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WTO: MEMBERS CAUTIOUS ABOUT NEXT STEPS

WTO Director-General Mike Moore and trade officials from WTO Member countries continue to downgrade prospects for launching a new round of global trade talks. Members' scepticism has also grown over whether the WTO will be able to take up its built-in agenda of trade talks in agriculture and services.

Japanese trade officials last week proposed to Mr. Moore that the WTO focus on institutional improvement before moving forward with any talks on sectoral liberalisation. Director-General of Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry Hidehiro Konno said that WTO Members should focus on six areas in need of improvement, specifically: improvement of the internal WTO consultation process; improvements in the dispute settlement process; increased transparency of the WTO to non-governmental groups; capacity-building for developing countries; increased market access for least-developed countries; resolving issues related to the 1 January 2000 implementation deadline for the WTO agreements on intellectual property rights; and investment measures.

In various statements to the press, Mr. Moore was less than optimistic about the prospects for trade talks in the near term. He noted that he had "yet to see movement of a substantial nature" towards resolving the strong differences that emerged around the Seattle Ministerial meeting (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 2, 18 January 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.18-01-00>). Mr. Moore also noted that there is general

consensus against holding another WTO ministerial meeting until there is an agreed agenda. It is generally believed that a new ministerial meeting would not take place before the US Presidential election in November 2000.

Regarding criticisms that the WTO's large Member base (135 Member countries) and the disparate economic situations amongst Members contributed to the downfall of the Seattle talks, Mr. Moore noted that the WTO must tread lightly regarding any reform around membership and representation. "There are a number of smaller countries that fear that a reform based on a constituency (e.g. trade-weighted) basis or a committee would leave them out," Mr. Moore said.

UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretary-General Rubens Ricupero on 18 January warned against pursuing form over substance in the aftermath of Seattle. "When people talk about getting a [new round of trade talks] on the agenda again, they talk about improving the [WTO] process. But process doesn't mean a thing if it is separated from content, from substance. They go hand in hand. There is no amount of process engineering that will solve this problem. It may even make it worse," Mr. Ricupero said.

WTO Members are scheduled to meet on 7 February for a meeting of the WTO General Council, where little progress is expected on outstanding issues from Seattle. Indeed, many delegates are raising -if only for the fun of it- all sort of queries regarding the technical legality of a General Council which meets during a "suspended Ministerial Conference" and a before the last General Council of 1999 is adjourned. Observers note that the next few months are likely to be used for continued post-mortems on Seattle, and for informal consultations among members at upcoming international meetings. These include the World Economic Forum underway in Davos, Switzerland next week, as well as the quadrennial policy-setting UNCTAD X summit from 12-19 February in Thailand. Meanwhile the "Geneva machinery" seems to have been paralysed by the watershed in Seattle.

"WTO at most to relaunch work with modest program, consultations," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 21 January 2000; "SEATTLE: All at sea since storm," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 20 January 2000; "Moore downbeat on prospects for world trade talks," *REUTERS*, 18 January 2000; "Uncertainty lingers over new round despite efforts to break impasse," *KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL*, 20 January 2000; "UNCTAD chief says WTO structural reform not enough," *REUTERS*, 18 January 2000. ICTSD Internal Files.

BIOSAFETY TALKS UNDERWAY

Talks got underway in Montréal, Canada, on 24 January for an Extraordinary Conference of the Parties (ExCOP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Negotiators from over 150 countries will attempt to conclude an international biosafety protocol to ensure the safe transfer, handling, use and disposal of living modified organisms (LMOs, often referred to as genetically modified organisms or GMOs). (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 2, 18 January 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.18-01-00.htm>).

EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom said in advance of the Montréal meeting that the Protocol must address the concerns of consumers worldwide and the special needs of developing countries. "We need to take the concerns of the citizens about the safety of biotechnology seriously. The Protocol should in particular help developing countries that do not yet have adequate

mechanisms to deal with imports of living modified organisms. It should enable them to take decisions that they are confident with. We want a Protocol that contributes to the reduction of environmental risks by ensuring a fair sharing of responsibilities and good co-operation between exporting and importing countries," Ms. Wallstrom said.

