulted.”

Maria Alejandra Calle, Universidad EAFIT, Colombia

“This fellowship allowed me to have a clear idea of how to approach the question that interests me and how to provide relevant responses, which was not the case before coming here. It is necessary that this fellowship program continue because it is very important for us researchers, especially African and Senegalese academics, who have a lot of trouble accessing the resources necessary to do in-depth research.”

Sidy Kounta, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal

“The fellowship gave me the possibility to add more knowledge through access to a wide range of commodity data and consultations with UNCTAD experts, and develop new professional and social networks.”

Cosmas Masanja, University of Dar es Salaam Business School, Tanzania

Using his sabbatical for a stay in Geneva, Brazilian Enéas Gonçalves de Carvalho conducted research on foreign direct investment in research and development of the automotive industry in his country, with the support of experts from UNCTAD’s DIAE and GDS. The objective was to see if there has been a trend of outsourcing this R&D from developed countries to emerging economies, in particular Brazil, and whether this trend can be documented quantitatively. Following the fellowship, Gonçalves submitted for publication a paper focusing on the car industry in Brazil, and is currently working on an article comparing recent developments in the automotive industry in the BRIC countries. He also used the information gathered during his fellowship in his teaching about multinational enterprises, FDI and international competitiveness.

During her fellowship, Colombian Maria Alejandra Calle, currently a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Law of the University College Cork, Ireland, analyzed how environmental concerns raised by internationally active NGOs are reflected in WTO law and its legal system. To complement her desk research, she interviewed Geneva-based experts at UNCTAD, the WTO and the permanent mission of Colombia to the WTO, about process and production methods (PPMs), and voluntary sustainability standards and labels in the context of WTO law and international environmental governance. The fellowship was instrumental in the drafting of two chapters of her PhD thesis, and additionally resulted in a presentation, “PPMs in Environmental Standards Developed by Non-State Actors: A Perspective from WTO Law and International Environmental Governance”, delivered at the biennial meeting of the American Society of International Law in November 2012; submission of one article for publication; and development of contributions for two academic essay competitions.

The fellowship helped Senegalese Sidy Kounta make significant progress on his PhD thesis examining the effect of rules of origin on trade flows in the Economic Community of West African States region. With support from UNCTAD’s DITC and Vi experts, he identified and collected data missing from his research dataset by using WITS software and various UNCTAD databases. He also
received guidance on the gravity model (the primary methodology to be used in his research project), obtained access to the UN library, and consulted specialists in rules of origin at WTO and ITC. By the end of the fellowship, he had completed the literature review, refined the scope of his research, and identified the best-suited methodology to address his topic.

Tanzanian Cosmas Masanja, participant of the 2010 Vi regional workshop on natural resources and development, came to Geneva to prepare lectures for a course on the economics of commodities production and trade, which is part of his university’s Master’s programme in International Trade. During his 6 weeks in Geneva, he undertook research which allowed him to finalize materials - readers, discussion questions for students and PowerPoint presentations - for three lectures included in his course: “Commodity Production Structures in Developing Countries”, “Financing Commodity Production and Trade”, and “Agricultural Commodity Price Risk Management in Developing Countries”.

