

Letter from the Editor

After decades of strategic trade capacity-building, what has the international community learned about what works and what doesn't? This special journal issue seeks to answer that question, bringing in some of the most experienced experts in the field to discuss their analysis, insights, and recommendations on this important topic.

Engaging in this reflective process is key to ensuring that new or continuing capacity-building projects yield meaningful impacts that are sustainable in the long term. It involves asking important, often self-critical questions and being open to innovation. Just some of the factors involved include which countries receive and provide capacity-building, how engagement is conceived and implemented, and how national partners in donor-recipient as well as peer-to-peer relationships communicate and coordinate with one another.

A focus on capacity-building has broader implications as well. The following articles launch a broad and necessary debate regarding which kinds of national and international institutions best support the development and sustainability of countries' strategic trade capacities. This topic therefore impacts not just donors, implementers, and recipients, but also the strategic trade community at large, since questions surrounding institutional support for effective controls have universal applications. All stakeholders - governments, exporters, researchers, and the various multilateral organizations that seek to facilitate safe and secure trade - have a role to play in nonproliferation. This special issue seeks to enhance the strategic trade community's understanding of these roles in the capacity-building space and thus provide a stepping stone for readers interested in answering the call for effective and sustained implementation.

ANDREA VISKI