



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

# Weekly Trade News Digest

13 June 2000

ISSN 1563-003X

Volume 4, N°23

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## APEC AGREES ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES, CALLS FOR NEW WTO ROUND

Trade Ministers from the 21-country Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum met from 6-7 June in Darwin, Australia. Ministers discussed, *inter alia*, the prospects for a new round of global trade talks, sub-regional trade agreements, confidence and capacity-building efforts in developing countries, and improving the APEC business environment.

The APEC meeting marked the largest gathering of trade ministers since the failed WTO Ministerial meeting in Seattle last November-December. Ministers renewed calls for a new round of global trade talks, but warned that a new WTO Ministerial meeting toward launching a new round should not convene until WTO Members are agreed on a balanced agenda for talks.

APEC, which collectively accounts for about 60 percent of all world trade, comprises Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taipei, Thailand, the US and Vietnam.

The meeting revealed that strong, long-standing divisions remain intact between APEC members over including certain sectors and issues in a new global trade round. Developing APEC countries and Japan, for example, demand that a new round includes talks on anti-dumping provisions, while the US remains adamant that anti-dumping is not open for negotiation. At the same time, China rejected a US proposal that labour standards be discussed.

Australia's Trade Minister Mark Vaile called on WTO Director-General Mike Moore to bring together those WTO Members currently divided over critical issues in order to resolve their differences outside the official WTO forum. Mr. Vaile said this approach could help build consensus toward a new round. Mr. Vaile also noted that the current divisions between the largest WTO Members (specifically the Quad Group of countries comprising the US, Canada, EU and Japan) and developing countries offers an opportunity for middle-ranking WTO Members like Australia to take the lead in moving a new trade round forward.

In other efforts toward building consensus on a new round, APEC ministers announced a strategic plan, originally proposed by Japan, "to facilitate the implementation of WTO Agreements and the integration of developing economies into the multilateral trading system [and] to help address the concerns and challenges of APEC developing economies' participation in a new round," according to an APEC statement.

"The strategic plan aims to provide tailor-made packages of technical assistance for developing APEC economies that will facilitate their ability to implement WTO agreements. We ask Senior Officials to coordinate a survey of the needs of APEC developing economies, to analyse and evaluate existing international cooperation schemes, and to develop a plan for the improved coordination and effectiveness of capacity-building activities," the statement noted. APEC leaders are expected to assess progress toward these capacity-building efforts at the APEC ministerial meeting in November.

Ministers also agreed to hold seminars on investment and competition policies for APEC members in order to "promote a common understanding of issues related to possible future multilateral rules on investment and competition," according to an APEC statement.

WTO Director-General Mike Moore addressed APEC ministers in Darwin, downplaying prospects for a new WTO round this year. "There has been some movement on implementation of [Uruguay Round commitments] for example, but there are still lines of deep disagreement...But we should not see disagreement as failure. It is simply countries fighting for their national interests. I think there is a modest chance this year," Mr. Moore said.

APEC ministers also agreed to an APEC-wide moratorium on the imposition of customs duties on electronic transmissions until the next WTO Ministerial Conference.

"APEC trade ministers chair calls for new WTO round," APEC PRESS RELEASE, 7 June 2000; "APEC okays plan to help developing states on WTO," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 6 June 2000; "APEC to seek new trade round," 7 June 2000; "APEC clear on global trade aim," 8 June 2000; "Confidence building takes centre stage in APECs push for free trade," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 31 May 2000; "APEC vows to sustain trade liberalisation," REUTERS, 3 June 2000; "WTO told by APEC to act now on tariffs," 8 June 2000.

**DISPUTE SETTLEMENT: NGO BRIEFS TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN APPELLATE BODY RULING**

What began as a dispute over US countervailing duties on imports of leaded steel bars from the UK ended in a debate in the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) on 7 June over the WTO Appellate Body's ruling on acceptance of *amicus* briefs during the process of hearing and deciding a case. The Appellate Body -- over the objections of the EU, Japan and Mexico -- ruled that it had the right to accept *amicus* briefs. "We are of the opinion that we have the legal authority under the DSU to accept and consider *amicus curiae* briefs in appeals in which we find it pertinent and useful to do so."

