



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

# Weekly Trade News Digest

08 August 2000

ISSN 1563-003X

Volume 4, N°31

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| • Note of Thanks & August Schedule .....                | 1 |
| • SADC To Launch Free Trade Area From 1 September ..... | 1 |
| • Dispute Settlement Update .....                       | 2 |
| • News From The Regions: North America .....            | 4 |
| • In Brief .....  | 6 |
| • WTO In Brief .....                                    | 7 |
| • On The Move .....                                     | 7 |
| • Events .....  | 8 |
| • Resources .....                                       | 9 |

## NOTE OF THANKS & AUGUST SCHEDULE

ICTSD would like to extend its gratitude to Judy Brienza, who, as an Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) associated writer, has been instrumental in creating the last two hundred or so issues of *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest. Judy's contribution to our newsletter will be greatly missed. Judy will be resuming her academic pursuits in the United States, and we wish her all the best luck with her future undertakings.

Due to holidays and the August recess at the WTO, *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest will be adopting a scaled-back schedule this month. The next two issues will be published on 22 August and 5 September, respectively, after which the Weekly will resume its regular production timetable.

## SADC TO LAUNCH FREE TRADE AREA FROM 1 SEPTEMBER

Leaders from the South African Development Community (SADC) met from 6-7 August in Windhoek, Namibia for their annual summit. Leaders focused on a range of political and economic issues, including a regional free trade agreement; AIDS-related issues such the disease's impact on regional development; how best to restructure the SADC to face the challenges of the 21st century; and calculating member contributions to the SADC.

11 of the 14 SADC members on 7 August signed a regional free trade accord that will take effect on 1 September. Under the accord originally negotiated in January 2000, SADC countries would phase out tariffs on all "non-sensitive" products by 2008, and by 2012 the grouping expects fully liberalised trade. Implementation of the SADC agreement had been delayed since January while negotiators continued to discuss the thorny issue of market access to regional economic powerhouse South Africa and the South African Customs Union (SACU), of which SADC members Swaziland, Namibia, Lesotho and Botswana are also part (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 1, 10 January 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.10-01-00.htm>; and Vol. 3, No. 25, 28 June 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.28-06-00.htm>).

As part of the agreement, Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi and Zimbabwe -- the four poorest SADC members -- would be given special trade preferences on clothing and textiles for the first five years of the protocol.

SADC comprises Angola, Botswana, Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Angola, Congo and the Seychelles are not signatories to the trade deal. Annual internal SADC trade is about US\$7.2 billion.

SADC acting chairman Prega Ramsamy said the accord would help improve SADC competitiveness in the global marketplace. "When we compete regionally we will improve standards, market access and quality and this enables us to compete on the world market," Mr. Ramsamy said.

The SADC trade agreement is expected to help move plans forward for a continent-wide African Union, expected to eventually comprise an African common market and economic community (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 28, 18 July 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story5.18-07-00.htm>). Other African leaders noted that the SADC agreement would help bolster investor confidence in the SADC region. "Our businesspeople and their counterparts in other parts of the globe are looking to this trade arrangement as the critical pillar of this region's economic growth," said Namibian Trade Minister Hidipo Hamutenya.

"SADC looks to lose old baggage in Windhoek," BUSINESS DAY (S. Africa), 5 August 2000; "Free trade, wars to top agenda at Africa summit," REUTERS, 3 August 2000; "Zimbabwe shadow over SADC summit," FINANCIAL TIMES, 6 August 2000; "SADC summit expected to give green light for free-trade area," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 31 July 2000; "SADC trade protocol takes effect 1 September," PANAFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, 28 July 2000.

## **DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UPDATE**

### US Blocks Canadian Request for Panel in Trade-Environment Lumber Dispute

In a simmering trade dispute which could raise concerns over changes to environmental legislation, the US on 4 August blocked a preliminary request by Canada to establish a WTO dispute settlement panel on whether Canadian export restraints on lumber constitute a subsidy under the WTO Agreements. Canada is eager to discover its export restraints' status under the WTO before the US-

Canadian Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) expires on 31 March 2001. Sources indicate that the US would almost certainly seek to bring a countervailing duty case against Canada when the SLA runs out. Were the WTO to rule in favour of Canada, the US countervailing duty threat would be greatly diminished (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4 No. 22, 6 June 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.07-06-00.htm>).

American stakeholders contend that Canadian forestry practices are environmentally unfriendly and keep Canadian timber product prices artificially low. Failure to resolve the impasse could potentially create downwards pressure on US environmental standards to match laxer Canadian legislation or, conversely, toughen Canadian environmental standards in forestry. Sources are doubtful that the two sides can reach an agreement on how to manage their timber trade before the SLA expires in March. Trade in softwood lumber between the US and Canada amounts to \$US20 billion annually. Under WTO rules, a dispute settlement Panel will be set up automatically the second time Canada brings its request forward, likely at the next Dispute Settlement Body meeting on 26 September.