Among the issues to be resolved in Montréal is the relationship between the CBD and other international agreements (e.g. WTO agreements). In advance of the talks, US officials warned countries against trying to use the Protocol to override the rights and obligations of countries under other international agreements. US officials also stated that the Protocol should not be used as a tool to limit trade in GMOs.

The EU agreed that the protocol should not inhibit trade, but remains steadfast in its insistence on a Biosafety Protocol based on the so-called Precautionary Principle. Most developing countries have joined the EU in support of the precautionary principle as a key driver in any agreed protocol.

The Principle, often used in environmental policy, holds that where there are threats of serious or irreversible harm, lack of scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing action. In a trade sense, the Principle could be employed to allow preventive measures -- such as an import ban -- to be used when scientific evidence is lacking. In the case of the Biosafety Protocol, the Precautionary Principle is most relevant to the issues of commodities and of advanced informed consent (informing an importer of the presence of GMOs).

Friends of the Earth, among other leading environmental groups, is a staunch supporter of the precautionary principle. "Countries should have the right to say no or put conditions on the imports of GMOs," said a spokesperson for Friends of the Earth. Environmental and other civil society groups will have an unofficial presence at the Montréal talks. While not invited to participate in the negotiations, these groups plan to protest and otherwise influence negotiators to ensure that trade concerns do not weaken the Biosafety Protocol.

BRIDGES Weekly News Digest will report on the Montréal talks in subsequent issues.

"Biotech talks resume on Jan 24," THE NATION (Nairobi), 13 January 2000; "U.S. says biosafety pact should not supersede WTO," REUTERS, 15 January 2000; "EU environment official outlines Biosafety Protocol stand," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 17 January 2000; "US says biosafety deal can be reached, despite differences with EU," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 19 January 2000; "Green groups hope to influence biosafety talks," REUTERS, 21 January 2000.

REGIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

The Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur, comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay and associate members Bolivia and Chile) continues its efforts to regroup after a year of trade tensions between its members. Mercosur is the world's third-largest trading bloc: intra-Mercosur trade accounts for about US\$15 billion annually. In January 1999, Brazil devalued its currency (the real), which ignited trade tensions among its members, most notably between Brazil and Argentina.

Argentina last week announced measures aimed at combating contraband imports and curbing industrial flight to neighbouring economic powerhouse Brazil. Argentinian Industry Secretary

Debora Giorgi also said Argentina would seek to clarify trade rules within the bloc to protect members against regional economic volatility. "[Mercosur] needs a clause that triggers economic compensation to other member nations if one country unilaterally alters its macroeconomic policy, like we saw with the real," Ms. Giorgi said.

In other Mercosur news, associate-member Chile is expected to move toward full membership in the trade bloc within the next few years. This could signal a move away from its long-held aspirations of joining the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the US, Mexico and Canada. Chile's NAFTA hopes have been stalled by the inability of the Clinton Administration to secure so-called fast-track trade negotiating authority necessary to conclude free trade talks with Chile.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) on 12 January announced that the grouping had signed and ratified a trade accord that aims to establish a regional free trade bloc amongst the grouping's 14 members. The trade agreement, expected to launch in April, would phase out tariffs on all "non-sensitive" products by 2008; by 2012 the grouping expects fully liberalised trade. "This level of trade would give international credibility to the SADC trade protocol in the context of [WTO] rules," SADC interim executive secretary Preg Ramsamy said earlier this month. The SADC agreement had been delayed while negotiators continued to discuss the thorny issue of market access to regional economic powerhouse South Africa and its partners in the South African Customs Union (SACU) (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 4, No. 1, 10 January 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.10-01-00.htm>).

Elsewhere, India on 14 January imposed an import ban on Pakistani cotton, citing phytosanitary considerations. India's textile commissioner said that potentially destructive pests had been found in imported bales of Pakistani cotton. Pakistani officials warned that India's action could be in violation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) if it cannot show adequate scientific evidence for the ban.