The Appellate Body is a standing WTO body composed of seven persons "of recognised authority, with demonstrated expertise in law, international trade and the subject matter of the covered agreements". Any one case is adjudicated by three members of the Appellate Body.

In this instance, the Appellate Body chose not to consider briefs filed by the American Iron and Steel Institute and the Specialty Steel Industry of North America.

In issuing its opinion, the Appellate Body made it clear that individuals and organisations that are not Members of the WTO do not necessarily have a legal right to be heard by the Appellate Body. It also emphasised that the Appellate Body does not have the legal obligation to accept or consider unsolicited *amicus* briefs from non-governmental parties. This decision mirrors similar findings by the Appellate Body in the 1998 WTO shrimp-turtle dispute (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 2 No. 39, 12 October 1998, [http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/getbulletin.cfm?browse=1&Issue\\_ID=1161&Bulletin\\_ID=14&SID=](http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/getbulletin.cfm?browse=1&Issue_ID=1161&Bulletin_ID=14&SID=) ).

The EU had challenged current US CVD practices, which operate on the principle that subsidies granted before a change in ownership pass through to products made by a new owner. In the substance of their ruling, the Appellate Body found that the US is obligated to assess if a buyer of a previously subsidised company benefits from this former government assistance. The Appellate Body report was officially adopted at the DSB on 7 June; of all 15 Members who spoke at the session, only the US endorsed the report's decision on *amicus* briefs.

**Honduras-Nicaragua Consultations**

On 6 June, Honduras requested consultations with Nicaragua at the WTO in an attempt to resolve a dispute over trade barriers imposed by Nicaragua on imports from Honduras and Colombia. Honduras is accusing Nicaragua of breaching trade rules by imposing a 35 percent tax on goods and services from Honduras. Colombia's request for a dispute panel has recently been approved by the WTO on 18 May (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 4 No. 20, 23 May 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.18-05-00.htm> ). Nicaragua imposed the tax against Honduras and Colombia in November 1999 after Honduras and Colombia settled a sea territory dispute that allegedly divided an area between them belonging to Nicaragua.

### **EU-US Conflict Over "Carousel Provision" Continues**

As was threatened last week, the EU has requested formal consultations at the WTO over the US "carousel provision." (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 4, No. 22, 6 June 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.07-06-00.htm> ). According to EU Ambassador Roderick Abbott, "the EC considers that the US measure is in breach of the DSU since it mandates unilateral action without any prior multilateral control." At this point, the EU request is for consultations only. If after 60 days no agreement is reached, the EU can request the establishment of a dispute settlement panel.

### **US Requests Formal Consultations With Four Countries**

The US has formally requested WTO consultations with four countries: Brazil, Argentina, Romania, and the Philippines. The complaint against Brazil is two-fold: violations of the Customs Valuation Agreement and a patent law that requires local manufacturing in violation of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). The complaint against Romania involves similar claims of violations of the Customs Valuation Agreement, while the claim against Argentina also involves TRIPs violations, in reference to provisions of Argentinean patent laws. The claim against the Philippines is over its auto regime, wherein the US argues that the regime discriminates against manufacturers that do not have specified levels of locally produced content. Notably, the US has targeted both Romania and the Philippines -- both developing countries -- for violations of the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), the developing country transition period for which expired on 1 January 2000. At an 8 May meeting of the General Council, Members had agreed to conduct reviews of extending transition periods on a case-by-case basis. Both Romania and the Philippines had previously requested extensions by 1 January.

"Honduras seeks WTO consultations with Nicaragua over fishing row" Agence France-Presse, 7 June 2000; "EU Requests Consultations On U.S. Carousel Retaliation Provision" *INSIDE US TRADE*, 9 June 2000; "US Asks For WTO Consultations With Four Countries," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 9 June 2000.

