



Digital Trade in the Post-COVID World

An online conference organized by the World Trade Institute, University of Bern, in cooperation with the Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research and the Asian Center for WTO & International Health Law and Policy, National Taiwan University College of Law

Monday, 17 and Tuesday, 18 January 2022

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed global digital inequalities that produce real economic and social consequences. It underscored the crucial role of knowledge assets and services to the functioning of global value chains, and the embeddedness of information technology infrastructure in modern trade in goods, services, and intangibles such as IPRs. The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the manner in which inadequate digital infrastructure, the lack of on-line payments systems, and uneven distribution of human expertise constrained trade in many developing and least-developed countries.

The conference will focus on five issues which the international community needs to address to ensure that digital trade in the post-COVID world contributes to global sustainable development: the complexity and diversity of digital trade; the importance of digital trade for sustainable economic development; digital work and labour regulation; intellectual property rights and digital trade; and investment in digital infrastructure.

Organizing Committee

Peter Van den Bossche, Director of Studies, World Trade Institute, University of Bern; **Tsai-yu Lin**, Director, Asian Center for WTO & International Health Law and Policy, National Taiwan University College of Law; **Kristy Hsu**, Director, Taiwan ASEAN Studies Center, Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research; **Kimani Goddard**, Fellow, World Trade Institute; and **Gabriela García Merchán**, World Trade Institute.



Programme

Monday, 17 January 2022

10:00 (Geneva, CET) / 17:00 (Taipei, CST)

Opening by Joseph Francois, Managing Director, World Trade Institute, University of Bern, and Jiann-Chyuan Wang, Vice President of CIER

10:10 (Geneva, CET) / 17:10 (Taipei, CST)

The Complexity and Diversity of Digital Trade

Moderator:

- Shin Yi Peng, Distinguished Professor of Law, National Tsing Hua University

Speakers:

- René C. G. Arnold, Vice President of Public Affairs Strategy, Huawei
- Stacey King, Visiting Policy Fellow, Oxford Internet Institute
- Antony Taubman, Director, Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division, WTO Secretariat

11:30 (Geneva, CET) / 18:30 (Taipei, CST)

The Importance of Digital Trade for Sustainable Economic Development

Moderator:

- Kristy Hsu, Director, Taiwan ASEAN Studies Center, Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research

Speakers:

- Olabisi D. Akinkugbe, Professor of Law at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University
- Jack C. Chang, Deputy General Director, Industry, Science and Technology International Strategy Center (ISTI) of the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI)



cont'd

- Abhijit Das, Head & Professor, Centre For WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
- Pierre Horna, Legal Affairs Official, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD

13:00 (Geneva, CET) / 20:00 (Taipei, CST)

Lunch break

14:00 (Geneva, CET) / 21:00 (Taipei, CST)

Digital Work and Labour Regulation

Moderator:

- Damian Raess, SNSF Professor, World Trade Institute, University of Bern

Speakers:

- Ekkehard Ernst, Chief of the Macroeconomic Policies and Jobs Unit, ILO
- Xueping Li, Professor of International Law, School of Law, Wuhan University
- Luis Rodrigo Morales, Senior Adviser, International Organization of Employers (IOE)
- Massimo Mensi, Director UNI P&M and Policy advisor on Digital Technology, UNI Global Union

Tuesday, 18 January 2022

10:00 (Geneva, CET) / 17:00 (Taipei, CST)

Intellectual Property Rights and Digital Trade

Moderator:

- Christophe Geiger, Professor of Law, LUISS Guido Carli University

Speakers:

- Wolf Meier-Ewert, Secretary of the Council for TRIPS, Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division, WTO



cont'd

- Caroline B. Ncube, Professor of Law, SARChI Research Chair in Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development, University of Cape Town
- Kimani F. Goddard, Research Fellow, WTI

14:30 (Geneva, CET) / 19:30 (Taipei, CST)

Investment in Digital Infrastructure

Moderator:

- Rodrigo Polanco, Senior Lecturer and Researcher, World Trade Institute

Speakers:

- Sheng-Syong Kenny Huang, Chair, National Information Infrastructure Enterprise Promotion Association (NIEPA); CEO & Board of Director, Taiwan Network Information Center (TWNIC)
- Martín Molinuevo, Senior Counsel, Digital Trade Global Lead, Macro, Trade, and Investment Global Practice, World Bank
- Raymond Saner, Vice-Chairperson, Bureau of the UNECE Working Party on Public-Private Partnerships (WP-PPP)
- Premila Nazareth Satyanand, Nonresident Senior Fellow at India's National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi

14:00 (Geneva, CET) / 21:00 (Taipei, CST)

Closing remarks by Tsai-yu Lin, and Peter Van den Bossche

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