



Biography

Elizabeth Chelliah is the Principal Trade Specialist (PTS) at the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) as well as Head (Academic Branch) of the MTI Trade Academy. As PTS, Ms Chelliah stewards the building and institutionalising of expertise amongst MTI Trade officers focussing on WTO and FTA rules by providing guidance and advice on a range of WTO and FTA matters, trade facilitation connectivity and other internationalisation strategies and levers.

As Head of the Academic Branch of the MTI Trade Academy, besides developing relevant trade related training modules for government and public officers, Ms Chelliah also coaches officers on WTO, ASEAN and APEC issues as well as providing thought leadership via speaking engagements at various forums. From 2018 this expanded to cover FTA training and related issues for business, professionals and the public sector.

Ms Chelliah has been a WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) panel member of four WTO disputes namely Textiles Rules of Origin between India and the US; the EC Chicken Cuts classification dispute between Brazil, Thailand and the EC, the dolphin safe tuna labelling case between the US and Mexico and the dispute between EU, Canada and Norway on Seals.

Prior to her appointment as PTS, Ms Chelliah was the Deputy Director overseeing Singapore's policies relating to all trade in goods matters at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). From 2006 to 2011 she was involved in APEC and was the Chair of the Committee for Trade and Investment (CTI) from 2008-2010. During that tenure she was involved in developing what is now known as the APEC Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda.

Ms Chelliah has been involved in FTA negotiations since 2002. She has been the lead Goods negotiator in Singapore's bilateral FTAs with EFTA, China, Korea, EU, Chinese Taipei as well as ASEAN-China FTA (2002 to 2006) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). She was Singapore's Chief Negotiator for the Singapore-Peru FTA and is Chief Negotiator for the ongoing review of the Japan-Singapore Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). In October 2017 Ms Chelliah took over as Chair of the RCEP Intellectual Property Working Group, The WG successfully concluded the IP Chapter in Sep 2019.