Negotiating on Trade Facilitation: Implications for Developing Countries

Colombo, Sri Lanka | 18-19 October 2005

In the context of the OECD Global Forum series, the OECD Trade Directorate organised a conference on trade facilitation. The event was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 18-19 October 2005. Participation was by invitation only from all WTO Member economies.

The aim of the conference was to bring together representatives from government, business, research institutions, civil society and international organisations to discuss the implications of ongoing negotiations on trade facilitation for developing countries, and to explore ways for matching commitments and capacities in the area of trade facilitation.

The conference more particularly focussed on the potential economic effects of trade facilitation measures at the country level and the cost implications and challenges facing developing countries which adopt such measures. It also discussed approaches for identifying the needs and priorities of developing countries and for designing appropriate technical assistance and capacity building programs.