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WEBINAR
SEP 29 (TUE)
17:00-19:00 (GMT+8)

Language: English (with simultaneous interpretation into Putonghua)
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*CPD points being applied for
Hong Kong has been a contracting party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the predecessor to the World Trade Organization (WTO), in its own right since 23 April 1986; and it is also one of the founding members of the WTO. The Hong Kong SAR is a separate customs territory and its membership in the WTO is underpinned by the Basic Law and the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.

Recently, the US President has made the Executive Order on Hong Kong Normalization and determined that ‘[i]t shall be the policy of the United States to suspend or eliminate different and preferential treatment for Hong Kong to the extent permitted by law and in the national security, foreign policy, and economic interest of the United States.’ Subsequently, pursuant to the said Executive Order, an origin marking measure on imported goods from the Hong Kong SAR has been announced in a notice of the US Customs and Border Protection, which requires such goods to be marked as ‘Made in China’ in the origin marking instead of ‘Made in Hong Kong’.

The series of measures adopted by the United States apparently are at risk of undermining Hong Kong’s status as a member of the WTO and the WTO-based multilateral trading system as a whole. This webinar brings together three leading experts on international trade to discuss the implications of the measures taken by the United States in respect of Hong Kong from the WTO law perspective, and to share their views on the responses that should be taken by Hong Kong under the WTO dispute settlement mechanism to defend its legitimate interest.

MODERATOR

Mr Adrian LAI
Deputy Secretary General
Asian Academy of International Law

Mr Lai is a practising barrister in Hong Kong; he is also a Certified Public Accountant of Hong Kong and holds the specialist qualification in insolvency matters. He maintains a predominantly civil practice and has been engaged as Counsel on matters relating to arbitration, banking, commercial, company, construction, professional accountants/auditors’ negligence, and professional disciplinary proceedings.

PANELLISTS (listed in alphabetical order)

Mr Stuart HARBINSON
Senior Consultant on International Trade
Hume Brophy, Switzerland

Mr Harbinson was Chief of Staff and subsequently Special Adviser to two Directors-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Prior to that, during a distinguished career in the Hong Kong public service, he represented the Hong Kong SAR in the WTO between 1994 and 2002. He has chaired high level WTO bodies, including the Dispute Settlement Body and the General Council, as well as a number of dispute settlement panels.

Professor Chin Leng LIM
Choh-Ming Li Professor of Law
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor Lim is of Keating Chambers, London. He has advised and represented governments and private clients in complex public and private international law matters and disputes. He is also a Visiting Professor at King’s College, London, Honorary Senior Fellow of the British Institute of International & Comparative Law, and served on an advisory committee of the Trade and Industry Department of the Hong Kong SAR.

Dr Anthony Francis NEOH QC SC JP
Chairman
Asian Academy of International Law

Dr Neoh is a senior member of the Hong Kong Bar specialising in international litigation, arbitration and financial regulatory matters. From 1991 to 1994, he was a member of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Council and its Listing Committee, and chaired its Disciplinary Committee and Debt Securities Group, and was Co-Chairman of the Legal Committee of the Hong Kong and China Listing Working Group. From 1999 to 2004, he was Chief Advisor of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, at the personal invitation of former Premier Zhu Rongji.