



International Webinar on

# Regional Trade Agreements:

TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**CITL, NLUO**

**DATE**

**7 SEP 2024**



# ABOUT US

## National Law University, Odisha

The National Law University Odisha (NLUO) was established in 2009 under The National Law University Orissa Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2008) passed by the Odisha State Legislature and commenced its academic activities in the academic year 2009-10.

The University has received recognition from the University Grants Commission (UGC) under Section 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956, and has received grants under the XIIth Plan. The degrees offered are recognised by the Bar Council of India. It is also an associate member of the UGC-INFLIBNET, and a participant in the National Knowledge Network under the Ministry of Information Technology and Communication, Government of India.

Within a short period, NLUO has made its mark as a University engaged in imparting socially relevant education. NLUO is ideally placed to learn from other law schools both in terms of their strengths and drawbacks. Drawing from these experiences, it has embarked upon a well-structured course of action to achieve levels of excellence.

## Centre for International Trade Law

The Centre for International Trade Law is a research centre of the National Law University Odisha established in 2015. It is geared primarily towards research. Further, the Centre strives to produce high-quality and cutting-edge research in the field of International Trade Law and International Investment Law.

The Centre aims to contribute to strengthening the International Trade Law and International Investment Law discourse. It brings out publications to expand awareness and understanding of WTO issues. It also aims to generate debates and dialogue between students, academics and policy makers through seminars.

### **Publications by CITL:**

2019- "Trade Facilitation and the WTO", edited by Prof. Sheela Rai and Prof. Jane Winn and published by Cambridge Scholars Press.

2021- "Guide to WTO Appellate Body Reports", edited by Prof. Sheela Rai, Eluckiaa A. and Kapil Sharma, and published by Satyam Law International.

2023- "Guide To WTO Appellate Body Reports (Volume 2)", published by Satyam Law International.

2024- "Women And Trade: The Indian Context" by Prof. Sheela Rai, published by Thomson Reuters.

# BACKGROUND

Regional Trade Agreements (RTA) are intended to eliminate trade barriers between nations, which could be bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral. With the passage of time, the canvas of International Trade gradually expanded to include the domains of services, finance and investment, intellectual property and natural resources, etc. The rationale for such RTAs includes exploring opportunities for diversification and expansion of export markets, availability of cheaper resources in proximately situated countries, and attracting investments from such countries to stimulate and strengthen the manufacturing processes and provide a better choice of products and services to the subjects of contracting parties.

Despite being a global multilateral trading arrangement, the GATT/WTO framework closely observes and promotes the Regional Trade Agreements. WTO says that the RTAs have increased not only in number but also in terms of complexity. A study of WTO observes that: "As of 1 May 2024, 371 RTAs were in force. These correspond to 609 notifications from WTO members, counting goods, services and accessions separately." Having a committee of RTA, WTO has a developed codified mechanism for regional trade agreements. However, the underlying intent of having RTA is a symbiotic beneficial trading arrangement governed by a legally enforceable mechanism.

The nature and subject of RTAs have also evolved with the development of human civilization. Regional Trade Agreements enable techno-scientific developments and their dissemination to different parts of the world in a systematic and regulated manner. The seamless movement of goods and services has significantly contributed to the development and strengthening of global markets. The inherent challenge of international trade being dispersive and disseminative entails immense complexities because different nations have dissimilar sets of policies, norms and legal mandates. However, the impact assessment/utility of RTAs is yet to be formalized and assessed holistically by the contracting parties on a periodic basis and pursuant to a given agreed framework to evaluate whether the RTAs are productive.

This webinar intends to brainstorm the selected themes by academicians, professionals, industry experts, researchers, and students on the recent trends, challenges, and prospects of internal trade in the areas concerned. The webinar would provide attendees with an enhanced understanding of the necessity, impact, and utility of RTAs in different domains of international trade.



# ABOUT THE WEBINAR

NLUO CITL is organizing an international webinar on 'Regional Trade Agreements: Trends, Challenges and Prospects'. Original papers are invited from teachers, researchers, students and others for presentation in the webinar. The preferred length of the full papers (including footnotes) is 4500 words (maximum limit). The selected papers may also be considered for hard copy publication in the form of an edited book with an ISBN number.

Papers may relate to but are not limited to the topics mentioned below:

- Regional Trade Agreements and Their Impact on Natural Resources
- Policy Perspectives on Regional Trade Agreements
- RTAs and utilization of fiscal environments
- Reality of diminishing trade barriers through RTAs - An assessment of post-2000s era
- Regional Trade Agreements and their implications on market competition for the domestic players
- Exploring the opportunities: Enhancing sustainable development through Regional Trade Agreements
- Contribution of Regional Trade Agreements towards the Ecosystem of Intellectual Property Rights in Developing Countries
- Framework/Parameters for Impact Assessment of RTAs

Prospective participants may also contribute to any other issue related to the topic of the webinar. Please note that the abstract of the paper shall not be more than 300 words.



## WHO MAY PARTICIPATE:

- Professionals from legal and non-legal disciplines, Lawyers, Policy Makers and Advocates.
- Academicians, Students, Research Scholars from all disciplines and industry professionals.

# IMPORTANT DATES

**DATE OF WEBINAR - 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2024**

**LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT - 22ND AUGUST, 2024**

**INTIMATION ON ACCEPTANCE OF ABSTRACT - 28TH AUGUST, 2024**

**LAST DATE OF REGISTRATION - 12TH AUGUST, 2024**

**LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF FULL PAPER - 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2024**



Abstracts and papers to be submitted at [citl@nluo.ac.in](mailto:citl@nluo.ac.in). Only the abstract and first page of the paper should contain the name, affiliation of the author(s) and contact details. Co-authorship of a maximum of two persons are allowed.

# REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

## Registration Details

Registration Link: [Click here](#).

Participation Fees:

- For Indian Participants: ₹500 INR
- For International Participants: \$80 USD

## Payment Procedure

Payment of registration fees has to be made through the State Bank Collect facility. Given below are the details:

- Visit the State Bank Collect website.  
(<https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm>)
- Select the Category as 'Educational Institutions'.
- Search for 'NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA' and click on the option. Use the Filter by State by selecting 'Odisha'.
- Select the required payment category 'Registration for Seminar and Events' from the drop-down.
- Fill in the challan with the required information as asked for and select from the drop-down options whenever available.
- Type in "NLUO CITL Webinar on RTA" in the 'Event Name' column.
- Once the required data has been filled in, click on 'Next'. Verify the details entered and confirm the transaction on the next page.
- Select the **desired payment mode** from the various options. Please note that the bank charges for various payment modes are also displayed which is to be borne by the remitter.
- Once the payment is completed successfully, one e-receipt is generated containing a **Reference Number**. Download the generated **E-Receipt** containing the Reference Number.
- Use the downloaded E-Receipt (PDF) as proof of payment during registration.



In case of any difficulty in the registration process, please feel free to reach out to us at [citl@nluo.ac.in](mailto:citl@nluo.ac.in) or contact the members.

# ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Centre for International Trade Law  
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 [Official Website](#)

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All communications shall be done to this email only.