

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION LAW SERIES

The Future Development of Competition Framework

Edited by
Tzong-LeH Hwang
Chiyuan Chen

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Preface

In recent years, the need for international coordination in relation to competition policy has become more pressing and the existing competition framework and competition-related laws have also faced many new challenges. International bodies have one by one placed competition issues on their agendas. These have been aimed at building consensus, harmonizing the competition policies and laws of different countries, and further promoting global economic and trade development.

Along with the trend towards economic globalization and liberalization, competition policy today has extended into the fields of trade, investment, intellectual property rights, and technology transfer. Countries and international bodies around the world have always been concerned about issues such as the integration of competition policy into the international regulatory framework, the establishment of a culture of competition and a mechanism for cooperation, as well as the provision of necessary technical assistance.

Since the 1980s, the Taiwan economy has experienced rapid development, and the structure of its society has changed at a very fast pace. With the ongoing trend towards economic liberalization and internationalization, existing social and economic norms have been unable to effectively respond to the new economic environment and the needs of society, and it has thus been necessary to establish a new regulatory regime in which businesses can compete freely. It was against such a background that the government drafted the Fair Trade Law, which was enacted in 1991, and took effect in February 1992. In the twelve years that have since passed, the Fair Trade Commission has through its endeavors implemented the Fair Trade Law with a good measure of success. Not only has an environment conducive to open and fair competition been fostered, but Taiwan has in every respect become increasingly intellectualized, modernized and internationalized.

To seek international cooperation with regard to the above issues and thus enhance the enforcement quality of the Fair Trade Law, the Commission decided to hold Taiwan 2003 international conference, on competition Policies Laws which is the third in a series hosted by the Commission. The Commission has anticipated that many scholars, experts, government officials in charge of competition policy and representatives of international organizations around the world will be brought together for in-depth discussions on the main topic "The Future Development of Competition Framework" with a view to developing a possible consensus.

This book, which is now available, explores the prospects for a competition framework, its likely global future development, and its mechanism of cooperation in the world trade regime. It consists of seven chapters. Chapter 1 is "Introduction," Chapter 2 entitled "Speeches by Representatives of Foreign

Preface

Competition Authorities,” Chapter 3 focuses “Globalization and the Development of Competition Framework,” Chapter 4 on “Competition Framework for Technological Innovation,” Chapter 5 on “Competition Framework for Financial Reform,” Chapter 6 on “Competition Framework for Developing Economies and Technical Assistance,” and Annex consists of a “Roundtable Discussion.” We hope that the discussions will be meaningful, both from a theoretical and practical point of view, and that they will gradually foster the growth of a genuine culture of competition, thereby further developing a truly mature system of competition, and establishing an international mechanism for implementation and cooperation.

A debt of gratitude is owed to the moderators of the different working sessions, as well as the speakers and panelists. Moreover, I would like to thank each participant and all of my colleagues at the Commission who worked so hard to make the conference a success.

Tzong-Leh Hwang
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January 2004

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