

A Discussion with Federal Cabinet Minister Chrystia Freeland on Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)

Canada's Minister of International Trade and MP for University-Rosedale, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, visited UBC on Tuesday, January 12th to discuss the ongoing development of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal.

The panel included Dr. John Ries from the Sauder School of Business, and Dr. Matilde Bombardini and Dr. Ashok Kotwal from the Vancouver School of Economics. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Yves Tiberghien, director of the Institute of Asian Research.

Minister Freeland said the Liberal government is still at the stage of understanding the TPP agreement, but promoting free trade and integrating Canada into the global economy are always their essential goals.

"In the mandate letter from the Prime Minister to me, one of his first points is to pursue aggressively opportunities in emerging markets, in particular China and India," said Freeland, "Prime Minister Trudeau is preparing for visits to China and India in the first half of this year, to promote trade relations and the establishment of free trade agreements."

Dr. Tiberghien pointed out that "now it is a battle of rules." The current regimes of international trade are fragmenting and eroding, therefore the making of rules for the future global economy has become striking and urgent. "In that sense, although China is not involved with the TPP negotiation, the incoming G20 Global Leadership Summit under the Chinese presidency, the ability of China to work with other countries will make some advances on certain fronts and will have huge impacts on the global economy."

The event closed with a Q&A session with the minister, and the audience highlighted issues such as dispute settlement, supply side management of trade, and intellectual property.



Yves Tiberghien, Director of the Institute of Asian Research (right) and Moura Quayle, Director of the Liu Institute for Global Issues (left).



The Honourable Chrystia Freeland with students from the MPPGA program.

This discussion was featured on [Phoenix TV](#), a Hong Kong-based television broadcaster, as well as live-tweeted at <https://twitter.com/PubPoli>.