



**An External Review
of the
Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade
(ARTNeT-Phase II-2007-2010)**

By

Dr. Sailendra Narain

with Ms. Truong Thi Kim Anh

Bangkok, 20 August 2010

The opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and should not be considered as reflecting the views or carrying the endorsement of the institutions they are attached with, the United Nations, or any other ARTNeT members or partners.

About the Authors:

Dr. Sailendra Narain worked as Consultant to UNESCAP and ARTNeT for this assignment. He has held senior positions in India and abroad and acquired broad working experience ranging from Central Banking to development banking, commercial banking, Government public policy, planning and programme implementation, bi-lateral and multi-lateral financing. Dr. Narain is presently Chairman of two consultancy firms set up by him; one in India (Centre for SME Growth and Development Finance-CESMED) and the other in the USA (Centre for SME Growth and Development Finance, LLC). After completing his term as Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), he has been working closely with various UN agencies such as UNDP, UNESCAP, UNIDO, UNCTAD, IFAD and the World Bank, GtZ, SDC, etc. and is being invited by them as resource person / expert on various committees connected with development and financing of SMEs including trade finance and other trade-related topics. He has intimate working knowledge of these sectors in Asia, especially South and South-East Asia and Greater Mekong Sub-region, Middle-East and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ms. Truong Thi Kim Anh assisted the Consultant as Associate Expert in evaluating and finalising the Evaluation Report. Ms. Kim Anh currently holds a senior executive position in the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI). She has extensive working experience spanning well over two decades dealing with foreign trade, investments, and international economic relations. She has a number of research and special studies to her credit.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to acknowledge the excellent cooperation and support provided by the ARTNeT Secretariat. Special thanks are due to Dr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP and the officers of the ARTNeT Secretariat: Dr. Mia Mikic, Coordinator; Dr. Yann Duval, Deputy Coordinator; Ms. Melanie Ramjoué, Assistant Coordinator and Ms. Pradtana Limkrailassiri, Team Assistant. The authors also wish to place on record their high appreciation for the valuable suggestions received from ARTNeT core partner institutions and experts, especially Dr. Evan Due, Senior Programme Specialist, IDRC-GGP and Dr. Patrick Low, Director, WTO.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Overview of ARTNeT.....	8
1. Background	8
2. Objectives.....	9
3. Operational Strategy.....	9
4. Network Structure	12
5. Phase II Goals and Objectives.....	15
Evaluation Methodology and Findings	16
1. Purpose, Scope and Methodology of Evaluation	16
2. Findings based on Documentary Analysis, Surveys and Interviews	19
2.1 Findings based on Documentary Analysis	19
2.2 Findings Based on Surveys and Interviews	26
Overall Evaluation, Major Recommendations and Phase III.....	41
Overall Evaluation.....	41
Major Recommendations	45
Annex I: List of Documents and Resources Made Available to the Evaluator	52
Annex II: Member Institution Survey.....	59
Annex III: Government Focal Point Survey	64
Annex IV: Individual Researcher Survey	67
Annex V: List of Researchers and Focal Points Interviewed	73
Annex VI: Evaluation Table	76

Executive Summary

The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) was launched in October 2004, as a joint initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, and in cooperation with ten leading national-level research institutions in Asia and the Pacific. ARTNeT's long-term goal is for "policy makers in the UNESCAP region [to be] able to make better informed decisions on trade issues through the implementation of demand-driven research programmes", while its medium-term goal seeks to "increase relevance and dissemination of trade-related research to policy makers in the region". As of now, the ARTNeT programme has run through two phases of three years each, i.e. Phase I (2004-2007) and Phase II (2007-2010). While Phase I was evaluated in July 2007, this document relates to an evaluation of the progress made during Phase II.

The progress made by ARTNeT in Phase II was evaluated in July-August 2010. The overall evaluation reveals that ARTNeT has made significant progress in Phase II toward its three objectives namely, (i) to produce high quality and relevant studies on trade issues on the basis of a demand-driven research programme; (ii) to improve the communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers; and (iii) to increase the capacity of research institutions in the region, especially in the least developed countries, to conduct trade and investment related research useful to policymakers.

Over the period, ARTNeT has evolved as one of the leading networks of researchers, analysts and policymakers in the region. Its acceptance as an active and unique network seems fully justified when viewed from its membership pattern, which is cohesive, professionally credible and supportive. The growth and extensive outputs of the network in itself speaks volumes.

The Phase II project design was found successful in generating high-standard research / special studies and conducting capacity building programmes. Its policy research studies provided inputs for the international publications of WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP, and the World Bank, among others. Various activities of ARTNeT earned due appreciation, especially in terms of the capacity-building and dissemination programmes the WTO has been involved in. At the same time, its capacity building / training programmes have gained immense popularity across the region, particularly among young researchers from LDCs.

This evaluation suggests that one challenge faced by ARTNeT is to ensure that its programme is "demand-driven". The structure of the network, involving officials and other interested players in the policy arena, as well as regular consultations of policymakers by the network, was intended to drive some interest in subjects which would be policy relevant. The success of this strategy is to some extent hampered by the fact that some of the government focal points have their own Government's mandates, as well as by the fact that there is marked lack of continuity among staff on many Government teams. This has, perhaps, lessened the extent to which research has been able to drive the policy debates, as much as it would have in other fora, such as the WTO Trade forums.

As a result, the use of research findings by the policy makers left scope for improvement. The structure of the present dissemination channels could be improved to make it more effective in attracting the attention of the policy makers. Barring a few member countries (such as India and Thailand), the policy makers in general and especially those from LDCs indicated that ARTNeT policy suggestions and publications could be made more relevant and its delivery from focal points to other potential users smoother. In addition, dissemination could be broadened to a wider range of stakeholders by involving policymakers beyond the trade and commerce areas.

The success of Phase II can be attributed to the strong commitment of ESCAP (and its membership) to the ARTNeT initiatives, the enthusiastic and self-less contribution of selected ARTNeT members, advisors and individual researchers; and above all the members of the ARTNeT Secretariat. The ESCAP Secretariat with support from IDRC was able to attract a number of strategic core partners (WTO, UNDP and UNCTAD) shortly after it was launched. The strength of ARTNeT in its Phase I and its Phase II research and training programme further convinced the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the French Government, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank Institute, among others, to contribute to ARTNeT through joint activities and/or contributions.

The ARTNeT Secretariat has been quite effective in its initiatives and in making a positive dent at the operational level. Despite its small compliment of staff, it has been able to develop an infrastructure around ARTNeT, in the form of a database and research outputs. Continuous commitment from the various ARTNeT actors will remain crucial in Phase III. The Core Partners felt that ARTNeT Secretariat has provided the glue holding the programme together and has enabled it to evolve over time. Without the efficiency and dedication of the Secretariat, the programme would not be where it is today.

The overall evaluation based on the review of the working and achievements of ARTNeT in Phase II is briefly summarized in the table below.

Objectives and Goals	Overall Evaluation of ARTNeT's Working and Achievements
<p>Specific objectives A, B and C (linked to outputs):</p> <p>Objective A:</p> <p>New high quality and relevant studies on trade and investment issues are produced on the basis of a demand-driven research programme</p>	<p>Quality: high quality and standard.</p> <p>Relevance:</p> <p>(i) relevant for the institutions and individual researchers;</p> <p>(ii) somewhat relevant to the policymakers</p> <p>Demand-driven: Research programme for the phase and for annual implementation is vetted by Multi-Stakeholder Committee making sure that the programme in principle reflects the demand of policymakers. Therefore, based on responses, about half of the cumulated research output is categorised as demand-driven. Still a number of respondents belonging to policymaking community perceive research output as rather supply-driven. This disconnect is attributable in part to the difficulty to obtain regular and thoughtful inputs from the Government focal points.</p>
<p>Objective B:</p> <p>Communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers improved.</p>	<p>Communication and dissemination: very regular and systematic viewed from the supply side (ARTNeT, research institutions and researchers);</p> <p>Communication to policymakers: while improved, it is still an area deserving more attention in the next phase.</p>
<p>Objective C:</p> <p>Increase the capacity of research institutions in the region, especially in the least developed countries, to conduct trade and investment related research useful to policymakers.</p>	<p>Capacity building: excellent achievement in this area.</p>
<p>Medium-term objectives (linked to outcome):</p> <p>To enable research institutions in the region to produce relevant quality trade and investment related research and to disseminate resulting policy recommendations to policy makers and other stakeholders in the region.</p>	<p>Produce quality research: objective fully achieved.</p> <p>Dissemination: objective achieved (would need refinements to make the channel of communication more effective in Phase III).</p>

<p>General objectives (linked to goal):</p> <p>To better inform policymakers on trade and investment issues to enable them to design more coherent trade and investment related policies for development based on quality and relevant policy research and analysis generated domestically and regionally.</p>	<p>General Objective: Good start and significant progress made, as planned, in Phase II.</p> <p>Overall Evaluation: very useful and excellent (However, more efforts need to be put into making ARTNeT outputs more useful and relevant and to better inform the policymakers of relevant research findings).</p>
---	---

Major Recommendations:

Based on the review of ARTNeT operations in Phase II and the progress made towards reaching its objectives, a number of recommendations have been proposed to further improve the relevance and impact of the network activities in future. In particular, detailed recommendations are outlined on pages 45 to 51 relating to ARTNeT strategy and structure, relevant and high-quality research, communication and dissemination, and capacity-building of LDC research institutions. The list below summarizes the most important of the recommendations at the strategic and structural levels.

At the strategic and structural levels, it is recommended to re-visit the three objectives originally envisaged for Phase I and also carried through Phase II so as to make Phase III ARTNeT programmes even more proactive, effective, relevant, and of wider use for the end-users, especially the policy makers. Given the medium and long-term goals of ARTNeT and on the basis of the overall evaluation, the original three objectives may be redesigned and adopted for Phase III as:

- 1) Responding to the needs to improve evidence- and knowledge-based policymaking, generate multi-year (long-term) and short-term high-standard research/studies on the impacts of greater and deeper integration into the world economy. These may include direct linkages to the real economies (production and productivity, employment, trade and investment flows and cycles) and indirect linkages to climate change, low-carbon growth, inequality, inclusiveness and social security.
- 2) Continue systematic building of institutional capacity to undertake and accomplish high-quality research and analytical work in the region by offering an interconnected set of short and medium length courses;
- 3) Strengthen both direct and indirect two-way communication channels to improve effectiveness of dissemination and promote use of research / special study findings by the member governments, research institutions and others in the public and private sectors;
- 4) Serve as the regional trade, trade facilitation and investment related data and tools bank in the public domain;

- 5) Continue with the adopted research portfolio of ARTNeT segmented into the interconnected types (going from the very short-term to long-term and based on purpose of analyses and research) but allow for some ad-hoc specific and directly funded analytical studies as described in category (c) below:
- (a) Post-workshop grants to be utilized by junior researchers to demonstrate the uptake of research skills and tools gained in the training,
 - (b) Short-term studies to be conducted by individual researchers and preferably inter-country teams closely linked to pre-announced research programme of ARTNeT,
 - (c) Short-term studies tailored to specific national or regional request and supported by additional funding by the beneficiary of the study (provided that the topic of the study is in line with the broad research directive of ARTNeT Phase III),
 - (d) Long-term multi-year regional and subregional research/ studies reflecting the themes decided by ARTNeT on the basis of the established consultative process (perhaps it would be advisable to extend the phase from three to five years).
- 6) Improve the policy-application aspect of ARTNeT by inviting annually one or two short-term research topics officially from the nodal Ministry of each member country according to their priorities and commission at least one research project through the lead research institution of that country, jointly identified by the Government and ARTNeT. A Government's contribution may come through their man-power (researchers) and information/data. The lead research institution may mount a joint team with the involvement of the government to accomplish the task.

Overview of ARTNeT

1. Background

The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) was launched in October 2004, as a joint initiative of United Nations ESCAP and IDRC, Canada, and in cooperation with ten leading national-level research institutions in Asia and the Pacific. ARTNeT's long-term goal is for "policy makers in the UNESCAP region [to be] able to make better informed decisions on trade issues through the implementation of demand-driven research programmes", while its medium-term goal seeks to, "increase relevance and dissemination of trade-related research to policy makers in the region".

As of now, the ARTNeT programme has run through two phases of three years each, i.e., Phase I (2004-2007) and Phase II (2007-2010). While Phase I was evaluated in July 2007,¹ this document relates to an evaluation of the progress made during Phase II. The purpose of the review was to examine the operation and outputs of ARTNeT Phase II in order to determine whether the project achieved its goals, what its impacts were, and how sustainable the network structure is. This review of ARTNeT will be used as an input into decisions about future programming directions and modalities of operation in the next phase, in particular to enhance the long-term sustainability of the network. Primary users of the final report will be ESCAP, IDRC and other ARTNeT institutional donors such as WTO, UNDP and UNCTAD. Other users will be ARTNeT advisors, members and prospective members, governments and other stakeholders, who will use the report as the basis for assessing their contribution to the Network in the Phase III.

ARTNeT Phase I (2004-07) aimed at increasing the amount of quality and relevant "homegrown" research in developing countries of the region to enable policy makers to make informed decisions on increasingly complex trade policy issues. Progress toward this goal was to be achieved through (i) producing new high quality and demand driven studies on trade issues, (ii) improving communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers, and (iii) increasing capacity of LDC research institutions to conduct trade-related policy research. At the close of Phase I in April 2007, ARTNeT as a regional network had 20 member research institutions and 4 core partners (IDRC, WTO, UNDP and UNCTAD). ESCAP continued to play the Secretariat of the Network and facilitated communications between members, partners and governments through their focal points. An external review of ARTNeT Phase I conducted in July 2007 revealed that it had made significant progress toward its three objectives (Research, Dissemination of research finding for use by the policy makers, and Capacity building of research institutions/researchers especially those in the LDCs) generally exceeding the targets set out in the initial project documents. However, broad recommendations were made to increase the effectiveness of the ARTNeT interventions in Phase II and ensure its sustainability in the long run. A review of their compliance is presented in this document elsewhere.

¹ See http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/pub/artnet_phase1_xrev.pdf

ARTNeT Phase II (2007-2010) launched in September/October 2007, is the outcome of: (a) the progress made in Phase I, (b) the felt needs of the member countries to enhance coherence between international and domestic trade, investment and social policies, (c) the relevance of the ARTNeT programme, and (d) the recommendations of an external review of ARTNeT conducted in preparation for Phase II. The deliberations of the Regional Consultations of ARTNeT Phase II held in July 2007 further reinforced the necessity to Phase II. However, no major change was envisaged in the three-pronged strategy implemented in Phase I for Phase II, involving (i) the implementation of a demand-driven research programme; (ii) the improvement of regional dissemination and transfer of research-based knowledge to policy makers; and (iii) the increase of policy research capacity of LDCs, as the relevance of trade policy continues to grow with the process of globalization, and the international trade and investment environment gradually becomes more complex.

2. Objectives

Phase II started its operations with three tiers of objectives linked to the overall goal, the outcome and the outputs, respectively:

General objectives (linked to goal): To better inform policymakers on trade and investment issues to enable them to design more coherent trade and investment related policies for development based on quality and relevant policy research and analysis generated domestically and regionally.

Medium-term objectives (linked to outcome): To enable research institutions in the region to produce relevant quality trade and investment related research and to disseminate resulting policy recommendations to policy makers and other stakeholders in the region.

Specific objectives (linked to outputs): To (i) produce high quality and relevant studies on trade issues on the basis of a demand-driven research programme; (ii) improve the communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers; and (iii) increase the capacity of research institutions in the region, especially in the least developed countries, to conduct trade and investment related research useful to policymakers.

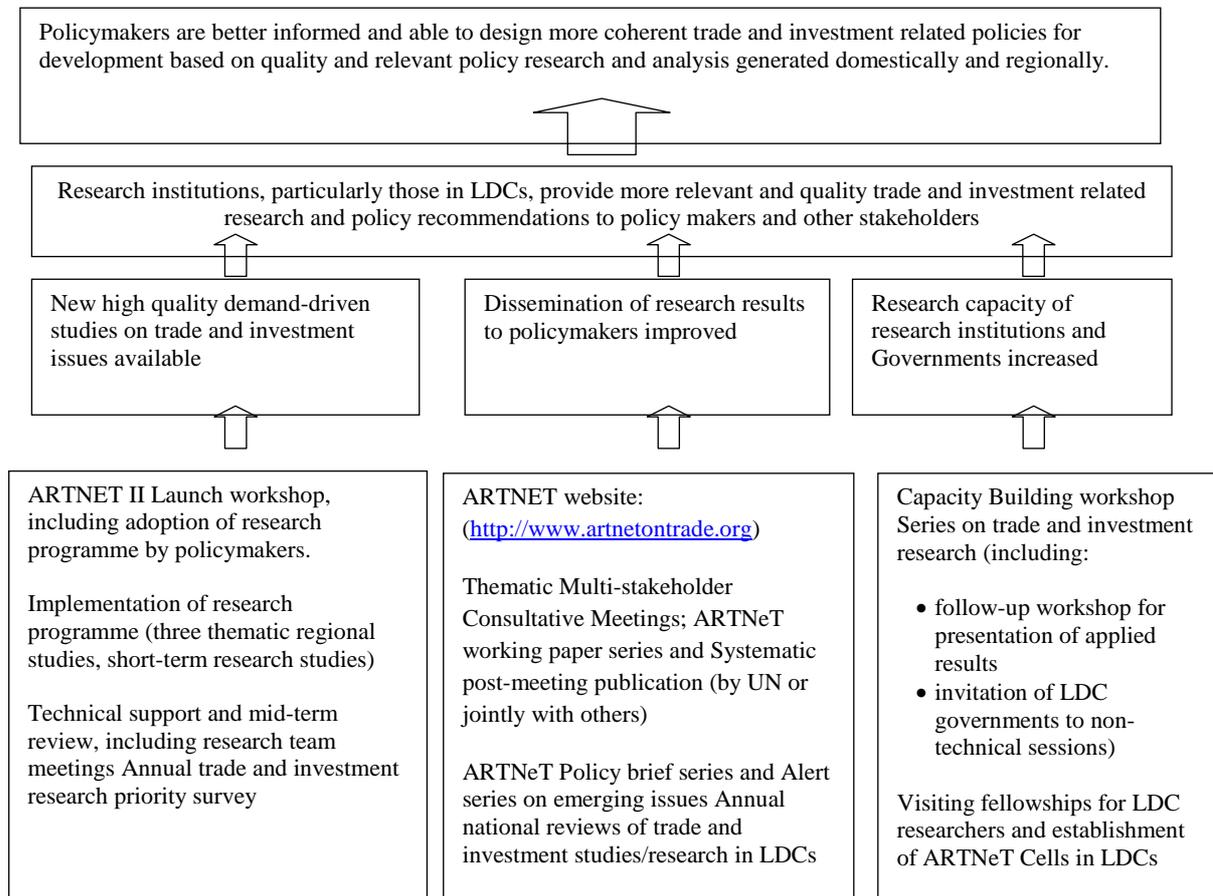
3. Operational Strategy

The operational strategy of Phase II has been mainly designed based on the lessons learned in the implementation of Phase I, suggestions arising out of the interactions with ARTNeT members, policymakers and advisers and feed-back received from members and government focal points. A mention of necessity of gender mainstreaming finds place in the strategy by ensuring that trade related gender issues are addressed in terms of research programme (e.g., a workshop on trade and gender will be developed during delivery of the workshops series). To solicit the views and suggestions on the operational strategy, ARTNeT heavily depended on

the deliberations of the well attended regional consultation meeting “ARTNeT Consultative Meeting on Trade and Investment Policy Coordination and Consultation in preparation of ARTNeT Phase II” held in July 2007 prior to the launch of the Phase II. The event enabled ARTNeT to formulate its future operational modality based on ground reality.

