



ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLITICS

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11 May 2017 | 9.30 am | IKMAS Seminar Room

ABSTRACT

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Evan Rogerson, Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division, World Trade Organisation (WTO)

International trade politics and economic diplomacy are intertwined with each other. To achieve main objectives of international trade politics, mainly to increase market access, attracting foreign direct investments, reducing the non-tariff barriers require intense understanding of the latest trends in the international trade and international investments. The move towards bilateral and regional trade and investments arrangements whilst maintaining the multilateral trade requires skills and knowledge in economic diplomacy. The talk will discuss the role of economic diplomacy in view of the latest developments in the international trade politics taking place at the important forums such as WTO and APEC, not forgetting RCEP.

BIODATA



Evan Rogerson retired from the WTO Secretariat at the end of March this year, having held senior positions there for more than twenty years.

He joined the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1976 after graduating in history from Auckland University and initially worked in defence cooperation, then in economic relations. Secondment at the Treasury preceded postings in Brussels and London. His work in those postings focused on trade policy, particularly New Zealand's relations with the EU and access to the European market.

After a period as External Relations Manager for the NZ Dairy Board in London, he joined the GATT Secretariat in 1986, working in the Agriculture Division on the Uruguay Round negotiations before moving to the Director-General's Office in 1993. His role here ranged from speechwriting to policy advice.

As Director of the DG's Office and Chief of Staff to WTO Director-General Renato Ruggiero from 1995 to 1999 he was closely involved with the WTO's first Ministerial Conference in Singapore in 1996. Among many other roles during this time he acted as the WTO's G-8 sherpa and co-ordinated the GATT/WTO's 50th anniversary ministerial in 1998 which brought together world leaders including Presidents Clinton, Castro and Mandela.

He worked closely with Director-General Mike Moore to prepare the launch of the new Round at Doha in 2001. From 2002 he headed the Council and TNC Division, servicing the WTO's top committees and Ministerial Conferences. In 2012 he came back to the Agriculture and Commodities Division as Director. In this role he was also Secretary of the negotiating group on Agriculture. In 2015 he led the team that prepared the agreement to abolish agricultural export subsidies reached by Ministers at Nairobi that year.