

MONTEREY INSTITUTE

MONTEREY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

An affiliate of Middlebury College

Graduate School of International Policy Management

IPOL8604 International Trade Policy Capstone

Spring 2010

MG100

May 14, 8:00am -12:00pm

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1. *Samuel Prentice Marrero*

Competing liberalization initiatives in the MENA region? Overcoming contradictory policies created by the U.S. Middle Eastern Free Trade Area (MEFTA) and Euro-Med Partnership

Abstract:

The ambitious MEFTA is complicated by a similar initiative, the Euro-Med partnership, which seeks trade liberalization through institutional harmonization via associate agreements. In addition to a comparative analysis of political and negotiation issues influencing the parallel initiatives, this project exposes incongruence between the rules of origin used in the various agreements and policy solutions from the U.S. perspective.

2. *Linnea Lee McWhirter*

False Trade Invoicing and Abuse of the International Trading System

Abstract:

Although viewed as the most reliable way to move funds that have been illegally earned, transferred, or utilized, the phenomenon of false trade invoicing is a

relatively understudied topic. This presentation will provide a survey of methods and case studies that that will, hopefully, illustrate the detrimental effects illicit trade flows have, not only on a nation's domestic economy, but the international trading system at large.

3. *Jaehong Jo*

Systemic overhaul of the WTO's dispute settlement procedures for SPS measures

Abstract:

As imported foods increasing, people highly concerns about their food safety. During the last decade, over 30 member countries have brought cases of food safety to the WTO and related cases are constantly increasing. Due to complicated scientific evidences and legal loopholes in the WTO regime, DSB is having difficulties to solve cases and response them quickly. My capstone defines current problems in the WTO DSB system and recommends overhaul solutions to curing them reasonably.

4. *Nanthalath Keopaseuth*

LDCs' WTO Accession – A Case Study of Laos

Abstract:

The national objective of Laos is to lift the nation out of the UNDP's classification as a least-developed country by 2020. As many other LDCs, Laos has adopted trade liberalization as a catalyst to improve its socio-economic development. Laos entered the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in 1997 and targets to join the WTO in 2010. The urgency of the WTO accession poses questions on its readiness and costs given that its major industries are still in their infancy. While facing some challenges, Laos can move cautiously to avoid certain pitfalls as an LDC acceding to the WTO, and make the most out of it to achieve its national objectives.

5. *Elliott Morgan*

Examining the Successes and Stumbling Blocks of Multilateral Cooperation in Intellectual Property Rights

Abstract:

My paper takes a critical look at TRIPS, the details of its inception, its early effects on the multilateral system, and its problems adapting to the changing environment of today's technology-driven international trade system. By examining in detail the workings of the Dispute Settlement Body within the WTO and several of the few cases it has ruled on involving IPR issues, I draw some important conclusions about the inherent biases, and inefficiencies engrained in the WTO system. Lastly, I will examine the future of multilateral IPR cooperation by taking a closer look at the ongoing and controversial negotiations on a new voluntary agreement. The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) involves a rumored 30 WTO Members and is slated to conclude as early as summer 2010. It contains, among many others, provisions that would govern private use of digital property, such as downloaded video and audio content, to the great chagrin of several privacy and free-speech advocacy groups worldwide.

6. *Nicole Gully*

"Don't Tread on Me": How effective are US Export Control Documentation Requirements?

Abstract

Export Administrators throughout the United States constantly tackle regulations meant to protect and support the United States Trade environment. But are the documentary hurdles required of them, eroding their ability to complete successful export transactions? This study focuses on the Computing technology devices characterized in Category 4 of the US Federal Code of Regulations.

7. *DeVan Hankerson*

Obstacles to Trade in Services : An Investigation of Domestic Barriers to Liberalization of U.S. Telecommunications Services in Qatar, Jordan and Egypt.

Abstract

The United States' advantage in services, and in telecommunications services should be positively related to ever increasing network and broadband penetration rates. This is not the case, especially in the MENA region where market access commitments in telecommunications are among the lowest in the world. The GATS and subsequent telecommunications agreements in the WTO laid the framework for negotiations in services, but a lack of understanding of

the regulatory context in the MENA will negatively impact future progress. The United States will be particularly effected considering its' current trade deficit and being hit the hardest by the recent economic crisis. This research will discuss the primary domestic barriers to further liberalization in telecommunications services in Qatar, Jordan and Egypt and the implications for U.S. negotiators, lobbyists non-profit proponents of global Internet access.

8. *Ashkin Merrikh*

Threats to FDI Lead Development

Abstract

The current trend to liberalize international investment flows can prove to jeopardize the coveted role FDI plays in the future economic development of recipient States. International agreements on investments effectively deconstruct industry targeted policies set by recipient States on inflows of FDI. Consequently, these agreements can directly hinder a State's ability to effectively apply incoming FDI towards capacity-building efforts in targeted industries. Furthermore, these provisions to liberalize the flow of international investments can serve to undermine the very sovereignty of the receipt State. This paper will aim to reconcile the intent of fostering freer flows of FDI with that of applying these investments towards sectoral development, particularly in emerging economies.