THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS: AN INTERPRETATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Heng Wang*

ABSTRACT

As a highly compromising and flexible agreement, the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (hereinafter “TFA” or “the agreement”) may shed light on the future direction of the world trade regime. Going beyond the tariffs and border, the agreement is featured with good governance requirements. Its delicate relationship with free trade agreements (hereinafter “FTAs”), the domestic law, and existing World Trade Organization (hereinafter “WTO”) agreements deserves attention and carries important implications. What is the relationship between of the TFA and non-WTO rules? How do existing WTO agreements apply to the TFA explicitly or implicitly? What is the interpretative challenge? In addressing these issues, the holistic approach is needed. It remains to be seen how the TFA fits to the world trade regime in the future.

* Professor of Law, School of International Law, Southwest University of Political Science and Law; Visiting Professorial Fellow, University of New South Wales, Sydney; Adjunct Professor of Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Email: stonewh6@gmail.com. I wish to thank Profs. Chang-fa Lo, Shin-yi Peng, Deborah Elms, Tsai-yu Lin, Dukgeun Ahn, other participants of the AWRN 2014 Taipei Conference, and the anonymous reviewers for their insightful comments. I also acknowledge the able assistance of Zhu Zhang, Yajin Lu, Niying Lin, Rui Xu, Yuan Liu, Zhe Dong and other student assistants. Special thanks go to the editors for their excellent job. All mistakes remain mine. This study was funded by the bilingual teaching model course development project “Case Study on International Trade Law”, and Fok Ying Tong Education Foundation (project number 131109).
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