



Centre for
WTO
Studies
विश्व व्यापार संगठन अध्ययन केन्द्र

IIFT ECONOMICS SOCIETY (IES)
of the
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE
in partnership with
CENTRE FOR WTO STUDIES
presents

IIFT MODEL WTO 2022



ABOUT US

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) was established in 1963 as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry to contribute to the skill-building of professionals working in the external trade sector of India. It has since come a long way to successfully develop into a unique institution involved in imparting knowledge through research and training in international business and trade. Over the years, IIFT has emerged as a leading Deemed to be University with focus on International Business Management and Strategy, and these shifting orientations are reflected in all three major activities of the Institute: Research, Training and Education.

IIFT Economics Society

IIFT Economics Society was established in 2018 under the guidance of Faculty members of the IIFT Economics department. It is committed to enhancing the exposure and awareness of economics students and providing them a platform to link theoretical knowledge with practical world through opportunities to interact with the key policymakers, renowned economic laureates, experienced researchers, and leading industry experts in India and abroad.

Centre for WTO Studies

The Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) was set up in the year 1999 to be a permanent repository of WTO negotiations related knowledge and documentation. Over the years, the Centre has developed a robust research programme with a series of papers in all spheres of interest at the WTO. CWS has been regularly called upon by the Government of India to undertake research and provide independent analytical input for formulating standpoints in various trade negotiations at the relevant WTO forums.

Background

The objective of providing COVID-19 vaccines is facing difficulties globally due to divergences in perspectives between governmental initiatives and business motivations of pharma companies. When we consider the situation in terms of developed vs. developing countries, the struggle becomes more intense.

WTO serves as the legal and institutional framework for developing multilateral agreements related to the global trading system. One of the most-cited agreements, Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), governs the protection of IP rights, including patents and trademark. The pandemic has spurred a debate as to whether an exception to certain TRIPS provisions for COVID treatment is warranted. Is “Vaccine equity” an elusive dream? Does an optimal solution to the inequitable global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines exist beyond the temporary waiver of patent? It is necessary to understand the voices of developed, developing and least developed countries to formalize a sustainable solution to achieve global vaccination goals.

About the event

The Model WTO simulation is a student-driven initiative that provides a unique opportunity for participants to debate on important global issues like Covid 19 and vaccine Patent Waiver and its economic implications on various countries. It gives the students a firsthand experience to witness the framework involved during WTO ministerial negotiations and an opportunity to present themselves in front of distinguished panelists in the field of Foreign Trade & Policies.

Organisation of the event

This one-day event is an inter-university competition, which will be held virtually in the month of May. The underlying objective is to focus on the economic aspects of the agenda. The event is organized collectively by the students and Faculty members of IIFT (Delhi & Kolkata) and Center for WTO Studies. A mock WTO will be organized for the applicants approximately 25 days prior to the actual event to demonstrate the regulations to be followed at the event that will act as a walkthrough for the participants.

How valid could the concerns about market failure and underinvestment in lieu of IPR waivers be?

What should the scope of the waiver be, if any? (i.e., should it be limited to vaccines or expanded to medicine and medical equipment etc.?)

**CENTRAL
THEME**

**IPR Waiver and
Covid-19
medicines**

What could be the impact of a vaccine IPR waiver on global supply and distribution?

Can LDCs be provided support with manufacturing and distribution at a lower cost rather than a technology transfer that may be expensive with its benefits uncertain?

How can the right incentives in existing patent laws as well as the TRIPS Agreement be created?

What would be the costs of 'patent-protection' of vaccines during a global pandemic?

**Sub-themes/
Underlying
Considerations**

RULES FOR APPLYING

11 teams will be participating in the final event, 10 of which will represent key countries while the remaining team will represent a civil society organisation

Participants must be pursuing a Masters or a PhD degree in Economics

Participants are required to apply as a team consisting of 3 members with at least 1 member pursuing a Master's degree in Economics

Cross college/university teams are allowed

A maximum of two teams will be selected from the Economics department of a University (applicable only to teams composed of students from the same Economics department of a University)

APPLICATION PROCESS

REGISTER HERE:



SUBMIT WRITE-UP HERE:



- **Registration starts:** 19th March 2022
- **Registration ends:** 03rd April 2022
- **After registering, every team will have to submit one write-up on the topic “IPR waiver & COVID-19 medicines” (word length not more than 800 words, excluding references).**
- **Deadline for submission of write-up:** 5th April 2022
- **11 teams will be selected on the basis of the write-up.**
- **Announcement of results:** 18th April 2022
- **Mock WTO & allocation of countries:** 25th – 29th April 2022 (Tentative)
- **Allocation of countries to various teams will be done through random selection.**
- **Final event (on Microsoft Teams):** 23rd – 27th May 2022 (Tentative)

PRIZES



2nd Position
Rs. 25,000



1st Position
Rs. 40,000



3rd Position
Rs. 15,000



Certificate of appreciation will be awarded to all the teams

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

IIFT
MODEL WTO
2022

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Manoj Pant
Vice Chancellor, IIFT



Abhijit Das
Head, Centre for WTO Studies



Biswajit Nag
Head, Economics Division, IIFT



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FACULTY CONVENERS



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STUDENT COMMITTEE

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MODEL WTO
2022



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