



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

# Weekly Trade News Digest

26 April 2000

ISSN 1563-003X

Volume 4, N°16

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CITES: Ivory Compromise Victory For African Unity .....	1
Ag News: Japan to put GMOs to the Safety Test .....	2
IMF/World Bank Hold Spring Meetings .....	4
In The Regions: Eastern Europe and Asia .....	4
DSB Update .....	6
In Brief .....	7
Events & Resources .....	7

## CITES: IVORY COMPROMISE VICTORY FOR AFRICAN UNITY

The 11th Conference of Parties (COP-11) to the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) wrapped up in Gigiri, Kenya on 20 April. Delegates from 138 countries met to take up a number of issues, including: allowing the limited sale of ivory stocks by South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Namibia; a request by Norway and Japan for limited commercial whaling of grey and minke whales; and potential risk of wildlife trade to the tourism industry (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 4, No. 15, 18 April 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.18-04-00.htm> ).

The much anticipated debate over trade in ivory was largely avoided after African countries reached a compromise agreement under which elephant ivory trade will be prohibited until the next Conference of the Parties (COP-12, to be convened in 2003), and African Elephant populations in Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa will remain listed on CITES Appendix II.

South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Namibia had originally requested CITES to downlist the countries' African Elephant populations from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II, and to allow limited trade of ivory stocks. Trade in species listed in Appendix I is prohibited while those species listed in Appendix II are considered endangered but may be traded with strict controls.

The compromise agreement resulted in Kenya and India withdrawing resolutions intended to keep the African Elephant populations of South Africa, et al, on Appendix I. South Africa requested and

received the right to engage in trade in hides and meat, an alternative source of elephant-products revenue.

The pro-downlisting countries were pleased with the compromise. "It leaves the door open. There will be no ivory sales for the time being but the principle of possible sales in the future is accepted", said Vitalis Chadenga, a Zimbabwean official. African countries welcomed the compromise as a victory for African solidarity and regional problem solving.

Delegates also agreed to establish an alternative elephant monitoring system, after reaching a general consensus that the current system is ineffective.

Other decisions taken at COP-11 included, *inter alia*, the rejection of a proposal by Cuba for limited controlled trade in hawksbill turtle shell stocks. Cuba argued that there are healthy stocks of hawksbill turtles in surrounding waters and that Cuba has a sound national monitoring program to prevent illegal trade. Many developing countries supported the proposal, while the EU, US, Canada and Kenya were among those opposed, arguing that any relaxation in the ban in hawksbill turtle trade would precipitate illegal poaching amongst the broad group of endangered turtle species.

Delegates also rejected a proposal by the UK to regulate trade in basking sharks for conservation purposes. The UK argued the measure was necessary to protect basking shark stocks from the growing trade in their fins, oil, cartilage, skin and meat. Fishing nations were among those opposed to the proposal.

"African nations sustain ban on ivory trade," ENS, 17 April 2000; "African nations agree to compromise on ivory trade," REUTERS, 17 April 2000; "COP-11 Highlights," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN (IISD), 17 April 2000; "Summary of the Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN (IISD), 24 April 2000; "Trade bans in whales, turtles upheld," REUTERS, 20 April 2000.

## **AG NEWS: JAPAN TO PUT GMOS TO THE SAFETY TEST**

The Japanese government will be conducting mandatory safety tests on genetically modified products before importing them into the country. The latest decision by the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare -- prompted by a government panel's recommendations -- follows on the heels of a Japanese policy initiated in 1999 requiring labels on products containing genetically-modified organisms (GMOs). The decision is expected to pose a further barrier to entry of (mostly American) GMO produce. Agriculture officials in the US played down the impact of the policy, saying that they did not expect it to have a negative effect on biotechnology or other exports to Japan.

