

PLURILATERAL FTAS TO ENHANCE HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IN ASIA

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ABSTRACT

Asia Pacific countries have diverse human rights protection levels. How to improve human rights protection in this area has long been the concerns of commentators. While it is always positive to see genuinely voluntary adoption of domestic legislations, policies or measures for human rights protection purpose, certain kinds of external influences, not necessarily in the form of intervening in domestic affairs of other countries, but in the form of encouraging or urging their adoption of “voluntary” steps to enhance human right protection, should also be a positive approach. Such external influences can arise from trade and non-trade approaches. This paper focuses on the trade approach toward the enhancement of human right protection. It argues that a free trade agreement (“FTA”) is a useful tool and vehicle to effectively enhance human right protection and that a plurilateral FTA is a proper forum to establish a balance between making markets available for participating countries and enhancing their human right protection.

KEYWORDS: *Human Rights, Plurilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)*

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