

EXPERIENCE-SHARING BY TRADELAB INDIA AND INTERACTION

Address by Dr Harsha Rajwanshi, Coordinator GNLU CTIL Trade Lab Clinic in INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL TRADELAB CONFERENCE 2024 (a conference of global legal clinics and practica in international trade and investment law) organized by Centre for Trade and Investment Law, New Delhi in collaboration with TradeLab network (13 – 14 December, 2024 | Venue: Tamarind Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.)

Date: 13 December 2024 | 14:30-15:30

Session: Session 1-Experience-sharing by TradeLab India and interaction | 13 December 2024 | Moderator: Chair and Moderator: Mr. Satwik Shekhar, Assistant Professor, CTIL

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, and esteemed colleagues,

It is with immense pride and heartfelt gratitude that I am here as the coordinator for the GNLU CTIL Trade Lab Clinic. I am Dr. Harsha Rajwanshi, hailing from Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), one of the top 5 law schools of India. GNLU has shared a profound and cherished association with the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL). This partnership has spanned over numerous years, growing stronger with each passing initiative. However, if I were to focus specifically on our journey with the *TradeLab Clinic*, it began in 2020, w.e.f from 2021—a journey that has since become a hallmark of academic excellence and practical impact.

The GNLU-CTIL *TradeLab Clinic* is a joint initiative uniting GNLU's academic prowess with CTIL's policy expertise under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. It serves as a transformative platform where students delve into real-world international trade law issues, bridging the gap between theory and practice.

Ladies and gentleman

Since its inception in 2021, the GNLU *TradeLab Clinic* has successfully conducted **four clinics**, with the fifth currently underway. In these clinics, we have engaged a total of **26 students**, each contributing uniquely to the clinic's success. A small brief snapshot is worth mentioning.

1. **Fall 2021 clinic:** The inaugural batch of **4 students** worked on “*Analyzing the Differentiated Integration Policy of the European Union: Recommendations for OECS States.*”

2. **Whereas Spring 2022** was a cohort of **5 students which** addressed “*Mutual Recognition Agreements in the Ayurveda Sector.*”
3. **In Fall 2022:** Another **5 students** undertook research on the “*Circumvention of GATS Commitments under Mode 4 Supply of Services.*”
4. **The Fall 2023**, interestingly, the most recent cohort of **5 students** explored the “*Agricultural Trade Implications of the Exit of Members from Customs Union.*”
5. **Ongoing Clinic (2023-24):** The current clinic, involving **7 students**, is ambitiously working with **two beneficiaries** to further expand the scope of our impact.

In total, these projects have addressed **thematic areas**, ranging from regional trade policies to global service commitments, highlighting the clinic’s versatility and depth.

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GNLU CTIL Trade Lab Clinic stands Testament to Excellence

Testimonials from our students underscores the clinic's transformative impact.

The GNLU-CTIL TradeLab Clinic has been described by students as an ‘*exceptional and transformative experience*’ that offers a ‘*refreshing departure from theoretical studies.*’ Many highlighted the ‘*unparalleled platform*’ it provides to tackle ‘*real-world issues with substantial implications, extending well beyond conventional classroom learning*’. Students have expressed gratitude for the opportunity to gain ‘*insights into policymaking*’ and develop a deeper understanding of ‘*the interconnectedness of economies and the importance of harmonized trade practices.*’

The clinic has been lauded for ‘*equipping students with critical research and analytical skills*’ while cultivating a ‘*profound appreciation for international economic law and its tangible applications.*’ As one student put it, ‘*this invigorating opportunity expanded my perspective and kindled a lasting interest in the field.*’ The feedback reflects not only the academic rigor but also impact of this remarkable initiative on students’ careers and intellectual growth

Phrases like, “*Exceptional learning experience,*” “*Unparalleled platform for real-world application,*” “*Fulfilling exposure to policymaking,*” and “*Deepened appreciation for international economic law.*” are more than feedback—it is evidence of how the clinics have empowered young minds to contribute meaningfully to the field of trade law.

The outcomes speak for themselves. Many of our alumni have pursued advanced degrees in trade law and related disciplines, even they joined CTIL, while others have joined prestigious institutions, law firms, and advocacy roles. The *TradeLab* experience has undeniably been a catalyst in shaping their professional trajectories adding to their learning curve. Now our students wait for announcements of *Trade Lab Clinics*, prepare their CVs so they qualify eligibility criteria and be selected. And we ensure that the deadlines are no way extended. So that we can have more clinics in an year.

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Sir and Madam,

Allow me to touch upon a vital yet often overlooked aspect of collaboration—work culture. In the Indian academic setup, discussions about workplace culture and the ethos of collaboration often take a backseat. Unlike in foreign academia, where culture is woven seamlessly into the fabric of every discourse, here it tends to linger in the shadows, unspoken but deeply felt.