"Argentina takes tough line on Brazilian trade," REUTERS, 17 January 2000; "Chile's Lagos eyes full Mercosur membership," REUTERS, 18 January 2000; "SADC trade pact to be implemented in April: official," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 12 January 2000; "Authorities stop registering import contracts for cotton from Pakistan," ECONOMIC TIMES (India), 14 January 2000.

EU EXCITED OVER MEXICO ACCORD; STALLED WITH S. AFRICA

The European Commission (EC) on 18 January recommended for approval an EU-Mexico free trade agreement covering industrial tariffs, agricultural goods, and preferential agreements in services, public procurement, investment, competition rules and intellectual property.

Under the agreement, Mexico would phase out import tariffs on all EU industrial goods by 2007 while the EU would extend duty-free access to Mexican industrial products by 2003. Industrial goods account for about 93 percent of the estimated US\$11.3 billion in annual EU-Mexico trade. The agreement offers more modest liberalisation in agricultural goods, which account for essentially the remaining seven percent in EU-Mexico trade. While sixty-two percent of bilateral trade in agriculture will be fully liberalised, the deal excludes key products such as sugar, dairy, beef and grains. Regarding financial services, the agreement allows EU banks and insurance companies to operate directly in Mexico and includes a commitment to liberalise investment rules.

After the US, the EU is Mexico's second largest trading partner, accounting for about nine percent of goods imported into Mexico and three percent of exports. Mexico hopes the accord will help diversify its export market, now overwhelmingly dependent on the US. The EU hopes the deal will greatly increase the competitiveness of EU products in Mexico and give the bloc greater access to the Canadian and US markets. The deal now moves to the EU Council of Ministers (representing EU governments) and the Mexican senate for approval. Officials for both sides said they expect a decision by mid-2000.

In other news, EU and South African trade officials last week failed to break an impasse over implementation of an EU - S. Africa free trade agreement. The agreement would liberalise over 90 percent of the US\$20 billion in annual bilateral trade between the EU and S. Africa, and was to enter into force on 1 January. Greece and Italy announced their refusal to implement the deal in opposition to the yet-to-be-concluded wine and spirits component of the accord, where so-called "geographical denominations" (e.g. "grappa", "port", or "sherry") are addressed. Italy and Greece want to ensure that their "grappa" and "ouzo" denominations respectively are protected to the same extent as sherry and port have been in previous drafts of a wine and spirits agreement.

S. African lawmakers and business community representatives urged their trade officials to stand firm against further concessions to EU demands. South Africa's Parliament urged its trade negotiators to reject "any pressures that will set precedents far wider than these bilateral negotiations", according to a Parliament statement.

"Both sides should accept that equitable competition and market forces should prevail. Or are the Europeans bent on another form of veiled protectionism?" Kevin Wakeford, head of the South African Chamber of Commerce said in the S. African press.

A Greek trade official noted that Greece is also wary of setting precedents, noting that the EU - S.Africa wine and spirits agreement could weaken the EU's ability to protect geographical indicators in trade negotiations with other (e.g. South American) countries with developed wine and spirits sectors. Negotiators are expected to resume talks on 26 January.

"Brussels backs tariffs deal with Mexico," FINANCIAL TIMES, 19 January 2000; "Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament accompanying the final text of the draft decisions by the EC-Mexico Joint Council: Summary," EC PRESS RELEASE, 18 January 2000; "EU Commission sends Mexico trade deal to Council for approval," INSIDE US TRADE, 21 January 2000; "EC urges EU member states to back Mexico trade pact," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 19 January 2000; "Talks to save EU-S.Africa trade deal drag on," REUTERS, 19 January 2000; "EU seeks to resolve row threatening S Africa trade pact," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 14 January 2000.

