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Bruce Gerson: Hello, I'm Bruce Gerson and welcome to this Carnegie Mellon University G-20 Podcast. In these interviews, you will hear from several leading Carnegie Mellon faculty members about some of the issues facing the G-20 summit this September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh. With us today is Lee Branstetter, associate professor of economics at Carnegie Mellon's Heinz College. Professor, welcome.

**Lee Branstetter:** Thank you.

Bruce Gerson: Professor, what are the Doha Round Negotiations and what is their purpose?

**Lee Branstetter:** Well, since the end of World War II, international trade negotiators have sought to reduce barriers to international trade by convening international negotiating sessions at which the major trading economies are all represented. Trade negotiators then bargain with each other simultaneously, agreeing on mutual targets for the reduction of taxes on imports, quantitative limitations on imports and other government policies that discriminate against foreign goods and foreign companies. A guiding principle of these negotiations is that any concessions or market openings that that nation offers to one of its trading partners must be offered to all trading partners. If everyone opens their markets to everyone else in the same way, then the global economy as a whole becomes more open. Exporters and international businesses can conduct their business with fewer engineered restrictions. And this should help economic growth and make consumers around the world better off. The tradition for many decades has been to name these rounds after the city or country in which the initial meeting was held. So we have the Tokyo Round in the 1970's, the Uruguay Round, which actually began in the 1980's and continued in the 1990's and most recently the Doha Round so named because the initial meeting was in Doha, the capital of Qatar where CMU has a campus. Since that initial meeting, there have been many others in Cancun, Mexico, Hong Kong, Potsdam, Germany and elsewhere. But we still refer to it as the Doha Round. Now, these negotiations are complicated and hard. You're bringing large numbers of very different countries together that have very different agendas and reaching a settlement to which all parties can agree can take a very long time. The Doha Round Negotiations were begun in 2001, just months after 9-11. There have been several stops and starts since then. We've had about eight years now without a final agreement. Now, that may sound helpless, but the previous Round, the Uruguay Round took about a decade.

Bruce Gerson: Professor Branstetter, again, we thank you for your time and your insights. Hear more from Professor Branstetter in the next segment of this interview series. This has been a Carnegie Mellon University G-20 Podcast. Learn more from our faculty experts at [CMU.edu/G20](http://CMU.edu/G20). Thank you for listening.

#### End of Doha Round Negotiations5.mp3 ####