

# ASIA PACIFIC DISPUTES RESOLUTION ANNUAL UPDATE

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## Research and Results: The Fifth Year of APDR Project

On April 1, 2013, the Asia Pacific Dispute Resolution Project commenced its fifth year research activities on examining the general conditions for coordinated compliance with international trade and human rights standards in the Asia-Pacific Region. In light of Mid-Term review (October 2012) and the original plans, the project shifted the focus of work from research on Case Studies to dyad analysis, writing up Case Study results, and publication of edited volumes on Coordinated Compliance.

The project objectives for the fifth year are to continue generating a series of edited volumes organized around themes of Coordinated Compliance as follows:

- Trade policy implication from protecting the human right to health. – Thematic Team Editors: Yoshitaka Wada, Masao Nakamura, Ilan Vertinsky
- Trade policy implication from protecting the human right to development. – Thematic Team Editors: Ashok Kotwal, Bharat Ramaswami, Moshe Hirsch
- Trade policy implication from protecting the human rights to poverty/ inequality. – Thematic Team Editors: Rick Barichello, Arianto Patunru, Richard Schwindt
- Trade policy implication from protecting the human rights to government accountability. – Thematic Team Editors: Sarah Biddulph, Gu Xiaorong, Ljiljana Biukovic
- Trade Policy implication from protecting the human rights to labor. – Thematic Team Editors: Les Jacobs, Daniel Drache, Tim McDaniels

### MAJOR 2013 / 2014 WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

- **Yang Pengfei–New Development of Chinese Labor Dispatching System**  
Faculty of Law, UBC, Vancouver, Canada–April 5, 2013
- **Yoshitaka Wada – Work Environment of Physicians and Quality of Healthcare in Japan**  
Green College, UBC, Vancouver, Canada–April 15, 2013
- **China Law Links**  
UBC, Vancouver, Canada–September 19–21, 2013
- **Workshop–Legal Protection of Financial Consumers**  
Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Shanghai, China–October 19, 2013
- **Research Design Workshop – Year 5**  
UBC, Vancouver, Canada–October 28–29, 2013
- **Conference on Public Health Policy in Asia: Rights, Risks and Redistribution**  
Institute of Asian Research, UBC, Vancouver, Canada–December 6–7, 2013
- **Conference on Grey Zones of Global Governance and Trade: Anti-dumping, Subsidies, Human Rights and Policy Space**  
York University, Toronto, Canada–February 6–7, 2014

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### UPCOMING WORKSHOP & CONFERENCE

- **Conference on Mapping the Impact of International Trade and Human Rights Rules on Local Practice**  
International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Onati, Spain–July 17–18, 2014

In concurrent with the progress on the edited theme volumes were program's publication and knowledge dissemination activities. Research findings have been disseminated through hosting workshops and international conferences, and a significant number of publications in the form of edited collections, academic papers and articles in leading international journals. Major workshops, conferences and published volumes in 2013/2014 see the right bars.

### China Law Links Program

In 2013, the China Law Links program has been developed specifically to meet the needs of those in the Canadian legal community preparing for business projects in China or with Chinese firms in Canada. Participants in the three-day program strengthened their skills in:

- Understanding the role of culture in managing relationships, cross-cultural communications in legal and business relationships
- Information gathering and due diligence
- Cross cultural negotiations
- Cross cultural dispute resolution

### Human Rights in Asia

Dr. Pitman Potter chaired the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada's national task on human rights in Canada's Asia Policy. The task force report, "Advancing Canada's Engagement with Asia on Human Rights" was released in September 2013. Drawing on the themes of coordinated compliance articulated in MCRI project, the APRC Task Force report provides a series of recommendations aimed at integrating human rights with trade policy goals in Asia. The report makes recommendations for government, business and civil society on how to be more effective in advancing human rights in Canada's business relations with Asia.

### MAJOR 2013/2014 PUBLICATIONS

- *China's Legal System*, Pitman B. Potter, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013.
- *Law and Fair Work in China*, Sarah Biddulph, Sean Cooney, and Ying Zhu, New York: Routledge, 2013.
- *Linking Global Trade and Human Rights: New Policy Space in Hard Economic Times*, Les Jacobs and Daniel Deache, eds., Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- *Assessing Treaty Performance in China: Trade and Human Rights*, Pitman B. Potter, UBC Press, 2014.

The project's Research Team members continued to make good progress in dissemination of research findings. Notable publication of APDR books, research papers and articles from this year include:

- Ashwini Kulkarni, "MGNREGA -- An Alternative view", *Economic and Political Weekly*, September 07, 2013.
- Ashok Kotwal, Milind Murugkar and Bharat Ramaswami, "Some Reflections on the National Food Security Act", *Yojana*, December 2013, Vol. 57, pp 25-30.
- GU Xiaorong, "A Comparative Study between China and Japan on the Financial Consumer Protection in Criminal Law", *Politics and Law*. No.8, 2013.
- He, W., *Research on the New Era towards Socialist Ecological Civilization: Centered by Rule of Law*, Law Press, 2013.
- Ljiljana Biukovic, "Regional Streamlining of International Trade and International Human Rights Norms," in Andrew Byrnes, Mika Hayashi & Christopher Michaelson, eds., *International Law in the New Age of Globalization*, pp. 179-205, 2013.