An overview of the ARTNeT activities in Phase II is presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Overview of ARTNeT Phase II Activities (2007-2010)



Source: ARTNeT Phase II Project Document, ESCAP, 2007, p. 16

From the point of view of utility and relevance, greater emphasis was to be placed in Phase II on the delivery of more comprehensive and focused thematic regional studies. Thus, the annual consultative meetings of policy makers and researchers were replaced by thematic multi-stakeholder consultative meetings on specific sub-areas. As envisaged, ESCAP also strived to deliver Phase II outputs through co-financed and co-organized activities, as well as through the development of ARTNeT linked projects.

The Overall Framework for Phase II was designed and adopted as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: ARTNeT Phase II Overall Framework*

	South Asia			East & South East Asia			South Pacific			Central Asia		
Secretariat	R	D	CB	R	D	CB	R	D	CB	R	D	CB
ESCAP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Core Partners												
IDRC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
WTO	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			
UNDP RCC	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓				
UNCTAD			✓			✓			✓			
Donors / Linked Projects												
French Govt.				✓	✓	✓						
Macao Govt.		✓			✓							
Swiss Agency for Dev & Coop				✓		✓						
Potential Core Partner(s)												
AusAid				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Russian Foundation		✓				✓				✓	✓	✓
Others		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			
ADB/ADBI	✓			✓								

***R:** research programme implementation; **D:** dissemination of research findings; **CB:** research capacity building

Source: ARTNeT Phase II Project Document, ESCAP, 2007, p. 17

Table 1 indicates the institutional arrangement for the flow of IDRC grant funds for ARTNeT Phase II linked projects. An (✓) indicates actual, and in some cases expected, support from the potential core partners and their preference limited to geographical scope and focus. This flexible approach was planned to facilitate Phase II in securing additional resources to finance the transition of ARTNeT from its initial Phase I to a more integrated multi-donor multi-stakeholder regional research network. It was expected to cover wider complex issues of international trade and investment policies for the benefit of its member countries policy makers.

4. Network Structure

The core network structure consisted of:²

- (a) ARTNeT members: national level academic institutions in developing countries which receive funding from ARTNeT, each with a nominated focal point;
- (b) ARTNeT core partners: IDRC-Canada, UNCTAD, UNDP and WTO, each with an appropriate focal point;
- (c) ARTNeT associate partners: research and academic institutions as well as civil society and advocacy organizations;
- (d) ARTNeT Institutional Advisory Board (IAB): a leading member institution from each of the four most involved least developed countries (i.e., Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, and Lao PDR), complemented by member institutions who consistently and substantively contributed to ARTNeT during its Phase I.
- (e) ARTNeT Government focal points: government officials from the ministries in charge of Trade and Investment or planning ministry / commissions.

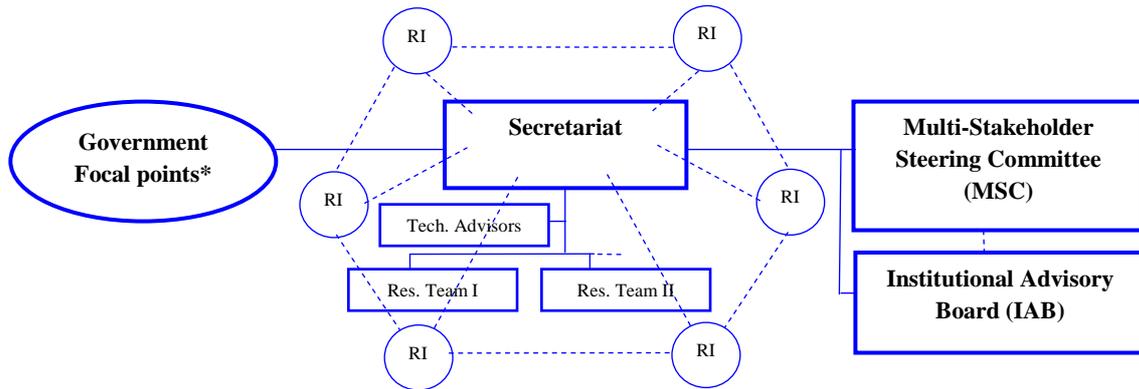
Phase II had the benefit of a newly constituted Multi-stakeholder steering committee composed of four IAB members, four government experts/focal points, one civil society representative, one private sector representative and representatives of IDRC and ARTNeT core partners), as part of the efforts to evolve ARTNeT into a multi-stakeholder framework. Its purpose was to provide (i) inputs and suggestions to the ARTNeT Secretariat on the development of ARTNeT-linked projects and regional studies; (ii) to assist in the selection of short-term research proposals, as well as; (iii) to ensure that annual updates to the ARTNeT Research Programmes are approved by a group of stakeholders that reflect more widely societal concern and interests.

ESCAP staff from its Trade and Investment Division continued to act as the ARTNeT Secretariat in Phase II to provide an effective link between research institutions and policy makers at the regional level. It brought to the network its convening power (of governments and policymakers), an established and structured communication and dissemination system with policymakers at the regional level, existing partnerships with organizations such as WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP and other major trade-related institutions. It also lent its expertise and experience in conducting and supervising research and capacity building projects throughout the region using, *inter alia*, well-established UN principles and practices, as well as leveraging off its existing financial and logistics infrastructure. Figure 2 and Figure 3 present the network structure and the organizational framework adopted by ARTNeT during Phase II to implement the activities mentioned above.

² Current lists of contact persons and focal points for these groupings are available at:

<http://www.artnetontrade.org>

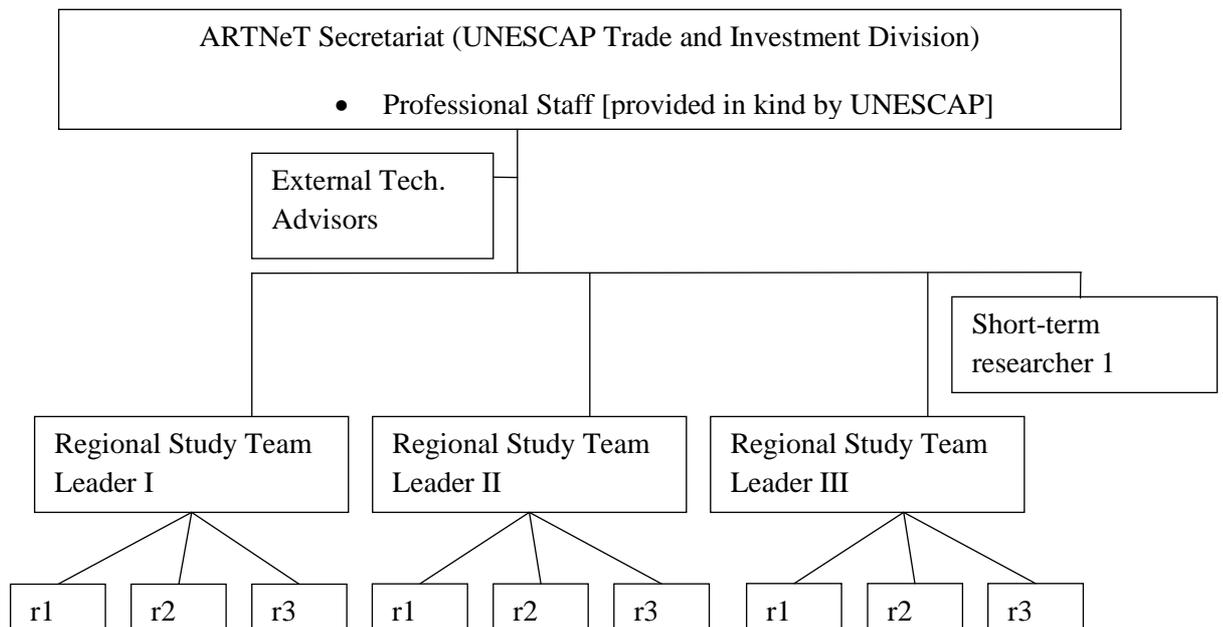
Figure 2: ARTNeT Network Structure in Phase II



RI: Research Institutions, including other research networks; IAB: Institutional Advisory Board (composed only of member research institutions); * typically ministries in charge of trade, industry or planning, etc.

Source: ARTNeT Phase II Project Document, ESCAP 2007, p. 19

Figure 3: Organizational Chart of ARTNeT



Note: Includes both regular personnel and consultants/personnel of research institutions subcontracted

Source: ARTNeT Phase II Project Document, ESCAP 2007, p. 28

As in Phase I, ESCAP systematically sought support of other ARTNeT core partners when implementing activities to maximize the impact of the project (for example, in the implementation of the WTO/ESCAP Technical Assistance programme and in responding to the requests by national governments for capacity building, as was the case for Mongolia, Nepal and Papua New Guinea). The ARTNeT Secretariat continued to tap into the pool of researchers and experts from member institutions and the region to select research team members. However, team members and/or external technical advisers from outside the region (no more than one per project and mainly for external review purpose and specific technical assistance) were also considered, as appropriate to ensure high-quality outputs and sharing the knowledge across the regions.

The other perceptible changes in Phase II were

- (i) setting up of the ARTNeT Proposal Review Board to assist in the evaluation and selection of short-term research proposals;
- (ii) inclusion of the bilateral donors (SDC and French Government) for additional resource support;
- (iii) changing the composition of the Institutional Advisory Board (IAB) to include the four most involved LDCs (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal and Lao PDR) mainly to advise the Secretariat on new membership applications and research capacity building activities and issues.
- (iv) enlarging the roles of Advisers / Team Leaders of the research projects so as to bring in additional expertise and /or share relevant out-of-the-region knowledge to the team and the study;
- (v) initiating one least developed country cell; and
- (vi) initiating cooperation with new partners (the World Bank and ADBI).

5. Phase II Goals and Objectives

The overall Project Goal (linked to the long-term general objective) and the Outcome (linked to the medium-term objective) adopted for the programme were:

Project goal: *“Policymakers are better informed and able to design more coherent trade and investment related policies for development based on quality and relevant policy research and analysis generated domestically and regionally”*.

Outcome - Medium-term objective: *“Research institutions, particularly those in LDCs, provide more relevant and quality trade and investment related research and policy recommendations to policymakers and other stakeholders in the region”*.

Outputs (linked to specific objectives) and main activities: *“ARTNeT activities will focus on (i) producing new demand-driven high-quality research studies; (ii) disseminating ARTNeT members’ research and analytical studies to policy makers; and (iii) building the research capacity of UNESCAP member countries, particularly LDCs from South and Southeast and East Asia”*.

Evaluation Methodology and Findings

1. Purpose, Scope and Methodology of Evaluation

The Purpose

The purpose of the review is to evaluate the operation and outputs of ARTNeT Phase II (September 2007-July 2010) in order to:

- (i) take stock of the progress made during Phase II;
- (ii) determine whether the project achieved its three short-term objectives;
- (iii) assess the impacts made; and
- (iv) examine how sustainable the network structure is and recommend measures of its long-term sustainability.

This evaluation of ARTNeT is expected to be used as an input into planning future programming directions and modalities of operation in Phase III, in particular to enhance the long-term sustainability of the network. Primary users of the final report would be ESCAP, IDRC and other ARTNeT institutional partners such as WTO, UNDP and UNCTAD. Other users will be ARTNeT advisors, members, governments and other stakeholders including prospective members and associate partners.

The Scope

The scope of the evaluation is limited to substantive issues focusing on project outcomes/outputs, as well as on the issues focusing on the organization and coordination of the net-work and its activities. Financial aspects of the project have not been covered. Of course, managerial and sustainability issues came up for discussion.

In order to pursue evaluation, the following broad questions were set.

Achievements of the project objectives

- How has the project promoted and strengthened local research capacity on trade policy?
- How effective has the system of competitive calls for proposals been compared to directed research?
- How is local knowledge and ownership driving the process?
- How can national policymakers be more involved and their needs be more directly addressed, without compromising the delivery of forward thinking research and analysis without immediate implications for (sectoral) policymakers?
- To what extent was the initial project design successful in making progress toward objectives?
- What are the strengths of the network compared with other modalities for enhancing trade knowledge and policy development?

- Taking into account the changing needs of policymakers and research institutions in the region as well as the programme interests of IRDC, what changes may be needed in each of the three strategic areas or work?
- What implications should be drawn from the development of the network in terms of both members and partners and the need to cater to a wider group of stakeholders?

Impacts

- What has been the institutional impact on its members of ARTNeT in terms of capacity building development and research programmes (including) capacity building opportunities for junior researchers' participation in regional studies, etc.?
- What has been the policy impact of ARTNeT in the countries of its members (including through its publications and dissemination meetings)?

Sustainability of ARTNeT

- How effective has the ARTNeT Secretariat been in its operations?
- What portion of the work of the Trade and Investment Division does ARTNeT represent?
- How do the institutional members of ARTNeT perceive its operations and sustainability?
- What options does ARTNeT have if donors reduce their commitments?
- What are the long-term plans of the network to become self-sufficient, possibly as an entity separate from UNESCAP?

The Methodology

An in-depth review was conducted using a combination of the undernoted methods for making the evaluation (also summarized in table 2 below):

(a) Desk review of existing ARTNeT documents

The documents provided by ARTNeT Secretariat are listed in *Annex-I*.

(b) Online surveys

Three distinct sets of questionnaires were developed and used under this segment of evaluation:

- Survey of representatives of member research institutions (see *Annex-II*). This set of questionnaires was intended for ARTNeT Member focal points and focused on project impact at the institutional level as well as on institutional commitment and needs of the members.
- Survey of Government focal points and officials involved in ARTNeT activities (See *Annex-III*).
- Survey of individual researchers involved in ARTNeT activities. (See *Annex-IV*). This questionnaire focused on project impacts at both the individual and institutional levels.

(c) Telephone and face to face interviews

Telephone and face to face interviews were conducted with core partners, key institutional donors, Government focal points, and individual experts in Bangladesh, Lao PDR, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Face-to-face interviews and consultations were held with more than 30 researchers, analysts and managers from various research institutions. The complete list of researchers and focal points interviewed as part of the overall evaluation is given below in Annex-V.

(d) Observation

The consultant was invited to attend the Capacity Building Workshop held at Vientiane Lao-PDR in June 2010 as an observer and to converse with resource persons and participants.

Table 2: Overview of interviews and surveys conducted for the evaluation

<u>Category</u>	<u>Country and Number</u>
(A) <u>In Person Interviews</u>	
Government	- Sri Lanka (3)
	- Bangladesh (4)
	- Lao PDR (2)
	- India (1)
ARTNeT Institutions Heads	- Sri Lanka (3)
	- Bangladesh (2)
	- Lao PDR (2)
	- India (1)
	- Thailand (1)
Researchers	- Sri Lanka (10)
	- Bangladesh (16)
	- India (1)
ARTNeT Core Partners	- ESCAP (5)
	- WTO (2)-
Others	- Researchers (12) (<i>participants from various countries attending the Workshop at Vientiane in June 2010</i>)

(B) <u>Telephonic Interviews & Emails</u>	
Government Focal Points	- India (1)
	- Thailand (1)
ARTNeT Core Partners	- IDRC (1)
(C) <u>On-line Survey</u>	
Government	- (nil)
ARTNeT Member Institutions	- (6)
Researchers	- Started (100)-Completed (59)

The spontaneous response to the questionnaires from the researchers and member research institutions emerged as strong support to the interview process. Overall, the quantity of responses gleaned from individual researchers (98 researchers in total) ensures that the responses represent a significant portion of ESCAP researchers.

Not surprisingly, it was more difficult to get responses from both Government officials and heads of institutions; most likely due to their considerable workloads and their less immediate personal familiarity with ARTNeT activities and operation modes (researchers have more frequent interactions with ARTNeT through research projects and trainings). The online surveys sent to both Government focal points and heads of member institutions had low response rates. This information gap was, however, corrected through in person and telephone interviews with these two groups of stakeholders.

