EU sponsored concerted action

We completed an EU-sponsored action aimed at integration of scale economies and market structure into climate change modeling. The project is coordinated through the ZEW at Mannheim, and involves integration of GTAP data and GAMS-based modeling tools.
http://www.zew.de/en/forschung/projekte.php3?action=detail&nr=185&abt=umw

Outputs include:

- GAMS-based utilities for reading any GTAPAGG files directly for use in GAMS-based modeling (a modification to Rutherfords original tools)
- Extension of the basic GAMS-based code for GTAP-E to include imperfect competition.
- A book that will go to the publisher this Summer (we hope).

European Trade Study Group

The fourth annual ETSG meeting was held in Kiel in September 2002. There were several GTAP-based applications.. ETSG 2003 will be held in Madrid in September. www.etsg.org

Capacity Building

WITS

Work on WITS continues. Beta distribution has begun. WITS combines COMTRADE, TRAINS, WTO integrated database, and WTO consolidated tariff schedule data. The World Bank will have more to say about this.

TRAINING #1

We sent two people, Carmen Fillat and Felix Eschenbach, to the GTAP course in Purdue in 2001, and two more participants, Hugo Rojas Romagosa and Lucio Vinhas de Souza, to the course in the Uk. We will have one or two more candidates for Summer 2004.

TRAINING # 2

We have continued to offer occasional training through the Tinbergen Institute, World Bank Institute, University of Adelaide, Sciences-Po in Paris in applied partial and general equilibrium modeling, including GTAP-based applications.

Software

GEMPACK on the Mac

The new mac operating system is based on BSD unix, and GEMPACk runs on the mac. We have been working on and off with Ken Pearson to assess performance. Assuming Ken ok's this, a distribution would be possible for assessment/testing.

GAMS-based utilities

As an offshoot of the concerted action on climate change, some additional utilities have been developed from running GAMS-based GTAP applications from any standard set of GTAP data files. This precludes the need to run GAMS-based aggregation with the full dataset. These will be posted shortly http://www.intereconomics.com/francois

Policy Research

The Doha Round

Together with the LEI, we completed a study for the Dutch government in which we model the Doha Round and its likely impact on the EU economies. This has been distributed at the OECD and WTO. Extensions are planned to inform the ongoing policy debate on EU agriculture.

EU regional agreements

A study was completed for DFID on EU regional preference schemes, built on GTAP-based assessments of likely effects. This is being converted in a monograph and articles.

Sustainability Impact Assessments

We are working with the academic assessment teams doing SIAs on EU trade agreements. This included Chile, and a study of MERCOSUR is ongoing. This has involved GTAP-based analysis being fed into other sustainability assessments. CGE-based Labor market adjustment indexes have also been developed, in a paper to be published through CEPII.

Steel

The debate over steel protection continues. Joseph Francois and Laura Baughman used a version of the GTAP model to identify the costs of proposed U.S. steel import restraints. The current state of play can be viewed on the CITAC web page http://www.citac.info/

European Centre for International Development

Plans are that this will be launched at Erasmus in the coming year, and will be focused on policy analysis and basic research.

Basic Research

Database development

Some progress has been made on development of a set of macro and industry level time series data at the GTAP sector and region level. This is related to the time series issues covered below.

Methods

Research continues on the application of time series methods within the GTAP framework. Ken Pearson has been helping with GEMPACK implementation issues, and method papers on network estimation within GTAP should be made available this Summer.