#### Final Ruling On US Wheat Gluten Restrictions

A WTO Dispute Settlement Panel on 31 July released its final ruling in a EU-US dispute over US wheat gluten safeguards. The WTO Panel ruled in favour of the EU in its dispute with the US over a three-year US import quota on imported wheat gluten. 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 in 1998 did not demonstrate that the injury was directly caused by imported wheat gluten. The Panel also ruled against US methods used to determine the cause of injury under the WTO Safeguards Agreement and the exemption the US provides to signatories of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). (The Panel report is available at [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/distab\\_e.htm#ds166](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/distab_e.htm#ds166)).

The US immediately announced it would appeal the ruling. "We are going to appeal as is our right and would not expect the European Union to undertake any action at all while we avail ourselves of our WTO right," US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said on 1 August. The EU warned on 1 August that five days after the WTO Dispute Settlement Body adopts the ruling, the EU would impose retaliatory tariffs on imports of US corn gluten--an animal feed additive, if the US does not withdraw the wheat gluten safeguard. The EU is the largest buyer of US corn gluten, importing about four million tonnes annually. However, under WTO rules, a panel report is not adopted if a country decides to appeal it, which means any EU retaliatory action must wait.

Observers note that if upheld the WTO ruling could expose other US safeguard measures to WTO action. In particular, the ruling could reverberate in disputes over US restrictions on lamb products from Australia and New Zealand, and restrictions on steel imports from South Korea.

#### US-Mexico Telmex Dispute

The US announced on 28 July that it would seek WTO arbitration in a dispute with Mexico over market access for US phone companies to Mexico's US\$12 billion phone market. The US alleges that Mexico is using protectionist policies that favour Mexican telecommunications company Telefonos de Mexico SA de CV (Telmex). At issue is the network fee Telmex charges foreign

phone companies (e.g. AT&T and WorldCom Inc.), which the US argues blocks competition. Industry observers report that Telmex network fees are the highest in the world. Mexican trade and telecommunications officials noted that Mexico's efforts to deregulate the telecommunications market have just begun and that its regulatory framework complies with WTO rules, and noted further that it took the US 15 years to fully liberalise its telecommunications market.

### South Korean Beef

South Korea on 1 August announced it would appeal a WTO ruling against its restrictions on imported beef. The WTO Panel ruled that South Korean restrictions on the import, sale, and distribution of fresh, chilled and frozen imported beef were inconsistent with Article III of GATT (national treatment). The US and Australia brought the complaint to the WTO, arguing that S. Korea's regulatory regime, or so-called "dual retail" system limits market access for their beef products. The ruling is available at: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/distab\\_e.htm#ds166](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/distab_e.htm#ds166).

"US blocks Canadian request for WTO panel on export restraints," BNA WTO REPORTER, 7 August 2000; "US, Canada farm debate for renewed talks on lumber trade," INSIDE US TRADE, 4 August 2000; "EU threatens tariff on US corn gluten," REUTERS, 1 August 2000; "WTO issues final ruling in wheat gluten dispute," WTO REPORTER, 1 August 2000; "Barshefsky says US to appeal WTO decision on wheat gluten safeguard," INSIDE US TRADE 4 August 2000; "WTO tells US to revise wheat-gluten quota system," WALL STREET JOURNAL EUROPE, 1 August 2000; "US to seek mediation in access spat with Telmex," BLOOMBERG NEWS, 28 July 2000; "Barshefsky goes to WTO over Mexican telecoms," 29-30 July 2000; "Mexico telecoms regulator rejects US WTO case," REUTERS, 28 July 2000; "South Korean beef sales rules illegal, says WTO," BRIDGENEWS, 31 July 2000; "South Korea gov't to appeal WTO ruling on beef import discrimination," BRIDGENEWS, 1 August 2000.

## **NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: NORTH AMERICA**

### Mexico Could Seek WTO Panel on US Tuna Trade Ban

On 6 August, Mexico called for consultations with the US over concerns that the US would not comply with its prior commitments to lift a trade ban against Mexican tuna. Mexico indicated that it reserved the right to take the issue to the WTO in the event it was not resolved. On 4 January 2000, the US Commerce Department announced that it would allow the import of tuna harvested without incidental injury or death of dolphins. However, the embargo remains in place. In a joint statement, Mexico's Commerce Ministry, Environment Ministry and Foreign Ministry said, "The US commitment to lift the embargo and modify the definition of 'dolphin-free' tuna has not been complied with and, in a trial before a federal court in San Francisco, the parties have agreed on appeals processes that indicate that there will not be a decision from the court until the middle of next year. For that reason, this grave problem, which has existed for 12 years in spite of clear compliance by Mexico, is still pending."

