



About ITD Regional Policy Dialogue

The ITD policy dialogue aims to be the region's leading public policy square for trade and investment policy professionals and its immediate stakeholders to discuss and delve into topical and salient issues of interest emerging in the Asia-Pacific region. This includes elevating pertinent issues or conveying valuable insights that will have far reaching effects within and beyond the immediate policy contexts of developing economies (including investment, future technology and sustainable development). The dialogue's deliverables may include policy notes, briefs, informal papers, formal publications or other forms of information sharing that are contextually appropriate.

In conjunction with the current preparation for the WTO 11th Ministerial Meeting 2017 in Buenos Aires next month, the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) in partnership with the World Trade Organization (WTO) is proud to announce a joint Regional Policy Dialogue 2017 titled **"Rebalancing Global Trade Agenda for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries"**.

The WTO Ministerial Meeting is organized every two years as a high level trade policy meeting to foster an inclusive and fair multilateral trade agreement for all. In this meeting, member countries of WTO will come together to propose and negotiate meaningful trade agendas which supports sustainable economic growth and international trade. In the last Ministerial Meeting in Nairobi in 2015, the following key outcomes was reached.

- Reduction on export subsidies for developed and developing economies within 2018 and LDC within 2023
- Public stocking for food security purposes (reaffirming the Bali package)
- Continued elimination of tariff on telecom and ICT imports
- Extension on the moratorium on online transactions
- Granting special benefits to LDCs i.e. preferential rule of origin and preferential treatment for LDC service providers

Although the Nairobi meeting was perceived as successful by many, there were of course diverging views on the relevancy WTO's long standing, 14 year old Doha Round mandate. There was no final conclusion reached on this issue which many believed will be once again raised in this Ministerial Meeting. There was however, a mutual recognition by all that the multilateral rule-based trading system under the WTO remains crucial to the future of a healthy and working international trade system for all.

Since then and right up to the final months of the Rio De Janeiro Meeting in December, a substantive number of proposals have been submitted by individual countries as well as, regional submissions which included renewal of old agendas as well as proposals on new agendas. The latter noticeably included, investment facilitation and digital trade, put forth by developed countries.

As of November 23, 2017

As for the current ITD's policy dialogue, international trade experts in the various sectors/fields from within the region and beyond have been invited to share their views on the negotiation developments in following areas.

- 1) Agriculture
- 2) Services
- 3) MSME
- 4) Digital Trade
- 5) Others (Investment, IPR, etc.)

Proposed Itinerary
24 November, 2017 (13:30 – 17:30)
Novotel Siam Square, Bangkok

The session will be conducted as a roundtable talk revolving around the themes listed earlier within the perspectives of developing countries. The number of themes to be covered will depend on availability of the speaker, the time allotted and the level of public interest.

Each speaker in each session or theme will address the following three questions:

- 1) Stocktaking of current list of proposals and positions from developing countries
- 2) Discussion on selected proposals and their implications (both cost and benefits to the developing world and the general multilateral trade agreements)
- 3) Discussion on the possible outcomes? Post-Doha Round (if any?)

Speakers:

- **WTO Deputy Director General, Yonov Frederick Agah**
- **Dr. Mukelafaustin LUANGA, WTO**
- **Eileen Kwa, South Centre, Geneva**
- **Dr. Bipul Chattopadhyay, CUTS International**
- **Robert C. Fox, Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand, Singapore**
- **Bunyati Kirdniyom, Director, Government Affairs, Vriens & Partners**

12:30-13:30	Registration
13:30-13:40	Opening remarks and protocol by Dr. Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol, Executive Director, International Institute for Trade and Development
13:40-14:30	WTO Presentation by WTO Deputy Director General, Yonov Frederick Agah
14:30-17:30	Round Table Discussion *
	Recap
18:00 -19:00	Networking –Social Event

- Media interviews may be scheduled depending on availability of VIP guests.
- Coffee break will be served in the room.

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