The Vi also provided mentoring support to research projects conducted by developing country academics in 2012. In the context of a capacity-building project sponsored by the Government of Norway and aimed at strengthening the teaching and research capacity of LDC academics on natural resources and economic development, the Vi gave an opportunity to participants of its 2010 regional professional development workshop on this issue to apply the knowledge acquired in the workshop to research projects of specific interest to their countries. Three research proposals, all relating to mining in Western Africa, were selected to receive financial grants and mentoring support from the Vi.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Main author</th>
<th>Title of research project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>Université de Sontonia Conakry</td>
<td>Bangaly KOUYATE</td>
<td>Modélisation de l’impact économique de l’exportation de l’alumine de Sangarédi en Guinée: une analyse TES (Modelling the economic impact of alumina exports from Sangarédi in Guinea: input-output analysis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>Université de Bamako</td>
<td>Abdrahamane SANOGO</td>
<td>Modélisation de l’impact économique de l’exploitation de l’or au Mali: modèle de Granger (Modelling the economic impact of gold mining in Mali: the Granger model)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>Université de Lomé</td>
<td>Anani Nourredine MENSAH</td>
<td>Évaluation de l’impact des exportations du phosphate sur le développement économique au Togo (Evaluation of the impact of phosphate exports on economic development in Togo)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first study, on alumina exports in Guinea, concludes that a higher degree of processing would increase the contribution of the sector to GDP growth, and recommends additional investment in the country’s hydro power potential to increase the value added of the production; alignment of the mining legislation with international best practice; active participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI); reinforcement of the corporate social responsibility dimension of the mining industry; encouragement of labour-intensive methods in mining and related activities; industrial diversification of the economy; and the strengthening of linkages with local enterprises. The second study, focusing on gold in Mali, recommends attracting additional investment in the sector in view of increasing its productivity; renegotiating the revenue-sharing agreements with transnational companies while coordinating the approach with other important producers in Africa (South Africa, Ghana); increasing the use of revenues for poverty reduction purposes; and diversifying the country’s economy, including through support to the development of SMEs. The third study, analyzing phosphate exports from Togo, recommends a higher level of processing (into phosphoric acid and fertilizers) and better governance of the incomes derived from the production, in the framework of the country’s participation in the EITI.

The findings of the study on Guinea were presented at events attended by academics and representatives from government ministries and international organizations. The authors wish to further enrich their work, and extend the use of the analytical tools to studies on other
mining projects in the country. The study on Mali was submitted to a journal and selected to be featured in a pluri-disciplinary publication on the development of the country. Its findings were also presented to academics and graduate students at the University of Bamako, and shared with the Mali Symposium on Social Sciences. In addition, the author integrated some of its results into his course on international trade. The study on Togo was submitted for journal publication and its findings integrated into a graduate course on natural resources and economic development, and into research seminars for graduate students of international trade at the University of Lomé. Upon invitation from the EITI secretariat, the author made presentations of his findings at several mining sites in the country on the occasion of the publication of the first EITI report on Togo.

4. NORTH-SOUTH AND SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE VI ACADEMIC NETWORK

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 on economic development studies undertaken by HTW Berlin with 9 Vi members from developing and transition countries, the Vi arranged a contribution from an expert from UNCTAD's GDS, Jörg Mayer, to the workshop on perspectives of emerging markets, hosted by the University of Mauritius 12-14 June 2012. The workshop sought to shed light on what defines an emerging market, and to what extent experiences of single emerging markets such as China, Brazil or India can be generalized for other emerging markets. In a special roundtable session, former Mauritius finance minister, Rama Sithanen, along with Vi member coordinator Sebastian Dullien and Jan Priewe, of HTW Berlin, discussed the causes and impact of the euro crisis. Overall, roughly 100 participants joined at least one of the sessions of the workshop. HTW organized another 2 workshops and 5 fellowships involving Vi members in 2012, provided curricular support to the Master in International Economics and Trade Policy at the Vi’s Belarusian university member, and arranged teaching support to this programme by 4 lecturers from universities in India and Mauritius.

In cooperation with Vi Spanish core member, the University of Barcelona (UB) and Vi Spanish distance-learning partner, the CEDDET Foundation, the Vi co-organized, for the third time, a Spanish-language edition of the online course on legal instruments of international economic relations and regional integration 16 April-17 June 2012. Six Vi members successfully graduated from this course, bringing the total number of members trained in the Spanish and English versions of the course to 82. To provide further education and networking opportunities to the course graduates, the partners launched the International Economic Relations Network (IERN) in January 2012, with financial support from the Government of Spain. Throughout the year, the members of the network had the opportunity to share and discuss in five online discussion forums on foreign direct investment rules, the implications of withdrawing from bilateral investment agreements, the lessons to be drawn from the Doha Round negotiations, the proliferation of preferential trade agreements within the multilateral trading system, and on the framework for regional integration. They also participated in one working group on developing countries’ agenda for the system of international economic relations, and attended an online training workshop on “Refocusing the System of International Trade Relations”. The forums on the Doha round negotiations and on the renegotiation or withdrawal from bilateral investment treaties received the highest
ratings from the members of the network which grew considerably over the year, from the initial 102 members in January to 185 in October.