2. Findings based on Documentary Analysis, Surveys and Interviews

In this section, an analysis of the ARTNeT documents and findings based on the survey and interviews has been presented. The analysis of the documents takes into account the factual information of the activities, outputs and the progress made by the ARTNeT during Phase II. Major findings based on the survey and interviews related to each of the three main objectives envisaged for Phase II have also been presented with a view to making independent evaluation of the ARTNeT activities during Phase II and the extent of its progress made towards achieving the medium and long-term goals.

2.1 Findings based on Documentary Analysis

Phase II of the ARTNeT achieved a sizable widening of its research network. As of end-July 2010, it had 27 member institutions in 15 countries of the Asia-Pacific region (as compared to 20 research member institutions at the end of Phase I), 3 core partners (UNDP, UNCTAD and WTO) in addition to IDRC and UNESCAP, and 11 associate partners, including three new associate partners, namely United Nations University, Comparative Regional Integration

Studies, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore and Institute of Asian Studies, National University of Singapore.

Close perusal of the documents (see *Annex-I*) reveals that ARTNeT has successfully launched a number of well-knit new programmes closely integrating with the three main objectives of Phase II. The three new issues of importance explored in Phase II were: (i) trade and investment and related policy coherence; (ii) trade facilitation and the development of related services sectors (e.g. logistics, telecommunication and financial sectors) which were found to be of particular interest to the LDCs and landlocked countries; and (iii) the implications of the growing number of preferential trade agreements in the region and the appropriate policy responses, which is an issue of continuing interest and concern for many countries in the region. By design, the focus is now on ensuring that each activity is adequately resourced and supported to further enhance overall research output quality, while also contributing to capacity building. Multi-year thematic studies, research-based policy briefs, and capacity building of the junior researchers especially from the LDCs seem to have received adequate attention. ARTNeT launched a short research project mainly associated with trade-related gender issues, as well.

Core Partners' Contributions:

An important positive feature observed is continuous contributions made by ARTNeT's core and other partners during Phase II. IDRC extended a sizable financial support (USD 1,000,000); ESCAP provided in-kind support through engagement of professional and administrative staff as well as provision of meeting venue and technical support. WTO, likewise, provided resource persons for the ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshops and other research workshops, as well as funded short-term research projects for a total grant of over US\$100,000 during 2008-2009 (USD58,000 in 2008 and USD55,700 in 2009). Contributions from UNCTAD, UNDP, and FAO were mainly in-kind support in terms of staff and logistics arrangements while the World Bank and ADBI, as new partners, provided co-funding and in-kind support for jointly organized events.

Regional Research Studies:

Regional research projects received due attention of ARTNeT during Phase II. Three regional research teams were set up and supported to accomplish three main projects namely: (i) Trade and Investment-related Policy Coherence for Inclusive and Sustainable Development; (ii) Trade Facilitation and Development of Related Services Sector; and (iii) Trade Policy and International Production Networks in Asia. These studies have resulted in a number of new publications (7 policy briefs and 17 working papers), wider dissemination by making presentations at conferences, such as ARTNeT's 5th Anniversary Conference, Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum, and Workshop on Trade, Investment and Regional Integration: Lessons for Policymakers in India (March 2010).

Short-term Research Studies:

This segment of ARTNeT initiatives has been well received by the researchers, the main ARTNeT beneficiaries of the programme. By now three calls for short-term research proposals issued by ARTNeT in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were widely responded; of which 20 proposals were selected for financial assistance extended by ARTNeT and WTO. WTO funded studies generally focused on gravity modelling of implementation of trade facilitation measures, other different methodologies of research including surveys and sectoral analysis for assessing the impact of rules of origin in Asian regional trade agreements. Many of these studies have been published in the ARTNeT Working Paper Series.

GMS Research Projects:

Regarding the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), ARTNeT completed two research projects focused on (a) drivers of regional integration in the GMS economies using a stakeholder analysis; and (b) measuring restrictiveness in trade and services and identifying the regulatory and liberalization needs and opportunities in financial services and telecoms in GMS economies, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) and the French Government.

Dissemination of Research Findings to Policymakers:

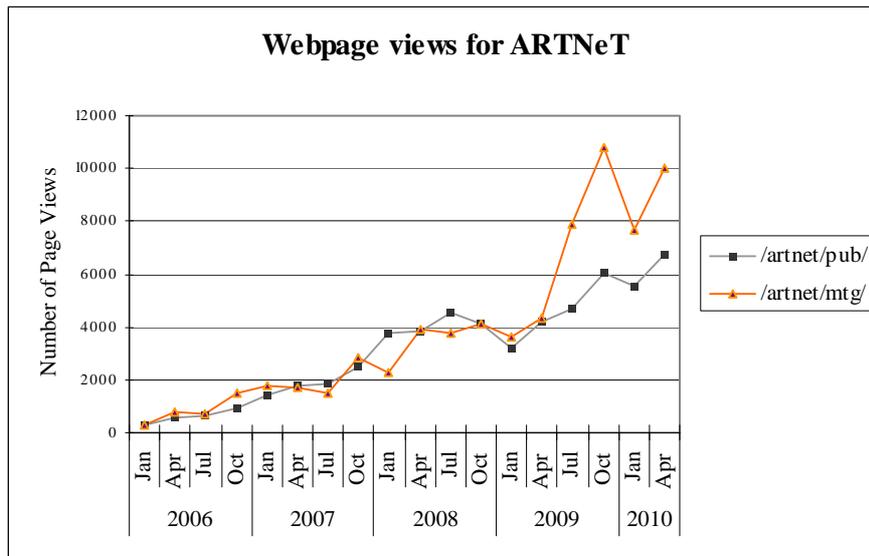
ARTNeT has adopted various methods to reach this important objective, including setting up a dedicated website, policy briefs, and consultative meetings. The dedicated ARTNeT website at <http://www.artnetontrade.org> continued to be expanded by posting trade related research findings, publications of ARTNeT for wider use by the members, stakeholders and general information for others. The ARTNeT Trade Database continues to be up-dated and now has over 2,190 trade-related publications. Similarly, the mailing list of trade and investment researchers (over 800) and policy makers, continues to be managed by the ARTNeT Secretariat.

For communication purposes, ARTNeT also uploaded its information on Wikipedia, and can be followed using Twitter and Facebook. It uses other communication channels and networks to promote its activities and also promotes activities of other networks and relevant institutions through group emails.

Figure 4 indicates the growing trend and number of visitors to the ARTNeT website during 2006-2010.

The ARTNeT secretariat has been trying in its own way to disseminate the results and findings of various research papers and special studies for information and use of the policymakers in the member countries. The communications are directly sent to the focal points in the Government and are also expected to be transmitted through the good offices of the member research institutions in their respective countries. Participation of ARTNeT in major regional and global meetings and conferences, for example the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP), is proving to be an important channel of communication and wider dissemination.

Figure 4: ARTNeT webpage visits (2006-2010)



Source: ARTNeT Secretariat, 2010

Capacity Building of Research Institutions:

This segment of ARTNeT has witnessed several activities which directly through technical training workshops for trade research targeted junior researchers of ARTNeT member research institutions, particularly those from LDCs. Research projects teams are composed of both junior and senior trade researchers; other short-term project studies are conducted with emerging trade research institutions. Annual capacity building workshops for trade research have been organized by ARTNeT regularly. During Phase II, about 31 workshops, training programmes and research team meetings were organized.

ARTNeT also provided a linkage to international organizations such as the International Trade Centre, United Nations Statistics Division, UNCTAD, The World Bank, and the WTO, which in turn facilitated researchers' access to trade data and trade analysis tools. It also built trade research capacity through facilitating access to relevant trade and investment related databases. ARTNeT also supports the development of the trade performance indicators component of the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreement Database. To integrate more closely the various capacity building activities, ARTNeT started "Behind the Border" Gravity Modelling initiative in 2008 and has since conducted two 5-day capacity building workshops and several shorter sessions to build awareness of policymakers and other prospective users of this tool.³ Post-workshop grants were awarded to two participants in 2008 and to two in 2009 to support research using some of the newly acquired skills and tools. A researcher from an LDC member country was granted a fellowship to conduct research in November 2009 at RIS, and a scholarship was awarded to a researcher from LDC to attend GTAP Centre and Purdue University course on "Introduction to Applied General Equilibrium Analysis in a Multi-region Framework" in 2009.

³ The third Gravity modelling workshop is planned for 23-27 August 2010 in collaboration with the Economics Department of Bogor University. The Secretariat received over 70 applications for the 25-slot training.

Workshop Participants' Evaluations:

Participants of various workshops and conferences organized by ARTNeT gave very positive feedback in their evaluation forms. Most of them felt that the knowledge gained would enable them to perform better. Those who attended the workshops consistently reported high level of satisfaction with programme contents. An overview of ARTNeT Workshop Evaluations is given in *Annex-VI*. ARTNeT secured the highest ratings in terms of percentage of satisfaction expressed by the participants as shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Summary of workshop evaluation results

Total no. of programmes assessed	13	
Total no. of participants	509	100%
Total no. of respondents	271	53%
Women respondents	125	25%
Respondents who were satisfied or very satisfied with the workshops	252	93%

Source: Overview of evaluation of ARTNeT workshops, 2009-2010 (see *Annex VI*)

Perceived Challenges Based on Document Analysis:

While ARTNeT during Phase II has been able to enlarge its base of researchers, attracting additional sponsors and mobilize the expert guidance of renowned advisors, it has also encountered a number of operational difficulties and challenges. Some of the major challenges perceived by the ARTNeT Secretariat have been:

- Difficulty in attracting qualified individual researchers to provide substantive and managerial leadership for research activities
- Scarcity of researchers willing and able to lead international research teams covering multiple sub-regions and including LDCs
- As such the ARTNeT Secretariat's capacity to extend substantive support had been somewhat overstretched
- Paucity of funds continued to pose challenges.

Status of Outputs:

The status of delivery of outputs with reference to the indicator(s) and activities specified in the project document as at July/August of 2010 is summarized below (full list of outputs and activities is given in the *Annex-I*).

Output (Objective) A: *New high quality and relevant studies on trade and investment issues are produced on the basis of a demand-driven research programme.*

In the period covered by this evaluation, a total of 33 working papers were published through the ARTNeT website, and subsequently at least 10% of those were re-printed or published as journal articles. The three regional research studies are still in progress; one of them, a study on “The Impact of Information Technology (IT) in Trade Facilitation on Small and Medium Enterprises” is in print at the time of writing of this evaluation report.

In order to ensure relevancy of research and for it to be driven by demanders (i.e., policymakers), ARTNeT Phase II has put in place a mechanism of Multi-stakeholders steering committee meetings, Institutional advisory board, annual surveys and consultative meetings. Since the launch of ARTNeT Phase II, three meetings of the Multi-stakeholders steering committee were held (the fourth one is planned for October 2010) to assist the ARTNeT secretariat to identify more concrete formulation of the research topics linked to the Phase II research theme and annual surveys of members and stakeholders.

A significant portion of the research has been undertaken as Short Term Studies. In this period, a total of 70 research proposals were received and 20 were selected for the funding in collaboration with WTO. A majority of WTO-sponsored studies focus on gravity modelling of implementation of trade facilitation measures. These studies will be published together as a special electronic volume on trade facilitation in 2010. The other short terms studies adopt different methodologies, including survey findings and sectoral analysis, for assessing the impact of rules of origin in Asian regional trade agreements. All short terms studies are expected to be concluded by October 2010, when they will be presented at consultative meetings with government experts and practitioners for discussion and review.

Output (Objective) B: *Communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers improved.*

A number of the research findings have been already disseminated to researchers and policymakers on-line through the 33 working papers, 12 Policy Briefs and 5 ARTNeT Alerts on Emerging Policy issues. As further research projects are due for completion towards the second half of 2010, once finalized they will be prepared for online or hard copy publishing, and additional dissemination activities will be held in the second half of 2010.

The main ARTNeT’s dissemination outlet is its website (<http://www.artnetontrade.org>). On a monthly basis, the ARTNeT website in 2009 got around 1,350 visitors, up from about 900 in 2008 and 700 in 2007. This surge is largely explained by the wide interest generated by ARTNeT’s 5th Anniversary Conference. ARTNeT also features on Wikipedia, Twitter and Facebook.

The ARTNeT Trade Publication database has now over 2,300 records (up from 1,935 in December 2007) and it is a unique source of regionally produced applied research on trade and investment related topics.

The three dissemination meetings planned in the project document were held as follows:

- 1) ARTNeT 5th Anniversary Conference on “Trade-Led Growth in Times of Crisis”, held on 2 and 3 November in Bangkok, Thailand, in collaboration with ARTNeT’s core partners (Ref: http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/artnet_conference.asp).
- 2) Regional Policy Forum on “Trade Facilitation and SMEs in Times of Crisis” held on 20 to 22 May 2009 in Beijing, China, in collaboration with the World Bank (Ref: http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/tf_sme.asp).
- 3) 13th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis: "Trade for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth and Development" was held from 9 to 11 June 2010 in Penang, Kuala Lumpur including Roundtable on “Democratization of trade policy design” on 11 June (related to Theme I of PhaseII).
(Ref: <https://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/events/Conferences/2010/default.asp>)

Output (Objective) C: *Capacity of LDCs and other developing countries research institutions to conduct trade and investment related research useful to policymakers has increased.*

The activities under this objective included:

- 1) The ARTNeT Fifth Annual Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research was held from 22 to 26 June 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand (Ref: <http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/cbtr.asp>), Co-financed by WTO.
- 2) The ARTNeT/RIS Follow-up Workshop on gravity modelling of trade facilitation and “behind the border” measures affecting trade was held from 21 to 25 September 2009 in New Delhi, India, after the success of the first gravity modelling of trade facilitation held in 2008 (Ref: <http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/gravity09.asp>)
- 3) Workshop on Trade, Investment and Regional Integration: Lessons for Policymakers was held on 11 and 12 March 2010 in New Delhi, India. (Ref: <http://www.unescap.org/tid/projects/tiri.asp>)
- 4) The Sixth ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research, which was co-organized by WTO, was held on 21-25 June 2010 in Vientiane, Lao PDR (Ref: <http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/cbtr6.asp>)

To enhance uptake of the newly learned skilled through the above listed trainings, ARTNeT introduced small post-workshop grants. For 2008, two proposals of junior researchers from

Nepal and Bangladesh, who had participated in the 4th ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop in Phnom Penh in 2008, were selected. Both researchers completed their work, and the studies have been published as working papers. For 2009, three research projects submitted by junior researchers (two from Viet Nam, one from Cambodia) who had participated in the 5th ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop in Bangkok in 2009 were selected. Their research was completed and disseminated. For 2010, all junior researchers participated in the 6th ARTNeT capacity building workshop for trade research were encouraged to submit research proposals. Six proposals have been received and selection for grants is in progress (August 2010). One grant to a junior fellow from the LDC to attend GTAP training co-organized with ARTNeT and one fellowship to a junior researchers from Lao PDR to participate in the second gravity modelling workshop and conduct research as a visiting fellow with ARTNeT member RIS, New Delhi were awarded.

One ARTNeT cell was established in Bangladesh in the fourth quarter of 2009; first outputs are expected during 2010. The other applications for ARTNeT cells proved unsatisfactory, as a result, no additional cells were established in 2009.

2.2. Findings Based on Surveys and Interviews

The findings presented in this section are based on the replies received on the three sets of structured questionnaires issued on-line to elicit responses from (i) ARTNeT member research institutions (9.23% response rate); (ii) Government focal points (0% response rate); and (iii) individual researchers (90.76% response rate); respectively. While the response from the online survey of ARTNeT Government focal point was nil; they were interviewed by appointment through face-to-face or by telephone instead.

In addition, the findings take into account the views expressed and suggestions made by some of the experts / stakeholders, Government focal points and related ministries officials, executives of the member research institutions, and individual researchers during the course of interviews held in Lao PDR, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Their views were sought with regard to the progress made by ARTNeT towards achieving Phase II's three objectives, designing an ARTNeT Phase III, and long-term sustainability of ARTNeT.

1. Progress toward Objective (i): *“To produce high quality and relevant studies on trade issues on the basis of a demand-driven research programme”:*

ARTNeT research studies on trade issues have been viewed as of very high quality. However, the views on the question of whether they were demand-driven, remained inconclusive. All the responding member research institutions indicated [see figures 5, 5(a) to 5(f)] that ARTNeT contributed effectively to increasing the quantity, quality, relevance and dissemination of the research programme pursued by them. Over 40% of the institutions found ARTNeT's contribution as significant to very significant, and the rest (60%) somewhat significant.

Figure 5: Response from Member Research Institutions

Figure 5

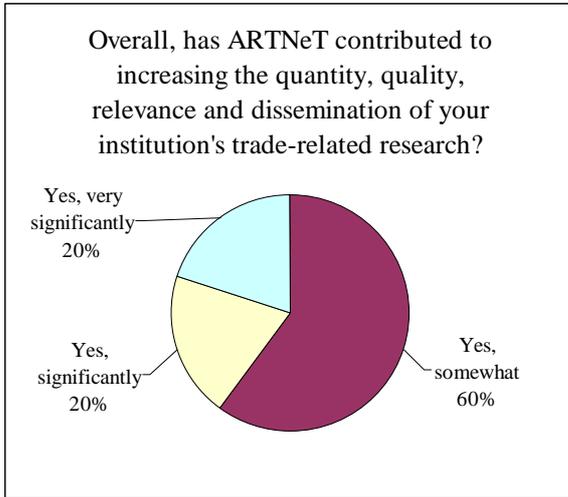
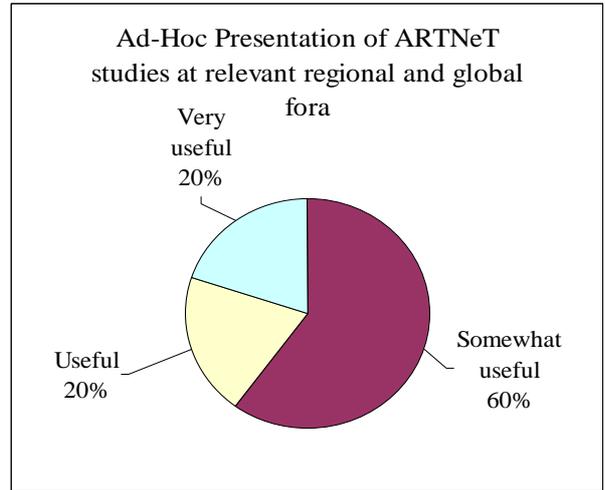


Figure 5 (a)



ARTNeT studies presented at the regional and global fora have received no negative assessment. In fact, over 40% of respondents found these to be useful to very useful. However, 60 % of respondents still find various research studies, trade research related activities and tools of their dissemination only 'somewhat useful'.

