

## Singapore asks WTO to explore new ways to overcome 10-year logjam in trade talks



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Singapore has asked the World Trade Organisation or WTO to explore new ways to overcome issues causing a logjam in world trade talks, known as the Doha Developmental Agenda.

Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Lee Yi Shyan, made this call at a policy dialogue on Doha issues and contemporary trade agenda this morning.

Noting that the talks have been stuck for 10 years, Mr Lee asked if there is a need to scale down the complexity of trade negotiations by reducing the number of issues.

He said it is critical to resolve this because the world is at a point where the threat of another economic recession may lead to a resurgence of protectionist tendencies.

Mr Lee said Singapore, like many other states, relies on a strong WTO to ensure a rules-based multilateral trading system.

He said concluding the trade talks would have provided a much needed stimulus package for the global economy.

The policy dialogue is attended by senior officials from the WTO Secretariat, senior trade officials from the region and trade experts.