



**International Conference On  
ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
IN GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION**

**NLUO, CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW**

**In collaboration with**

**WTO CHAIRS PROGRAMME, CENTRE FOR TRADE AND  
INVESTMENT LAW**

**16-17 JANUARY, 2026**

**National Law University Odisha, Sector 13 CDA Cuttack, ODISHA**

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**Institute of Legal Studies**  
**RANCHI UNIVERSITY**

# CONCEPT NOTE

The International Conference on the Role of International Trade in Global Energy Transition, hosted by National Law University Odisha (NLUO) in collaboration with the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) and the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP), will examine how international trade can catalyse a just and sustainable energy transition. As trade becomes increasingly integral to clean energy markets, facilitating the exchange of green hydrogen, biofuels, and critical minerals like lithium and cobalt, it also presents challenges, including high tariffs, technological inequities, protectionism, and regulatory fragmentation. The conference will critically assess the intersection of WTO norms, preferential trade agreements, and national policy tools such as local content requirements and subsidies to understand their impact on clean energy goals. Rooted in the complex interplay between liberal trade principles and ecological sustainability, discussions will explore whether existing rules under frameworks like GATT, GATS, and TRIPS provide sufficient flexibility for national energy strategies. Key WTO disputes such as US–Reformulated Gasoline, India–Solar Cells, and Canada–Feed-in Tariff, along with recent measures like Indonesia’s nickel export ban, will be important reference points in these discussions. The conference will bring together scholars, policymakers, legal experts, and energy professionals to explore how trade can be reimagined as a strategic enabler of an inclusive, rules-based, and resilient global energy future. It aims to inspire forward-looking solutions that shape a sustainable and equitable energy landscape for the evolving global economy by fostering dialogue and collaboration across disciplines.



# THEMES



## Trade's impact on energy consumption & conservation

- Growth in international trade results in increased energy use through production, transportation, and consumption
- The environmental consequences of trade-induced energy demand
- Evaluating whether trade necessarily leads to energy overuse or can promote clean energy transitions
- Role of trade norms and policies in fostering sustainable energy practices



## Foreign investment in renewable energy

- The Government of India has declared policies to encourage FDI in the renewable energy sector, and the country is receiving foreign investments in this sector.
- But the current BIT regime of India may be a source of concern.
- The international investment law at present is not clear about the role of the government and policies differentiating investments in different sectors.



## Market access to clean energy products and services, Technical regulations affecting energy trade and energy transition

- The WTO cases on solar products, biofuels, etc., raise the issue of trade restrictive measures being applied by countries.
- Application of TRIMs, TBT regulations is creating issues of market access on fair and competitive terms and the possibility of discriminatory application of product standards.



## Development of national industry for energy transition and WTO norms

- In the India-Solar Panel case, India had pleaded defences under Article XX on the ground that it needed to develop its domestic industry to have a reliable solar energy supply generation sector.
- The defence was not accepted for different reasons.
- But the argument requires consideration of whether sufficient flexibility should be allowed in the application of WTO norms to enable countries to develop renewable energy sectors.

# THEMES



## **International treaties on energy and their compatibility with the WTO**

- There are different treaties relating to the environment, and many of them have provisions relating to international trade.
- What is the relationship of these treaties with the WTO Agreements? What if they conflict?
- Is there a need to give time time-consistent interpretation to WTO norms?



## **Role of Trade Policy Review and Aid for Trade in clean energy promotion**

- The soft law mechanisms in WTO are more effective than they are given credit for.
- Transition to clean energy resources as part of trade policy review mechanism may play a significant role.
- Similarly aid for trade can also be effective. There is already support for utilizing this mechanism for progress in women and trade initiative.



## **Advocacy and coordination among the WTO, IEA, WEC, and IRENA**

- The advocacy role of WTO in recent years has become important.
- With conflict over tariffs and crisis in its dispute settlement system, the WTO staff is utilizing its resources in developing public opinion and integrating trade norms with different aspects of economy and production.
- What are the possibilities of effective collaboration between WTO, International Energy Agency, World Energy Council and International Renewable Energy Agency is spreading awareness and developing public opinion for linking trade and environmental friendly energy utilization?

# VENUE OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference will be held in physical mode at the **National Law University, Odisha**.



## REGISTRATION FEE

1. After notification for acceptance of abstracts, a link will be shared for registration and submission of the registration fee.
2. Registration fee for Indian authors -Rs. 2000/- If more than one author, Rs. 1000/- for each additional author.
3. For participation without a paper presentation, Rs. 1000/- per person.
4. Registration fee for foreign authors- US\$ 50/ for one author.
5. For papers with multiple authors, an additional fee of US\$25 applies for each co-author beyond the first.
6. Tea and lunch at the conference venue are covered by the registration fee.

# IMPORTANT DATES

Opening date of registration

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APRIL 23  
2025

Closing date of registration

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SEPTEMBER 15  
2025

Last date for submission of paper

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DECEMBER 31  
2025

Last date for submission of revised  
paper for publication after receiving  
feedback in the conference

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FEBRUARY 28  
2026

Date of the conference

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JANUARY 16-17  
2026



# GUIDELINES

## FOR PAPER SUBMISSION & PRESENTATIONS

- 1 — After abstracts are accepted for the conference, a **Google form link will be sent for registration and submission** of papers. Papers accepted for the conference may be submitted using the Google form link.
- 2 — The **paper must be original and free from plagiarism.**
- 3 — It should be in **English.**
- 4 — The **length** of the full paper, including tables, diagrams, illustrations, references, etc., should be between **5000 to 8000 words.**
- 5 — It should be accompanied by a **cover page containing the name of the author(s), affiliation, and contact details.**
- 6 — The paper should be in **(.doc) or (.docx) format.**
- 7 — The font should be **Times New Roman 12-point font with 1.5 line spacing.**
- 8 — **Footnotes** should be in **Times New Roman 10-point font with single-line spacing.**
- 9 — Authors should follow a **uniform style of citation** throughout the paper. Specific citation style for accepted papers will be communicated later depending on the style of the publisher that will publish the edited volume.

Authors will have approximately 15 minutes to present their paper. Multiple authors may share the presentation within the allotted time



# REGISTRATION & PAYMENT PROCESS

## PROCEDURE FOR DEPOSITING FEES ONLINE USING STATE BANK COLLECT FACILITY (SOP FOR STATE BANK COLLECT)



To pay the registration fee online via State Bank Collect:

1. Visit: <https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm>
2. Select Category: Educational Institutions
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4. Select Institution: National Law University Odisha, then click Submit
5. Choose Payment Category: Registration for Seminar & Events
6. Fill in details (avoid special characters), enter event name as “CITL International Conference 2025”
7. Tick Terms & Conditions, provide mobile number, DOB, and email
8. Submit and verify details, then confirm
9. Select payment mode (charges apply per mode) and complete payment
10. Download and print the e-Receipt with Reference Number
11. Email the receipt to [citl@nluo.ac.in](mailto:citl@nluo.ac.in) to complete registration

If paying via an SBI Branch, a pre-acknowledgement payment (PAP) form is generated with payment details. Print it and pay by cash or cheque at any SBI branch. After payment, the branch provides an acknowledgement on the form. You can later print the e-receipt from the ‘Payment History’ on the State Bank Collect website.



## **National Law University Odisha**

**Prof. (Dr.) Sheela Rai**

Professor of Law, National Law University Odisha Director

NLUO Centre for International Trade Law

Email: [sheelarai@nluo.ac.in](mailto:sheelarai@nluo.ac.in) [citl@nluo.ac.in](mailto:citl@nluo.ac.in)

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