

CFRED's Thirteenth Trade and Investment Law Seminar:

**VIEWS FROM RIYADH AND DELHI ON
GATT-WTO AND FTA DEVELOPMENTS**

by

Prof. Raj Bhala

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Rice Distinguished Professor
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Chaired by: **Prof. Gonzalo Villalta Puig**, *Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

5 May 2015, Tuesday, 12:00 – 1:00p.m.

The Faculty of Law Boardroom, 6/F Lee Shau Kee Building, CUHK, Shatin, N.T.

Two of the most interesting and important countries in the world trading system are the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and India. Both are World Trade Organization (WTO) Members, both have new leadership, both are developing countries in some respects, and both participate in Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs). They differ markedly in their history, political systems, economic profile, culture, and religion. Yet, they share some common interests and concerns in international trade law and policy, at the multilateral (GATT-WTO) level in the Doha Round and in dispute settlement matters, and with respect to new RTAs such as the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). Offered by a regular traveller to the Saudi Arabia and India who works with both countries, this seminar will analyse recent developments in international trade law from the perspectives of both countries.

**All are welcome!
Admission is free of charge!**

Please join us by registering your interest [here](#) by 4 May 2015.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:



Prof. Raj Bhala, an Indian-American, joined the The University of Kansas (KU) Faculty of Law in 2003 as the Rice Distinguished Professor, the highest university-level professorship at KU. He received the 2011 Woodyard International Educator Award, a university-wide award granted to one faculty member for outstanding contributions to internationalization efforts, the 2010 Moreau Award for advising and counseling students, and a 2008 Kemper Award for Teaching Excellence. He has worked in 28 countries and played in another 19 countries.

Bhala is a member of England's Royal Society for Asian Affairs, the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Law Institute, the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, and the All India Law Teacher's Congress. The Indian Society of International Law has conferred on him Life Membership.

Bhala's scholarly reputation in international trade is global, based in part on a sustained, prolific publication record. That record includes a treatise, "Modern GATT Law," now in its two-volume second edition, and "International Trade Law," a two-volume textbook in its fourth edition. Both books are widely acclaimed for their substance and style. That record also includes more than three dozen provocative articles, including eight major pieces on the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, several works on poor countries, and a trilogy on stare decisis. Bhala's articles have appeared in *The International Lawyer*, the most widely circulated international law review, five times.

Bhala's energy and enthusiasm extend to Islamic Law. He is the first non-Muslim American law professor to write a comprehensive textbook in the field, "Understanding Islamic Law Shari'a." This highly praised, widely used work covers in an accessible manner the religion, history and law of Islam. Bhala is honored and humbled to teach Islamic Law to United States Special Operations Forces at the Command and General Staff College of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Bhala's eagerness to pioneer new fields in the American legal academy extends to India. He is under contract to write the first textbook on the business laws of modern India.

Bhala practiced international banking law at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which twice granted him the President's Award for Excellence. At the New York Fed, he represented the United States in international wire transfer negotiations at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), dealt with legal issues in the largest financial market in the world (foreign exchange) and was actively involved in international banking law enforcement, including the infamous scandal involving the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). His UNCITRAL work earned him a Letter of Commendation from the State Department.

Bhala is an International Legal Consultant for The Al Ammari Law Firm, in association with Blake, Cassels & Graydon LL.P., Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. He also has consulted for international organizations, the U.S. and foreign governments, and Cheniere Energy and other private sector entities.

Bhala joined KU from George Washington, where he held the Patricia Roberts Harris Research Professorship, before which he began his teaching career at William & Mary. Bhala is a summa cum laude graduate of Duke, where he was an Angier B. Duke Scholar. The British government awarded him a Marshall Scholarship, and he earned master's degrees from both the London School of Economics and Oxford in economics and management, respectively. He obtained his law degree with honors from Harvard.