# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction and highlights ........................................................................................................... 1

2. Support to teaching: curricular advice, teaching materials and study tours .......................... 2

3. Professional development for research and teaching: workshops, fellowships and mentoring ................................................................................................................................. 5

4. Cooperation among the members of the Vi academic network ............................................. 15

5. Dissemination services: Vi digital library, publications for university libraries, multimedia teaching resources, videoconferences, and Vi news/newsletter .................................................. 19

Vi member universities and think tanks (31 December 2013) ...................................................... 22
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: (a) providing support to university teaching, (b) offering professional development opportunities for academics, and (c) 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 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 and transition countries.

The Vi membership grew by more than 20 per cent in 2013, with 17 new institutions – a record annual increase in participation – joining the programme. Thirteen new universities, from Bangladesh, Botswana, Bulgaria, Colombia, the Gambia, Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Togo, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe, as well as four research institutes from Bangladesh (2), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Slovenia became Vi members in the course of the year. The Vi network thus expanded to include 96 academic institutions in 50 countries.

In 2013, the Vi continued to support academic institutions in developing and transition countries. In addition to providing curricular development advice, it published one new teaching module, and supported the adaptation of its teaching materials on foreign direct investment, competitiveness and development, and regional trade agreements to the contexts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Zimbabwe, respectively. It also held a seminar presenting research undertaken by member universities; delivered eight national professional development workshops for 217 African and LDC academics; hosted six fellows who worked on research and teaching projects with support from UNCTAD experts; and organized nine study tours and visits to Geneva-based international organizations for 255 students from member universities. The Vi capacity-building project on trade and poverty reached its second phase, as the best graduates of the 2012 online course developed papers on topical trade and poverty issues for their countries, with support from international experts and in cooperation with national policymakers. 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 make
UNCTAD's research better known to academic audiences through launches of UNCTAD flagship reports at member institutions and the organization of 17 presentations via videoconference for 678 students and academics.

Vi activities in 2013 benefited from financial support from the Government of Finland, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and the One UN Fund for Tanzania.

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

In 2013, the Vi continued to support undergraduate and graduate programmes on trade and development topics 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's programme in International Cooperation and Development at the Mid-Western University in Nepal launched in December 2012, and a Master's programme in Trade, Development and International Relations at the Zambia Open University, scheduled to admit the first intake of students in January 2014. The advice concerned the selection of courses to be included in the programmes, comments on their content, and recommendations of readings and other teaching resources for students, including those published by UNCTAD and the Virtual Institute.

With regard to the development of **teaching materials**, the Vi published the fourth module of its teaching material on contemporary issues in international macroeconomics, trade and finance, requested by the Makerere University Business School, Uganda. Drafted by Sebastian Dullien from the University of Applied Sciences Berlin, in cooperation with colleagues from Vi's home division, the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies (GDS), the module titled "Capital flows to developing countries: When are they good for development?" starts with a review of the neoclassical model of capital inflows and development, followed by a review of empirical evidence on capital liberalization and capital inflows around the world in the past decades, to ascertain whether their proclaimed benefits have materialized. Evidence presented indicates that the real world is more complex than that defined by the neoclassical model, and that a number of its predictions do not materialize. The module endeavours to explain why the empirical evidence is at odds with the theoretical predictions, and outlines a Keynesian alternative to the neoclassical models. The teaching material includes readers, lecture notes and PowerPoint presentations to facilitate its use by lecturers at Vi member universities.

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, which usually takes the form of an additional teaching module, includes elements such as national/regional data, case studies and information about national policy frameworks. In 2013, three **localized versions of the Vi teaching materials** on foreign direct investment, competitiveness and development, and regional trade agreements were completed by lecturers from Ethiopia, Kenya and Zimbabwe, in cooperation with UNCTAD's Division on Investment and Enterprise (DIAE), GDS, and the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC). The localized materials serve as class readers, and contain review questions and activities for students. The
universities intend to use them in courses on international economic law (Ethiopia) and international economics (Kenya and Zimbabwe).

The module on Ethiopia's foreign investment policy, drafted by Martha Belete Hailu from the Addis Ababa University, looks at the country's investment policy from the legal point of view. The first part of the module analyzes the bilateral investment treaties signed by the country, their scope and provisions relating to the admission, protection and treatment of investment. It also examines the two main types of investment disputes, state-state disputes and investor-state disputes, and the mechanisms which can be used for their settlement. The second part focuses on national FDI policy, reviewing the various instruments and rules used by the country in the areas of investment regulation, protection, promotion and facilitation, as well as other policies that have a bearing on investment, such as environmental, labour, trade and competition policies, and laws concerning the ownership of immovable property. The module concludes by examining the interface between investment policy and sustainable development in the country.

The module on competitiveness of Kenya's manufacturing exports in regional and world trade, drafted by Daniel Abala from the University of Nairobi, begins with an introduction of the issue of competitiveness, particularly in the context of international trade in manufactured products. The second section is dedicated to the analysis of determinants and, subsequently, indicators of competitiveness. The third section provides information on the evolution of Kenya's manufacturing exports, and analyzes the main obstacles to competitiveness in Kenya, before looking into regional and national policies aiming to promote competitiveness of Kenya's manufacturing sector, in particular those related to regional integration, infrastructure, institutional framework, human capital, and technology and innovation.

The module developed by Albert Makochekanwa from the University of Zimbabwe analyzes regional trade/integration agreements of relevance to his country. The first part provides an introduction to the topic by explaining the theory and concepts related to regional integration, and the basic facts about the two groupings of which Zimbabwe is a member, COMESA and SADC. The second part goes deeper into the analysis of intra-COMESA and intra-SADC trade, and the factors that constrain their growth, such as customs-, infrastructure- and production-related reasons, institutional arrangements, and preferential access to markets outside the region. The third part focuses specifically on Zimbabwe's trade with COMESA and SADC countries, which it illustrates by using several tools and indicators, such as the gravity model, revealed comparative advantage, and the Grubel-Lloyd index. The final part introduces the project of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite FTA, its main negotiating areas, as well as the challenges facing these negotiations.

