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## Globalisation and the Aid Program

Australia is working to maximise the benefits and minimise the challenges presented to developing countries by globalisation.

Technical assistance, capacity building and policy dialogue in trade, investment and information communication technologies are important in promoting active participation in the global community.



The Pacific, Asia and Africa regional programs are increasing efforts to facilitate open trading systems, encourage investments and economic reform, and strengthen developing country capacities to integrate in the global economy.

Information and communication technologies are crucial in our increasingly globalised world. Australia recognises that affordable access to information and knowledge is vital to development.

Training to improve the public sector in Kiribati

Australia is implementing its commitment to the Virtual Colombo Plan (VCP) made in August 2001 of \$200 million over five years to help bridge the digital divide by supporting the development and adoption of information technologies in developing countries.

In February 2004, Australia announced it would provide \$2 million to fund a high-speed broadband connection for the University of the South Pacific (USP) that will integrate Pacific island students and academics into international education and research networks, and improve teaching skills of USP staff.

The establishment of video-conferencing and internet centres, under the World Bank's Global Development Learning Network, in China, East Timor, PNG and Vietnam, is also an example of Australia's practical support in this area.

The Development Gateway internet portal will also be expanded to create Australia's premier site on development. This site can be found at: <http://www.developmentgateway.com.au> [external website].

See also [Virtual Colombo Plan](#)

## Trade and Development

Trade liberalisation has the potential to lift millions of people out of poverty. If developing countries increased their share of world exports by five per cent, this would generate \$677 billion per year - seven times as much as they receive in aid.

Australia maintains a strong coherence between its aid and trade policies and is committed to a successful Doha Development Round, particularly in relation to agriculture.

In 2003-2004 Australia contributed \$500 000 to the World Trade Organization's Global Trust Fund to help developing country members and observers participate in the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations. This brings Australia's total assistance to the Global Trust Fund to more than \$1.4 million since its establishment in 2002.

Over the last seven years, our trade-related aid funding has increased by more than 70 per cent.

In 2003-04, trade-related assistance was an estimated \$31 million and included:

- \$1.6 million for institutional strengthening of the Samoan Quarantine Service to enhance its capacity to respond to increasing international

- movement of people and trade commodities and to facilitate private sector development through export growth and services contracting
- AusAID's Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Support Program, which provides \$3.3 million annually for short-term high impact capacity building projects in support of APEC's mandate of free trade and investment. In 2003–04, activities included training for developing APEC member economies in trade negotiations, agricultural bio-security, enforcing intellectual property rights and implementing industry structural adjustment
  - A trade workshop designed to enhance the policy dialogue and skills of key working level officers from Mauritius, Botswana, South Africa, Kenya, Madagascar, Seychelles, Tanzania and Mozambique on services trade issues, and help to develop the expertise necessary for developing countries such as Mauritius and Kenya to engage effectively in services issues in the current Doha Round.

**See also:**

- [Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction](#)
- [Report on Globalisation and Poverty](#)
- [AusAID Project Profiles](#)

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