### **NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: AFRICA**

The World Bank in May released a collaborative study appraising Africa's development potential in the 21st Century. The publication, "Can Africa Claim the 21st Century?" was produced with input from the African Development Bank, the African Economic Research Consortium, the Global Coalition for Africa, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and the World Bank. The study notes that co-ordinated African participation in the WTO is crucial for African development and calls on OECD countries to open their markets to African agricultural exports.

The study notes that since the late 1960s Africa's loss of world trade "has cost it almost \$70bn a year, reflecting a failure to diversify into new, dynamic products as well as a falling market share for traditional goods."

"Two points are crucial," the study says, "effective African participation in setting the rules of the game and clearly defined objectives and negotiating strategies, for example, to ensure that OECD markets are open for products of special importance."

### **South Africa under fire over new round**

Meanwhile, some Southern African organisations have criticised South Africa for distancing itself from other developing countries by pushing for a new round of global trade talks. At a meeting in late May of Southern African unionists, church leaders, anti-globalisation campaigners and other members of civil society, some took umbrage at South African attempts to portray itself as the voice for the developing world. A number of representatives accused South Africa of "ploughing its own path and not joining with developing countries," in their opposition to a new round of global trade talks.

Amongst the representatives at the 30 May meeting in Johannesburg, Yash Tandon of the International South Group Network noted that South Africa had not joined with other African countries at the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle, but instead took part in the closed-door Green Room consultations. Many developing countries have criticised the Green Room process for excluding developing country delegations; the exclusivity of the Green Room was amongst the catalysts leading to the failure of the Seattle Ministerial.

Other participants pointed to South Africa's recent spearheading of efforts to create a so-called Group of Five Southern countries comprising South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Brazil and India, aimed at building developing countries' leverage within the WTO. "Is it that they are representing the developing world to the WTO or legitimising the WTO to the developing world?" asked Dot Keet of the Centre for Southern African Studies.

Still other participants noted that South Africa is merely taking a pragmatic approach to the WTO. "I'm not really sure that a country like South Africa has much choice [about taking part at the WTO]," stated Phillip Dexter, the executive director of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC), a negotiating forum comprised of government, labour and business. "With very little power at an organisation like the WTO, we have no choice but to learn to play the game," he said.

### **COMESA talks regional integration and trade**

In other news, ministers from the 21-member Common Market for Eastern and Southern African countries (COMESA) met from 17-18 May to discuss, *inter alia*, plans for regional economic integration and free trade. Ministers expressed continued support for a COMESA free trade area expected to launch from 31 October 2000 - despite the fact that almost half of COMESA's members are either at war with each other or struggling with internal political unrest. "No one wants to be left out of this," Kenya's Trade Minister and current COMESA chairman Nicholas Biwott said. "We have all seen Africa marginalised in terms of global trade and we know our strength lies in numbers," he said.

WTO Director-General Mike Moore addressed the COMESA summit. "The WTO has not paid enough attention to Africa, but Africa has to show more attention to the WTO as well," Mr. Moore told ministers.

Separately, Mr. Moore met in Ethiopia last month with Sallim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU). The two officials discussed ways to make the WTO more responsive to the needs of African and other developing countries, including increased technical assistance and capacity building.

Libya and Tunisia on 4 June agreed to create a free trade zone, with an aim to boost annual trade between the two countries to US\$1 billion. Libya is Tunisia's leading economic partner in Africa.

"Revival is beckoning marginalised African countries," FINANCIAL TIMES, 31 May 2000; "South Africa Criticised for 'Plowing its Own Path'," IPS, 1 June 2000; "Africa free trade zone a reality, COMESA says," 18 May 2000; "COMESA opener: Mauritius PM decries regional conflict," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 17 May 2000; "WTO chief describes Ethiopia visit as successful," XINHUA NEWS AGENCY, 18 May 2000; "Libya and Tunisia agree to free trade zone," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 4 June 2000.

## **WTO INVESTMENT WORKING GROUP STILL DIVIDED ON NEGOTIATING RULES**

Meeting from 8-9 June, the WTO Working Group on Trade and Investment remained deadlocked on whether to form a negotiating group to hammer out rules on investment in the WTO.

