

## **Nathan Associates' Report on GTAP Related Activities**

*for the Advisory Board Meeting,  
Center for Global Trade Analysis  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

Nathan Associates, a consulting firm based in Arlington Virginia, became a GTAP board member in early 2005. Since then, Nathan has been an active supporter of building greater awareness and capacities for CGE analysis in developing countries. Our principal activities have been focused around training, data development, research and we continue to support the development and innovation of GTAP based tools such as SplitCom.

Regarding training, Nathan's staff has provided capacity building within the foreign ministries of trade in Indonesia and Egypt. Our CGE training programs regularly leverage the GTAP short course and materials, supplemented by longer term technical support for the students when they return to their offices. By providing this longer term training support (from classes to conducting research), along with an approach that minimizes the need to learn complex, highly specialized programming languages, we hope to reduce the time required for the adoption of CGE analysis in developing countries from years to perhaps several months to a year; the goal is ambitious.

Since the last board meeting in Lubek, Germany last year, Nathan staff has contributed to the GTPA program in several ways:

- In February 2006, Nathan staff member, Peter Minor, joined the GTAP teaching team for the short course conducted in Mumbai India;
- Nathan Associates (John Buyer) contributed monetary support for the development of the SplitCom program by Mark Horridge;
- Nathan staff (Tim Buehrer) supported the submission of the Egyptian I-O table for release 6.3 of the GTAP database;
- Enrolled 7 students in two GTAP Short Courses, primarily from the ministries of developing countries (supported by USAID funding and the activities of Tim Buehrer and Ted James);
- Sought (unsuccessfully) development funding to support a short course in a developing country (Peter Minor and Erin Endean).

We continue to take a significant interest in the development of GTAP trade and tariff data, beyond what is currently provided at the GTAP aggregation levels. Specifically, we applaud the work of CEPII, GTAP, the WTO and UNCTAD for their efforts to link GTAP Data Base and analysis to specific tariff line data through the MAcMap program. We believe this approach offers great potential to bring CGE analysis into greater policy relevance and we encourage the board members to continue improving this data and its dissemination; we offer

our praise and material support to advance the state of the art in this area, since much of our current research centers on such data and this micro- macro linkage approach to trade and CGE analysis.

Nathan staff expects to complete two publications in the coming year, including an analysis of the impacts of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) on Egypt (Buehrer and Minor) and a technical paper (Minor, assisted by GTAP staff) employing the newly minted SplitCom program to subdivide and clean certain known data anomalies in the aggregate GTAP Data Base. The technical paper will not only demonstrate the use of the SplitCom program, but it will serve to illustrate the usefulness of correcting data aggregation anomalies in sectors key to developing countries (textiles, wearing apparel and leather).