



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest

27 June 2000

ISSN 1563-003X

Volume 4, N°25

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ACP, EU SIGN 'COTONU AGREEMENT' ON TRADE, AID AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO REPLACE LOMÉ

Officials from the EU and 77 African, Pacific and Caribbean (ACP) countries met on 23 June in Cotonou, Benin to sign a 20-year trade and aid accord replacing the Lomé IV convention that expired on 29 February.

Ministers agreed to a 20-year accord under which the current Lomé trade terms will be extended at least through 2002, when a so-called preparatory period would begin during which ACP countries will build their capacities to withstand freer trade. Commencing 2008-2020, the EU and ACP will begin two-way free trade arrangements conforming to WTO rules.

The agreement signed in Benin is to be known as the Cotonou Agreement and differs more than just in name from its five predecessors sequentially negotiated every five years since the first Lomé was signed in Togo in 1975.

The new accord emphasises a joint approach to combat poverty, promote sustainable development and work towards gradual integration of ACP countries into the world economy and the WTO system. The agreement is centred on five 'pillars': a comprehensive political dimension, participatory approaches, a strengthened focus on poverty reduction, a new framework for economic and trade cooperation, and a reform of financial cooperation.

The agreement provides the 77 ACP countries (South Africa excepted) with an extension of existing non-reciprocal preferential access for certain ACP agricultural and other goods to the EU market at least through 2002, when a preparatory period will begin during which ACP countries will build their capacities to withstand freer trade. Commencing 2002-2008, the EU and ACP will negotiate WTO compatible and reciprocal trade agreements to be implemented from 2008-2020. As part of the accord, the EU has pledged to provide ACP countries with about US\$12.5 billion (EUR \$13.5 billion) in official development assistance (ODA).

The WTO waiver for the now obsolete Lomé V Convention between the EU and ACP countries expired on 29 February 2000. The EU and ACP must still secure a WTO waiver for the extension of the Cotonou Agreement through 2008. Three of the four commodity protocols (sugar, beef and veal) traditionally annexed to the Lomé Convention were included in the new agreement. However, the preferential banana regime was left out pending and subject to negotiations between the EU and its other trading partners over the establishment of a new banana import regime (including with the ACP). Members have been reticent to approve a waiver until the EU presents all the details of the new banana regime. EU Ambassador Roderick Abbott told the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body on 19 June that the EU should have the new banana regime details before August.

The EU has assured the WTO Council that the new agreement would not create any impediments to the reduction or elimination of other restrictions to trade on a most-favoured nation basis or affect benefits to other developing countries under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). Members are expected to vote on the matter at the next Council for Trade in Goods on 7 July.

The new EU-ACP agreement is available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/cotonou/index_en.htm.

"EU-ACP post-Lomé Agreement: New Cotonou Partnership Agreement," EU PRESS RELEASE (IP/00/640), 21 June 2000; "New ACP-EU Agreement (TEXT)," EUROPEAN COMMISSION, June 2000; "EU, ACP to sign new trade and aid pact," IPS, 23 June 2000.

TALKS OF 'TIME FOR A MAJOR RETHINK OF WTO' AMONG G-15

Ministers from the 'Group of 15' (G-15) developing countries met in Cairo from 19-20 June for their tenth summit. Ministers discussed trade issues, North-South and South-South cooperation, and a range of other development concerns.

The G-15 is comprised of 17 countries: Argentina, Algeria, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. Ministers agreed at the Cairo summit to admit Colombia and Iran to the grouping. Trade between G-15 countries accounts for about 10 percent of global import-export flows.

Echoing previous G-15 meetings, ministers reiterated their ambivalence toward the globalisation process thus far and existing institutions such as the WTO (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 6, February 15 1999 and Vol. 3, No. 33, 23 August 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story1.23-08-99.htm>). Ministers called for redress to the existing imbalances and inequities arising from previous trade agreements and for a stronger role for developing countries in WTO decision-making.

