

A ONE WEEK TRADESIFT TRADE POLICY TRAINING COURSE

Feb 28-Mar. 4th 2011, TRAPCA, Arusha, Tanzania

We are pleased to announce the latest TradeSift training course on Feb 28-Mar 4th 2011 at TRAPCA Arusha, Tanzania (<http://trapca.org>)

This is the third such course to take place under our DFID funded contract, following successful events at Sussex University and in Addis Ababa. Please see our website for comments from participants in earlier courses.

TradeSift is an innovative and powerful software tool designed to deliver highly cost effective trade policy analysis developed by specialists in international trade with many years of trade policy experience based at the University of Sussex. Development has taken place with financial support from the Trade Policy Unit of the UK Departments of Business (DBIS) and International Development (DFID), as well as from the University of Sussex.

TradeSift aids trade policy decision making using readily available trade data, without recourse to complex and expensive economic modelling. The product has been developed with desk officers and analysts in mind, is much easier to use than existing tools, and has the additional tremendous advantage in that it can be applied at a very detailed level of disaggregation. TradeSift is based on the intelligent use of diagnostic statistics/indicators of trade, and trade related data (e.g, production, tariffs, non-tariff barriers, macro data) which are firmly based on underlying economic theory. The diagnostics feed into a wider framework of checklists of issues and 'rules of thumb', which allow the relatively rapid and consistent cost-benefit assessments of trade policy options. It can be used ex ante to analyse and assess policy proposals and ex post to examine how to maximise the gains and minimise the losses of any agreed policy.

Full financial support will be available to 20 participants from developing countries on each course and no course will have more than 25 participants. These could be from government departments, NGOs, academia or the private sector. For the 20 selected participants, economy travel will be reimbursed, accommodation and lunch will be provided, each member of the course will be given a copy of the TradeSift software worth \$2500, plus an extra free copy of the software to take home for a colleague, all funded by DFID. Priority for financial support will be given to candidates from low income and small developing countries.

The course will focus on training in the economic analysis of all aspects of international trade policy, covering a range of issues including key conceptual issues, data sources and classification schemes, the recent history of trade policy formation both regionally and multilaterally, and the use and application of TradeSift to these issues with a particular focus on regional trade agreements and their impact on both partner countries and excluded countries and the use of TradeSift to identify



export opportunities and sensitive sectors. The courses will introduce the innovative and powerful TradeSift software and demonstrate the use of TradeSift in delivering reliable empirical analysis of trade policy choices at low cost in time, money and data. Further details about the software can be found at: www.tradesift.com

The courses will be led by the developers of TradeSift - Dr Michael Gasiorek, Dr Peter Holmes and Professor Jim Rollo, from the University of Sussex. Between them they have over 100 years of experience in trade policy analysis, have written numerous reports for governments and international organisations and the European Commission on trade related issues, interact widely with the policy making environment, and have extensive experience in trade policy training.

Application

If you would like to apply for a place on the Tanzania course, please register your interest at the following link <http://www.tradesift.com/support-apply.aspx>. Please apply as quickly as possible as there are a limited number of spaces and visa applications can take time to be approved. We will let you know as soon as possible whether you have been selected to attend the course. Please feel free also to pass this on to colleagues or any other contacts who you think might be interested and might benefit from attending the course. Full details of the course and logistical arrangements will be sent out shortly to the selected participants.

Ideally participants should be economists with some training in the economics of international trade and who may have worked on the economic analysis of trade policy. However the 5 day courses are designed to give a clear introduction to the economics and trade policy underlying TradeSift. For candidates who work only intermittently on trade policy e.g. in Planning or Industry ministries, the training courses will equip participants with the skills to thoroughly analyse the most common trade policy options facing developing countries, in the light of their own priorities.

Please do not hesitate to contact the organisers with any questions you may have either on this or future courses and on the TradeSift software, at info@tradesift.com.

In addition to this course, we are planning to hold a course at the University of Sussex, UK, in September 2011 subject to demand. Unfortunately this will not be sponsored by DFID and so a fee will apply. It is however open to everyone.

Kind regards,

Michael Gasiorek, Peter Holmes and Jim Rollo

InterAnalysis Ltd.