GTAP NEWSLETTER
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A smarter version of the GTAP Newsletter is available at:
http://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/welcome/newsletters.asp.

MISSION STATEMENT
The Center for Global Trade Analysis is the publicly funded, university based home for GTAP (Global Trade Analysis Project), a global network of researchers and policy makers conducting quantitative analysis of international policy issues. Our purpose is to improve the quality of global economy-wide analysis through education and by developing analytical data bases, economic models, and innovative methodologies. Our unique institutional structure enables us to foster collaboration among academia, public and private sectors worldwide.

1. CENTER NEWS

Professor Thomas Hertel, Executive Director of the Center, started a one-year sabbatical at the World Bank in August 2004. While at the World Bank, Tom Hertel is undertaking research on trade and poverty with the Trade Section of the Development Research Group. Dr. Terrie Walmsley and Dr. Wally Tyner are currently serving as Co-Directors of the Center.

Early this year, the Center for Global Trade Analysis began a year-long strategic planning effort led by Dr. Sandra Rivera, a Visiting Scholar from the U.S. International Trade Commission. The project included obtaining feedback through surveys of the Center staff and graduate students, GTAP Advisory Board members, and the GTAP network. The survey results were used as input for the Center’s strategic plan. The Center has now set out its mission, vision, core values and beliefs. We have also identified five critical goals and the strategies to achieve the goals.

Melanie Bacou, GTAP information technology specialist, will be leaving the Center in December 2004 to pursue career opportunities overseas. We thank Melanie for her excellent work on the design and maintenance of the GTAP web site and in the design and support of web-based distance learning and conference activities.

Ken Itakura, currently a post-doctoral research associate at the Center, accepted an assistant professorship position at the Nagoya City University (Nagoya, Japan). Dr. Itakura will begin teaching international economic relations in early 2005. He will also continue to do research in the areas of trade policy analysis and CGE modeling.

Maros Ivanic, a former graduate assistant with the Center, recently obtained his doctoral degree in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University and has moved on to worked as an Economist at the World Bank. In his dissertation, Dr. Ivanic worked on an income side assessment of household survey data. While
at the World Bank, he will continue his work on household survey data and its use in assessing the poverty impacts of globalization and trade policy reform.

The Center welcomed a new group of graduate students in August with the Purdue University 2004 fall semester. Syud Amer Ahmed (Bangladesh), Alla Golub (Russia), and Yoko Uchida (Japan) recently joined GTAP as graduate assistants. They add even more to the international flavor of the existing group of graduate assistants composed of: Jason H. Grant (Canada), Jan Hagemejer (Poland), Roman Keeney (United States), Vitaly Vladimirovich Kharitonov (Russia), Carlos Ludena (Ecuador), and Ernesto Valenzuela (Ecuador).

The Center hosted three visitors recently. Professor Rodney Tyers of the Australian National University visited the Center in June 2004; Haluk Kasnakoglu, director of the Statistics Division at FAO, visited in September 2004; and Leena Kerkela of the Government Institute of Economic Research (VATT) of Finland visited in October 2004. Rodney and Leena gave a presentation about their recent work and interacted with Center staff on the GTAP dynamic model. Haluk interacted with Center staff on agricultural data issues and possible future collaboration between GTAP and FAO.

2. CONSORTIUM NEWS

The 2004 GTAP Advisory Board meeting was held on June 14-15, 2004 at the Wyndham City Centre in Washington, D.C. The GTAP Advisory Board members meet with Center staff annually to review the activities and accomplishments of the project and the GTAP-related activities of the consortium member agencies, to discuss strategic issues, and to set goals for the coming year. The Alan A. Powell awardee and GTAP research fellows are also named during the board meeting. This year, Sébastien Jean of the Centre d’Etudes Prospectives et d’Information Internationales (CEPII, France) received the 2004 Alan A. Powell Award in recognition of his outstanding service to the GTAP Advisory Board. Rajesh Chadha (NCAER, India), Roy Darwin (ERS/USDA, USA), Aziz Elbehri (ERS/USDA, USA), Paul Gibson (ERS/USDA, USA), Hsin Huang (OECD, France), Scott McDonald (University of Sheffield, UK), Kasuhiko Oyamada (IDE, Japan), Everett Peterson (Virginia Tech, USA) and Sherman Robinson (University of Sussex, UK) were nominated and named as GTAP research fellows for 2004-2007.

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) rejoined the GTAP consortium in March 2004. Xinshen Diao, Research Fellow at the Markets, Trade and Institutions Division, represents IFPRI in the GTAP Advisory Board. The GTAP Advisory Board is composed of the representatives of the 20 consortium member agencies plus two members-at-large. The consortium member agencies provide financial support and advice to GTAP. More information about the institutions in the GTAP consortium and the roles and responsibilities of the member agencies is available at: http://www.gtap.org/welcome/consortium.asp.

The next meeting of the GTAP Advisory Board is scheduled for June 6 – 7, 2004 in Lübeck, Germany. Further information about previous GTAP Advisory Board meetings is available at: http://www.gtap.org/events/Board_Meetings/2004/.