At the meeting, India reiterated its position that it was not ready for negotiations on establishing investment rules. Nearly all Asian developing countries and African Members support India's stance, while developed countries and most Latin American states favour creating some framework for investment rules in the WTO. During the Seattle Ministerial in November-December 1999, the EU pushed hard to bring investment and competition to the negotiation level; the collapse of the talks meant that the Investment Working Group -- in existence since the 1996 Singapore Ministerial -- has continued its remit of study, discussion and analysis.

In the 8-9 June session, delegates heard presentations from Korea, the EC, Japan, India, and Hungary on a range of investment-related topics. As Korea's paper -- on foreign direct investment (FDI) and transfers of technology -- was the only one submitted before the session, its paper garnered some discussion during the meeting. Korea argued that its experience demonstrates that "a free-hand approach is better than imposing technology transfer requirements," though such an approach must be supplemented by domestic improvements in infrastructure and training.

While developed countries lauded Korea's free-market approach, some developing countries were not wholly in agreement. Thailand countered that it maintains legislation mandating transfer of technology, and this approach has worked well for its technology transfer goals. Developed countries for the most part remain hostile to such legislation.

India's submission brought attention to a number of issues still requiring clarification before advancing to a more substantive stage. Among these it noted that (a) evidence of the putative

benefits of FDI is not conclusive and experiences can vary widely from country to country; (b) there is no evidence that the pattern and flow of investment will change in any significant way with multilateral rules on investment, and bilateral investment treaties appear quite successful in protecting existing investments; and (c) there is evidence that should there be a multilateral agreement on investment it would limit flexibility currently available for developing countries.

India also called attention to the question of obligations for foreign investors, noting that this should also be brought up in the WTO Working Group on Trade and Competition Policy. The Working Group on Competition Policy is scheduled to meet this week from 15-16 June.

ICTSD Internal Files.

### **CHINA WTO ACCESSION: CHANGE CERTAIN FOR BALANCE OF WTO POWER; DOMESTIC POPULATION**

China is reportedly close to trade deals with the five remaining WTO Members that requested bilateral accession talks: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Switzerland. Chinese Trade Minister Shi Guangsheng predicted on 6 June that negotiations with all five countries would conclude by month's end. Mexico is reportedly pushing for improved market access for agricultural products and industrial goods, including cement and refrigerators. Ecuador, Costa Rica and Guatemala are pushing for, *inter alia*, improved market access for bananas, while Costa Rica and China are reportedly at odds over market access for Costa Rican hair dryers. (Costa Rica is reportedly the world's largest exporter of hair dryers).

Once China concludes agreements with the five remaining countries, the WTO Working Party on China's Accession must conclude a draft protocol on accession and pull together a litany of documentation. China must also outline plans to WTO Members as to how it will change an estimated 170 laws in order to comply with WTO rules. This task may be complicated by what some western observers characterise as a lack of a legal infrastructure and rule of law in China. Mr. Shi said that addressing domestic legislation is amongst China's highest priorities after it enters the WTO.

"China will honour all the rules within the WTO and will fulfil the commitments we have made. After China is a full member of the WTO, China will announce or even abolish those laws and regulations which are inconsistent with the rules of the WTO," Mr. Shi said.

Once the WTO Working Party concludes its work, the full WTO Membership must approve China's entry into the trade body; China's government must then ratify its WTO membership. The entire process could take a number of months to a year.

China's entry into the WTO will almost certainly shift the balance of power and the negotiating environment within the global trade body. China, like many developing countries, is opposed to including the issues of investment, labour and environment in a new round of global trade talks. Observers note that China could form an alliance with other key Southern countries to create significant negotiating leverage. For example, a potential alliance between China, India and Brazil on certain key issues, including food safety, technical barriers to trade, rules of origin, and trade

related investment matters could undermine the dominating position now held by the Quad Group of countries (Canada, EU, Japan and the US).

China's entry into the WTO is expected to have significant domestic social and economic impacts. Reports from within China warn that China's estimated 600 million rural population may feel the greatest effects from China's WTO accession. Increased competition from cheap agricultural imports could mean about 400 million rural Chinese will no longer be needed on farms by 2005.

