

[In-person] Masterclass: Understanding Why Singapore's Network of FTAs are Relevant to Legal Practice



18 October 2022, Tuesday (9.30am – 5.00pm)
19 October 2022, Wednesday (9.30am – 4.45pm)



To be confirmed



No. of Public
CPD Points:
12.0

Practice Area:
**International
Law**

Training Level:
General

About the Programme

Singapore has a network of 26 bilateral and regional Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with 65 trading partners that account for more than 80% of our trade. These agreements give companies incorporated in Singapore an economic competitive edge by providing them with a gateway to easier entry and greater access to global markets for their products and services. More importantly, companies can ride on these agreements to trade with and invest in other countries with more certainty, amidst increasing trade tensions. Covid-19 has also raised awareness of the dangers of over focussing our supply chains in just one market. These agreements give companies more leeway to diversify and expand their businesses into different overseas markets as they provide an easier entry methodology that will also allow them to gain a competitive advantage over companies that operate in other countries by improving profitability, amongst other things.

Companies that operate in Singapore stand to benefit greatly from our extensive network of FTAs and should thus be strategically positioned to tap on these Agreements.

The legal profession is one of the key partners for businesses in advising how to tap on this network of FTAs and how to structure their contracts of supply (both goods and services), M&A deals in terms of leveraging on the investment provisions in the FTAs as well as other issues that could add value to doing business with a Singapore company under this network of FTAs. As Singapore has been negotiating FTAs for more than 20 years, the provisions have also evolved to take into account newer business concerns and practices such as e-Commerce, sustainable environment, labour etc. in our newer regional FTAs. Lawyers with an appreciation of these issues have the potential to guide their clients into tapping into these economic opportunities.

This course will help you gain a better appreciation of the opportunities that can be unlocked by Singapore's FTA network.

Program Highlights

- Overview of FTAs
- Understanding Trade in Goods Provisions in the FTAs and its utility for business when entering into contracts
- FTA advantages for our services sector in terms of understanding how services are classified and how services liberalisation is reflected in FTA commitments
- What benefits does an investment chapter provide to business?

Admin Note to Singapore Practitioners and s36B Foreign Lawyers in relation to the Mandatory CPD Scheme:

No of Public CPD Points: 12.0
Practice Area: International Law
Training Level: General

Participants who wish to obtain CPD Points must comply strictly with the Attendance Policy set out in the CPD Guidelines. For this activity, participants are reminded to sign in on arrival and sign out at the conclusion of each day of the event in the manner required by the organiser. Participants must not be absent from each day of the event for more than 15 minutes. Participants who attend Day 1 and comply strictly with the Attendance Policy on that day may obtain 6.0 Public CPD Points. Participants who attend Day 2 and comply strictly with the Attendance Policy on that day may obtain 6.0 Public CPD Points. Participants who do not comply with the Attendance Policy on any particular day of the event will not be able to obtain CPD Points for that day. Please refer to www.sileCPDcentre.sg for more information.

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Programme Outline

Day 1 – 18 October 2022

Time	Programme
9.00am – 9.30am	Registration
9.30am – 10.30am	Overview of FTAs Mary Elizabeth Chelliah - Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade & Industry
10.30am – 10.45am	Tea Break
10.45am – 12.45pm	Understanding Trade in Goods Provisions in the FTAs and its Utility for Business when Entering into Contracts Mary Elizabeth Chelliah - Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade & Industry
12.45pm – 1.45pm	Lunch (not provided)
1.45pm – 3.45pm	FTA Advantages for Our Services Sector in Terms of Understanding How Services Are Classified and How Services Liberalisation is Reflected in FTA Commitments
3.45pm – 4.00pm	Tea Break
4.00pm – 5.00pm	Hands-on Exercise and Discussion Mary Elizabeth Chelliah - Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade & Industry
5.00pm	End

Day 2 – 19 October 2022

Time	Programme
9.00am – 9.30am	Registration
9.30am – 11.00am	What Benefits Does an Investment Chapter Provide to Business? Serena Liau – Deputy Director, Ministry of Trade & Industry Academy
11.00am – 11.15am	Tea Break
11.15am – 12.15pm	Competition and Consumer Protection Issues Touched on in FTAs Yvette Yoong – Deputy Director (International, Communications and Planning), Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS)
12.15pm – 1.15pm	Other Provisions Seeking to Address Anti-competitive Behaviour (e.g. SOE, subsidies etc.) That Distort the Level Playing Field Mary Elizabeth Chelliah - Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade & Industry
1.15pm – 2.15pm	Lunch (not provided)
2.15pm – 3.15pm	Addressing Current Issues Such as Sustainable Trade, Transparency etc. in FTAs Mary Elizabeth Chelliah - Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade & Industry
3.15pm – 4.15pm	How Do the Dispute Provisions in Our FTAs Apply to Companies? Deena Bajrai - Deputy Senior State Counsel (International Affairs Division), Attorney-General's Chambers
4.15pm – 4.45pm	Wrap-up and Conclusion Mary Elizabeth Chelliah - Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade & Industry
4.45pm	End

Speakers' Profile



Mary Elizabeth Chelliah - Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade & Industry

Elizabeth Chelliah is the Principal Trade Specialist (PTS) at the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) as well as Head (Academic Branch) of the MTI Trade Academy, an appointment she assumed in 2011.

