

WCP Pillars



Research - Promoting original research on trade and WTO issues and extending specialized knowledge to both governments and the private sector.



Curriculum Development - Supporting the development and delivery of courses on trade policy and WTO-related matters in academic institutions for students, government officials, businesses, trade professionals and other stakeholders.



Outreach - Disseminating research and information on international trade issues to policy makers in capital as well as delegations based in Geneva, businesses, civil society, and the general public.



Rohinton Medhora, Professor of Practice at McGill University, Member of the Academic Advisory Board



“Over a decade and a half, the WCP has become the world’s virtual think tank on trade matters – an impactful global network that produces high quality research, builds capacity and enhances pedagogy on the key issues of our day.”

Joining the WCP

Chairs are selected through a competitive process.

Information regarding future selections will be published on the WTO website and at wtochairs.wto.org.

Deputy Director-General
Xiangchen Zhang



“I am confident that in the coming years the WCP will continue to grow organically. Newcomers benefit from the constant know-how transfer from more experienced Chairs and the WCP Network. The resulting outputs have had an impact not only on the national level, but also at regional and cross-regional levels, delivering research to policymakers on a more frequent, specialized, customized and sustained level.”

Contact details

World Trade Organization

WTO Chairs Programme Unit, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC)

WTO, Rue de Lausanne 154,
CH-1211 Geneva 21,
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 739 68 13

Email: wtochairs.enquiries@wto.org
Website: wtochairs.wto.org



WTO
Chairs Programme

WTO Chairs
Programme

Fostering research, training, and outreach activities of relevance to governmental policy makers and other stakeholders at universities in developing and least developed Members and Observers.

WTO Director-General

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala



“Developing Members and Observers need a better understanding of negotiating priorities that benefit their vital interests. As neutral researchers, WTO Chairs can provide such facts, figures, and policy advice. This fosters economically and legally sound policy choices on the ground in beneficiaries. It also builds capacity for their active and successful participation in WTO work including negotiations.”

- Aims at enhancing knowledge and understanding of the multilateral trading system among academics, policy makers and civil society in developing and least developed Members and Observers by stimulating teaching, research, and public debate on international trade at universities and research institutions.
- Fosters research and capacity building of relevance to government policy makers and other stakeholders and adapted to circumstances on the ground.
- Provides financial and substantive support to Chairs over a four-year programme cycle as part of the WTO’s technical cooperation mandate of enhancing human and institutional capacities of beneficiary Members and Observers to take full advantage of the rules-based multilateral trading system.
- Comprises a total of 39 institutions with a cohort of 20 Chairs participating in the two most recent programme cycles and 19 Chairs funded in previous cycles actively engaged in the network.



WCP Chairs
2022 – 2025 Cycle

- Cameroon, **Alain Didier Olinga**, Université de Yaoundé II
- China, **Xinquan Tu**, University of International Business and Economics
- Colombia, **Rene Urueña**, Universiades de los Andes
- Costa Rica, **Rosmery Hernández**, Universidad Nacional
- Ecuador, **Michel Levi**, Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar
- India, **James Nedumpara**, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
- Lesotho, **Motlamelle Kapa**, National University of Lesotho
- Nepal, **Achyut Wagle**, Kathmandu University School of Management
- Pakistan, **Azam Chaudhry**, Lahore School of Economics
- Peru, **Victor Saco**, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
- Rwanda, **Jonas Barayandema**, University of Rwanda
- Chinese Taipei, **Tsai-yu Lin**, National Taiwan University
- Tanzania, **Caiphas Chekwoti**, Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa
- Uzbekistan, **Umid Yakubkhodjaev**, University of World Economy and Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan
- Vietnam, **Huong Trinh Thi Thu**, Foreign Trade University

2025 – 2028 Cycle

- Dominican Republic, **Dayanna Polanco**, Universidad Iberoamericana
- Nigeria, **Ngozi Eunice Egbuna**, Nnamdi Azikiwe University
- Qatar, **Georgios Dimitropoulos**, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
- Togo, **Akoété Ega Agbodji**, Université de Lomé
- Vanuatu, **Pascal Michon**, National University of Vanuatu

Yoon Seongmee, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva



“As we are witnessing shifting dynamics in the global trading environment, the importance of a cooperative and rules-based multilateral trading system is becoming ever clearer. The WTO Chairs Programme serves as an important platform for advancing trade policy research, strengthening policy capacity, and fostering closer engagement between academia and policy makers. Korea remains committed to supporting the values and vision represented by this Programme and hopes it will continue to grow as a dynamic pillar of the multilateral trading system.”

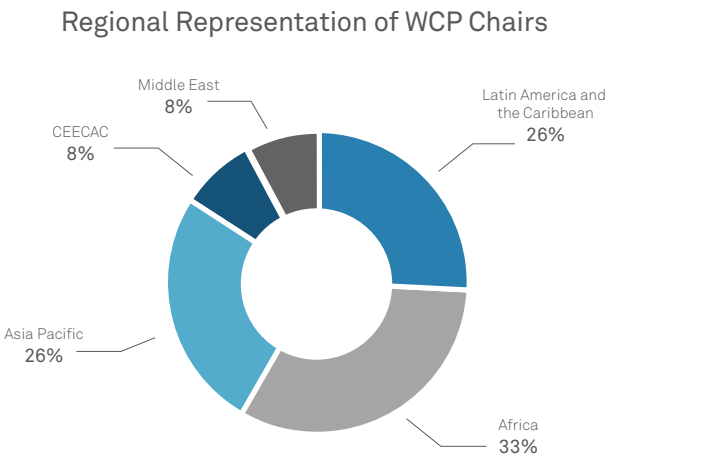
World Trade Organization
Chairs Programme

a total of 39 institutions



WCP Network

The 39 Chairs in the WCP network are spread across different regions of the world.



For further information on all Chairs in the WCP network please scan the following code.

WCP Academic Advisory Board

The WCP Academic Advisory Board is an external body composed of more than a dozen experienced academics and other experts from all geographical regions. The Board provides strategic guidance to the Secretariat. Its involvement and support ensure the academic quality of the programme.

Désirée Van Gorp, Professor, Nyenrode Business University, Member of the Academic Advisory Board



“The WCP is a unique ecosystem of academic partners from developing economies that contributes to shaping global trade policy, empowering local expertise and inclusive dialogue needed for evidence-based trade decisions. We need this more than ever to reflect on diverse regional realities while also enhancing global cooperation. Its achievements affirm the value of academic engagement in shaping fair, inclusive, and importantly forward-looking trade systems.”

Emmanuelle Ivanov-Durand, Permanent Representative of France to the WTO



“The programme is a great tool for universities to help them in their trade policy research. On behalf of France, I would like to reiterate our support for this type of initiative which, beyond research, seeks to build bridges between the academic world and our political decision-makers and seeks to inform their action through analytical work based on rigorous observation, science, and objective analysis.”

Wolfgang Hattmannsdorfer, Austrian Minister for Economy, Energy and Tourism



“Keeping markets open, supporting trade policy measures on all levels and promoting a level playing field in multilateral trade is of utmost importance to Austria’s open and export-oriented economy, especially during these challenging times. The WTO’s Global Trust Fund and the Chairs Programme have an important role to play within this framework.”