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Training Summary and Evaluation

# Advanced Workshop on Scheduling Services Commitments

May 28-29, 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand



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**SUBMITTED BY**  
Timothy Buehrer  
Chief of Party  
Nathan Associates Inc

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ASEAN has committed to liberalize substantially all trade in services, an ambitious goal that goes well beyond World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments in services. The ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility held an Advanced Workshop on Scheduling Services Commitments on May 28-29, 2008 in Bangkok Thailand to help ASEAN Member States achieve this goal. The workshop helped build member state capacity to schedule commitments to liberalize trade in services. The workshop was highly successful, bringing 88 participants together with two current WTO services experts to discuss specific scheduling issues.

The liberalization of substantially all services is called for in the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS). In late 2007, the deadline to achieve this ambitious goal was accelerated to 2015 through ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint. The AFAS follows scheduling techniques and rules of the World Trade Organization's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The goal is to produce a consolidated set of commitments among ASEAN Member States that would represent a "GATS-plus" outcome. Liberalization is accomplished through biannual packages of commitments itemized in member state services schedules.

Due to the complex nature of scheduling commitments, ASEAN Member States have sought assistance in the area. The ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility has sponsored several training programs— a basic scheduling workshop in April 2006 and a telecommunications sector scheduling workshop in February 2007. This third and culminating workshop was held at the advanced level and sought to address specific problem areas faced by member states. It was held back to back with the 54<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS).

The Advanced Workshop on Scheduling Services Commitments was conducted as two simultaneous sessions, which were led by Rolf Adlung and Dale Honeck, Senior Economist and Counselor respectively, from the Trade in Services Division of the WTO. Participants were divided according to sectoral working groups, with transportation, tourism and telecommunications in one session and healthcare, business services and other services in another session. On the first day of the workshop, the WTO services experts reviewed basic scheduling techniques and discussed the scope for autonomous policy making. The second day was devoted to exercises and specific examples from ASEAN schedules, presenting a unique opportunity for ASEAN. WTO experts provided technical assistance on specific scheduling challenges identified by the nine participating ASEAN Member States. The course agenda is attached.

The WTO experts commented that they were pleased to offer this workshop as it emphasized the importance of informed scheduling and helped countries understand the commitments into which they are entering. The experts drew on specific examples from ASEAN schedules and pointed out how ASEAN could clarify and improve its schedules. For instance, speakers discussed the necessity of scheduling subsidies under national treatment, or providing strict criteria for economic needs tests when they are called for in a schedule.

Participants rated the workshop favorably, with the presentations and exercises rating an average of 4 or 5 out of 6 possible points in terms of utility for their work. Participants also commented favorably on the exercise and case studies portion of the workshop where they were able to get answers directly from the WTO as regards their current scheduling needs. Member states are currently preparing schedules for the Seventh Package of Commitments under the AFAS, which will be reviewed at the December 2008 ASEAN Summit.

# Agenda

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility

## Advanced Workshop on Scheduling Services Commitments

May 28-29, 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand

### DAY 1

8:30 – 9:00 Arrival/Registration/Coffee

9:00 – 9:30 **Welcome, Introduction, Course Overview**, *ASEAN Secretariat and Facility Representative*

Session 1 **Scheduling Review**, *Rolf Adlung and Dale Honeck*

- 9:30 – 11:00
- Sector Coverage
  - The 4 Modes of Supply
  - Unconditional Obligations (MFN, etc.)
  - MFN Exemptions
  - Conditional Obligations (Payments and Transfers, etc.)
  - Exception Clauses

11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

Session 2 **Scheduling Review (continued)**, *Rolf Adlung and Dale Honeck*

- 11:15 – 12:15
- Sector Column – clarification of sector scope
  - GATS Art.XVI – what are the 6 types of Market Access (MA) limitations
  - GATS Art.XVII – what are National Treatment (NT) limitations – formally identical/formally different treatment
  - Additional Commitments (Art. XVIII)
  - Horizontal Commitments
  - Phase-in Commitments

