



27 August 2018

**INAUGURATION OF TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING FOR AFGHANISTAN  
(Second Batch: 2018-2019)  
UNDER CWS-ITC PROJECT  
[Press Release](#)**

The Introductory Training Programme of the Trade Capacity Building for Afghanistan for the *Second Batch* of Officers organized by the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) under a project with the Geneva-based International Trade Centre (ITC), and funded by the European Union, was inaugurated today in New Delhi. The Inaugural Function was graced by Afghanistan's Ambassador to India H.E. Mr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali; India's Commerce Secretary Dr. Anup Wadhawan; and Dr. Manoj Pant, Director of the IIFT. Prof. Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, and Prof. Mukesh Bhatnagar, Faculty in-charge for the programme also participated in the inaugural.

A total of twenty participants consisting of Afghan government officials and Kabul University academics are attending the introductory training programme, which is scheduled to end on August 31, 2018 (Friday). As part of a separate project, jointly implemented by ITC and CWS, Mr. Dorji Peljor from the Royal Institute of Management, Bhutan is also attending the training programme. The programme will cover a host of subjects such as Trade and IPR, Trade in Services, Non-Tariff Measures, Trade Disputes, Trade Remedies, and Trade Data. The Introductory Programme will lay the foundations for the Advanced Training Programmes to be held in the coming months. This is the second batch of participants visiting CWS under the ITC Project. CWS successfully implemented the training for the first batch in 2017-18.

In his address, H.E. Mr. Abdali noted that Afghanistan has made considerable progress in meeting its WTO accession related goals, and trainings such as these have assisted Afghanistan in strengthening its domestic capacity. Skills and knowledge acquired in trade and economics through the training conducted for the previous batch was already visible for Afghanistan.

Dr. Anup Wadhawan, in his inaugural address, stressed upon the need to develop capacity in developing countries to implement concluded trade agreements and effectively negotiate new agreements in the future. He noted that developing countries face daunting challenges and lack sufficient capacity to participate effectively in international negotiations. The current training programme will go a long way in enhancing domestic capacities. Dr. Manoj Pant highlighted the importance of close cooperation between educational and research institutions in India, and Afghanistan and Bhutan.

Photographs from the Inaugural Function





[Advancing Afghan Trade Project Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TF_isTDI4YU&feature=youtu.be) can be found at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TF\\_isTDI4YU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TF_isTDI4YU&feature=youtu.be)