

World Trade Institute



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Beyond boundaries

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A message from the Managing Director of the World Trade Institute

World
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Institute

The World Trade Institute (WTI) is a centre of excellence of the University of Bern and the Faculty of Law. It is one of the world's leading academic institutions dedicated to the regulation of international trade. The WTI transcends boundaries. We fuse law, economics and international relations in interdisciplinary research, training, advisory work and technical assistance in Switzerland and abroad. The WTI seeks to make a difference.

The WTI was the first, and is the most experienced institution in the world offering a specialised postgraduate degree in the law and economics of international trade regulation, through our flagship Master of International Law and Economics (MILE) programme. Students benefit from our extraordinary global faculty, consisting of leading scholars and practitioners drawn from the ranks of the world's most prominent universities, policy research institutions, law firms and international organisations. We equip students with the practical skills and knowledge to meet the challenges of global governance.

As host institution of the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research on Trade Regulation, the WTI is at the core of a global research network connecting our students to researchers, practitioners and our own alumni in the field. Its purpose is to develop innovative policy recommendations, which reflect a better balance between economic and other regulatory objectives.



We are located in the heart of Europe in Switzerland's capital – a UNESCO World Heritage site – and are well connected with international organisations, government agencies, and leading trade law firms in Geneva and Brussels. Students and researchers learn and work in an environment of stimulating intellectual excitement and innovative research.

Welcome to Bern and to the World Trade Institute!

Thomas Cottier, Professor of Law
Managing Director World Trade Institute

Established in 1999, the World Trade Institute (WTI) is a centre of advanced studies and a forum for interdisciplinary research, training and advisory services in international trade law and economics.

As a centre of excellence of the University of Bern, the WTI hosts an international and multidisciplinary group of academics, students and professionals working to contribute significantly to global capacity building in the trade regulation field. Researchers and practitioners at the cutting edge of policy research pool their expertise, making the Institute a living laboratory for interdisciplinary thinking and new ideas. The WTI pursues different lines of activity in the fields of research, training, and advisory services. It cooperates closely with the University of Bern's Department of Economic Law, with which it shares its premises. In addition, the WTI regularly organises events with high-calibre speakers.

Research

The WTI hosts the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) – Trade Regulation. Its purpose is to develop innovative policy recommendations that improve the balance between economic and other regulatory objectives in an evolving architecture of regional and multilateral rules.

Training

Our educational flagship is the Master of International Law and Economics (MILE) programme. The MILE is the world's leading programme of advanced studies in the law, economics and international relations of trade regulation. It is a one-year intensive programme structured around a set of successive learning modules which can also be attended selectively for continuing education purposes by interested professionals and students.

In addition, since 2003, the WTI has been running an annual Summer Academy, providing participants with in-depth knowledge and intense exposure to key challenges in modern trade diplomacy.

Advisory Services

Tailor-made courses and consulting for professionals from Ministries, organisations and private industry are based on cutting-edge policy research.

Events

Extracurricular activities open to students and professionals throughout the year include the annual World Trade Forum, weekly lunchtime seminars, journal clubs, presentations from in-house researchers and social events. All these events offer invaluable opportunities for networking in addition to the intellectual broadening of horizons.

For further information, please visit our website at www.wti.org

The World Trade Institute focuses on international trade regulation fusing law, economics and international relations

Building on long-standing experience and expertise, its portfolio consists of the following activities:

Research:

– Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) – Trade Regulation

Training:

– Master of International Law and Economics (MILE)
– Summer Academy
– Distance Learning Programmes

Advisory Services:

– Tailor-made courses, technical assistance and WTI Advisors

Events:

– World Trade Forum
– Conferences and workshops

The World Trade Institute (WTI)

The National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs) are multi-disciplinary networks of researchers financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation on a competitive basis. Their purpose is to coordinate Switzerland's research efforts in fields of national strategic importance.

NCCR Trade Regulation was set up at the WTI in 2005. It aims to provide a better understanding of how the world trading system functions and to explore the sources and drivers of fragmentation and coherence in global trade governance. The project is premised on the idea that academia should play a key role in identifying, analysing and offering innovative policy- and rule-making solutions to key challenges in modern trade diplomacy.

Tackling regulatory challenges

International trade regulation transcends law and politics. World Trade Organization (WTO) law provides the main institutional framework, although it constitutes only one of many potentially applicable international regimes. NCCR Trade Regulation addresses the following important regulatory challenges:

Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) – Trade Regulation

A shifting global balance of trade powers is transforming the landscape of decision-making in trade diplomacy. Such a shift can be seen not only at the state-managed level but also within the private sector.