In related developments, Japan earlier this month said it would continue its push for consideration of the so-called multifunctional role of agriculture within a WTO agreement on agriculture. Japan and the EU are steadfast in their demand that agriculture negotiations take into account the so-called multifunctional (cultural, environmental, and developmental) role agriculture plays -- essentially

calling for agriculture to be given special status amongst all other trade sectors under the auspices of the WTO. Japan said it would try to persuade other WTO Members, including aspiring Member China, to support the multifunctional platform.

Japan outlined its support for multifunctionality in its Fiscal 1999 Annual Report on Food, Agriculture, and Farms released on 4 April. Also in that report, Japan released rice importation figures for its Fiscal Year 1999 (April 1999-March 2000), indicating that its rice-tariffication scheme has dramatically curtailed rice imports. Japan, in April 1999, implemented a rice tariffication scheme to replace its previous policy for rice imports (implemented as part of its commitments under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)) that obliged Japan to import rice in quantities equal to eight percent of total domestic consumption by 2000. Japan began importing rice at a rate of four percent of consumption in 1995 and committed to an annual 0.8 percent increase in imports each year. Under a tariffication regime, Japan is allowed to slow its mandatory increase in imports to 0.4 percent per year, while applying tariffs on rice imports equal to the price gap between Japanese and foreign rice.

The Agriculture Ministry figures show that for Fiscal Year 1999, Japan imported only 225 tons of rice above its minimum access requirements of 724,000 tons. The 225 tons is estimated to account for about one-fortieth of Japanese rice consumption; agriculture officials indicated that about 200 of the 225 tons were purchased from Thailand by one customer for a one-time food festival held last year. The modest import figure is likely to renew complaints by Japan's rice-exporting trade partners against the tariffication regime.

The WTO on 13 April released a report on domestic agriculture support programs. The report, released as part of the agricultural negotiations process, outlines commitment levels and compliance, includes a record of domestic support notifications for all countries and provides an outline of trends in domestic support covering green box (domestic or trade policies that are deemed to be minimally trade-distorting and that are excluded from WTO reduction commitments), blue box (direct payments that are not subject to the commitment to reduce domestic support), and special and differential exemptions for all countries. The report's symbol number is G/AG/NG/S/1; it can be viewed at <http://www.wto.org/wto/ddf/ep/public.html>

In other news, participants at the Canadian Grains Council's annual conference called for the elimination of all agricultural export subsidies, and for a review of food aid programs and state trading enterprises (e.g. marketing boards), which critics say function as veiled export subsidy programs. Participants also noted that poor US leadership was in part to blame for the failed Third WTO Ministerial meeting in Seattle last November-December.

"Japan's rice imports only at 225 tons in FY'99 under Uruguay Round tariffication," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 20 April 2000; "Japan cites growing support for agriculture's multifunctionality," WTO REPORTER, 11 April 2000; "US needs to take reins of trade talks - Canadian analysts," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 10 April 2000; Japan to demand testing of genetically modified produce, FINANCIAL TIMES, 26 April 2000.

## **IMF/WORLD BANK HOLD SPRING MEETINGS**

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank held their annual spring meetings from 11-17 April in Washington, D.C.

Ministers made no major decisions at the meetings. Regarding trade, according to a Development Committee communiqué, ministers called on developed countries to improve market access for developing countries' exports (particularly in agriculture and textiles), and called for "consideration of enhanced market access for these countries (e.g. by extending comprehensive and predictable duty- and quota-free market access)."

Ministers also expressed concern "that the benefits the world economy is deriving from freer trade and more integrated and deeper international capital markets are not reaching everyone, especially in the developing countries", according to an International Monetary and Financial Committee communiqué. Ministers also discussed the issue of institutional reform, including improved transparency, review of long-term lending for development projects and improved accountability for loan funds.

Thousands of protestors converged on Washington, D.C. in a failed effort to shut down the IMF/World Bank talks. The protestors did draw heavy media coverage to the growing anti-globalisation movement, which first gained significant attention at the Third WTO Ministerial in Seattle last November/December. Protestors in Washington called for changes at the IMF, ranging from abolition of the institutions to improved transparency and accountability in World Bank and IMF decision-making.

