

**Paper for the House Committee**  
**Report on S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and the World Trade Organization**  
**Parliamentarian Workshop on Trade & Negotiations 2017**  
**submitted by Dr Hon YIU Chung-yim**

**Purpose**

This report summarizes my observations during my attendance at the Parliamentarian Workshop on International Trade 2017 ("the Workshop") held in Singapore from 15 to 17 May 2017.

**Background**

The Centre for Multilateralism Studies of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies ("RSIS")<sup>1</sup> and the World Trade Organization ("WTO")<sup>2</sup> co-organized the RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop 2017 from 15 to 17 May 2017 at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Singapore. The Workshop was co-sponsored by Temasek Foundation International<sup>3</sup> and The World Trade Organization.

The aim of the Workshop is to increase the capacity of regional parliamentarians and legislators to engage in international trade issues. The programme includes topics that foster a deeper understanding of WTO, current and future negotiating issues in international trade. Participants include members of parliaments from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Legislative Council of the Hong Kong SAR of the PRC ("LegCo") received an invitation from RSIS in January 2017 to nominate two LegCo Members to attend the Workshop. As the theme of the Workshop falls within the terms of reference of the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("Panel"), President of LegCo referred the invitation from RSIS to the Panel for consideration on whether to accept the invitation. At the Panel meeting on 21 February 2017, Members agreed to accept the invitation and open the invitation to all other Members.

By the deadline for reply on 28 February 2017, I indicated my interest in attending the Workshop. Members were subsequently informed via a circular on 2 March 2017 that the Panel would nominate me to attend the Workshop and the expenses incurred by me attending the Workshop would be charged to my Overseas Duty Visit accounts.

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<sup>1</sup> RSIS was established in 2007 as an autonomous school within the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Its mission is to be a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia Pacific. The Centre for Multilateralism Studies is one of the five centres of RSIS and is dedicated to facilitating policy dialogue and academic debate on regional cooperation and integration through the conduct of scholarly and policy research, teaching/training, and networking on cooperative multilateralism in the Asia Pacific region.

<sup>2</sup> Established in 1995, WTO is an international organization dealing with the rules of trade among states and separate customs territories. WTO provides a forum for negotiating agreements aimed at reducing obstacles to international trade and ensuring a level playing field for all. It also provides a legal and institutional framework for the implementation and monitoring of trade agreements, as well as for settling disputes arising from their interpretation and application. As of March 2017, WTO has 164 members. HKSAR has been a WTO member since 1 January 1995.

<sup>3</sup> Temasek Foundation International, formerly known as Temasek Foundation, is a Singapore-based non-profit philanthropic organization that funds and supports programmes which aim to build capabilities with programme partners in Asia and beyond. These programmes enable human and social capital development, contributing to a more vibrant and connected global community, with positive networks of cooperation.

## The Workshop

The three-day Workshop for regional parliamentarians and legislators on international trade brought together 19 speakers. The Workshop comprised one keynote address, nine presentation sessions, and three visits, covering topics in the following key areas of international trade:

### Keynote Address:

- (1) by Mr. Keith Rockwell, Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO.

### Presentation Sessions:

- (1) The road to Buenos Aires, challenges facing WTO members as they prepare for MC11;
- (2) Workings of WTO;
- (3) The current political context and its impact on international trade and WTO;
- (4) Agriculture and fisheries;
- (5) Trade in “green” goods;
- (6) How can some WTO rules help economies and trade in Asia Pacific? The TFA, ITA and E-commerce;
- (7) How are economies in Asia Pacific adapting to new realities of international trade? The roles of SMES; GVCs, servicification of economies, investment facilitation etc;
- (8) Regional trade agreements VS multilateralism debate
- (9) Managing disputes over trade

### Visits:

- (1) Tour of Asian Civilisation Museum
- (2) Study Mission Visit – PSA Port of Singapore Tour
- (3) Tour of Singapore’s Parliament Building

The programme and biographies of speakers of the Workshop are in Appendices I and II. A group photo and a photo of the keynote speech of the Workshop are provided below.



Photo 1: Group Photo of All Participants



Photo 2: Photo of the Keynote Speech

## Observations

### 1. General Observations

It is highlighted in the Workshop that according to the recent IMF’s World Economic Outlook report<sup>4</sup>, “economic integration and technological progress have helped to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty”, but the report warns that in recent years “the turn towards protectionism, leading to trade warfare”, is imposing a significant downside risk to the outlook.<sup>5</sup>

In a recent WTO (2017) paper<sup>6</sup>, it is also warned that the ratio of trade growth to GDP growth

<sup>4</sup> IMF (2017) World Economic Outlook Report, Apr 2017

<sup>5</sup> Business Recorder (2017) IMF warns of growing risks to improving global recovery, 19 Apr 2017, retrieved on May 30, 2017 from <http://fp.brecorder.com/2017/04/20170419169936/>

<sup>6</sup> WTO (2017a) Trade recovery expected in 2017 and 2018, amid policy uncertainty, 12 Apr 2017, WTO, retrieved on

has dropped below 1 in 2016, and the main risk factor is the policy uncertainty including imposition of trade restrictive measures and monetary tightening. The importance of free trade for GDP growth is emphasized in the Workshop.

