



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest

14 June 1999

Volume 3, N°23

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BONN CLIMATE TALKS: EU, U.S. INFLEXIBLE ON FLEXIBLE MECHANISMS

Officials from 150 countries met in Bonn from 31 May-11 June on implementing the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate change. The Bonn talks - the tenth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA-10) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI-10) - were held to prepare the agenda for the fifth Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP-5) to be held in Bonn from 25 October - 5 November.

The Kyoto Protocol--adopted in December 1997 but not yet in force, requires industrial nations to collectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2008-2112.

Much of the discussion in Bonn the last two weeks focused on how so-called Kyoto mechanisms (often referred to as flexible mechanisms) should work and how they might be used to meet Kyoto emissions reduction goals. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 2, No. 44, 16 Nov. 1998.*) Kyoto mechanisms include emissions trading, technology transfer and the so-called Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) which is supposed to transfer money and technology to developing nations to fund energy efficiency, resulting in cost- efficient greenhouse gas reductions.

Also on the agenda was the development of reporting mechanisms for base-lining national emissions inventories and reduction progress, and mechanisms to ensure compliance with the Kyoto Protocol.

The EU stressed the need to ensure that the Kyoto mechanisms are supplemental to domestic actions (e.g. an energy tax or other policies) and do not undermine the spirit of the Kyoto Protocol. Towards this, the EU argued in favour of a defined ceiling or "cap" on the use of the Kyoto mechanisms in countries' emissions reduction portfolio. The EU wants a 50 percent ceiling on Kyoto mechanisms, with the balance of emissions reductions to be derived from the development of new technologies, processes and changes in consumer behaviour.

The U.S., Japan, Australia, Russia, Norway, Canada and New Zealand opposed the EU proposal. Placing a ceiling on the mechanisms, these countries said, could reduce the flow of new resources to developing countries, impede the cost effectiveness of the mechanisms, and make it difficult to sell the Kyoto Protocol to domestic constituencies. No agreement was reached on this issue at the Bonn meeting.

With respect to the CDM in particular, the Group of 77 developing countries and China stressed that the recipient country of CDM funds should be the sole judge of whether a project meets its sustainable development priorities.

Meanwhile, a report released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) last week warned that implementing the concrete ceiling on Kyoto mechanisms as the EU suggests would result in a loss of economic efficiency compared with an "unfettered global trading scheme". The report notes as well that the cap could reduce revenues available to developing countries under the CDM.

Observers note that due to the technically and politically complex nature of this phase of the Kyoto implementation talks, no major developments are expected to emerge from COP-5 later this year.

"EU, U.S. split at Bonn talks over caps on Kyoto's flexible mechanisms;" "Finnish EU Presidency to continue push for harmonised union-wide energy tax," INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT REPORTER, 9 June 1999; "EU climate trading plan under scrutiny," ENDS, 7 June 1999; "Summary of the Tenth Session of the FCCC Subsidiary Bodies: 31 May - 11 June 1999," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN (IISD), 14 June 1999.

WTO GENERAL COUNCIL'S BUSY SCHEDULE

The WTO General Council will have met several times this month to fulfil three different functions with which it is currently entrusted. In addition to carrying out its regular business (General Council Meeting of 16 June), it will meet on the issue of selection of a new Director-General (15 June) and to prepare the Third Ministerial Meeting (in an informal meeting of its Special Session on 7-8 June, and in formal meeting on 22 June).

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest will report on all these aspects of the General Council's work in its next issue.

INDIA TO PUSH FOR REFORM NOT EXPANSION OF WTO AGREEMENTS

India, which took part two weeks ago in a Budapest Ministerial meeting of the so-called "Friends of the New Round" group of developed and developing countries, last week said it would use the

Third WTO Ministerial to push for the revision of key WTO agreements, in order to better address the needs of developing countries. India submitted four position papers to the 7-8 June WTO Informal General Council meeting on preparations for the Third WTO Ministerial (scheduled for 30 November-3 December in Seattle). India said it wants revisions to the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), and the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of 1994 - which addresses anti-dumping measures.

On the SPS Agreement, India argued that arbitrary and restrictive application of SPS measures to developing countries' agricultural exports is a major barrier to trade. India proposed that the SPS Agreement be revised to provide longer time frames for developing countries to comply with domestic SPS measures. Further, India said that developing countries' participation in international standardisation activities (e.g. Codex Alimentarius) "has been limited and ineffective" and called for broader representation on global standardisation bodies.

