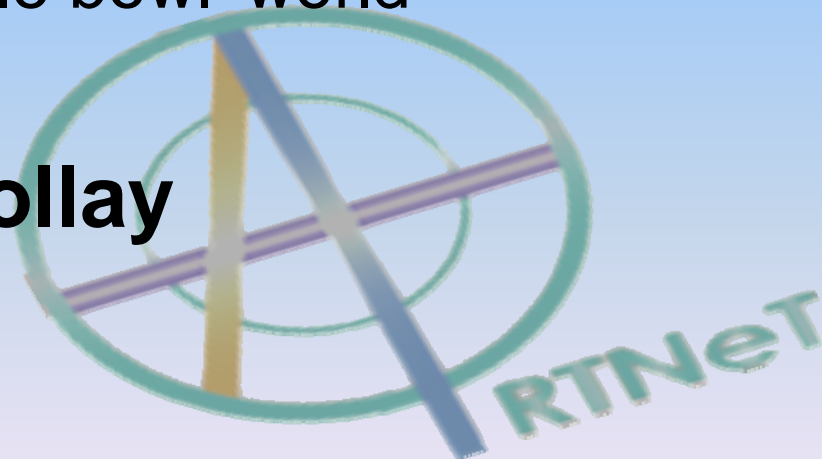


Trade-led Growth in Times of Crisis
Asia-Pacific Trade Economists' Conference
2-3 November 2009, Bangkok

Session 4

The WTO in the 'noodle bowl' world

Robert Scollay



Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade

www.artnetontrade.org

The WTO in a “Spaghetti Bowl” World

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Introduction

Questions prompted by:

- **Blockages in the Doha Round**
- **Ongoing proliferation of PTAs**

Has the centre of gravity shifted from WTO to PTAs in relation to

- **Trade liberalisation?**
- **Rule-making and maintenance?**

If so,

- **To what extent?**
- **Implications?**
- **Potential responses?**

Evidence from Asia-Pacific FTAs

WTO v PTAs (1)

WTO

- **value to international community unquestioned**
- **successful liberalisation of industrial tariffs on trade between developed countries but less successful in moving further**
 - **Industrial tariffs of developing countries**
 - **Agriculture**
 - **Services**
- **value of rule making/maintenance role independent of trade-liberalising role?**

PTAs

- **ongoing proliferation**
- **multiple motivations and characteristics**
- **many Asia-Pacific FTAs Article XXIV compliant**
- **self-reinforcing momentum from “domino effect” and major power rivalry**
- **elevated importance of market access**

WTO v. PTAs: Trade Liberalisation

WTO

- **slow progress and doubtful/modest outcome in Doha Round**
 - pros and cons of broad membership
 - legitimacy versus substantial progress?
- **“package deal” approach not delivering desired results**
- **prospect of lengthy hiatus before any post-Doha progress**
- **persistence necessary? (“only in the WTO” issues)**

PTAs

- **routinely discounted but many contain commitment to zero applied tariffs on majority of trade (over time) plus extensive trade facilitation**
 - some progress even on difficult issues e.g. agriculture
 - question mark over offsetting effect of rules of origin
- **increasing number of countries with FTA partners covering substantial percentages of total trade**
- **prospect of two groups of WTO members**
 - proven liberalisers (members with multiple “high quality” FTAs)
 - reluctant liberalisers
- **alternative possible outcomes**
 - reluctant liberalisers succumb to pressure to liberalise faster
 - blockages continue and proven liberalisers lose interest in the WTO as liberalising instrument

WTO v. PTAs Rules

What for WTO's DSM

Does support must coincide with self-interest
on effectiveness in liberalisation?

Can PTA supplant WTO rules?

Do PTA state WTO rules/rights/obligations on applicable issues

Do PTA complement/complement WTO rules but generally do not seek to over-ride them

Do PTA have commitments not to exercise WTO rights e.g. antidumping

Do PTA extend reach of WTO's GPA

What WTO

Do PTA have reach to services and services/investment linkage

Do PTA have competition or challenge

Do PTA have concessions unattainable in the WTO e.g. IP

Do PTA have policy, investment, labour environment

Are PTA threatening to supplant WTO rules?

What will be the case in future?

Will new trade rules develop around the FTAs of the US, EU, Japan, China?

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_8159