The development and localization of Vi teaching materials were made possible by the contribution from the Government of Finland.

The electronic versions of Vi teaching materials, as well as their local adaptations, are available to all Vi member institutions on the Vi website. At the end of 2013, the site hosted 10 generic Vi teaching materials and 28 localizations. It also offered 32 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 four study tours for 144 students (109 women) from member universities in the Russian Federation, the West Indies, the People’s Republic of China and Colombia, and five training sessions for 111 students (74 women) from the University of Barcelona (Spain), the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (People’s Republic of China), Universidad Sergio Arboleda (Colombia), University of Applied Sciences 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 and 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 World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, and CUTS (the Consumer Unity & Trust Society) International. The study 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 national or regional representatives in charge of negotiations in Geneva.

Virtual Institute study tours and study visits 2013

<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>19 February</td>
<td>28/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Russian</td>
<td>Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Higher School of Economics, Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg State University of Economics, North-West Institute</td>
<td>15-19 April</td>
<td>65/48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Barbados</td>
<td>University of the West Indies</td>
<td>13-24 May</td>
<td>18/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 China</td>
<td>Shanghai University of International Business and Economics</td>
<td>8 July</td>
<td>9/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 China</td>
<td>University of International Business and Economics</td>
<td>16-20 September</td>
<td>28/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Colombia</td>
<td>Universidad Sergio Arboleda</td>
<td>8 October</td>
<td>15/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Colombia</td>
<td>Universidad EAFIT, Universidad EAN, Universidad de la Sabana, Universidad Santo Tomás, Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano, Universidad del Norte, Universidad Javeriana</td>
<td>18-22 November</td>
<td>33/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Russian</td>
<td>Moscow State Institute of International Relations</td>
<td>22 November</td>
<td>19/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Germany</td>
<td>University of Applied Sciences Berlin</td>
<td>8 November</td>
<td>38/16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Feedback from Vi study tours and study visits

“I could see how everything works in practice. I really appreciated the lectures and I think this week really contributed to my knowledge of economics. In addition, I got a lot of good ideas for my Master’s thesis and it reassured me of my wish to work for an international organization - UNCTAD, maybe.”

Participant of the study tour for the Russian Federation

“The study tour was an excellent exposure to the pros and cons of the multilateral world of trade and its correlation to labour, environment and health. Trade is dynamic and has implications on multiple disciplines and thus one must be knowledgeable on a plethora of issues.”

Participant of the study tour for the Caribbean countries

“I have gained really useful knowledge during the study tour and expanded my views to a more global way of thinking. China is playing more and more a significant role in the world and we need to learn from the developed countries in order to make China one of them.”

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

“The most important message that I am taking back home is that opportunities are there but we need to know how to take advantage of them. The services sector has a great development potential, which Colombia should acknowledge, and one way to reach that goal is through global cooperation.”

Participant of the study tour for Colombia

3. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING: WORKSHOPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND MENTORING

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

In 2013, the Vi organized eight national professional development workshops for academics in the Least Developed Countries and Africa, including two in cooperation with the DITC, and one in cooperation with the Special Unit on Commodities (SUC). The workshops organized for the University of Dar es Salaam Business School were funded by the One UN Fund for Tanzania, the cost of the workshop for South Africa was covered by the requesting university, and the Government of Finland sponsored the remaining workshops.

Vi national professional development workshops 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institution(s)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Resource person</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 South Africa</td>
<td>North-West University, University of Pretoria</td>
<td>Trade empirics using Stata</td>
<td>Cristian Ugarte, Vi</td>
<td>22-25 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Tanzania</td>
<td>University of Dar es Salaam</td>
<td>Development challenges and policy options for managing the extractive sector</td>
<td>Samuel Gayi, SUC</td>
<td>25-26 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Ghana</td>
<td>University of Cape Coast</td>
<td>Trade empirics using Stata</td>
<td>Cristian Ugarte, Vi</td>
<td>20-23 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Bangladesh</td>
<td>Jagannath University, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, Human Development Research Centre, Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology</td>
<td>Gravity model of international trade using Stata</td>
<td>Marco Fugazza, DITC</td>
<td>3-6 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Resource Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>University of Nairobi, Moi University</td>
<td>Trade empirics using Stata</td>
<td>Cristian Ugarte, Vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>University of Mauritius</td>
<td>Trade in services and the promotion of trade integration</td>
<td>Martine Julsaint, DITC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Université Cheikh Anta Diop</td>
<td>Trade empirics using Stata</td>
<td>Cristian Ugarte, Vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>University of Dar es Salaam</td>
<td>Trade empirics using Stata</td>
<td>Cristian Ugarte, Vi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training at Vi member institutions to strengthen quantitative skills for the analysis of trade and trade policy ranked first in the requests received by the Vi. The six workshops on this topic organized by the Vi in 2013 for Ghana, Bangladesh, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania attracted a total attendance of 140 (including 31 women) lecturers, researchers, and students from Vi member universities and think tanks, as well as from non-member, the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Bangladesh.

The workshops started with an introduction of the Stata statistical software package and its main functionalities, followed by a discussion of the theoretical foundations of the gravity model and linear panel data models. The two topics were then brought together as participants learned how to construct a gravity dataset. Finally, the participants had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of WTO agreements and regional trade arrangements, in particular the topics that can be analyzed using the methods and tools covered by the workshop. Presentations by the resource persons were complemented by hands-on exercises and discussions to allow participants to better absorb the subject matter.

