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# The Making of the TRIPS Agreement

Personal insights from the Uruguay Round negotiations

Edited by Jayashree Watal and Antony Taubman

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# About this publication

*The Making of the TRIPS Agreement* presents for the first time the diverse personal accounts of the negotiators of this unique trade agreement. Their rich contributions illustrate how different policy perspectives and trade interests were accommodated in the final text, and map the shifting alliances that transcended conventional boundaries between developed and developing countries, with a close look at issues such as copyright for software, patents on medicines and the appropriate scope of protection of geographical indications. Contributors share their views on how intellectual property fitted into the overall Uruguay Round, the political and economic considerations driving TRIPS negotiations, the role of non-state actors, the sources of the substantive and procedural standards that were built into the TRIPS Agreement, and future issues in the area of intellectual property. In probing how negotiations led to an enduring agreement that has served as a framework for policy-making in many countries, the contributions offer lessons for current and future negotiators. The contributors highlight the enabling effect of a clear negotiating agenda, and underscore the important, but distinct, roles of the Chair, of the Secretariat and above all, of the negotiators themselves.



*This volume ... helps us to understand how the text of the Agreement was constructed – from a brief negotiating mandate to a sophisticated and balanced agreement that has stood the test of time. ... I recommend this book not just to TRIPS specialists but also to all those who are interested in learning about how a complex and sensitive subject came to be successfully negotiated in the Uruguay Round.*

**Roberto Azevêdo**  
WTO Director-General



# Contents

Notes on contributors

Foreword by Director-General Roberto Azevêdo

Preface by Jayashree Watal

List of abbreviations

Disclaimer and editorial note

## PART I

### Introduction, context and overview

- 1 Revisiting the TRIPS negotiations: Genesis and structure of this book  
ANTONY TAUBMAN AND JAYASHREE WATAL
- 2 Thematic review: Negotiating “trade-related aspects” of intellectual property rights  
ANTONY TAUBMAN

## PART II

### Anatomy of the negotiations

- 3 The TRIPS negotiations: An overview  
ADRIAN OTTEN
- 4 Working together towards TRIPS  
THOMAS COTTIER
- 5 Why we managed to succeed in TRIPS  
JOHN GERO
- 6 Evaluating the TRIPS negotiations: a plea for a substantial review of the Agreement  
MOGENS PETER CARL
- 7 Some memories of the unique TRIPS negotiations  
MATTHIJS GEUZE

## PART III

### Perspectives from the developed world

- 8 Negotiating for the United States  
CATHERINE FIELD
- 9 Negotiating for Switzerland  
THU-LANG TRAN WAESCHA
- 10 Negotiating for the European Communities and their member states  
JÖRG REINBOTHE

## Photographic insert

## PART IV

### Perspectives from the developing world

- 11 Negotiating for India  
A.V. GANESAN
- 12 Negotiating for Brazil  
PIRAGIBE DOS SANTOS TARRAGÓ
- 13 Negotiating for Argentina  
ANTONIO GUSTAVO TROMBETTA
- 14 Negotiating for Malaysia  
UMI K.B.A. MAJID
- 15 Negotiating for Hong Kong  
DAVID FITZPATRICK

## PART V

### Negotiating substantive areas of TRIPS

- 16 Patents: An Indian perspective  
JAYASHREE WATAL
- 17 Copyright: A Nordic perspective  
HANNU WAGER
- 18 Copyright: An Indian perspective  
JAGDISH SAGAR
- 19 Dispute settlement in TRIPS: A two-edged sword  
ADRIAN MACEY

## APPENDICES

- I Lars Anell, Keynote speech at the TRIPS Symposium, 26 February 2015
- II Status of Work in the Negotiating Group, Chairman's Report to the GNG, 23 July 1990
- III TRIPS excerpt of the Dunkel Draft, 20 December 1991







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