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European Union provides first ever training on Trade Data Modelling

The European Union Trade Related Assistance Phase 2 (TRA2) Programme is to deliver a first-ever intensive training to government officials on Trade Data Modelling. The training, aims to raise awareness in Papua New Guinea (PNG) of how and why international trade takes place and how it can contribute to economic development and growth. After the training, participants will be equipped with a sound understanding and skills in the econometric methods used to model trade statistics and trade related data.

The training will deliver a four-week training programme, including one week of intensive immersion, under the guidance of short-term Expert Dr Daniel Linotte. Participants from six government institutions who will attend the course are; twelve members of the Trade Division, as well as officers from National Statistics Office, Bank of PNG, Treasury Department, Department of National Planning and Monitoring and Policy officers from the Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry.

The course will cover techniques and approaches on how to undertake trade sustainability impact assessments through evidence-based simulation and analysis. The participants will be using data modelling and manipulation tools, such as the online World Integrated Trade Solution simulation tool, provided through the World Bank.

PNG is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and is party to a number of international Trade Agreements with various trading partners, including the European Union (EU), Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), Australia (through PNG-Australia Trade and Commercial Relations Agreement known as PATCRA) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). However, in order for PNG to maximise the benefits coming from these agreements, and to assess the potential impact of future trade agreements, it is crucial to be able to undertake economic, social and environmental sustainability of those agreements.

The TRA2 project recently provided a short-term expert to undertake a Cost Benefit Analysis study of the trade agreements to which PNG is party. This training is part of a series of extensive trade-related training on Institutional Reform and Capacity Building and will leave a strong legacy, as PNG Trade Officers learn how to undertake such studies in future for themselves.

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