The participants of the trade empirics workshops enrolled with the expectation of enhancing their knowledge and understanding of the gravity model, panel data analysis, and Stata, so that they may be able to effectively use the new knowledge for the analysis of trade-related issues. According to the end-of-workshop questionnaires, the workshops have enhanced their knowledge of these issues. On a scale from 5 (considerably enhanced the knowledge) to 1 (did not at all enhance the knowledge), the workshop in South Africa was rated an average of 3.6, the one in Ghana received an average rate of 4.1, the workshop in Bangladesh an average of 3.9, the workshop in Kenya an average of 4.6, the workshop in Senegal an average rating of 4, and the workshop in Tanzania got an average rating of 4.5.

Recent gas discoveries in Tanzania and plans by Norwegian Statoil to build a liquefied gas production facility there may make the country a major exporter of energy to fast-growing markets in Asia. In order to enhance their knowledge of how gas, oil, and mineral resources of the country could help it out of poverty, the University of Dar es Salaam Business School requested that the Vi organize a professional development workshop on “Development challenges and policy options for managing the extractive sector”. The workshop, delivered by the Chief of UNCTAD’s SUC, Samuel Gayi, gathered 37 (14 women) lecturers and students of
Master’s programmes in International Trade and in International Business at the University of Dar es Salaam Business School. The workshop placed the issue of natural resources into a broader development context, and examined both the potential role of the extractive sector as an engine for development, and the challenges and policy options for managing the sector, using examples from other countries whose experience could be relevant for Tanzania. During group discussion sessions, the participants debated the ways and means of optimizing development outcomes of the extractive sector for Tanzania, and reflected on an extractive sector development strategy for the country.

Participants of the workshop on the extractive sector said that they wished to learn about the policies that would make it possible for Tanzania and other LDCs to use this sector for economic growth and development of their countries. In the final feedback questionnaires, 97 per cent of them stated that the workshop had enhanced their knowledge in this regard, giving it an average rating of 4.3.

Given the growing share of services in the country’s exports, the University of Mauritius requested a workshop on this topic to increase understanding among national stakeholders and its academic staff interested in teaching and researching services trade. Forty (including 22 women) Mauritian academics, government and private sector representatives attended the event. The workshop started by explaining the main concepts related to trade in services and the methods to measure and analyze it. It then focused on the development aspects of services trade - how it can be used to foster countries’ development, what challenges countries face in exploiting this potential, and how they can formulate appropriate negotiating positions for the liberalization and facilitation of services trade. One of the sessions was dedicated to the specific case of Mauritius. The workshop concluded with a simulation exercise in which the participants worked in groups to prepare policy positions which were then translated into regulatory and negotiating proposals on trade in services for their country.

Participants of the workshop on trade in services expected to increase their knowledge of trade in services, learn about the contribution of the services sector to other sectors, the GATS schedule of commitments, the different modes of supply, as well as to get a better understanding of the consultation procedure between ministries and stakeholders. In their feedback questionnaires, they reported that the event had met or exceeded their expectations. The average rating with regard to the enhancement of their knowledge was 3.7.

Participants of all the workshops said that they intended to use their new knowledge and skills and gave concrete examples of such use in their future teaching or studies, research, and work for the government or the private sector. They also expressed the wish to see more Vi workshops on trade-related matters organized for academics in developing countries in the future. As a participant of the trade empirics workshop for Tanzania put it: “Developing countries need more training on trade and development. This UNCTAD workshop on trade empirics using Stata should be used as an opportunity for countries like Tanzania to do analysis, especially in trade, and come up with new ideas and solutions for the development of trade and economic growth.”
On the workshops and the intended use of workshop knowledge

“All my expectations have been met because the course dealt with data management, there were a lot of hands-on exercises for the participants, sources of trade data were discussed, as well as how to initiate and implement policy-relevant trade research.”

A participant of the workshop for Ghana

“I have learnt about the use of the gravity approach in bilateral trade and the application of the model to estimate transport costs of imports and exports.”

A participant of the workshop for Kenya

“The role of the state in managing the extractive sector is an important aspect which will be useful in teaching my course on ‘Investments in Emerging Markets’.”

A participant of the workshop on the extractive sector for Tanzania

“(I plan to use the knowledge from the workshop) to teach an international economics course to MSc students at my university.”

A participant of the workshop for Bangladesh

“I am planning to do my PhD thesis on trade in services next year. Thus, this workshop will surely help me in better understanding other countries’ schedules of commitments and their implications.”

A participant of the workshop for Mauritius

“The subject of my thesis is the impact of the adoption of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff on competitiveness in the region. Until attending the workshop, I did not know how to quantify this impact. Now, with STATA, my problem is solved.”

A participant of the workshop for Senegal

“This is definitely going to have the biggest impact on my research effort. The knowledge I gained at the workshop will assist me in making the research process more effective.”

A participant of the workshop for South Africa

“There are plans under way to assess the fiscal implications of the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement by the government of Ghana, through collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Insights acquired from this workshop will be helpful in our deliberations.”

A participant of the workshop for Ghana

Launched in 2006, the **Vi fellowship programme** provides support to developing and transition 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 2013, six fellows came to work at UNCTAD on research and teaching projects of interest to their universities and their own professional development. The fellowship for the People’s Republic of China was funded by his university while the fellowships for the academics from Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Togo and Nigeria were sponsored by the Government of Finland. All the fellows benefited from mentoring by experts from UNCTAD and/or other organizations working in their fields of study.