As PTS, Ms Chelliah stewards the building and institutionalising of expertise amongst MTI Trade officers focussing on WTO and FTA rules by providing guidance and advice on a range of WTO and FTA matters, trade facilitation, connectivity and other internationalisation strategies and levers.

As PTS, Ms Chelliah works closely with the MTI Academy on their range of courses for government and public officers. From 2018, Ms Chelliah has also been providing FTA training and related issues for business, professionals, and the public sector. From 2019, Ms Chelliah has been seconded to SBF as their Trade Consultant, assisting SBF in their array of trade / FTA training and outreach activities.

Ms Chelliah has been a WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) panel member of four WTO disputes namely Textiles Rules of Origin between India and the US; the EC Chicken Cuts classification dispute between Brazil, Thailand and the EC; the dolphin safe tuna labelling case between the US and Mexico; and the dispute between EU, Canada and Norway on Seals.

Prior to her appointment as PTS, Ms Chelliah was the Deputy Director overseeing Singapore's policies relating to all trade in goods matters at the WTO and FTAs. From 2006 to 2011 she was involved in APEC and was the Chair of the Committee for Trade and Investment (CTI) from 2008-2010. During that tenure she was involved in developing what is now known as the APEC Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda.

Ms Chelliah has been involved in FTA negotiations since 2002. She has been the lead Goods negotiator in Singapore's FTAs with EFTA, China, Korea, EU, Chinese Taipei, ASEAN-China FTA (2002-2006) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). She was Singapore's Chief Negotiator for the Singapore-Peru FTA and is Chief Negotiator for the ongoing review of the Japan-Singapore Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). From October 2017, Ms Chelliah took over as Chair of the RCEP Intellectual Property Working Group.



Serena Liau – Deputy Director, Ministry of Trade & Industry Academy

Serena Liau is the Deputy Director of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) Academy. As part of her role, she is responsible for meeting the training needs of the Ministry's officers, growing the awareness and utilisation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) among Singapore businesses, and increasing Singapore's global presence and standing through the organisation of workshops and courses.

Beyond her role in MTI Academy, Serena is also a trade specialist at MTI. Since joining MTI in 2011, she has held several posts overseeing different facets of trade policy. From 2011 to 2016, she was involved in promoting Singapore's economic relations with emerging economies such as South Asia, Central Asia and Latin America. Through government-level engagements, business missions, and tie-ups with relevant trade associations, she and her team sought to encourage Singapore businesses to pursue investment opportunities in these regions. From 2017 to 2019, Serena took on the role of an investment specialist at MTI's International Trade Cluster division, where she negotiated bilateral investment treaties such as with

Indonesia and Myanmar, and investment chapters in Free Trade Agreements such as the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement.

Serena graduated with an LLB (Hons) from the National University of Singapore, and a graduate diploma in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from the University of Otago, New Zealand.



Yvette Yoong – Deputy Director (International, Communications and Planning), Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS)

Yvette is Deputy Director (International, Communications and Planning) with the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS). She is responsible for the formulation and implementation of CCCS's strategies in regional and international competition fora, including maintaining CCCS' relationship with external and international agencies. She has represented Singapore in the negotiation of the competition chapters in free trade agreements, and as competition chapter lead in various free trade agreements such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Yvette has been with the CCCS since 2006. Prior to her current role, she was with the Business and Economics Analysis Division for five years, and was a case handler, having participated in a number of case investigations. Her responsibilities involved undertaking economic analysis, conducting market studies and formulating policy and guidelines in implementing the Competition Act. She was also the team leader for the investigation against two water transport providers in which financial penalties were successfully imposed.

Yvette graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons), majoring in Economics in 2004, and with a Master of Social Science (Economics) in 2006. She completed a Postgraduate Diploma In International Economic Law from the University of Melbourne in 2014.



Deena Bajrai - Deputy Senior State Counsel (International Affairs Division), Attorney-General's Chambers

Deena Bajrai is a Deputy Senior State Counsel at the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore. She graduated from the National University of Singapore, LL.B (Honors) in 1993 and obtained her LL.M from the National University of Singapore (1998) and Columbia University (2004).

Deena Bajrai has been with the Singapore Legal Service since 1993 and in the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers since 1997. She advises the Singapore Government and attends negotiations on behalf of the Singapore Government on matters relating to international law, including international trade and investment agreements.

From 2009 to 2013, Deena Bajrai was attached to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore in Geneva as the Legal Counsellor, providing advice on matters relating to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations (UN).

Deena Bajrai has been involved in Singapore's free trade negotiations since 2000. She was Singapore's legal advisor in the negotiations for EFTA-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, Korea-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, Peru-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, Turkey-Singapore Free Trade Agreement and the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. Deena Bajrai is currently involved in the negotiations for free trade agreement between Singapore and the EAEU. Deena Bajrai was the chairperson of the Working Group on Legal and Institutional Issues for the negotiations on the ASEAN-Australia New Zealand Free Trade Agreement and

the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement. She was also involved in the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement and the RCEP negotiations.

Registration Fees

Membership Category	Fees (Inclusive of 7% GST and course materials)
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SCCA Member	\$481.50
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- 4.3 You agree that any personal information you submit as part of your registration for the programme is accurate and that you have all necessary permissions to submit such personal information.