EU & ACP DRAG HEELS ON LOMÉ WAIVER

The EU and the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) group have yet to apply for an extension to the current WTO waiver for the EU-ACP preferential market access arrangement known as Lomé IV. The current Lomé IV waiver expires at the end of February 2000, but, according to Article IX of the WTO's Marrakesh Agreement, a request for a waiver must be submitted to the appropriate body (in this case, the Council for Trade in Goods) for a consideration period of up to 90 days

before a waiver can be granted. The EU and ACP have had to acquire a waiver for Lomé under the WTO since 1994 as its parameters contravene certain WTO obligations by providing lower barriers for entry of ACP goods to the EU than for imports from other WTO Members.

The two country groupings are still in the process of negotiating a replacement to the Lomé agreement, and will be meeting 2-3 February in an attempt to finalise a new accord (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* - Vol. 4, No. 2, 18 January 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/wtoinbrief.18-01-00.htm>). Ratification of a new arrangement could take as long as a year, so EU and ACP leaders have agreed to try and extend Lomé IV in the interim period.

Should the EU and ACP fail to apply for a waiver before 29 February, they will likely have to wait at least 90 days before Members can approve (either by consensus or by a qualified 3/4 vote) another waiver. This could mean that during that 3-month period any preferential trade arrangements between the EU and ACP could be subject to challenge by other Members as being non WTO-compatible. Since the waiver application takes place through the Council for Trade in Goods, and since the next Goods Council meeting is not scheduled until 5 April, this 'window' could be for an even longer period of time.

EU officials are not concerned that the preferential trade laws will come under fire. Said one EU trade representative, "we will only be without a waiver for a very short period of time, and it would not be worth it for other Members to bring a case to the WTO." The official also expressed optimism that the waiver would be granted by the WTO if it comes to a vote by the Members. The EU is pushing for the ACP to replace the preferential market access arrangement with a series of regional trade agreements by 2008, ostensibly in an attempt to bring EU-ACP trade further into conformity with the WTO.

ICTSD Internal Files.

CLIMATE CHANGE REAL; FRANCE, WORLD BANK OFFER REDUCTION PLANS

A new report by the US National Research Council of the National Academies released on 12 January says that strong evidence exists to show that the warming of the Earth's surface is "undoubtedly real", and that surface temperatures in the past two decades have risen at a rate substantially greater than average for the past 100 years. The report, entitled "Reconciling Observations of Global Temperature Change", examines differences in temperature data between surface and upper-air temperatures - a conflict that has given rise to scepticism over the existence of global warming.

"The differences between the surface and upper-air trends in no way invalidates the conclusion that the Earth's temperature is rising", said John M. Wallace, chair of the panel that wrote the report. To provide policy-makers with the best available information, a better climate monitoring system is needed to ensure continuity and quality in data collection, the panel said, to include measurements of not only temperature and wind, but ozone, water vapour, clouds, and aerosols as well. The panel also said the climate change data should be made more accessible to the entire research community to ensure continuous improvements in measurements.

In other climate change news, France on 19 January put forward an action plan aimed at helping the country meet its commitment to maintain greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels in 2010, as prescribed by the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate change. The Kyoto Protocol -adopted in December 1997 but not yet in force, requires industrial nations to collectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2008-2112. The French plan includes, *inter alia*, taxes on energy consumption and emissions and stricter standards for transportation, farm, and waste sectors. The energy tax plan is yet to be finalised but could likely be implemented by 2001. The action plan also calls for limiting the maximum speed capacity of automobiles driven within the EU as a way to reduce both fuel consumption and polluting emissions.

The World Bank on 18 January launched its Prototype Carbon Fund (PCF), which the Bank billed as the first market-based mechanism to address climate change. Funded by contributions from governments and private enterprise, the PCF will invest in cleaner technologies in developing countries. Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the technologies will be independently verified and certified, and then transferred to PCF contributors (governments and firms) in the form of emissions reduction certificates. The US\$150 million fund will commence in April 2000. Thus far Finland, The Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden have committed to participate in the fund, as have some private firms, including the electric power companies of Tokyo, Chubu, Chugoku, Kyushu, Shikoku, and Tohoku, the trading houses Mitsubishi and Mitsui, and the electric utility company Electrabel of Belgium.

