

# Programme Schedule

August 21, 2019

09:30-10:00	<b>Registration and High Tea</b>
10:00-10:30	<b>Inaugural Session</b> <b>Welcome Address</b>
10:00-10:05	James Nedumpara <i>Head &amp; Professor, Centre for Trade &amp; Investment Law, IIFT-ND</i>
	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
10:05-10:15	Manoj Pant <i>Director &amp; Professor, IIFT-ND</i>
10:15-10:30	Sudhanshu Pandey <i>Additional Secretary, Trade Policy Division, MoCI-GOI</i>
10:30-10:50	<b>Session-I</b> Presentation on 'Regulations, Policies and Trade in Services: A Global Perspective'
10:50-13:15	<b>Session-II</b> Panel Discussion I: Qualitative Assessment of Policy Areas
13:15-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00-15:30	<b>Session-III</b> Panel Discussion II: Qualitative Assessment of Policy Areas
15:30-15:35	<b>Concluding Remarks &amp; Vote of Thanks</b> Sugandha Huria <i>Research Associate, IIFT-ND</i>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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## For more details, please contact

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सत्यमेव जयते  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
Department of Commerce  
Government of India



Roundtable Discussion on

# REGULATORY BARRIERS AND TRADE IN SERVICES

## A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

August 21, 2019



VENUE

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE**

B-21, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi-110016, INDIA



## ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi and the Centre for Trade and Investment Law are pleased to invite you to participate in a roundtable discussion on **“Regulatory Barriers and Trade In Services - A Global Perspective”**. The objective is to closely examine the nature and importance of several policy areas such as Restrictions on foreign entry, Movement of people, Regulatory Transparency, Barriers to competition and other discriminatory as well as non-discriminatory measures in affecting exports and imports of three professional services viz. **Legal, Accounting/Auditing, and Architectural services**. We would like to get your expert views on how you perceive the relative importance of the listed areas in impeding any country’s foreign trade in these three services. Your experience and insights on the restrictions and challenges faced by the service traders will be of immense value to this project.

*Thank you for your participation!*



## MoCI’s Study on ‘Quantification of Services Trade Restrictions’

Today, trade in the WTO in all commodities is by and large regulated by tariff barriers. Typically, various indices are computed to assess how restrictive a country’s commodity trade policy is. Subsequently, such indices are used in various rounds of trade negotiations. As far as commodity trade is concerned, it is now clear the discussions revolve around the metrics of tariff and non-tariff barriers. However, such is not the scenario in the case of services trade.

The past two decades have experienced a fundamental transformation in the pattern of trade and composition of baskets being traded in the world market, with services contributing to approximately 60% of the exported value added. Hence, there has been subsequent progress in developing service trade databases. However, services trade is restricted not by border measures, but by internal regulatory procedures. Limited attention has so far been paid to assessing restrictiveness of services trade through a quantifiable index.

Recently, the World Bank and the OECD have started releasing indices, which quantify existing policies/regulations and indicate the potential areas for reforms. Launched in the year 2014, one such index (STRI) computed by the OECD is now available for a total of 45 economies (36 OECD and the rest non-OECD) and 22 sectors.

Against this backdrop, a recent study funded by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) is being undertaken by IIFT which looks at the OECD index in particular. The objective of the study is to develop an alternative to the OECD’s index, which is theoretically and empirically advanced. As we move into an era of services trade, we are hopeful that the study by IIFT will throw up new ideas as services trade liberalization is taken forward.