

## Dentons Rodyk Dialogue 2018

International Trade in the Age of Brexit and Trump

**Date and time:**

**Start:** May 8, 2018, 9:30 AM SGT

**End:** May 8, 2018, 12:15 PM SGT

**Location:**

**Mochtar Riady Auditorium**

Singapore Management University

Administration Building

Singapore, 188065

**Singapore**

**Guest of Honour: Mr S Iswaran**  
**Minister for Communication and Information,**  
**Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations**

### Synopsis

New political narratives are transforming international trade and global integration. Even the most ardent supporters of trade liberalization recognize that these political realities and the need to account for sustainable development, inclusive growth and managing the digital revolution will radically reshape the landscape of international trade.

The Dentons Rodyk Dialogue brings together an exciting line up comprising Canada's former Prime Minister, Mr. Stephen Harper, world-renowned international trade expert from Melbourne University, Professor Tania Voon and Singapore's leading thinker and entrepreneur, Mr. Ho Kwon Ping to discuss the future directions of international trade in the age of Brexit and Trump.

The Dentons Rodyk Dialogue promises insights to the future of international trade and global integration.

### Programme

**Time**

09:30 am

**Programme**

Registration

**Time**

10:00 am

**Programme**

### Key contact



**Gerald Singham**

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### Event contact

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Welcome Address by **Professor Arnoud de Meyer**, President, Singapore Management University

**Time**

10:05 am

**Programme**

Welcome Address by **Mr Philip Jeyaretnam SC**, Former Regional CEO & Global Vice-Chair, Dentons Rodyk

**Time**

10:10 am

**Programme**

Opening Remarks by Guest of Honour **Minister S Iswaran**, Minister for Communication and Information, Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations

**Time**

10:20 am

**Programme**

Address I

**A Commentary on the Geopolitical Climate of International Trade**

**The Right Honourable Stephen Harper**

22nd Prime Minister of Canada (2006-2015)

Chairman and CEO, Harper & Associates

Mr. Harper will provide views on the current geopolitical and macroeconomic landscape, touching on international trade policy, global markets and political trends.

**Time**

10:40 am

**Programme**

Address II

**Australia and Asia: Global Leadership for Sustainable Economic Openness in the Post-Trump/Brexit World**

**Professor Tania Voon**

Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne

The election of Donald Trump and outcome of the Brexit vote revealed underlying concerns across the globe about various aspects of globalisation. These concerns reflect failure at international levels and domestically in many countries to deal with adjustment costs. In order to continue to harness the economic benefits of trade liberalisation, while adapting to the digital economy, new ideas and practical solutions are required. Australia and Asia more broadly have the potential to play a greater leadership role in the global economy, including through the Comprehensive & Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership

and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

**Time**

11:00 am

**Programme**

Address III

**The Fiction of Free Trade**

**Mr Ho Kwon Ping**

Founder and Executive Chairman, Banyan Tree Holdings  
Chairman, Board of Trustees, Singapore Management University

Is Donald Trump's antipathy to the TPP and multilateral trade pacts a repudiation of free trade? Indeed, is free trade ever free at all, or simply a fiction, a fig leaf for pursuing national interests? And how is fair trade not actually free trade? This talk argues that international trade is neither free nor fair and to believe so is naïve. What the international community and all its members, including the US, should recognise is that the terms of international trade, being neither nor fair, should simply strive to be rules-based, with periodic resetting of the boundaries but at least adherence to the rules by all players.