In 2012, the University of Barcelona continued offering scholarships for its Master in International Economic Law and Policy (IELPO) programme to candidates recommended by Vi members. Thanks to the efforts of UB’s Vi coordinator, Ramon Torrent, and financial support from the Patronat Catalunya Món (Catalonia World Consortium), 4 scholarships, covering tuition fees and providing an allocation toward living costs in Barcelona, were awarded for the 2012-2013 IELPO edition. The first winner of the scholarship was an Ethiopian lecturer, Tilahun Esmael Kassahun, from Addis Ababa University, core Vi member in Ethiopia. Another three scholarships went to candidates from Vi affiliate members in China (Zhu Ling from the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics), the Russian Federation (Daria Chechushkina from the St. Petersburg State University) and Vietnam (Thanh Thi Nguyen from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam). Additionally, the University of Barcelona granted one candidate - Nadine McCall from the University of the West Indies - a 50 per cent discount on tuition fees.

After having received Vi scholarships for the online course on legal instruments of international economic relations and regional integration and the IELPO programme, Vi affiliate member coordinator, Henok Birhanu, of Jigjiga University in Ethiopia, was admitted to the PhD programme in international law and economics of Italian core member, Università Bocconi. “My application, which was supported by my strong performance at IELPO, was well received by the admissions committee, which accorded me the highest point of admission (first rank) among the more than 140 applicants,” Birhanu said. As one of the top graduates of the online course, he had been recruited to help moderate the course’s alumni network, the IERN, during his IELPO studies, and before starting his PhD in September 2012.

Based on a 2008-2009 South-South joint Vi research project between her university, Universidad EAFIT, Colombia, and Vietnam’s Foreign Trade University, Vi core member coordinator, Maria Alejandra Gonzalez-Perez, co-authored an article published by the Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies in 2012. "Cooperation in coffee markets: the case of Vietnam and Colombia” presents a cross-country study comparing two major coffee exporting countries in the world in terms of infrastructure, technology, value added, and positioning in both domestic and global markets, among other production elements. The article also explores marketing strategies for niche markets such as specialty coffees, and socially- and environmentally-responsible trade, as well as opportunities for cooperation between the two countries.

During the year, members of the Vi increasingly used the network as a channel to disseminate their calls for papers, scholarships and teaching opportunities. The calls related to learning opportunities included a discount on tuition fees for summer academy courses at the World Trade Institute in Berne, Switzerland, and a scholarship to study in the Master of International Business programme at Universidad EAFIT, Colombia.

Another set of calls invited members to submit papers or articles for conferences or publications. A call for articles by Vi core Colombian member, Universidad EAFIT, for instance, yielded an article for its international business e-journal, Revista de Negocios Internacionales, by John Sinato Ombella, Assistant Lecturer at Mzumbe University and Vi associate member since 2008. His article, "Challenges of Access to Clean Water and Healthy Environment: An Inter-link between Huge Investment Projects and the Surrounding Local Community in Tanzania", was published in Vol. 5, No 1 of the 2012 edition of the Revista. "I was moved to write the article after witnessing how huge investment companies harvest natural resources with very little care for environmental preservation,” said Ombella. "(EAFIT's) Journal of International Business is easily accessible online and therefore will allow companies to know the advantages of doing business, or investing, in an environmentally friendly manner." The Vi also disseminated a call for entries for the FLACSO-WTO Chair Award 2012, organized by Vi core Argentinian member, the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO). Evans Osabuohien, a Vi associate member from Covenant University,
Nigeria, was awarded first place for his paper, “More Trade, More Protection: Insights and Implications of the Unending Contradiction.”

