

Research and Practice of International Trade and Investment

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION LAW RESEARCH
SOCIETY OF CHINA LAW SOCIETY
(WTOLRS)**



1. Introduction

The WTO Law Research Society (“WTOLRS”) is a nationwide academic institution affiliated with the China Law Society (“CLS”), which carries out special research on the WTO law and practice. CLS is composed of a group of experts led by the Communist Party of China. Established in June 1949, CLS is an umbrella society of legal studies in China. It is one of the oldest and most authoritative academic forums in the nation.¹

WTOLRS was established on August 29, 2001 in Beijing, when China formally acceded to the WTO. At that time, the government, the enterprises, and the communities urgently needed to understand regular systems and operation mechanism of the WTO, in order to set down corresponding strategies. The demand for understanding the WTO rules pushed to establish WTOLRS. After the establishment of WTOLRS, the Society held abundant seminars and symposiums, rapidly edited relevant knowledge textbooks, positively promoted researches, and widely delivered the WTO legal rules. It also submitted corresponding opinions and suggestions to relevant organs of the central authority.²

2. Purpose & Vision

In light of adhering to Marxism, Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thought of the “Three Represents,” the WTOLRS exists to unite and organize jurists, law practitioners, and other far-sighted scholars nationwide to conduct research, idea-sharing, and academic activities on the WTO law. The Society further has the agenda in practice as follows: (1) closely integrate the real conditions of China’s modern socialism with newly establishing global trade rules; (2) contribute to set up the legitimate national administration; (3) exercise the political power according to law; and (4) build a socialist country under the rule of law.³

WTOLRS is making an effort to continue to strengthen the study of international trade law, especially on bilateral, multilateral, and regional rules. The Society has been seeking the way on how to build a community for human destiny; how to coordinate the Chinese concept of international law with global ideas; and how to address Chinese voices more to the international community.⁴

3. Primary Tasks

The primary tasks of WTOLRS are to:

- (1) promote the broad jurists and law practitioners to study and carry out the fundamental theory, basic lines, and policies of the party so as to raise their political and professional quality and adhere to the correct political orientation;
- (2) organize and push ahead the studies of the WTO law and conduct academic exchange and cooperation;
- (3) edit and publish the results of research and relevant information on the WTO law;
- (4) cultivate the personnel concerned with legal knowledge; and
- (5) provide legal service in light of social requirements and fulfill other tasks assigned by the China Law Society and other relevant institutions.⁵

4. Members

Domestically, WTOLRS is the largest WTO law research institution covering the most comprehensive and the highest levelled scholars and practitioners. The Society has 141 directors and 71 standing directors, coming from the Supreme People's Court, the Ministry of Commerce, the State Council Legislative Affairs Office, banking industries, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and universities (i.e. Peking University, Renmin University of China, China University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, Xiamen University, Wuhan University, Zhejiang Gongshang University, University of International Business and Economics, Central University of Finance and Economics, and etc.)⁶

5. Academic Events

WTO Law and China Forum

Since the beginning, WTOLRS has held various academic events every year, including forums, seminars, and conferences and so on. Among them, the WTO Law and China Forum is the most representative annual conference of WTOLRS. First held in 2007, the WTO Law and China Forum has become an important meeting where domestic experts gather annually to discuss the core issues of the

WTO.

The 11th forum, held in September 2018, was a grand event with more than 180 experts from academics and universities as well as relevant national institutions such as the Supreme People’s Court, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Development Committee, and the State Council. In this forum, there were five major issues under the umbrella theme of “One Belt, One Road, and WTO”: (1) trade and investment; (2) defense and legal cooperation in risk; (3) the Belt, One Road, and WTO dispute resolution mechanism; (4) WTO international trade law issues; and (5) new legal issues in the Internet and international trade.⁷

Seminar on Legal Risks and Countermeasure of International Investment, Economy, and Trade

In accordance with the One Belt and One Road Initiative and foreign investment strategy, the seminar on Legal Risks and Countermeasure of International Investment, Economy, and Trade began in 2014. It is designed as a cooperation and exchange platform for legal scholars and entrepreneurs. The purpose of the seminar is to help Chinese companies better understand the legal system of the countries which are just along the One Belt and One Road, and reduce legal risks in foreign investment. The seminar is held every year like the WTO Law and China Forum.

