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Virtual Workshop on Trade in Services for Oman

7-10 December 2020

* Language: English
* Format: 4 sessions of 2 h each, on consecutive days reading materials to be distributed beforehand
* Platform: Zoom (facilitated by WTO ITTC)
* Target Audience: 10-15 officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MCIIP) and other government authorities responsible for regulating services in Oman. Participants will encompass both officials with a good level of knowledge of the GATS, as well as some without prior knowledge.
* A questionnaire/self-assessment will be circulated together with the programme to allow prospective participants to indicate their level of prior knowledge, their area of expertise, and their main interests from the session.
* Objectives:
  + Familiarize participants with major trends in services trade, including on relevant regional trade agreements.
  + Enhance understanding of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS);
  + Update participants on the state of play in the negotiations on services domestic regulation, investment Facilitation for Development, and discussions in the CTS Special Session.

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Programme Outline

***Monday, 7 December 2020, 09:00 – 11:00 (Geneva-time)***

Resource persons: *Panagiotis Barkas & Ruosi Zhang*

* Major trends in world services trade
* Overview of the GATS architecture, main purpose and obligations
* Q&A

***Tuesday, 8 December 2020, 09:00 – 11:00 (Geneva-time)***

Resource person: *Ruosi Zhang*

* Main obligations of the GATS – Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment, Market Access, National Treatment
* Scheduling of Commitments
* Scheduling Exercise
* Q&A

***Wednesday, 9 December 2020, 09:00 – 11:00 (Geneva-time)***

Resource persons: *Juan Marchetti & Markus Jelitto*

* State of play of negotiations in the Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation;
* State of play of negotiations in the Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development
* Q&A

***Thursday, 10 December 2020, 09:00 – 11:00 (Geneva-time)***

Resource persons: *Martin Roy*

* Trends in Services Regional Trade Agreements
* Update on Market Access discussions in the Council for Trade in Services (Special Session)
* Q&A

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