

AWRN 2020 Web Conference Agenda

Date: November 21st (Sat), and 28th (Sat)

Time: 6:00~8:30 (Geneva)/10:30~13:00 (New Delhi)/12:00~14:30(Jakarta)/13:00~15:30(Singapore, Hong Kong, Taipei & Beijing)/14:00~16:30(Tokyo & Seoul)/16:00~18:30(Sydney)

Date: November 28th (Sat)

Time: 6:00~9:00 (Geneva)/10:30~13:30 (New Delhi)/12:00~15:00(Jakarta)/13:00~16:00(Singapore, Hong Kong, Taipei & Beijing)/14:00~17:00(Tokyo & Seoul)/16:00~19:00(Sydney)

Each presentation will be 20 minutes, followed by 15 minutes' discussion.

November 21st, “Post-Trump World Trade Order”

Dukgeun Ahn, “Post-Trump World Trade Order (or, “Still-Trump World Trade Order”)

Abstract:

During the past four year of the Trump administration, the US government has clearly shown its preference of trade bloc as opposed to the WTO system that has been maintained as the core of the world trade order. In addition to relying on FTAs with key trade partners to strengthen economic integration and develop new trade rules, it undermined the core function of the WTO system by blocking the Appellate Body procedure. Moreover, in the process of WTO Director-General selection, the US government again hugely damaged the integrity of membership by challenging the “consensus” building practice.

The current situation raises various fundamental questions for the fate of the world trade order that has been built and articulated since the inception of the Bretton Woods system. How could the WTO regain the trust for the dispute settlement system? Whether can the WTO function as the platform to liberalize the global market? What can resuscitate the multilateral trade negotiation to restructure the outdated WTO rules?

Another dimension of the current challenge is to find a way to embrace structurally different economic systems in the WTO system. It is true that the communist economies centered on the Soviet Union were mostly separated or excluded from the market economy systems during the entire GATT period. Accession of many non-market economics since the inception of the WTO has caused systemic conflicts in the WTO system due to the lack and confusion of trade rules dealing with non-market economic situations. Disputes over subsidies and state-owned enterprises of China highlight this systemic challenge. This problem will get more serious when economic influence of China, and possibly Vietnam and Russia in the future, continues to grow in the coming years.

Does the WTO need to amend the rules to accommodate currently significant economic stake holders based on different economic foundations? Or is it the WTO members' duty to restructure