



KIEP-ECIPE-GSIS Conference on Free Trade Agreements: Revisiting the Reality of FTA Competition

**Seoul National University
May 23, 2013**

The Doha Round is stuck for a very long time because of the profound divergences of views between China and the US on global governance (more than on trade specifically). That leaves the free trade agreements (FTAs) as the only door open for delivering the improved market access which is so badly needed for generating growth and overcoming the crisis.

For the coming decade, Pacific Asia will be the key operating field for FTAs: EU FTAs with Korea (done) Japan (launched) Taiwan (to be launched) and China (to start to look at), US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (under negotiations) and last but not least the various FTAs among the three biggest East Asian economies (China, Japan and Korea) with the many possible configurations including the ASEAN countries, Australia and New-Zealand.

In this context, the key question is: how to make the best use of FTAs? Three approaches are possible and could be explored in this conference.

- How to minimize the costs generated by FTAs-related trade distortions? Many of the FTAs involving Pacific Asian economies include the largest world economies. Hence, the risks and magnitudes of distortions are huge and should be pre-emptively dealt with in a systemic manner.
- How to maximize FTAs possible benefits? If constructively structured, FTAs have some clear advantages on the WTO because they involve negotiating countries which can more easily build trust among themselves, hence could go deeper in terms of mutual recognition in norms (goods) and regulations (services).
- Trade policy and international political relations FTAs could be seen as a very pragmatic way to tackle some aspects of Asia's international political relations. In short, trade policy could be designed as an "avant-garde" for foreign policies matters.

Final Program

Venue: International Conference Hall (4F1, Bld 140-2)

Graduate School of International Studies, Seoul National University (SNU GSIS)

Date: May 23, 2013

10:00-10:10

Welcoming Address

Dean Hwuy-Chang Moon, SNU GSIS

10:10-12:00

1. FTA in Global Economy

Moderator: Dr. Chang Jae Lee (KIEP)

- Prof. Bernard Hoekman (European University Institute/World Bank), “Plurilateral Agreements in the Global Economy: Towards Greater Multipolarity in the WTO”
- Prof. Patrick Messerlin (ECIPE and SNU-GSIS), “Trade Policy and International Relations: Two Case Studies”
- Dr. Sebastien Miroudot (OECD), “Global Value Chains and the Network of Regional Trade Agreements in East Asia”

Discussants: Prof. Moonsung Kang (Korea University)

Dr. Chul Chung (KIEP)

12:00-1:40 Lunch Break (Hosted by GSIS)

1:40-3:40

2. FTAs in Region

Moderator: Prof. Dukgeun Ahn (GSIS)

- Dr. Yoo Duk Kang (KIEP), “Reassessing the Korea’s FTA Roadmap and Its Realignment Afterward ”
- Dr. Roy Chun Lee (Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research, Taiwan WTO & RTA Center), “Taiwan’s Participation in Regional Integration: A Possible Roadmap and Challenges”
- Dr. Minghui Shen (Chinese Academy of Social Science, National Institute of International Strategy), “FTAs in the Asia-Pacific: A Chinese Perspective”

Discussants: Prof. Chongsup Kim (GSIS)

Prof. Inkyo Cheong (Inha University)

3:40-4:00 Coffee Break

4:30-6:30

3. Institutional Issues for FTAs

Moderator: Prof. Patrick Messerlin (Sciences Po/GSIS)

- Prof. Deborah Elms (Head, Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations, Nanyang Technological University), “TPP for the Future of the World Trading System”
- Prof. Dukgeun Ahn (GSIS), “Dispute Settlement Systems in Asian FTAs”
- Prof. Mitsuo Matsushita (Former WTO Appellate Body Member), “Role of TPRM in the WTO System”

Discussants: Prof. Bernard Hoekman (European University Institute/World Bank)
Prof. Asif Qureshi (Korea University)

7:00-8:30 *Dinner at La Cucina (Hosted by KIEP)*