Observers note that China's entry into the WTO could eventually lead to a dramatic increase in the number of automobiles in China. Under terms of accession agreements between China and various WTO trade partners, China is expected to cut import tariffs on vehicles from the current level of between 80 and 100 percent to 25 percent. Other analysts predict that China's domestic auto industry will likely collapse in the absence of domestic support programs and under the weight of increased foreign competition. Some analysts predict that only 40 of the current 136 Chinese auto manufacturers will remain five to ten years after WTO accession, which could lead to the loss of 500,000 domestic jobs. Environmental groups caution that the increase in car ownership could exacerbate an already desperate pollution problem.

Other countries in the region are already gearing up for the imminent entry of China into the global trade body. The Saha Group -- Thailand's largest consumer products firm -- is pondering a new strategy to compete with the expected competition from low-cost products from China once China accedes to the WTO. "We worry about this issue because our products will lose the advantage when compared with Chinese products in the international market. China has very low production costs, so we are thinking about a new strategy to compete with products from China," Boonsithi Chokwatana, the group's chairman, said.

The WTO Working Party on China's Accession is expected to meet next on 23 June.

"WTO membership could cause automobile boom," UN NEWSWIRE, 24 May 2000; "What happens next in China's 14-year bid to join the WTO," BRIDGENEWS, 22 May 2000; "La Chine entre à l'OMC pleine d'espoir mais de sérieuses réformes l'attendent," L'AGEFI, 6 June 2000; "Trade minister says negotiations will be completed by month's end," ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL, 6 June 2000; "WTO: China, Latin America WTO deals nearing agreement," BRIDGENEWS, 7 June 2000; "Is China ready for the World Trade Organisation," AGWEB, 2 June 2000; "Will China follow WTO rules," BUSINESS WEEK, 5 June 2000; "Beijing set to face real battles of the WTO," BUSINESS TIMES (Singapore), 31 May 2000; "Thai Group Mapping out Strategy to Counter Chinese Products," XINHUA NEWS AGENCY, 8 June 2000.

## **IN BRIEF**

The US Trade Representative (USTR) and the Commerce Department on 2 June dropped their appeal of a Federal court ruling directing the Clinton Administration to appoint environmental representatives to two trade advisory groups. A US federal district court ruled in November 1999 that the USTR must appoint at least one representative from the environmental community to each of two advisory committees that advise the USTR on wood and paper product negotiations. Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, a US non-governmental organisation, filed the lawsuit on behalf



of a number of US environmental groups. "US drops move to fight ruling on trade panels," IPS, 6 June 2000.

Canada and Singapore on 7 June announced plans to explore the possibility of a bilateral free-trade agreement. 1999 trade between the two countries was worth about US\$1 billion. "Canada and Singapore agree to study bilateral free trade," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 8 June 2000.

Twenty of the world's most heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC's) met on 7 June in Geneva to discuss plans put together by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to help HIPC's deal with their debt burdens. Seventeen African countries and three Latin American countries attended the meeting. "Heavily indebted nations gather in Geneva to discuss debt relief," WORLD BANK PRESS REVIEW, 8 June 2000.

Representatives from the six Transatlantic Dialogues (Consumer, Environment, Labour, Legislators, Donors, and Business) met in Lisbon earlier this month to establish closer working relationships between different sectors of transatlantic civil society. The meeting was intended to stimulate discussion on the topic of sustainable agriculture, though it suffered from poor attendance and did not reach substantive conclusions on this or any other issue. Much of the meeting was spent on presentations by representatives from those Dialogues present, namely the Transatlantic Business Dialogue, the Transatlantic Environmental Dialogue, and the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue. Attendees identified possible areas for future action, including pursuing greater transparency at the WTO and the formation of a new Transatlantic Farmers Dialogue. ICTSD Internal Files.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

WTO Deputy Director-General for Trade and Environment and Training Paul-Henri Ravier told the World Congress on Environment Management in New Delhi earlier this month that WTO trade rules should not be used for "green protectionism." "While WTO rules are not against environmental objectives and policies, they must aim at prevention of environmental vehicles being 'hijacked' by protectionists," Mr. Ravier said. "WTO cautions against green protectionism," HINDUSTAN TIMES (India), 2 June 2000.