India argued the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures is skewed in favour of developed countries. India noted that subsidies favourable to developed countries (e.g. agricultural subsidies) are "non-actionable" under dispute settlement procedures. India said it would push for the list of non-actionable subsidies to be expanded to include subsidies benefiting developing countries.

Regarding investment, India said the existing WTO TRIMs Agreement should be amended to allow developing countries to continue using domestic-content and export-performance requirements on foreign direct investment projects. These are currently set to be phased out by January 2000.

In related news, the U.S. last week submitted a request for consultations with India over its auto policy. The U.S. said that India's domestic content rules and required minimum export commitments violate Article 8 of TRIMs and other trade rules. The EU and Japan have previously filed complaints at the WTO against India's auto policy.

The U.S. and India will later this month hold consultations on India's plans to phase out quantitative import restrictions (QRs). The WTO ruled in April that India could not justify QRs by citing balance of payments problems. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 13-14, 12 April 1999). India is expected to ask for longer than the 15 months generally allowed under dispute settlement rules to comply with the ruling, wanting to delay its phase-out of key QRs until at least 2002. A press report in Bangalore's *DECCAN HERALD* warned the ruling could fuel further domestic opposition to globalisation. The piece noted that the WTO dispute settlement process must be made more transparent and further, must take into account the interests of weaker economies.

"Hegde calls for balanced agenda at Seattle," *THE HINDU*, 30 May 1999; "India urges revision of WTO agreements on antidumping, subsidies, investment," *INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER*, 9 June 1999; "Skewed path: the WTO verdict against trade curbs has left India rudderless," *DECCAN HERALD*, 7 June 1999; "US to move WTO forum over India's automobile policy," *ECONOMIC TIMES*, 24 May 1999. ICTSD Internal Files

GMOS: CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO KNOW POSES CHALLENGES

The food crisis over Belgian farm products contaminated with dioxin (see related story in this issue) could invigorate European consumers' lack of confidence in their governments' food safety controls - a factor sure to fuel consumer opposition to genetically modified foodstuffs (GMOs). The U.S. has argued that it is this lack of confidence in the EU food-safety infrastructure that is fuelling consumer opposition to GMOs in Europe.

"Rather than a single, co-ordinated regulatory system . . . there are 15 different systems and the EU system operating throughout Europe," Mr Rominger told the International Grains Council in London last week. "The result is a system that is not open, transparent or predictable and takes up to two years or more to clear a biotech product, compared to nine months in the U.S."

In an attempt to streamline the EU GMO infrastructure, Germany last month proposed that the EU should create a semi-independent, centralised authority to issue authorisations for growing and marketing GMOs. The biotechnology industry has long supported this approach. However, other EU members had little support for the proposal. According to one EU official, "It's a very attractive idea to get a more efficient system, but politically the idea is dead. People want to be informed about what is happening [as regards GMO licences] and to put the responsibility entirely in the hands of a new authority would not be acceptable to public opinion."

In France, the need for strict controls over GMOs in the food supply chain was highlighted at a workshop on GMO labelling attended by a cross-section of the food sector. Essentially, the labelling decision could force the development of an alternative or parallel food supply chain, which observers warn may not be viable. At present, the inability to segregate GMO products from non-GMO products and the lack of standardisation in GMO-detection methods makes GMO labelling schemes difficult.

Meanwhile in Portugal, members of Quercus, a leading environmental group there, protested outside Portugal's consumer affairs ministry last month demanding that foodstuffs containing GMOs be labelled as such. A Quercus spokesperson added that "Quercus and many other environmental groups are not against GMO foods, but we are against the way they are reaching the consumer."

"Commodities & agriculture: European system blamed for GM food distrust," FINANCIAL TIMES, 11 June 1999; "OK to gene tinkering, despite potential misuse," IPS, 9 June 1999; "Germany moots single EU GMO permit authority" ENDS, 27 May 1999; "Portuguese environmentalists urge GM food labelling;" "French agriculture mulls GMO labelling for food," REUTERS, May 1999; "Les aliments transgéniques divisent les entreprises de grande distribution," LE MONDE, 8 June 1999.