But it has been raised by some parliamentarians in the Workshop that free trade should not be pursued for its sake but for improving the lives of people. However, in many cases the benefits of multilateral trade and the burden of economic adjustments might not be shared equally. Legislators and parliamentarians therefore have the role to “tackle these disparities especially income inequality by ensuring social cohesion and equitable distribution of resources.”<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, the need for regional cooperation to achieve sustainable development through exchange of mutual technology and experiences is also discussed in the Workshop.<sup>8</sup>

Thus, the Workshop can help equip legislators and parliamentarians with a good understanding of the latest global trade environment and the underlying mechanisms in the multilateral trading system, including the ones of the WTO. Legislators and parliamentarians can then monitor better the government’s negotiation and implementation processes of trade related issues and multilateral trade agreements. The Workshop is also a platform for legislators and parliamentarians from WTO members to exchange views and draw useful lessons from the counterparts’ experiences.

**Recommendation:** In general, I consider the Workshop useful and worthy of participation by LegCo Members. Since the Basic Law of HK provides that the HKSAR shall maintain the status of a free port, safeguard the free movement of goods and capital, be a separate customs territory<sup>9</sup>, legislators of Hong Kong are encouraged to participate in different levels of international trade dialogues, including the WTO ones.

## 2. Sessions I and V: Trade and Environment

It is emphasized that sustainable development and protection and preservation of the environment are enshrined in the Marrakesh Agreement (the agreement establishing the WTO). The WTO also realizes the challenge to find ways to make trade and environmental policies work together for sustainable development. Thus, the WTO rules allow members to undertake measures inconsistent with the GATT if they are, among others, necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health<sup>10</sup>.

For example, it is raised in the Workshop about the concern of environmentally harmful trading of electronic waste, which Hong Kong is reported by Basel Action Network to be the major receiving site<sup>11</sup>. The Representative of WTO made it clear that members have the right not to accept electronic waste trading, if it is polluting the environment<sup>12</sup>.

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May 30, 2017 from [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres17\\_e/pr791\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres17_e/pr791_e.htm)

<sup>7</sup> Yacob, Halimah (2017) Opening Remarks, RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop 2017, Singapore

<sup>8</sup> BSS (2017) Skills of MPs can help tackle challenges of IT, climate change, world trade, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha. Retrieved on Jun 9, 2017 from

<http://www.bssnews.net/newsDetails.php?cat=0&id=663281&date=2017-05-15&dateCurrent=2017-05-22>

<sup>9</sup> HKSAR (2014) Trade Policy Review, WT/TPR/G/306, WTO, 1 Oct, 2014, retrieved on May 30, 2017 from [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tpr\\_e/g306\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/g306_e.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Article XX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

<sup>11</sup> SCMP (2017) Hong Kong becomes a dumping ground for US e-waste, research finds, 19 June 2016. Retrieved on Jun 9, 2017 from

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/1977148/hong-kong-becomes-dumping-ground-us-e-waste>

<sup>12</sup> “under the GATT and the TBT Agreement WTO Members are free to adopt national environmental protection policies provided, for instance, that such measures are not unnecessarily restrictive and that they are not applied in a manner which would constitute an arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.” Extracted from Detailed Presentation of Trade and Environment in the WTO, WTO E-Learning, Chapter 13, WTO. Retrieved on Jun 10, 2017 from

Doha Development Agenda, on the other hand, provides a platform for WTO members to negotiate on liberalizing trade in environmental goods and services. The mandate of Doha Development Agenda is to eliminate environmental goods tariff. However, it is reported that the negotiation failed to reach an agreement in the Dec 4, 2016 meeting<sup>13</sup>.

**Recommendation:** Since Hong Kong is one of the participating members, the Government of Hong Kong is urged to report the updated status of the Doha Development Agenda to LegCo.

### 3. Sessions VI: E-Commerce

It is reported that between 2013 and 2015 the value of global online trade jumped from 16 trillion to 22 trillion dollars<sup>14</sup>, but it requires the right infrastructure, appropriate policy, regulatory and payment systems<sup>15</sup> to support better e-commerce. An amendment protocol for the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) has entered into force on 22 Feb 2017, which is expected to reduce total trade costs and boost global trade.

The Committee on Trade and Development of WTO has held a meeting on 14 March 2017 to discuss the role of e-commerce in fostering development, an informal paper co-sponsored by Brunei Darussalam, Colombia, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, Seychelles and Turkey was produced to identify “issues to kick start the discussion, such as online security and access to online payments as well as addressing the infrastructure gaps that exist in developing countries.”<sup>16</sup>

**Recommendation:** Since Hong Kong has co-sponsored an informal paper to the Committee on Trade and Development of WTO, the Government of Hong Kong is also urged to report the results of the meeting and the progress of any facilitating policies on e-commerce in Hong Kong.