Yet, in my opinion, culture is the soul of any collaboration. It is the unseen thread that binds individuals, the quiet rhythm that dictates the harmony of a team. It fosters trust, respect, and a sense of belonging, elevating work from mere tasks to shared journeys.

In my tenure supervising research teams for *Trade Lab Clinics*, I have yet to encounter a work culture as exemplary as CTIL's. While workplace challenges are not uncommon, CTIL stands as an exception. The feedback from students consistently praises the team for their humility, respect, and unwavering support. The atmosphere is one of mutual respect and humility, a rare combination that inspires not only intellectual growth but personal transformation. It is a culture that nurtures creativity, cultivates passion, and instills a sense of purpose—a lesson we, in Indian academia, must embrace and champion and I Congratulate Prof James and Satwik for this beautiful environment and ecosystem

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My dear one and all,

Permit me to have little more of your attention here to extol the visionary leadership of Prof. James Nedumpara and Mr. Satwik Shekhar. Their unwavering dedication and boundless foresight have not merely fostered this collaboration—they have elevated it to extraordinary heights. Through their tireless efforts, CTIL has transcended its role as an institution; it stands today as an unparalleled mentor, an inspiring guide, and a luminous beacon that illuminates the path for countless young Indian legal minds, shaping the future of international trade law in india with profound impact

At GNLU, under the dynamic leadership of our Director, Prof. Dr. S. Shanthakumar, we have institutionalized mechanisms to support this initiative. For instance, students participating in the *TradeLab Clinic* receive 50 marks as academic credits towards their continuous evaluation. This ensures they can balance their academic responsibilities while fully engaging with the clinic's opportunities.

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GNLU CTIL is a partnership for Legacy of Excellence

The GNLU-CTIL TradeLab Clinic is not merely an academic initiative—it is a living, breathing testament to what is possible when institutions come together with a shared vision. It has touched lives, shaped careers, and contributed to the broader discourse on international trade law.

We are proud to share that GNLU's association with CTIL extends to events like the *GNLU International Moot Court Competition (GIMC)*, where CTIL has consistently played a pivotal role, enriching the experience for participants from across the globe.

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In conclusion, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to CTIL and its team for this enriching collaboration. On behalf of GNLU and our students, thank you for your unwavering commitment to fostering talent and creating impactful opportunities. Together, we have built something extraordinary, and I look forward to strengthening this bond in the years to come.

Thank you, and let us continue to inspire and be inspired.

Dr Harsha Rajwanshi



INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL TRADELAB CONFERENCE 2024

(a conference of global legal clinics and practica in international trade and investment law)

organized by

Centre for Trade and Investment Law, New Delhi
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13 – 14 December, 2024

Tamarind Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

DAY 1: Friday, 13th December 2024

OPENING SESSION AND WORKSHOP ON TEACHING PEDAGOGY

Time	Sessions
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome Coffee

CLOSED SESSIONS

9:30 – 9:40	Welcome Address <i>Dr. James J. Nedumpara</i> – Vice President, TradeLab and Head and Professor, Centre for Trade and Investment
9:40 – 10:00	Introductory Remarks <i>Dr. Jan Yves Remy</i> – Co-President, TradeLab and Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services, University of West Indies <i>Prof. Katrin Kuhlmann</i> – Co-President, TradeLab and Professor, Graduate and International Programs, Georgetown University Law Center
10:00 – 13:00	Roundtable Conference of Trade Lab Supervisors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A summary of 2024 objectives and accomplishments delivered by our Co-Presidents.• An open discussion where participants can exchange best practices, address concerns related to the TradeLab practicum, and explore emerging topics in the field.• Strategic planning for TradeLab's future, with a focus on shared priorities and goals.
13:00-14:00	Lunch and Registration for Open Sessions

OPEN SESSIONS

14:00-14:30	INAUGURATION SESSION Introductory Remarks by Dr. James J. Nedumpara (10 minutes) Vice President, TradeLab and Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Chief Guest's Address: Mr. Sanjay Chadha (20 minutes) Former Additional Secretary, Government of India and Head, Public Policy for India and South Asia, Uber Technologies
14:30-15:30	Session 1: Experience-sharing by TradeLab India and interaction <u>Chair and Moderator:</u> <i>Mr. Satwik Shekhar</i> , Assistant Professor, CTIL <u>Speakers:</u>

