

## [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)



Only U Space  
10 Anson Rd  
#31-06 International Plaza  
Singapore 079903



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](http://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	<b>Overview of FTAs</b> Mary Elizabeth Chelliah - Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade & Industry
10.30am – 10.45am	<b>Tea Break</b>
10.45am – 12.45pm	<b>Understanding Trade in Goods Provisions in the FTAs and its Utility for Business when Entering into Contracts</b> Mary Elizabeth Chelliah - Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade & Industry
12.45pm – 1.45pm	<b>Lunch</b> (not provided)
1.45pm – 3.45pm	<b>FTA Advantages for Our Services Sector in Terms of Understanding How Services Are Classified and How Services Liberalisation is Reflected in FTA Commitments</b> Ong Chin Heng - Senior State Counsel (International Affairs Division), Attorney-General's Chambers
3.45pm – 4.00pm	<b>Tea Break</b>
4.00pm – 5.00pm	<b>Hands-on Exercise and Discussion</b> Mary Elizabeth Chelliah - Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade & Industry
5.00pm	<b>End</b>

Day 2 – 19 October 2022

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

## 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 as 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.



**Ong Chin Heng - Senior State Counsel (International Affairs Division), Attorney-General's Chambers**

Senior State Counsel Ong Chin Heng has served in the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers since 2005, where he now oversees the International Economic Law practice group. Chin Heng is an alumnus of NUS Law School (1998), and the NYU School of Law (2013) where he obtained his LL.M specialising in International Legal Studies. He is called to the Bar in Singapore and New York.

His experiences include negotiating Singapore's free trade agreements with the European Union, China, the Eurasian Economic Union, ASEAN, and the Comprehensive & Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), as well as Singapore's international investment treaties with a number of countries. Chin Heng also acted as counsel before the World Trade Organization, in Singapore's third-party interventions for disputes concerning IT Products and the US-China trade war. He continues to be heavily involved in negotiations, advisory and dispute management

work on economic law, and leads the Singapore delegation in the ongoing work at the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) on global reforms to investor-State dispute settlement and investment arbitration rules.

Apart from economic law, Chin Heng has also practised in other areas of international law. He was one of Singapore's counsel in the case before the International Court of Justice concerning Pedra Branca, and has also represented Singapore in matters relating to maritime security, arms control, counter-proliferation and counter-terrorism.



**Yong En En - Senior Assistant Director (International Trade Cluster) and Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)**

En En is a Senior Assistant Director in the International Trade Cluster (ITC) and a Trade Specialist at the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI).

En En has been involved in the negotiation of Singapore's international investment agreements since 2011, covering FTAs such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the revised Singapore-Australia FTA, the Sri Lanka-Singapore FTA, the revised Agreement between New Zealand and Singapore on a Closer Economic Partnership, the Pacific Alliance-Singapore FTA, the MERCOSUR-Singapore FTA, and ASEAN's FTAs with Japan and India. She is currently involved in Singapore's negotiations with China, the EAEU, and UK's accession to the CPTPP. She has also negotiated bilateral investment treaties with Kazakhstan and Rwanda.

Besides negotiating Singapore's international investment agreements, En En is involved in the UNCITRAL Working Group discussions on Investor-State Dispute Settlement reform. She has also represented Singapore at the Committee on Government Procurement at the WTO.



**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 successful 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.



**Danielle Yeow - Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore**

Danielle has had over 25 years of experience in various roles within the Singapore public sector, most recently as the Deputy Director-General at the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC/IAD), where she led the practice teams for trade and investment, international environment and climate change, international security and international legal cooperation matters. She has provided legal and strategic advice across a range of complex public international law issues including trade and investment, international security, international cyber norms, environment and climate change, human rights, international aviation, law of the sea, sanctions and compliance, and dispute resolution. This included advice and representation at international negotiations and meetings, advice on and representation in dispute matters and engagement with non-governmental stakeholders on a range of issues.

Danielle currently leads the climate change law and policy programme at the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. Her research interests relate to the interaction between environment and climate change and other disciplines such as trade and investment, intellectual property, business and finance and international security.

Danielle is concurrently an independent consultant, Visiting Researcher at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Centre of Excellence for National Security. She is also a senior advisor and public affairs practice lead with a boutique consultancy.



**Chung Yoon Joo - Senior State Counsel (International Affairs Division), Attorney-General's Chambers**

Chung Yoon Joo is a Senior State Counsel in the International Affairs Division (IAD), Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore, where she oversees the International Economic Law practice group. Since 2003, Yoon Joo has taken on various roles in the Singapore Legal Service, including as a Justices' Law Clerk, Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court, and Deputy General Counsel of the Economic Development Board. She is called to the Bar in Singapore and New York.

In IAD since 2013, Yoon Joo undertakes international advisory and negotiation work covering the entire range of international law issues, with a special focus on international economic law. Amongst others, she was Singapore's counsel in FTA negotiations for the EU-Singapore FTA, Singapore-Australia FTA (review), Agreement between New Zealand and Singapore on a Closer Economic Partnership (review), ASEAN-Hong Kong FTA and Turkey-Singapore FTA, and in Singapore's intervention as a third party in the Tobacco Plain Packing dispute at the WTO. Yoon Joo was also involved in negotiating Singapore's international investment agreements and digital economy agreements with a number of countries and is currently involved in the negotiations for the Singapore-Australia Green Economy Agreement as Drafter and legal advisor to the Singapore Government.

## Registration Fees

Membership Category	Fees (Inclusive of 7% GST and course materials)
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In the event that the programme has to be cancelled or postponed, we will do our best to inform all affected participants at the earliest opportunity via email.

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