In speeches addressing the G-15, various ministers expressed dissatisfaction with the WTO. Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Murasoli Maran said that, regarding the global trade body, "It is time for a major rethink. The WTO's remit needs to be restricted to trade and trade alone...We believe that the most important item in the agenda is the restoration of its credibility. This can happen only if the imbalances, inequities and anomalies of the past are addressed frontally."

Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson also railed against the globalisation process thus far. "Globalisation has proved to be selective, favouring a few while marginalising the weakest," he said. "Institutions like the WTO and the process of globalisation [are] dominated and driven by a few economically powerful countries." Mr Patterson did go on to note that the challenges of globalisation and the WTO have managed to bring G-15 countries closer together, and called on G-15 countries to build on their unity.

According to the G-15 summit's final communiqué, whilst globalisation was expected to help lift people out of poverty and improve the living standards for all people, "this has not materialised." Moreover, the G-15 said, "We are convinced that it will not until the international community addresses the asymmetries and imbalances in the global economy."

Regarding the WTO, G-15 ministers said, "the multilateral trading system should operate in a manner that is open, equitable, rule-based and non-discriminatory. It must take into account the development dimension in multilateral trade negotiations. There is a need to strengthen such instruments as Special and Differential Treatment provisions and to make them operational so as to promote the interests of developing countries. Special attention should be given to addressing the problems faced by developing countries in the implementation of their WTO obligations," according to the communiqué.

G-15 ministers reiterated their opposition to so-called non-trade concerns such as environment, labour and human rights standards being linked to trade. "We express concern at unilateral trade measures being resorted to on grounds of environmental protection. Non-trade issues such as labour standards, proposed by some developed countries, shall not be introduced in, or linked to, the WTO agenda. We reject all attempts to use such issues as disguised forms of protectionism and as conditions for restricting market access, aid and/or technology flows to developing countries," according to the final G-15 statement.

"X summit of the heads of state and government of the Group of Fifteen: Joint Communiqué," G-15, 19-20 June 2000; "India urges G-15 to fight protectionism," *THE HINDU*, 16 June 2000; "G-15 summit outlines plans to cope with globalisation," *PANAFRICAN NEWS AGENCY*, 21 June 2000; "Summit of developing countries under way in Egypt; Colombia, Iran admitted," *ASSOCIATED PRESS*, 19 June 2000; "G-15 summit in Cairo demands fairer deal in global trade," *REUTERS*, 20 June 2000; "G-15 countries want better terms for trade, more aid," *REUTERS*, 19

June 2000; "G-15 leaders rail against globalisation at the summit," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 20 June 2000.

WTO DISPUTE UPDATES: INDIA, US, EU, CANADA, BRAZIL, AUSTRALIA & THE PHILIPPINES

India Accuses US of Ignoring WTO

In choosing to press forward with a claim against India over limited motor industry access for foreign companies, the US has drawn criticism for apparently ignoring an informal WTO agreement on "due restraint." In speaking at a Dispute Settlement meeting on 19 June, India recalled "tacit understandings" that urged WTO member governments not to take legal action against those developing countries having difficulties meeting their existing investment commitments made in 1994. The US complaint centres on a 1997 Indian law that requires vehicle manufacturers operating in the country to establish a \$50m equity investment in the form of joint ventures as well as use a minimum of 50 percent local parts. At the DSB meeting, India defended its automotive policies, saying that there was no need for a dispute settlement panel, and that its policies are in line with the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs).

Canada Appeals WTO Patent Ruling

Canada has appealed a WTO decision stating that Canadian patent legislation contravenes international rules on intellectual property rights. Last month, a WTO panel ruled that the Canadian Patent Act, which limits the term granted to patents filed before October 1, 1989 to 17 years, violates international agreements. At the time of the ruling, Canada was ordered to extend the length of those patents to 20 years. According to André Lemay, a trade spokesperson for Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, "the government of Canada is appealing because we think our arguments weren't fully considered by the panel." A final decision is not expected until the fall.

