

CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

Nahom, please tell us...



Where are you from, and what have you studied before joining the China Programme?

I am from Ethiopia. Before I joined the WTO Accessions Division as China Programme intern, I completed my Bachelor of Laws (LLB) at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia and then acquired Master in International Affairs (MIA) with specialization in trade and international finance from Geneva Graduate Institute.

Why did you apply?

What motivated me the most to apply for the China Programme is the great opportunity it presents for someone like me from non-WTO Member country to get first-hand experience of working at the WTO. Furthermore, the design of the programme allows interns to get top level expertise on the multilateral trading system in general and the WTO accession process in particular.

What kind of work were you assigned to during your internship?

During my time as an intern, I was co-secretary for the Working Parties on the accession of Ethiopia, Sudan and Timor Leste. In addition to this I was a co-focal person for LDC accessions and heavily involved in Trade for Peace initiative. I also assisted the digital communications of the Division through twitter and LinkedIn.

Looking back, what do you think of your work experience at the WTO, and as participant of the China Programme?

The experience I gained at the WTO was priceless. It helped me to equip myself with deep knowledge and understanding of the global trading system while honing my research and analysis skills. I also built strong professional network with trade experts in Geneva and beyond. The people whom I worked with have become lifelong friends.

What have you done since?

Once I finished the internship, I returned to Ethiopia to work as Trade Policy Advisor to the Ethiopian government. In this role, I supported the Ministry of Trade, private sector and civil society actors to best prepare for the negotiations and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the WTO accession negotiations. Currently, I am working as International Trade Expert at African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC)/ UNECA which is a think tank with specialist expertise in African and international trade. My current position allows me to work with governments and other stakeholders on the development of trade policies.

Thank you!