



To: Bridget Chilala
John Adank
Victor Luiz Do Prado
Shishir Priyadarshi

Date: 15/03/2019

From: Roberto Fiorentino 

Ref: RTPC Selection
Committee – Asia-
Pacific

Division: Institute for Training and Technical Assistance

cc: Raymundo Valdes, Janet Chakarian

Subject: Summary RTPC Selection Committee – Meeting 1 March 2019

The RTPC Selection Committee met on Friday 1 March 2019 to consider the proposals received by Members from the Asia-Pacific region interested in hosting the next RTPC for Asia-Pacific WTO Members and Observers.

The meeting was attended by Ms Bridget Chilala, Mr John Adank, Mr Victor Luiz Do Prado, and Mr Shishir Priyadarshi. Also present at the meeting were Mr Raymundo Valdes (Chief of Course Design and Training Section), Mr Roberto Fiorentino (Counsellor, RTPC Unit), and Ms Anne Deluermoz (Programme Coordinator, RTPC Unit).

The call for expression of interest to host the RTPC for the Asia-Pacific region was launched on 31 August 2018 due to the partnership with the Chulalongkorn University and the International Institute for Trade and Development in Bangkok, Thailand coming to an end in December 2018. By the deadline for submission of proposals of 2 November 2018, three proposals had been submitted by interested Members. These were the following:

COUNTRY	PROPOSED PARTNER INSTITUTION
China	Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (SUIBE)
Malaysia	Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), National University of Malaysia (UKM)
Mongolia	University of Finance and Economics (UFE)

The Selection Committee noted that both Malaysia and Mongolia had previously applied to host the RTPC for the region, in 2010 and 2015 respectively; it was the first application by China.

Each of the proposals received was assessed based on: quality and completeness of the proposal; type of institution and of the partnership proposed; appropriateness of the RTPC academic and administrative team; quality of the training infrastructure and facilities; and overall costs.

All three proposals were viewed favourably by the Committee. They were all well drafted and included supporting documentation that matched all of the requirements listed in the Terms of Reference (ToR). In terms of proposed partnership each proposal was with well-established academic institutions; in this regard it was noted that SUIBE held the WTO Chair since 2009. In terms of footprint, each proposal had clearly spelled out their interest in hosting the RTPC and how they intended to benefit from the partnership and build upon it. It was also clear that the proposals had strong government backing.

With regards to the proposed academic support, both SUIBE and IKMAS had put forward a very capable team, well versed with WTO issues; the team proposed by the UFE appeared competent albeit less knowledgeable of multilateral trade and WTO-related issues.

With regards to training facilities and equipment, the proposals by SUIBE and UFE were extremely detailed and appeared to fully meet the RTPC requirements. Less convincing was IKMAS's proposal

to host the RTPC in the conference facilities of the Puri Pujangga Hotel located on the campus of the UKM. The Committee also noted that this hotel was the only accommodation option being proposed raising some concerns in relation to suitability of the venue and its location, roughly an hour commuting from the capital Kuala Lumpur. As for the accommodation options proposed by SUIBE and UFE these appeared to meet the standard required by the RTPC's ToRs.

With respect to overall costs, the Committee noted that the proposal by IKMAS was the cheapest among the three; the one by SUIBE and UFE were similarly priced. The Committee concluded that all three proposals were of high standards and deserved further assessment through onsite inspections. The Committee confirmed that Ms Bridget Chilala and Mr Shishir Priyadarshi supported by a member of the RTPC Unit would conduct the site visits of the three shortlisted institutions. It was also noted that it would be desirable to conduct the visits without delay in order to complete the selection process as soon as possible and schedule the RTPC in the last quarter of 2019.