Interim Report Released in EU-US Wheat Gluten Dispute

According to a confidential interim report, a WTO dispute settlement panel is set to rule in favour of the EU in its dispute with the US over a three-year US import quota on imported wheat gluten. In the report distributed to the EU and the US for comment, the panel agreed with the US that its wheat gluten producers were facing the threat of 'serious injury', but stated that the US investigation that led to the enactment of the safeguard measure did not demonstrate that the injury was directly caused by imported wheat gluten. The interim finding also ruled against US methods used to determine the cause of injury under Section 201 and the exemption the US provides to signatories of the North America Free Trade Agreement. Due to the fact that this decision is one against a US safeguard measure, it could expose other US safeguard measures, including those in the steel industry, to challenge at the WTO. A final ruling should be issued to the two parties in July and to WTO members shortly thereafter.

Framework Settlement Set in Brazil-Canada Aircraft Subsidies Row

Canada and Brazil late last week reached a framework settlement in a dispute over subsidies for commercial aircraft manufacturing. The dispute revolves around subsidies granted by each country to domestic aircraft producers (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 19, 16 May 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.16-05-00.htm>). Under the terms of the proposed settlement, Brazil would lower tariffs on some of Canada's larger exports. Canadian companies would gain access to future Brazilian government procurement contracts, and the Brazilian government will purchase Canadian Bombardier products. According to Pedro Rodrigues, a foreign affairs spokesman for the Brazilian government, "the talks in Geneva were very positive, and we've agreed to take the next step in the bilateral process." While there was no formal deal signed, the two parties agreed to meet in Montreal during the week of 17 July in order to finalise the resolution.

Australia-Philippines Trade Dispute Resolved

According to Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile, Australia and the Philippines have resolved a recently escalating trade dispute over fresh fruit imports from the Philippines and cattle exports from Australia (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 24, 20 June 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story5.20-06-00.htm>). Australia has agreed to start an import risk analysis on Philippine bananas and pineapples from any foreign source and will conduct phytosanitary testing of the Filipino fruit, but has insisted that the testing be sequential. According to Minister Vaile, this agreement "maintains the credibility of Australia's quarantine system." The resolution of the matter has avoided a potential WTO dispute between the two countries.

Accord Reached in US-Australia Dispute Over Leather Subsidies

On 21 June, the US Trade Representative announced a resolution of the dispute with Australia over that government's payment of subsidies to the country's only exporter of automotive leather, Howe Leather. Under the settlement, the company has agreed to repay A\$7.2 million of the A\$30 million grant over the next 12 years. The agreement is the result of a WTO case brought by the US in 1998, when Australia excluded its automotive leather industry from two export subsidy programs, but then compensated its automotive leather exporter by means of a \$30 million grant. The United States alleged that this grant was a "de facto" export subsidy, and had to be withdrawn; the WTO panel agreed. Australia announced in September 1999 that it had complied with the WTO ruling by having Howe Leather repay less than 27 percent of the grant.

"Canada Appeals WTO Ruling Against Its Patent Legislation," BLOOMBERG, 19 June 2000; "WTO Set to Favour EU in Dispute With U.S. on Wheat Gluten Safeguards," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 22 June 2000; "WTO rules against US quotas," FINANCIAL TIMES, 21 June 2000; "Interim WTO Panel Says U.S. Wheat Gluten Safeguard Violates Rules," INSIDE US TRADE, 23 June 2000; "Brazil, Canada Discuss Resolving Aircraft Subsidies Row," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 22 June 2000; "Canada, Brazil Set Frame for Trade Settlement," DOW JONES AND COMPANY, 26 June 2000; "US accused of ignoring WTO," FINANCIAL TIMES, 19 June 2000; "Australian Trade Min: Philippines Trade Dispute Settled," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 26 June 2000; "U.S. and Australia Reach Accord In Dispute over Leather Subsidies," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 22 June, 2000; "U.S. Resolves Australian Auto Leather

Dispute," INSIDE US TRADE, 21 June 2000; "India denies violating WTO investment rules," DECCAN HERALD, 20 June 2000.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: AFRICA

Southern Africa Economic Forum Meets on Globalisation

Government officials and business representatives met in Durban, South Africa from 21-23 June for the annual Southern Africa Economic Forum, a collaboration between the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The annual forum promotes dialogue between business and governments and aims to help shape regional corporate strategies.

