

## FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

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February 2007

### **NUS Law Partners WTO for Regional Trade Policy Course**

On 12 March 2007, the NUS Faculty of Law will launch the first Regional Trade Policy Course to be held in Singapore in partnership with the World Trade Organization. This course is a milestone as it is the first partnership between a Singapore university and the WTO. It is expected to be run in Singapore for the next two years as well.

This intensive 12-week course, to be held at the Faculty's newly-renovated premises at its Bukit Timah campus, will see 27 foreign government participants from countries in the Asia/Pacific region. Preparations for this course have been in full swing since the Faculty won the bid to host it last year. The Faculty's Associate Professor Locknie Hsu is Academic Coordinator of the course, and she leads a preparatory team set up specially for it. In January this year, Associate Professor Hsu and her colleagues attended a special workshop at the WTO in Geneva, where they held discussions with WTO and regional experts on the state-of-play of the current Doha Round of trade negotiations, in preparation for the course.

The participants can look forward to a full learning programme using the Faculty's state-of-the-art teaching tools and facilities. To augment their classroom experience, the programme will include study visits to institutions that demonstrate Singapore's trade and economic policies in practice. These include visits to see how trade tools like TradeNet help to facilitate trade in Singapore, how private-sector companies in the Singapore logistics sector benefit from such facilitation, and how the industrial parks and ports have contributed to Singapore's economic development.

The course will be co-taught by WTO, NUS and regional experts and covers virtually every aspect of WTO's agreements and negotiations. The participants, who are trade policy officials, can expect to return to their countries with a comprehensive view of these, to enable them to better work in their own governments.

To mark the start of this important partnership between WTO and NUS, there will be an Opening Ceremony and dinner for the course which will be held from 6pm on 14 March 2007 at the campus. It will be graced by Guest-of-Honour, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Information, Communication and the Arts, Dr Balaji Sadasivan, and attended by officials from the University, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Among the guests will be former Ambassadors who have represented Singapore in WTO negotiations – particularly those of the famed Uruguay Round. The World Trade Organization will be represented by Mr Paul Rolian, Director of the WTO's Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, and Ms Dolores Halloran, Fellowship Officer of the same Institute. The Opening Ceremony will feature NUS students presenting dance performances reflecting Singapore's multi-cultural society.