



A Decade in the WTO:

Implications for China and Global Trade Governance

Wednesday June 29th, 2011

Centre de Conférences de Varembé (CCV) – Room A

9-11 rue de Varembé CH 1211 Geneva

8h30-9h00 Registration

9h00-9h15 Opening remarks

- *Ricardo Melendez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD*
- *Zhenyu Sun, Chairman of CWTO*

9h15-10h00 Session 1: WTO Membership: Impact on China and Global Trade

How has China seen its participation in the WTO in the past decade? What are key lessons for China? How has China influenced global trade landscape and international trading system?

Moderator: Ricardo Melendez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD

Panel:

- *Ambassador Xiaozhun Yi, Chinese Mission to the WTO*
- *Harsha V. Singh, Deputy Director General of the WTO*

Open discussion

10h00-10h15 Coffee break

10h15 Session 2: How has China influenced the WTO as an institution?

What role has China played in the ongoing Doha Round negotiations which enter its 10th year as China's membership does? How has China involved in the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, committees and task forces? What is China's strategy for preferential trade agreements (PTAs)?



Moderator: Ricardo Melendez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD

- Role in the Doha Round Negotiations, *Paul Blustein, Nonresident Fellow, Brookings Institution*
- China's participation in the WTO besides Doha, *former Ambassador Zhenyu Sun, Chairman of China Society for WTO Studies (CWTO)*
- Involvement in the Dispute Settlement Mechanism, *Henry Gao, Faculty of Law, Hong Kong University*
- *China's Preferential Trade Agreements, Razeen Sally, Director, ECIPE, faculty of the London School of Economics*

Discussants:

Ambassador Michael Punke, Mission of the United States to the WTO

Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta, Mission of India to the WTO

Scott Kennedy, Director, Center for Chinese Politics & Business, Indiana University

Open discussion

12h30-13h30 Lunch break

13h30-15h30 Session 3: Trade relations with other WTO Members

How have China's trade relations with other WTO Members evolved? What are emerging challenges and opportunities? How will it shape future agenda in the WTO?

Moderator: Ambassador Sergio Marchi, Senior Fellow of ICTSD; Former Ambassador of Canada to the WTO

Panel:

- *U.S. - Gary Hufbauer, Reginald Jones Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics*
- *EU – Guus Houttuin, Deputy Permanent Representative of the EU Mission to the WTO*
- *South Africa- Ambassador Faizel Ismail, Mission of South Africa to the WTO*



- *LDC – Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Former Ambassador of Bangladesh to WTO and UN offices in Geneva*
- *Brazil –Ambassador Roberto Carvalho de Azevedo, Mission of Brazil to the WTO*

Open discussion

15h30-15h45 Coffee break

15h45 Session4: What comes next?

What are lessons to be drawn from the past decade for China, for the WTO, for other WTO members as well as the private sector? What role can and should China take in global economic governance, in particular addressing new challenges such as beyond Doha agenda, climate change, international development and international financial stability?

Moderator: Matthes Buhbe, Director, FES Geneva Office

- *Xinkui Wang, President, Shanghai WTO Affairs Consultation Centre*
- *Rongjiu Xue, Professor and Vice Chairman of China Society for WTO Studies*
- *Jean-Pierre Lehmann , Professor, Director of Evian Group at IMD Lausanne*
- *Tao Hu, Chief Expert of Trade and Environment Expert Group, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China*

Open discussion

17h30 Synthesis

- *Shuaihua Cheng, Programme Officer for Strategic Analysis and China, ICTSD*

18h00 Closing Remarks

- *Matthes Buhbe, Director FES Geneva Office*
- *Ricardo Melendez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD*



Background

2011 marks China's 10th year in the WTO. In 2001 when China joined the WTO, few might have expected China would gain its economic status as impressive as the reality is today. Within one decade, China doubled its GDP, increased export 4.9 times and import 4.7 times. China's outward investment (ODI) soared 60 fold, from less than USD 1 billion in 2001 to near USD 60 billion in 2010. It accumulated world largest foreign reserves of USD 2.8 trillion.