Among the key issues discussed at the summit were: balancing the social impact of economic reform and globalisation in Southern Africa; measuring the impacts of the EU-South Africa trade deal and the responsibilities of the international community towards Africa, and increasing transparency and efficiency on the continent. More than 1,000 delegates from 50 countries attended the forum, including WTO Director-General Mike Moore.

African leaders called on developed countries to end the dominance of rich countries in determining trade patterns and the misallocation of resources in favour of those countries.

The summit also featured the launch of the Africa Competitiveness Report 2000-2001, published by the World Economic Forum and the Harvard Institute for International Development. The report seeks to identify and measure the underlying factors that could contribute to high rates of economic growth in Africa in the next five years. These factors are quantified and then combined into an Index of Competitiveness for 24 African countries. Tunisia ranked first amongst African countries, while Tanzania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda top the report's 'improvement index'. The report is available at: <http://www.weforum.org/>.

Also at the forum, Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland signed the Lubombo Transnational Conservation Protocol aimed at, *inter alia*, boosting regional ecotourism by permitting the free flow of tourists across the three countries' borders in conservation reserves.

Nigeria and Ghana to Cooperate on Trade With or Without ECOWAS

Trade ministers from the 16 member-countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met in Accra, Ghana from 19-20 June. Ministers discussed plans for ECOWAS economic integration, including implementation of a customs union, trade liberalisation and a common external tariff for ECOWAS member-countries. Nigeria and Ghana pledged to move forward with integration plans even if other ECOWAS members stall or balk at the process. Integration efforts amongst the full ECOWAS membership have been on hold due in part to disagreements between the francophone and non-francophone countries within the regional grouping (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 4, No. 13, 4 April 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story7.04-04-00.htm>).

"If the other countries are not ready, we will go on with the integration process. There is no reason to postpone things anymore," Nigerian trade and industry minister Mustafa Bello said.

"Durban economic summit to review progress since 1999," SOUTHERN AFRICA RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER, 22 June 2000; "South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland sign conservation protocol," BBC, 24 June 2000; "Ethiopia moves up competitiveness index," FINANCIAL TIMES, 22 June 2000; "Protests greet World Trade Organisation executive," PANAFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, 22 June 2000; "Ghana, Nigeria to lead regional integration," XINHUA NEWS AGENCY, 19 June 2000.

WTO'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM FOR LDCS FOUND INEFFECTUAL

A preliminary report commissioned by six international economic organisations recently found that an inter-agency initiative established to integrate least-developed countries into the global economy has been largely ineffectual in accomplishing its aims. According to the report, the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least-Developed Countries -- a project of the World Bank, UNCTAD, the IMF, the WTO, the UNDP and the International Trade Commission -- has suffered from severe confusion over its activities and goals. The report found that donor organisations with different institutional mandates often disagreed about the Integrated Framework's approach, while recipient countries criticised the Framework for its emphasis on technical assistance over infrastructure development and direct aid. The report concludes, however, that the initiative should be continued with a single agency, the WTO, primarily responsible for its management. In early July, senior officials from each of the six sponsoring organisations will meet to discuss the report, which may become part of the agenda of the upcoming G-8 summit in Okinawa, Japan. More information about the Integrated Framework is available at <http://www.ldc.org>. "Pioneering Trade Scheme 'Riddled With Problems'," FINANCIAL TIMES, 21 June 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

GMO NEWSBRIEFS

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation convened an exploratory working group on the Phytosanitary Aspects of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), Biosafety, and Invasive Species from 13-16 June 2000. The meeting examined the relationship between genetically modified organisms, biosafety rules, and the IPPC, which is identified as a key standard-setting body under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The preliminary working group concluded that if GMOs are found to be plant pests, they may be covered under IPPC rules and standards. More information about this meeting, including background papers and documents, is available at: http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/AGRICULT/AGP/AGPP/PQ/En/Archive/WG_GMOs/biosaf.htm or by contacting Christina.devorshak@fao.org.

