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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Updated Ministerial Declaration Hammered Out
- Moore Addresses African Trade Ministers- Pledges Balanced Outcome From Seattle Talks
- Trade-Labour Linkage Surfacing On U.S., EU Agendas
- EU Farm Ministers Agree On WTO Negotiating Stance
- World Bank/IMF Meet: Debt, Trade On Agenda
- Mercosur Settles Disputes - Ready To Move Forward
- In Brief
- On The Move
- Events & Resources

UPDATED MINISTERIAL DECLARATION HAMMERED OUT

As this week's issue of BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest went to press, WTO Members were in the process of formulating a new draft Ministerial Declaration that would begin putting actual text on the largely skeleton draft released on 8 September (see <http://www.ictsd.org/html/seattleministerial.htm>). Proposals expressing Member positions for the Third WTO Ministerial (to be held from 29 November-3 December in Seattle) are still coming in from a number of countries, including contributions from Japan and Canada. As such, the so-called 'second phase' of the Ministerial process that was supposed to have terminated by the end of July is now overlapping with the 'third phase', which involves drafting the Ministerial Declaration for negotiation at Seattle. The preliminary text is expected to be released this week. The Seattle Ministerial Declaration will set out the terms and format of future negotiations in the WTO.

A series of formal and informal General Council meetings were held last week to move the process of drafting the Declaration forward. Ambassador Ali Mchumo of Tanzania, who is Chair of the General Council and responsible for co-ordinating the Declaration drafting process, attempted to incorporate many aspects of a 20 September proposal submitted by eight like-minded developing countries (Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Honduras, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and India) into the new draft. *Inter alia*, the like-minded group is pushing for the Seattle meeting to address implementation of a wide range of Uruguay Round commitments in greater depth and to move issues such as investment, competition, government procurement and trade facilitation off the 8 September "subjects for further negotiation" category and into a 'for further study' category.

Thus far, according to officials, the draft Declaration maintains weak references to transparency and environment; a more substantial "Implementation" section (reflecting the desires of the like-minded group); the maintenance of Agriculture and Services as the only agreed-upon sectors under "New Negotiations"; and an emerging consensus on reducing industrial tariffs under "Future Work Programme". For immediate decisions in Seattle, there appears to be considerable support among Members to support zero tariffs and quotas for Least-Developed Countries by 2003, and a possibility to establish a mechanism to deal with implementation problems. The prospect of funding technical assistance for developing countries from the WTO's core budget has also been suggested.

Prospects for including the contentious issue of investment and competition in a new WTO round as sectors for negotiation became dim on 30 September as U.S. officials came down firmly against investment/competition talks at the WTO. As one senior envoy stated: "I don't see either of these getting on the agenda for Seattle now." The EU and Japan had been pushing for inclusion of investment and competition in the scope of negotiations, likely to begin later this year following the Seattle meeting. Some analysts saw the EU's position as a tactic to put more on the negotiating table in order to take pressure away from their agricultural commitments (see related story below). The U.S. decision looked set to remove one of the platforms from mass demonstrations planned for Seattle by opponents of an open global trading system: last year a coalition of anti-globalisation groups succeeded in preventing the adoption of a multilateral agreement on investment (MAI) at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

ICTSD Internal Files; "EU hopes for trade accord sunk, diplomats say," REUTERS, 30 September 1999.

MOORE ADDRESSES AFRICAN TRADE MINISTERS- PLEDGES BALANCED OUTCOME FROM SEATTLE TALKS

African trade ministers met in Algiers from 23-25 September to finalise a common negotiating position for the upcoming Third WTO Ministerial scheduled for 30 November - 3 December in Seattle. Ministers also discussed ongoing negotiations between African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the EU toward a new Lomé Convention, the trade and aid agreement between the EU and ACP countries.

African trade ministers adopted a common position close to that adopted by the Group of 77 (G-77) countries in September. (See *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 3, No. 38, 27 September 1999.) Ministers called for the next round to focus on repairing the imbalances and inequities stemming from the Uruguay Round, and called for future negotiations to address the "key interests of African countries" and the issue of special and differential treatment for developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs), island, vulnerable and small economies.