Prepared by: Dr. Hon. YIU Chung-yim

Prepared on: 10 June 2017

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[https://ecampus.wto.org/admin/files/Course\\_385/Module\\_2422/ModuleDocuments/TE-L2-R2-E.pdf](https://ecampus.wto.org/admin/files/Course_385/Module_2422/ModuleDocuments/TE-L2-R2-E.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> WTO (2017b) Environmental Goods Agreement, retrieved on June 1, 2017 from

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/envir\\_e/ega\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/ega_e.htm)

<sup>14</sup> United Nations (2017) UNCTAD E-Commerce Week 2017 – connecting the dots for sustainable development, UN Conference on Trade and Development, 21 Feb 2017. Retrieved on June 9, 2017 from

<http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1438>

<sup>15</sup> Azevedo (2017) DG Azevedo: E-commerce can help to improve livelihoods and boost development, WTO 25 Apr 2017. Retrieved on June 9, 2017 from [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news17\\_e/ecom\\_25apr17\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/ecom_25apr17_e.htm)

<sup>16</sup> WTO (2017c) WTO members discuss the role of e-commerce in fostering development, WTO, 14 March 2017, retrieved on May 30, 2017 from [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news17\\_e/devel\\_14mar17\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/devel_14mar17_e.htm)

**Temasek Foundation International Series on Trade &  
Negotiations: RSIS-WTO Parliamentary Workshop 2017  
15 – 17 May 2017  
Venue: Pan Pacific Hotel, Singapore**

<b>Monday, 15 May 2017</b>	
<b>08:00 – 09:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09:00 – 09:30</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome Remarks</u></b> Mr Benedict Cheong <i>CEO, Temasek Foundation International</i></p> <p>Mr Keith Rockwell <i>Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO</i></p> <p>Professor Ralf Emmers <i>Associate Dean, RSIS</i></p> <p><b><u>Opening Remarks</u></b> Madam Halimah Yacob <i>Speaker, Singapore Parliament</i></p>
<b>09:30 – 09:45</b>	Photo-taking session
<b>09:45 – 10:15</b>	Coffee Break
<b>10:15 – 10:45</b>	<p><b>Keynote Address</b> Mr Keith Rockwell <i>Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO</i></p>
<b>10:45 – 12:00</b>	<p><b>SESSION I: THE ROAD TO BUENOS AIRES, CHALLENGES FACING WTO MEMBERS AS THEY PREPARE FOR MC11</b></p> <p><b><u>Speakers</u></b></p> <p>Mr Keith Rockwell <i>Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO</i></p> <p>Ms Elizabeth Chelliah <i>Deputy Director, International Trade Cluster, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore</i></p>
<b>12:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>

Monday, 15 May 2017	
13:00 – 13:45	<b>SESSION II: WORKINGS OF WTO</b>  Mr Said El Hachimi <i>Counsellor,  External Relations, WTO</i>
13:45 – 15:15	<b>SESSION III: THE CURRENT POLITICAL CONTEXT AND ITS IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND WTO</b>  <u><b>Moderator</b></u> Professor Ralf Emmers <i>Associate Dean, RSIS</i>  <u><b>Speakers</b></u>  Mr Keith Rockwell <i>Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO</i>  Ambassador Michael Pulch <i>EU's Ambassador to Singapore</i>  Ambassador Michael Witter <i>Germany's Ambassador to Singapore</i>  Professor Danny Quah <i>Professor of Economics  LKYSPP, NUS</i>
15:15 – 15:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
15:30 – 16:30	<b>SESSION IV: AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES</b>  <u><b>Moderator</b></u> Assistant Professor Kaewkamol (Karen) Pitakdumrongkit <i>Deputy Head, Centre for Multilateralism Studies  RSIS</i>  <u><b>Speakers</b></u>  Mr Evan Rogerson <i>Former Director of Agriculture and Commodities Division, WTO</i>  Ms Veniana Qalo <i>Speaker from Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat</i>
17:15 – 20:00	<b>Tour of Asian Civilisation Museum (ACM) followed by Dinner</b> <i>Participants to gather at 1st floor lobby at 1700</i>