### Vi fellowships 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country and university</th>
<th>Name of fellow</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Areas of work during the fellowship</th>
<th>Resource persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>People’s Republic of China</strong>&lt;br&gt;Shanghai University of Economics and Finance</td>
<td>Hao Shao</td>
<td>25 March-19 April</td>
<td>Identification of topical issues for trade policy research (research)</td>
<td>Cristian Ugarte, Vi; Liping Zhang, Marco Fugazza, DITC; Roberta Piermartini, Cosimo Beverelli, WTO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Research Focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Université de Yaoundé II</td>
<td>Henri Atangana Ondoa</td>
<td>15 April-24 May</td>
<td>L’incidence du commerce Nord-Sud et du commerce Sud-Sud sur la croissance économique en Afrique (research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Moi University</td>
<td>Mark Korir</td>
<td>27 May-5 July</td>
<td>Development of curricula for a graduate programme in international economics and trade (teaching)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Université Cheikh Anta Diop</td>
<td>Fatou Gueye</td>
<td>9 September -4 October</td>
<td>Impact d’un accord commercial UEMOA-Maroc sur les économies des États membres de l’Union (research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>Université de Lomé</td>
<td>Anani Nourredine Mensah</td>
<td>16 September -25 October</td>
<td>Effets des prix internationaux de coton sur le bien-être des producteurs du coton au Togo (research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>University of Nigeria</td>
<td>Moses Oduh</td>
<td>14 October-22 November</td>
<td>The welfare effects of oil price transmission to domestic agricultural commodities in Nigeria (research)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first fellow of the year and also the first Vi fellow from China, Hao Shao, from the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (SUIBE), worked on the identification of topical issues in the trade policy area which could be addressed using quantitative methods. Hao teaches at SUIBE’s School of WTO Research & Education, and seeks to leverage his information technology expertise for the analysis of economic policy. Supported by Vi economist, Cristian Ugarte, Hao became familiar with quantitative analysis methods, such as the gravity and computable general equilibrium models, as well as key datasets and sources, discussed with experts from UNCTAD and the WTO Economic Research and Statistics Division, and received training at the International Trade Centre. The fellowship made it possible for him to gain a better understanding of international economics and trade policy. With regard to his future research orientation, ideas he brought back home were to use the gravity model to assess the potential impact of, for instance, China’s joining the WTO’s Information Technology Agreement on FDI inflows, or to use GTAP to predict if a specific trade-related agreement would bring advantages for China.

Vi fellow, Hao Shao, brainstorms research ideas with Vi’s Vlasta Macku and Cristian Ugarte.
The researcher from Cameroon's University of Yaoundé II, Henri Atangana Ondoa, with support from Piergiuseppe Fortunato (GDS) and Cristian Ugarte (Vi), worked on a research paper examining the impact of trade openness on economic growth in African countries. Noting the low share of Africa in world trade, its dependence on commodity exports and the growing trade openness of African economies, he sought to establish whether trade with different groups of countries and trade in different groups of products have a different impact on the continent's economic growth. Based on his findings, he advocates the promotion of trade with Asian countries and intra-African trade, diversification of African economies away from dependence on one or two major export commodities, support of the development of the manufacturing sector, and promotion of good governance. During his stay at UNCTAD, he finalized the first draft of his paper, including an extensive literature review, methodology design and econometric analysis to underpin his findings. After having integrated the comments received from experts and the permanent mission into his paper, he submitted it for publication to “Revue économique”.

Mark Korir, Head of the Department of Economics at Moi University, Kenya, came to Geneva to develop a proposal for a two-year Master’s programme in International Economics and Trade. During his stay at UNCTAD, he held extensive discussions and got advice from the Vi team (Vlasta Macku and Cristian Ugarte) on both the content and practical steps in designing and delivering the programme. He also met with several UNCTAD experts to discuss the courses related to globalization, regional integration and South-South cooperation; international investment; trade in services; and trade logistics and facilitation. During his fellowship, Korir finalized the first draft of the proposal for the programme. After integrating comments from his Department and School colleagues, the proposal will be submitted to the University's Senate to discuss its inclusion in the regular course offer of the University.

The first female fellow from the University Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal, hosted by the Virtual Institute, Fatou Gueye, worked on a paper investigating the impact of the upcoming free trade agreement between Morocco and the West African Economic and Monetary Union on her country, in a situation where Moroccan exports to Senegal largely exceed those of Senegal to Morocco. Using a combination of the Computable General Equilibrium model and micro-simulations, she researched the impact of the agreement on macroeconomic variables (trade balance, capital account, etc.) and, consecutively, social indicators (employment, poverty incidence and inequality) in Senegal. During her stay at the Virtual Institute, she benefited from the support of DITC's Marco Fugazza and Vi's Cristian Ugarte, who helped her fine-tune the
methodology for her research paper, which she intends to complete in the coming months and submit for publication.

Anani Nourredine Mensah, First Vice Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management at the University of Togo, with support from Vi economist, Cristian Ugarte, researched the effects of international cotton prices on his country’s producers. The purpose was to generate information relevant for the government’s policy aiming to boost the production of cotton, as well as support the country’s poverty reduction objectives. While at UNCTAD, Mensah developed a research methodology for his project, compiled the necessary databases, and produced estimations which he intends to use in the formulation of policy proposals for the cotton sector in Togo. He plans to finalize the paper and submit it for publication, share and discuss his findings at a workshop with main stakeholders of the Togolese cotton sector, and teach the methods from his research in an online course on trade and poverty which his university launched in autumn 2012.

The first Vi fellow from the country, Moses Oduh, from the University of Nigeria, undertook work on a paper looking into the impact of high international prices of oil on the level of domestic prices and, consequently, the welfare of Nigerian households. Based on his analysis, he proposed that monetary policy instruments - aiming to reduce money supply - should be used to counteract the effects of oil-induced domestic price increase in Nigeria. During his stay at UNCTAD, he was supported by Patrick Osakwe, Chief of UNCTAD’s Africa Section, and Vi economist, Cristian Ugarte. He completed the computations for the first and second part of his paper, and laid ground for the formulation of policy recommendations to emanate from his research. Upon return to Nigeria, he plans to make a presentation of the findings of his research to his department and post-graduate students. He also intends to submit the paper or its parts to peer reviewed journals and conferences, most immediately the African Economic Conference 2014. Finally, using the platform of the African Heritage Institution of which he is a fellow, he wishes to prepare a policy brief on the implications of active and passive monetary policies on increased spending of oil revenue in a non-productive economy.

