

## Trade Project Database Technical Notes

**General Description:** The database was built using two main approaches: (i) Trade-related keywords (for example, export, imports, trade, WTO, customs, and the like) were searched for in project document descriptions on ImageBank. This approach was necessary as the Business Warehouse descriptions associated with trade were not always accurate. The initial search was refined by a manual examination of project objectives. (ii) For projects approved after fiscal year 2002 when the Business Warehouse introduced a more refined and accurate definition of trade projects, the Business Warehouse categories of export development and competitiveness, regional integration, trade facilitation and market access, and other trade and integration were used to identify trade-related projects.

**Time Period:** The database contains information for the period covering fiscal 1981–2004. The Trade Assistance Evaluation, however, focuses on the fiscal 1987–2004 period.

**Classification:** Trade-related projects are classified under the following categories:

(a) *Trade Liberalization:* Includes projects with policy changes related to the exchange rate, tariffs, import surcharges, non-tariff barriers, export barriers, trade-related subsidies, foreign exchange markets, liberalization of an export-related economic sector, and privatization or de-monopolization of trade activities. Most of these policies imply liberalization of trade activities, but in some cases they include heterodox policies (frequently regarding trade-related subsidies).

Trade policy studies are also included in this category.

- (b) *Trade Facilitation, Institutional:* Includes Bank operations aimed at developing trade-related institutions such as customs, trade promotion institutions, trade financing institutions, drawback systems, institutions in charge of setting trade policies, technical assistance to exporters, antidumping and standards systems, institutions dealing with regional and multilateral agreements, and trade-related environmental regulators (including those for forestry exports).
- (c) *Trade Facilitation, Infrastructure:* This category includes projects supporting the development of trade-related facilities, such as export processing or free trade zones, storage facilities for trade products, sector-specific infrastructure for exports/imports, or railways and roads that are explicitly intended to facilitate external trade according to the project objectives and description in ImageBank. Operations supporting port development that are explicitly tied to trade logistics objectives are included.
- (d) *Trade Financing, Public:* This includes Bank financing of state exporters and public imports. Imports under structural adjustment projects are intentionally excluded, but public imports for economic recovery or rehabilitation projects are only partially included. In particular, rehabilitation projects included are those that also contain additional trade-related actions beyond mere critical imports.
- (e) *Trade Financing, Private:* Includes IBRD/IDA finance for private exporters and of imports for the private sector. This category excludes those operations that provide general financing to the private sector,

without earmarking funds for exporters. Neither does it include those projects that finance imports through the foreign exchange market.

- (f) *Technical Assistance for WTO Accession and/or Negotiations*: This category includes projects that support countries in their negotiations and accession to the World Trade Organization.

- (g) *Mitigation Policies*: This includes operations with trade-related components that are complemented with some measures and policies to alleviate its potential negative effects over some sector of the population.

Data collection was updated in April 2005 and revised summary tables were prepared in May 2005.