"The PCF offers a tremendous opportunity to boost financial and technology flows to developing countries at a time when government-to-government transfers have fallen to historically low levels", said James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank. "We are determined to explore how market-based mechanisms such as the PCF - involving the considerable financial muscle of the private sector - can contribute to addressing the twin challenges of climate change and sustainable development", Mr. Wolfensohn said.

"New evidence helps reconcile global warming discrepancies; confirms that earth's surface temperature is rising," NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES PRESS RELEASE, 14 January 2000; "Global warming undoubtedly real, blue ribbon panel finds," ENS, 14 January 2000; "Deux fois plus de gaz en deux siècles," LA TRIBUNE, 20 January 2000; "Country finalising climate change action plan that includes energy tax," INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTER, 19 January 2000; "World Bank launches first-of-its-kind market-based carbon fund," WORLD BANK PRESS RELEASE, (2000/176/S), 18 January 2000; "World Bank fund offers gas emission certificates," REUTERS, 19 January 2000.

IN BRIEF

On 24 January, China and the EU began intensive bilateral talks regarding the terms for China's accession to the WTO. This will be the first in-depth negotiation between the two parties since November 1999. Negotiators will be discussing outstanding EU requests concerning the opening and reform of the Chinese economy. However, EU officials have stated that China's agreement with the US on WTO entry meets approximately 80 percent of the EU's demands. EU officials have stated that this could be the final round of technical negotiations, with a final agreement to be concluded at a later meeting of China's Foreign Trade Minister Shi Guansheng and EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy. EU officials described the first day of talks as "constructive". *BRIDGES* will report on the outcome of the negotiations in the next issue. "U.S. Urges EU, China

to Speed Up WTO Talks," REUTERS, 20 January, 2000; "China and EU in WTO talks," FINANCIAL TIMES, 25 January 2000; "EU and Chinese negotiators to meet in Brussels for talks on Chinese Accession to the World Trade Organisation," TRADE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESS RELEASE, 21 January, 2000.

The US Trade Representative (USTR) and Commerce Department announced on 11 January that they have appealed a 5 January 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. "Administration to work closely with NGOs, but has appealed ruling on advisory groups," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 20 January 2000; "US government takes a beating from civil society," SUNS, 14 January 2000.

Cargill Dow Polymers, a joint venture between the Cargill Incorporated and the Dow Chemical Company, on 11 January announced plans to build a facility in Nebraska, USA to manufacture plastic products from corn. The facility will produce a line of durable corn-based plastic goods made with hydrocarbon-based fibres and packaging that are able to compete in cost and performance with conventional hydrocarbon-based plastics. "Corn becomes plastic at huge new Nebraska factory," ENS, 11 January 2000.

The government of Bangladesh announced that it would help fund textile factories to implement higher environmental standards. Textile industry and government officials said the effort seeks to build on Bangladesh's success in eradicating child labour from textile factories, which officials credit for helping boost exports to the EU. "Bangladesh textile firms to become environmentally friendly," REUTERS, 19 January 2000.

WTO IN BRIEF

The WTO's four Deputy Directors-General (DDGs) last week were appointed their respective areas of responsibility. Ablassé Ouedraogo of Burkina Faso -- the WTO's first DDG from a Least-Developed Country -- will be responsible for the areas of Development, External Relations, Informatics, Textiles, and Trade and Finance. In charge of Accessions, TRIPs, Statistics, Technical Cooperation, Trade and Environment, and Training is France's Paul-Henri Ravier. Venezuelan Miguel Rodríguez-Mendoza will take up responsibility for the areas of Agriculture & Commodities, Council, Economic Research & Analysis, Rules, and Trade Policy Review. Finally, Andrew Stoller of the US will take care of Finance, Admin and General Services, Legal Affairs, Market Access, Personnel, and Trade in Services. The DDGs were chosen last November for terms of three years. ICTSD Internal Files.

