

## Abstract

The study of the dispute settlement in free trade areas in which Thailand is a member AFTA , TAFTA , TNZCEPA and ACFTA in particular, aims at examining and analysing forms and judicial processes of the dispute settlement system, as well as its advantages and disadvantages, under those agreements in order to have a more comprehensive understanding in the judicial processes. More importantly, the study does not only help reduce the flaws of the judicial processes but also increase the effectiveness of the dispute settlement processes.

It found that the free trade agreements are in common in terms of forms and the dispute settlement processes. Each free trade area, however, is different in details of each part of the judicial processes. The study also found some flaws and problems in those differences which are needed to be resolved. The main study of this paper focuses on the panels selection. The arbitral tribunal should take charge in the following cases, namely appealing right during the consultation processes, carrying out the judicial processes in any urgent cases including the case of perishable goods, the revision on the draft of the panel reports, the supervision on the implementation of the recommendation and the judgement, and the legal cost.

If the problems observed and the recommendations offered above are brought into greater consideration, the dispute settlement system under the free trade areas could be further strengthened and be more complete. Moreover, the system would be more acceptable in the international context.