Tuesday, 16 May 2017	
09:00 – 10:15	<p><b>SESSION V: TRADE IN “GREEN” GOODS</b></p> <p><b><u>Moderator</u></b>  Assistant Professor Kaewkamol (Karen) Pitakdumrongkit  <i>Deputy Head, Centre for Multilateralism Studies</i>  RSIS</p> <p><b><u>Speakers</u></b></p> <p>Assistant Professor Chia-yi Lee  <i>Assistant Professor, RSIS</i></p> <p>Mr Keith Rockwell  <i>Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO</i></p> <p>Ms Elizabeth Chelliah  <i>Deputy Director, International Trade Cluster,</i>  <i>Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore</i></p>
10:15 – 10:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
10:30 – 11:45	<p><b>SESSION VI: HOW CAN SOME WTO RULES HELP ECONOMIES AND TRADE IN ASIA PACIFIC? THE TFA, ITA AND E-COMMERCE</b></p> <p><b><u>Moderator</u></b>  Assistant Professor Chia-yi Lee  <i>Assistant Professor, RSIS</i></p> <p><b><u>Speakers:</u></b></p> <p>Ms Lin Shiumei  <i>Vice President, Public Affairs &amp; Sustainability</i>  <i>UPS Asia Pacific</i></p> <p>Mr Joseph Jacob  <i>Regional Customs Manager</i>  <i>HP Singapore</i></p> <p>Mr Said El Hachimi  <i>Counsellor, External Relations</i>  <i>WTO</i></p>
11:45 – 1430	<b>LUNCH</b>
15:00 – 17:30	<p><b>Study Mission Visit – PSA Port of Singapore Tour</b>  Participants to gather at 1st floor lobby at 1500</p>

Wednesday, 17 May 2017	
09:00 – 10:00	<p><b>SESSION VII: HOW ARE ECONOMIES IN ASIA PACIFIC ADAPTING TO NEW REALITIES OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE? THE ROLE OF SMES ; GVCS, SERVICIFICATION OF ECONOMIES, INVESTMENT FACILITATION ETC</b></p> <p><b><u>Moderator</u></b> Mr Said El Hachimi <i>Counsellor, External Relations, WTO</i></p> <p><b><u>Speakers</u></b></p> <p>Mr Marcus Bartley Johns Senior Private Sector Specialist, World Bank</p> <p>Ms Veniana Qalo <i>Speaker from Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat</i></p> <p>Mr Evan Rogerson <i>Former Director of Agriculture and Commodities Division, WTO</i></p>
10:00 – 10:15	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
10:15 – 11:30	<p><b>SESSION VIII: REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS VS MULTILATERALISM DEBATE</b></p> <p><b><u>Moderator</u></b> Assistant Professor Su-Hyun Lee <i>Assistant Professor, RSIS</i></p> <p><b><u>Speakers</u></b></p> <p>Mr Keith Rockwell <i>Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO</i></p> <p>Ms Elizabeth Chelliah <i>Principal Trade Specialist, Trade Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore</i></p> <p>Ms Sanchita Basu Das <i>Lead Researcher (Economic Affairs), ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute</i></p>
11:30 – 12:30	<p><b>SESSION IX: MANAGING DISPUTES OVER TRADE</b></p> <p><b><u>Moderator</u></b> Mr Said El Hachimi <i>Counsellor, External Relations, WTO</i></p> <p><b><u>Speaker</u></b> Associate Prof Michael Ewing-Chow, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore</p>



<b>12:30 – 13:30</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>14:00 – 16:00</b>	<p><b>Tour of Singapore's Parliament Building</b></p> <p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p>Mr Keith Rockwell <i>Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO</i></p> <p>Professor Ralf Emmers <i>Associate Dean, RSIS</i></p> <p>Mr Gerald Yeo <i>Director of Programme and Partnerships Temasek Foundation International</i></p>

## **Biographies of the Speakers**

In alphabetical sequence according to last/family names

### **Elizabeth CHELLIAH**

Elizabeth Chelliah is the Principle Trade Specialist at the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) as well as Head (Academic Branch) of the MTI Trade Academy an appointment she assumed in 2011. As a Principle Trade Specialist, Ms. Chelliah stewards the building and institutionalizing of expertise amongst MTI Trade officers focusing on WTO and FTA rules, disciplines and procedures; trade facilitation competencies and internationalization strategies and levers. As head of the Academic Branch of the MTI Trade Academy, besides developing relevant trade related training modules for government and public officers, Ms. Chelliah also coaches officers on WTO, ASEAN and APEC issues as well as providing thought leadership via speaking engagements at various forums.

From 2011 to 2016 Ms. Chelliah was the Deputy Director overseeing Singapore's policies relating to all trade in goods matters at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). For the WTO, viz. the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) including Agriculture, Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) and Rules and regular WTO committee work on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), Safeguards and Import Licensing and plurilateral initiatives such as the recently concluded negotiations for the information Technology Agreement 2 (ITA-2) and ongoing negotiations for Environmental Goods.

From 2006 to 2011, she was Deputy Director of the APEC Division and was the Chair of the Committee for Trade and Investment (CTI) for the years 2008-2010. During that tenure, she was involved in developing what is now known as the APEC Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda.

Ms. Chelliah has been involved in FTA negotiations since 2002 primarily in the area of Goods (i.e. Market Access Trade in Goods Disciplines, Rules of Origin and Trade Remedies) and at time Customs related matters. She has been the lead Good negotiator in Singapore's FTAs with EFTA, China, Korea, EU, Chinese Taipei, ASEAN-China FTA and the recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Due to the nature of the TPP negotiations, she was also involved in the agriculture negotiations. She was Singapore's Chief Negotiator for the Singapore-Peru FTA and is Chief Negotiator for the ongoing review of the Japan-Singapore Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

Ms. Chelliah has been involved in WTO matters since her posting to the Singapore Mission in Geneva in 1998. She was Chair of the WTO ITA Committee in 2000. She returned to Singapore in 2002 after the launch of the DDA.