In the end-of-fellowship feedback questionnaires, all the participating academics said that the fellowships had strengthened their capacity in the areas covered by their fellowship projects. Among the main benefits unavailable to them in their countries, the fellows listed access to data, the possibility to advance with the development of the research methodology, contacts with international experts which may potentially result in future collaboration, contacts with representatives of their permanent missions, and better knowledge and understanding of UNCTAD and its work. The fellow from Senegal also said she had gained increased understanding of trade agreements, as well as the capacity to use the GTAP database.

On the fellowships

"Development is a series of good decisions. Such decisions need to be supported by forward-looking analyses, and it is important to inspire researchers to undertake research in this field."

Paul Batibonak, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Cameroon, during the final presentation of Vi fellow, Henri Atangana Ondoa
An important component of the Vi’s work in 2013 consisted of mentoring researchers from developing and transition countries working on papers on trade and poverty issues of specific policy interest to their countries, as part of the second phase of a three-year project sponsored by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Government of Finland. Twenty-seven top graduates of last year’s Vi online course on trade and poverty were invited to submit research proposals for the development of such papers. The Vi/UNCTAD selection committee chose 14 from among the 22 proposals received. Beginning in April, the researchers, mentored by UNCTAD and WTO experts and the co-author of the course, Nicolas Depetris, and in cooperation with their national policymakers, fine-tuned their previous proposals and developed them into full-fledged papers. The list of papers which were completed or are nearing completion, together with the names of the mentors, is below.

The main objective of this endeavour was to support the researchers in the effective application of the knowledge they had acquired at the course, through a learning-by-doing process. Another aim was to motivate researchers wishing to undertake policy-oriented research, and to assist them in establishing links and gaining experience in communicating and working with policymakers.

**Trade and poverty papers benefiting from mentoring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country and institution</th>
<th>Researcher(s)</th>
<th>Title of paper</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina- Universidad de San Andrés</td>
<td>Paula Calvo</td>
<td>Welfare impact of wheat-exporting restrictions in Argentina: Non-parametric analysis on urban households</td>
<td>Marco Fugazza, DITC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina- Universidad Argentina de la Empresa</td>
<td>Maria Priscila Ramos</td>
<td>Trade liberalization of environmental products: Who benefits in Argentina - the poor or the non-poor households?</td>
<td>Alessandro Nicita, DITC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin-currently University of Kentucky</td>
<td>Didier Yélognissé Alia</td>
<td>Heterogeneous welfare effects of cotton pricing on households in Benin</td>
<td>Claudia Trentini, DIAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China-Central University of Finance and Economics</td>
<td>Dahai Fu</td>
<td>The consumption effect of the renminbi appreciation in rural China</td>
<td>Nicolas Depetris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country/Institution</td>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Research Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Costa Rica-Academia de Centroamerica</td>
<td>Carlos Umaña</td>
<td>Welfare impacts of a change in the trade policy regime for rice in Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo-currently Nagoya University</td>
<td>Christian Otchia</td>
<td>Distributional and poverty effects of agricultural trade liberalization: The case of the Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia-University American College Skopje</td>
<td>Marjan Petreski</td>
<td>Increasing the welfare effect of the agricultural subsidy programme for food crop production in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nigeria-currently European University Institute</td>
<td>Oluyinka Idowu Kareem</td>
<td>The welfare impact in Nigeria of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff: A distributional effects analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Peru-Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism</td>
<td>Carmen Cecilia Matta Jara, Ana Maria del Carmen Vera Ganoza</td>
<td>Estimation of the pass-through and welfare effects of the tariff reduction for yellow corn in Peru between 2000 and 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Philippines-University of Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>George Manzano</td>
<td>Distributional impact of the 2008 rice crisis in the Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Socialist Republic of Viet Nam-Asian Development Bank</td>
<td>Ngoc Quang Pham</td>
<td>Household welfare and pricing of rice: Does the large-scale field model matter for Vietnam?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The mentoring provided to participating researchers consisted of online support and face-to-face coaching during a [workshop on trade and poverty analysis](#) which was organized in the middle of the research development period, 26-28 June, in Geneva. During the workshop, participating academics presented their work in progress to a panel of experts, and had the opportunity to listen to the presentations of other researchers participating in the project. They also held individual meetings with their mentors, with the purpose of receiving their advice and discussing outstanding issues related to the finalization of their papers. As an important element of the project is the interaction, communication and cooperation of researchers with policymakers, the workshop included a session on writing policy briefs and communicating with policymakers conducted by Rashmi Banga from ALDC, who has extensive practical experience in this field. Her session sensitized the participants to the work with policymakers and helped them prepare for the drafting of policy briefs, which are the second written output of their participation in the project. In addition, all permanent missions of participants' countries were invited to the event. Several of them (Argentina, China, Kenya, Myanmar, Peru, the Philippines, and Viet Nam) attended some or all of the sessions, and provided the researchers with valuable feedback.

![Image of Didier Yélongissé Alia, Benin, George Manzano, Philippines, Christian Otchia, Democratic Republic of Congo, with UNCTAD mentor, Alessandro Nicita]
In a questionnaire distributed at the end of the workshop, participants said that the mentoring they received was useful for the work on their papers. On a scale from a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5, they gave an average rating of 3.4 to e-mentoring, and a higher rating of 4.1 to individual meetings with mentors during the workshop, pointing possibly to the desirability of combining Information and Communication Technologies with face-to-face contacts to achieve maximum effect. The areas in which the mentoring/mentors helped included integration of new ideas and methods; dealing with technical aspects of their empirical analysis; narrowing the scope of their research question; and providing relevant literature and sources of data.

**On the mentoring experience**

"At the beginning I knew he was an excellent researcher on trade and so I thought that he will really help me with my subject from the technical point of view. But I can say he exceeded my expectations because he was really open to my questions and needs and available to continue the discussion of my topic. He also helped me to sell the paper to a policymaker, put it in the background context, find a better organization (priorities), and present the results in order to provide policy recommendations. All that was really important."