3. SHORT COURSES

The GTAP short courses in global trade analysis aim to: (1) introduce participants to a standardized framework for conducting global trade analysis in an applied general equilibrium setting, (2) to provide participants with ample hands-on training with software that has been tailored to global trade analysis within a standard modeling framework, and (3) to give participants the opportunity to interact with economists working on global trade and resource use issues, and become part of an international network. The short courses are composed of a two parts. Part I consists of seven web-based modules delivered by CD-Rom and through the internet and Part II is an on-site week-long intensive training which consists of a mix of daily lectures, computer laboratory exercises, informal discussions, and small-group applications designed to introduce participants to the basic features of the GTAP model and data base.
The Latin American Short Course was held on-site at the Inter-American Development Bank in Buenos Aires, Argentina on May 8-14, 2004. The course was attended by 30 participants from 10 Latin American countries. More information about the Latin American Short Course including a list of participants, the course schedule, and some photos can be found at: http://www.gtap.org/events/Short_Courses/2004-latin/.

The Twelfth Annual Short course was held on-site on Aug 7-13, 2004 at Purdue University. The course was attended by 33 participants representing research institutes and government organizations from over 19 countries. A list of participants and instructors, small-group applications, and a collection of photos are available at: http://www.gtap.org/events/Short_Courses/2004/.

The Thirteenth Annual Short Course will be held on-site on June 18-24, 2005 at the University of Crete in Heraklion, Crete, Greece. The short course will be preceded by an on-line refresher course which will run from April 11-June 6, 2005. For more information and registration materials, please contact Judy Conner at +1(765) 494-4267 or at connerjr@purdue.edu. You may also download a brochure or apply on-line at: http://www.gtap.org/events/Short_Courses/upcoming.asp.

4. CONFERENCES

The Seventh Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis was held on June 17-19, 2004 at The World Bank in Washington, D.C., United States. The conference theme was “Trade, Poverty, and the Environment.” The conference was jointly organized by the World Bank and the Center for Global Trade Analysis, with additional support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC). The final program, biographies of plenary speakers, a list of participants, and a few photos are available at: http://www.gtap.org/events/Conferences/2004/.

The Eighth Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis will be held on June 9 - 11, 2005 in Lübeck, Germany. The goal of the conference is to promote the exchange of ideas among economists conducting quantitative analysis of global economic issues. Particular emphasis will be placed on applied general equilibrium methods, data, and application. Related theoretical and applied work is also welcome. The conference will be held at the Radisson SAS Senator Hotel, in the historic Hanseatic city of Lübeck. The conference is organized by the Institute of Market Analysis and Agricultural Trade Policy (FAL), Braunschweig, Germany in conjunction with the Center for Global Trade Analysis, Purdue University. Further information about the conference, including the timetable and guidelines for paper submission, are available at: http://www.gtap.org/events/conferences/2005/.

5. GTAP DATABASE DEVELOPMENTS

Center staff and data contributors are still working on the GTAP 6.0 Data Base which is now scheduled for public release in February 2005. The change from an earlier projected release date is due to difficulties in collecting contributed international datasets and unexpected technical problems in overhauling several modules. The GTAP 6.0 Data Base includes 87 regions and 57 sectors and corresponds to the global economy in 2001. It features improved tariff coverage for agriculture and manufactures using preferential rates data, IEA-based energy use, data improved treatment of government consumption, improved trade and demand elasticity estimates, and revised and new input-output tables.

The GTAP 5.4 Data Base, released in November 2003, was made available for free to advanced purchasers of the GTAP 6.0 Data Base. The GTAP 5.4 Data Base includes 78 regions and 57 sectors and corresponds to the global economy in 1997. We anticipate making available a beta release of the GTAP 6.0 Data Base to advanced purchasers in November 2004. More information about the beta release and order information for the GTAP 6.0 Data Base are available at: http://www.gtap.org/databases/v6/.
6. SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENTS
Dr. J. Mark Horridge of the Center for Policy Studies, Monash University, has made available for free download a tool for producing shaded maps, for example, a map of the world where each region is colored according to income per capita. The download includes map boundary files showing the regions distinguished by GTAP, and includes a way to aggregate the regions of these maps so that you can make a map matching your own regional GTAP aggregation. So you could make colored maps to illustrate GTAP results, and paste them into your PowerPoint show. ShadeMap may be downloaded from: http://www.monash.edu.au/policy/shademap.htm.

7. NEW RESOURCES ON THE GTAP WEBSITE
The list below covers resources submitted between January 1, 2004 and June 30, 2004. It does not include papers presented at the Seventh Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis which was held on June 17-19, 2004. A list of the 2004 conference papers is available from the conference program at: http://www.gtap.org/events/conferences/2004/program.asp.

The most recent additions to the GTAP resources can be found at: http://www.gtap.org/resources/latest.asp.

GTAP RESEARCH MEMORANDA

GTAP APPLICATIONS


8. CONTACT INFORMATION

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