

# AID-FOR-TRADE: CASE STORY

## ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

### Trade Capacity Building Program for the Implementation and Administration of Trade Agreements

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### OBJECTIVE

To train Latin American and Caribbean government officials responsible for the implementation and administration of trade rules (services, IPR, investment, etc.) through the exchange of experiences and lessons learned from countries such as Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the United States.

### DESCRIPTION

To address the needs of countries faced with the complex challenges of implementing and administering trade agreements, this program has been designed to take advantage of horizontal cooperation among OAS Member States. Most of the activities under this program have been executed in cooperation with the Subsecretaría de Negociaciones Comerciales Internacionales of the Secretaría de Economía of Mexico, with the financial support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and have benefitted, as well, from the experience of other countries such as Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, and the United States.

### RESULTS

The training of more than 500 government officials has helped strengthen institutions responsible for trade policy design and management in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

### LESSONS LEARNED

- The success of the Program owes a lot to the choice of very competent and committed partners. In the case of the Subsecretaría de Negociaciones Comerciales Internacionales of the Secretaría de Economía of Mexico, the team in charge of organizing the seminars as well as the group of officials conducting the training has been outstanding.

- The experience has also proven that horizontal cooperation is a very valuable modality that should be used more often in institutional capacity building projects.
- Finally, the project has shown how a limited amount of resources can be used as leverage to bring together a group of highly regarded institutions and individuals that can make high quality and relevant capacity building activities possible.

**Status of the Program:** Ongoing

**For more information:**

<http://www.sedi.oas.org/dctc/AdmAcuerdos/index.asp> and  
<http://www.sedi.oas.org/dctc/AdmAcuerdos/Default.asp>