TBT COMMITTEE DISCUSSES LABELLING, STANDARDS

At the 10-11 June meeting of the WTO's Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Members again discussed the European Union's regulation 1139/98 which requires products containing genetically modified soya or maize to be labelled as such. The U.S. and Canada raised the issue, stating inter alia their dissatisfaction with the scientific grounds on which the EU bases its

distinction between genetically modified and other products. The U.S. also submitted a compilation of eleven notifications of product-labelling schemes under the TBT Agreement. This compilation refers to schemes introduced by countries including Japan, New Zealand, Australia and Norway which require labelling of genetically modified products or novel foods.

Last week's TBT Committee was preceded by a two-day symposium on Conformity Assessment Procedures (CAPs) (referred to in Articles 5 - 9 of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade). As traditional barriers to trade have fallen, standards, technical regulations, and procedures for assessing conformity have become increasingly important as non-tariff barriers to trade. But relatively little is known about the extent and nature of those barriers and even less about their quantitative impact, especially in developing countries. To facilitate trade, regional initiatives on standards and conformity assessment appear to be more promising than a multilateral approach because of the greater trust and commonality of interest at the regional level.

The objective of the symposium was to deepen Members' understanding of the issues involved, such as the various approaches for the recognition of the results of CAPs, the role of international and regional systems for conformity assessment, and how to assist developing countries in building CAP capacity. The symposium was attended by a variety of players in this field, including intergovernmental organisations and bodies such as the Forest Stewardship Council.

The TBT Committee itself picked up on issues raised in the symposium. One issue that Members had discussed before and returned to last week was that relating to agreeing on criteria for determining which bodies can be recognised as standardising bodies. Up until now, the U.S. and the EU had very different positions on this - the U.S. having a more market-driven approach, with many bodies (including from the private sector) being able to set standards. The EU wants a more structured approach. Japan has now tabled a proposal on this subject and as the representative of one WTO Member told *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, "we are moving towards better clarity on what can be a standards body recognised by the TBT."

"WTO symposium on conformity assessment procedures - Chair's summary report," on WTO website; "Standards and Conformity Assessment as Non-tariff Barriers to Trade," Development Research Group, World Bank, Sept. 1997; ICTSD Internal Files.

U.S. CALLS FOR PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH TO BELGIAN FOOD IMPORTS

Last week countries around the world banned imports of beef, pork, dairy and poultry products from Belgium and other European countries after reports that high levels of dioxin (a carcinogen) had been found in Belgian farm products. Thailand, Hong Kong, Russia, Egypt, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Hungary, Brazil, Argentina and a host of other countries imposed temporary bans on Belgian food imports, and in some cases extended the ban to products from France and the Netherlands.

EU officials called exaggerated and unnecessary the decision taken by a few countries including the U.S., Malaysia and Egypt to ban all EU pork and poultry products. EU officials urged governments around the world to base decisions to ban European farm products on facts rather than hype. Belgian and EU officials said that there is no evidence that food contaminated with dioxin was shipped to countries outside Europe. For observers of the long-standing trade disputes between the

EU and U.S. over food safety (e.g. over hormone-treated beef and genetically modified organisms), the irony was apparent as EU officials urged science-based decision making and U.S. government and farm industry officials spoke of taking necessary precautions to guard consumer health.

It is expected that exports from Belgium will resume this week after the government provides a definitive list of the farms involved and food producers can document that their products do not contain product originating from those operations.

"EUROPE: EU faces growing food export bans," FINANCIAL TIMES, 8 June 1999; "EU seeks to limit range of Egyptian foodstuffs ban," DOW JONES, 9 June 1999; "Amid Scare, Asians extend bans on food from Europe," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 9 June 1999; "Les consommateurs américains sont eux aussi inquiets," LA TRIBUNE, 7 June 1999; "Global food panic," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 9 June 1999.

U.S. STEEL MAKERS RAIL AGAINST FOREIGN IMPORTS

U.S. steel companies earlier this month filed anti-dumping and countervailing duties complaints against 12 countries, which U.S. steel makers say are selling cold-rolled steel products at unfairly low prices on the U.S. market. The steel companies filed their complaints with the U.S. Commerce Department and the U.S. International Trade Commission. Anti-dumping complaints were filed against Argentina, Brazil, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Africa, Slovakia, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and Venezuela. Countervailing duty petitions were filed against Brazil, Indonesia, Thailand and Venezuela. Previous complaints have been filed against Russia. U.S. steel makers argue that currency devaluations in many of these countries as a result of regional economic crisis have helped to accelerate exports. The U.S. and Brazil last week reached an agreement to suspend the anti-dumping and countervailing duty cases against Brazilian steel imports.

