

PROFILE

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Abhijit Das is a trade policy expert. He combines extensive experience of international trade negotiations with formulating, implementing and managing trade-related capacity building projects. Prior to joining the Centre for WTO Studies, he worked in UNCTAD India Programme during 2005-10 with progressively increasing responsibilities. UNCTAD India Programme was a joint trade capacity building initiative of Department of Commerce (Government of India), UNCTAD and DFID. While heading UNCTAD India Programme during 2007-10, he worked closely with diverse institutions spanning stakeholders at the grassroots level on the one hand and top trade policy officials on the other. His responsibilities included assisting the Government of India and other stakeholders at the national, state and local levels to assess impacts and opportunities emerging from globalisation; building capacities of stakeholders to influence evolving international trade rules; and enhancing preparedness for globalisation. He directly undertook, and also guided, research on different facets of development impacts on India of international trade.

While working as a Director in the Trade Policy Division in Commerce Ministry (2000-05) he contributed substantially in developing India's negotiating position on issues related to Anti-dumping, subsidies and disputes. He participated directly in several multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations, including in the Anti-Dumping and Subsidy negotiations under the Doha Round at the WTO and OECD Steel Subsidies negotiations. He also contributed to, and coordinated, India's submissions in various landmark WTO disputes.

He started his career as an officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (1988 batch) and was an officer of this premier civil service for more than 21 years. In this capacity he gained a wide experience of examining development programmes of the government at the national and state level.