



AAPF ACTIVITY COMPLETION BRIEF (8 March 2013)

African Participation in DFAT Trade Policy Courses

October 2011 – October 2012



Background: AusAID, through the AAPF, supported the participation of up to 20 African participants in the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Trade Policy Courses in 2011–2012.

Activity description: The DFAT Trade Policy Courses run bi-annually in Canberra and equip participants with the knowledge, skills and ability to formulate trade policy and to report on other countries' trade policies.

African participants were mid-career officials with strong English skills who are actively involved in the development of trade policy for their respective governments.

Objective: The Course objectives were to:

- familiarise participants with the key issues and challenges on the international trade policy agenda;
- provide a broad understanding of the World Trade Organization;
- inculcate an appreciation of Australia's trade interests and how these are advanced through bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements and forums; and
- enhance the trade negotiation skills of participants through practical interactive exercises.

Activity Number:	93/01
Date approved:	20/09/2011
Date commenced:	24/10/2011
Date completed:	19/10/2012
Implementation partner/s:	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Total cost:	AUD100 509
■ AusAID:	AUD100 509



Results

Activity outcomes: The Completion Report for the October 2011 Course shows that the course was well received overall, with participants indicating that it met their broad objectives and expectations. All participants provided high ratings for the course.

Participation by country and gender:

DFAT Trade Policy Course, 24–26 October 2011 Canberra, Australia			
Country	M	F	Total
Benin	1	0	1
Botswana	0	1	1
Comoros	1	0	1
Lesotho	1	0	1
Liberia	0	1	1
Madagascar	0	1	1
Malawi	1	0	1
Morocco	0	1	1
Niger	1	0	1
Nigeria	1	0	1
Tanzania	1	0	1
Zambia	0	1	1
Zimbabwe	1	0	1
TOTAL	8	5	13

DFAT Trade Policy Course, 15–19 October 2012 Canberra, Australia			
Country	M	F	Total
Burundi	1	0	1
Cameroon	1	0	1
Ethiopia	1	0	1
Liberia	1	0	1
Mozambique	1	0	1
Republic of Congo	1	0	1
Senegal	1	0	1
Zimbabwe	1	0	1
TOTAL	8	0	8

Feedback from participants: Some examples of feedback from international participants included: “very informative and new to me. Learned a lot from this. Thank you DFAT and AusAID”; and “provided an excellent opportunity for interaction with a variety of well-qualified presenters”.

In addition to giving the course high ratings, many participants had constructive comments about how the course could be further enhanced, such as: “The duration of this course may be increased (two weeks) so that the important topics of international trade may be explained to the participants in a more detailed manner.”

In addition to suggesting a longer duration for the course, other suggestions included a more spread-out timetable; a break between speakers to enhance consideration; and a slower pace of the course.