In related news, U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin last week urged Congress to drop a proposed bill limiting steel imports, warning that passage of the bill would create "a real risk of strengthening the already protectionist pressure being felt around the world."

Meanwhile, Egypt's state-owned Helwan Steel and Iron Company is facing stiff competition from cheap imports of foreign steel. Last year Egypt imposed a 15-20 percent anti-dumping duty against steel imports. Despite this, Helwan - Egypt's second-largest steel manufacturer, has shut down production lines and laid off workers unable to compete effectively against cheaper steel imports from Turkey, Romania, Ukraine and Saudi Arabia. Helwan's production slowdown could open the door wider to steel imports from these countries as Egypt contends with a steel shortage.

"Petitioners reject U.S.-Brazil suspension agreements on steel," INSIDE US TRADE, 11 June 1999; "Brazil steel industry dissatisfied over new U.S. accord," DOW JONES, 9 June 1999; "Rubin warns against protectionist measures," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 9 June 1999; "US groups file 12 dumping complaints," FINANCIAL TIMES, 3 June 1999; "Egyptian steel bows to stiff competition," AFRICA ANALYSIS, 28 May 1999.

WTO MEMBERS CONFIRM INTEREST IN COMPETITION POLICY

WTO's work on competition policy is continuing according to the work programme agreed by the General Council for the Working Group on the Interaction Between Trade and Competition Policy. According to the work programme, the Working Group should focus on (i) the relevance of fundamental WTO principles of national treatment, transparency, and most-favoured nation treatment to competition policy and vice-versa; (ii) approaches to promoting co-operation and communication among Members, including in the field of technical co-operation, and (iii) the contribution of competition policy to achieving the objectives of the WTO.

A dozen new submission were before the Working Group when it met last week. This, and the number of delegations present at the Working Group reflects the continued interest of Members on the subject. Participants in last week's meeting say that there was a good discussion on all 3 agenda items, and that the Working Group's work is still very much at an exploratory stage. There has also been discussion amongst Members in the context of preparations for the next Ministerial, on whether to include competition policy as a subject for further work in the context of a new Round of multilateral trade negotiations that might be launched at the Ministerial in Seattle at the end of the year. Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland, the EU, Japan, Brazil and Chile are amongst those in favour of including talks on competition policy in a new round, while India, Egypt and Malaysia are amongst those who oppose it. The U.S. and Australia are amongst those who have not expressed a view on the issue.

The Working Group will next meet early in September.

ICTSD Internal Files.

IN BRIEF

Chinese trade officials criticised an EU decision to impose from 10 June quarantine standards on imports of Chinese products with wood packaging. Chinese officials say the EU decision violates a bilateral trade agreement and could affect over US\$7 billion of exports from the mainland to EU member countries. A measure restricting these same imports had already been taken by the U.S. and notified to the SPS Committee in February. "Beijing criticises EU over new wood- packaging controls, CHINA NEWS DIGEST, 11 June 1999. ICTSD Internal Files.

Korean trade officials last week said they were hopeful the EU would agree to Korean auto makers' plan for reducing auto emissions. No details of the Korean plan were released. The EU previously warned it could impose binding restrictions on imports of Korean autos unless progress is made in negotiations over an auto emissions reduction program. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 1-2, 18 January, 1999.) "Korean car makers "set to accept" CO2 cuts," ENS, 7 June 1999.

At the International Conference on Occupational Health last week The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) warned that the increasing transfer of industrial production to low-cost sites in developing countries lacking worker protections is likely to increase the global incidence of occupational disease and injury. The two agencies called for immediate, "ethically correct and economically sound" measures to improve the working conditions

of the world's labour force. "Globalisation bad for health, say UN agencies," FINANCIAL TIMES, 10 June 1999.

Japanese electronics firm Fujitsu recently announced that its "environmentally friendly expenditures" had yielded about US\$33 million in economic benefits in 1998, as calculated using an environmental accounting model. Sony Corp. is expected to soon release its own accounting of benefits derived from environmental protections. "Japanese companies respond to green groups," IPS, 7 June 1999.

Over 120 financial service executives from Africa, Asia, The Americas and Europe met in Oslo, Norway with UNEP last week. Entitled "Natural Capital at Risk," last week's annual meeting of UNEP's Insurance Industry Initiative was to explore linkages between critical environmental issues and economic effects of environmental issues. "Insurance and finance companies take next step on environment and climate change," The Gallon Environment Letter, Vol. 3, No. 18, 14 June 1999.

