GTAP Advisory Board Meeting Summary
June 25-26, 2012
International Trade Centre
Geneva, Switzerland

Attendance
Staff members: Meghan Alexander, Ginger Batta, Thomas Hertel, Badri Narayanan, Terrie Walmsley

Consortium members and visitors: as listed in the Board Report and Issues Document
https://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/events/Board_Meetings/2012/documents/2012_IssuesReport.pdf,
with the following last minute changes:
    Paolo Giordano, IDB, attended; Marijke Kuiper attended in place of Hans van Meijl, LEI

A. Summary of Goals and Accomplishments in the Past Year
    Board Report and Issues document:
    https://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/events/Board_Meetings/2012/default.asp

B. Summary of Agency Activities in the Past Year
    Agency Reports: https://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/events/Board_Meetings/2012/default.asp

C. Overview of Priorities and Core Goals for Next Year and Beyond
    Goals 2008-2012
    1. *Data Goal***:** To Improve the quality of data products through:
        – Improving the quality of contributed I-O data
        – Addition and improvement of other datasets
        – Monitoring of data quality using comparison programs
        – Version control and documentation
    2. *Research Goal***:** To actively participate in quantitative economic analysis of pressing global concern in the areas of:
        – Trade and Development and
        – Global Environmental Issues
    3. *Model Goal***:** To promote further development of GTAP-based models
    4. *Education Goal***:** To expand and improve global economic analysis education worldwide
    5. *Staffing Goal***:** To actively seek and encourage talented staff and graduate students
    6. *Collaboration Goal*: To actively seek opportunities for fostering collaboration with institutions around the world

D. Overview of Priorities and Responsibilities
1. *Data Goal*: To Improve the quality of data products

Tasks	Individuals
Improving the quality of contributed I-O data (core)	
Primary Priority	
Updating old I-O tables (EU and Asia)	Aguiar
Collaborate to improve African I-O data (UNECA Stats Offices)	Aguiar and Walmsley
Further examination on whether the treatment of the dwellings sector can be improved	Aguiar and McDougall
Updates to the Agricultural and non-agricultural disaggregation modules	Narayanan and Peterson
Addition/Improvement of Other Datasets in GTAP Data Base (core)	
Primary Priority	
Labor Splits	Narayanan, Golub, Walmsley
Continue to improve Energy Module	McDougall and Grad
International Transport Margins	Villoria, Hummels
FIT Module changes (taxes & domestic support)	McDougall, Narayanan
Domestic support, PSE database for Africa – MAFAP	Narayanan
Secondary Priority	
Agricultural Production Targeting in construction	Narayanan, Aguiar
Tertiary Priority	
Domestic margins	Aguiar, McDougall
Land rents	Hertel
Addition/Improvement of Protection Data (core)	
Primary Priority	
Fixes to Tariff data (zeros in EU)	Narayanan

Work with ITC-Geneva to make the MAcMaps data and online tools available to board members and then to the network	Narayanan, Mimouni
Update TASTE to v8	Narayanan, Horridge, Laborde, Pelikan
Finalize report and distribute	Narayanan, Bouët

Monitoring Data Quality using Comparison Programs (core)
Primary Priority

| Papers documenting construction and impacts of processing (e.g., comparing changes in I-O tables during the construction process) | Narayanan, Aguiar |

Version Control and Documentation
Primary Priority

| Finalize Documentation | Narayanan, Aguiar, McDougall |
| Release GTAP 8.1 Data Base and Africa Data Base | Narayanan, Aguiar |

Satellite Data
Primary Priority

Make GTAPAgg more flexible and provide GTAP-E GTAPAgg for (CO_2 emissions)	Narayanan, Horridge
Land use data and GTAPAgg/FlexAgg program	Baldos, Hertel Villoria
Non-CO_2 emissions	Ahmed and Steve Rose

Secondary Priority

| Support IRIO work | Wang |
| MyGTAP: use, document, include more government information | Walmsley, Minor |

2. *Research Goal***:** To actively participate in quantitative economic analysis of pressing global concern

Tasks	Individuals
Trade and Development	
Primary Priority	
Continue to publish papers on trade, poverty, migration/labor	GTAP Staff, Grads
Global Energy and Environmental issues	
Primary Priority	
Continue to publish papers on energy and environmental issues	GTAP Staff, Grads

3. *Model Goal***:** To promote further development of GTAP-based models

Tasks	Individuals
Primary Priority	
Finalize technical paper on GDyn-E Model	Golub, McDougall
Finalize technical paper on tariff aggregation tools	Martin
Finalize paper on macro transmissions mechanisms	Villoria, Walmsley, Hertel and McDougall
Finalize poverty technical paper appendix; obtain country contributions	Hertel
Secondary Priority	
Technical paper on a Firm Heterogeneity Model	Villoria and Walmsley

4. *Education Goal***:** To expand and improve global economic analysis education worldwide