Time	Sessions
	<p><i>Dr. Utkarsh Mishra</i>, Assistant Professor and Director, CITIL, DNLU, Jabalpur <i>Dr. Rosmy Joan</i>, Associate Professor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad <i>Dr. Harsha Rajwanshi (virtual)</i>, Assistant Professor of Law, GNLU, Gandhinagar <i>Mr. Shubh Kansal</i>, CTIL TradeLab Researcher and Student, MNLU Mumbai</p>
15:30 – 16:30	<p>Session 2: Scope and Opportunities of Clinical Education in International Legal Practicum</p> <p><u>Co-Chairs and Moderators:</u> <i>Prof. Katrin Kuhlman and Dr. Jan Yves Remy (Co-Presidents, TradeLab)</i></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> <i>Ms. Altagracia Cuevas-Arthur</i>, European Public Law Organization, IE University <i>Dr. Caroline Henckels (virtual)</i>, Associate Professor, Monash University, Australia <i>Dr. Edna Ramirez-Robles</i>, Professor, University of Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico <i>Prof. Ajay Kr. Pandey</i>, Professor and Executive Director, Clinical Programmes, JGLS</p>
16:30 – 16:40	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>
16:40 – 17:40	<p>Session 3: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in Teaching Pedagogy in International Trade</p> <p><i>Dr. Jan Yves Remy</i>, Co-President, TradeLab and Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre, University of West Indies <i>Dr. Georgios Dimitropoulos</i>, Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar <i>Dr. Tomasz Milej</i>, Chairperson, Public Law, Kenyatta University, Nairobi <i>Prof. Tomer Broude</i>, Bessie and Michael Greenblatt QC Chair in Public and International Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem</p>
17:40 – 18:00	Open House Discussion and Feedback

13 December 2024 | 19:00h: Gala Dinner (by invitation only) at Hotel Lalit, New Delhi

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Hon'ble Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Former Chief Justice of India

**followed by
DINNER**



DAY 2: Saturday, 14th December 2024

PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Time	Sessions
9:30 – 9:45	Opening Remarks
9:45 – 11:00	<p>Panel 1: Trade for Inclusive Development: Empowering MSMEs and Beyond <i>Fostering Equitable Growth: Empowering Women, MSMEs, Championing Inclusive Development and Leveraging Technology</i></p> <p>Moderator <i>Mr. Satwik Shekhar</i>, Consultant (Legal) Assistant Professor, CTIL</p> <p>Panelists <i>Dr. Jan Yves Remy</i>, Co-President, TradeLab and Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre, University of West Indies <i>Prof. Katrin Kuhlmann</i>, Co-President, TradeLab and Professor, Co-founder of the Center on Inclusive Trade and Development, Georgetown University, Washington D.C. <i>Dr. Facundo Perez Aznar</i>, Associate Professor of International Economic Law, Universidad de Buenos Aires <i>Dr. Tomasz Milej</i>, Chairperson, Public Law, Kenyatta University, Nairobi <i>Dr. Edna Ramirez-Robles</i>, Professor, University of Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico</p>
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>
11:15 – 11:25	Student Presentation <i>Presentation of TradeLab Clinic by GNLU, Gandhinagar</i>
11:25 – 12:45	<p>Panel 2: Development-Oriented Approaches: Enhancing S&DT Precision and Efficiency <i>Strategies for Sustainable Development: Enhancing S&D Treatment Measures</i></p> <p>Moderator <i>Ms. Shailja Singh</i>, Associate Professor, CTIL</p> <p>Panelists <i>Prof. Tomer Broude</i>, Bessie and Michael Greenblatt QC Chair in Public and International Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem <i>Mr. Thokozani James Ngwira</i>, Trade Law Expert, ESAMI-TRAPCA <i>Dr. James J. Nedumpara</i>, Vice President, TradeLab and Head, CTIL <i>Mr. Harsh Hiroo Gursahani</i>, Partner, PLR Chambers, New Delhi</p>
12:45 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:00	Student Presentation <i>Presentation of TradeLab Clinic Projects by QMUL (UK) and MNLU Mumbai</i>
15:00 – 16:30	<p>Panel 3: Trade and Investment Measures to Address Sustainability Objectives <i>Achieving Sustainability Objectives through Compliance with Modern Trade and Investment Measures</i></p> <p>Moderator <i>Ms. Shiny Pradeep</i>, Assistant Professor, CTIL</p>

Time	Sessions
	<p>Panelists</p> <p>Prof. Katrin Kuhlmann, Co-President, TradeLab and Professor, Co-founder of the Center on Inclusive Trade and Development, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.</p> <p>Dr. Michelle Q. Zang (virtual), Senior Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington</p> <p>Mr. Thokozani James Ngwira, Trade Law Expert, ESAMI-TRAPCA</p> <p>Dr. Georgios Dimitropoulos, Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar</p> <p>Ms. Ramya Raman, Associate Partner, P&A Law Offices, New Delhi</p>
16:30 – 17:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Tea/Coffee</i></p>
17:00 – 17:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Closing Session and Acknowledgements</p> <p>Dr. Jan Yves Remy, Co-President, TradeLab and Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre, University of West Indies</p> <p>Prof. Katrin Kuhlmann, Co-President, TradeLab and Professor, Co-founder of the Center on Inclusive Trade and Development, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.</p> <p>Dr. James J. Nedumpara, Vice President, TradeLab and Head, CTIL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vote of Thanks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr. Satwik Shekhar, Assistant Professor, CTIL</p>