



First workshop of the E15 Expert Group on  
**Reinvigorating Manufacturing: New Industrial Policy and the Trade System**  
 30-31 May 2014 – Beijing, China

## Agenda

# INVITATION ONLY

Friday, May 30

9:00-9:15 **The E15 Initiative – Process and Purpose**

- **Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz**, ICTSD

09:15 - 11:00 **Session I: Reinvigorating Manufacturing through Industrial Policy and the Trade System**

- Chair: **Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz**, ICTSD

*In recent years, we have seen a resurgence of industrial policy, with new features and greater acceptance of the need for policy efforts to transform economic structures; better link up with new technologies; and develop a basis for sustained growth. Bearing in mind the lessons from past experience, it is important to ascertain the steps/policies that deserve special attention, how to develop mutually supportive mechanisms for these policies, and ensure the enabling role of international trade agreements, particularly the WTO, in the context of plurilateral negotiations to on trade and investment.*

- The likely way ahead by **Justin Yifu Lin**, Peking University, *TBC*
- Presentation of the Background Paper by **Harsha Vardhana Singh**, ICTSD

Discussion

11:00 - 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 - 13:00 **Continuation of session I and open discussion**

13:00 - 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 - 15:45 **Session II: Iterative groups on specific sub-themes**

*For this session, participants will split into two groups. Each group will go through two successive iterations during which they will discuss two different topics namely (i) Industrial policies, evolving conditions and objectives, and suitability of specific policies and (ii) Industrial policies: which policies are more efficient, and how can effectiveness be improved. Each topic will be briefly introduced by a lead discussant who will rotate from one group to the other as the group goes through its iterations. This will allow participants to contribute to each topic.*

**Topic 1** **Industrial policies, evolving conditions and objectives, and suitability of specific policies**

Lead Discussant: **Kenichi Ohno**, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo; Research Director of the Vietnam Development Forum (VDF)

*Industrial policies, generally speaking, are not new. However, the modalities recently explored, and the conditions in which they are being used, as much as their focus, have evolved. What is novel with respect to the recent wave of industrial policies? (e.g. new focus, supply chains, larger participation, different types of constraints and aspirations, greater recognition of previous experience and failures, importance of system wide learning and building skills, justification in terms of larger social objectives). And, for the policy objectives pursued, how effectively can the specific policies and discussed measures be achieved? (e.g. building domestic capacity, generating competitive capabilities in dynamic sectors, linking with supply chains, addressing middle income trap).*

**Topic 2**                    **Industrial policies: which policies are more efficient, and how can effectiveness be improved?**

Lead Discussant: **Irmgard Nübler**, International Labour Office (ILO)

*Experience suggests that policy makers tend to emphasize certain measures that could be either improved or substituted by other more efficient policies. Which measures are more useful? How could the potential adverse effects of some measures be mitigated? What are the complementary steps that may result in enhancing the efficiency of the emphasized measures? (e.g. subsidies, local content, standards, innovation policies, infrastructure development, tariffs, quotas, hard industrial policies, soft industrial policies).*

15:45 - 16:00            **Coffee Break**

16:00 - 17:30            **Session II: Iterative groups on specific sub-themes (contd.)**

*During the continuation of this session, the following topics will be discussed: (i) Treatment of industrial policies in existing trade agreements, specifically in WTO provisions, and (ii) treatment in ongoing negotiations in the WTO and Bilateral/Plurilateral initiatives.*

**Topic 3**                    **Industrial policies and WTO provisions: does the legal regime impose major constraints new policies?**

Lead Discussant: **Joost Pauwelyn**, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

*The issue of policy space under the WTO has been raised for quite some time. Some argue that the WTO regime imposes considerable constraints, while others say that countries have adequate policy flexibilities within that system. With a growing importance of industrial policies amongst a whole range of countries, it is useful to assess whether the WTO system imposes constraints on policies such as local content, subsidies (goods, services), standards, infrastructure support/construction, contingent protection (anti-dumping, countervailing measures), IPR, technology transfer, and, if so, the nature of constraints that could be achieved within the system.*

**Topic 4**                    **Relevance of ongoing negotiations in the WTO and Bilateral/Plurilateral initiatives**

Lead Discussant: **Xiaodong Wang**, WTO

*A review of the main features of current negotiations at the WTO and main FTAs would reveal the scope of action and flexibility that may evolve for the use of industrial policies. How are trade and investment regulations evolving in WTO and in the ongoing FTAs and what's the relevance of such developments for reinvigoration of manufacturing?*

17:30 - 18:30 **Session III: Conclusions of the day, based on initial reports of the day's deliberations**

➤ Chair: **Justin Yifu Lin**, Peking University, *TBC*

*Recommendations on the way ahead.*

19:00 **Dinner**

### Saturday, May 31

9:00-11:00 **Session IV: Reports from iterative groups**

➤ Chair: **Yang Yao**, Peking University

*Lead Discussants will present main conclusions of the different group discussions on the four topics.*

Open discussion

11:00-11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15-13:00 **Session V: Translating ideas into action**

➤ Chair: **Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz**, ICTSD

➤ **Harsha Vardhana Singh**, ICTSD

*In this session, participants will identify the salient themes of the meeting's discussion and discuss how best to take them forward.*

13:00 Light lunch served