

# **Report on Tanzania Trade Facilitation Self Assessment**

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Chief of Party**

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The WTO Trade Facilitation National Self Assessment of Tanzania's Needs and Priorities was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania between 29 October – 2 November 2007 at the Protea Courtyard Hotel.

## **Background**

The WTO's Trade Facilitation Negotiating Group, operating under the auspices of the WTO Doha Round negotiations in Geneva, is implementing a *Trade Facilitation National needs Assessment Project* under the auspices of the Trade Facilitation Trust Fund. These self assessments are intended to provide support to WTO members, particularly developing and least-developed countries, with respect to their trade facilitation needs and priorities, and to the cost implications of proposed measures being considered in the Trade Facilitation negotiations. The importance of carrying out a national self assessment of needs and priorities has been identified in several written proposals and by many Members as a crucial step with respect to the negotiations and the implementation of any final result.

There are already a large number of requests from WTO members for technical assistance under this proposed self assessment program, with the demand already exceeding the capacity of the WTO Secretariat and development partners. As a result, the WTO has been seeking support from WTO developed country members to support this initiative. The US. Government (USTR/USAID) has offered in-kind support to this needs assessment project. USAID's FASTrade project has been identified as the vehicle through which this assistance will be offered given that FASTrade's mandate has been to improve trade facilitation efforts around the world.

## **The Self Assessment in Tanzania**

The USAID team supporting the WTO's effort in Tanzania consisted of FASTrade's Chief of Party, Paul Fekete, Trade Specialist David Cowles, Customs Specialist Robert Holler, Regina Hehir, (Business and Finance Specialist I) and Claire Avett (Trade Specialist III). The WTO was represented by Mena Hassan from Geneva who joined the team in Dar es Salaam.



[L to R: Ms. Avett, Mr. Fekete, Ms. Hassan, Mr. Cowles, Ms. Hehir]

### **Advance Meetings with Tanzanian Officials**

Although the assessment itself was scheduled to take place during the week of October 29 – November 2, the team arrived in Dar es Salaam on October 25<sup>th</sup> so that preparatory meetings could be held with Tanzanian stakeholders on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The schedule of meetings (below) offered the team the opportunity to talk with Tanzanian government and private sector officials to reinforce the importance of the trade facilitation self assessment and to encourage as broad a participation as possible.

Tanzanian officials from the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Marketing (MITM) had made some preparations for the assessment, including organizing an experts' meeting on the subject on October 2. Still, the team's visits were important because they reminded stakeholders of the forthcoming assessment and allowed the team to personally invite a larger number of participants, many who probably should have been invited, but were not. Given the inevitable attrition that accompanies such week-long meetings, the team felt that it was wiser to invite a larger group of participants and counting on the fact that there would be a number that would not be able to attend. This turned out to be the case.

### **The Trade Facilitation Self Assessment**

The self assessment commenced on Monday at the Protea Courtyard Hotel with opening ceremonies that included the Permanent Secretary of MITM, the Commissioner of Customs, and other senior government officials. Technical officers from a variety of customs border agencies were also in attendance with approximately 50 individuals in total. The Commissioner for Customs and Excise, George Lauwo, participated not only during the opening ceremony, but he remained as a participant for a half day. He also returned once during the week and for the closing session.

Maxine Kennett, from USAID' South African Trade Hub (SATH) joined the assessment, very briefly for the opening session of the TF Assessment.

The schedule of the workshop (reproduced below) included a presentation by Tanzania's Geneva Representative, Mr. Saronga, which focused on the status of the trade facilitation negotiations.

Following the opening, the USAID team offered a more detailed overview of the WTO's self assessment methodology which would constitute the work carried out for the balance of the week. Once that presentation was completed, Tanzanian participants were divided into four working groups and began the process of completing the assessment.



[Chief of Party, Mr. Fekete, facilitating the discussion for Workgroup #1].

Most Tanzanian agencies were represented during the course of the week's discussions, including MITM, the Tanzanian Revenue Authority (TRA), Tanzanian Bureau of Standards (TBS), SUMATRA, (Tanzanian surface transportation regulatory agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Communes (MAFSC), Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MOID), Tanzanian Ports Authority (TPA), Tanzanian Railroad Limited (TRL). Private sector participation was not extensive, but the Chamber of Commerce was represented for two days as was a representative from the Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce. Swissports and TICS, two private sector shipping firms were also in attendance for several days of the assessment. (We will provide a list of participants as soon as it has been compiled.)

Most difficult during the assessment was to assure that a critical mass of participants were in attendance in order to carry out the work. On most days, participants arrived

over the course of the morning, with the consequence that work could not commence until 10 or 10:30. Once the process started, with about 30 participants, the discussions were focused and productive. On several occasions, when answers to issues could not be found, participants would use their mobile phones to call colleagues to unearth information. In other circumstance, issues were set aside until a specific Ministry or Agency representative returned to the workshop.