12:15 – 1:30 **Lunch**

Session 3 **Scheduling Pitfalls in Services**, *Rolf Adlung and Dale Honeck*

- 1:30 – 3:00
- What should not be scheduled
  - Practical Cases (“Scheduling Horrors”)

3:00 – 3:15 **Coffee Break**

Session 4 **Scope for Autonomous Policy Making**, *Rolf Adlung and Dale Honeck*

- 3:15 – 4:30
- Non-discriminatory regulation
  - Government procurement
  - Non-discriminatory subsidies
  - Visa requirements, etc.

### DAY 2

8:45 – 9:00

Session 5 **Scheduling Exercises**, *Rolf Adlung*

- 9:00 – 11:30
- Qs & As;
  - Case Studies
  - **Note: Participants should each come prepared with 2-3 specific challenges encountered while scheduling**

11:30 – 12:00 **Wrap Up/Evaluations**

# Evaluation

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility

## Advanced Workshop on Scheduling Services Commitments

May 28-29, 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand

Your answers to this questionnaire will help us to improve our training programs. Thank you for taking the time to fill it out.

### Personal data

Years of experience in trade in services

Average 2.5 years

Country of representation

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand.

Total Participants = **88** (41 Men, 47 Women)

### Presentations

On a scale of 1 to 6, please rate how informative each session was for you. A rating of 6 indicates that you found the session highly informative; a rating of 1 that you did not find it informative.

Session	Presentation	Average
1	Scheduling Review	5
2	Scheduling Review (continued)	5
3	Scheduling Pitfalls in Services	5
4	Scope for Autonomous Policymaking	4
5	Scheduling Exercises	4

### Subject Matter

Would you like to see more, the same, or less time devoted to the following negotiation topics:

Session	Presentation	More	Same	Less
1	Scheduling Review	22	27	2
2	Scheduling Review (continued)	23	26	2
3	Scheduling Pitfalls in Services	33	18	0
4	Scope for Autonomous Policymaking	30	20	1
5	Scheduling Exercises	40	9	2

## General

### 1. What part of this course did you like the most?

- Scheduling Exercise **(8 comments)**
- Exercise: Scheduling Quiz **(4 comments)**
- Identifying problems in samples of ASEAN Members' Commitments / Diff. Bet. MA, NT, Domestic Regulations / Case analysis
- The Scheduling exercise part.
- Scheduling exercise especially. Others are good too.
- Case Studies.
- Actual case studies and exercises.
- Discussion and real cases.
- 2 and 4.
- Exercise and Q&A
- Case study / sample of commitments and Expertise of Lecturer.
- Schedule of Commitments Review **(7 comments)**
- The first part (definitions of modes) and exercises.
- The discussion of general issues.
- Specific Commitments: Scope + Content. The Case Study and Domestic Regulations.
- Specific Commitments, Scheduling Problems, Scope and Content on Telecommunications.
- Everything, since GATS in my challenging and it needs a continue studying as far as I am concern.
- GATS Rule and Guidelines for the Scheduling of Specific Commitments.
- Scheduling Table
- Autonomous policy making scheduling review.
- The Q&A session. **(2 comments)**
- All **(3 comments)**
- Detail presentation and opportunity for interaction.
- Short and simple explanation. Easy to understand.
- Issues for discussion and quiz.
- Scheduling Horrors.
- Scheduling Pitfalls in Services

### 2. What part of this course did you like the least?

- None **(32 comments)**
- None, all good.
- None, all topics were useful to me.
- Scheduling Pitfalls. **(4 comments)**
- Repetitive introduction to TIS
- Question & Answer Session.
- Exercises on Scheduling
- Lengthy explanation and not direct-straight to the point.
- Scope of Autonomous Policy Making **(5 comments)**
- Allowance for interaction.
- The scheduling review (considering the advanced nature of the workshop).

