

*Book Review*

## **International Trade and Investment Law The Case of Indonesia**

**by I Gusti Ngurah Parikesit Widiatedja**

Udayana University Press, 2021

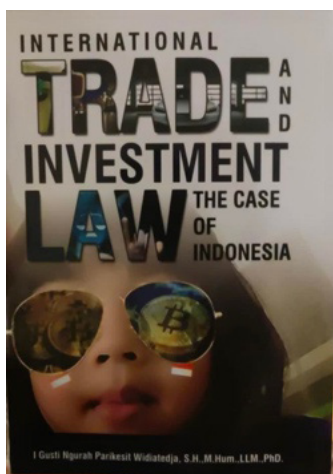
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Do international trade law and foreign direct investments contribute to economic growth and people's welfare? This is the core question that the author, I Gusti Ngurah Parikesit Widiatedja, has examined in this book. This is a study from the legal aspect across the seven issues that seem unrelated but are relevant regarding international trade and investment law. The book consists of published articles and related cases in Indonesia.

The article topics in this book are helpful and relevant for academics and practitioners. The chapters in this book have well-presented explanations of theories, rules and cases associated with Indonesia's problems. This book provides a scientific basis for discussions regarding the latest developments in international trade law, is informative, and has practical relevance for stakeholders.

Following the opening chapter, the discussion of the second, third, and fourth chapters enriches international trade and investment law, which equips readers to explore the following two chapters that raise Indonesia's issue in

the tourism investment sector. These chapters, analysed thoroughly, are full of valuable knowledge about international trade and investment.

The last two chapters are a detailed discussion of tourism about direct investment regulation. It is common knowledge that these issues involve licensing and land use for investment, which can lead to conflicts at the grassroots. This chapter will be complete if the author describes the steps of deregulation and consistency in applying the rules taken to create legal certainty because tourism is one of the sectors affected mainly by the pandemic. After the pandemic, with economic conditions tending to stagnate, Indonesia must be able to convince investors to invest.

Interestingly, prior to the chapter on the Fragmented and Unclear Laws and Regulations of Foreign Direct Investment in Tourism, it would be insightful if the author mentioned and added narration on how trade and investment in the future will enable consumers, workers, and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to take full advantage of foreign investment. Statistically, SMEs comprise 90 per cent of the business group and contribute 57 per cent to gross domestic product. Therefore, SMEs must be encouraged to enter international trade through foreign investment. That is why it is essential to carry out deregulation that hinders while ensuring that SMEs get the full benefits of national legal protection.

Deregulation and ease of licensing are expected to improve the investment climate. When this book was published in 2021, it was not far from the pandemic that shook the world in 2019, where all sectors of life were affected, including tourism. However, the author has yet to mention how the government took alternative steps to make its momentum in simplifying bureaucracy, investing in tourism, and deregulating things that hinder the tourism sector. The issue should receive sufficient study in this chapter. As the author previously stated, bureaucracy is one of the obstacles to investment.

The book is relevant and informs us that implementing international trade and investment law is based on rules. This also lies in a country's ability to participate effectively and utilise the rules. However, the problem is that establishing these rules depends on how the country does so. Finally, the book is an excellent reference for international trade law and investment law course discussions by students and all readers who study this issue.