The third area covered by the calls concerned the search for lecturers to teach in academic programmes of other Vi members. In November 2011, Vi core Mozambican member, Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), asked the Vi for assistance in finding lecturers for the fourth edition of their bi-lingual (Portuguese-English) Master’s programme in International Trade Law. The university was looking for lecturers who could teach a wide range of international legal and economic issues: international economics; economic policy; trade policy; international financial markets; international trade law; regulations and markets; trade in agriculture; trade in goods; GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) and TRIPS (Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights); regional integration; trade remedies; dispute settlement; and research methods. After a competitive selection, UEM chose three lecturers from Vi member universities to teach in the programme. One of them, Orlando da Silva, Vi member coordinator at Brazilian affiliate, Federal University of Viçosa, delivered a course in Portuguese on economic policy in February, and another on trade in goods in August 2012 for the 21 students of the programme.

5. DISSEMINATION SERVICES: VI DIGITAL LIBRARY, PUBLICATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, MULTIMEDIA TEACHING RESOURCES, VIDEOCONFERENCES, UNCTAD CONTRIBUTIONS TO VI MEMBER EVENTS AND VI NEWS/NEWSLETTER

To complement its activities in the area of capacity building and networking, the Vi continued to disseminate research from UNCTAD and other international organizations to academia.

The Vi website (http://vi.unctad.org) was at the heart of the Vi dissemination efforts. By the end of 2012, 3,204 individuals from 164 countries had registered as users of the site. In 2012, the site recorded 7,065,060 annual hits, an increase of 5,269,907 from the 1,795,153 total hits for 2011, the sharp spike attributed to the delivery of the Vi online course on trade and poverty. More than 1,150 resources – articles, papers, reports, presentations 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 2012. These documents, emanating from UNCTAD, the Vi membership and 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 electronic format, the Vi also sent hard copies of UNCTAD publications to enrich Vi member libraries with up-to-date policy-oriented research reports. More than 4'700 publications were shipped to universities in 2012. According to the survey conducted with member coordinators in the summer of 2012, the publications are placed in university/faculty/department libraries for use by researchers, university teachers and students. To keep the users informed of new additions to the library, the University of Nairobi, Kenya, for instance, circulates the list of new books and posts it on notice boards for staff and students. Consequently, it reports that since the Vi started sending the publications, they have seen an increased interest in trade-related research from both the staff and post-graduate students. In some instances, such as in Barbados or South Africa, publications from the Vi helped to build specialized trade-related libraries in the departments concerned.

In 2012, the Vi also developed 8 new multimedia teaching resources for its members, as a means of disseminating the research undertaken by UNCTAD and other international organizations. These resources attracted nearly 3,000 hits during the year.
Vi multimedia teaching resources 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Resource person(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Developing countries and transition economies moving up list of FDI top 10</td>
<td>Kalman Kalotay, DIAE, UNCTAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Capital flow, exchange rate, trade balances and all that stuff</td>
<td>Ugo Panizza, GDS, UNCTAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Trade and employment: From myths to facts</td>
<td>Marion Jansen, José Manuel Salazar, ILO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Launch of the UNCTAD/WTO “A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis”</td>
<td>Alejandro Jara, Marc Bacchetta, WTO; Alessandro Nicita, Vlasta Macku, UNCTAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 In-country inequality engenders world of migrants</td>
<td>Branko Milanovic, World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Drastic measures: Pulling out of the eurocrisis (in Spanish)</td>
<td>Alfredo Calcagno, GDS, UNCTAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Technology solutions for energy poverty</td>
<td>Padmashree Gehl Sampath, Division on Technology and Logistics (DTL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 UNCTAD against the grain: Mainstream policies no way out of crisis</td>
<td>Heiner Flassbeck, GDS, UNCTAD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Vi videoconferences aim to disseminate the findings of UNCTAD research, in particular its flagship reports, to the staff and students of Vi member institutions. Videoconferences feature an expert from the concerned division, who presents the report’s findings, relates them to the country/region of the Vi member and answers questions from academics and students. Geneva mission representatives are also invited to participate. The videoconferences are filmed for posting on the Vi website as multimedia teaching resources.

In 2012, the Vi organized 10 videoconferences, in English, French and Spanish, for a total audience of more than 430 students, university teachers and researchers.

