

EAST ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW & POLICY PROGRAMME  
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL LAW  
FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

*Seminar*

## **The Challenges Facing the Multilateral Trading System**

**Valentine Sendanyoye Rugwabiza**

*Deputy Director-General  
World Trade Organization*

**Friday, 4 November 2011**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

**Room LG104, LG1 Floor, KK Leung Building, University of Hong Kong**

***Chair: Professor C.L. Lim***

The year 2011 has been and will continue to be a critical year for the multilateral trading system. With the impact of the global economic slowdown still being felt in all corners of the world, sustained global growth will require a recommitment to multilateralism. The WTO has an important role to play in this scenario. As the preeminent global institution for international rulemaking on trade issues and as the most representative arena for global trade negotiations, the preservation of the WTO's rulemaking, transparency and litigation functions is as crucial today as ever. The impasse in the Doha talks should not erode this global responsibility to create binding and transparent multilateral rules which offer certainty and predictability to businesses, consumers and governments. At the same time, most WTO members are party to an increasing number of Preferential trade agreements, raising the question of coherence between the rules negotiated in these agreements and the MTS. Actors such as Hong Kong, China and other emerging economies in Asia, have a particularly important role to play both in continuing to support global growth and in contributing to the successful resolution of the DDA negotiations. The Deputy Director General of the WTO, Mrs. Valentine Rugwabiza will seek to address some of these issues including how best the way forward can be charted.

**Valentine Sendanyoye Rugwabiza** has occupied the post of Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization since October 2005. Prior to her current post, she served for three years as Ambassador of Rwanda to the WTO, the United Nations in Geneva and Switzerland. Before joining the public service, Valentine Sendanyoye Rugwabiza had a long career in the private sector. Mrs. Sendanyoye Rugwabiza was a member of the economic and social Council of the President of Rwanda, a founding member of the Rwandan Women's Caucus and the Rwandese federation of the private sector.

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email Flora Leung at [fkleung@hku.hk](mailto:fkleung@hku.hk) to reserve a place.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**