Ms. Chelliah has also been a WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) panel member of four WTO disputes namely Textiles Rules of Origin between India and the US and the EC Chicken Cuts classification dispute between Brazil, Thailand and the EC, the dolphin safe tuna labelling case between the US and Mexico and the dispute between EU, Canada and Norway on Seals.

### **Benedict CHEONG**

Benedict Cheong is the Chief Executive of Temasek Foundation International, a non-profit philanthropic

organization set up by Temasek Holdings Singapore. Prior to joining Temasek Foundation, Mr. Cheong was the Chief Executive Officer of the National Council of Social Service from 1998 to 2007. He also worked in the Singapore Police Force for 15 years, from 1982 to January 1998, where he held various appointments at the headquarters and in the operational units.

Mr. Cheong currently serves on the Ministry of Home Affairs Independent Review Panel (IRP), Medifund Advisory Council of Singapore and on the boards of non-profit organizations such as Caritas Singapore Community Council and Temasek Foundation Cares. He has a Bachelor's degree from Oxford University, UK and a Master in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, USA.

### **Sanchita Basu DAS**

Sanchita Basu Das is ISEAS Fellow and Lead Researcher (Economics) at the ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (ISEAS). She also serves as the Coordinator for the Singapore APEC Study Centre and Co-Editor of the Journal of Southeast Asian Economies. Prior to joining ISEAS in 2005., she was an economist in the private sector involved in infrastructure consulting, manufacturing and banking. Sanchi holds an MBA from the National University of Singapore, and an MA from the Delhi School of Economics, India. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in International Political Economy at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She has authored and edited numerous books and book chapters, policy papers and opinion articles. Her research interests include – economic regionalism in ASEAN and Asia-Pacific; international trade; and economic development issues like connectivity.

### **Ralf EMMERS**

Ralf Emmers is Professor of International Relations and Associate Dean at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. He concurrently heads the Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS) at RSIS. Dr. Emmers completed his MSc and PhD in the International Relations Department of the London School of Economics (LSE). His research interests cover security studies, the international institutions in the Asia Pacific, and the security and international politics of Southeast Asia. Dr. Emmers is the author and editor of 11 books and monographs. His latest books include *Geopolitics and Maritime Territorial Disputes in East Asia* (Routledge, 2010) and *Resource Management and Contested Territories in East Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013). He has published articles in peer-reviewed journals such as *The Pacific Review*, *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, *Asian Survey*, *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, *Asian Security*, *Contemporary Southeast Asia* and *Contemporary Politics*, as well as numerous book chapters in edited volumes.

### **Michael EWING-CHOW**

Michael Ewing-Chow worked in Allen & Gledhill before joining NUS. He then started the first World Trade Law course and helped negotiate Singapore's early FTAs. He has been a consultant to the Singapore Government, the World Bank and the WTO. Michael has taught government officials in Asia and Latin America trade law and corporate governance. He also assisted the Singapore Company Law Reform and Frameworks Committee in 2001 with a major overhaul of corporate law and in 2008 was appointed to a Working Group of the Steering Committee to review of the Companies Act. Michael volunteers with NGOs and co-founded aidha, an NGO which provides financial education and microfinance opportunities for domestic migrant workers. He was the Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2007. He received the Teaching Excellence Award in 2007 and 2009 and the Inspiring Mentor Award in 2009. In 2009, he was an Emile Noel Fellow at NYU.

**Said EL HACHIMI**

Said EL Hachimi is a Counsellor at the Information & External Relations Division of the WTO. He is responsible for WTO relations with the Parliamentarians and the International Intergovernmental Organizations such as the United Nations, its agencies and OECD. His work includes a lot of interaction with all the stakeholders of the WTO including Government Officials; Members of Parliaments; Academics; Business organizations and NGOs.

He has been co-organizing the Annual Parliamentary Conference on WTO at the WTO Headquarters since 2011 with colleagues at the IPU and the European parliament.

Prior to joining the WTO in 2004, Mr. EL Hachimi worked for the Government of Morocco for thirteen years. He was the Sherpa for the Foreign Trade Minister of Morocco in 2003 and 2004 particularly, overseeing his country's relations with the European Union and the WTO. In his capacity as a trade official he took part to WTO negotiations within the Uruguay and current Doha Rounds as well as to Free Trade Agreements negotiations between Morocco and numerous countries including the European Union, United States, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan etc.

**Joseph JACOB**

Joseph is an Indirect Tax, Trade and Customs professional with more than 20 years' experience having worked in Industry, Consulting Firms and with the Revenue Service in India.

