

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

24 November 2010

New Publication - Economic Diplomacy - Essays and Reflections by Singapore's Negotiators

Economic Diplomacy – Essays and Reflections by Singapore's Negotiators was launched by Foreign Minister George Yeo on 19 November 2010.

The publication consists of 16 essays by present and past government officials and academics who had been involved in GATT/WTO and FTA negotiations for Singapore, including Associate Professor Michael Ewing-Chow. The authors reveal their thoughts about the world economy and trading system, reflect on their experiences, and explain how they promoted national interests while advancing the global trade agenda.

Professor C L Lim, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong and Margaret Liang, Adjunct Professor, NUS Faculty of Law co-edited the book.

Associate Professor Ewing-Chow's essay on '*Multilateral or Regional — WTO "and/or" FTAs? An Academic's View of the Trenches*', reflected on his involvement in the early FTA negotiations in Singapore. While recognizing some neoclassical economists' concerns about trade diversion, he chronicles the journey towards an understanding of how bilateral, regional and multilateral trade liberalization could work together particularly for a small trading nation like Singapore and explains how Singapore dealt with the challenges of its early FTA negotiations while still being very committed to the multilateral process and the WTO.

Adjunct Professor Margaret Liang's essay on "*Antidumping Negotiations in the Uruguay Round: Reflections of a Singapore Negotiator*" provided some personal insights from a Singapore negotiator's perspectives on the dynamics of the antidumping negotiations: what the negotiating modalities were, who the key players were, what their game plan was, what the key issues were during the negotiations and how compromise was reached to achieve the WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement.



Economic Diplomacy

Essays and Reflections
by Singapore's Negotiators

Singapore, a small Southeast Asian country with limited resources, transformed itself from a trading post to a successful, cosmopolitan nation with one of the most impressive growth rates in the world. Less well known, however, has been its role in regional and global trade negotiations. This book is a collection of sixteen essays written by a group of diplomats, policy-makers, and professors who became involved in international economic affairs, notably in GATT/WTO, regional and bilateral free trade negotiations. Here, they reveal their thoughts about the world economy and trading system, reflect on their experiences, and explain how they promoted national interests while advancing the global trade agenda. This book will appeal not only to professional diplomats, but to anyone interested in how international economic diplomacy works and Singapore's role and perspective as an open trading nation.

"The reflections in this book, offered by experienced Singaporean negotiators who have been at the forefront of regional and multilateral trade talks, vividly convey the process and dynamics of trade negotiations; they provide fascinating insights for any policy maker and negotiator working in the field."

Sapachai Panichpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

"Singapore has faced the challenge of globalization with both a subtle strategy and plucky self-reliance. As part of Singapore's strategy, it has developed a cadre of trade policy experts with an extraordinary skill and experience. This remarkable volume brings together a group of these experts to offer the benefits of their skill and experience to the rest of the world. This essential book fascinates and informs, but also will play a critical role in preparing trade policy professionals from around the world."

Professor Joel P. Trachtman, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

"Singapore has made a huge contribution to the development of the multilateral trading system, way beyond what might be envisaged from a nation of its relatively modest proportions. Why? Because strong multilateral rules tend to dilute the 'law of the jungle' and promote a more level playing field. How? Read this book and you will find out."

Stuart Harrison, former Chairman, WTO General Council

"With its mix of technical articles and personal narratives of the negotiation processes, this volume is an invaluable resource for those interested in economic diplomacy and multilateral legal negotiations."

Tony Chew, Chairman, Singapore Business Federation

"This collection covers the whole range of international trade policy, bringing together the experience of the past with the perspectives of the future. It is a testimony to the great importance of smaller players in working for solutions and improvements in the multilateral context. Singapore is in the front row of the 'friends of the system', and the multilateral system is fortunate to have such friends."

Donato Ruggiero, former Director-General, WTO

Economic Diplomacy



Lim
Liang

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