Figure 5 (b)

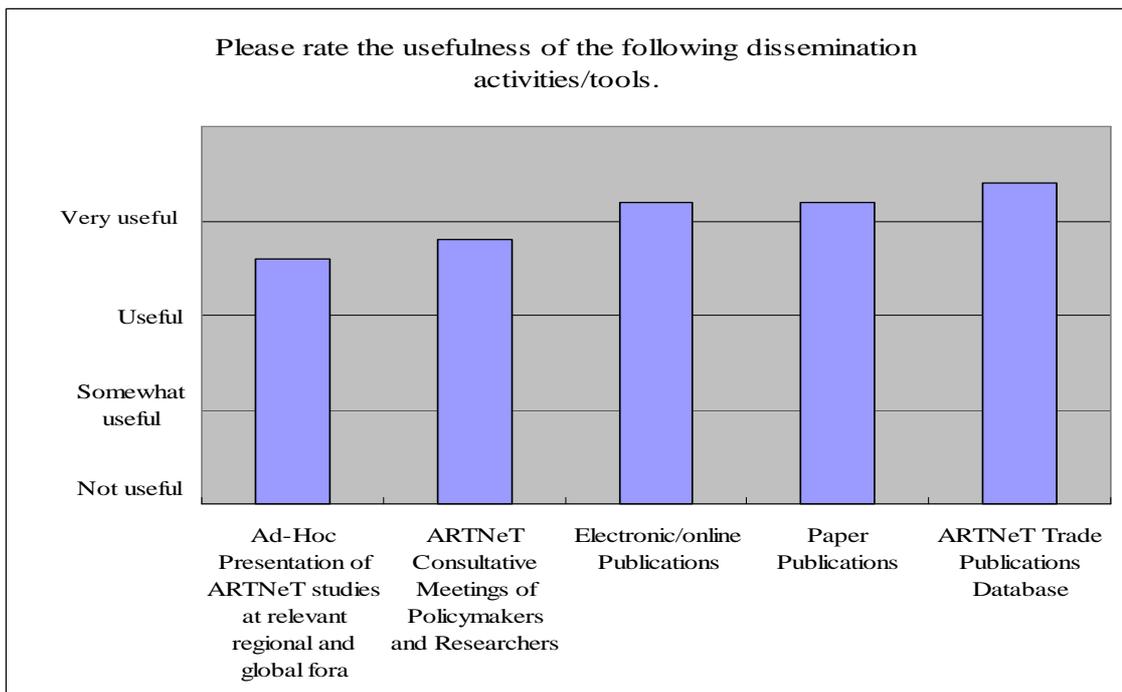


Figure 5 (c)

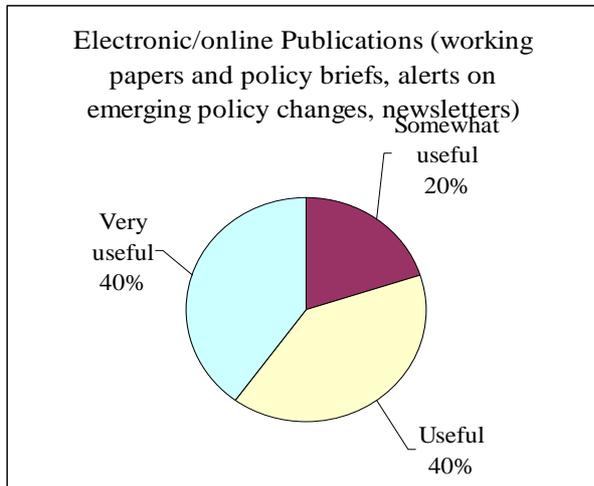


Figure 5 (d)

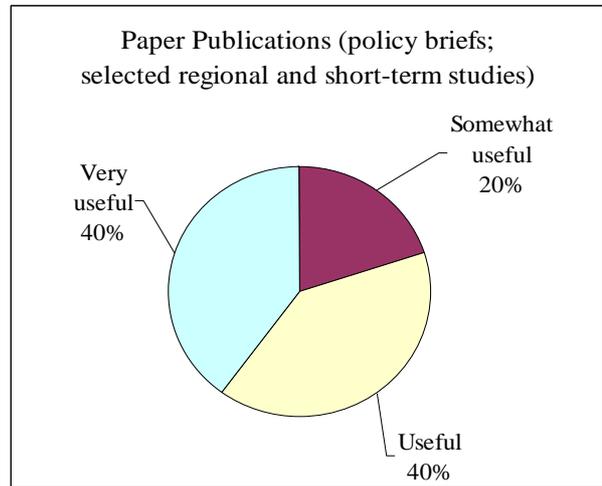
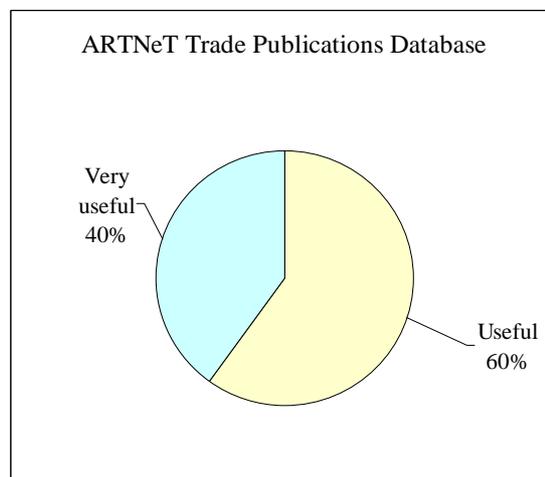


Figure 5 (e)

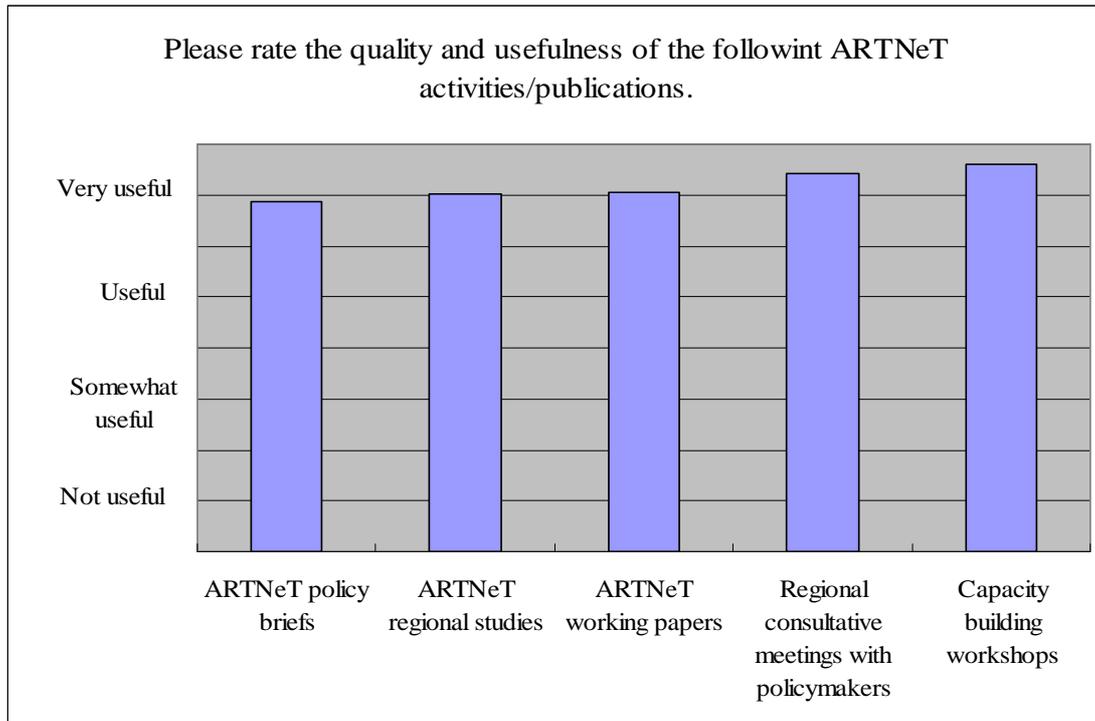


ARTNeT research publications, especially electronic/online and paper publications along with trade publications database have uniformly secured more than very useful ratings.

Similar high ratings emerged from the responses of the individual researchers [see figures 6, 6 (a) to 6 (c) below]. They found the ARTNeT generated research of high standard; 84% found

the Policy Briefs; 86% the Regional Studies and 85% the Working Papers ‘useful to very useful’.

Figure 6: Response from Individual Researchers



However, 75% of the policy makers interviewed found Policy Briefs somewhat useful and 25% rated them as not useful (Table 4). This status, they felt, was due to poor dissemination of the research outputs / Policy Briefs / Working Papers. Notwithstanding the fragmented dissemination system, they all found ARTNeT generated research of high standard. However, there was a mixed reaction about research responding to the policymaking concerns of the day. While the policy makers recognized that the process of vetting the research programme put in place by the ARTNeT should ensure that it reflects demand side (i.e. meetings of the MSC and annual surveys on research topics), they wanted to see even stronger direction from the demand side (as presently a number of research outputs are perceived as supply-driven). Most of the policy makers found the research not relevant to their particular policy problems at hand and hoped that this issue will be suitably addressed by the ARTNeT to gain acceptance in the Government and for the meaningful use of the policy makers.

Figure 6 (a)

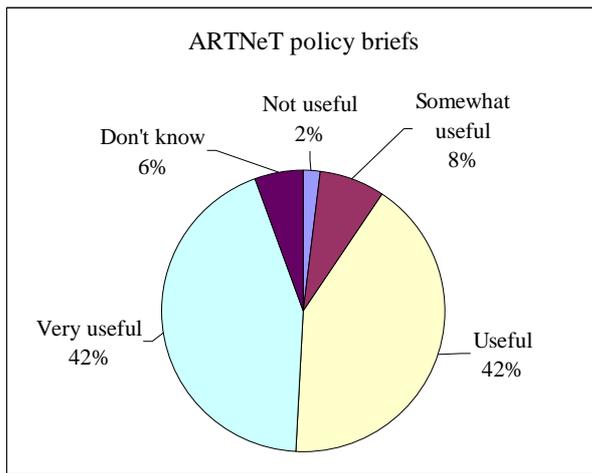


Figure 6 (b)

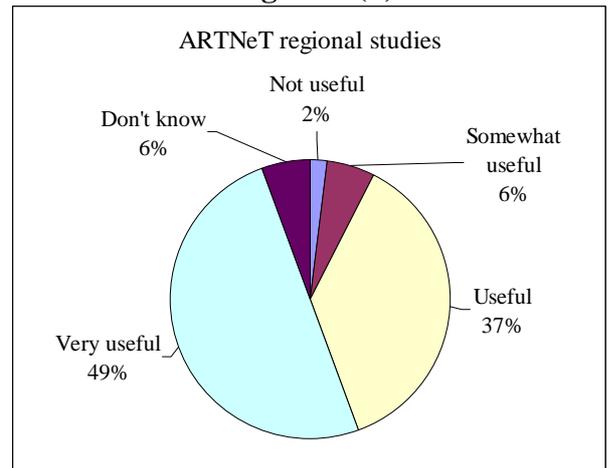
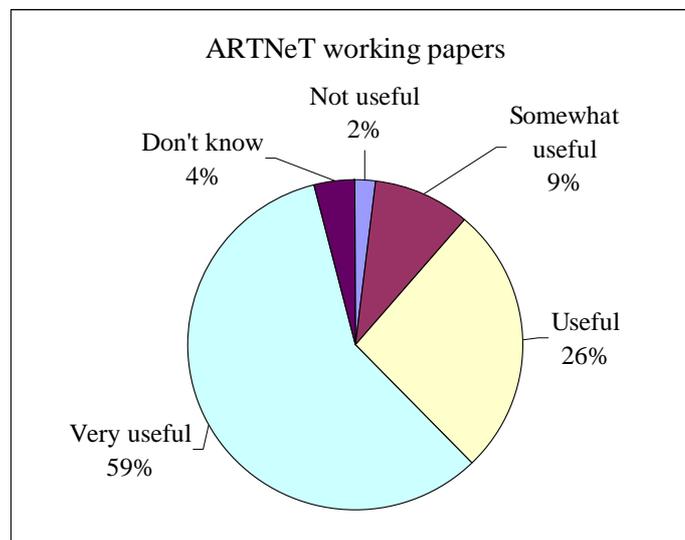


Figure 6 (c)

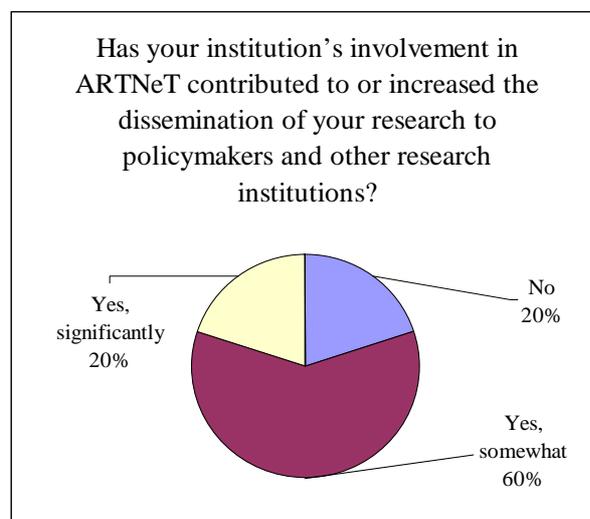


A majority of the institutions favored implementation of the ARTNeT research programme on the basis of competitive calls for proposals based on a relatively open research programme framework rather than a more directed research system. The reasons most frequently cited by members for their inability to participate in calls for ARTNeT research proposals were lack of staff and the low grant amounts. The amount of grants (between \$2,500 for post-workshop grants and \$7,000 on average for a short-term study) was found too low particularly in view of the high cost involved in collection of primary data and field visits. Members suggested that in order to maximize the limited resources available to ARTNeT, the number of short-term studies may be reduced which will allow ARTNeT Secretariat to increase the average amount of grant. A majority of the institutions favored ARTNeT continuing with the present three tier combined system of multi-year thematic study, regional studies and also the short-term research programmes. This might help capture a large number of emerging issues and attract wider attention of the aspiring researchers, especially from the LDCs.

2. Progress toward Objective (ii): “To improve the communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers”.

This segment of the ARTNeT programme is very important as it aims at improving the communication and dissemination of research study to policy makers. The end-use of the ARTNeT research studies is eventually for the policymakers responsible for designing vibrant and competitive trade policies. Member institutions observed [see figures 7, 7 (a) to 7 (e)] that by and large, the research studies have been successfully disseminated to the policymakers, who in turn have been able to make use of. However, Government focal points and other concerned officials felt that there was much scope for systemic improvement so as to make the ARTNeT outputs more effective and relevant.

Figure 7: Response from Member Research Institutions



A majority of the responding institutions (60%) felt that their institution's involvement in ARTNeT somewhat contributed /increased the dissemination of their research to policymakers and other research institutions, while 20% thought that this impact was significant. In contrast, 20% responded negatively to the same question. While the responses in general indicate that their institutional involvement in ARTNeT facilitated networking and exchange of information from the level of 'significant' with the stakeholders (policy makers, researchers / institutions), with researchers / research institutions both inside the sub-region (e.g. Southeast Asia and South Asia) and outside the sub-region, the feedback given during the interviews indicated that the networking and exchange of information with the policy makers at best could be placed at the level of 'somewhat' and with the researchers / institutions outside the sub-region between 'somewhat' and 'significant'.