The state government of Goa, India, announced plans to establish a fund to conduct an impact assessment of the consequences of WTO agreements on the local small-scale industry. "Goa to set up WTO awareness fund," ECONOMIC TIMES (India), 12 May 2000.

## **EVENTS & RESOURCES**

### **• Coming Up This Week**

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

13 June, Brussels, Belgium: INFORMAL MEETING ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE MEMBER STATES. The agenda for the meeting includes: Sustainability Impact Assessment; trade and environment - an exchange of views on the post-Seattle situation; biotech and the WTO; and preparation of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment meeting (5-6 July 2000). For information contact: DG-1 (Trade) Information, European Commission, 200, Rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium; tel: (32-2) 295-2888; email: trade-unit-3@cec.eu.int.

15 - 16 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON THE INTERACTION BETWEEN TRADE AND COMPETITION POLICY. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5286.

19 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5393.

19-20 June, Squaxin Island First Nation, Washington State, USA: INDIGENOUS CAUCUS TO CONSIDER TREATY ON CULTURAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. At this meeting, indigenous leaders, scholars, activists and elders will consider how to best ensure their traditions and knowledge are protected for future generations in the face of approaching globalism, TRIPs, and the WTO. For information contact: Rodney Bobiwash Center for World Indigenous Studies, tel: (1-416) 929-4581; email: abobiwash@cwis.org; Internet: <http://www.cwis.org>.

19-21 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5374.

- **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.

21-22 June, Geneva, Switzerland: COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES. For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5412.

22 June, Geneva: GENERAL COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION ON IMPLEMENTATION. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5393.

23 June, Geneva: WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF CHINA. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5286.

26-30 June, Geneva: COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5412.

- **Other Events**

26-30 June, Geneva Switzerland: UNITED NATIONS WORLD SUMMIT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. The five-year review of the Social Summit in 2000 will survey progress made and setbacks faced in world poverty eradication efforts, as well as analyse the relationship between poverty, human rights and development. For more information contact: Division for Social Policy and Development 2 United Nations Plaza, Room C2-1370 United Nations New York 10017 USA; tel: (1-212) 963-5855; fax: 963-3062; email: [esa@un.org](mailto:esa@un.org); Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev>.

29 June, Geneva, Switzerland: UNEP ECONOMICS AND TRADE UNIT (ETU). An all-day meeting of experts to discuss the first draft of the "Reference Manual on Integrated Assessment of Trade-Related Policies." Please note this is an invitation-only meeting at which there is expected to be between 25 and 30 international experts considering the draft and making their comments, for the subsequent revision of the draft. For information contact: Mariko Hara, UN Environment Programme, email: [mariko.hara@unep.ch](mailto:mariko.hara@unep.ch), and include an explanation of your interest.

30 June - 2 July, Rethymnon, Greece: EAERE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. This is the tenth annual conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. For information contact: Conference Secretariat; fax: (30831) 77728; email: [eaere2000@econ.soc.uoc.gr](mailto:eaere2000@econ.soc.uoc.gr); Internet: <http://www.soc.uoc.gr/eaere2000/e2k/eaereinfo.htm>.

1-7 July, Brighton, England: WORLD RENEWABLE ENERGIES CONGRESS. Hosted by the World Renewable Energy Network, the Congress is being co-sponsored by several organisations, including UNESCO, UNDP and the European Economic Commission. For more information contact: A. Sayigh, 147 Hilmanton, Lower Earley, Reading RG6 4HN, UK; tel: (44-1189) 611-364, fax: 611-365; Internet: <http://www.wrenuk.co.uk/brighton/topics.html#topics>.

