



Activity Title and Number: Seminar on IT tools for International Merchandise Trade Statistics; A143-C4

Beneficiary: General Administration of Customs of the PRC (GACC)

Location and Date: Beijing; 19-21 June, 2012

Stakeholders: Eurostat

Brief Activity Report

Relevance and Impact

During the last decade, the volume of trade transactions between the EU and China has greatly increased, but this rapid rise has also resulted in higher incidences of discrepancies in external trade figures released by both counterparts. In response to these concerns, the **5th EU China Joint Customs Cooperation Committee** established a cooperation framework to propose recommendations for alleviating discrepancies and for enhancing EU China statistical cooperation. One of the components of this cooperation relates to the need for GACC and Eurostat to apply similar statistical methodology supported by reliable and efficient information technology (IT) tools. Within this context, EUCTP II supported a Seminar on IT tools for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) where GACC statisticians and Eurostat methodology experts could exchange views and best practices on statistical software and information technologies respectively used by both regions.

Activity Description

More than 50 statisticians from GACC central and local departments attended the 3-day seminar where EU experts gave an overview of IMTS methodology through the application of statistical software such as SAS and those of the Eurotrace family.

In addition, the activity delivered a practical session on how to use the EU database Easy Comext. Participants were also introduced to a few varieties of international trade databases as examples of how external trade statistics could be disseminated. The seminar gave participants an opportunity to build on their existing knowledge in data analysis by discussing best practices in analytical tools such as trade indices, seasonal adjustments, time series and mirror analysis.



European and Chinese experts gather to discuss best practice methodologies in utilising IT tools for IMTS

Results and Dissemination

- ✓ Increased, at both the central and provincial level, GACC understanding of the functionalities of IT statistical instruments in Europe
- ✓ Strengthened the cooperation framework between GACC and Eurostat by introducing how the instruments discussed could better serve the organisation of external trade statistics and the dissemination of figures through international databases
- ✓ Provided participants with a live platform for exchanging views and best practices in IT, enhancing EU-China Foreign Trade Statistical Cooperation