The ministers also outlined a number of areas which the WTO must address to "to strengthen the confidence of African countries in the political will of the WTO members to address the problems we face in drawing effective benefits from the multilateral trading system," according to the ministerial statement. These areas include *inter alia* market access, implementation periods, limitations on mandated structural adjustment programs in relation to WTO obligations, and intellectual property concerns.

WTO Director-General Mike Moore addressed the trade ministers on 23 September, tackling African countries' concerns around trade liberalisation and a proposed new round of global trade talks.

"It is my firm belief that the international trading community and the multilateral trading system have to intensify their efforts to accelerate the integration of developing countries, particularly African countries, into the global economy. Unless we bring African nations, most of which are least-developed, into the global economy, we will never enjoy full economic and social justice," Mr. Moore told African ministers.

African countries account for 41 out of the current 134 WTO Members. Mr. Moore is on a trade mission trying to assuage African concerns about the current state of trade liberalisation. Specifically, African countries -- like most of their counterparts in the developing world -- are dissatisfied with the uneven distribution of benefits in the multilateral trading system, and fear further marginalisation from a proposed new round of global trade talks.

Among the priorities laid out by Mr. Moore, the Director-General pledged to deliver a "balanced outcome" from new trade negotiations, and one that delivers benefits for the most vulnerable economies. Mr. Moore also pledged "to strengthen the WTO and its rules, to build on and maintain its reputation for integrity and fairness, and to reshape the organisation to reflect the reality of its membership and their needs."

"L'Afrique finalise une position commune en vue des négociations commerciales," PANAFRICAN NEWS, 22 September 1999; "Réunion des ministres africains du commerce à Alger, PANAFRICAN NEWS, 20 September 1999; "Africa takes a few gingerly steps, but traps ahead," SUNS, 29 September 1999; "Africa and the multilateral trading system: challenges and opportunities," Address by Mike Moore, Director-General, WTO, 23 September 1999; "SADC Ministers' Agreed Negotiating Objectives for the Third WTO Ministerial Conference," WTO (WT/L/317), 1 October 1999.

TRADE-LABOUR LINKAGE SURFACING ON U.S., EU AGENDAS

The EU and U.S. are both reportedly ready to include strong statements with respect to labour rights and the WTO in negotiating agendas. The U.S. is likely to demand that the WTO establish a work program addressing the linkage between trade and labour.

The issue of trade and labour linkage is very divisive, cutting along North-South lines. Many developing countries charge that trade and labour linkages are a protectionist mechanism employed by developed economies to squash any competitive advantage which developing nations might have through their labour practices. The issue of trade and labour linkage was addressed at the First WTO Ministerial in Singapore, where WTO Members ultimately agreed that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was best equipped to deal with labour issues.

However, U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said on 29 September that the U.S. was obligated by U.S. laws relating to Uruguay Round implementation to pursue the establishment of a working party on worker rights as a condition of joining the WTO. The U.S. Commerce Secretary Bill Daley told the U.S. Senate on 29 September that the U.S. wants "a work program in the WTO

which addresses trade issues and their nexus with labour issues, including further work on how the implementation of core labour standards affects trade flows."

A draft EU negotiating agenda states that the EU "should strongly support the protection of core labour rights," and should discuss what role the WTO should play in the observance of labour rights. A final declaration is expected from the EU this month. At the same time, Stephen Byers, UK Secretary of State for Trade and Industry said the UK is backing closer co-operation between the WTO and the ILO. "The UK Government is sending a powerful signal that it is no longer acceptable to tackle trade in isolation from labour issues," Mr. Byers said on 24 September. "We have a moral duty to address labour standards through international action. We need to take this forward in a way which keeps all the key players on board whilst making progress on trade," he said.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), a grouping of 213 organisations in 143 countries last month called on WTO Members to include core labour standards on the agenda of the next round of global trade talks. The ICFTU said the WTO should "start an examination of how to incorporate the issue of labour standards and trade into WTO mechanisms and processes. Such a work programme should enhance ILO-WTO collaboration, on an equal basis, in areas such as WTO trade policy reviews and disputes settlement procedures and oversee the incorporation into the WTO's existing mechanisms of core labour standards," according to the statement. The statement was issued in response to Third World intellectuals' calling for the issue of trade and labour linkage at the WTO to be dropped (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 36, 13 September 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story3.13-09-99.htm>).

