

## "Can the WTO be resuscitated? Implications for Korea and the Asia Pacific"

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"through foreign trade, people's satisfaction, merchants' profits and countries' wealth are all increased"

Ibn Khaldun 1332-1406



### State of Global Trade Affairs – December 2012

- The <u>global</u> trade and investment regime is perilously adrift
- The Doha Development Agenda has failed, probably dead
- (The Doha Climate Change talks are also moribund)
- In fact, no global institution is functioning eg G-20
- The US will not lead on global trade regime more likely to impede
- The «South» is hopelessly fragmented and rudderless
- East Asia, epicentre of global trade, territorial disputes & nationalism
- Proliferation of PTAs possible short term gains but not long term fix
- "Today, the system of capitalism is at a crossroads just as it was during the Great Depression." Joseph Stiglitz (2002)
- WTO may become the «League of Nations» of the 21st world economy
- Variation of a 1930s scenario increasingly plausible
- Asia Pacific Region will be most affected



## The early 21st century world economy

- The global business environment has undergone the most profound transformation since (at least) two centuries.
- Driven by the <u>dual</u> global market and ICT revolution.
- Resulting in the atomisation of the global supply chain.
- & The emergence of multiple new actors
  - eg, Mittal Steel, Google, CNOOC, SWF, etc, etc .....
- The closing of the developing developed countries gap
- The end of the "hub-spoke" global economy & New Silk Road
- With significant global benefits but unevenly spread
- & Many daunting challenges planet, humanity, rules-book
- Large imbalances
- Velocity of financial volatility
- & The great fragility of the global hegemon
- Politics, society and mentalities unable to keep up
- Resulting in the erosion of global institutions
- A crisis of leadership
- A deep sense of uncertainty
- The absence of trust

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#### **Opportunity in Transition for Korean Leadership**

- There will be a leadership change at the WTO in September 2013
- The next DG will almost certainly be from the «South»
- Leadership from ex «Quad» and big emerging powers unlikely resisted
- Imperative of determining appropriate architecture
- Imperative of multi-stakeholder approach to design
- Imperative of engaging business
- Imperative of future orientation/next generation
- Imperative of <u>holistic</u> approach: trade and ......
- Imperative of education, engagement
- Korea as most striking trade related success narrative
- Korean leadership in 21st century global trade initiative

EG 2011 - 2014

#### **The Basic Premise**

"I have never faltered, and I will never falter, in my belief that enduring peace and the welfare of nations are indissolubly connected with friendliness, fairness, equality and the maximum practicable degree of freedom in international trade".

Cordell Hull, 1937



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## WORLD TRADE

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