"Communiqué of the International Monetary and Financial Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund," IMF PRESS RELEASE (No. 00/31), 16 April 2000; "Development Committee communiqué," IMF PRESS RELEASE, 17 April 2000; "Spring meetings fail to burst into blossom," FINANCIAL TIMES, 19 April 2000.

## **IN THE REGIONS: EASTERN EUROPE AND ASIA**

EU agriculture officials last month said they were close to reaching a deal with potential Eastern European states to further liberalise trade in farm goods. The deal would slowly bridge differences in prices, tariffs, and subsidy levels between western EU states and aspiring EU member-states in Eastern Europe. Talks have been completed with Estonia, and nearly completed with the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Hungary.

Poland-EU farm talks are expected to be the most difficult, as Polish farmers -- fearful of losing their livelihood -- rally against EU membership. Poland alone has 2 million farms employing 25 percent of the workforce, compared to 7 million farms EU-wide. The Polish Peasants' party estimates that only 600,000 Polish farms would survive after Poland joins the EU. Talks could stall until after Polish presidential elections in late 2001.

EU External Relations Commissioner Chris Patton stated on 29 March that the EU would hasten efforts to liberalise trade with the Balkans. Mr. Patton said Balkan countries would be given improved EU market access under economic stabilisation and association agreements.

Officials from the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum met in February to discuss the APEC agenda for 2000 and to prepare for the annual APEC summit of leaders scheduled for November. Officials discussed reasons why the WTO Ministerial in Seattle last November-December failed, and discussed post-Seattle issues, including *inter alia*, APEC's role in strengthening the multilateral trading system and in improving the WTO decision-making process. Australia, host to a June 2000 meeting of APEC trade ministers, agreed to develop "a paper that would promote better understanding of trade liberalisation by focusing on the experiences of reform and development in APEC economies and the positive work APEC had already achieved", according to an APEC statement.

APEC officials also discussed a proposed theme for APEC's work in 2000: "Delivering to the Community". As part of this work, APEC would address, *inter alia*, "the importance of developing more open markets as well as investing in the people and business who operate in those markets." APEC is comprised of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam.

Singapore announced last week that it would launch talks toward a free trade agreement with Mexico in July. The announcement highlights the growing interest in regional trade accords in the region amidst the stalled efforts within APEC to accelerate regional trade liberalisation and the failure last November-December to launch a new round of WTO talks. Japan, which has historically avoided bilateral agreements, is currently exploring bilateral free trade agreements with Singapore, South Korea, and Mexico.

Meanwhile, New Zealand announced earlier this month that it would halt efforts to accelerate import tariff reductions that had been previously expected to begin 1 July. The government is also expected to consider enacting legislation to repeal a 1998 tariff act that would phase out all tariffs by 2006. New Zealand officials noted that while the country had been a world leader in trade liberalisation, the country has suffered as a result of reducing tariffs before many of its trade partners have within APEC and the WTO.

"EU aspirants near an agreement on agriculture," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 17 March 2000; "EU to speed up Balkans trade," FINANCIAL TIMES, 30 March 2000; "Polish farmers declare war over EU membership," THE GUARDIAN, 18 April 2000; "Summary conclusions of the first APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) for the twelfth ministerial meeting," APEC, February 2000; "Asians seek regional trade pacts," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 17 April 2000; "NZ govt puts five-year freeze on tariffs," THE PRESS, 11 April 2000.

**DSB UPDATE**

Ecuador on 14 April warned that it would seek WTO permission next month to impose retaliatory sanctions against the EU unless the EU agrees to negotiate a compensation plan for damages to Ecuador from the EU banana import regime. A WTO dispute arbitrator on 17 March ruled that Ecuador -- the world's largest Banana exporter -- could request over US\$200 million in retaliatory sanctions against the EU for the EU's failure to comply with a WTO ruling against its banana import regime. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 11, 21 March 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.21-03-00.htm> .)