International, government, NGO and business organisations have formed a partnership to develop an internationally- sanctioned mechanism to measure and report corporate greenhouse gas emissions. The group's members' such as UNEP, Royal Dutch/Shell, Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP, WWF, the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. According to a joint statement by WRI and WBCSD, "the ultimate success of the initiative is developing a robust and practical tool that is widely used by companies and others to measure and manage their greenhouse gas emissions. The new grouping aims to reach agreement on unresolved issues such as how a reporting entity is defined and how to relate to national reporting and emissions inventory schemes. WRI/WBCSD Press Release, 14 June 1999.

WTO IN BRIEF

In a joint paper submitted to the 7-8 June WTO General Council meeting, Kenya, Jamaica, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia called for a review of the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPs Agreement) to ensure access to pharmaceuticals. The seven countries said that unless the right to compulsory licensing of pharmaceuticals is safeguarded (addressed in Article 31 of the TRIPs Agreement), people in developing countries could have to pay unreasonably or prohibitively high prices for pharmaceuticals. WHO and international NGOs such as Health Action International, have been working on these front for several years to help countries better understand the linkages between the TRIPs provisions, R&D costing, price formation, and national sovereignty on pharmaceutical policies. "Seven developing nations urge TRIPs review to ensure compulsory licensing for drugs," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 9 June 1999. ICTSD Internal Files.

A WTO General Council meeting to discuss the appointment of a new Director-General scheduled for 10 June was cancelled. Members are now expected to meet on 15 June to try and break an impasse between Members over the next WTO head. "Disagreement makes informal vote on WTO director general unlikely," INSIDE US TRADE, 11 June 1999.

ON THE MOVE

Dr. John Cuddy has been appointed as Director of International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities at the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development - UNCTAD. Dr. Cuddy, a Harvard and Cambridge University trained economist, had been Sustainable Development Co-ordinator at UNCTAD for several years.

The International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) for greenhouse gases was launched on 4 June in London, UK. IETA's mission is to be an independent, not-for-profit association dedicated to "the development and establishment of effective market-based trading systems" that are "fair, open, efficient, accountable and consistent across national boundaries" for business. It will, inter alia, seek to promote the speedy resolution of international negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol's flexible mechanisms. (See related story, this issue). The organisation, which will be based in Geneva, clearly sees its role to be a business voice influencing national governments and the Conference of Parties process. "GHG emissions trading group launched in London," *The Gallon Environment Letter*, Vol. 3, No. 18, 14 June 1999.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

▪ EVENTS

For a more complete list of events in coming months, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm

WTO Meetings

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at www.wto.org/wto/about/meets.htm. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of different WTO bodies.

16 June: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, (41-22) 739-5393.

15 June: GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING - on selection of new Director-General. For information contact Keith Rockwell, (41-22) 739-5007.

16 June: COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. For information contact Lucie Giraud, WTO, (41-22) 739-5075.

18 June: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY - Informal Meeting on the Review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, as above.

21 June: WORKING PARTY ON GATS RULES. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, as above.

22 June: SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL (on 3rd Ministerial Conference). For information contact Nuch Nazeer, as above.

Other Events

17-18 June, Miami, Florida: SECOND MEETING OF THE FTAA COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON CIVIL SOCIETY. This Committee receives inputs from civil society, analyses them and presents the range of views to the FTAA Trade Ministers. For information contact the FTAA Secretariat, 100 Chopin Plaza, Plaza Level, Miami, Florida 33131-2140 U.S.A., tel: (1-305) 381-9043, email: ftaadoc@bellsouth.net, web: <http://alca-ftaa.org/>

22 June, Brussels: EC MEETING WITH NGOs, on preparations of the next WTO negotiations. The meeting, a "transparency exercise," is intended to be an update of previous meetings on issues of interest to EC negotiators. NGOs who have not been invited and who wish to attend the meeting should urgently contact H. Jouanjean, Director DG I, Directorate G, European Commission, tel: (32-2) 299-2210, fax: 296-6614. If you have comments or suggestions regarding the agenda of the meeting, contact: ICDA, rue Stévin 15, 1000 Brussels, tel: (32-2) 230-0430, fax: (32-2) 230-5237, email: icda@skynet.be