A growing web of preferential trade agreements represents a potential line of fracture for the multilateral trade order embedded in the WTO. At the same time, such agreements offer scope for novel approaches to rule-making and market opening, creating legal precedents at the frontiers of trade regulation.

Stimulating innovation and competitiveness means, among other challenges, finding a suitable balance between private intellectual property rights and sources of innovation and broad public policy interests. With access to information and new technologies being vital for economic growth, the question that arises is how international rules should better reflect the needs of national governments to facilitate economic and technological change.

Investigating inequality in light of the role that trade and development policies play. Creative solutions for managing economic migration or mitigating price risks in commodity markets are being developed to respond to the manifold challenges developing country producers and traders face in global markets.

Climate change: innovative responses hold the key to assuring sustainable development. The barriers, limits and costs of mitigation and adaptation to climate change and their impacts on cross-border trade have to be understood and assessed.

The academic world and beyond
In accordance with the objectives of the NCCR, our researchers test their findings with peers and scholars working in related areas. In addition, NCCR researchers contribute to knowledge transfer in the relevant fields through teaching, specialised training and specialist advisory services as well as by engaging in commissioned research work.

For more information about the NCCR Trade Regulation project, please visit our website at www.nccr-trade.org





A MILE ahead: the first world-class trade programme – in an innovative institution with an outstanding global faculty

Master of International Law and Economics (MILE)

Since 1999, the WTI has brought together government representatives, scholars and practitioners from all over the world to train in the law, economics and politics of trade regulation. With an interdisciplinary foundation fusing law, economics and international relations, the next generation of decision-makers acquires the skills required to navigate the troubled waters of modern trade diplomacy.

The Master of International Law and Economics (MILE) is the **flagship programme** of the World Trade Institute. It is the world's leading programme of advanced studies in the field of international trade regulation and has close ties to the WTI's research portfolio. The programme uniquely combines a multidisciplinary perspective with a strong applied focus. In addition to our resident faculty, we bring in the world's leading trade experts from law firms, international organisations, policy research institutes and top universities.

Situated close to the World Trade Organization and other Swiss-based specialised agencies, national delegations and non-governmental organisations shaping global trade rules, the WTI provides its students with invaluable networking and career opportunities.

The **MILE curriculum** consists of 34 weeks of training provided over three terms. The autumn term focuses on the foundational elements of public international law, economics and international relations. The second and third terms provide in-depth module-based teaching focusing on key issues in international trade regulation. Most modules are taught by a lawyer and an economist with the goal of integrating complementary analytical perspectives – the very essence of the MILE programme and its strongest distinguishing trait. Regular seminars presented by leading trade practitioners, two field trips to Geneva and a Moot Court round off the programme.

The WTI attaches great importance to its **teaching methods**. Modular courses consist of lectures and case studies, offering students opportunities for classroom discussions, group workshops, and individual research. English academic and legal writing as well as legal analysis support are an additional feature of the programme, as is in-depth training in negotiating techniques. Students are assessed continuously throughout the academic year, and the programme culminates with the submission of a Master's thesis on a trade-related topic on which students work under the close guidance of a designated faculty member.

Our **student body** is both multidisciplinary and international in character. Our annual intake of 35 to 40 students typically represents more than 25 countries. Many MILE students have prior training or professional experience in the field of international trade. Our alumni work in many of the world's leading trade law practices, governmental agencies, international organisations and non-governmental organisations shaping trade policy. The list of the institutions where MILE graduates have completed internships or are now employed includes the Asian Development Bank, the European Commission, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

The MILE offers opportunities throughout the year for participants to take part in its various modules on a flexible, "à la carte" basis for purposes of continuing education or specialised training.

More information on the MILE programme, course contents and the faculty can be found on our website at www.wti.org



Why study at the WTI?

- Benefit from the WTI's long experience in running the world's first and most comprehensive Master's programme in international trade regulation
- Tap into our outstanding global faculty's expertise in academia and practice
- Master related disciplines: fusing law, economics and international relations
- Acquire skills and insights into international trade regulation applicable to today's workplace
- Integrate into the WTI's research projects
- Benefit from the strong network of institutions hosting MILE graduates through internships
- Take advantage of the WTI's proximity to leading institutions of global trade governance in Geneva and Brussels



Responding to the significant deficit in trade-related technical knowledge and expertise, particularly in developing countries, the World Trade Institute offers students from all over the world the possibility to take part in its training programmes remotely via distance learning.

