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NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR'S DESK

BIPIN KUMAR*

Dear Reader,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Volume 16.2 of Trade, Law *and* Development. Before you delve into this edition, I would like to share a few reflections.

I am Dr. Bipin Kumar, serving as the Chief Editor and Faculty-in-Charge of Trade, Law *and* Development Journal (TL&D), and an Associate Professor specialising in international trade law. Since its establishment in 2009, TL&D has witnessed a remarkable journey of growth and evolution, one that I have been fortunate to observe closely. From the outset, the Journal distinguished itself as a credible and dynamic forum for rigorous academic dialogue in the domains of international trade law, economic law, and investment law.

Over the years, the Journal has had the privilege of featuring the works of some of the most respected and influential figures in the field. These include Dr. Yonov Agah, former Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organization; Lorenzo Cotula, Head of Law, Economics and Justice at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED); and renowned scholars such as Professor Raj Bhala, Simon Lester, Professor Peter Mavroidis, Professor M.S. Sornarajah, Professor Dr. Mira Burri, and Professor Ernst-Ulrich Petersmann. The opportunity to engage with the ideas and insights of such distinguished contributors has not only elevated the Journal's academic standing but has also provided our readers with thought-provoking and cutting-edge perspectives on some of the most pressing issues in global trade governance.

The present issue, Volume 16.2, is a General Issue which encapsulates increasing global trade challenges. Countries are moving towards protectionism, raising tariffs, and forming regional trade blocs. These trends go against the principles of openness and cooperation that the World Trade Organization promotes. The articles in this issue explore these developments

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from different angles. They cover key issues such as the rise of economic nationalism, the breakdown of global trade rules, and the future of trade policies in both developed and developing countries.

India's trade policy is also highly relevant against this backdrop, as it reflects the broader global trend of balancing regional integration with domestic protectionism. By selectively engaging in trade agreements while safeguarding key sectors, India's approach highlights the challenges of navigating a fragmented and increasingly protectionist trade environment.

I invite readers to contemplate the larger changes impacting global trade and globalisation today. Have we focused too much on the details and missed the bigger picture or perhaps the reverse? These are some of the critical questions this issue seeks to unpack.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the contributors for their valuable work. I am especially grateful to our Vice Chancellor, **Professor (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur**, Chief Patron of the Journal, for her continued encouragement and support. I also commend the **Editors-in-Chief — Chathurya Srinivasan, Priyanshu Shrivastava**, and **Simran Bherwani** — for their outstanding leadership in guiding this issue to completion. Above all, I deeply appreciate the efforts of the entire Editorial Board, whose commitment and diligence have shaped each manuscript into its final form.

As we move ahead, TL&D remains committed to promoting meaningful academic discussions in the areas of international trade, economic, and investment law. With this issue, we hope not only to share valuable insights but also to spark new ideas, thoughtful conversations, and deeper engagement with the evolving challenges of the global trade landscape.

We truly appreciate your continued support and interest in the Journal. We look forward to your feedback and reflections on the ideas presented in this edition.