*Maria Priscila Ramos, Universidad de la Empresa, Argentina*

"Trade and poverty is a new research area for me. Therefore, I have many specific questions during my research. But it is so great to have one expert on the topic as my mentor. We communicate with each other by e-mail. That helps me solve some practical problems in short time."

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

Researchers found the interaction and cooperation with policymakers, another important element of the project, more challenging: at times, policymakers were busy, often out of the office and therefore difficult to reach for discussions of their projects. Notwithstanding these challenges, participants found their interaction with policymakers useful in the identification of important topics for analysis in their country and provision of information about these topics, as well as their link to specific government policies; access to relevant data; and better understanding of the constraints policymakers may face in the implementation of the researchers’ potential recommendations.

In order to assist the researchers who found it particularly difficult to get access to policymakers, the VI solicited support from permanent missions, which subsequently appointed staff to complement the support obtained in the capitals. This approach proved effective. As George Manzano, University of Asia and the Pacific, the Philippines, reports: "I sent my draft to three policymakers - an undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture and two agriculture attachés at the Philippine mission to the WTO. They gave me comments on the policy implications."
On the interaction with policymakers

"It was beyond my expectations that he would welcome me with open arms. In fact, he exposed me to the nitty-gritty of policymaking in my country. Also, he showed me the processes of trade negotiation that eventually have impact on households."

Olayinka Idowu Kareem, Nigeria (currently European University Institute, Italy)

"My cooperating policymaker has provided me household survey data, which is critical in this study. Moreover, she has rich experience of studying the same topic and she gave me some inspiring comments which helped me explain the results. Last but not least, she has good relationship with other policymakers and it may be a great possibility to have our research outcome accepted by the government."

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

The June workshop itself proved to be useful for the progress of the participants’ papers. Participants particularly appreciated individual meetings with mentors, feedback from other experts, feedback and networking with other participants, and the session on policy briefs and communication with policymakers. At the end of the workshop, 93 per cent of them said they were confident about their ability to successfully complete their research projects. They also had a clear idea about how they would apply what they have learnt or received at the workshop to finalize their assignments.

On the research workshop

"The workshop was very useful to sharpen my ideas for the completion of the paper on time. Discussion with experts, mentors and my peers will speed up my work after this workshop. I am very confident about my ability to complete the project, and to do rigorous research in the area of trade and poverty with policy relevance afterwards."

Didier Yelognisse Alia, Benin (currently PhD candidate, University of Kentucky, US)

"It was good to see and gauge the level of rigour that is expected from the participants. Getting ideas from the experiences and difficulties of other researchers was very important."

George Manzano, University of Asia and the Pacific, the Philippines

"The comments I got shall be useful in preparing the final draft of the research while colleagues’ areas of research gave me insight on the research to be done in the near future. The workshop also provided a platform for future collaboration and networking."

Olayinka Idowu Kareem, Nigeria (currently European University Institute, Italy)

"The discussion we had about communicating with policymakers was really useful and gave me some insights to improve collaboration with my policymaker and also to present my results to other policymakers who could find them useful."

Paula Calvo, Universidad de San Andrés, Argentina

"I have learnt how to catch policymakers’ attention so I have now more hope that they will implement my findings."

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

4. COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE VI ACADEMIC NETWORK

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

For the first time since the last Vi network meeting in 2009, the Vi organized a gathering of members in Geneva in 2013. The research seminar, held 9 to 11 October, brought together researchers from member universities in Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, France, Jordan, Morocco, the Russian Federation and South Africa to discuss their research in progress and opportunities for academic cooperation.
Funding their own attendance, participating academics received feedback from their peers and international experts from UNCTAD, the International Labour Organization and the Advisory Centre on WTO Law on their ongoing research projects developed either individually or in cooperation with other colleagues.

The event showcased the wide variety of research represented in the Vi network, ranging from economic and legal issues to international relations and business topics. The programme was structured into five substantive sessions, covering development strategies, the international economic system, export performance, regional and bilateral trade arrangements, and creative industries.

**List of papers presented at the Vi research seminar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country and university</th>
<th>Academic</th>
<th>Title of the paper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbados—University of the West Indies</td>
<td>Neil Paul</td>
<td>The challenge of improving trade in the Caribbean: The justification for the Extension Methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil—University of Campinas</td>
<td>André Biancarelli</td>
<td>Currency hierarchy, liquidity preference and exchange rate: A Keynesian/Minskyan approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil—University of Viçosa</td>
<td>Orlando da Silva</td>
<td>Gains from variety: Measuring the gains from regional trade agreements in South America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile—Universidad de Chile</td>
<td>Felip Muñoz</td>
<td>Pacific Alliance: An ongoing negotiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia—Universidad de la Sabana</td>
<td>Catherine Pereira</td>
<td>Impact of the Free Trade Agreement between Colombia and Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia—Universidad EAN</td>
<td>Fabio Moscoso</td>
<td>Economic and social effects of cultural and arts industries: The case of Colombian festivals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France—Université Pierre Mendès France</td>
<td>Pierre Berthaud</td>
<td>The BASIC effect on global climate governance: Power changes and regime shifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan—University of Jordan</td>
<td>Buthaina Muhtaseb</td>
<td>International trade in services and economic growth: The case of Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco—Université Mohamed V-Souissi</td>
<td>Azzedine Ghoufrane</td>
<td>La participation des pays en développement au système de règlement des différends de l'OMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation—St. Petersburg State University of Economics</td>
<td>Olga Garanina</td>
<td>Stuck in the middle: &quot;Dutch disease&quot; and energy-driven diversification in Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation—St. Petersburg State University</td>
<td>Serguei Sutyrin, Olga Trofimenko</td>
<td>Latin American experience in WTO dispute settlement: Recommendations for Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa—University of Pretoria</td>
<td>André Jordaan</td>
<td>The impact of proximity on international trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa—North-West University</td>
<td>Wilma Viviers, Ludo Cuypers, Sonja Grater, Waldo Krugell, Marianne Matthee</td>
<td>Identifying new product and service export opportunities for South Africa using a decision support model</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In line with the Vi’s focus on policy-oriented research, seminar participants chose to work on issues relevant for their individual countries or, more broadly, developing countries in general: How does financial globalization affect countries with peripheral currencies, such as Brazil? Is Russia suffering from Dutch disease and what can it do to diversify its economy? How can the South African government select sectors for export promotion support? Does Jordan’s and Colombia’s future lie in services exports? What is the likely impact of the envisaged free trade agreement between Colombia and Turkey? Can the experience of Latin American integration groupings be applicable to Russia’s dispute settlement cases with CIS countries?