On the other hand, China fast economic growth is unbalanced and, perhaps, unsustainable. It is reported that many Chinese companies are not profitable. The economy is too much dependent on export and investment in fixed-assets, and depends less on domestic consumption. Over 150 million people are living below 1 USD per day. The alarming income disparity is illustrated by the ratio of urban to rural per capita income which is above 3 and the ratio of incomes of coastal provinces to inland provinces which is close to 2.5. Not mentioning that the environment is challenging and social pressures both from within and from outside are mounting.

Against this backdrop, many questions continue to be raised about China's economic rise. What is the impact of China's WTO membership on itself and the WTO as a backbone institute of global trade governance? What's new that China has brought to the WTO? How have China's trade relations with other WTO Members evolved? And what's next in terms of role of China in address emerging issues such as climate change, international development and global economic governance?

To address these questions, ICTSD will organize a roundtable in Geneva on "**A Decade in the WTO: Implications for China and Global Trade Governance**".

Objective

The objective of the dialogue is to generate a better understanding of China's rise and implications for international trade and world trading system at a moment when both China's membership and WTO Doha Round enter into their 10th year. It will also seek to identify areas for further research and dialogue in respect to the role of China and other merging countries in setting future trade agenda and sustainable development. Based on this expert meeting, an e-book will be published before the WTO Ministerial Meeting in the end of 2011.

Organizer

The Dialogue is organized by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in partnership with China Society for WTO Studies (CWTO), and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Geneva office.



Founded in Geneva in September 1996, ICTSD aims to influence the international trade system such that it advances the goal of sustainable development. As an independent, non-profit, and non-governmental organization, ICTSD engages a broad range of actors in ongoing dialogue on trade and sustainable development policy. In advancing its mission, the Centre has become a leading broker of knowledge and information on trade policy and sustainable development.

ICTSD plays a unique, systemic role as a provider of original, non-partisan reporting and facilitation services. ICTSD advances trade policy that supports sustainable development by structuring interaction between policy-makers and key influencers who are often excluded from policymaking processes. ICTSD helps parties better understand the technical and political contexts that underlie their interests and the interests of those with whom they interact on policy issues. In this way, ICTSD builds bridges between groups with seemingly disparate agendas, enabling them to identify and progress on issues where their interests and priorities coincide.

ICTSD launched its **China Initiative** in 2006. The China Initiative is aimed at leveraging China's role in global economic governance for a global common future of sustainable development. Its programme is focused on three key themes: global economic governance, trade and investment, international development. It makes intervention at the multilateral, bilateral and national levels.

Bridges China Dialogue is the flagship project of ICTSD China Initiative. The Dialogue is committed to improving China's globalization in a sustainable manner by engaging Chinese business leaders and policymakers in international multi-stakeholder conversations on governance, strategies, practices and global citizenship. Since 2007, the Dialogue has become one of most influential international forums on China related issues.

In March 2011, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met ICTSD Chief Executive Mr. Ricardo Melendez-Ortiz in People's Great Hall. Wen said, China's development is inseparable from the world, and the development of the world cannot be realized without China. In his conversation, Premier Wen congratulated ICTSD in its work on global economic governance matters and its focus on sustainability, and expressed appreciation for ICTSD's work in ensuring China's smoother integration into world economy, advancing sustainable development of China and the world.



Partners

ICTSD is very honored to have the partnership support from **China Society for World Trade Organization Studies (CWTO)**. The CWTO is the sole nation-wide non-governmental organization of studying WTO and relevant economic and trade issues based in Beijing, China. Formed voluntarily by government officials, experts and scholars, and institutions all over the country engaged in WTO-related affairs, CWTO is one of the authoritative institutions in the country carrying out research, consulting, training, compilation, publication, and international exchange and cooperation activities in connection with WTO.

ICTSD appreciates its long term partnership with the **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)** on China and global governance programme. As a private non-profit institution in Germany with offices worldwide (including Geneva, Beijing and Shanghai), FES is committed to the ideas and basic values of social democracy. With its Geneva office FES takes special interest in UN-debates on trade and development as well as social policy and human rights.

Research

A number of think pieces will be prepared to stimulate discussions at the dialogue. Discussions at the dialogue will also feed in a book which is scheduled to be published and launched in conjunction with WTO Ministerial meeting in December in Geneva.

Participants

The dialogue is intended to be an international multi-stakeholder dialogue with participants from governments, academia, civil society organizations and the business community.