

Preface

This Monograph draws urgent attention to the broad issues of devising: (a) pragmatic international trade policies that integrate various imperatives of climate change (CC) mitigation and adaptation, and, (b) CC governance (CCG) policies that draw upon international trade regimes, to the mutual reinforcement of both trade and climate policies. The relative roles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in this context are examined and suggestions offered for short-term and long-term reforms of policies governed by either of these two organizations. A brief review of the existing environmental provisions in the WTO charter (none exist in the climate change dimension itself, however), and major case analysis of the WTO jurisprudence is provided in order to assess the potential for the current provisions in CCG.

International trade remains a major instrument of policy for mitigation of greenhouse gases and adaptation to CC. The main approaches toward improved governance of CC in relation to international trade policies under various provisions in the existing agreements are critically reviewed here. Perspectives for new policy formulations and reforms in international agreements are offered. These include the roles of revised provisions in the WTO charter as well as in the UNFCCC. Guidelines for a post-Kyoto Framework are also offered, considering various carbon leakage problems. Potential roles of border carbon taxes and consumption-based policies are assessed. Institutional framework for devising and implementing trade and CC governance policies is suggested.

The tardiness of the WTO trade negotiations under the Doha Round launched about a decade ago, and stalling of any significant progress at the Ministerial Meetings since December 2008 is suggestive of the urgent need to devise efficient strategies to global CCG that avoid unreasonably restrictive trade policies and practices. As explained in this Monograph, even a ‘successful’ end of the Doha Round is expected to fall far short of the imperatives of a sensible CCG regime. This is mainly because some of the major issues such as trade and CC adaptation are not included in the ambit of deliberations. This paradigm is partly attributable to the fact that some of the emerging CC issues have not been noted in 2001 when

the Doha Ministerial Declaration setting forth the Doha Round of Negotiations has been launched.

The discussion and analysis in this Monograph ends up with proposed policy and institutional mechanisms that seek to balance the objectives of governance of global CC and international trade. The underlying spirit recognizes that free trade is not an end in itself, nor is environmental protection that ignores other dimensions of sustainable development—such as poverty reduction and economic development.

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