Tasks	Individuals
Education	
Primary Priority	
GTAP Short Course (Arlington, VA)	Villoria
Dynamic GTAP Short Course (Denmark)	Walmsley

	Walmsley, Villoria Burfisher
Prepare Education plan	Walmsley, Villoria Burfisher

Secondary Priority

Live Forums on topics of interest to the Network	Narayanan

5. *Staffing Goal***:** To actively seek and encourage talented staff and graduate students

Tasks	*Individuals*
Recruitment	
Primary Priority	
Create recruitment plan to attract graduate students	Villoria
Hire Research Account Coordinator	Walmsley

6. *Collaboration Goal***:** To actively seek opportunities for fostering collaboration with institutions around the world

Tasks	*Individuals*
Primary Priority	
Collaboration with EU consortium led by Joe Francois	GTAP Staff
Continue to collaborate on GEOSHARE and potential for providing inputs into satellite data	Hertel, Villoria
Continue to collaborate on Energy and Environmental data and research	Hertel, Golub, Steinbuks

E. Summary of Discussions

Protection Presentations and Additional Meeting

During the 2012 Board Meeting, Badri Narayanan raised a number of questions about the protection data: future mode of contribution (ITC/CEPII collaboration) and response to queries, comparability of 2004 and 2007 data/methodology and availability of data to construct TASTE dataset. This was followed by Antoine Bouet who reviewed the v.8 protection data. In his presentation, Antoine pointed out some differences in the ad valorem equivalent of TRQs (TRQ-AVE), particularly in agricultural sectors. He indicated that this may be due to possible changes in TRQ-AVE-computation methodologies and/or due to the fact that 2007 is an atypical year of exorbitantly high agricultural prices.

In response Mondher Mimouni and Sebastian Jean confirmed that the ITC would contribute the dataset directly to the GTAP Center for version 9 and will respond to the queries through their contact staff. Mondher also applauded the active collaboration offered by CEPII and hoped to continue the same in the future, in terms of review/comparison of the dataset. It was also reiterated that the MAcMAP 2004 dataset would not be revised since the methodology and source data have not changed. Sebastian Jean also confirmed that the TRQ-AVE-computation methodologies have remained the same and the differences were probably due to the rise in prices affecting the TRQ-AVE computation.

Janine Pelikan has kindly agreed to assist Mark Horridge and David Laborde on TASTE for GTAP 8 Data Base, if that would assist.

After the board meeting several people attended a demonstration of the MAcMAP and TASTE toolkits. Web-based access to the tariff line data underpinning the v.8 data base will be available to consortium members this summer, and will also be made available to GTAP network members in due course. This will make it possible for individuals to explore the tariff line data underpinning particular bilateral tariffs in the GTAP v.8 data base.

Mondher Mimouni also took this opportunity to introduce the members of his team who will be responsible for providing the GTAP protection data: Xavier Pichot and Ursula Hermelink to GTAP staff (Tom Hertel, Terrie Walmsley and Badri Narayanan). Xavier Pichot works on developing the MacMAP dataset, while Ursula Hermelink is the person who collects the raw data from various country-specific sources. Mondher, Xavier and Ursula will respond to GTAP-related queries in the future. All queries will be addressed to Xavier and Urusula, with CC to Mondher and Houssein Guimbard. Mondher also promised to provide the password to Badri Narayanan, so that he might also answer user questions. There was some discussion about the timeliness and stability of the protection data for future releases.

IRIO Presentation and Meeting

Zhi Wang presented his work on the development of a GTAP IRIO. There was also a meeting on Wednesday from 1:00pm to 2:30pm at the WTO. These notes reflect discussions on both these occasions.

The board responded very positively to the IRIO work being undertaken at the USITC. The Productivity Commission, OECD, EC and IADB were also interested in obtaining this type of data. It was suggested that more data and methodological comparisons of the various datasets were needed and that these should be presented these at next year's conference.

The meeting on Wednesday started with some clarification by Ashley Winston and Terrie Walmsley on what Zhi Wang had done. The data matches GTAP's data for VIMS and VPM, VGM, VFM, but not VIFM, VIPM and VIGM (the latter being the imports by agent). The break out was done to all values (world, market and agent prices) and also on exports. The plan is for this to become a GTAP technical paper, accompanied by an IRIO data base for release to the board.

It became apparent during discussions at the WTO that the OECD is intending to develop a model built on the WIOD database for use at the OECD. The difficulties are that the trade data are not balanced and so a great deal of work is required before they can use this data. There is a general feeling that the WIOD database may become "official data" which means that there will be a push within institutions to use this data, instead of GTAP.. This begged the question: What would needs to be done in order to obtain a similar 'official data base' status for the GTAP data base? Susan Stone is working with her counterparts at the OECD to arrange a meeting between OECD and GTAP staff to discuss the future use of GTAP data in the OECD. A key contact at the OECD is Nadam Ahmad. There was some discussion about whether it is possible to make GTAP official data.