He has been with HK Inc., Singapore since January 2013 as Regional Customs Manager and has oversight on all matters relating to Trade and Customs in South East Asia, India and Australia. The role involves advising the company on matters relating to: Customs classification and valuation, leveraging Preferential Trade Agreements and other beneficial Trade Pacts such as the Information Technology Agreement, dealing with Non-Tariff Barriers, handling litigation matters, making investment decisions and setting up operations in a country from a Trade, Customs and Indirect Tax perspective. He also advises the company on Broker and Partner Management.

Prior to joining HP, Joseph worked with KPMG and Deloitte in Bangalore for around 7 years at various levels, lastly as an Associate Director advising some of the biggest companies in India on the entire range of Indirect Taxes including VAT, Service Tax, Central Excise and Customs apart from other allied laws such as the Special Economic Zones Act and Foreign Trade Policy. Further, he represented clients before authorities including at Tax Tribunals.

He started his career with the Indian Revenue Service as an Inspector in 1995 and worked with the Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax Department for around 11 years in various capacities accessing, auditing and investigating companies from the perspective of various federal Indirect Taxes. He also helped fight cases for the Department in Tribunals and High Court.

He is a regular speaker in industry forums in Singapore on matters relating to Trade and Customs. He was a visiting faculty at the National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics, Bangalore and at the Institute of Cost Accountants of India, Bangalore for over 5 years.

In terms of educational qualifications, Joseph is a Management Accountant having qualified from the Institute

of Cost Accountants of India, Company Secretary from the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and also has a Law degree from Bangalore University.

### **Marcus Bartley JOHNS**

Marcus Bartley Johns is a Senior Trade Specialist in the World Bank Group Singapore office, Marcus works on trade-related programs in East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia, as well as on public and private partnerships on trade and investment in the region. He also contributes to the World Bank's global trade program, including jointly leading engagement in the G20 trade and investment agenda and a project on the impact of trade in ending poverty.

Before relocating to Singapore in December 2016, Marcus was the focal point for World Bank engagement in the WTO and other Geneva trade and economic institutions. This includes serving as Geneva-based coordinator for activities in support of effective implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. He also covered World Bank engagement on trade and competitiveness issues with the OECD in Paris. Marcus was one of the lead authors of the 2015 joint flagship report with the WTO, *The Role of Trade in Ending Poverty*, and has written and presented on a range of issues related to trade and economic affairs.

Before joining the World Bank, Marcus worked for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australian Agency for International Development. He was posted to Australia's Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organization from 2011 until 2014. Prior to that, he was posted to Bangkok with the Australian Agency for International Development (2009-2011), and with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2008-09), and worked in headquarters in 2007-08.

Before joining the Australian Government, Marcus worked on foreign policy, trade and development issues for a Member of Australia's national parliament. Marcus has an MSc in Finance (Economic Policy) from the School of Oriental and African Studies, Honors in International Relations from the Australian National University, and a BA from the University of Sydney.

### **Chia-yi LEE**

Chia-yi Lee is Assistant Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. She obtained her PhD in Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis, USA, in December 2013. Her research mainly focuses on analyzing the interaction between external economic factors and domestic politics using sophisticated quantitative methods. Her research interests include international political economy, natural resources, foreign direct investment, terrorism, political methodology, and game theory. Her works have been published in academic journals such as *International Interactions*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, and *Foreign Policy Analysis*.

### **Su-Hyun LEE**

Su-Hyun Lee is an Assistant Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She received her PhD in Political Science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her research focuses broadly on international and comparative political economy, with an emphasis on the political determinants of foreign economic policy. Her dissertation explored the effects of partisan and electoral incentives of representative policymakers on the structure of U.S. trade protection characterized by the allocation of protectionist rents across industries and electoral constituencies. She is currently working on projects dealing with connections between global economic integration and domestic

politics, such as the skill-bias of tariff structure, public good provisions, and the impact of the IMF conditionality on collective labor rights. Her work has appeared in the Political Science Research and Methods.

### **Margaret LIANG**

Margaret Liang is Adjunct Senior Fellow of the Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, Associate Trainer for the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Civil Service College; and Senior Fellow of the MFA Diplomatic Academy.

She served as Director (Trade Policy) of the Singapore Trade Development Board and subsequently as Director of the International Economics Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has served in Singapore Missions in Bonn and in Geneva. She was Singapore's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN/WTO in Geneva from 1999-2002. She has been actively involved in GATT/WTO negotiations since the launch of the Uruguay Round. From 1985-1992, she was Singapore's negotiator in the Uruguay Round, inter-alia, in the areas of Anti-Dumping, Subsidies and Countervailing Duty Measures, Safeguards, Dispute Settlement, GATT Articles and Government Procurement.

Ms Liang has considerable experience in international trade law cases before the GATT/WTO, both as advocate and panelist/Chairman. She was member of the Singapore team in the WTO dispute settlement case on Singapore/Malaysia-Import measures on certain petrochemical products.

She was panelist in Chile/EC Import Measures on Dessert Apples; US-EC Import Measures on Dessert Apples; arbitrator in EC-US Section 110(5) of US Copyright Act; Chairman in Peru-EC Trade Description of Sardines; panelist in US Definitive Safeguards Measures on Imports of Certain Steel products and Chairman in Korea-Measures affecting Import of Bovine Meat from Canada.

