

**DISSEMINATION OF THE INTEGRATED DATA BASE (IDB) AND
THE CONSOLIDATED TARIFF SCHEDULES (CTS) DATABASE**

Communication from UNESCAP

The following communication, dated 10 February 2004, is being circulated at the request of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

I have the honour to hereby request access for UNESCAP to the WTO's Integrated Database (IDB) and the Consolidated Tariff Schedules database (CTS), and would be obliged if the present request could be submitted to the Committee on Market Access for its consideration and approval.

UNESCAP, through its Trade and Investment Division, provides technical assistance to developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to build capacity to better understand the WTO multilateral trading system and the implications of WTO membership, through the ongoing Doha Round of trade negotiations and beyond. Our current lack of access to trade-related data at an appropriate level of disaggregation makes it difficult at times to adequately respond to the requests of our members (of which 31 are WTO Members), in particular when the requests involve the need for detailed studies and simulations of the potential effects of various liberalization scenarios. We are aware that the level of detail provided in the IDB and CTS databases makes these sources of data unparalleled in many respects, hence the present request.

I am pleased to inform you that UNESCAP agrees to the conditions for the use and publication of IDB and CTS information as stated in WTO document G/MA/115. I would also like to designate Mr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director, Trade and Investment Division, UNESCAP, as the focal point for all matters relating to UNESCAP's access to the IDB and CTS databases.

I thank you and the Committee on Market Access in advance for consideration of this request.
