

Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Partners with Afghanistan's Ministry of Commerce and Industries

Centre for WTO Studies to provide capacity building and training on trade-related issues for Afghan officials.



Afghanistan's Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MOCI) and the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) have entered into a partnership for the capacity building of MOCI. The partnership agreement was finalized by Mohammad Haqjo, Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industries, and Ajay Bhalla, Director IIFT, in Delhi on 31 March. This partnership builds on the close historic and cultural ties between Afghanistan and India.

The partnership agreement has been facilitated by the International Trade Centre Geneva as part of the European Union-funded Advancing Afghan Trade project.

CWS, which is at the forefront of teaching, training, and research in the field of international trade regulation, will assist MOCI in capacity building activities to strengthen the ministry's technical capacity and training capabilities.

A key focus for CWS will be developing a training programme on trade policy formulation, negotiation and implementation issues over a two-year period to build capacity of core officers working for MOCI, as well as other trade-related ministries and implementing agencies.

The programme will cover topics such as trade analysis, trade diplomacy, trade litigation and professional monitoring of compliance and effects of trade agreements.

In-class training will be followed up by 'on-the-job' coaching, providing targeted support to participating officers. By the end of the programme, participants will be expected to have advanced their understanding of the professional skills in these areas.

Importantly, CWS and MOCI will work together to ensure that local ownership of the training programme is secured, allowing for the programme to be implemented locally following the involvement of CWS. This will contribute to the efforts by MOCI for establishing a Kabul-based trade and investment institute, ensuring the sustainability of the contribution made by the EU project.

A central component of the Advancing Afghan Trade project is to build local capacity on trade policy so that stakeholders (in particular MOCI) are better placed to formulate trade policies, ultimately enhancing export competitiveness. The building of technical capacities will be further augmented by stakeholder consultations on key trade policy and negotiation issues.

