



SOUTH ASIA INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW NETWORK (SAIELN) DISCUSSION SESSION OCTOBER 16, 2017, 4:00 PM NALANDA, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE, NEW DELHI

The New Geometry of Trade

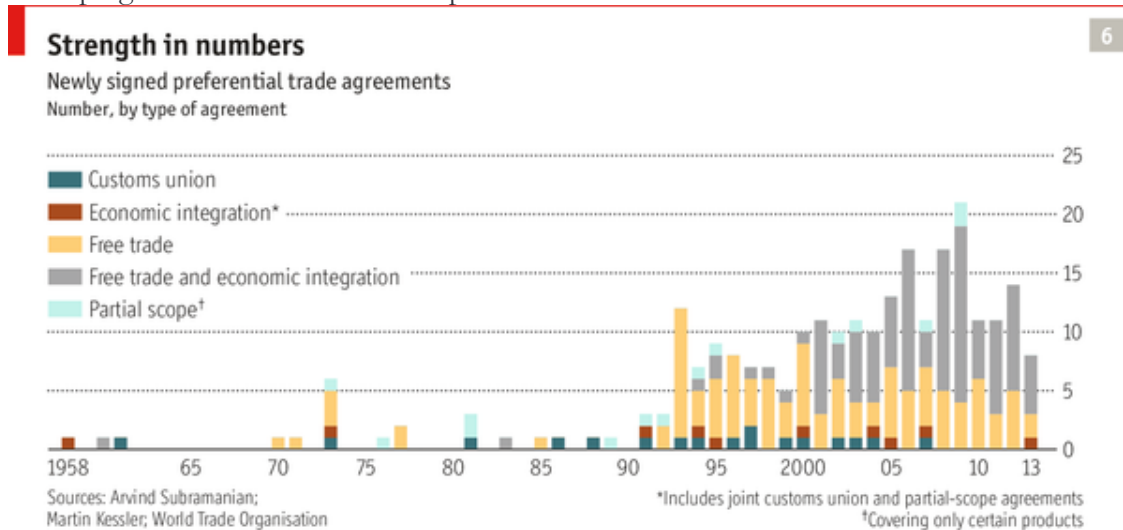
Beyond the WTO, What Trade for Democratic and Sustainable Societies?

The World Trade Organization (WTO) will hold its 11th Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 10 to 13 December 2017. While this appears to be an appropriate time to reassess the role of the WTO in guaranteeing sustainable growth and development, it is perhaps more important to reflect on the changing dynamics of international trade and the future of the multilateral trading system.

With the surge in the regional trade agreements (RTAs), the world is also witnessing the gradual disengagement of the United States from mega trade deals such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. However, with the United States critical of the multilateral trading system and with 'Brexit', the entire world appears to be adopting inward-looking economic practices.

At present, it appears that the WTO is at a crossroads. With the rise in polarizing tendencies of the world's biggest economies, it is an appropriate time to ponder on the ways and means to strengthen the multilateral trading system. The Ministerial Conference has a task cut out for it in that it must produce genuine results, which reaffirm the faith of Members in the multilateral trading system in ensuring sustainable and equitable development for all.

In this context, and at a turning point for globalization, this SAIELN Discussion proposes to address the new geometry of trade in reflecting upon its engines and actors with a special focus on the expected positive outcomes of globalization for the emerging and developing world and South Asia in particular.



Source: The Economist



Centre for International Trade
and Economic Laws



Centre for Trade
and Investment
Law (CTIL)
Indian Institute of Foreign
Trade

Programme

Chair: Dr. Leila Choukroune, Professor of International Law and University Research and Innovation Professor in Democratic Citizenship, University of Portsmouth (UK).

Discussants:

- Prof. Manoj Pant, Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
- Prof. Abhijeet Das, Head and Professor, Centre for WTO Studies
- Prof. James Nedumpara, Professor and Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Law
- Mr. Pranav Kumar, Head, International Trade and Policy, Confederation of Indian Industry
- Prof. Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor, Centre for WTO Studies

Floor Discussion

Vote of Thanks: Mr. Sandeep Thomas, Centre for Trade and Investment Law

Tea and Coffee