At the International Grains Council 2000 Conference on 14-16 June in Regina, Canada, Egyptian Minister of Supply and Internal Trade Hassan Khedr warned delegates that food-importing developing countries could become the unwilling recipients of genetically modified food products. "The question is how to avoid using LDCs as guinea pigs for genetically-modified products," he said. Though consumers in wealthier countries can afford to choose whether to buy GM food products, said Khedr, consumers in poor countries may not be able to afford that choice.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released two reports on 15 June encouraging its members to seek greater harmonisation of their policies and standards for genetically modified foods. The "Report of the Task Force for the Safety of Novel Food and Feeds" and "Report of the Working Group for the Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology" were produced for the July summit of the Group of Eight (G-8) in Okinawa, where biotechnology and food safety will be among the major topics of discussion.

The reports, which compared environmental and public health assessments of GMOs, concluded that greater regulatory harmonisation would help countries develop effective standards for the 'second generation' of genetically modified organisms. 'Second generation' GMOs include plants that are modified for medicinal, industrial, or nutritional purposes, as opposed to 'first generation' plants modified to increase crop yields through genetically enhanced pest resistance. More advanced regulatory strategies will be needed in the future, said the report, because 'second generation' GMOs require "more complicated modifications (with several genes) than the 'first generation' products." The OECD reports are available at http://www.oecd.org/subject/biotech/g8_docs.htm.

Greenpeace-Canada released a report on 6 June alleging that approvals of genetically modified crops are based on "junk science." The 70-page report, prepared by Ecostrat, a Swiss consultancy specialising in ecological assessments of biotechnology, argues that the studies used to justify GMO approval suffer from methodological flaws that invalidate their findings. Greenpeace spokesperson Michael Khoo noted in particular that studies conducted for the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Novartis Bt corn were "based on false assumptions and shoddy methodology." The Ecostrat paper reported similar findings for trials conducted in Europe, and Greenpeace claims that Canadian trials were also flawed. The full report is available at: <http://www.greenpeacecanada.org/publications/ge/hillbeckreport.pdf>.

The United States and the European Union established an independent panel on biotechnology products on 31 May to study the benefits and risks of biotechnology and respond to concerns about possible threats to food safety. The panel is comprised of 20 leading scientists, ethicists, and policy analysts from the EU and the United States, including Dr. Norman Borlaug, who won the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on the "Green Revolution." The group is to consider the relationship between agricultural biotechnology and a diverse array of other concerns, including the food-security needs of developing countries, food safety, health, economic development, and the

environment. Results from the panel's investigations will be unveiled at the December 2000 US-EU summit.

India has announced that it has initiated trials on genetically modified crops and is exploring the possibility of cultivating them domestically. Agriculture Minister Sundar Lal Patwa said, however, that while India was not opposed to introducing GM crops, it would carefully monitor their performance in other countries before permitting domestic production. Indian activists reacted strongly against the government's decision to allow field trials, and the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology has filed a petition at the Indian Supreme Court challenging the legality of GM field-testing.

"OECD Reports Support Safety of Biotech Foods," WASHINGTON FILE, 16 June 2000; "Scientists Expose 'Junk Science' Behind Genetically Modified Corn Approvals," CANADA NEWswire, 6 June 2000; "US-EU Set Panel on Biotechnology," REUTERS, 1 June 2000; "US and EU Establish Biotechnology Consultative Forum," WASHINGTON FILE, 13 June 2000; "The Newcomer: Transgenic Cotton Is Poised to Enter the Indian Market," CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT, 15 June 2000; "India Examining GM Crop Options," REUTERS, 29 May 2000; "Egyptian Minister Complains about GM Food Exports," REUTERS, 16 June 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO MEETS ON SPS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The WTO on 19-20 June held a workshop on analysing management of risks to health in the context of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS). The workshop was followed on 21-22 June by a meeting of the Committee on SPS Measures.

