

Workshop on Trade Research

21-25 June 2010

CEDAC staff member, Mr Sok Thea, attended the WTO/ESCAP sixth *The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT)* capacity building workshop on trade research in Vientiane, Lao PDR, which was jointly organized by the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with the National University of Lao. There were 32 participants from 10 countries including Cambodia, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia, Lao PDR, Bangladesh, Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Five Cambodians, representing CDRI, UNDP-Cambodia, CEDAC, and EIC, attended the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to build capacity of researchers related to trade and climate change issues.

During the workshop, several important topics were presented and discussed including trade relations in the WTO and the status of the Doha negotiations. There was also an introduction to Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) and regression analysis, an overview of the state of scientific knowledge on climate change and vulnerabilities, an environmental assessment of bilateral trade agreements and DDA, and overviews of both the economics of climate change and the political economy of trade-climate change linkages. There latter includes the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral rules on climate change, assessing the impact of mitigating policies, environmental impacts of services trade liberalization, and trends in trade and regionalism of Asia-Pacific. Participants were introduced to the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) models for analysis of climate change and trade policies linkages, and how to translate research ideas and issues into research designs using a global model such as GTAP-E or other appropriate models. Assessing the impacts of improvements of trade facilitation on trade and climate change, and writing effective research proposals (including a critique of 'real-life' proposals, were also covered. In addition, all participants had the opportunity to discuss difficulties they had encountered in previous research projects related to trade and climate change.

At the end, researchers/research teams who participated in the workshop were invited to submit proposals for short-term research studies related to trade and climate change to the ARTNeT Secretariat no later than 25 July 2010 (to be sent to artnetontrade@un.org). Research proposals should be less than 5 pages. The maximum budget for this study is US\$2,500.