Most of the self assessment was completed by the end of Wednesday in the four individual working groups. Some groups moved more quickly, while others had more difficult issues with which to contend. As a result, during the first days of the workshop, issues were re-divided among the groups to ensure the efficiency of the process and to keep each group busy. Once the individual groups' work was completed, all participants reconvened in plenary session to review the work of the individual groups and to provide additional input on issues where one or another government ministry official was not a part of a group. In similar fashion, since there were insufficient private sector representative to go around, the plenary session offered them the opportunity to comment on the work of other groups. The plenary session was also used to debate the wisdom of Tanzania's accepting a number of elements of the trade facilitation negotiations which Mr. Saronga, Tanzania's WTO representative in Geneva, indicated was of particular interest and benefit to him.



[Mr. Saronga receiving his certificate of attendance given by Ms. Hassan and Mr. Fekete]

Once this process was completed, the plenary session turned to the preparation of a Power Point presentation to be made to senior officials who would be in attendance on Friday afternoon. That power point presentation is also attached. It summarized the work of the assessment participants and identifies major barriers in the trade facilitation area and needs for technical assistance. The presentation was also a means by which to encourage Tanzanian government and private stakeholders to continue the process started

with the workshop so as to further refine Tanzania's understanding of and participation in the WTO Trade Facilitation process.

The closing ceremonies were held Friday afternoon, with the Power Point presentation, commentary from the senior officials in attendance, and the distribution of certificates to the workshop participants. The Permanent Secretary of the MITM was unable to attend so she sent a deputy in her stead. George Lauwo, Commissioner for Customs made some well received remarks at the end of the Friday presentation and committed himself and the Tanzanian Revenue Authority (Customs) to continue the process of self assessment that had commenced with the workshop.



[L to R: Fekete, Cowles, Lauwo, Deputy Permanent Secretary of MITM, Hassan and Saronga during closing ceremony]



[Tanzania Self Assessment Participants – November 2007]

**Advance Meetings: Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment,  
Dar es Salaam, Friday 26, October 2007**

**(Preliminary schedule)**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Institution</b>
1	10:00 – 10:30	Ministry of Finance
2	10:45 – 11:15	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
3	11:30 – 12:00	Customs
4	12:30 – 13:30	Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Marketing
5	14:00 – 14:30	Tanzania Bureau of Standards
6	15:00 – 15:15	Tanzania Port Authority
7	15:30 – 16:00	SUMATRA



**WTO Trade Facilitation**  
**National Self Assessment of Tanzania's Needs and Priorities**  
**Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**  
**29 October – 2 November 2007**  
**Protea Courtyard Hotel**

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**DAY 1: Monday, 29 October**

9:00 – 9:30 Opening Ceremony  
- Ministry of Industry, Trade and Marketing  
- Ms. Mena Hassan, World Trade Organization

9:30 – 9:45 Introductions of Participants and International Officials

9:45 – 10:45 Session 1: Introduction to the WTO trade facilitation negotiations  
- Negotiation mandate  
- GATT Articles  
- Members' proposals

*Speaker: Mr. Lucas Saronga, Tanzanian Representative to the WTO*

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:00 Session 2: Introduction to the Needs Assessment Process and Tool  
- Introduction to the self assessment tool

*Speaker: Mr. Paul Fekete, BAH/USAID*

12:00 – 12:30 Session 3: Self Assessment Of Needs And Priorities

Participants will work in working groups that contain representatives of each agency and private sector for completion of the needs assessment using the Needs Assessment Guide and Tool (TN/TF/W/143). Each working group will be assigned certain trade facilitation proposals from the Guide.

*Facilitators: Ms. Mena Hassan, WTO; Mr. Paul Fekete, BAH/USAID; Mr. David Cowles, BAH/USAID; Mr. Bob Holler, BAH/USAID*

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch Break

1:30 – 5:30 Session 4: Self Assessment Of Needs And Priorities

**DAY 2: Tuesday, 30 October**

9:00 – 5:30 Self Assessment Of Needs And Priorities

**DAY 3: Wednesday, 31 October**

9:00 – 5:30 Self Assessment Of Needs And Priorities

**DAY 4: Thursday, 1 November**

9:00 – 5:30 Self Assessment Of Needs And Priorities

Participants continue work on needs assessment. As soon as each group completes their assigned proposals they should begin review of the assessments completed by the other groups.

**DAY 5: Friday, 2 November**

9:00 – 12:30 Session 1: Report Preparation

Participants will review the results of the needs assessment and determine the conclusion of the results. These conclusions should be prepared in a PowerPoint presentation for the final reporting session.

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 Session 1: Preparation continuation . . .

3:00 – 4:00 Session 2: Reporting Session

- Report is made to high level officials.
- Discussion and feedback on findings.
- Distribution of certificates.

4:00 – 4:45 Session 3: Evaluation and Feedback on the workshop.

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