

Program

Roundtable Discussion on " Standards, Technical Regulations, and Trade: What's the Relationship?"

Abstract

Standards and technical regulations are an increasingly prominent part of international trade policy debate. In particular, there has been considerable discussion of whether standards and regulations affect trade costs and export prospects for developing countries. New research at the World Bank, for example, indicates that technical regulations can adversely affect firms' propensity to export in developing countries. In particular, testing procedures and lengthy inspection procedures reduce exports by 9 percent and percent respectively. This roundtable will focus on what is known about the link between standards, product regulations, and trade along with the policy implications of new research findings, and will seek to identify analytical gaps and areas for further research.

About the Speaker

John Wilson joined the World Bank in 1999 and is currently a Lead Economist in the Development Economics Research Group where he manages research work on trade costs, business facilitation, and economic development. He has extensive experience with the Bank in the Americas, Middle East and Eastern Europe on transport, infrastructure and standards issues. He was previously Vice President for Technology Policy at the Information Technology Industry Council in Washington, D.C. from 1995-99.

By invitation only

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