Non-CO2 Emissions

Steve Rose presented the progress made on the Non-CO2 emissions data. Work is progressing along two lines, first, data are being pulled from the relevant data from the Common Reporting Format inventories that Annex I countries submitted to the UNFCCC; and second, data are being taken from the EDGAR data base, since non-Annex I countries do not submit CRF inventories, to run build the update for non-Annex I countries. This will supplement more detailed, activity-based information aimed at fleshing out the EDGAR control totals.

Energy Subsidies

An energy working group was formed in order to examine how energy subsides, produced by the OECD might be included in the GTAP Data Base. The committee included Robert McDougall, Ron Steenblik, Jean Sébastien, Sergey Paltsev, Richard Garbaccio, Patrick Jomini, and Liwayway Adkins.

Domestic Support

There was some discussion about obtaining domestic support data for the countries outside of the OECD. Susan Stone offered to assist and has since put us in touch with Joanna Komorowska. Others interested in these data formed a working group: Sebastian Jean, Susan Stone, Dominique van der Mensburghe, Zhi Wang, Kym Anderson, Paolo Giordano, Martina Brockmeijer, Hans Jensen Grinsted, Badri Narayanana, Hans van Meijl.

NTMs

There was a short discussion at the board meeting and at the conference on the various projects at the ITC-Geneva, WTO, OECD and at the World Bank on Non-Tariff Measures. It would be greatly appreciated if links or references to this work could be forwarded to Ginger Batta so that we might highlight them on the website.

Electricity Sector Disaggregation

There was some discussion about the disaggregation of the electricity sector. Parties interested in this include Steve Rose, Sergey Palsev, Dominque van der Mensbrugghe and David Newth from CSIRO. This group are looking to share resources, as they are all faced with the same challenge of breaking out generation capacity within the GTAP data base. Robert McDougall has made the point that such disaggregation may be of limited value for GTAP until a better job is done with transmission and distribution of electrical power.

Africa Project

Terrie Walmsley presented recent work with Peter Minor on the African IO tables and the MyGTAP program funded through a BNPP grant with Will Martin. The MyGTAP program can be used to model multiple households and disaggregate endowments. Board members interested in testing these programs should contact Terrie Walmsley.

F. The Network

1. 2012 Conference Update
Roberta Piermartini welcomed everyone to Geneva, Switzerland. She reviewed the conference timeline of activities.

2. 2013 Conference Proposal
Xingguo Ye and Dongfeng Xu represented the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade delivering the 16th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis on June 12-14, 2013, and Advisory Board Meeting June 10-11, 2013 in Shanghai, China. The conference's overall theme is "New Challenges for Global Trade in a Rapidly Changing World" and will be organized jointly by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Shanghai WTO Affairs Consultation Center.

3. 2014 Conference Proposal
Antoine Bouët represented IFPRI and AGRODEP in presenting the proposal to host the 17th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis in Dakar, Senegal. The Advisory Board Meeting will be June 16-17, 2014, with the conference following June 18-20, 2014. The overall conference theme is "Environment, Poverty and Development." Discussion followed about themes and facilities. The Board approved this conference proposal.

4. Research Fellow Report and Committee Nominations
The Board approved the committee's recommendation for 2012-2015 GTAP Research Fellows as follows:

Arjan Lejour - In recognition of his various contributions to GTAP, including contribution of bilateral services trade data in versions 7 and 8, contributions of baseline data, including the Kets and Lejour estimates of productivities and his population and labour force projections and his work on the Worldscan model, FDI and examining the impact of EU policy.

Scott McDonald - For all his work put into developing the conversion SAM format of the GTAP Data Base, representing GTAP well in the GAMS community, serving as an instructor at the GTAP Short Courses, involvement in processing the 27 EU IO tables.

Mondher Mimouni - For his contributions of the MacMAP tariff data jointly with CEPII.

Peter Minor - For outstanding contributions to GTAP through time to trade estimates with David Hummels to the GTAP 7 supplementary data, serving as an instructor at the GTAP Short Courses, assisting in holding smaller courses for special groups to help expand/keep network members engaged, being essential in bringing Nathan Associates onto the GTAP Consortium, and his work on the Africa project in the development of a program for splitting households, endowments and adding inter and intra regional transfers; as well as updating IO tables.

There was discussion about whether or not the provision of IO tables to the GTAP Data Base was sufficient for Research Fellow nomination. It was generally felt that other contributions to the database or network were also required, as we now have a very large pool of IO table contributors and these contributors do receive some personal benefit from their contributions.

G. Budgeting and Staffing

As discussed at the board meeting, the Center experienced a deficit last year roughly equal to the budgeted deficit. This year's budget predicts a small surplus next year. However given that this is the first year of release of v8, there are some concerns that this surplus is not sufficient to cover us over the three year release cycle until v9. We are investigating a number of ways to reduce that deficit, including recruiting new board members and undertaking additional funded research projects that assist the core activities of the Center.