

Capacity Building Workshop – Mobility Report

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During my period of mobility in Lausanne Switzerland, my function was to help with the logistics of GARNET's first Capacity Building Workshop in Budapest, September 21-23, 2005. I was partly responsible for the late-stage recruitment and pre-workshop communications with participants; database entries; organising for the actual workshop; taking minutes and transcribing all recorded sessions; and writing the final report on the content of the workshop.

The mobility exercise was very beneficial to my personal development primarily in terms of the hands-on, project management experience it allowed me, being partly involved in the actual planning of a workshop of this nature. It also enabled me to network, a prospect which is very important for my doctoral studies and future endeavours. I was fortunate to meet a diverse group of stakeholders from international business, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), academia, government, non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations who have a direct interest and stake in the politics of international trade and the overall governance of the multilateral trading system. The diversity of views represented added to the high quality of the workshop and to its eventual success.

More importantly for my research, the mobility exercise, and the workshop counterpart in particular, has provided me with an array of primary data accounts, having had full access to the speeches of participants from the World Bank, the WTO, the World Customs Organisation, the International Trade Centre, and OXFAM, to name a few. A report on the content of the workshop follows, with full acknowledgement of GARNET support.

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