28-29 June, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: FORO DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL PARA EL DIALOGO EUROPA, AMERICA LATINA Y CARIBE. This Civil Society Meeting is organised in conjunction with the EU-Mercosur Summit. For information contact Alianza Social Continental, email: ASD@datastrategia.com, web: <http://datastrategia.com/asd/>

15-18 July, Jaipur, India: CAPACITY BUILDING SEMINAR ON MULTILATERAL TRADE, INVESTMENT AND COMPETITION POLICY - CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE AGENDA. Hosted by the CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment. The seminar will address issues pertaining to investment and competition policy vis-à-vis developing and least developed countries. It is organised with a view to the necessity of empowering civil society on trade and economic policy issues in the South and Eastern African region and the SAARC region, and promoting South-South co-operation amongst civil society. For information contact K.S. Sajeev or Raghav Narsalay at CUTS, Jaipur, India, tel: (91-141) 202-940/ 205-802, fax: 202-968/203-998, email: cutsjpr@jpl.dot.net.in, web: www.cuts.org

21 July, Washington, DC: TRADE VS. AID: A WOMEN'S EDGE, (COALITION FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL EQUALITY) OPEN MEETING. U.S. aid and development programs are under increasing pressure to use development programs/projects to open markets and create a more receptive atmosphere for foreign investment. How is this working? What are the benefits of this new framework? The constraints? How is gender incorporated into the "opening of markets" and policy reforms? For information contact Women's EDGE, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW, suite 800, Washington DC 20009, tel: (1-202) 884-8396, email: edge@womensedge.org, web: <http://www.womensedge.org/>

17-21 October, Glasgow, Scotland: THIRD GLOBAL CONFERENCE BUILDING BRIDGES OF PEACE, CULTURE AND PROSPERITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE TOURISM. Organised by the International Institute for Peace Through Tourism (IIPT). This conference aims to identify, encourage and develop tourism initiatives that will contribute to sustainable human, social, cultural and economic development in the 21st Century. Particular emphasis will be placed on building two-way bridges among developed, developing and emerging economies of the world. To register contact IIPT, 42 Silverknowes Road, Edinburgh EH4 5LF, Scotland, tel: (44-131) 312-7332, fax: 312-7336, email: events@charm.co.uk, web: <http://www.iipt.org/conference/index.html>

27 November, Seattle, Washington: THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON GLOBALIZATION (IFG) TEACH-IN ON THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION. The event will take place at the 2,500-seat Benaroya Seattle Symphony Hall a few days before the WTO Ministerial meeting. The Seattle Teach-In will focus on the problems of economic globalisation and, specifically, on the activities of the WTO and other international agreements and institutions. For information contact the International Forum on Globalisation, 1555 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94109, tel: (1-415) 771-3394, fax: 771-1121, web: <http://www.ifg.org>

▪ RESOURCES

GROWTH OF THE 'MAQUILA' INDUSTRY IN LATIN AMERICA. The second in a series of six Special Reports published by Latin American Newsletters is now available at a special discount for email delivery. The 'maquila' or assembly industry has experienced spectacular growth in Latin America. This report reviews the development and prospects of assembly industries and free zones throughout the region. The report is available by email delivery for US\$50 (regular price US\$98). To order, send an email to susan.ferguson@latinnews.com or send a cheque made payable to Lettres (UK) Ltd to: 61 Old Street, London, EC1V 9HW England.

The Society for World Sustainable Development (SWSD) and The World Congress have launched a new website: <http://members.home.net/g.dufour> Inter alia, the site contains information about the Global Community Organisation; the World Congress on Managing and Measuring Sustainable Development to be held in Kananaskis Village, 17-22 August, 2000; the Society for World Sustainable Development (SWSD); Sponsorship Opportunity and Professional Qualifications; and Newsletters.

ECOTOURISM AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: WHO OWNS PARADISE?, Martha Honey, Island Press, 1999. This book lays out the history and the principles of this brand of tourism that, at its best, minimises impact on ecosystems and empowers local people. ISBN: 1559635819. Hardcover: \$US 50.00; paperback: \$US 20.00. Can be ordered online via <http://www.amazon.com>

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) with support from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP). This issue has been researched by Hugo Cameron and Marie Chamay; written by Judy Brienza (IATP) and edited by Caroline Dommen, cdommen@ictsd.ch. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez Ortiz, rmelendez@ictsd.ch.

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