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 20-22 January conducted a training workshop to better familiarise professionals in developing countries with the dispute settlement procedures at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), and the World Bank. UNCTAD convened the workshop in response to developing countries' concerns over a lack of knowledge regarding dispute settlement procedures, which has resulted in difficulties in settling disputes and additional costs for businesses and governments. The workshop, held in Chavannes-de-Bogis, Switzerland, was attended by participants from 40

countries. "UNCTAD organises workshop on dispute settlement," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 18 January 2000.

The WTO's Director General has commissioned studies on decision-making procedures and institutional reform issues, has transcended in diplomatic circles in Geneva. The study or studies would be critical in addressing the issue of inclusiveness in negotiating practices when and if the talks for a new round take off again. Meanwhile, a spirited internal debate has arisen regarding whether the WTO should "re-brand" itself or re-focus on its core competences. In particular, debate has centred on the question of whether the WTO should respond to external criticisms, including those of NGOs, by implementing reforms similar to those carried out at the World Bank and IMF, such as improved communications and outreach efforts. Such an approach is seen by others as fundamentally misguided. They stress that the WTO should focus on trade liberalisation and the smooth functioning of the trade system rather than responding to external critics. ICTSD Internal Files

EVENTS & RESOURCES

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

- **WTO Meetings**

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at <http://www.wto.org/wto/about/meets.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.

15 February: COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO; tel: (41-22) 739-5393

- **Other Events**

2 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INSTITUTIONAL REFORM: A DEVELOPMENTAL PERSPECTIVE. Sponsored by the South Centre Pilot Project on WTO and Oxfam, GB. This workshop will address, *inter alia*: Developing Countries and Institutional Reform of the WTO: WTO Institutional Reform, Taking Stock of Proposals Made To Date; and Developing Countries, the WTO and Global Governance. For information contact: the South Centre, Ch. Du Champ d'Anier 17, POB 228, 1211 Geneva 19; tel: (41-22) 719-8050; fax: 789-8531; email: south@southcentre.org; web: <http://www.southcentre.org>

4 February, Brussels, Belgium: CONFERENCE ON GMOs AND WORLD TRADE. This event is sponsored by ICDA (International Coalition For Development Action). For information contact: Ida Belling, tel: (32-2) 295-1334; email: ida.belling@cece.eu.int or Anna Albovias, tel: (32-2) 295-2355; email: st2b1@dg24.cec.be

9-10 February, Bangkok, Thailand: POST-SEATTLE FORUM ON TRADE AND AGRICULTURE: ADVANCING THE CALL TO TAKE AGRICULTURE OUT OF THE WTO.

This forum is sponsored by the International South Group Network in cooperation with Focus on the Global South and PKMM-Philippines (National Association of Patriotic Peasants) and is among several NGO activities around the UNCTAD X Conference. Some topics to be covered include: The WTO Fiasco in Seattle: Analysis and Prospects; UNCTAD and Which Way Forward for Developing Nations; and The WTO Review of the Agreement on Agriculture: Issues and Problems. For information contact: Naty Bernardino, ISGN-Manila c/o Resource Center for People's Development (RCPD); tel/fax: (1-632) 436-1831; email: rcpd@info.com.ph or isgn@tri-isys.com; or Alice Raymundo, PKMM; tel/fax: (1-632) 912-3962; email: alice@info.com.ph

16 - 22 March, The Hague, Netherlands: SECOND WORLD WATER FORUM AND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. For information contact: Second World Water Forum, c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DML/PS), P.O. Box 2006, 2500 EB The Hague, The Netherlands; tel: (31-70) 348-5402; fax: 348-6792, email: secretariat@worldwaterforum.org; web: <http://www.worldwaterforum.org/information.html>

20 - 23 March, Riga, Latvia: GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN EUROPE. For information contact: Ilona Jepsen, Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development, 25 Peldu street, 1494 Riga, Latvia; tel: (371) 702-6517, fax: 782-0442; email: daba@varam.gov.lv; web: www.varam.gov.lv

