

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

12 May 2010

NUS Hosts Fourth Year of Prestigious Regional Trade Policy Course

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is pleased to announce the official opening of the Fourth Regional Trade Policy Course (RTPC) for the Asia-Pacific region, held in partnership between the WTO and the NUS Faculty of Law. This important partnership between the WTO and the NUS Faculty of Law was commemorated with an official Opening Ceremony and Dinner at NUS' Bukit Timah Campus hosted by Law Vice-Dean of Research and Graduate Studies Associate Professor Alan Tan on Wednesday, 12 May 2010.

Gracing this event as Guest-of-Honour was Ms Chong Siak Ching, President and CEO of Ascendas Pte Ltd. Ms Chong is also the Patroness of the RTPC, who will provide inspiration, guidance and leadership to the participants. Other distinguished guests at the evening's ceremony included senior government officials from Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Trade & Industry. Mr. Evan Rogerson, Director, Council and TNC Division, represented WTO at the event.

NUS had beaten stiff competition from other universities from Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan to win the bid to host the highly prestigious RTPC from 2007 to 2009 and were awarded an extension to host an unprecedented fourth year in 2010. The Singapore version of the course is largely modelled after the Trade Policy Course, which is held annually in Geneva at the WTO. It will however provide a greater emphasis on regional trade issues. This year's course runs from 10 May 2010 to 30 July 2010.

Twenty-five government officials from 23 countries in Asia-Pacific region have enrolled in this year's RTPC. Classes for the participants are held at the NUS Faculty of Law's Bukit Timah premises, with participants having the opportunity to utilise state-of-the-art teaching tools and facilities.

To augment their classroom experience, the programme also includes study visits to institutions that demonstrate Singapore's trade and economic policies in practice. These include study visits to PSA Singapore Terminals and the petrochemical industry on Jurong Island to see how these have contributed to Singapore's economic development.

The course content covers virtually every aspect of WTO's agreements and negotiations, and is taught by WTO, NUS and regional experts. Participants, who are mainly trade policy officials in their home countries, would then return to their countries with an enhanced understanding of WTO's laws and policies, which would enable them to contribute positively to their own government's trade policy-related decision-making processes.

Leading the team that was set up to manage the RTPC in Singapore is Academic Coordinator, Adjunct Professor Margaret Liang. Professor Liang specialises in WTO Trade Law and was Singapore's negotiator during the Uruguay Round negotiations. She is assisted by Mr Jake Ng of NUS Faculty of Law who has served as Administrative Coordinator for the Singapore programme since it began in 2007.