Figure 7 (a)

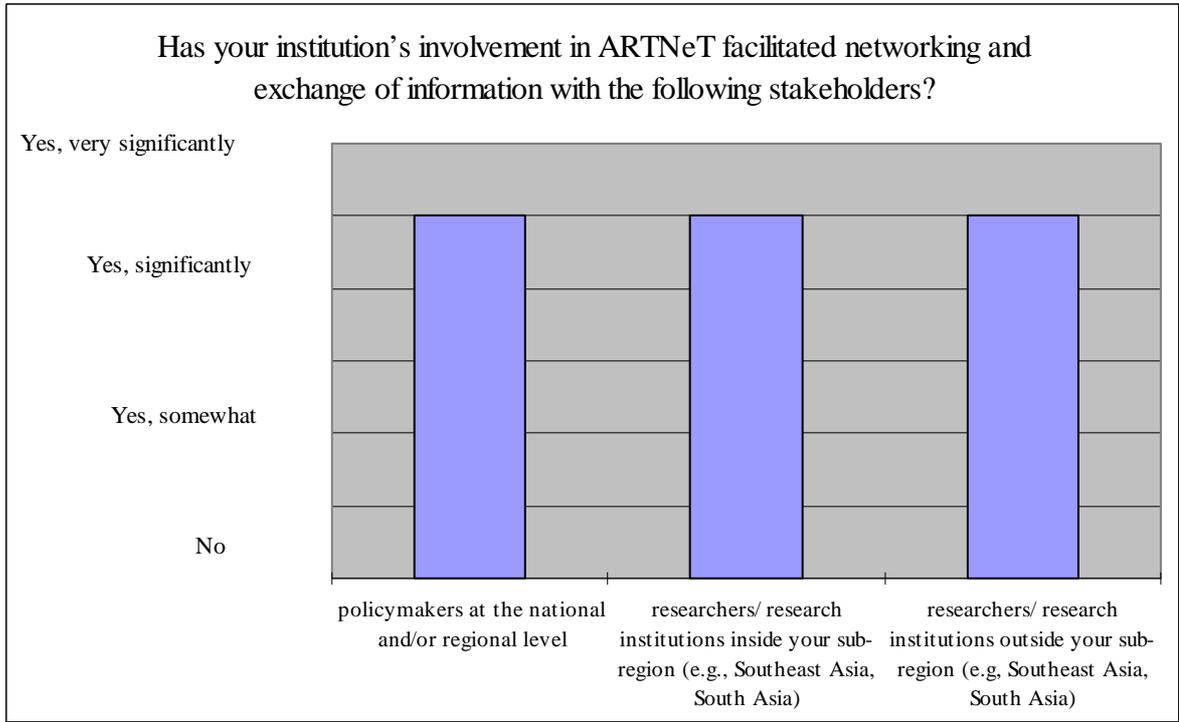


Figure 7 (b)

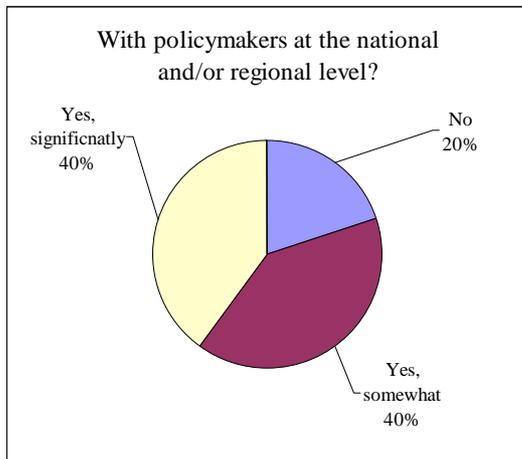


Figure 7 (c)

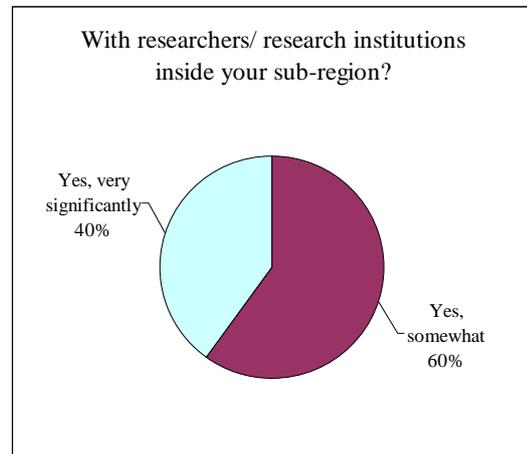


Figure 7 (d)

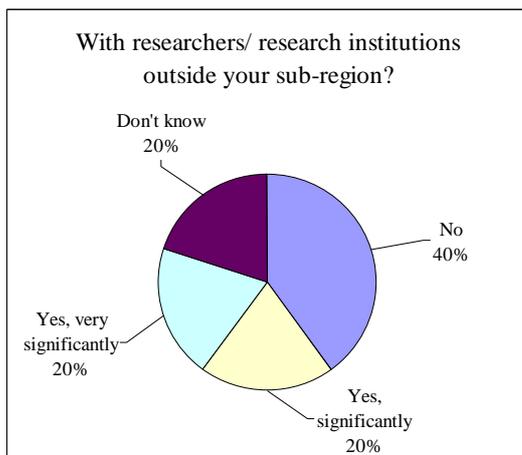
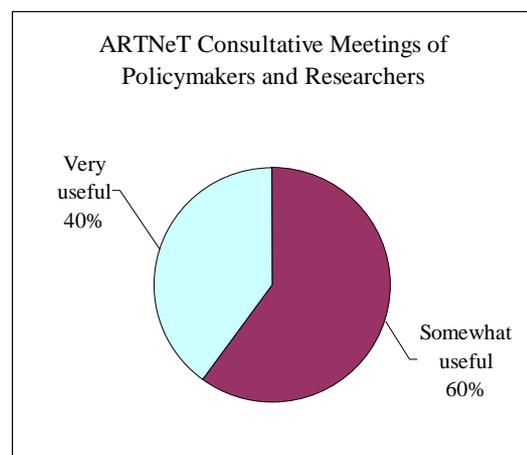


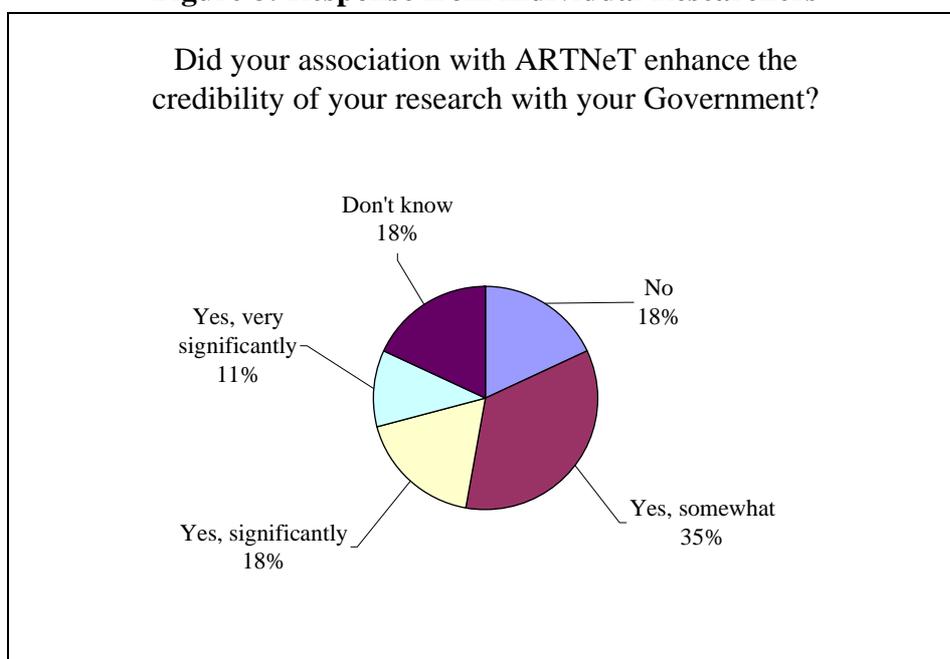
Figure 7 (e)



Over 40% of the respondents found consultative meetings of policymakers and researchers ‘very useful’ and 60% ‘somewhat useful’. In terms of dissemination, ARTNeT electronic publications, Policy Briefs, other trade related publications and regional consultative meetings with the policy makers and researchers for various regions have found general favour.

The response of the individual researchers relating to the dissemination of research findings for use of the policy makers indicated that they could, by virtue of their association with the ARTNeT, enhance the credibility of their research with the concerned governments: 11% of researchers very significantly; 18% significantly; 35% somewhat and the rest 36% responded with ‘no or did not know’ (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Response from Individual Researchers



During the course of interviews it transpired that the individual researchers could gain access in the government on a personal basis and enhanced their credibility under the banner of ARTNeT. This however did not give rise to institutionalizing the ARTNeT programme to promote a sustained and effective channel of dissemination and/or impact.

The Government focal points and other officials expressed mixed reaction to the entire gamut of ARTNeT activities (Table 4). Despite the limited use of ARTNeT research findings, they found the ARTNeT’s outputs of high standard. However, the research findings were found by them as ‘not relevant’ or ‘unconnected’ to the Government’s priorities. They generally did not get the chance to peruse the outputs, let alone circulate them to various ministries or making use in policy making exercise. During the course of the interviews, they suggested that ARTNeT should mainly aim at making its outputs useful to the policy making process and not influencing the trade policies’ goals. The latter part should be left to the discretion of the Government. To the question, whether ARTNeT activities / outputs were useful to policy

makers in Asia and the Pacific region to enhance their capacity to make better informed decisions on trade issues, 25% of them said: ‘to some extent’ and 75% - ‘don’t know’. A gist of the policy makers’ response is presented below:

Table 4: Government focal points and officials interview questionnaire results

1. How often did you visit the ARTNeT website over the past 12 months?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Twice a year or less	40%	<input type="checkbox"/> Once every 3 months	30%
<input type="checkbox"/> Once a month	30%	<input type="checkbox"/> More than once a month	--
2. How often do you read ARTNeT Newsletters?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Almost never	60%	<input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes	20%
<input type="checkbox"/> Often	19%	<input type="checkbox"/> Always	0.1%
3. How often do you read ARTNeT working papers?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Almost never	50%	<input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes	35%
<input type="checkbox"/> Often	25%	<input type="checkbox"/> Always	--
4. How often do you read ARTNeT policy briefs?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Almost never	60%	<input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes	30%
<input type="checkbox"/> Often	10%	<input type="checkbox"/> Always	---
5. Do you circulate ARTNeT working papers or policy briefs to others?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Almost never	90%	<input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes	10%
<input type="checkbox"/> Often	---	<input type="checkbox"/> Always	---
6. How would you rate the usefulness and overall quality of ARTNeT policy briefs?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Not useful	25%	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat useful	75%
<input type="checkbox"/> Useful	---	<input type="checkbox"/> Very useful	---
7. How would you rate the usefulness and overall quality of the Consultative meetings of policymakers and research institutions attended?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Not useful	----	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat useful	20%
<input type="checkbox"/> Useful	80%	<input type="checkbox"/> Very useful	---
8. Does ARTNeT, through its output and activities, influence trade and investment policy making in your country?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to some extent	10%	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	90%
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to a great extent	----		
9. Has ARTNeT contributed to fostering communications/interactions between the re-search community and the Government in your country and regionally?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to some extent	100%		
10. Has ARTNeT contributed to building trade and investment research capacity in your country and other developing countries in the region?			

Yes, to some extent 30% Yes, to a significant extent 50% Yes, to a great extent 20%

11. Has ARTNeT facilitated access / dissemination of “homegrown” trade and investment analysis and studies to trade officials, policymakers and other stakeholders?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to some extent 80% <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to a significant extent 20% <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to a great extent ----
12. Overall, would you say that ARTNeT activities/outputs are useful to policymakers in the UNESCAP region, particularly those in LDCs to enhance their capacity to make better informed decisions on trade issues?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to some extent 25% <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know 75%

3. Progress toward Objective (iii): “To increase the capacity of research institutions in the region, especially in the least developed countries, to conduct trade and investment related research useful to policy makers”.

ARTNeT earned full appreciations for operating this segment of its Phase II programme. One and all rated the capacity building initiative of ARTNeT as excellent. Holding training programmes, especially on modelling and other latest techniques of conducting research and the workshops on trade related macro issues have found excellent ratings and endorsements for continuance in Phase III. Apart from imparting modern techniques of conducting research, strong suggestions have been made for considering other capacity-building courses (such as on conducting trade negotiations at regional and multilateral levels) or broadening the trade and investment area with some macroeconomic issues (such as exchange rate policies, labor markets, taxation, etc). Figures 9 and 9 (a) indicate full endorsement of the capacity building exercise by the institutional members of the ARTNeT. 80% of them explicitly felt that with the help of ARTNeT inputs, their research staff could significantly build their own research capacity which in turn also contributed to building the trade research capacity of the institutions. None of the respondents gave a negative reply.

Figure 9: Response from Member Research Institutions

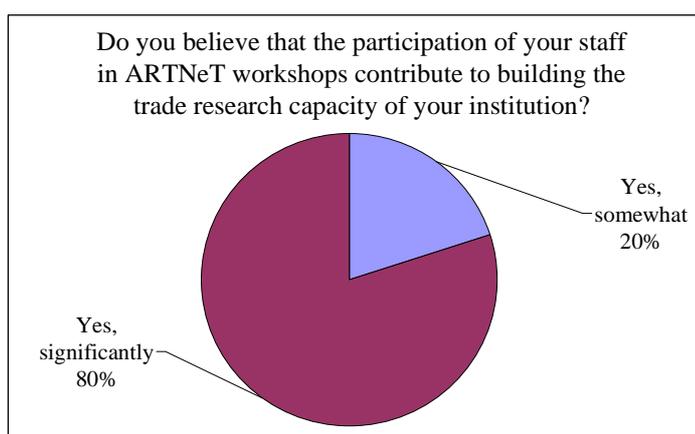
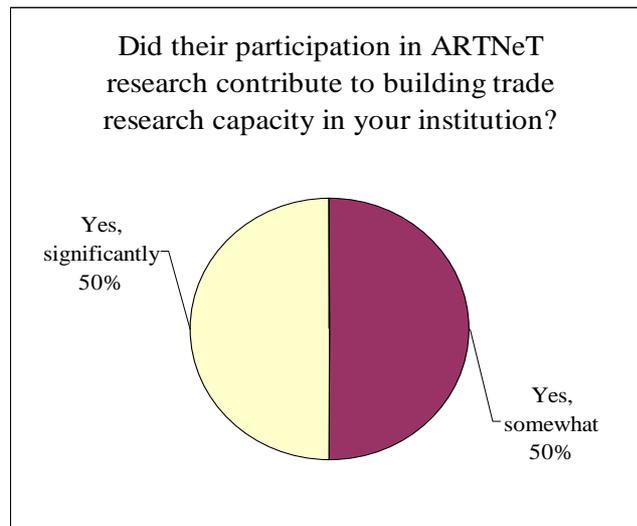


Figure 9 (a)



Participation in ARTNeT programmes did contribute to enhancing the research skills ‘significantly’ to ‘very significantly’ in respect of 76% of the individual researchers. 6% of the respondents however said no and felt that it did not help them at all (Figure 9 b).

Figure9 (b)

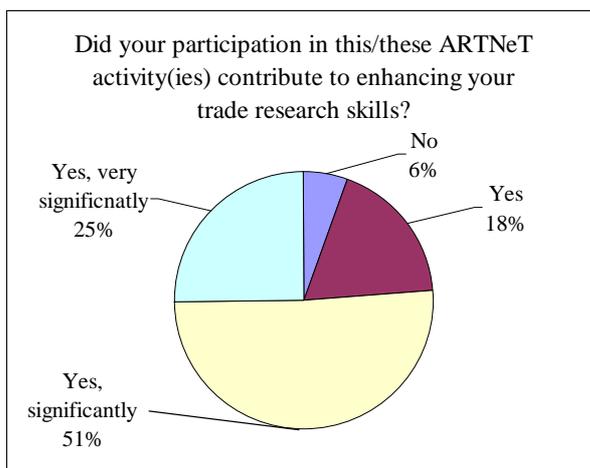
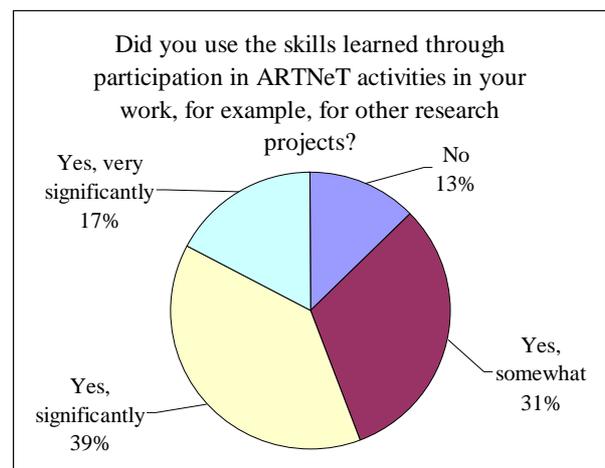


Figure (c)



With regard to using the skills learned through participation in ARTNeT workshops in their own activities, over 50% responded with “yes, very significantly and yes, significantly, and only 13% had a negative response [Figure 9 (c)]. Interview feedback reflected that one problem sometimes faced by researchers was that there were not enough opportunities to use the newly gained skills when back at the desk.

More than half of the respondents expressed satisfaction over their ability to get the research works published either in ARTNeT publications and /or in some other publications [see Figures 9, (9 (d) to 9 (g)] . 42% still were not successful in publishing the research or did not get the chance to publish. Almost one third of the respondents felt that by virtue of their association with ARTNeT activities, they could enhance the credibility of their research with their own Government’s policy makers.