Participants at the workshop included officials from WTO Member governments whose duties include preparing and implementing measures that deal with food safety and animal and plant protection. According to Mr. Frank Wolter, Director of the WTO Secretariat's Agriculture Division, "The objective of this workshop is to shed light on the complex relationship between risk analysis and the disciplines of the WTO agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures."

At the formal SPS meeting, two new trade issues were raised. The first comments were by the Philippines, pertaining to Australia's restrictions on fresh fruits, the disagreement over which has since been resolved. (see related story on dispute settlement, this issue) The second comment was from Hungary pertaining to Turkey's ban on imports of live cattle and beef meat; however, at the time of the meeting, Turkish officials were not prepared to respond, and the parties agreed that the issue would be addressed at a later meeting.

Also on the agenda was the adoption of Article 5.5 guidelines. Article 5.5 of the SPS agreement urges members to manage comparable risks consistently and to avoid arbitrary distinctions. The guidelines were initially worked out in the 15-16 March informal meeting of the SPS Committee after five years of negotiations, at which point they were provisionally adopted. At the meeting last week, Egypt's request to insert some amendments from its capital into the guidelines was rejected

by other Members, who stated that it was too late for revisions at this stage. Egypt has been given until 14 July to respond; meantime the guidelines remain provisionally adopted.

ICTSD Internal Files.

IN BRIEF

EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries Franz Fischler on 21 June blasted a US decision to provide US\$15 billion in supplementary support to US farmers. "Providing supplementary support of over \$15 000m to US farmers severely undermines the credibility of the frequent US statements on the need for a global reduction in agricultural support. In fact, US direct support to agriculture has increased by about 700 percent since 1996. Time and again the US denounces other countries, in particular the EU, for providing support to their farmers while at the same time, year after year, they provide special financial packages for their own farmers," Mr. Fischler said. He also warned the US not to attempt to circumvent "their WTO spending limit by misclassifying these financial handouts," according to a EU statement. "EU Commissioner Fischler reacts to increased payments to US farmers," EU PRESS RELEASE (4D4MKR), 22 June 2000.

At a recent World Bank conference on development in Paris, French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin called on governments to create a World Environment Organisation (WEO) that would ensure their compliance with international environmental commitments. Citing concerns that global policy remains relatively undeveloped in the area of the environment, Jospin promised to pursue an international environmental body when France assumes the presidency of the EU on 1 July. According to Jospin, a WEO would be similar in scope to institutions like the WTO and would work closely with existing organisations such as the United Nations Environment Programme. "The time has come to tackle the problem of the architecture of global regulation," he said. "We must complete this architecture where it is deficient, where organisations are missing, to ensure respect for international commitments in this sphere." "France to Propose World Environmental Organisation," REUTERS, 26 June 2000.

The World Bank on 19 June released its "Securing Our Future in a Global Economy," a major annual study on Latin America and the Caribbean. The report finds that economic volatility has not increased in Latin America and the Caribbean in the 1990s compared to the 1980s, noting further that gross domestic product per person grew about 1.5 percent per year in the region during the 1990s compared to a decline of 0.7 percent during the 1980s. However, these numbers have not translated to optimism for the general population. A 1999 World Bank survey of the region found that almost two thirds of respondents said their parents had lived better, and less than half thought their children would have better lives than themselves. "Latin America disagrees with World Bank assessment," IPS, 22 June 2000; "World Bank calls for stronger social policy in Latin America," FINANCIAL TIMES, 20 June 2000.

WTO IN BRIEF

Lebanon on 21 June called on the UN and the international community to increase technical assistance towards Lebanon's application for WTO membership. Lebanon gained observer status at

the WTO in April 1999, and since that time has passed intellectual property rights legislation, privatisation laws and next year plans to introduce a value-added tax and lower import tariffs. Lebanon is one of five Arab countries applying to join WTO. The others are Algeria, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. "WTO bid needs technical help," DAILY STAR (Lebanon), 22 June 2000.