She has contributed to major academic/WTO seminars and conducted WTO Trade Policy courses for Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade Negotiations for Asian developing countries, such as in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Mongolia, Abu Dhabi and Timor-Leste and under Singapore's Technical assistance programmes for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Ms. Liang also conducts in-house training programmes on WTO and other trade-related issues for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Enterprise Singapore, the Monetary Authorities of Singapore and the Singapore Civil Service College. She was the Academic Coordinator for the WTO Regional Trade Policy Course, for Asia-Pacific, a joint cooperation between the WTO and the National University of Singapore from 2008-2010.

### **LIN Shiumei**

Shiumei Lin is Vice President for Public Affairs responsible for representing UPS with governments and other stakeholders on policy, regulation, and sustainability in the Asia Pacific region. Shiumei is currently Chair of the Customs & Trade Facilitation Committee of the US ASEAN Business Council, and Vice Chair of its ASEAN Committee leading the US ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive SMEs – a partnership effort between the United States, ASEAN, and American firms to help SMEs join global supply chains. Ms. Lin also is a board member of Green Freight Asia and Conference of the Asia Pacific Express Carriers (CAPEC).

Prior to joining UPS in 2010, Ms. Lin worked at the Ministry of Trade & Industry as Trade Counsellor and a member of the APEC policy team during Singapore's Chairmanship in 2009. At the ministry, she spearheaded efforts on supply chain connectivity and worked on customs, investment, services, and the Trans-Pacific

Partnership (TPP).

Ms. Lin is a public policy practitioner with close to 20 years experience representing industry interests in the Asia Pacific region. As Director and Vice President at public affairs firm APCO Worldwide, she managed project teams to implement strategic communications, coalition building, and government relations strategies for clients. From 2005 to 2007, Ms. Lin was Senior Director for International Trade Policy at the US ASEAN Business Council, representing companies in food & agriculture, life sciences, logistics, financial services, and ICT on ASEAN integration issues.

Ms Lin spent more than ten years working on US-Vietnam relations. While at the US-Vietnam Trade Council she coordinated efforts to gain support for economic normalization in Washington, assisted US companies with on-the ground trade policy issues, designed technical assistance programs for Vietnamese ministries, and advised on issues relating to the US-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement and Vietnam's WTO accession.

In 2010, Ms Lin was awarded the US ASEAN Business Council's Rising Star Award for outstanding public affairs.

Ms. Lin is a graduate of the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University (Master of Arts) and the University of Colorado, Boulder (Bachelor of Arts).

#### **Kaewkamol (Karen) PITAKDUMRONGKIT**

Kaewkamol (Karen) Pitakdumrongkit is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Multilateralism Studies, at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She completed her MA and PhD in Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara, U.S.A. Before joining RSIS, Karen assisted Kenan Institute Asia in analysing trade and industry data concerning the impact of the proposed EU-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement on Thailand's industries. Her research interests include international economic negotiations, East Asian economic governance, relationships between regional and global economic governance, ASEAN Economic Community, and political socialisation. Beside research, Karen teaches a course on the Political Economy of Southeast Asia at the RSIS International Political Economy programme.

#### **Michael PULCH**

Michael Pulch is the European Union Ambassador to Singapore.

Before his arrival in Singapore in September 2013, Dr Pulch headed the Russia Division in the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels, where he coordinated EU policies on Russia and chaired the EU Interservice Group on Russia. Prior to that from 2006 to 2011 he was posted to Beijing as Deputy Chief of Mission of the EU Delegation to China, in charge of EU policies on China and relations with Mongolia.

Dr Pulch entered the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1986, serving in the United Nations Directorate, before he was attached to the German embassy in Seoul as political officer. During his posting to Washington as deputy head of the Economic Section he covered economic aspects of security policy.

In 1995 Dr Pulch joined the US Division of the European Commission in Brussels focusing on US foreign and security policy. From 1999 to 2003, he was posted to the EU Delegation in Tokyo, where he headed the Trade and Commerce Section that defines EU trade policy objectives for Japan. As deputy head of the European

Commission's East Asia Division in Brussels until 2006 he worked on political and economic aspects of EU relations with countries in the Far East/Australasia region. He also co-authored the EU's first East Asia Policy Guidelines.

Dr Pulch holds degrees in law and political sciences from the universities of Bonn, Paris and Cambridge. He received honorary citizenships of the State of Tennessee and the City of Little Rock, Arkansas.