Learning and training is delivered via the Internet and thus allows students to access the expertise, information and knowledge available at the WTI without being required to spend long periods of time abroad. The Internet provides learning materials, as well as interaction with experts, tutors, academic staff from the WTI and other participants. Students can learn at any time or place, free of the constraints of face-to-face learning.

Designed for public, private and civil society sector professionals, academics and students who want to broaden their knowledge base in the field of trade regulation, our distance learning programmes aim to provide knowledge of the contemporary legal framework governing the world trading system.

The programmes build on the expertise that has been accumulated by the WTI in the fields of research, teaching and policy advice on international trade as well as on the expertise of our partner institutions.

The World Trade Institute works with different partners and offers various distance learning programmes and courses. For further information please visit our website at www.wti.org

Distance Learning Programmes

The WTI's Summer Academy addresses the increasing demand from professionals, staff members of international organisations and government agencies, scholars and students for in-depth knowledge of cutting-edge issues in trade regulation within a concentrated (up to five weeks) period of time.

Each summer the programme covers many of the most important and current topics in the field of international trade. Teaching takes the form of lectures, tutorials, practical exercises or simulations by leading academics and practitioners, the majority of whom are drawn from the ranks of the MILE faculty.

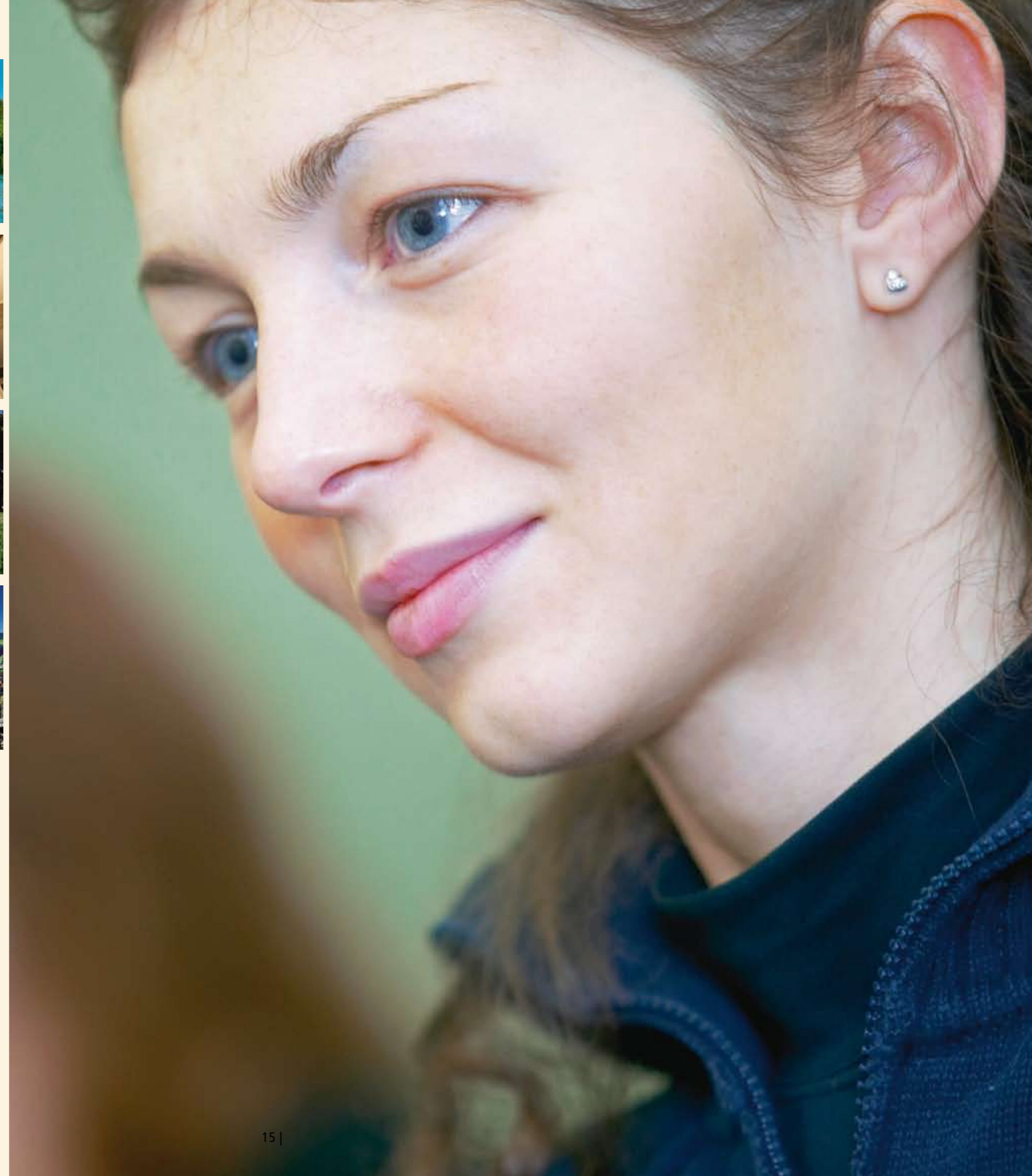
Students are part of a multicultural, interdisciplinary environment where they can establish contacts with professionals from all over the world. In the heart of Europe, students can discover Bern's many summertime charms and take advantage of the programme's field trip to Geneva and other extracurricular activities which are integral to the Summer Academy.

