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: 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.