Vi videoconferences 2012

<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 Colombia</td>
<td>Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano</td>
<td>Euro-zone crisis (Spanish)</td>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>Alfredo Calcagno, GDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Colombia</td>
<td>Universidad EAFIT</td>
<td>World Investment Report 2012 (Spanish)</td>
<td>10 September</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Nicole Moussa, DIAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Morocco</td>
<td>Université Mohammed V-Souissi</td>
<td>World Investment Report 2012 (Spanish)</td>
<td>25 September</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nicole Moussa, DIAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Brazil</td>
<td>Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)</td>
<td>World Investment Report 2012 (French)</td>
<td>1 October</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Masataka Fujita, DIAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Russian Federation</td>
<td>Moscow State Institute of International Relations</td>
<td>Technology and Innovation Report 2011 (English)</td>
<td>4 October</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Padmashree Gehl Sampath, DTL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Vi also facilitated dissemination of UNCTAD's research to Vi members in the areas of members' interest, and encouraged contributions by Vi members to UNCTAD's research.

For the past 3 years, Vi members have been conducting national launches of UNCTAD's Information Economy Report (IER). In 2012, Universidad EAFIT and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) launched the report in Colombia and Russia, respectively. At EAFIT, host of Colombia's national launch for the third consecutive year, research director Félix González Londoño, who presented the report, stressed that the report's findings reveal new opportunities for developing countries, which should consider making the move from consumers of technology to providers of new applications and functionalities. The launch of the report was broadcasted to the network of Colombian member universities. In Russia, the launch was conducted by MGIMO Vi member coordinator, Anna Abramova, who also contributed research on her country's software market development to this year's IER. Her contribution analyzed the current situation and growth prospects of Russia's software and IT services industry in comparison with Brazil and China, and the role of e-government initiatives and ICT clusters in supporting the growth of the sector.

MGIMO researchers also contributed to UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2012, following a teaching visit by World Investment Report team leader, Masataka Fujita, organized by the Vi in 2011, during which a first discussion took place about the possibility of involving MGIMO's researchers in the preparation of analytical materials in the field of FDI. The first product of the cooperation came in the form of a contribution by MGIMO professor, Galina Kostyunina, to this year's UNCTAD World Investment Report. Her research was devoted to the impact of Russia's accession to the WTO on foreign direct investment, covering the primary, services and manufacturing sectors, with a focus on the competitiveness of local producers in some of these areas.
The Vi was also instrumental in arranging contributions of several UNCTAD experts to events organized by Vi members in 2012. Luisa Rodriguez, from UNCTAD’s DITC, contributed a presentation on economic integration and development to the fourth bi-annual congress on international business and management, themed “Multi-level Integration: Catalyst for Development”, organized by Vi Colombian affiliate, Universidad de la Sabana in Bogota, 26-27 April 2012. The congress, attracting more than 300 guests, was part of the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the International Business Administration programme at the International School of Economic and Management Sciences of the university.

Ana María Alvarez, of DITC, led a series of lectures on the trade and financial aspects of South-South cooperation at a workshop sponsored by Vi core Peruvian member, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, and the Latin American Trade Network 20-23 November 2012. During the first session, she explored the Latin American geopolitical reality, the potential of various regional cooperation configurations, and efforts to mitigate the effects of asymmetries between countries in the region. The second session looked at cooperation schemes between the region and emerging countries, and examined examples from Asia and the Pacific, and Africa. The last two days focused on the potential economic opportunities and social benefits that the region may derive from effective cooperation with emerging countries in Latin America and the world.

Pilar Fajarnes, of GDS, delivered a keynote presentation on challenges and opportunities of globalization to the eighth international business congress of Vi’s latest Colombian affiliate member, Universidad Santo Tomás, on 1 November 2012. The congress focused on the impact of Free Trade Agreements with the United States, Canada and the European Union on Colombia. Fajarnes’ contribution, based on UNCTAD Trade and Development Report research, stressed the need for more balanced growth and a re-orientation of emphasis from developed country markets to domestic or regional markets. Countries should carry out pro-active industrialization policies, and regional and South-South integration can be an important factor for industrialization and structural change.