Figure 9 (d)

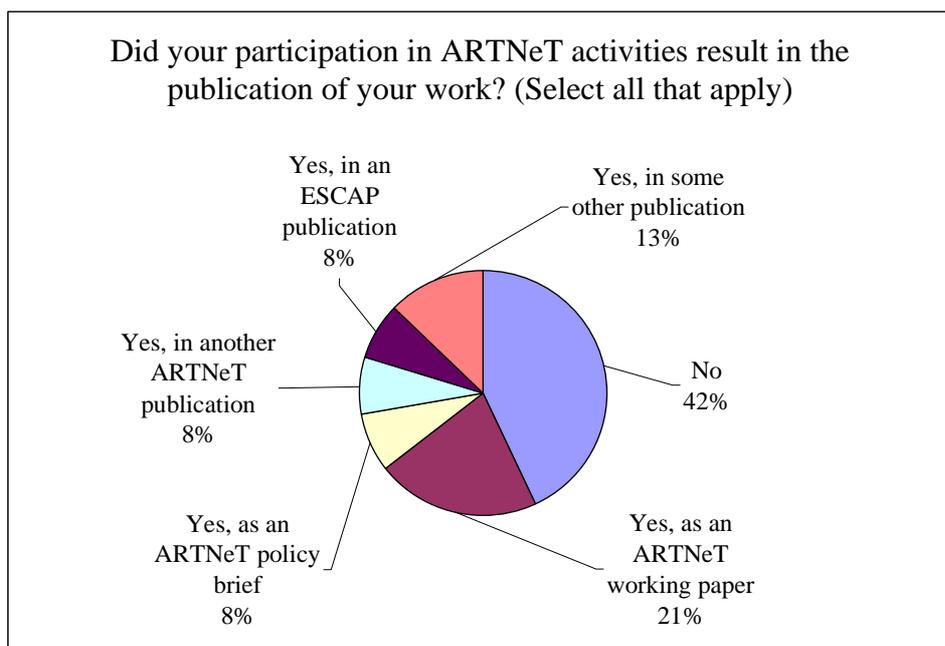
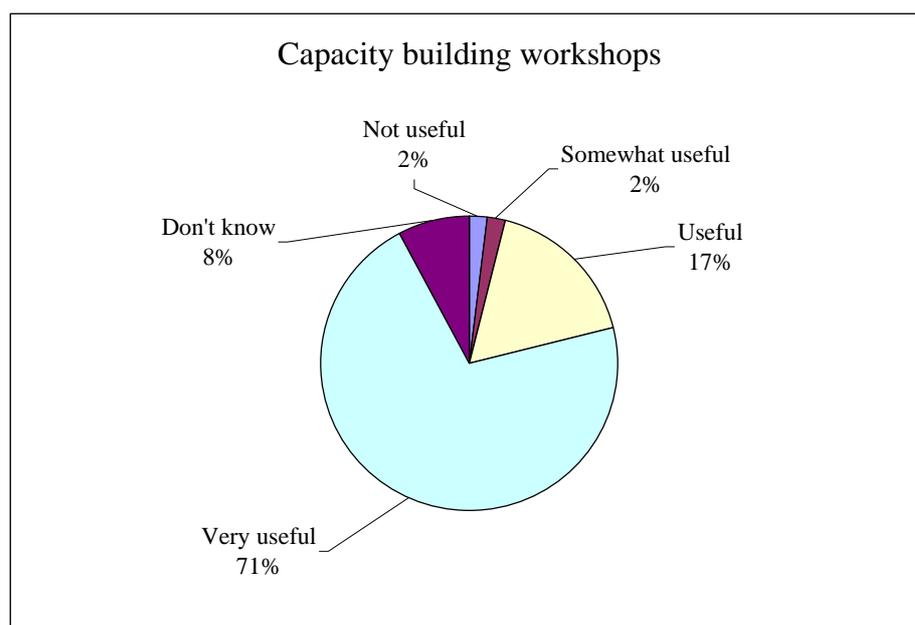


Figure 9 (e)



General feedback confirmed that a majority (over 80%) of the researchers found capacity building programmes useful to very useful (2% rated them as not useful). The benefits they associate with ARTNeT were generally rated as very important to most important. Quite importantly, the series of capacity building programmes seem to have contributed very significantly in raising the technical skills of the researchers.

Figure 9 (f)

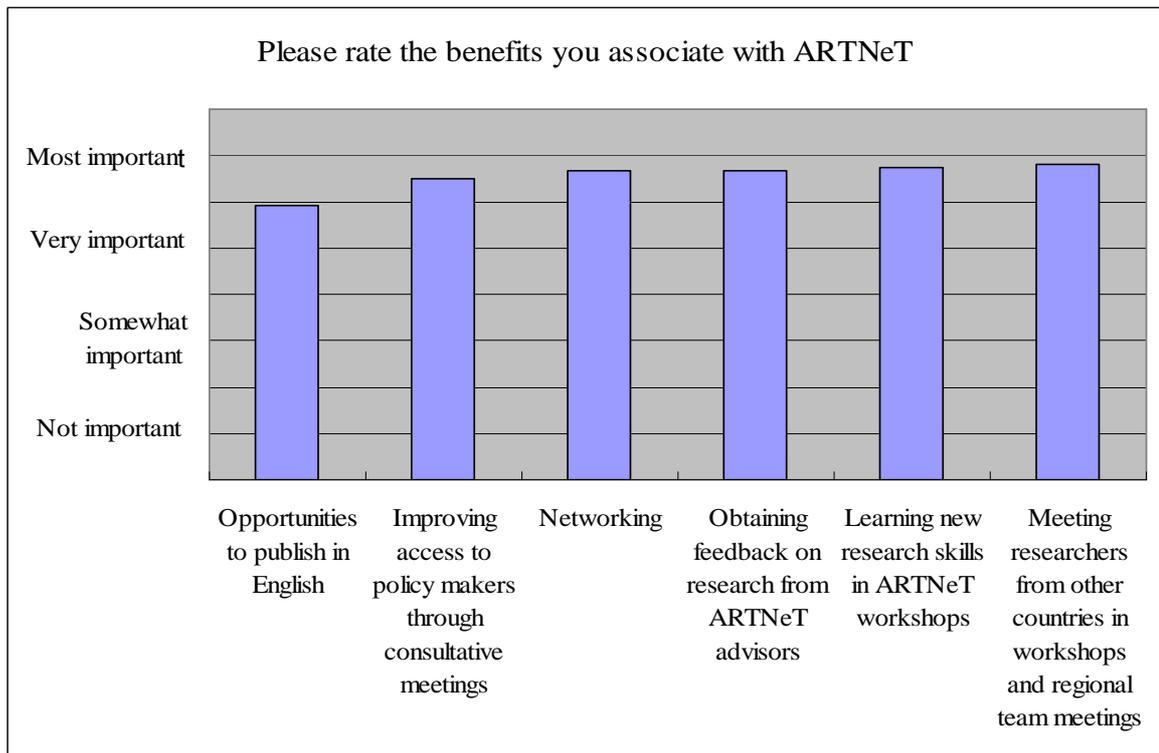
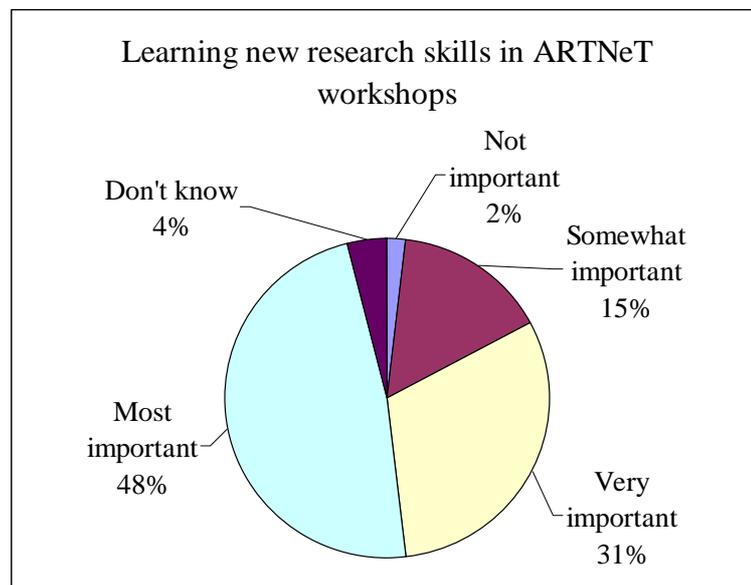


Figure 9 (g)



Respondents were also asked to comment on allocation of resources among the 3 major objectives of ARTNeT. Table 5 presents their suggestions on how much resources should be allocated to each of the strategic objectives. In Phase III, suggestions are to devote about 75% of the available resources for research capacity building and research programme implementation and bring a balance between them as opposed to very low allocation of 18% for research activities in Phase II.

Table 5: Allocation of resources suggested in Phase III

Objects	Current Allocation in Phase II	Your proposed allocation in Phase III
Research capacity building	55%	40%
Research programme implementation	18%	35%
Dissemination /Networking	27%	25%

Note: The allocation in Phase II was calculated on 1 July 2010 by the ARTNeT Secretariat. The final number will be determined at the close of the Phase II and may differ significantly from this interim number.

Overall Evaluation and Major Recommendations

In pursuance of the terms of reference appointed for this review and based on the review of the activities undertaken by the ARTNeT Secretariat in the course of the implementation of Phase II⁴, field visits, survey findings and feedback obtained from the experts including some of the stakeholders, Government focal points and others, an overall evaluation of the ARTNeT programmes has been made. Based on the suggestions received and prompted by the evaluation results, a set of major recommendations is presented hereunder for effecting need-based refinements by ARTNeT in future.

Overall Evaluation

The overall evaluation reveals that ARTNeT has made significant progress in Phase II toward its three objectives, generally fulfilling its obligations envisaged in the initial project document. The network has grown steadily and its work gained international recognition from strength to strength.

Over the period, ARTNeT has evolved as one of the region's leading networks of researchers and analysts. Its acceptance as an active and unique network seems fully justified when viewed from its membership pattern, which is cohesive, professionally credible and supportive.

The Phase II project design was found successful in generating high-standard research / special studies and conducting capacity building programmes. Its policy research studies have been used as inputs for international publications of WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP, and the World Bank, among others. Various activities of ARTNeT earned due appreciations, especially in terms of the capacity-building and dissemination programmes the WTO has been involved in. At the same time, its capacity building / training programmes have gained immense popularity across the region, particularly among young researchers from LDCs.

However, the use of research findings by the policy makers left scope for improvement. Dissemination effectiveness could be further improved to attract more attention of the policy makers. Barring a few member countries (such as India and Thailand), the policy makers in general and especially those from LDCs have found the necessity to make ARTNeT policy suggestions and publications more relevant and its supply-line smoother. Qualitatively, an overall evaluation of the working of ARTNeT during Phase II and its achievements can be made as follows:

⁴ So-called progress reports submitted to the programme management Division of ESCAP and yearly reports submitted to the donor. Source: Capacity Building for Academia in Trade for Development: A study on contribution to the development of human resources and to policy support for developing countries, United Nations, 2010.

Overall Evaluation of the ARTNeT Working and Achievements in Phase II

Objectives and Goals	Overall Evaluation of ARTNeT's working and achievements
<p>Objective A: New high quality and relevant studies on trade and investment issues are produced on the basis of a demand-driven research programme</p>	<p>Quality: of very high quality and standard.</p> <p>Relevance: (i) relevant for the institutions and individual researchers; (ii) somewhat relevant to the policymakers</p> <p>Demand-driven: Research programme for the phase and for annual implementation is vetted by Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee, making sure that the programme in principle reflects the demand of policymakers. Therefore, based on responses, about half of the cumulated research output is categorised as demand-driven. Still a number of respondents belonging to policymaking community perceive research output as rather supply-driven. This disconnect is attributable in part to the difficulty to obtain regular and thoughtful inputs from Government focal points.</p>
<p>Objective B: Communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers improved.</p>	<p>Communication and dissemination: very regular viewed from the supply side (ARTNeT, research institutions and researchers);</p> <p>Communication to policymakers improved: while improved, it is still an area deserving more attention in the next phase.</p>
<p>Objective C: increase the capacity of research institutions in the region, especially in the least developed countries, to conduct trade and investment related research useful to policymakers.</p>	<p>Capacity building: Excellent achievement</p> <p>Useful to policymakers: skills somewhat useful indirectly.</p>

<p>Medium-term objectives (linked to outcome): To enable research institutions in the region to produce relevant quality trade and investment related research and to disseminate resulting policy recommendations to policy makers and other stakeholders in the region</p>	<p>Produce quality research: Objective fully achieved</p> <p>Dissemination: Objective achieved (would need refinements to make the channel of communication more effective in Phase III)</p>
<p>General objectives (linked to goal):</p> <p>To better inform policymakers on trade and investment issues to enable them to design more coherent trade and investment related policies for development based on quality and relevant policy research and analysis generated domestically and regionally.</p>	<p>General Objective: Well begun and significant progress made, as planned, in Phase II.</p> <p>Overall Evaluation: very useful and excellent</p> <p>(However, more efforts need to be put into making ARTNeT outputs more useful and relevant to and better inform the policymakers for designing flexible trade and investment policies Accomplishment of the three objectives requires a long time which implies that the full results are yet to be observed.)</p>

Notwithstanding some of the above mentioned areas for improvement, the overall evaluation of Phase-II, based on various parameters and especially the views expressed by the ARTNeT Core Partners, clearly indicates that, ARTNeT has achieved the objectives it set out for itself.

This evaluation suggests that one continuous challenge faced by ARTNeT is to ensure that its programme is “demand-driven”. The structure of the network, involving officials and other interested players in the policy arena, as well as regular consultations of policymakers by the network, was intended to drive some interest in subjects which would be policy relevant. The success of this strategy is to some extent hampered by the fact that some of the government focal points have their own Government’s mandates, as well as by the fact that there is marked lack of continuity among staff on many Government teams. This has, perhaps, lessened the extent to which research has been able to drive the policy debates, as much as it would have in other fora, such as the WTO Trade forums.

As a result, the use of research findings by the policy makers left scope for improvement. The structure of the present dissemination channels could be improved to make it more effective in attracting the attention of the policy makers. Barring a few member countries (such as India and Thailand), the policy makers in general and especially those from LDCs indicated that ARTNeT policy suggestions and publications could be made more relevant and its delivery from focal points to other potential users smoother. In addition, dissemination could be broadened to a wider range of stakeholders by involving policymakers beyond the trade and commerce areas.

The success of Phase II can be attributed to the strong commitment of ESCAP Secretariat (and its membership) to the ARTNeT initiatives, the enthusiastic and self-less contribution of selected ARTNeT members, advisors and individual researchers; and above all the team making up the ARTNeT Secretariat. The ARTNeT Secretariat supported by the IDRC, was able to attract a number of strategic core partners (WTO, UNDP and UNCTAD) shortly after it was launched. ARTNeT Secretariat has been quite effective in its initiatives and in making positive dent at the operational level. Despite its small compliment of staff, it has been able to develop an infrastructure around ARTNeT, in the form of a database and research outputs. Continuous commitment from the various ARTNeT actors will remain crucial in Phase III. The ARTNeT Secretariat has provided the glue to hold the programme together and to evolve it over time. Without the efficiency and dedication of the Secretariat, the programme would not be where it is today.

Major Recommendations

Based on the review of ARTNeT operation in Phase II and the progress made towards reaching its objectives, a set of major recommendations is proposed to improve the usefulness of ARTNeT initiatives in the future. The recommendations are presented below (the numbering is not intended to indicate any order of preference):

(I) At the strategic and structural levels, it is recommended to:

1. Re-visit the three objectives originally envisaged for Phase I and also carried through Phase II in order to make Phase III ARTNeT programmes even more proactive, more effective, relevant and of wider use of the end-users, especially the policy makers. Given the medium and long-term goals of ARTNeT and on the basis of the overall evaluation, the original three objectives may be redesigned and adopted for Phase III as:
 - a) Responding to the needs to improve evidence- and knowledge-based policymaking, generate multi-year (long-term) and short-term high-standard research/studies on the impacts of greater and deeper integration into the world economy. These may include direct linkages to the real economies (production and productivity, employment, trade and investment flows and cycles) and indirect linkages to climate change, low-carbon growth, inequality, inclusiveness and social security.
 - b) Continue systematic building of institutional capacity to undertake and accomplish high-quality research and analytical work in the region by offering an interconnected set of short and medium length courses; and
 - c) Strengthen both direct and indirect two-way communication channels to improve effectiveness of dissemination and promote use of research / special study findings by the member governments, research institutions and others in the public and private sectors.
 - d) Serve as the trade, trade facilitation and investment related data and tools bank in the public domain.
2. Continue with the adopted research portfolio of ARTNeT segmented into the interconnected types (going from the very short-term to long-term and based on purpose of analyses and research) but allow for some ad-hoc specific and directly funded analytical studies as described in category (c) below:
 - a) Post-workshop grants to be conducted by junior researchers to enhance the uptake of research skills and tools gained in the training
 - b) Short-term studies to be conducted by individual researchers and preferably inter-country teams closely linked to pre-announced research programme of ARTNeT

- c) Short-term studies tailored to specific national or regional requests and financed by the beneficiary of the study (provided that the topic of the study is in line with broad research directive of ARTNeT Phase III)⁵
 - d) Long-term multi-year regional and subregional research/ studies reflecting the themes decided by ARTNeT on the basis of the established consultative process (perhaps it would be advisable to extend the phase from three to five years).
3. Improve the policy-application aspect of ARTNeT research by inviting annually one or two short-term research topics officially from the nodal Ministry of each member country according to their priorities and commission at least one research project through the lead research institution of that country, jointly identified by the Government and ARTNeT. A Government's contribution may come through their manpower (researchers) and information/data. The lead research institution may mount a joint team with the involvement of the government to accomplish the task.
 4. Enlarge the ARTNeT network of stakeholders other than research/academic institutions and policy makers by including civil society and the private sector. Involve media in ARTNeT activities, particularly in dissemination activities. The introduction of fee-based research made by the Government and the private sector in addition to the international institutions might help in generating higher uptake of research findings by decision makers.
 5. Promote a core group of strategic partners for effective dissemination of ARTNeT outputs. In each of the member countries, Government focal points at a fairly high level should be named by designation (such as Director General, Trade or WTO Cell, commerce ministry) rather than by name of the Government official, as presently followed. This will ensure continuity of the focal point in the Government with ARTNeT programmes, even when the incumbent gets transferred. Similarly, in each member country one member research institution (with wider reach and enjoying high credibility in the Government and private sector) should be designated as the nodal institution for two-way information disseminating channel for ARTNeT sponsored research findings and other activities. This arrangement will bring all the information into sharper focus and ensure easier accessibility. The other member research institutions may, however, be free to either directly disseminate or route through the nodal institution.
 6. Continue to give high priority to member research institutions and individual researchers in the LDCs or low-income developing economies, particularly if the financial resources of the network remain limited. This would address the felt need of the hour to build an expert base of trade and investment research institutions in LDCs. Member institutions with higher trade research capacity in more advanced countries, may lend their expertise to the LDCs, duly networked through the ARTNeT. This will

⁵ An example of this type is current funding by the World Bank related to study of the implementation of regional free trade agreements implemented by research staff of four member institutions and coordinated by ARTNeT Secretariat.

help mainstreaming the hitherto neglected LDCs and bridge the growing gap of skills presently encountered by them.