At the same time, business leaders from the Commonwealth countries have launched the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC) to represent the views of the Commonwealth business community in world trade. The forum, whose members account for 25 percent of world trade, is expected to adopt a common position toward the next round of global trade talks. Recommendations for a joint position are currently under debate. Among the recommendations for a common CBC agenda, the CBC stated that the WTO should remain solely committed to regulating international trade, noting that "the WTO is not mandated to address [labour and environment] matters and [these issues] should not become the pretext for introducing new barriers to trade in whatever form."

"Administration finalising plan for WTO working party on labour," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 1 October 1999; "EU to call for protection of labour rights at WTO meeting," *DOW JONES*, 30 September 1999; "Byers meets new WTO chief Mike Moore," *UK DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PRESS RELEASE*, 24 September 1999; "Enough exploitation is enough: a response to the Third World Intellectuals and NGOs' Statement Against Linkage (TWIN-SAL)," *ICFTU*, 27 September 1999; "Commonwealth countries plan a joint forum for Seattle WTO meet agenda," *ECONOMIC TIMES*, 15 September 1999.

EU FARM MINISTERS AGREE ON WTO NEGOTIATING STANCE

The EU last week finalised its negotiating position for the WTO talks on agriculture to launch later this year. The EU said it would "take an offensive line" in negotiations and set as its primary objective "safeguarding the future of the European model of agriculture, as an economic sector and as a basis for sustainable development," according to an EU Agriculture Council statement.

The Cairns Group of agricultural exporting countries and the U.S. are expected to take aim squarely at the EU in WTO talks on agriculture. These countries have warned the EU that agriculture must be on an equal footing with other sectors, and that the EU must be prepared to deliver substantial cuts in government support and protection. For its part, the EU earlier this year passed its Agenda 2000 common farm policy which sought to reform the EU agriculture sector with the WTO talks in mind. The reforms were criticised by EU trading partners as not going far enough. Last week, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy indicated that the EU may be willing to go further to liberalise its agriculture market beyond those laid out in Agenda 2000, calling Agenda 2000 "a good basis for discussion" at the WTO.

The EU position calls for negotiations to focus on improved market access, environmental protection, the multifunctional nature of agriculture, consumer health, and the interests of developing countries. In the Council statement, ministers said the EU is prepared to lower import barriers in agriculture as long as this is complemented by increased market opportunities for EU exports. The EU said negotiations must result in continued protection for agricultural products linked to geographical origin (e.g. Roquefort cheese or sherry). Ministers also called for the preservation of so-called green and blue box subsidies (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 38, 27 September 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story6.27-09-99.htm>).

Ministers also called for negotiations to strike "an appropriate balance" between trade and non-trade issues, "most of which result from the multifunctional role of agriculture or are intended to answer the legitimate concerns of the rural world and of consumers," according to the Council statement.

With regard to food safety, ministers said, "The European Union should seek solutions which assure consumers that the WTO will not be used to force onto the market products about whose safety there are legitimate concerns and which allow the European Union to establish the appropriate level of protection." Towards this Ministers called for "clearer general recognition of the precautionary principle" within the WTO.

Regarding developing countries, EU Ministers said the EU "should be prepared, within the context of a joint effort amongst developed countries, to go beyond the regime already applied to them within the GSP and the Lomé Agreement. Furthermore, the Council recalls that the European Community has proposed that WTO Ministers meeting at Seattle enter into the commitment to ensure duty-free market access no later than the end of the new round of negotiations for essentially all products exported by the least-developed countries.

"EP/agriculture: Hemila and Fischler present position adopted by agriculture council for WTO negotiations - MEPs receive it positively but some aspects have still to be clarified," *AGENCE EUROPE*, 29 September 1999; "WTO Millennium Round - Council conclusions," *AGRICULTURE COUNCIL OF THE EU*, 28 September 1999; "Brussels may consider more open farm trade," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 2 October 1999.

WORLD BANK/IMF MEET: DEBT, TRADE ON AGENDA

Finance ministers and central bank officials met from 21-30 September in Washington, D.C. for the joint annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, where among other

things ministers discussed debt relief for the world's poorest countries and the upcoming round of WTO trade negotiations.

