

## A WORD OF WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

Dear MILE 9 students,

Allow me first of all to wish you a warm welcome to the World Trade Institute and its flagship Master of International Law and Economics (MILE). We are truly excited by the launch of the ninth edition of the MILE, the world's leading programme of advanced studies in the law and economics of trade regulation.

Important changes have been made to the MILE programme this year, the first such overhaul since the programme's inception in 2000, and I wanted to share with you some of the thinking that went into such changes.

By far the most important changes concern the rhythm of learning in the Fall semester, which has been remodelled to offer MILE students a fuller and more comprehensive exposure to the three foundational subject matters on which any rigorous understanding of modern trade regulation and trade diplomacy must rest. These are: international economics, both micro- and macro-economics, public international law, and international political economy.

In each of the above subject matters, courses will be dispensed no longer in a weekly modular manner (with weekly assessments) as in previous editions of the MILE but rather taught over the course of the Fall semester.

This, together with the Fall term's emphasis on the acquisition of strong legal analysis and writing skills, research methods and negotiating techniques, aims to allow our diverse, pluri-disciplinary and multi-national student body to acquire and/or strengthen the analytical tools required to master the in-depth law, economics and policy content delivered in weekly modules in the MILE's second and third semesters. It will also prepare our students better for the crowning elements of the programme: the Moot Court competition and the MILE thesis.

While the Fall term will see some teachings dispensed in modular fashion, notably courses on international trade theory as well as selected shorter courses on political economy, negotiating techniques and the economics of competition, students will be assessed twice, at mid-term and prior to the launch of the second term in early January 2009, with tutorials held prior to each exam.

Several other changes to the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the MILE programme merit your attention. For starters, we have the great pleasure to welcome a number of new members to our world renowned faculty: Robert Anderson from the WTO who joins our faculty on procurement issues; Dr. Andrew Lang from the London School of Economics, who will be teaching on the principle of non-

discrimination in trade policy; Dr. Patrick Leblond from HEC Montréal and the University of Ottawa, who will lecture on business and world economic governance; Dr. Michele Ruta from the WTO, who will introduce you to international trade theory; Dr. Stefan Tangermann from the OECD, who joins our faculty on the topic of trade in agriculture, as well as Dr. Bernard Hoekman of the World Bank, who will teach on the key challenge of trade and development.

We will also be hosting a series of half- or full-day seminars on selected topics in trade diplomacy over the course of the academic year. These will feature presentations on a diverse set of topics by leading practitioners. These include Jan Bohanes (Sidley Austin, Geneva) on the trade policy implications of climate change; Dr. Baris Karapinar (WTI) on sustainable agriculture; Dr. Marc Auboin (WTO) on coherence and aid for trade; and Dr. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (University of Geneva) on legal challenges at the trade and environment interface.

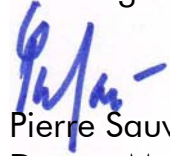
We are also pleased to report that MILE 9 participants will benefit, in the second and third terms, from two field trips to leading international organisations, national delegations, law firms and civil society organisations active in the trade field in Geneva. In addition to exposing our students to the many challenges of global governance, such visits will offer direct exposure to prospective employers (including for internship purposes) and afford opportunities to meet and brainstorm with prospective thesis supervisors.

As noted earlier, the MILE thesis, a supervised (50 page) investigation of a key issue in trade regulation due by end-October 2009, concludes the MILE programme. MILE 9 students will be expected to choose their thesis topics and prepare a short depiction of their key research question by the end of the second term, following which a supervisor will be assigned with a view to ensuring the timely completion of the essay in early Fall.

The MILE team looks forward to implementing these many changes in the coming weeks and months. We feel strongly that they will enrich the MILE programme significantly. Our hope, and belief, is that they will also make your time at the WTI truly memorable and equip you for an exciting career in trade regulation and global economic governance.

Once again, welcome to Bern and the WTI. We are proud to have you on board!

Kind regards,



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