Participants received feedback on these and other issues researched. According to the end-of-event questionnaire, the peer review component of the seminar has been useful for them in that it helped them integrate new ideas and/or important aspects into their analysis, gave them ideas about future extensions/directions of their research, helped them fine-tune the research question or the focus of their research, and provided relevant literature and sources of data for their projects. “As the paper I presented is work in progress, the suggestions from the peer review were very useful for future steps”, one of the researchers said. “The peer review was
excellent. It is difficult to find people available, interested and with experience to do it,” and “(t)he peer reviewer has helped me to strengthen the analytical framework of my paper by including non-legal aspects,” added other participants.

An important component of the meeting was networking, which, according to the participants' feedback, allowed them to establish contacts with outside peer reviewers and experts in international organizations, provided information about teaching programmes and research orientations of participating universities, as well as ideas about areas in which their university could cooperate with other members. Thanks to the seminar, five academics could identify a concrete project of cooperation with another participating university. "The seminar allowed me to establish cooperation with another member of the network concerning a research programme I am developing on emerging economies (...) and to schedule staff exchanges with two member universities in the coming year," reported the participant from France. An academic from Brazil, for instance, agreed with South African colleagues to prepare a joint paper and exchange students.

Participants also valued the participation of representatives from the permanent missions of Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Jordan, France, Morocco and the Russian Federation, who joined in for sessions presenting research related to their countries. As a Brazilian academic put it: "A member of the Brazilian permanent mission in Geneva, in charge of exchange-rates related issues in the WTO, came to attend the presentation. A promising contact was established." "The contact with the permanent mission was very useful in order to know what Colombia is working on internationally," added one of the Colombian researchers.

Overall, the participants appreciated the format of the event combining research and networking: "We got valuable comments and feedback on our work," said one of the participants. "Besides, knowing what other universities are doing provided us with new ideas of research and cooperation in the future. The seminar should certainly be repeated in the future."

Networking among the members has also been a key factor of North-South cooperation, as members in Germany and Switzerland continued to work with developing country universities on the Vi network as part of their own capacity-building projects.

Four fellowships were granted to researchers from three Vi member institutions in Brazil, India and South Africa during the last year of the project implemented by Vi core German member, HTW Berlin – University of Applied Sciences. The research project of senior fellow, Daniela Magalhães Prates, of core Brazilian member, the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), examined the regulation of foreign currency derivatives markets in South Korea and Brazil after the global financial crisis. The three junior fellowships went to Sujata Basu, of core Vi member, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and to Roulof Hefer and Mulatu Zerihun, of core member, the University of Pretoria (UP).
The German project also supported graduate programmes at core Vi universities in Belarus and Chile by sponsoring visiting scholars from Vi academics from India, Germany, Mauritius and South Africa. JNU professors, Manoj Pant and Alokesh Barua, as well as Verena Tandrayen-Ragoobur and Kheswar Jankee, of the University of Mauritius, conducted lectures for students and staff of the recently launched Master's in International Economics and Trade Policy of Vi core member, Belarus State Economic University (BSEU). The programme was further strengthened with a research visit to JNU from BSEU's Alena Petrushkevich.

The Master's in International Strategy and Trade Policy programme of Chilean core member, the University of Chile, also benefitted from lectures delivered by UP's André Jordaan and HTW's Jan Priewe. The project also sponsored a visiting researcher from UNICAMP to the East China Normal University.

The Swiss-funded project involving three Vi members, and led by core university member, the World Trade Institute (WTI) in Bern, reached a major milestone this year, when Vietnamese core member, the Foreign Trade University (FTU), launched its new Master’s Programme in International Trade Policy and Law (MITPL). Developed by faculty members at FTU and WTI, the 18-month MITPL offers a multi-disciplinary focus on international economic governance. Taught in English, lectures are delivered by a global team of distinguished faculty, experienced professionals and leading legal and economic experts.

In 2013, the University of Barcelona (UB) 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, two alumni of Vi member universities in Ethiopia and Morocco were selected to receive the scholarships. The first scholarship went to Worku Gedeta Urgessa, a graduate of Vi core member, Addis Ababa University, and currently a lecturer at the school of law of Ethiopia's Ambo University. The second scholarship was awarded to Salma Ait Belhadj, a student in the Master’s in International Trade and WTO at Vi Moroccan core member, Université Mohammed V - Souissi. UB's Master's in International Studies also offered a partial scholarship to Vi members this year. Selected for the scholarship were two Vi associate members in Argentina and Mexico.

During the year, members of the Vi increasingly used the network as a channel to disseminate their calls for papers, scholarships and teaching opportunities. Thirty-three e-mail alerts containing approximately 80 academic opportunities went out to the network. The calls related to learning opportunities included discounts on tuition fees for Master’s programmes at the World Trade Institute, Switzerland, the University of Chile and the University of Barcelona, 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 contests, conferences or publications. The call from the FLACSO-WTO Chair Award generated second place for Vi Colombian member, Maria Alejandra Calle, for her essay “Sustainability and trade discrimination: The legal status of environmental NPR-PPMs in the context of Article III of the GATT and 2.1 of the TBT Agreement.” The call from members in Argentina, Chile and Mexico for their joint conference on agricultural trade in Latin America yielded papers from Vi
Brazilian affiliate coordinator, Orlando da Silva, and associate member, Miguel Arato, of the Ghent University in Belgium.