The IMF/World Bank Development Committee issued a statement calling on the next round of trade talks (expected to launch later this year in Seattle, Washington) "to deliver early and substantial benefits" for developing and transition countries. Further, the Development Committee noted, "If developing and transition economies are to use the international trading system effectively to promote growth and reduce poverty, they will need to become active partners in the next round of trade negotiations."

WTO Director-General Mike Moore was on hand at the meetings, where he stressed the importance of improved market access for the least developed countries. "Reductions in tariffs in sectors such as textiles, clothing and agricultural products are of primary interest to developing countries and the key to achieving a balanced outcome in Seattle," he said.

The Intergovernmental Group of 24 on International Monetary Affairs (G-24) representing the interests of the developing countries in negotiations on international monetary matters, warned against "protectionist tendencies" in developed countries. The group noted that developing countries' exports continue to encounter serious impediments to market access in developed countries, "despite industrialised countries' commitments made during previous trade negotiations -- particularly in sectors in which developing countries enjoy a comparative advantage," according to the G-24 statement.

Also at last week's meeting, the World Bank announced that it had gained consensus among industrialised countries for "deeper, broader, and faster" debt relief for the world's poorest economies. The Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised countries in June 1999 agreed to a US\$70 billion debt relief plan for the world's heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Volume 3, No. 24, 21 June 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story1.21-06-99.htm>). Addressing the annual meeting, U.S. President Bill Clinton and UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown both said they would push their governments to forgive 100 percent of the debt owed the U.S. and UK respectively by the poorest countries. The announcements were expected to put pressure on other G-7 countries to likewise expand their monetary commitments to HIPC debt relief. China also announced it would provide some financial support for the initiative.

Also announced last week was the launch of the so-called Group of 20 (G-20), aimed at broadening the dialogue and co-operation on key economic and financial policies among G-20 countries. The formation of the grouping under the auspices of the IMF/World Bank is said to be a response to the financial crisis in Asia and other countries, which showed the devastating impact of a collapse in one market on another country. The G-20 consists of the G-7 countries plus Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, and Turkey. The European Union and Bretton Woods institutions are also included in the group.

However, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga cast a wary eye at the new grouping, arguing that more effective multilateral discussions could take place by fostering "the widest possible representation in the existing organisations by expanding them if necessary."

"Meetings end with ringing endorsement for faster, broader, deeper debt relief," WORLD BANK PRESS RELEASE, 1 October 1999; "New fears about protectionism," SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, 27 September 1999; "Wealthy nations should eliminate tariffs for world's

poorest nations," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 27 September 1999; "La Banque Mondiale boucle l'accord sur la dette," LA TRIBUNE, 28 September, 1999; "World Bank agrees relief deal," FINANCIAL TIMES, 28 September 1999; "IMF calls for 'ambitious' trade round with strong Third World input," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 22 September 1999.

MERCOSUR SETTLES DISPUTES - READY TO MOVE FORWARD

Trade tensions amongst Southern Cone Common Market trading partners (Mercosur, comprising Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay) could be receding after a difficult few months (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 33, 23 August, 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story4.23-08-99.htm>). Trade disputes between its members have kept Mercosur from reaching a common position for upcoming WTO talks on agriculture and from reaching an internal Mercosur agreement on autos. However, Brazil and Argentina last week resolved two significant trade disputes over shoes and newsprint exports from Brazil to Argentina. Under separate agreements, Brazil agreed to limit exports in both sectors to Argentina.

Mercosur officials stressed that the bloc's internal differences would not deter it from seeking broad agricultural liberalisation when WTO talks on agriculture get underway later this year. Mercosur trade officials also noted that preliminary free trade talks with the EU would still move forward on 15-16 November.

Meanwhile, Argentina on 24 September announced it would extend preferential tariff arrangements to Andean Pact countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela) in an effort to persuade the Andean Pact to negotiate a bilateral free trade agreement. The preferential tariff regime will remain in place until March 2000 pending further talks. Argentina is currently struggling under a recession and hopes a free trade agreement would boost Argentine exports to Andean countries. Argentina is looking to keep apace of Brazil - which launched its own negotiations with the Andean Pact after talks between the Andean Pact and Mercosur broke down earlier this year amid disagreements over agricultural market access.