Like the MILE programme, the Summer Academy can be attended on a flexible, "à la carte" basis in order to accommodate a wide range of needs and interests.

Further information on the Summer Academy can be found on our website at www.wti.org



Summer Academy



With the incorporation in 2005 of its affiliate, WTI Advisors, the World Trade Institute underscored its role in the rapidly expanding field of trade-related technical assistance. WTI Advisors has offices in Geneva and Oxford and associates in Cape Town and Kuala Lumpur.

WTI Advisors is a specialised provider of high-end professional services in international trade policy, law and economics. It combines a core team of experienced trade practitioners with academic and consulting capacity drawn in particular from the ranks of the WTI and the NCCR Trade Regulation network. Its clients include governments, in particular from developing countries, international governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, trade associations and private businesses.

WTI Advisors offers advice, training and representation in the context of trade negotiations, compliance, dispute settlement and national trade policy formulation and implementation. Its expertise spans virtually all areas of international trade law, policy and economics, within and beyond the WTO context. Specific expertise within the core team includes trade-related legislative drafting, services negotiations, trade and climate change, non-tariff measures (SPS and TBT), trade facilitation, subsidies as well as government procurement.

For further information, including lists of completed projects and advisory services, please visit our websites at www.wti.org and www.wtiadvisors.com



WTI Advisors

Since its inception, the World Trade Institute has been at the cutting edge of tailor-made and project-specific training and advisory services offered to a variety of clients, from emerging countries to international donor agencies.

Drawing on the unparalleled expertise of its in-house research community and its international network of experts, the WTI provides its clients with technical assistance, training and advisory services tailored to their capacity-strengthening needs.

Tailor-made courses may range from combinations of existing modules to highly individual, fine-tuned, consultative workshops, and from practice-oriented courses on applied trade regulation to academic seminars on trade policy principles. Training activities take place on WTI premises in Bern, in Geneva or in client countries and may last from one week to several months.

Several courses have been developed and implemented in seamless cooperation with WTI Advisors, the WTI's affiliate specialised in advisory services. The WTI and WTI Advisors have a proven track record of organising and delivering tailor-made courses on subjects as diverse as WTO accession, agricultural trade, contingency protection, trade in financial services, investment rule-making, WTO dispute settlement and many other topics falling within the broader context of trade rule-making and implementation.

For further information on tailor-made courses, including examples of previous courses, visit our website at www.wti.org

Tailor-Made Courses



The WTI regularly organises events which allow researchers and students to take part in discussions with international experts.

The World Trade Forum, now in its second decade, is an annual conference at which leading international experts discuss new frontiers in global trade diplomacy. Forum proceedings are published in the World Trade Forum Series by Cambridge University Press.

Lunchtime seminars are informal 45-minute presentations followed by a discussion, given by invited external experts or in-house researchers and faculty members.

Journal clubs are held on a regular basis, allowing leading contributions to the literature to be discussed by members of the NCCR community.

Various workshops and conferences are organised by the different individual work packages of the NCCR Trade Regulation at which research and results are presented.

WTI-ICTSD Trade Policy Dialogues bring together trade academia, diplomacy and practice for high-end discussions of issues related to trade policy, law and economics.

Please visit our websites for further information: www.wti.org and www.nccr-trade.org

Events

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