The US House of Representatives on 21 June voted 363-56 to reject a resolution requiring the US to withdraw from the WTO. Under US Congressional rules a resolution may be introduced to Congress every five years calling for US withdrawal from the WTO. "House Rejects Challenge to WTO Membership," REUTERS, 22 June 2000.

At the 22 June meeting of the General Council Special Session on Implementation, WTO Members adopted a work programme that outlined the range of issues to be discussed at the Implementation sessions up to December 2000, with an indication that further meetings will be held in 2001 (see http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres00_e/pr184_e.htm). The meeting will continue on 3 July, and *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest will report on the outcomes in the next issue.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS

• Coming Up This Week

26-27 June, Paris, France: OECD COUNCIL MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. The OECD Council will meet under the chairmanship of Australia. Journalists wishing to cover the Council meeting can register online at: <http://www.oecd.org/Forum2000/About/press.htm>; for information see Internet: <http://www.oecd.org>.

26-28 June, Paris, France: OECD/OCDE FORUM 2000 "PARTNERSHIPS IN THE NEW ECONOMY." Sponsored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Forum's objective is to impart and share information, improve communication and foster a climate of enlightened policy-making in the global public interest. For information contact: Caroline Stevens, Touchstone Exhibitors and Conferences Ltd., 4 Red Lion Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1RW UK; tel: (44-0) 20-8-322-0044; fax: (44-0) 20- 8-322-0874; Internet: <http://www.oecd.org/forum2000>.

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 UN New York 10017 USA; tel: (1-212) 963-5855; fax: 963- 3062; email: esa@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev>.

26-30 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRIPs COUNCIL MEETING. On the agenda (*inter alia*): observer status for international intergovernmental organisations; notifications; technical cooperation; review of Article 27.3(b); review of the implementation of the agreement under Article 71.1; and non-violation complaints. For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, Information and

Media Relations Division, WTO, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 739-5412; email: peter.ungphakorn@wto.org; Internet: <http://www.wto.org/wto/intellect/intellect.htm>.

27 June 2000, Buenos Aires, Argentina: NGO MEETING ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MERCOSUR SUB-GROUP 6. Convened by Fundación ECOS. Civil society organisations from Mercosur countries will propose a common action to be adopted by the representatives of government bodies in the areas of foreign trade and environment. For information contact: Miguel Reynal or Maria Leichner; tel: (59-8) 427-712-52; email: ecos@adinet.com.uy; Internet: <http://www.fundacionecos.org>.

27-28 June: WTO COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5374.

28 June: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5412.

28 June: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5075.

28 June, Coimbra, Portugal: EU-INDIA SUMMIT. For information contact: European Commission, Trade DG, Information Unit; fax: (32-2) 296-9854; email: eis@dgl.cec.be; Internet: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade>.

28 June, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD SEMINAR ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. Organised by the UN Conference on Trade and Development. This seminar will address several questions, including: How can the least developed countries (LDCs) be successfully integrated into the globalised economy? What are the linkages between poverty alleviation, debt relief and social investment? What are the options for enhancing women's entrepreneurship in LDCs? The seminar is part of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001. For information contact Chitra Radhakishun; tel:(41-22) 917-5695/5899; fax: 907-0122; email: chitra.radhakishun@unctad.org.

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." It 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, email: mariko.hara@unep.ch, and include an explanation of your interest.

29 June, Geneva: WTO ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON "TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: MOVING THE AGENDA FORWARD". Discussion will focus on what is needed at the national and international levels to ensure that countries and their citizens benefit from trade. Views will be discussed by representatives from an NGO, from an academic institution, from business, from two trade-related inter-governmental organisations and from a developing country government. The meeting is public and will take place from 10 to 12:30am in the Centre

International de Genève (CICG), Rue de Varembe 15, Geneva. For information contact: Bernie Kuiten, WTO External Relations, tel: (41- 22) 739-5676; email: bernard.kuiten@wto.org.

29 & 30 June: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE - SPECIAL SESSION. For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO Information and Media Relations, (41-22) 739-5412.