In other regional news, Chile and South Korea announced on 11 September that they would begin negotiations toward a bilateral free trade agreement. The announcement was made during the meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum in Auckland, New Zealand. Also at the APEC meeting, New Zealand, Chile, and Singapore announced plans to negotiate a free trade agreement. The U.S. and Australia were expected to decide by 30 September as to whether they would like to join the talks for a so-called Pacific Five (P-5) free trade agreement. Trade officials hope the flurry of free trade negotiations could help jump-start stalled APEC plans to achieve the goal of free and open trade and investment in APEC countries by 2010 for developed country members and 2020 for developing APEC nations. Other observers note the negotiations by smaller groupings could signal the end to the free trade initiative under the broader APEC grouping.

"Mercosur sets sights on future after row resolved," REUTERS, 30 September 1999; "trade spats no hurdle to Mercosur-EU talks," REUTERS 1 September 1999; "South Korea, Chile announce plan to negotiate FTA, others follow;" "New Zealand, Singapore launch FTA talks; Clinton interested in U.S. participation," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 15 September 1999.

IN BRIEF

The UN from 27-28 September held the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly to review implementation of progress around the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). At the meeting, the international community was urged to provide support to SIDS to improve and strengthen their capabilities with respect to trade policy and to assist them in coping with the challenges posed by globalisation. Samoan Prime Minister Tuila'epa Sailele Malielegaoi said small islands face a "serious risk of marginalisation," and warned that the current model of globalisation "will have a crippling effect on our economies." St. Lucia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade George W. Odium said, "The failure of developed countries to enter into the spirit of international co-operation has withered the dream. Our hopes have withered, like a raisin in the sun." The special session called on the WTO and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to take into consideration the effects on the islands of the erosion of trade preferences and their difficulties with diversification and market access. "Small islands gain support on environment/trade," THE HERALD (St. Vincent-Grenadines), 1 October 1999; "Special assembly session on implementation of 1994 Barbados programme of action concludes; final documents adopted," UN PRESS RELEASE (GA/9614 ENV/DEV/524).

Representatives from 147 member-states of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) met in Lisbon from 27 September - 1 October where proposals on ways to strengthen international protection for the tiger were accepted by the standing committee. Missions will now be sent to Japan, China and India to boost surveillance of illegal trade in the region. The status of the recent legal trade in elephant tusks (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 8, 1 March 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/inbrief.01-03-99.htm>) was also updated. Further, the recommendation was made by the Secretariat that member states cease trading with Guyana due to that state's non-compliance with CITES' agreed standards for domestic legislation on trade in endangered species. "Governments to propose action for saving the tiger," UNEP PRESS RELEASE, 27 September 1999; ICTSD Internal Files.

At a 27 September press conference on the release of the WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 1999 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNCTAD Secretary General Rubens Ricupero said there is no relationship between a proposed multilateral agreement on investment (MAI) and the attractiveness of countries to foreign direct investors. Mr. Ricupero said he was opposed to any MAI that would limit the flexibility of investment policy choices in developing countries. Mr. Ricupero also called for more empirical research into the benefits (e.g. technology transfer, increased export revenues) to developing countries from foreign direct investment. "No investment rules reducing flexibility, Ricupero," SUNS, 27 September 1999.

ON THE MOVE

The Executive Directors of the World Bank on 27 September unanimously endorsed the reappointment of James Wolfensohn as President of the World Bank for a further term of five years beginning June 1, 2000. Mr. Wolfensohn first assumed the post of World Bank President in June 1995.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

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

▪ WTO MEETINGS

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at <http://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. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, Rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland.

