What Now After the Great Recession? Perspectives on Global Trade and the Relevance of International Cooperation

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Thursday, 24 February 2011
6:30 – 7:30 pm
Convocation Room, Room 218, 2/F Main Building, University of Hong Kong

World trade contracted dramatically in the Great Recession, far faster than output. In 2010 trade growth returned flows to their pre-crisis levels. To what degree do sustained trade growth and the benefits that flow from it depend on international trade policy cooperation in the years ahead? Regional trade co-operation has intensified, multilateral trade negotiations have been going for almost a decade. These developments will be assessed, along with other challenges facing the multilateral trading system, such as commodity price trends, the interface between trade and climate change, and trade in natural resources.

Patrick Low is Chief Economist at the World Trade Organization and an Adjunct Professor of International Economics at the Graduate Institute, Geneva. He worked for GATT from 1980-1988 and joined the WTO in 1995, later serving as WTO Director-General Mike Moore’s Chief of Staff from 1999-2001. Patrick taught from 1988-1990 at El Colegio de México, and served in the research complex of the World Bank from 1990-2004. He holds a PhD in economics from Sussex University and has written widely on trade policy issues.

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