The 6th seminar held in 2019 contained four key issues under the theme of “Deepening the Legal Cooperation of One Belt and One Road, and Building Together the Open World Economy.” The key issues are: (1) to maintain the multilateral trading system and China’s program for the WTO reform; (2) to legally guarantee implementing of the ‘eight actions’ for China-Africa cooperation; (3) to establish legal environment to invest the areas along One Belt and One Road; and (4) to prevent Chinese overseas company to face legal risk and apply dispute settlement mechanism. The seminar was attended by over 200 scholars and entrepreneurs from 36 countries, such as China, Africa, the European Union, and the United States.⁸

Opening ceremony of “Seminar on Legal Risks and Countermeasure of International Investment, Economy, and Trade” held on October 12, 2018⁹



Others

In 2018, WTOLRS organized over 20 various and preeminent academic activities, such like the forum for “One Belt and One Road, Economy Security Legislation,” the conferences about “WTO Appellate Body,” and “Securing the International Law for the Establishment of One Belt and One Road.”¹⁰

6. Publications

THE YEARBOOK OF FORUM ON WTO LAW AND CHINA [WTO法与中国论坛年刊]

The Yearbook is a collection of papers entitled “WTO law and China Forum and WTOLRS Annual Conversance.” The 2017 Yearbook reviews the WTO and the One Belt and One Road Initiative, the WTO and national trade law issues, and the WTO and trade governance. The Yearbook deals with key but difficult issues in this field. It is worth publishing these papers to establish positive reference in China’s foreign trade and related legal system.¹¹

The Yearbook of Forum on WTO Law and China



SELECTED CASES OF WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT [世界贸易组织法经典案例选编]

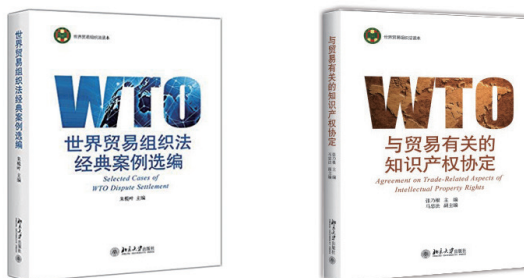
This monograph is edited by Professor Zhu Lanye of East China University of Politics and Law, who has followed the WTO cases for 17 years. Based on the WTO Agreement and the relative number of cases involved in the dispute settlement mechanism, it chose more than 30 reports and arranged them in accordance with the provisions of the WTO Agreement. The book is the best class material for the WTO law studies. It is also a useful reference for scholars, government officers, and lawyers studying the WTO legal system.¹²

AGREEMENT ON TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (TRIPS)

[与贸易有关的知识产权协定]

This book tries to interpret the relationship between international trade and intellectual property, as well as, the legal relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and existing treaties of intellectual property rights from the theoretical and historical perspectives. It also deals with the relationship between China and the TRIPS Agreement from the aspects of intellectual property disputes after the accession to the WTO as well as the revision of relevant intellectual property legislation in China. The book has sorted out the trade disputes concerning copyright, trademark rights, and patent rights and analyzed how the WTO dispute settlement body has interpreted the TRIPS Agreement.¹³

Selected Cases of WTO Dispute Settlement

**7. Mutual Exchanges**

WTOLRS is actively cooperating with foreign institutions. It exchanges human

resources and legal information relating to international trade by exchanging leading scholars in and out of China. WTOLRS is willing to raise the voice of Chinese international lawyers in the global academia. These activities are as follows:

- (1) on May 7, Vice President Liu Jingdong hosted the visiting President of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration, Professor Donovan and former President Van Den Berger;
- (2) on June 9-10, Executive Vice President Yang Guohua attended the “Annual Conference on WTO Law.” More than 400 experts and scholars, official lawyers, and WTO Secretariat experts from all over the world. They have conducted extensive discussions on six topics, including globalization, free trade, British Brexit, US trade policy, dispute settlement and trade remedy; and
- (3) on October 10, Executive Vice President Yang Guohua and several members of the Chinese representative attended the “301 Investigation” hearing of the US Office of the US Trade Representative(USTR) on behalf of the Chinese government, in response to the US proposal to China in the “301 Survey.”¹⁴

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3. *Id.*
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6. *Id.*
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