At the 7 April meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), Ecuador said it would hold off requesting sanctions during a "brief waiting period" in hopes of negotiating a settlement with the EU. Roberto Betancourt, Ecuador's Ambassador to the WTO, said that Ecuador would have to receive a reply from the EU by 5 May, the deadline for setting a retaliation request on the agenda for the 18 May DSB meeting.

At this week's session of the DSB on 25 April, Members considered South Korea's request for a compliance panel in Korea's dispute with the US over DRAMS (dynamic random access memory semiconductors) computer memory chips. The DSB decided to reconvene the original panel to determine whether the US has complied in full with the panel's decision. The panel has 90 days to rule on the US' compliance.

In related news, the European Parliament on 13 April blocked the European Commission's proposals aimed at settling the long-running WTO dispute over the EU banana import regime. Observers noted that the Parliament's vote was essentially a delaying tactic, utilised to give EU Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler more time to negotiate with banana-producing nations that could be adversely affected by changes to the EU regime. Mr. Fischler is also working on a plan to promote fair trade exports from these countries.

EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy on 18 April said the EU would not likely use its WTO victory against US foreign sales corporations (FSCs) as leverage to resolve the longstanding banana dispute. (On 24 February, the WTO Appellate Body upheld an October 1999 dispute settlement decision which ruled that the US FSC tax scheme constitutes an unfair export subsidy under global trade rules -- see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 8, 29 February 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.29-02-00.htm> ).

"The EU was in favour of multilateral dispute regulation on a case by case basis and I think it is in our interest that this multilateral discipline is maintained and strengthened", Mr. Lamy told the European Parliament's trade committee on 18 April. "If the EU and US, for whatever reason, were to agree to bargain and short-circuit the dispute settlement system...I think it would be bad for the credibility of the dispute settlement system."

The EU on 18 April said it would seek consultations with Chile over Chile's ban on transshipments of swordfish. Spanish ships that fish for swordfish in international waters use Chilean ports to redirect their swordfish catches to other markets (e.g. the US). Chile in 1991 instituted a ban on

swordfish imports as part of its efforts to protect South Pacific swordfish stocks. The EU said in its request for consultations that the Chilean ban violates WTO rules concerning freedom of transit and the general elimination of quantitative import restrictions. The EU said in its request "that questions relating to environmental concerns in a context of trade should be dealt with on a multilateral basis, and not by resorting to the use of discriminatory unilateral measures." The EU said the ban costs EU fishermen an estimated US\$6.5 million annually. Consultations are the necessary first step in the WTO dispute settlement process.

"EU official opposes tradeoffs in WTO rows with US, REUTERS, 18 April 2000; "Ecuador warns it will proceed with WTO retaliation against Europe," WTO REPORTER, 17 April 2000; "European Parliament blocks proposal to reform EU's banana import regime," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 20 April 2000; "EU seeks talks with Chile in WTO over fishing dispute," WTO REPORTER, 25 April 2000; "EU starts WTO case against Chile over fish policy," REUTERS, 19 April 2000.

## **IN BRIEF**

In advance of the 24 April - 5 May convening of the 8th Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-8), the conservation group WWF called for concrete action toward linking trade and sustainable development. WWF called on CSD-8 delegates to adopt measures recognising sustainability assessments as a valid tool for governments in deciding domestic trade policies. The WWF proposal echoes conclusions drawn in March by the "International Experts Meeting on Sustainability Assessment of Trade Liberalisation," which brought together a cross-section of delegates from governments, non-governmental organisations, and other relevant groups. "WWF urges nations accept trade-environment link," REUTERS, 19 April 2000.

EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy on 14 April met with the EU textile and clothing industry, where both Mr. Lamy and industry officials called on its textile-exporting trade partners to reciprocate market access for EU textile exports. Mr. Lamy et al. noted that while the EU has, via WTO commitments, improved access to the EU textiles and clothing markets for textile-exporting countries like Indonesia, Thailand, India, and Pakistan, those countries maintain high tariffs and non-tariff barriers against EU textile products. The European Commission is expected to propose a package within the next few months that will attempt to exchange 'accelerated improved market access for textile-exporting countries' for 'improved market access for EU textile products'. "The Commission challenges other countries to open their textiles and clothing markets as a precondition to wider access to the EU's own market," EU PRESS RELEASE, 18 April 2000.

## **EVENTS & RESOURCES**

For more information on these events please visit ICTSD's online calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>

- **Coming Up This Week**

26-27 April, Washington DC: ENVIRONMENT IN THE FTAA PROCESS: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE NAFTA MODEL? Hosted by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and the National Wildlife Federation.

26 April, Geneva: HEADS OF DELEGATIONS: INFORMAL MEETING (may continue on Thursday). Members will discuss: internal transparency, least-developed countries package, technical cooperation and implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements (including developing countries' deadlines). For information contact: Keith Rockwell, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5007.

27 April, Geneva: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL INFORMAL MEETING. Members will prepare for the formal meeting of the General Council on 3 May. Issues to be discussed include: Appointment of the Chairperson of the Council For TRIPs and of the Chairpersons of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Council for Trade in Goods; Participation of Acceding Countries as Observers in the Mandated Negotiations on Agriculture and Services; Measures in Favour of Least-Developed Countries; Capacity-Building through Technical Cooperation; Implementation And Transition Periods; Internal Transparency and Effective Participation of Members; Accessions; Review of Procedures for Circulation and De-restriction of WTO Documents; and Accreditation of Permanent Representatives to the WTO. For information contact: Keith Rockwell, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5007.

27 April, Geneva: Launch of new publication: PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY: CHALLENGES FOR THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION. By Robert Howse and Makau Mutua; published by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. The study examines the nexus between the legal regimes of international trade law and human rights law and identifies areas of tension and possible reconciliation. It concludes that the spirit of human rights law must frame the development of trade law, if either is to achieve its goals. Available in English and French. To order or download a copy, visit: <http://www.ichrdd.ca>

- **WTO Events**

An updated list of forthcoming World Trade Organisation meetings is posted at <http://www.wto.org/wto/about/meets.doc>. 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.

8 April, Geneva: WTO COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

8 April, Geneva: WTO COMMITTEE ON SAFEGUARDS. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5374.



- **Other Events**

8-12 May, Ottawa, Canada: 28TH SESSION OF THE JOINT FAO /WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME: CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING. Agenda items include an Ad hoc working group meeting on the Draft Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods to take place May 6 and May 8. Recommendations for Labelling of Foods obtained through Biotechnology will also be discussed. For information contact: web: <http://www.fao.org/events/default.htm>

21-24 May, Anchorage, Alaska, USA: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS. This conference is being sponsored by the Information Resources Management Association (IRAMA) to help companies take environmental issues into account in strategic decisions, as well as in operations. Some topics that will be covered include: eco-controlling and eco-balances; and environmental accountability. For information contact: Mehdi Khosrowpour, email: [mehdi@irma-international.org](mailto:mehdi@irma-international.org); web: <http://www.irma-international.org/call2000.htm>

22-24 May, Paris, France: 5TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF FRANCOPHONE PROFESSIONALS IN IMPACT ASSESSMENT. This meeting is sponsored by the Francophone Secretariat of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and the Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement of France. The main theme will be: Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA). Some topics to be addressed are: the contribution of SEA to EIA policy, institutional aspects, the drawing up of legislative and regulatory frameworks, and the fields and contents of SEA. For information contact: Francophone Secretariat of IAIA, 380, Saint-Antoine West Street, suite 3200, Montreal (Quebec) H2Y 3X7, Canada; tel: (1-514) 288-2663; fax: 987-1567; email: [iaia@secretariatfranco.org](mailto:iaia@secretariatfranco.org)