### **Veniana QALO**

Veniana Qalo was recently appointed Senior Trade Policy Specialist at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFs) in Fiji where since January 2014, she has been responsible for the provision of technical advice and assistance to Forum Member Countries on trade policy issues. Prior to 2004, Ms Qalo worked for six years in the PIFs as a Research Assistant and Trade Policy Officer before joining the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, where she held the position of Economic Advisor with the Commonwealth Secretariat in London until 2013. She was concurrently the Acting Head of Section and Economic Advisor, International Trade and Regional Cooperation (ITRC) Section, Economic Affairs Division (EAD) from 2012 to 2013. A registered Barrister and Solicitor in Fiji, she holds a Bachelor of Law Degree and a Professional Diploma in Legal Practice from the University of the South Pacific; and a Masters in International Law and Economics (Magna Cum Laude) from the World Trade Institute joint Universities of Neuchatel, Fribourg and Berne in Switzerland. Ms Qalo has written and published pieces on a range of trade and international law issues.

### **Danny QUAH**

Danny Quah is Li Ka Shing Professor of Economics at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. His current research is on an economic approach to world order: global power shift, the rise of the east, and models of global power relations.

Quah gave the third LSE-NUS lecture in 2013, TEDx talks in 2016, 2014, and 2012, and the Inaugural LSE Big Questions Lecture in 2011. In 2016, he was named one of the top 100 Economics blogs in the world. Quah's research has been supported by the Khazanah Research Institute, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the British Academy, the UK's Economic and Research Council, and the Andrew Mellon Foundation.

Quah was previously Assistant Professor of Economics at MIT, and then Professor of Economics and International Development, and Director of the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre at LSE. He served as LSE's Head of Department for Economics, and Council Member on Malaysia's National Economic Advisory Council. Quah studied at Princeton, Minnesota, and Harvard.

### **Keith ROCKWELL**

Keith Rockwell has been a Director at the World Trade Organization and the spokesman for the organization since 1996.

He is responsible for the overall co-ordination of the WTO's interaction with media, civil society, Parliamentarians and the United Nations. As Director of the Media and External Relations Division, Mr Rockwell works closely with the Director General and his office to fashion messages reflecting the objectives and activities of the WTO. He appears before media regularly through press conferences, briefings and television and radio appearances.



In managing a division of 32 professional and support staff, Mr Rockwell is responsible for coordinating WTO outreach activities that include the organization of seminars for parliamentarians, journalists and NGOs in developing countries. He has oversight responsibilities as well for the design and layout of the WTO website and publications.

Prior to joining the WTO, Keith worked as an editor, reporter and columnist for The Journal of Commerce, a New York-based financial daily. He focused on international economic issues, US and European politics. He worked in New York City as the editorial page editor in the early 1980s before transferring to Washington where he was a White House and Congressional correspondent. He covered the 1988 Presidential Campaign. In his last two assignments at the JOC, Keith served as the London-based chief of European Bureaus and as the Washington Bureau Chief.

He received his Masters in Business Administration in International Business from George Washington University in 1991 and his Bachelor's Degree in History and Political Science from Tufts University in 1980. In 1989, he was invited by the European Commission to participate in the EU Visitors Programme during which he spent three weeks studying EU integration and the creation of the Single Market. In 1990 he authored 1992 AND BEYOND: How to Prosper in the World's Biggest Market, which was published by Knight-Ridder Inc.

Mr Rockwell is a member of the US Council on Foreign Relations and he works very hard at improving his French – with mixed results.

### **Evan ROGERSON**

Evan Rogerson retired from the WTO Secretariat at the end of March this year, having held senior positions there for more than twenty years.

He joined the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1976 after graduating in history from Auckland University and initially worked in defense cooperation, then in economic relations. Secondment at the Treasury preceded postings in Brussels and London. His work in those postings focused on trade policy, particularly New Zealand's relations with the EU and access to the European market.

After a period as External Relations Manager for the NZ Dairy Board in London, he joined the GATT Secretariat in 1986, working in the Agriculture Division on the Uruguay Round negotiations before moving to the Director-General's Office in 1993. His role here ranged from speechwriting to policy advice.

As Director of the DG's Office and Chief of Staff to WTO Director-General Renato Ruggiero from 1995 to 1999, he was closely involved with the WTO's first Ministerial Conference in Singapore in 1996. Among many other roles during this time he acted as the WTO's G-8 sherpa and coordinated the GATT/WTO's 50th anniversary ministerial in 1998 which brought together world leaders including Presidents Clinton, Castro and Mandela.

He worked closely with Director-General Mike Moore to prepare the launch of the new Round at Doha in 2001. From 2002 he headed the Council and TNC Division, servicing the WTO's top committees and Ministerial Conferences. In 2012 he came back to the Agriculture and Commodities Division as Director. In this role he was also Secretary of the negotiating group on Agriculture. In 2015 he led the team that prepared the agreement to abolish agricultural export subsidies reached by Ministers at Nairobi that year.

**Michael WITTER**

Michael Witter has been the German Ambassador to Singapore since 2014.

Being trained lawyer when entering the Foreign Service in 1982, he spent a long time of his diplomatic career in the Economic Department of the German Foreign Ministry.

Since 2008, he has been serving as German Ambassador abroad. Postings before Singapore were in Australia and Morocco.

Earlier in his career, he also served as Consul in Greece and as Deputy Head of Mission in Paraguay and Indonesia.