7. Expand linkages with universities, regional institutions and relevant initiatives, following the model of ARTNeT collaboration with UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo in Phase I. In that respect, the Asian Development Bank and the ADB Institute are natural ARTNeT partners as has already been demonstrated by some collaboration in Phase II. ARTNeT may take the lead to establish closer links with ADB and other international institutions pursuing the similar goals and programmes.
8. Award ARTNeT fellowships (say two per year) attractive enough to senior researchers from member research institutions that are consistently contributing quality research outputs to ARTNeT, to work on long-term regional research projects leading to a publication by ARTNeT or any other international journal of high repute.
9. Secure additional funds from existing donors / core partners and take steps during Phase III to involve one more major multi-year donor(s) for increasing long-term sustainability of the network as well as to address members and researchers concerned about the size/amount of research grants. Efforts may be made to set up a suitable corpus funded by the donors for funding ARTNeT activities on a sustained basis. The fund should be so deployed that its yields enough to fund the activities of ARTNeT on a sustained basis.
10. Establish ARTNeT Chapters in a few willing countries (Lao PDR and Sri Lanka have expressed interest) to ensure a wider reach of ARTNeT activities. Towards this pilot project, concerned government's support must be ensured besides active participation of the private sector (chambers of industries, industry associations, etc). Take advantage of the Government's offer to conduct research jointly as they are willing to attach their experts with the research institutions' teams. (Sri Lanka DG- Commerce Ministry gave this offer to attach his experts with such Teams).
11. Expand joint collaborations between ARTNeT and member organizations on cross-cutting issues. The RIS/ARTNeT gravity modelling initiative is such an example. This type of collaboration should be encouraged among ARTNeT members.⁶
12. Identify the potential of ARTNeT to work as an interface between research scholars and policy makers on global and regional economic issues. ARTNeT's recent workshop in New Delhi with the Government of India in collaboration with think tanks and universities is a case in point. This model can be successfully replicated in other countries in the region, and at the same time the ARTNeT – Government of India joint workshop could be a regular event.

⁶ Another two examples of somewhat smaller scale collaboration include the joint organization of trainings with the National University of Laos (June 2010) and the University of Bogor (August 2010). All other attempts by the ARTNeT Secretariat to deliver jointly organized activities such as conferences and trainings failed due to high venue and meeting costs.

13. Invite industry associations and private sector to actively take part in the ARTNeT activities. Joint programmes/projects with industry associations need to be considered.
14. Collaborate more with regional organisations such as the SAARC and the ASEAN.
15. Prioritize local research initiatives able to increase the stock of both academic and applied (policy-relevant) knowledge about trade and development issues relevant to the region.
16. Seek to achieve the objective of enabling policy makers and other relevant stakeholders, in particular the industry, to more effectively formulate trade-related policies by sharing with them high quality research output. This would require concerted action by the members of the Network to focus, in ARTNeT's next phase, on: (i) stronger dissemination of the research output; and (ii) appropriate capacity building; and (iii) building close partnership with decision makers and private sector.
17. Slowly building in more of the co-sharing of financial contributions.

(II) In terms of producing relevant and high quality research / studies, it will be important to:

1. Strive to build research capacity in the region, particularly in LDCs, as many of the member countries in the region have yet to evolve strong bases of trade-related research programmes. More emphasis may be given to regional (or sub-regional) team-based research studies, research grants to young researchers from LDCs, the organization of technical training workshops for trade research, and visiting fellowships to non-LDC institutions for high-end research / special studies and their dissemination.
2. Ensure that the research portfolio generally remains demand-driven. This will make ARTNeT sponsored research more “relevant” to the end-users.
3. Continue to develop and update the ARTNeT research programme based on ARTNeT Trade Research Priority Surveys of Government, research institutions and partners as well as on priorities identified through Consultative meetings.
4. Develop a system whereby Governments, private sector and international agencies could propose fee-based research assignments according to their needs and priorities. Country specific nodal member research institution identified by ARTNeT may play a catalytic role and also network with other sister research institutions (and/or sub-contract) to undertake and accomplish such research assignments. This will open a new revenue stream for the fund-starved members and add long-term sustainability to the ARTNeT programme.
5. Build on Phase II experiences, lessons learnt, feed-back and outputs, and retain trade policy formulation and implementation, trade facilitation, investments and climate change trade-related issues as focus areas in Phase III.

6. Sharpen focus and regional scope of research efforts as supply-driven initiative. Identify a few thematic areas of mutual concern in which multi-year regional studies may be conducted by the senior researchers and or professionally strong research institutions.
7. Limit the eligibility requirements for short-term studies to researchers with demonstrated capacity of delivery or/and to countries where trade research funding and capacity is particularly limited; and consider the establishment of a separate mechanism for seed funding of post-workshop grants dedicated for junior researchers. The present post-workshop grant of \$2,500 per study may be raised as necessary to a realistic level of \$ 5,000 to meet the high cost of travel and field work, etc.
8. ARTNeT may increase and also regularize the number of visiting fellowships to its member institutions. RIS hosted one ARTNeT fellow in 2009-2010. Similar effort may be extended to other ARTNeT member institutions.

(III) In terms of improving communication and dissemination of research to policy makers:

1. Disseminate ARTNeT publications with improved contents. Generally the government policy makers are not in the know of ARTNeT publications. A well articulated dissemination strategy is needed in order to gain visibility in policy making circles and amongst other relevant stakeholders.
2. Provide to the policy makers brief non-technical summaries of research papers. This would enhance technically sound and peer-reviewed ARTNeT working papers for the policy makers and disseminate the message quickly to the policy making community.
3. Increase efforts to systematically transform ARTNeT research outputs, not only into inputs for policy makers (e.g., policy briefs), but also into inputs for technical assistance and training programmes targeting government officials and policy makers.
4. Escalate the level of consultative meetings as high profile thematic expert meetings and dissemination events, with effective participation of ARTNeT member Governments, research institutions, stakeholders, researchers as well as other relevant experts (from other international organizations, civil society and private sector), including the media.
5. Increase national level dissemination of results through the nodal research institution in each country and in coordination with the Government focal point. ARTNeT Secretariat could supply limited financial support, on request, for national-level dissemination meetings of the ARTNeT outputs.
6. Introduce regular brainstorming sessions to take stock of recent developments, examine emerging policy issues and come up with a set of updated policy recommendations for policy makers and leaders in the Asia-Pacific region from time to time.

7. Introduce partner institutions' periodical feedback system on ARTNeT communication and dissemination activities. This evaluation will certainly strengthen and enhance the utility of the ARTNeT activities.

(IV) In terms of improving capacity of LDC research institutions to conduct trade-related research, ARTNeT may:

1. Build on the excellent success achieved by the ARTNeT in Phase II in designing and conducting capacity building workshops. Invite promising participants to later workshops as resource persons; and organize follow-up workshops as an incentive for participants to apply techniques learned and to present their results.
2. Revisit and strengthen the ARTNeT visiting fellowship scheme to make them attractive for the senior researchers.
3. Build the capacity of government officials and policy makers through especially tailored short-courses on trade policy research project design and management or through inviting them to attend relevant sessions of the trade research capacity building workshops for researchers. This would contribute to increasing interactions between policy makers and researchers.
4. Deal with policy relevant issues in the capacity building programmes in addition to the research techniques. These capacity building programmes have been very effective in strengthening the human resource base of the partner institutions and should be further harnessed.
5. Capacity building / training programmes should also cover critical areas such as environment and climate change, trade and globalisation of markets, WTO policy regime and its implications, global financial architecture of trade finance, etc. Irrespective of the area, the largest demand is for the "hands-on" and practical training on research and analytical tools.
6. Encourage researchers to identify research topic within the themes in the research programme phase as well as give them opportunities to shape their research activities aligned to their own interests. Focus on imparting training in econometric techniques and other quantitative modelling and providing them with relevant policy analysis and background. This will help strengthen local research capacity on trade policy.
7. Promote three-component capacity building: Firstly, the workshop series to enhance the technical skills (use of CGE models, econometrics etc.) of local researchers. Secondly, provide ready-made quality controlled regional databases for use in research. Thirdly, provide the financial support and mentorship to policy-oriented research to allow the researchers to "learn by doing".
8. Build on the strengths of the network compared with other modalities for enhancing trade knowledge and policy development. This will allow a more cost-effective way of

enhancing trade knowledge. The other strength of this network approach will be the introduction of a regional – emerging Asia-Pacific – view in understanding trade and investment developments.

Annex I: List of Documents and Resources Made Available to the Evaluator

A. Non-exhaustive list of background documents for review

1. ARTNeT Project Document/ Grant document
2. Interim Reports to IDRC (annual) and internal progress reports (bi-annual)
3. Internal review of ARTNeT presented to ESCAP Committee on Managing Globalization (CMG)
4. Review undertaken by an external evaluator for Phase I
5. Relevant ESCAP legislative documents related to ARTNeT
6. For all ARTNeT meetings:
 - a. Programmes
 - b. List of participants;
 - c. Summary of meeting (when available);
 - d. Summary of end-of-workshop evaluations by participants (and associated informal written feedback);
 - e. Other meeting documents released on www.artnetontrade.org
7. ARTNeT research programmes
8. Call for proposals and summary of evaluation of research proposals received
9. List of research team members
10. List of ARTNeT members and partners; membership/partnership guidelines
11. List of Government and other focal points
12. ARTNeT publications, including working papers, newsletters and policy briefs; other unpublished drafts
13. Access to statistics on ARTNeT website
14. Contact information for ARTNeT key institutional donors (WTO, UNCTAD and UNDP).
15. Other documents on request

B. Other resources

1. The Consultant and his Associate was provided an office during his/her visit to ESCAP, including secretarial assistance from the ARTNeT Secretariat
2. A member of the ARTNeT secretariat assisted the Consultant in arranging his field visits and, to the extent possible, accompanied him during the visits to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
3. The Secretariat also provided need-based support in collection and tabulation of data / responses and furnishing information for finalization of the Report.

ARTNeT Activities in Phase II (Latest)⁷

(November 2007 – June 2010)

ARTNeT Policy Briefs (PB):

- PB 14: Post-Multifibre Arrangement Adjustments and China: After all, the Emperor is wearing no new clothes? January 2008
- PB: 15: Trade and Investment Linkages and Policy Coordination: Lessons from Case Studies in Asian Developing Countries, June 2008
- PB 16: Inclusive Growth and Trade Facilitation: Insights from South Asia, Jan. 2009.
- PB 17: Promoting South-South Trade: Recent Developments and Options, Feb. 2009.
- PB 18: Why Do Least Developed Countries in Asia Not Benefit from Transfers of Technology, April 2009
- PB 19: Enhancing Export Diversification through Trade Facilitation, May 2009.
- PB 20: Does decentralization foster a good trade and investment climate? Early lessons from Indonesian decentralization, July 2009
- PB 21: Policy responses to the rice crisis: past practices and recommendations for South Asia, July 2009
- PB 22: New technologies, domestic regulation and telecommunications liberalization, Oct. 2009.
- PB 23: External Financing in South Asia: The Remittances Option

⁷ All ARTNeT publications are available at <http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/publication.asp>.

- PB 24: Towards a Meaningful Trade Policy Agenda for the G-20 in 2010, February 2010
- PB 25: The Global Crisis and Protectionism in the Services Sector: Implications of Current Findings, March 2010

ARTNeT Working Papers (AWP):

- AWP 48: Has Liberalization Strengthened the Link between Services and Manufacturing?, November 2007
- AWP 49: Investment Regulation through Trade Agreements: Lessons from Asia, December 2007
- AWP 50: Trade Facilitation beyond the Doha Round of Negotiations, December 2007
- AWP 51: Impacts of ASEAN Trade Liberalization on ASEAN-6 Economies and Income Distribution in Indonesia, January 2008
- AWP 52: Trade and investment linkages and coordination in Nepal: Impact on productivity and exports and business perceptions, February 2008
- AWP 53: Financial services integration in East Asia: Lessons from the European Union, March 2008
- AWP 54: Performance of export-oriented small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises in Viet Nam, April 2008
- AWP 55: Trade and Investment Linkages and Policy Coordination: Lessons from Case Studies in Asian Developing Countries, May 2008
- AWP 56: Transit and Trade Barriers in Eastern South Asia: A review of the Transit Regime and Performance of Strategic Border Crossings, June 2008
- AWP 57: Policy Coherence and Coordination for Trade Facilitation: Integrated Border Management, Single-Windows and other Options for Developing Countries, August 2008
- AWP 58: Integration of Landlocked Countries into the Global Economy and Domestic Economic Reforms: The case of Lao People's Democratic Republic 2008
- AWP 59: Regional Integration and Inclusive Development: Lessons from ASEAN Experience, December 2008
- AWP 60: The Expansion of Textile and Clothing Firms of China to Asian Least Developed Countries: The Case of Cambodia, December 2008
- AWP 61: SME Adjustments to IT in Trade Facilitation: The South Korean Experience, Jan. 2009.

- AWP 62: Duty-Free Market Access in the Republic of Korea: Potential for Least Developed Countries and Bangladesh, March 2009.
- AWP 63: On the Effectiveness of Carbon-Motivated Border Tax Adjustments, March 2009.
- AWP 64: Global Economic and Financial Crisis: India's Trade Potential and Future Prospects, May 2009.
- AWP 65: The Impact of IT in Trade Facilitation on SMEs in Sri Lanka, May 2009
- AWP 66: Impact of IT related Trade Facilitation Measures on SMEs: An Overview of Indian Experience, May 2009.
- AWP 67: Behind the border trade facilitation in Asia-Pacific: Cost of Trade, Credit information, Contract Enforcement and Regulatory Coherence, May 2009
- AWP 68: Trade and social development, the case of Asia, ARTNeT Working Paper Series, No. 68, June 2009
- AWP 69: Impact of trade facilitation measures on regional trade agreements on food and agricultural trade in South Asia, June 2009
- AWP 70: Competitiveness of Nepalese ready-made garments after expiry of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, June 2009
- AWP 71: Trade facilitation and expanding the benefits of trade : evidence from firm level data, June 2009
- AWP 72: Towards a better understanding of the political economy of regional Integration in the GMS: stakeholder coordination and consultation for subregional trade facilitation in Thailand, June 2009
- AWP 73: Prospects of economic cooperation in the Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar region: a quantitative assessment, July 2009
- AWP 74: The impact of information technology in trade facilitation on small and medium enterprises in the Philippines, July 2009
- AWP 75: Towards a better understanding of the political economy of regional integration in the GMS: Stakeholder coordination and consultation for subregional trade facilitation in Cambodia, Sept. 2009
- AWP 76: Impact of information technology in trade facilitation on small and medium-sized enterprises in Bangladesh, Sept. 2009
- AWP 77: Towards a better understanding of the political economy of regional integration in the GMS: Stakeholder coordination and consultation for subregional trade facilitation in China, Sept. 2009.

- AWP 78: The Development Impact of Information Technology in Trade Facilitation, January 2010
- AWP 79: Adequacy and Effectiveness of Logistic Services in Nepal: Implication for Export Performance by Pushpa Raj Rajkarnikar, April 2010
- AWP 80: Behind-the-Border Determinants of Bilateral Trade Flows in East Asia, by May 2010

ARTNeT Alerts on Emerging Policy Challenges:

- Alert 1: Trade as an Engine of Stable Growth in an Integrated Asia, April 2008
- Alert 2: Preferential Trade Agreements: An Insurance Against Protectionism? Feb. 2009.
- Alert 3: Trade Finance in Times of Crisis and Beyond, April 2009.
- Alert 4: Climate Change and Trade Policy: A preliminary discussion, Dec. 2009.
- Alert 5: India's FDI Flows: Trying to Make Sense of the Numbers, Jan. 2010

ARTNeT Newsletters

- Newsletter September – December 2007
- Newsletter January – June 2008
- Newsletter July – December 2008
- Newsletter January – May 2009
- Newsletter June – September 2009
- Newsletter October – January 2010
- Newsletter January – June 2010

ARTNeT Phase II Capacity Building Workshops⁸

(November 2007 – June 2010)

Capacity Building Activities

- WTO/ESCAP Fourth ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop on Trade Research, 2-6 June 2008, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research: “Behind the Border” Gravity Modelling, 15-19 December 2008, Bangkok, Thailand
- National Workshop on WTO Matters for Scholars from Thailand, 18-20 February 2009, Bangkok, Thailand.
- WTO/ESCAP Fifth ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop on Trade Research, 22-26 June 2009, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Annual Short Course in Global Trade Analysis "Introduction to Applied General Equilibrium Analysis in a Multi-Region Framework", 8-14 August 2009.
- ARTNeT GMS Capacity Building Workshop on Primary Data Collection and Competitiveness Analysis, 4 September 2009, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- ARTNeT GMS Capacity Building Workshop on Primary Data Collection and Competitiveness Analysis, 11 September 2009, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- ARTNeT GMS Capacity Building Workshop on Primary Data Collection and Competitiveness Analysis, 18 September 2009, Hanoi, Viet Nam.
- ARTNeT GMS Capacity Building Workshop on Competitiveness Analysis, 3-5 June 2009, Hanoi, Viet Nam.
- ARTNeT Follow-up Workshop on Gravity Modelling of Trade Facilitation and “Behind the Border” Measures Affecting Trade, 21-25 Sept. 2009, New Delhi, India in collaboration with Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi.
- WTO/ESCAP Sixth ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research, 21-25 June 2010, Vientiane, Lao P.D.R.

