

**Progress Possible In Some Areas Of Doha Round, Says Malaysia**  
**Bernama**  
**December 16, 2011**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 16 (Bernama) -- Malaysia sees the possibility of advancing in specific areas of the Doha work programme where progress can be achieved.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said consensus agreements might be also reached in these areas in accordance with the Doha Round mandate.

"We need to reduce our rhetoric and look at new approaches in our collective attempt to conclude the Doha negotiations including a review of the single undertaking," he said in a statement here in conjunction with the Eighth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Geneva.

He said that while the credibility of WTO was at stake with multilateral trade liberation plan stalled and more bilateral and regional preferential trade agreements signed, there was a need to find a breakthrough.

"While there is still apprehension about moving away from the single undertaking, we should be realistic about possible options."

The focus should be on "harvesting the low hanging fruits to achieve results in the short term and find compromise on do-able areas."

Trade facilitation is well advanced and could be possible candidate for an agreement, he said.

Two thirds of the WTO members are from the developing world, thus the centrality of the development dimension in the Doha mandate needs to be preserved.

"Issues of concern to Least Developed Countries (LDC) members need to be given priority," he said.

"We underscore the commitment made in Hong Kong on Duty Free Quota Free (DFQF) market access for all products originating from least-developed countries," according to Mustapa.

Malaysia is already providing DFQF access for more than 90 per cent of products from LDCs.

As 2012 will be a difficult year, "it is crucial that we have a clear work programme and continue to build trust amongst ourselves as we negotiate," he said.

The deadlock must be broken and the low hanging fruits must be identified and harvested in 2012, he added.

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