**Time**

11:20 am

**Programme**

**Panel Discussion: International Trade in the Age of Brexit and Trump**

**Panelists**

Minister S Iswaran  
The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Mr Ho Kwon Ping  
Professor Tania Voon

**Moderator**

Mr Philip Jeyaretnam SC

**Time**

12:00 pm

**Programme**

Closing remarks by **Associate Professor Goh Yihan**, Dean, School of Law, Singapore Management University

**Time**

12:05 pm

**Programme**

Gift presentation and photo-taking

**Time**

12:10 pm

**Programme**

Lunch Reception

## Speakers

Guest of Honour

**Mr. S Iswaran**

Minister for Communication and Information,  
Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations

## **The Right Honourable Stephen Harper**

Canada's 22nd Prime Minister

Chairman and CEO, Harper & Associates

For nearly ten years, The Right Honourable Stephen Harper led Canada through the world's most complex geopolitical, economic and security challenges as the country's 22nd Prime Minister. During his tenure in the world's top forums such as the G-7 and G-20, NATO, and the United Nations, Mr. Harper was known for a frank, assertive leadership style defined by principled diplomacy, disciplined economic policy, a strong stance on international peace and security, and passionate defense of freedom and human dignity.

Mr. Harper created the modern Conservative Party of Canada, won three successive national elections, and was the longest serving Conservative Prime Minister since Canada's founding Prime Minister in 1891. Under his watch, Canada emerged from the 2008 economic crisis faster and stronger than its peers. Among his many accomplishments in office, Mr. Harper brought federal taxes to their lowest level in 50 years, balanced the budget while making investments in health care and infrastructure, overhauled the criminal justice system, and expanded Canada's international trade network tenfold. On the international stage Prime Minister Harper oversaw Canada's involvement in a series of complex conflicts in Afghanistan, Libya and Iraq, and stood staunchly by besieged allies Israel and Ukraine. As the host leader of the 2010 G-20 summit in Toronto, and as an economist by training, Mr. Harper helped shape financial reform frameworks, implemented a sustainable approach to fiscal stimulus, and led the call for open markets and pragmatic, growth-oriented economic policy.

Today, Mr. Harper is Chairman and CEO of Harper & Associates, a global business consulting firm and Chairman of the International Democrat Union, the global alliance of conservative political parties. He is also a Founder-Member of the Friends of Israel Initiative, an association of former high-office holders from around the world steadfastly defending Israel's right to self-determination, security and democracy.

## **Professor Tania Voon**

Melbourne Law School

## The University of Melbourne

Tania Voon is Professor at Melbourne Law School and was previously its Associate Dean (Research), Legal Officer at the WTO Appellate Body Secretariat, and solicitor with King & Wood Mallesons and the Australian Government Solicitor. Tania undertook her LLM at Harvard Law School and her PhD at the University of Cambridge. She is a member of the Roster of Panelists for the Energy Charter Treaty and of the WTO's Indicative List of Governmental and Non-Governmental Panelists. She has held visiting positions at NYU Law, the National University of Singapore, the University of Oslo, and the University of Cambridge.

### Mr. Ho Kwon Ping

**Founder and Executive Chairman, Banyan Tree Holdings  
Chairman, Board of Trustees, Singapore Management University**

HO Kwon Ping is the Founder and Executive Chairman of Banyan Tree Holdings and Laguna Resorts and Hotels, and Executive Chairman of Thai Wah Public Company.

He is also the founding and current Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Singapore Management University and a Board Director of Diageo, the UK-listed spirits company.

Among various awards, Mr Ho has received the London Business School Entrepreneurship Award; CEO of the Year at the Singapore Corporate Awards; CNBC Travel Business Leader Award ; and Distinguished Alumnus Award from the National University of Singapore.

For his services to the country he has been decorated with the Meritorious Service Medal and the Distinguished Service Order by the Singapore Government.

## About the Dentons Rodyk Dialogue

The Dentons Rodyk Dialogue is a partnership between Dentons Rodyk and Singapore Management University (SMU) to create a major forum for thought leaders to share ideas and views affecting Asia's legal, business, cultural and economic landscape. Ultimately, it is hoped that these conversations would influence attitudes and policies resulting in a better world for all. The Dentons Rodyk Dialogue aims to be the essential event for legal, business and academic leaders to converge in order to discuss pressing issues and world trends. The Dialogue is an event organised under the auspices of SMU School of Law's Centre for Cross-border Commercial Law in Asia.