5. DISSEMINATION SERVICES: VI DIGITAL LIBRARY, PUBLICATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, MULTIMEDIA TEACHING RESOURCES, VIDEOCONFERENCES, 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 2013, 3,650 individuals from 165 countries had registered as users of the site. In 2013, the site recorded 7,425,181 annual hits (an increase of 360,121 hits since 2012) from 379,776 visitors. More than 1,300 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 2013. These documents, emanating from UNCTAD, the Vi membership and Vi content partners – WTO, World Bank, South Centre, ICTSD, UN regional commissions – can be browsed by 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. Almost 1,200 publications were shipped to Vi member institutions in 2013. These publications are placed in university/faculty/department libraries for use by researchers, university teachers and students.

In 2013, the Vi also developed 9 new multimedia teaching resources for its members, as a means of disseminating the research undertaken by UNCTAD and other international organizations. These resources attracted more than 2,300 hits during the year.

### Vi multimedia teaching resources 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Resource person(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Focus on wages and domestic/regional demand key to emerging from crisis</td>
<td>Alex Izurieta, GDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Informing national policy: How to communicate with policymakers?</td>
<td>Rashmi Banga, ALDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Trade and food security: The good news, and the bad</td>
<td>Samuel Gayi, SUC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Theory and application of the gravity model</td>
<td>Roberta Plemartini, WTO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Software industry opportunity for developing countries (in English and Spanish)</td>
<td>Torbjörn Fredriksson, Scarlett Fondeur Gil, DTL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Green economy vehicle to push sustainable development</td>
<td>Robert Hamwey, DITC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Local production of pharmaceuticals in East Africa: The quest for policy coherence</td>
<td>Christoph Spennemann, DIAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 WIR 2012: Towards a new generation of investment policies (in English, Spanish and French)</td>
<td>Astrid Sulstarova, Nicole Moussa, DIAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Analyzing trade flows: What, how much and with whom?</td>
<td>Cosimo Beverelli, WTO</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. Representatives of Geneva permanent missions are also invited to participate. Some videoconferences are filmed for posting on the Vi website as multimedia teaching resources.

In 2013, the Vi organized a record 17 videoconferences, in English, French and Spanish, for a total audience of almost 680 students, university teachers and researchers.

Vi videoconferences 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Universities</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Resource person(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Belarus State Economic University</td>
<td>Policy challenges in the world economy after the crisis</td>
<td>8 February</td>
<td>Nicolas Maystre, GDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Moi University</td>
<td>Information Economy Report 2012</td>
<td>13 February</td>
<td>Cécile Barayre, DTL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Belarus State Economic University</td>
<td>World Investment Report 2012</td>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>Kalman Kalotay, DIAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Universidad de la Sabana, Universidad EAN</td>
<td>Information Economy Report 2012 (in Spanish)</td>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>Scarlett Fondeur Gil, DTL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Belarus State Economic University</td>
<td>Information Economy Report 2012</td>
<td>19 March</td>
<td>Torbjörn Fredriksson, DTL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú</td>
<td>Information Economy Report 2012 (in Spanish)</td>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>Scarlett Fondeur Gil, DTL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Moscow State Institute of International Relations, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg State University of Economics</td>
<td>Information Economy Report 2012</td>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Diana Korka, DTL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú</td>
<td>Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (in Spanish)</td>
<td>13 June</td>
<td>Ariel Ivanier, Natalia Guerra, DIAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú</td>
<td>World Investment Report 2013 (in Spanish)</td>
<td>17 October</td>
<td>Natalia Guerra, DIAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Moi University</td>
<td>Trade and Development Report 2013</td>
<td>21 October</td>
<td>Alex Izurieta, GDS</td>
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<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Moi University</td>
<td>Economic Development in Africa Report 2013</td>
<td>21 October</td>
<td>Rashmi Banga, ALDC</td>
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<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Belarus State Economic University</td>
<td>World Investment Report 2013</td>
<td>30 October</td>
<td>Astrit Sulstarova, DIAE</td>
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<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Universidad EAFIT, Universidad de la Sabana</td>
<td>World Investment Report 2013 (in Spanish)</td>
<td>5 November</td>
<td>Nicole Moussa, Noelia Garcia Nebra, DIAE</td>
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For the past four years, Vi members have been conducting national launches of UNCTAD's Information Economy Report (IER). In 2013, members from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Jordan and Bangladesh undertook to present the report in their countries.

The FYROM launch on 3 December was organized by Adrijan Božinovski from the University American College Skopje. The university complemented its presentation of IER findings with two lectures detailing experiences at the university and in the private sector with the use of cloud technology, the focus of this year's report. The Jordan launch, also on 3 December, was hosted by the University of Jordan. Presenting the report were the university's Acting President, Azmi Mahafzah, Faculty of Business Dean, Zoubi Al Zoubi, and Vi member coordinator, Talib Awad. The event was also attended by Jordan's Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Marwan Juma. Finally, on 15 December, Vi think tank member, the Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI), in cooperation with the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized the IER national launch for the country, under the chairmanship of the Vi coordinator at BFTI, Md. Mozibur Rahman. "One important outcome of the session was that BFTI will take the initiative to push the government to formulate appropriate policy on cloud computing in Bangladesh taking all the relevant stakeholders on board," reports BFTI Research Fellow, Mohammad Farhad.

Throughout the year, the Vi also continued maintaining an active "News" section on its site, with 61 published news items. In addition, it produced four quarterly electronic newsletters which kept member institutions 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 5,600 recipients.
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21. Universidad Icesi, Cali, Colombia
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26. Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya
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28. North-West Institute, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
29. Stolypin Volga Region Institute of Administration, Saratov, Russian Federation
30. St. Petersburg State University, Russian Federation
31. St. Petersburg State University of Economics, Russian Federation
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33. Stellenbosch University, South Africa
34. Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland
35. Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Hanoi

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