27-28 March, London, England: SUSTAINABILITY IN THE WTO MILLENNIUM ROUND AND BEYOND. This international conference is organised by The Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA) in association with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). Featured keynote speaker will be Michael Meacher, UK Minister for the Environment. The conference will cover significant sustainability topics as well as issues that pose sustainability challenges and opportunities for international trade and investment. For information contact: Georgina Wright, RIIA, Chatham House, 10 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE, UK; tel: (44-171) 957-5754 or 957-5700; fax: 321-2045 or 957-5710; email: gwright@riia.org

- **Resources**

GLOBAL WARMING YEARBOOK: 1998. February 1999. Edited by Lelani Arris. This book brings together a year's worth of global warming stories --over 280 stories in all -- in one convenient volume. It provides a one-stop report on the scientific, political and industrial implications of global warming. 302pp. £128.00. To order contact: Greenleaf Publishing, Aizlewood Business Centre, Aizlewood's Mill, Nursery Street, Sheffield S38GG, UK; tel: (0-114) 282-3475; fax: 282-3476; email: greenleaf@worldscope.co.uk; web: <http://greenleaf-publishing.com>

CASE STUDIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE. July 1999. Compiled by Claire Buckley, International Network for Environmental Management (INEM), with the support of the German Federal Foundation for the Environment. This casebook presents the experiences of 14 companies in integrating environmental considerations into day-to-day operations in these emerging economies. It presents best-practice examples from companies that have successfully integrated environmental concerns into business management and improved their environmental as well as economic performance as a result. 144pp. US\$30.00 ISBN 1 874719 20 9. To order contact: Greenleaf Publishing, Aizlewood Business Centre, Aizlewood's Mill, Nursery Street, Sheffield S38GG, UK; tel: (0-114) 282-3475; fax: 282-3476; email: greenleaf@worldscope.co.uk; web: <http://greenleaf-publishing.com>

RECONCILING OBSERVATIONS OF GLOBAL TEMPERATURE CHANGE. Published by the National Academy Press. 2000. A Panel on Reconciling Temperature Observations was convened by the National Research Council to study observed trends of temperature near the surface and in the lower to mid troposphere. The results are published here. The report is suitable for the public, policy makers, and the scientific community. 104 pp. US\$25.25. ISBN 0-309-06891-6. To order contact: National Academy Press; web: <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/9755.html>

- **Call for Submissions**

UNCTAD's BOOK OF ASPIRATIONS. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is looking for concrete ideas that can help improve people's social and economic well-being, especially in developing countries. Everyone is invited to participate. The Book of Aspirations will serve as a highly democratic vehicle for grassroots participation in UNCTAD's work. The idea has its roots in consultations with ordinary citizens and will focus on possible solutions to current economic problems -- ideas to give reasons for real hope of a better future for the citizens of the 21st century. Dignitaries attending the UNCTAD X Conference in Bangkok this February will benefit from these ideas and suggestions. Later in the year, the final Book will be compiled, and published for the benefit of a global audience. Examples of questions include:

- *What could make our children's lives better than our own in practical and material terms?
- *What could help create new jobs and businesses, increase wages, reduce income inequality, or facilitate international trade?
- *What could you, your community, organisation or Government do about it?
- *What could international organisations do about it? *What role could international trade, finance, investment, or technology play?
- *Which success stories could show your idea in action?
- *Which trends convey hope of a better economic future?

Send your entries by 31 January 2000 for presentation at the UNCTAD X Conference, or by 31 July 2000 for inclusion in the final Book. Entries can be submitted in English, French or Spanish and will be selected and edited by UNCTAD. email: hopebook@unctad.org; web: <http://www.unctad-10.org/index.htm>; fax: (41-22) 907-0043; mail: Sophia Twarog, Project Manager, Book of Aspirations, E.9043, UNCTAD/ERS, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Please include information about yourself (name, occupation, nationality, company/organisation, mailing address, email, fax, and optionally sex and age).

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