Vi core university members from France, Morocco and Senegal converged on Rabat 8-10 November for the sixth edition of the Colloque International de Rabat (Rabat International Symposium) organized by Université Mohammed V-Souissi’s WTO Chair and the UN Economic Commission for Africa. The symposium, themed “Trade of the Mediterranean Countries in the Context of Political Transitions Underway: Problems and Promises”, debated the effects of recent crises and the impact of emerging Southern economies on developing countries in Northern Africa and the Middle East. Drawing on UNCTAD’s research, Piergiuseppe Fortunato from UNCTAD’s Unit for Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries whose intervention was facilitated by the Vi, contributed the presentation, “The Rise of the South and South-South Development Cooperation”, comparing the impact of this type of cooperation to that of traditional North-South linkages. Other presentations were delivered by Vi core French university member coordinator, Pierre Berthaud, of Université Pierre Mendès France in Grenoble, who introduced his research findings on the impact of major Southern emerging powers (Brazil, India, China and South Africa) on global governance, and by former Vi fellows from the Senegalese core member, Université Cheikh Anta Diop. Malik Sané contributed a presentation titled “The Economic and Financial Crisis and International Trade Negotiations: What Lessons for the Countries of West Africa?”, while Chérif Sidy Kane presented his research on socio-political risk and foreign direct investment in West Africa. “The exchange on topical issues relating to development in Africa, and especially in Mediterranean countries, was of a very high scientific level,” reported Sané. “It also helped strengthen relationships
between different participants and promote the development of South-South and North-South research cooperation.”

Throughout the year, the Vi also continued maintaining an active "News" section on its site, with 56 published news items. 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. The Vi e-distribution list currently contains nearly 4,400 recipients.
## 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, Cotonou, Benin  
5. University of Campinas, Brazil  
6. Université de Yaoundé II, Cameroon  
7. Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada  
8. Universidade 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. Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia  
13. Université Pierre Mendès France, Grenoble, France  
14. University American College Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
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. Université Mohammed V-Souissi, Rabat, Morocco  
24. Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, Mozambique  
25. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú  
26. Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla, Colombia  
27. Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, Colombia  
28. Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia  
29. Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay  
30. University of Pretoria, South Africa  
31. University of Barcelona, Spain  
32. World Trade Institute, University of Berne, Switzerland  
33. University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania (United Republic of)  
34. Makarere University Business School, Kampala, Uganda  
35. Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay  
36. Foreign Trade University, Hanoi, Vietnam  
37. University of the West Indies (Cave Hill Campus, Barbados)  
38. Copperbelt University, Kitwe, 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), Brasilia, 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, Bogotá, Colombia  
10. Fundación Universitaria Politécnico Grancolombiano, Bogotá, Colombia  
11. Academia Diplomática de San Carlos, Bogotá, Colombia  
12. Universidad Autónoma de Occidente, Cali, Colombia  
13. Universidad de Bogotá Jorge Tadeo Lozano, Colombia  
14. Universidad de La Sabana, Bogotá, Colombia  
15. Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia  
16. Universidad de Chile (Santiago de Chile)  
17. Universidad EAN, Bogotá, Colombia  
18. Universidad de la Sabana, Bogotá, Colombia  
19. Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia  
20. Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla, Colombia  
21. Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia  
22. Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia  
23. Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar, Cartagena, Colombia  
24. Jigjiga University, Ethiopia  
25. Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya  
26. Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), Russian Federation  
27. North-West Institute, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation  
28. St. Petersburg State University, Russian Federation  
29. St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance, Russian Federation  
30. North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa  
31. Stellenbosch University, South Africa  
32. Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Hanoi

## Think tank members

1. Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
2. Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
3. European Policy Centre, Brussels, Belgium  
4. Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, Belgium  
5. Brazilian Center for Analysis and Planning (CEBRAP), São Paulo, Brazil  
6. North-South Institute, Ottawa, Canada  
7. German Development Institute, Bonn, Germany  
8. Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Germany  
9. Centre for International Cooperation and Development, Ljubljana, Slovenia