25 May, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: WTO LINKING WITH DEVELOPMENT. Organised by the South-North Federation, this international conference focuses on developmental perspectives of the WTO. The conference will host workshops, expert meetings and a public debate to explore the strategies and chances for a strengthened position of the south and democratisation of global economic decision making. For information contact: The Wemos Foundation, tel: (31-20) 468-8388; email: [kristel.klomp@wemos.nl](mailto:kristel.klomp@wemos.nl); web: <http://www.wemos.nl>

29-30 May, Granada, Spain: PANEL OF EXPERTS ON PESTICIDE SPECIFICATIONS, REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS, APPLICATION STANDARDS AND PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT (16th SESSION). At this session, FAO specifications under the new procedure for a range of individual pesticides will be considered. It will also prepare recommendations for updating the Code. For information contact: Gero Vaagt, FAO; tel: (39-6) 5705-5757; email: [Gero.Vaagt@fao.org](mailto:Gero.Vaagt@fao.org); web: <http://www.fao.org/waicent/FaoInfo/Agricult/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Events/htm>

30 May-2 June, Miami, Florida: FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS MEETING (FTAA) NEGOTIATING GROUP ON SERVICES. For information contact: FTAA Secretariat at: [ftaa-alca@ftaa-alca.4tz.com](mailto:ftaa-alca@ftaa-alca.4tz.com)

- **Resources**

SUPPORTING GREEN MARKETS: ENVIRONMENTAL LABELING, CERTIFICATION AND PROCUREMENT SCHEMES IN CANADA, MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES. 1999. This report was published by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC); it reviews environmental labelling, certification and procurement in Canada, Mexico and the United States. A general discussion of key issues is provided as well a brief review of specific initiatives in the three countries. To obtain contact: CEC, 393, rue St-Jacques Ouest, bureau 200, Montreal, Canada H2Y 1N9; tel: (1-514) 350-4300; web: <http://www.cec.org>

THE ECOLABELLING GUIDE. 1999. The Guide is published by the Global Ecolabelling Network. It is a resource on aimed at governments and institutions developing an ecolabel program, businesses, consumers and implementation bodies. The Guide provides an overview of the basics of ecolabelling and presents detailed information on how to establish a national ecolabeling programme. The Guide costs US\$100 for companies and US\$25 for others. To obtain contact: Global Ecolabelling Network Secretariat, TerraChoice Environmental Services Inc., 2781 Lancaster Road, Suite 400, Ottawa, Canada K1B 1A7; tel:(1-613) 247-1900; fax: 247-2228; email: [gensecretariat@terrachoice.ca](mailto:gensecretariat@terrachoice.ca); web: <http://www.gen.gr.jp>

*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 at ICTSD by Dara Edmonds and DanVy Nguyen; written by Judy Brienza (IATP) and edited by Hugo Cameron, [hcameron@ictsd.ch](mailto:hcameron@ictsd.ch). The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, [rmelendez@ictsd.ch](mailto:rmelendez@ictsd.ch). ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 13, ch des Anémones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: (41- 22) 917- 8492; fax: (41-22) 917- 8093..

Excerpts from *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*© may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editor or the Director.

To subscribe to *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*©, send an email to: [listserv@iatp.org](mailto:listserv@iatp.org) Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message type: subscribe bridges To unsubscribe, please send an email to [listserv@iatp.org](mailto:listserv@iatp.org). In the body of the message type: unsubscribe bridges. *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*© can also be found at the ICTSD web page: <http://www.ictsd.org/html/newsdigest.htm> and at the IATP web page: <http://www.newsbulletin.org>