Abstract

This thesis examines the application of National Treatment Principle under the 1994 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and The General Agreement on Trade in Services in light of panel and appellate body reports. National Treatment is one of the most significant WTO's principles, which supports freely and fairly international trade. However, the problem of National Treatment principle is practically related to an application of the principle in many aspects.

The thesis identifies issues in National Treatment under GATT, which are concerned with interpretation of "like product", "no less favorable than", "all laws regulations and requirements" and "affecting." At the same time, the paper also identifies the exception issue in article 3 paragraph 8 and article 20.

Next portion, the thesis indicates issues in National Treatment under GATS, mentions to three problems. Firstly, the interpretation of "like services and service suppliers" Secondly, the precise domain of Article XVII on National Treatment which has not been clearly delineated, particularly in relation to Article XVI dealing with market access. Lastly, there is a difference between the text of Article XVII and the structure of Schedules of Commitments, which makes it difficult to interpret the scope of National Treatment obligation.

This thesis presents the similarity and distinction between National Treatment obligation under GATT and GATS and provides critical suggestions to the Thai government to consider and prepare for the liberalization from WTO's obligation in the future.