- Most of the content is quite useful for me who had no experience in GATS. Very informative.
- Generally I had difficulty with understanding the latter parts of the course as I am very new to services and felt that the scheduling moved too fast.

### 3. What other topics would you like to see included?

- Actual preparation of schedule of commitments. **(2 comments)**
- Going through the GATS articles. **(2 comments)**
- Special overlapping issues in TIS
- MA
- Proper Scheduling.
- Discussion on the presentation with the following of the notes and examples.
- More examples of scheduling specific commitments.
- Simulation.
- All of the topics were included.
- Domestic Regulations.
- Any topics related to trade in services, including domestic regulations, MFN.
- No idea for the moment.
- Do not know since I am new.
- No idea but if more content on the formation of domestic regulations.
- More on horizontal commitments.
- More emphasis on MFN.
- Translating schedules to implementation plan (experience of all countries).
- GATS and definitions of sector/sub-sectors.
- Discussion on country-specific scheduling pitfalls somewhat lengthy.
- CPC codes/service, without CPC codes/ other services.
- Specific sector scheduling exercise.
- Relevance of scheduling to ASEAN situation i.e. the AEC Blue Print target whether it's realistic or achievable e.g. to fully commit mode 1 & 2 and no other limitation on mode 3 except for 70% on foreign equity participation in 2015.
- Economic need test.
- Disciplines regarding domestic regulation.
- More real dispute cases and Sector specific discussions.
- More examples and comments about schedules of ASEAN Members
- Current situation of negotiation round and trend of telecommunication (communication) negotiation round
- None but more detailed this time and need definition.
- Scheduling Review.

### 4. Did this course use a good mix of lecture and interactive discussion?

- Yes **(31 comments)**
- Excellent **(2 comments)**
- It was very good. **(2 comments)**
- Yes, very much. **(2 comments)**
- Yes, very much so. Mr. Adlung was very open to questions and addressed all issues.
- Yes, very open discussion.

- Yes, the speaker simultaneously handled both perfectly.
- Not much on transportation, yes for telecom
- Yes, but too short.
- Absolutely.
- Very good. Exciting. The lecturers have very wide knowledge and experiences in this area. Thank you for organizing this workshop.
- Good

**5. What sorts of follow-up activities for this course would you find useful?**

- Perhaps actual scheduling in respective fields.
- Exercise of scheduling (learning by doing) for each sectors.
- More exercise.
- Quiz
- Small group of workshop in each sector before starting the meeting on sectoral group.
- More training on specific sector.
- Next workshop in CCS meetings.
- To have seminars/workshops during alternate CCS.
- More Seminars.
- More courses at every ASEAN capitals.
- More workshops further on this issues. Maybe experts coming to countries for more consultation under certain specific situation.
- Discussion on actual schedules and the general + specific interpretations.
- Materials given during the course were excellent.
- I have no knowledge/experience, therefore basic course is the right one for me.
- Co-host discussions for each member state to clarify every terminology.
- Apply principle of GATS owner member by scheduling
- Publication related to the topics updated and Short seminar/workshop from time to time.
- Other lecture which can widen knowledge on trade in services.
- Continuity of this course, if possible in Malaysia.
- To review the sectoral scheduling of FAS so that it's in-line with GAT's requirements.
- Actual country case review.
- An email newsletter informing the latest news and development regarding GATS Scheduling.
- Con't of Scheduling Commitments.
- Scheduling Review.
- This is great, even if it's my 1st experience.
- Workshop for checking knowledge of conducting the scheduling and correcting it.
- Applying to CCS works.
- Case study discussion.
- Regional and international negotiation (FTA).
- Exchange of emails re. mentoring type. I still have to develop confidence in analytic & strategic thinking for decision made.
- What is the possibility of on the job training within the WTO or in organization strongly working on health trade in services.
- Practical exercise.