⁸ All workshop materials can be viewed at http://www.unescap.org/tid/prev_mtg.asp

ARTNeT Phase II Consultative Meetings⁹

(November 2007 – June 2010)

ARTNeT Consultative Meetings

- ARTNeT-PEP Policy Forum on Trade and Investment and Domestic Policy Coherence for Inclusive Growth, 9 December 2008, Manila, Philippines.
- Emerging trade issues for policymakers in developing countries of Asia and the Pacific: New era of trade governance, 4-6 March 2009, Manila, Philippines.
- ARTNeT/ESCAP/World Bank Research Group/ China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Regional Policy Forum on Trade Facilitation and SMEs in Times of Crisis, 22-26 May 2009.
- ARTNeT GMS Consultative Meeting on Bridging the Development Gaps in the GMS, 1-2 June 2009, Hanoi, Viet Nam.
- ARTNeT 5th Anniversary Conference on Trade-led Growth in Times of Crisis, 2-3 November 2009, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum, 24-26 November 2009, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Workshop on Rising Non-tariff Protectionism and Crisis Recovery held in Macao, China on 14-15 December 2009.
- Workshop on Trade, Investment and Regional Integration: Lessons for Policymakers, 11-12 March 2010, New Delhi, India
- 13th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis: "Trade for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth and Development," 9-11 June 2010, Penang, Malaysia

⁹ All available meeting materials can be viewed at http://www.unescap.org/tid/prev_mtg.asp

Annex II: Member Institution Survey

Trade Research Capacity Building

1. Which ARTNeT training did staff from your institution participate in? (select all that apply)

1. WTO/ESCAP ARTNeT capacity building workshop for trade research in 2007
2. WTO/ESCAP ARTNeT capacity building workshop for trade research in 2008
3. WTO/ESCAP ARTNeT capacity building workshop for trade research in 2009
4. WTO/ESCAP ARTNeT capacity building workshop for trade research in 2010
5. ARTNeT gravity modelling workshop 2008
6. ARTNeT follow-up gravity modelling workshop 2009
7. GMS workshop on primary data collection and competitiveness analysis 2009
8. Staff from my institution did not participate in any ARTNeT training
9. Other _____

2. Do you believe that the participation of your staff in ARTNeT workshops contributed to building the trade research capacity of your institution?

1. No
2. Yes, somewhat
3. Yes, significantly
4. Yes, very significantly

3. Please elaborate:

Trade Research Studies

4. Did staff from your institution participate in the ARTNeT research programme implementation (resulting in an ARTNeT working paper, policy brief or other publication)?

1. No
2. Yes, once
3. Yes, several times
4. Yes, many times

5. Did their participation in ARTNeT research contribute to building trade research capacity in your institution?

1. No
2. Yes, somewhat
3. Yes, significantly
4. Yes, very significantly

6. Please elaborate:

7. How would you describe the technical support provided by the ARTNeT Secretariat and ARTNeT Advisors during the implementation of the research project/study?

1. Not useful
2. Somewhat useful
3. Useful
4. Very useful
5. Not applicable

8. Please provide your opinion on ARTNeT calls for proposals.

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
Calls for proposals provide enough time to submit proposals.				
Research study timeframes are long enough.				
Proposed research topics are interesting/relevant.				
Proposed research topics are broad enough to give flexibility to the researcher.				
Research grants are adequate to conduct the research.				

Trade Research Dissemination and Networking

9. Has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT contributed to or increased the dissemination of your research to policymakers and other research institutions?

1. No
2. Yes, somewhat
3. Yes, significantly
4. Yes, very significantly

10. Has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT facilitated networking and exchange of information with the following stakeholders?

	No	Yes, somewhat	Yes, significantly	Yes, very significantly	Dont know
With policymakers at the national and/or regional level?					
With researchers/ research institutions inside your sub-region (e.g., Southeast Asia, South Asia)?					
With researchers/ research institutions outside your sub-region (e.g., Southeast Asia, South Asia)					

11. Please rate the usefulness of the following dissemination activities/tools.

	Not useful	Somewhat useful	Useful	Very useful
Electronic/online Publications (working papers and policy briefs, alerts on emerging policy changes, newsletters)				
Paper Publications (policy briefs; selected regional and short-term studies)				
ARTNeT Trade Publications Database				
ARTNeT Consultative Meetings of Policymakers and Researchers				
Ad-Hoc Presentation of ARTNeT studies at relevant regional and global fora				

12. Please list any suggestions of dissemination activities or tools which could be included in ARTNeT Phase III.

Conclusion

13. Overall, has ARTNeT contributed to increasing the quantity, quality, relevance and dissemination of your institutions trade-related research?

1. No
2. Yes, somewhat
3. Yes, significantly
4. Yes, very significantly

14. What are the strength of ARTNeT relative to other research networks? (Please select up to 3)

1. Capacity building workshops
2. Research program
3. Dissemination activities
4. Availability of research grants
5. Availability of sponsorships to attend workshops
6. Technical support (through Secretariat and Advisors)
7. Link with governments
8. Other _____

15. My interactions with the ARTNeT Secretariat team (in person, in writing or over the telephone) have been: (please consider helpfulness, quality of information provided, responsiveness)

1. Not good
2. Good
3. Excellent

16. Please provide recommendations on how ARTNeT can improve in Phase III.

17. Please provide any other comments and suggestions for ARTNeT. Please click continue below to record your answers and exit the survey. Thank you!

Annex III: Government Focal Point Survey

1. Did you participate in any ARTNeT Consultative Meeting? Please select all that apply.

1. Policy Forum on Trade and Domestic Policy Coherence for Inclusive Growth, December 2008, Manila
2. Emerging trade issues for policymakers of Asia and the Pacific, March 2009, Manila
3. Regional Policy Forum on Trade Facilitation and SMEs in Times of Crisis, May 2009, Beijing
4. Bridging the Development Gaps in the GMS, June 2009, Hanoi
5. ARTNeT 5th Anniversary Conference on Trade-led Growth in Times of Crisis, November 2009, Bangkok
6. Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum, November 2009, Bangkok
7. Rising Non-tariff Protectionism and Crisis Recovery, December 2009, Macao
8. Trade, Investment and Regional Integration: Lessons for Policymakers, March 2010, New Delhi
9. I did not participate in any ARTNeT Consultative Meeting

2. Please rate the usefulness and overall quality of the following ARTNeT activities/outputs.

	Not Useful	Somewhat Useful	Very Useful	Dont Know
Policy Briefs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultative Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How often do you read the following ARTNeT resources?

	Never	Sometimes	Often	Always
Policy briefs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Do you circulate ARTNeT working papers or policy briefs to others?

1. Never
2. Sometimes
3. Often
4. Always

5. How often did you visit the ARTNeT website over the past 12 months?

1. Less than twice a year
2. Once every 3 months
3. Once a month
4. More than once a month

7. Do you believe that ARTNeT, through its output and activities, contributes to informing trade policy makers in your country?

1. No
2. Yes, somewhat
3. Yes, significantly
4. Yes, very significantly
5. Don't know

8. Do you believe that ARTNeT has contributed to fostering interactions between the research community and the government in your country and regionally?

1. No
2. Yes, somewhat
3. Yes, significantly
4. Yes, very significantly
5. Don't know

9. Do you believe that ARTNeT has contributed to building trade research capacity in your country and other developing countries in the region?

1. No
2. Yes, to some extent
3. Yes, to a significant extent
4. Yes, to a great extent
5. Don't know

10. How can ARTNeT better address the needs of your country in facilitating access to trade research?

11. Please provide any additional comments and suggestions for ARTNeT. Please click continue to record your answers when finished. Thank you!

Annex IV: Individual Researcher Survey

1. Please indicate your current occupation.

1. Researcher at a university / government institute / independent think tank
2. Government employee
3. International organization employee
4. Other (please specify) _____

2. Which ARTNeT activity/ies did you participate in between 2007 and 2010? (select all that apply)

1. Research: Regional research study
2. Research: Short-term research study
3. Training: WTO/ESCAP ARTNeT capacity building workshop for trade research
4. Training: ARTNeT Gravity modelling
5. Training: Other workshop (e.g. competitiveness analysis)
6. Dissemination: Consultative meeting of policy makers and researchers
7. Dissemination: ARTNeT 5th Anniversary Conference (2009)
8. I did not participate in any ARTNeT activity
9. Other (please specify)

Impact Assessment

3. Did your participation in this/these ARTNeT activity(ies) contribute to enhancing your trade research skills?

1. No
2. Yes, somewhat
3. Yes, significantly
4. Yes, very significantly

4. Did you use the skills learned through participation in ARTNeT activities in your work, for example for other research projects?

1. No
2. Yes, somewhat
3. Yes, significantly
4. Yes, very significantly

5. Please provide examples of situations where you applied skills learned through ARTNeT activities.

6. Did your participation in ARTNeT activities result in the publication of your work? (select all answers that apply)

1. No
2. Yes, as a ARTNeT working paper
3. Yes, as a ARTNeT policy brief
4. Yes, in another ARTNeT publication
5. Yes, in an ESCAP publication
6. Yes, in (please provide the reference) _____

7. Did your association with ARTNeT enhance the credibility of your research with your Government?

1. No
2. Yes, somewhat
3. Yes, significantly
4. Yes, very significantly
5. Don't know

8. Please provide examples to illustrate how ARTNeT activities affected your credibility with your Government.

9. Do you believe that the skills you learned through your participation in ARTNeT activities contributed to strengthening the overall capacity of your institution?

1. No
2. Yes, somewhat
3. Yes, significantly
4. Yes, very significantly
5. Don't know

10. Please provide examples of how skills learned contributed to your institutions overall capacity.

11. Please rate the quality and usefulness of the following ARTNeT activities/publications:

	Not useful	Somewhat useful	Useful	Very useful	Don't know
ARTNeT policy briefs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
ARTNeT working papers	<input type="checkbox"/>				
ARTNeT regional studies	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Regional consultative meetings with policymakers	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Capacity building workshops	<input type="checkbox"/>				

12. Please rate the benefits you associate with the ARTNeT network:

	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important	Most important	Don't know
Learning new research skills in ARTNeT workshops	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Obtaining feedback on research from ARTNeT advisors	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Improving access to policy makers through consultative meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Meeting researchers from other countries in workshops and regional team meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Networking	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Opportunity to publish in English	<input type="checkbox"/>				

13. Please provide suggestions on how ARTNeT can better achieve its objective of institutional capacity building.

14. Please provide suggestions on how ARTNeT can better achieve its objective of delivering demand-driven and high-quality research.

15. Please provide suggestions on how to improve dissemination of research with policymakers and other stakeholders.

ARTNeT Website

16. How often do you visit the ARTNeT website (www.artnetontrade.org)?

1. Weekly or more frequently
2. Several times per month
3. Every couple of months
4. Two to three times per year
5. Never

17. Which online tools/resources do you use regularly? (select all that apply)

1. Upcoming ARTNeT events (homepage)
2. ARTNeT publications (policy briefs, working papers, alerts)
3. Publications search tool
4. Gravity modelling tool
5. Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreements Database (APTIAD)
6. Database of researchers
7. Other _____

18. What other resources would you like to find on the ARTNeT website?

Interactions with the ARTNeT Secretariat

19. My interactions with the ARTNeT Secretariat team (in person, in writing or over the telephone) have been: (please consider helpfulness, quality of information provided, and responsiveness)

1. Not good
2. Good
3. Excellent

20. Please provide recommendations for improving the work of the ARTNeT Secretariat.

Final Comments

21. Please provide any other comments and suggestions for ARTNeT. Please click 'continue' below to record your answers and exit the survey. Thank you!

Annex V: List of Researchers and Focal Points Interviewed

Research institution heads and Researchers

Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

- Ms. Dushni Weerakoon, Deputy Director and Head of Macroeconomic Policy research
- Mr. Deshal de Mel, Research Economist
- Ms. Kanchana Wickramasinghe, Research Officer
- Ms. Suwendrani Jayaratne, Research Assistant
- Ms. Dharshani Premaratne, Research Assistant

University of Peradeniya, Kandy, Sri Lanka

- Dr. Jeevika Weerahewa, Senior Lecturer
- Dr. Sarath S. Kodthuwakku, Senior Lecturer
- + 6 additional researchers at the University of Peradeniya who contributed research to ARTNeT

Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director
- Mr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Fellow
- Mr. Uttam Kumar Deb, Senior Research Fellow
- Dr. A.K.M. Nazrul Islam, Research Fellow
- Dr. Masudur Rahman, Research Fellow
- + 10 additional CPD researchers who participated in ARTNeT trainings and contributed research to the ARTNeT programme.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow
- Mr. Md. Zabid Iqbal, Research Associate
- Dr. Mohammad Yunus, Senior Research Fellow

National University of Laos, Faculty of Economics and Business Management, Vientiane, Lao PDR

- Mr. Khamiusa Nouansavanh, Dean
- Mr. Phouphet Kyophilavong, Associate Professor

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Government of India

- Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Professor, Centre for WTO Studies

Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India

- Mr. Biswajit Dhar, Director General
- Mr. Prabir De, Senior Fellow

International Institute for Trade and Development, Thailand (TDRI)

- Mr. Watcharas Leelawath, Deputy Executive Director, TDRI

Government Officials

Department of Commerce, Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Mr. Gomi Senadhira, Director General of Commerce
- R.D.S. Kumararatne, Deputy Director of Commerce
- Mr. Samantha Wijesekera, Assistant Director of Commerce

Ministry of Commerce, Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Mr. Amitava Chakraborty, Director General (Joint Secretary), WTO Cell
- Mr. Mostafa Abid Khan, Joint Chief, Bangladesh Tariff Commission

Ministry of Commerce and ERIT, Vientiane, Lao PDR

- Mr. Sirisamphanh Vorachith, Deputy Secretary of State
- Mr. Somphoung Phienphinith, Director General, ERIT

Government of India, Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi

- Ms. Shubha Sarma, Deputy Secretary to Govt. of India

Government of Thailand ARTNeT Focal Point

- Mr. Jingjai Hanchanlash, Director, Thai Chamber of Commerce

ARTNeT Partners

World Trade Organisation

- Mr. Patrick Low, Director
- Mr. Robert Teh

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

- Mr. Evan Due, Senior Programme Specialist, IDRC-GGP

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

- Mr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director, Trade and Investment Division
- Ms. Mia Mikic, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade and Investment Division
- Mr. Yann Duval, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade and Investment Division
- Ms. Melanie Ramjoué, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Trade and Investment Division
- Mr. Srinivas Tata, Social Development Division

Annex VI: Evaluation Table

Overview of evaluations of ARTNeT Workshops, 2009-2010																						
No.	Title	Date	Venue	No. of participants	No. of women participants	% of women participants	No. of questionnaires received	result of feedbacks to question No. II-3 (be able to negotiate agreement, formulate/implement policies)						result of feedbacks to question No. III-1 (overall satisfaction)								
								1. agree strongly	2	% of 1+2	3	4	5 disagree strongly	% of 3+4+5	1. very low	2	3	% of 1+2+3	4	5 very high	% of 4+5	
1	National Workshop on WTO Matters for Scholars from Thailand	18-20 Feb 2009	Bangkok, Thailand	16	6	33%	11	6	5	100%					0%			4	36%	3	3	64%
2	Emerging trade issues for policymakers in developing countries of Asia and the Pacific: New era of trade governance	4-6 Mar 2009	Manila, Philippines	46	9	19%	31	10	12	71%	7	1	0	26%							31	100%
3	ARTNeT Consultative Meeting on Bridging the Development Gaps in the GMS	1-2 Jun 2010	Hanoi, Viet Nam	33	11	33%	19	10	5	79%	1			5%		0	0	0%			19	100%
4	ARTNeT GMS Capacity Building Workshop on Competitiveness Analysis	3-5 Jun 2009	Hanoi, Viet Nam	16	5	31%	16	5	8	81%	1	1	0	13%	0	0	0	0%			16	100%
5	ESCAP/WTO ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research	22-26 Jun 2009	Bangkok, Thailand	34	11	32%	25	12	3	60%	4	0	0	16%	0	0	2	8%	10	12	88%	
6	ARTNeT GMS Capacity Building Workshop on Primary Data Collection and Competitiveness Analysis	04-Sep-09	Vientiane, Lao PDR	40	10	25%	11	2	6	73%	2	0	0	18%	0	0	0	0%	11	0	100%	
7	ARTNeT GMS Capacity Building Workshop on Primary Data Collection and Competitiveness Analysis	11-Sep-09	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	15	4	27%	8	5	2	88%	1	0	0	13%	0	0	0	0%	8	0	100%	
8	ARTNeT GMS Capacity Building Workshop on Primary Data Collection and Competitiveness Analysis	18-Sep-09	Hanoi, Viet Nam	20	6	30%	4	2	1	75%	1	0	0	25%	0	0	0	0%	4	0	100%	
9	ARTNeT/RIS Follow-up Workshop on Gravity Modelling of Trade Facilitation and "Behind the Border" Measures Affecting Trade	21-25 Sept 09	New Delhi, India	17	4	24%	15	15	0	100%	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	1	14	100%	
10	ARTNeT 5th Anniversary Conference	2-3 Nov 2009	Bangkok, Thailand	124	33	27%	51	13	23	71%	13	2	0	29%	0	0	7	14%	33	11	86%	
11	Research Workshop on Rising Non-tariff Protectionism and Crisis Recovery	14-15 December 2009	Macao, China	36	13	34%	26	8	11	73%	6	0	1	27%	0	0	4	15%	10	12	85%	
12	Workshop on trade, Investment & Regional Integration: Lessons for Policymakers	11-12 March 2010	New Delhi, India	76	5	7%	25	7	12	76%	6	0	0	24%	0	0	1	4%	16	8	96%	
13	WTO/ESCAP Sixth ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research	21-25 June 2010	Vientiane, Lao PDR	30	8	27%	29	15	13	97%	1	0	0	3%	0	0	0	0%	6	23	100%	
TOTALS*		2009-2010		509	125	25%	271	110	101	78%	43	4	1	18%	0	0	18	7%	102	149	93%	

*Percentages do not always total 100% in cases where respondents did not answer all the questions.