

TRADE-RELATED EVENTS

PRC's WTO Entry: Impact on PRC

The PRC is the largest developing country to have joined the WTO, and has made more extensive commitments than any other recent member. Domestic policy reforms will be required across a wide range of sectors. This seminar will assess the impact of PRC's WTO accession commitments on economic outcomes—output, employment levels, and prices—as well as institutions. It will outline likely changes in sectoral production structure and market demand, as well as PRC's options for complementary policy measures that might affect these trends.

PRC's WTO Entry: Impact on Rest of the Region

Work to date suggests that neighboring countries' exports to PRC are likely to increase sharply as a result of accession, but exports to third markets are likely to be adversely affected. There is concern that PRC is competing successfully against other East Asian countries, especially ASEAN, as a destination for foreign investment targeted to global markets. This seminar will consider both the opportunities and competitive challenges which PRC's WTO entry will represent for individual countries in the region. It will examine these issues from the perspectives of trade and foreign investment, drawing on a range of methodologies, and discuss the implications for other countries to take advantage of the opportunities posed by proximity to PRC markets.

Doha Round: What is Critical for Asia

The Doha Round is widely called a "development round." It promises to place development at the heart of trade negotiations and focus on issues of direct interest to developing countries. This seminar will assess the implications of the new round of trade negotiations for developing Asia, in terms of identifying opportunities and challenges in future trade liberalization, proposing positions to maximize benefits from the new round, and assessing whether benefits could be achieved from negotiating other issues such as investment and competition policy.

Bilateral and Regional Trade Agreements: Implications for Asia

Bilateral and regional trade agreement (BTA/RTA) initiatives in the Asia and Pacific region provide new opportunities to deepen regional integration and cooperation, but pose challenges in managing the international trading environment. This seminar will assess the impacts on the Asia and Pacific region of the proliferation of BTAs/RTAs in North America and Europe. It will analyze the role of BTAs/RTAs in Asia and discuss the relationship of these arrangements to WTO agreements. It will also assess the compatibility of liberalization via both routes.

Regional Cooperation and Integration: Issues and Prospects for Asia

Deeper regional integration can be achieved through various kinds of regional cooperation arrangements. This seminar intends to provide a perspective for the Asia and Pacific region in identifying critical areas for possible regional cooperation efforts and measures to promote regional cooperation. It will also develop ways to ensure that regional institutions and arrangements serve as effective public goods to facilitate regional cooperation and support deeper integration.