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Policy Options to Promote Agricultural Growth and Reform in an Era of Rising Commodity Prices

**Training Program ~ 8 – 12 September 2008
Melbourne, Australia**

**Mr Peter Gallagher
Project Leader and Academic Co-ordinator**

Participation

The program includes officials from the following economies: Indonesia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as representatives from ASEAN. Participants come from the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Trade, Commerce and/or Economic Planning, as well as from academic institutions.

Capacity Building Objectives

The objective of this program is to enhance the capacity of officials and leading academics in developing Asian economies to develop open market friendly reform options in agricultural trade, including in the WTO Doha Round, in the emerging policy environment of higher agricultural prices.

At the conclusion of the program, officials will better be able to respond to the challenges that shape agricultural policy. They will be able to respond to the impacts of rising prices as well as the challenges in the Doha Development Round (DDR) to liberalise trade in agriculture with measures that improve the contribution of agricultural production to economic growth. The rise in commodity prices is a paradigm shift in the policy environment. It creates a new opportunity to present afresh the benefits and utility of using open market reform tools. The steady global increase in food prices will tempt use of regulatory intervention rather than open market policies. At the same time, all countries are being challenged in the WTO to liberalise trade in agriculture to bring the Doha Round to conclusion. The aim is to have officials responsible for policy reform in agriculture and trade in agricultural products understand the utility of using open market economic principles to develop responses to these challenges.

Faculty

Presenters and panellists are experts in some or all of the components of agricultural reform. The Program Co-ordinator is Mr Peter Gallagher, an expert on trade and public policy, having represented Australia in these fields in Washington, Brussels and Geneva. He was also Chief Executive of the Australian Dairy Industry Council. Currently he runs a successful consultancy, whilst also teaching International Trade at the University of Melbourne.

The other presenters are also experts in the field, with many years of experience both in Australia and abroad. Each presenter will develop papers and presentations to be included in the program. Each will also be actively involved in the discussions.

Organisation of the Training Program

Each day of the program, chaired by the Academic Coordinator, will have a specific theme that will underpin all the sessions of that day. The sessions themselves will be arranged to reflect the theme and to fit in with the overall objective of the program. The program below lists the topics that will be discussed in each session. Discussions, moderated by the Academic Coordinator, will be an opportunity for participants to ask specific questions. In this way, a highly interactive dialogue on policy design, implementation and evaluation will be encouraged. Participants will also showcase the issues that are prevalent in their economies by making presentations throughout the program as directed by the Academic Coordinator. These will culminate with working group presentations on the final day.

COURSE PROGRAM

DAY ONE ~ Monday 8 September 2008

Venue: Mantra on Russell Hotel

Theme of the Day ~ Trends in Global and Regional Commodity Markets

	8:30 – 9:00	Registration and administration of Per Diems – Centre Staff
1.1	9:00 – 10:00	<p>Program overview, objectives and evaluation by Academic Co-ordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions, experience of participants, personal objectives • Course objectives, materials, work and allotment of group assignments • Methods and purpose of evaluation
	<i>Presenter</i>	Mr Peter Gallagher , Academic Coordinator
1.2	10:00 – 11:15	<p>Global economic outlook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of trends in output, trade • Experience of developing economies: growth, direction, composition of trade • Importance of 'south-south' trade • ASEAN region: overview of trends
	<i>Presenter</i>	Mr Peter Gallagher , Academic Coordinator
	11:15 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
1.3	11:30 – 12:30	<p>Agricultural commodity trends in the ASEAN region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of trade and the production of commodities • Historical trends and recent price rises • Terms of trade for commodities: what are they, why they matter • Taxation and support of agriculture: historical trends • Experience of autonomous market liberalisation: historical trends
	<i>Presenter</i>	Dr Ray Trewin , Crawford School of Economics and Governance
	12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH
1.4	14:00 – 15:15	<p>Impact of fuel prices and carbon emission policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil production/demand in South East Asia: trends • Price rises, policy responses: trends, summary • Potential for carbon emission controls: Kyoto provisions, regional policies, policy developments in industrialised countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biofuels • Potential impacts on growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oil ○ Carbon taxes • Appropriate policy responses
	<i>Presenter</i>	Dr Ray Trewin , Crawford School of Economics and Governance
	15:15 – 15:30	COFFEE BREAK
1.5	15:30 – 16:45	<p>Commodity agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical agreements: tin, rubber, cocoa, coffee • Producer agreements and mixed agreements • The UNCTAD program and the common fund • Who gains and who loses from price stabilisation?
	<i>Presenter</i>	Mr Peter Gallagher , Academic Coordinator
	16:50 – 17:05	Group Photo