30 June, Geneva, Switzerland: THE CONTROVERSY OVER LABOUR/TRADE ISSUES IN THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM: THE ROLE OF THE WTO, ILO, EU, & OECD. Sponsored by the project on International Organisations and the Social Aspects of Trade Liberalisation of the PSIO and IUHEI. This meeting will include two roundtable discussions for participants in the Geneva 2000 Forum. For information contact: Philippe Borel, Geneva, tel: (41-22) 731-1730.

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

3 July, Geneva: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION ON IMPLEMENTATION (continued from 22 June). For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

3 July, Geneva: WTO WORKING PARTY ON ACCESSION OF ALBANIA. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

• **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.

4 July, Geneva: WTO INFORMAL GENERAL COUNCIL. Members will discuss e-commerce; observer status for intergovernmental organisations; procedures for appointment of the Director-General; and procedures for circulation and de-restriction of WTO documents. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

5 July, Geneva: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. This session, called by the US, will address the implementation of the recommendations of the DSB by the US in its dispute with the UK over countervailing duties on steel products originating in the UK. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

5-6 July, Geneva: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES - REVIEW OF ARTICLE II (MFN) EXEMPTIONS. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

6 July, Geneva: WTO WORKING PARTY ON ACCESSION OF OMAN. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

7 July, Geneva: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

• **Other Forthcoming Events**

3-4 July, Brussels, Belgium: ONEWORLD EUROPE MEETING WITH THE WORLD BANK. This meeting is a chance to discuss the Bank's plan for a global development gateway on the internet. The meeting is also an opportunity for civil society organisations to help shape this new initiative. For information visit: <http://www.oneworld.net/europe/en/news/gdg>.

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 intricacy of food security, safety, health and nutrition issues in 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 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.

12 July: INTERNET CHAT WITH EUROPEAN TRADE COMMISSIONER PASCAL LAMY. Commissioner Lamy will discuss how the accession of China to the WTO reinforces the need to reflect on how to reform the multilateral trading system in order to be better organised and further liberalised in the interest of the citizen and businesses of all sizes. That it is why the EU continues to work for the launch of a comprehensive new trade round. The EU believes a new round should not be limited to traditional issues such as market access, but must also address new issues of concern to citizens the world over such as health, the environment, and consumer protection which are essential for the harmonious and sustainable development of trade. Mr. Lamy will be online between 6:00 and 8 :00 pm (Central European Time, which is between 1pm and 3pm Washington Time and 13 July 2000 between 0am and 2am Beijing Time) For more information, visit: http://europa.eu.int/comm/chat/lamy3/index_en.htm

RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy for review by the BRIDGES staff to hcameron@ictsd.ch. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact mgalvin@ictsd.ch).

TRADE LIBERALIZATION IN THE CARIBBEAN. By Janet Stotsky, Esther Suss, and Stephen Tokarick. In *Finance & Development*, v. 37, no. 2; June 2000; pp.22-25. Since the mid-1990s, the governments of Caribbean countries have demonstrated a firm commitment to trade liberalisation. This article addresses what steps they have taken, what have the results been, and what further steps should they consider taking?

TANZANIA'S EXPERIENCE WITH TRADE LIBERALIZATION, by Oussama Kanaan, in *Finance & Development*, v. 37, no. 2; June 2000; pp.30-33. After Tanzania's economy deteriorated during the 1970s and early 1980s, it took a series of bold steps to liberalise trade. This article addresses how successful have these efforts been in improving Tanzania's economic performance, and what lessons can other developing countries derive from its experience?

THE PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH - MAKING IT WORK FOR FISH AND FISHERMAN, in *Fishermen's News*, June 2000, p.13-15. The article, by Molly Thomas and Zeke Grader, is intended to eliminate fears about the Precautionary Principle, the centerpiece for the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other recent fisheries legislation, and discuss how it should be approached and used by the fishing fleet. For information, visit: <http://www.fishermensnews.com>, or visit: <http://www.pond.net/~pcffa/fn-jun00.htm>.

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 and Albert Cho; written by Judy Brienza (IATP) and edited by Hugo Cameron, hcameron@ictsd.ch. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, 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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