25-26 October: COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING – Ad-hoc Group on Implementation. For information contact Louis Ople, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

27 October: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

28-29 October: COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES. For information contact Louis Ople, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

▪ OTHER EVENTS

11-15 October, Washington, DC: FOREST ISSUES LOBBY WEEK. American Lands Alliance is sponsoring a forest issues lobby week. It will consist of a teach-in on the WTO and the threat it poses to forests and of lobbying members of the U.S. government and informing them of the impact of the WTO and of expanded trade on forests. For more information contact Antonia Juhasz, tel: (1-202) 547-9230, email: antonia@americanlands.org, web: <http://www.americanlands.org>

12-13 October, Miami, Florida: MEETING OF THE FTAA COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SOCIETY. Organised by the Free Trade Area of the Americas. For information contact the FTAA Secretariat, 100 Chopin Plaza, Plaza Level, Miami, Florida 33131-2140 U.S.A, tel: (1-305) 381-9043, fax: 381-8390, email: ftaa-alca@ftaa-alca.4tz.com, web: http://www.sice.oas.org/forum/tf_cal.stm or <http://alca-ftaa.org/>

30 October-3 December, United States: CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS FOR PGA U.S. CARAVAN. Peoples' Global Action is organising an international caravan of labour, farmers, fisherfolk, peasants and activists from around the world opposed to free trade and the WTO. The caravan will begin in Boston on 30 October and will move across the country to arrive in Seattle in time for the WTO Ministerial. For information contact Joy Marcotte, tel: (1-610) 478-7888, email: joymarcotte@yahoo.com or Michael Morrill, Pennsylvania Consumer Education Project, 529 Court St., #509, Reading, PA 19601, USA, tel: (1-610) 478-7888, fax: 478-7457, email: wto caravan@pcan.org, web: <http://members.aol.com/mwmorrill/pga.htm>

25 October, Seattle, Washington: LABOUR ISSUES AND THE WTO. Organised by the Seattle Host Organisation, this panel discussion will focus on the debate on labour issues as a negotiating factor inside the World Trade Organisation. US Secretary of Labour Alexis Herman will discuss the

developments and obstacles faced by the U.S. in its effort to put forward the labour agenda at the upcoming WTO Ministerial. For information contact Eric Parsons, Seattle Host Organisation, World Trade Centre, 2200 Alaskan Way, Suite 150 Seattle, Washington 98121 USA, tel: (1-206) 770-3150, fax: 206-123-4567, email: eric.parsons@ci.seattle.wa.us or: info@wtoseattle.org

▪ RESOURCES

FOREIGN INVESTMENT GUIDE. 1999. By the South Pacific Forum Secretariat. An updated guidebook to foreign investment in 14 Pacific Island countries. 200pp. To order contact the South Pacific Forum Secretariat, Private Bag, Suva, Fiji. Tel: (679) 312 600, fax: 312 226, email: info@forumsec.org.fj

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN THE 21ST CENTURY. By Gundrun Kochendorfer-Lucius and Boris Pleskovic, Eds. 1999. The articles in this volume were presented at the first Villa Borsig Winter Workshop, sponsored by the Development Policy Forum of DSE and the World Bank. The workshop addressed a wide range of themes, from the future of the Washington Consensus to politics of sustainable development. The discussions identified six trends that will define the institutional and policy matrix of sustainable development in the 21st century. 210pp. ISBN-3-931227-94-4. To order contact: German Foundation for International Development (DSE), Development Policy Forum, Reiherwerder, D-13505 Berlin.

ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY & WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE. 1999. This catalogue contains a wide variety of books concerning Trade and Sustainable Development. To obtain a catalogue contact: IISD Publications, 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 0Y4, tel: (1-204) 958-7700, fax: 958-7710, email: info@iisd.ca, web: <http://iisd.ca>

INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNISED CORE LABOUR STANDARDS IN ISRAEL. REPORT FOR THE WTO GENERAL COUNCIL REVIEW OF THE TRADE POLICIES OF ISRAEL. September, 1999. Israel has ratified all seven ILO core labour standards. In various areas Israel's law and practice require improvements in order to comply with the commitments Israel accepted at Singapore in 1996 and Geneva in 1998 in the WTO Ministerial Declarations and in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work adopted in June 1998. See:<http://www.icftu.org/english/els/escl.99wtoisrael.html>

COMPUTERS AND CLIMATE: THE ONLINE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIS CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION GROUP. Created by the Alliance for a Sustainable Information Society, this newsletter focuses on the Kyoto Protocol and addresses international co-operation in the field of climate change, building on general insights into ways of achieving sustainability in a global economy shaped and influenced by IT technologies. To subscribe visit:<http://members.tripod.com/ruddyconsult/archive1999.htm>

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