DAY TWO ~ Tuesday 9 September 2008

Venue: Mantra on Russell Hotel

Theme of the Day ~ Achieving Food Security

	8:30 – 9:00	Registration and administration matters – Centre Staff
2.1	9:00 – 10:00	<p>The economics of food security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What drives supply • Supply and distribution disruption • The role of ‘speculators’ • Stocks and subsidies • When the market fails consumers
	<i>Presenter</i>	Dr Ray Trewin , Crawford School of Economics and Governance
2.2	10:00 – 11:15	<p>Role of food aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency and non-emergency aid • Aid stocks and flows • Monetisation and grant aid • The quantum of food aid • Impact on producers and consumers
	<i>Presenter</i>	Mr David Harris , Agricultural Economics Consultant
	11:15 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
2.3	11:30 – 12:30	<p>Policies to improve supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidising food or subsidising producers • Trade barrier impacts on prices, production, supply, including export taxes • Stock policies (public stocks) • Improving wholesale markets
	<i>Presenter</i>	Dr Ray Trewin , Crawford School of Economics and Governance
	12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH
2.4	14:00 – 15:00	<p>How effective are global markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market prices and allocation • Long-term contracts and food security • Futures markets and food supply
	<i>Presenter</i>	Mr David Harris , Agricultural Economics Consultant
	15:00 – 15:15	COFFEE BREAK
2.5	15:15 – 16:30	<p>Roundtable discussion about experiences with food security / commodity security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Featuring select presentations by officials on supply issues in their economies
	<i>Panel</i>	Mr Peter Gallagher, Dr Ray Trewin, Mr David Harris
	19:00 – 21:30	Group Dinner

DAY THREE ~ Wednesday 10 September 2008

Venue: Mantra on Russell Hotel

Theme of the Day ~ *Multilateral and Regional Trade Agreements*

	8:30 – 9:00	Registration and administration matters – Centre Staff
3.1	9:00 – 10:00	Trade protection and support in agricultural markets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global evidence • Estimated impacts • Overview of trade models • Significance for commodity markets in developing countries • Discussion of trends in ASEAN region
	<i>Presenter</i>	Prof Kym Anderson , School of Economics, Centre for International Economics
3.2	10:00 – 11:15	State of WTO agriculture agreements/negotiations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market access including special products, sensitive products, tariff escalation, commodity provisions • Domestic supports, safeguards, export subsidies, food aid and anti-circumvention measures
	<i>Presenters</i>	Mr Andrew Stoler , Institute for International Trade Prof Kym Anderson , School of Economics, Centre for International Economics
	11:15 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
3.3	11:30 – 12:30	Regional trade agreements and agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN • ASEAN agreements with China and Japan • FTAs with USA, Australia, NZ • Agreements with EU • Value of commodity trade preferences
	<i>Presenter</i>	Mr Andrew Stoler , Institute for International Trade
	12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH
3.4	14:00 – 15:00	Prospects for multilateral agreements and regional alternatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse objectives and weak consensus • The S&D objectives and ‘South-South’ liberalisation <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Roundtable discussion with presentations by select participants</i></p>
	<i>Panel</i>	Mr Peter Gallagher, Prof Kym Anderson, Mr Andrew Stoler
	15:00 – 15:15	COFFEE BREAK
3.4 cont	15:15 – 16:30	Continuation of previous session

DAY FOUR ~ Thursday 11 September 2008

Venue: Mantra on Russell Hotel

Theme of the Day ~ *Impact of Rising Commodity Prices*

	8:30 – 9:00	Registration and administration matters – Centre Staff
4.1	9:00 – 10:30	Presentation followed by roundtable discussion with contribution from nominated participants Case study: Grains/Rice <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion of policy objectives and evaluation of trends in the ASEAN region
	<i>Presenter</i>	Dr Ray Trewin , Crawford School of Economics and Governance
	<i>Panellist</i>	Mr Peter Gallagher , Academic Coordinator
	10:30 – 10:45	COFFEE BREAK
4.2	10:45 – 12:15	Presentation followed by roundtable discussion with contribution from nominated participants Case study: Sugar <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion of policy objectives and evaluation of trends in the ASEAN region
	<i>Presenter</i>	Mr David Harris , Agricultural Economics Consultant
	<i>Panellist</i>	Mr Peter Gallagher , Academic Coordinator
	12:15 – 14:00	LUNCH
4.3	14:00 – 15:00	<i>Visit to Australian Dairy Corporation</i> Presentation by General Manger Marketing and Strategy, followed by roundtable discussion
	15:00 – 15:30	BREAK
4.4	15:30 – 16:30	<i>Visit to Productivity Commission</i> Presentation by senior analyst, followed by roundtable discussion

DAY FIVE ~ Friday 12 September 2008

Venue: Mantra on Russell Hotel

Theme of the Day ~ *Putting Learning into Practice*

	8:30 – 9:00	Registration and administration matters – Centre Staff
5.1	9:00 – 11:00	Managing commodity markets for security and growth <i>Participants are allocated to working groups to analyse hypothetical case studies. Each group reports on its findings. The reports are then evaluated.</i>
	<i>Panel</i>	Mr Peter Gallagher , Academic Coordinator Dr Ray Trewin , Crawford School of Economics and Governance
	11:00 – 11:15	COFFEE BREAK
5.1 cont	11:15 – 13:00	Continuation of previous session
	13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
5.2	14:00 – 15:00	Review of key messages <i>Roundtable discussion about the issues discussed in the program</i>
	<i>Facilitator</i>	Mr Peter Gallagher , Academic Coordinator
	15:00 – 15:30	BREAK
5.3	15:30 – 16:00	Monitoring and Evaluation of the program, including a final wrap up <i>Questionnaire administered by the APEC Centre</i>
	<i>Facilitator</i>	Mr Peter Gallagher , Academic Coordinator
	16:00 – 17:15	Graduation and cocktails – certificates presented by Alan Oxley , Chairman, Australian APEC Study Centre