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WTO

in an age of multilateral and bilateral

Free Trade Agreements:

Is it still relevant to

HONG KONG?

DATE: 19 May 2023 (Friday)

TIME: 18:30–20:00

VENUE: The Former French Mission Building, Central, Hong Kong

This Seminar sets out to explore the continuing relevance of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to Hong Kong, which is a member to the Organisation in its own right. This is an important subject to Hong Kong as China's most open economy, with its special position under the Constitutional Arrangement of 'One Country, Two Systems' as institutionalised by the PRC Constitution and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR.

The WTO was created as part of the post-World War II world order. But no international organisation was established. Instead, there was the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) supplemented by the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA). The WTO was founded at the end of last century with a revised GATT and various Protocols in the hope of creating the world trade order of the 21st Century.

Now as it is near its quarter century of existence, it is time to explore how useful it has been and will be to implement its avowed aim in an age of bilateral and multilateral Free Trade Agreements. In this region, there is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership sponsored by the PRC as well as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which was sponsored by the US, abandoned by the Trump Administration, but now re-embraced by the Biden Administration. As an international city, Hong Kong plays an important role as a crossroad of international trade both nationally and internationally. How it can maximise its position both to its advantage and the advantage of the Nation within this ecology of international trade agreements is a subject that deserves exploration.

This exploration will be undertaken at this Seminar, where speakers will share their thoughts on the subject, a particular aspect of which is the US insistence on labelling HK goods as 'Made in China' and the passage of the matter through the Dispute Resolution System of the WTO.

It will be helpful to anyone interested in the international commercial setting and to those in the legal profession, offering a great opportunity to consolidate their understanding of the background as to how international trade relations can impact cross-border legal services as well as the business of their clients.

▶ **REGISTRATION FEE:** HK\$100 (gratis for AAIL members)
<https://events.aail.org/en/event/2023-WTO/>

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▶ **ENQUIRIES:** events@aail.org

[NETWORKING SESSION]

TIME: 17:30-18:30

with wine, coffee, tea, and light refreshments!



MODERATOR

Teresa CHENG GBM GBS SC JP

Founder Member and Co-Chairman

Asian Academy of International Law

Teresa Cheng is a Senior Counsel, Chartered Engineer, Chartered Arbitrator and Accredited Mediator, with a distinguished record of public service in the Hong Kong SAR. From January 2018 to June 2022, Ms Cheng was the Secretary for Justice of the Hong Kong SAR. Ms Cheng specialises in a wide range of legal areas, including construction, international commercial contracts and investment arbitration, and is an experienced practitioner in international arbitration and mediation. She is frequently engaged as counsel or arbitrator in complex international commercial/investment disputes. She is one of the founder members of the Asian Academy of International Law, Past Vice President of the International Council of Commercial Arbitration, Past Vice President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, and Past Chairperson of Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre. In 2008, she became the first Asian woman elected through a global election as President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. She served as Deputy Judge/Recorder in the High Court of Hong Kong from 2011 to 2017, and she was also a member of the World Bank's Sanctions Board. Ms Cheng is a Fellow of King's College in London, and she established the International Arbitration and Dispute Settlement Course at the Law School of Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, and is an Adjunct Professor as well as the Course Director.



SPEAKER

(Listed in alphabetical order)

James DING

Law Officer (International Law)

International Law Division, Department of Justice, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China

Dr James Ding serves as the Law Officer (International Law), Department of Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR. Prior to that, he was the Commissioner of Inclusive Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Office. He has been awarded the Chief Executive's Commendation for Government/Public Service in 2021. He coordinates and promotes various policy initiatives for dispute avoidance and resolution as well as on advancing the rule of law. He has published on different subjects of international law and international cooperation, and has given various presentations at international and regional conferences, including the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) 50th Anniversary Congress, the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit, the UNCITRAL Working Group III Inter-Sessional Meeting, and the UNCITRAL Colloquium on Possible Future Work on Dispute Settlement. He is also currently the Chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's Economic Committee.



Chin Leng LIM

Choh-Ming Li Professor of Law

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Chin Leng Lim practises from chambers in London as international arbitration counsel and sits as an arbitrator. He is a Visiting Professor at King's College London and Honorary Senior Fellow at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law. Professor Lim has been a tenured full professor and senior administrator in Hong Kong since 2007, was Professor of Law and a member of Court and Senate at The University of Hong Kong, and served on a trade and industry committee which advises Hong Kong's Commerce Secretary. He taught previously at the National University of Singapore, returning as the Lionel Astor Sheridan Visiting Professor, worked as international law counsel in Singapore where he was also Director of the Society of International Law, served as a UN lawyer in Geneva, and prior to that taught at Queen Mary, London. His publications are cited by appellate courts, most recently concerning two investment treaty matters, bar associations, in a legislative inquiry, in (Canadian) Royal Commission and International Law Commission reports. His latest book is *Treaty for a Lost City* (Cambridge, 2022). Previous advisory board positions include Korea's National Research Foundation and *Chinese Journal of International Law*. He is an editor of the *International & Comparative Law Quarterly (ICLQ)*, and in 2021 was elected an associé of the Institut de Droit International. Professor Lim was previously a WTO visiting scholar-in-residence and is currently appointed to the European Commission's list of arbitration chairpersons for the EU's disputes under its bilateral free trade agreements.



Anthony NEOH SC JP

Co-Chairman

Asian Academy of International Law

Dr Anthony Neoh is a senior member of the Hong Kong Bar specialising in international litigation, arbitration and financial regulatory matters. In 1979, he commenced practice at the Hong Kong Bar after serving for 13 years in the Hong Kong Civil Service. 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. He was the chief architect of the legal structure for the listing of Chinese enterprises in Hong Kong. He is former Chairman of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission from 1995 to 1998; during this time, he was the first Asian to be elected Chairman of the Technical Committee of the International Organization of Securities Commissions. From 1999 to 2004, he was Chief Advisor of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, at the personal invitation of former Premier Zhu Rongji. Dr Neoh was appointed as Chairman of the Hong Kong Independent Police Complaints Council from June 2018 to May 2021. He was the Convenor of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) Expert Group on the Finance Academy and now serves as Member of the HKMA Preparatory Committee for the Finance Academy. He is also the Co-Chairman of 2018 B20 Financing Growth and Infrastructure Task Force, and Co-Chairman of The China Securitization Forum.