4-7 July, St. Petersburg, Russia: UNEP REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ALTERNATIVES TO POPS (PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS) PESTICIDES. For information contact: Murray Newton or Heidi Fiedler, UNEP Chemicals (IRPTC); tel: (41-22) 979-9111; fax: 797-3460; email: [mnewton@unep.ch](mailto:mnewton@unep.ch) or [hfriedler@unep.ch](mailto:hfriedler@unep.ch); Internet: <http://irptc.un-ep.ch/pops>.

5-6 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT: This meeting will include an information session with selected Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. For information contact: Sabrina Shaw, WTO, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 739-5482; email: [sabrina.shaw@wto.org](mailto:sabrina.shaw@wto.org); Internet: <http://www.wto.org/wto/environ/te030.htm>.

5-8 July, Canberra, Australia: ISEE 2000: PEOPLE AND NATURE - OPERATIONALIZING ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS. Sponsored by The International Society for Ecological Economics. The conference will focus on operational applications and achievements of ecological economics, dealing with major conceptual challenges and practical problems. For information contact: Beth Stoodley, Centre for Continuing Education, The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 0200, Australia; tel: (61-2)6249-3806. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>.

7-11 July, St. Petersburg, Russia: FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL INDICES, SYSTEMS ANALYSIS APPROACH. Co-sponsored by

Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS) and supported by: Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), St Petersburg Scientific Centre of RAS, International Society for Ecological Modeling (ISEM), Centre for Ecological Safety of RAS, Green Cross Russia, UNEP Centre for International Projects, Russian Fund for Basic Research. The Conference has two objectives: to discuss the possible ways to harmonise national efforts in the field of environmental indicators, and to examine the existing methods of indicators' transformation into highly aggregated indices. For information contact: Dr. Irina G. Malkina-Pykh, Center INENCO, Russian Academy of Sciences, 14 Kutuzova nab., St Petersburg, 191 18", Russia; tel.: (812) 232-97-72 or (812) 272-16-01; fax (812) 272-42-65; e-mail: pykh@inenco.spb.su.

11-13 July, Kathmandu, Nepal: SOUTH ASIA CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON FOOD SECURITY. Organised by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Forum for Protection of Public Interest (PRO PUBLIC) and Consumer International - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (CI-ROAP). The objectives of the workshop are to: a) help the participants understand the intricacies of food security, safety, health and nutrition issues in the South Asia region in the context of liberalisation and globalisation; b) equip the participants with advocacy and action tools; c) aid in the exchange of views and identification of the areas of further work required in this field; and , d) create or strengthen the network of South Asian organisations working on food security. For information contact: Ratnakar Adhikari/Dhrubesh C. Regmi, SAWTEE/PRO PUBLIC, P.O. Box 14307, Gautam Buddha Marg, Anam Nagar, Kathmandu, Nepal; tel: (977-1) 268681; fax: 268022, email: rmadi@propublic.wlink.com.np or fppi@fppipc.wlink.com.np.

- **Resources**

CONDUCTING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. 2000. By Prasad Modak and Asit K. Biswas. This volume introduces environmental impact assessment, and explains its processes, methods, and tools. To obtain contact: United Nations University Press, The United Nations University, 53-70, Jingumae 5-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925, Japan; tel: (81) 3-3499-2811; fax: 3499-2828; email: mbox@hq.unu.edu; Internet: <http://www.unu.edu/>.

RECONCILING THE GATT AND THE WTO WITH MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS: CAN WE HAVE OUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO? By Ryan L. Winter, in the Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law & Policy, v. 11, no. 1; Winter 2000; pp.223-255. In examining the trade and environment dispute, this article focuses on the GATT/WTO regime in relation to MEAs. It expounds on the strengths and objectives of the GATT/WTO and MEAs, and then describes how the two regimes conflict. It provides a brief overview of recent happenings in the trade and environment conflict, particularly the Shrimp-Turtle case, and evaluates possible solutions to the dispute.

GOVERNING TRADE IN GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS: THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY. By Aarti Gupta, in Environment, v. 42, no. 4; May 2000; pp.22-33. Despite widely varying priorities, negotiators have finally developed of a worldwide agreement concerning the transport and use of genetically modifies organisms.

*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 Elizabeth Stepnowski; 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..

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ISSN 1563-003X