### Sugar Dispute Remains Sticky Issue For US, Mexico

Trade negotiators from the US and Mexico have missed a 1 August deadline for resolving a dispute over Mexican sugar exports to the US. At issue is a disagreement between the two countries over how to interpret the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) regarding market access for Mexican sugar to the US market. Mexico contends that, commencing October 2000, it will be able to export an unlimited amount of its excess sugar production duty-free to the United States under NAFTA. The US counters that during NAFTA sugar negotiations, US and Mexican trade negotiators exchanged letters that effectively limit Mexico's duty-free sugar imports to the US at 250,000 tons.

The heavily protected US sugar market is currently struggling under depressed sugar prices. The US Department of Agriculture on 1 August proposed a scheme to pay US sugar farmers to voluntarily destroy sugar crops in an effort to boost sugar prices. US sugar producers fear that increased market access for Mexican sugar exports will drive prices down further and force smaller producers out of business.

Mexico had previously threatened to take legal action under NAFTA against the US if the sugar dispute was not resolved by 1 August. As negotiations continue however, Mexico is looking to leverage the sugar question against a US-Mexico dispute over market access to Mexico's high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) market. A WTO Panel ruled earlier this year that Mexico violated WTO antidumping rules by imposing duties against imports of US HFCS after considering the HFCS imports' impact on only a part of Mexico's domestic sweetener industry. The US brought the case to the WTO in May 1998. The Panel did not recommend that Mexico withdraw the duties, but did call on Mexico to revise its methodology with respect to how the duties are imposed.

"These issues cannot be unlinked," a spokesperson for the Mexican Commerce Department (SECOFI) said. "A solution to the sugar situation requires taking into account the fructose situation," the spokesperson said. However, US producers of HFCS argue that sugar and HFCS are two different products. Negotiations are expected to continue this week.

### Canada, Japan Discuss Bilateral FTA

In advance of the Group of Eight (G-8) summit meeting last month, Canada and Japan discussed the possibility of a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA). Japan has a long-held policy of shunning bilateral accords in favour of multilateral agreements (e.g. WTO agreements), but is reportedly looking at bilateral accords as a way to build momentum for the stalled multilateral trade process. Japan has also been holding talks with Mexico, Singapore and South Korea, amongst which talks with Singapore have so far offered the most promise of succeeding.

Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien said the Japan-Canada talks were not likely to progress past the exploratory phase too soon. "The problem [Japan faces] is their agriculture and forestry sector, which is very protected. And there's no agriculture or forestry in Singapore, of course," Mr. Chretien said, making reference to the Japan-Singapore FTA talks.

### Fox Hunting for Mexico-Mercosur FTA?

Mexican President-elect Vincente Fox was expected to travel to Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay from 6-11 August. Among a range of other issues, in his talks with South American leaders Mr. Fox is expected to discuss launching talks toward a Mexico-Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur) free trade agreement.

"Mexico Calls for "Urgent" Consultations On US Tuna Embargo, May Seek WTO Panel," WTO REPORTER, 8 August 2000; "Mexico-US talks on sugar limits continue past July 31 deadline for accord," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 3 August 2000; Mexico, US continue sugar talks after officials miss deadline," INSIDE US TRADE, 4 August 2000; "Mexico extends talks with US over exports, tariffs on sugar," BLOOMBERG NEWS, 2 August 2000; "Canada, Japan eye free trade deal, problems seen," REUTERS, 21 July 2000; "Mexico's Fox aims for closer Mercosur, US ties," REUTERS, 1 August 2000.

### **IN BRIEF**

**BRITISH GOVERNMENT PURSUES ECO-FRIENDLY TIMBER PROCUREMENT.** Tony Blair's Labour government announced on 27 July a major shift in its timber procurement policy intended to combat illegal logging and trade in wood. Under the new policy, the government will support sustainable logging practices by "actively seeking to buy timber and timber products from sustainable and legal sources." Each department of the government will be required to submit an annual report describing "what assurances it has received" that the timber it has purchased comes from legitimate, environmentally responsible sources. The policy, according to government sources, will encourage sustainable production in developing countries by assuring responsible producers that they will not be undercut by competitors who use "unscrupulous and illegal" methods. The policy change follows on the heels of progress made at the G-8 summit in Okinawa, Japan, where world leaders agreed to "examine how best we can combat illegal logging, including export and procurement practices." It also marks a victory for Greenpeace, the environmental group, which has been campaigning intensively over the issue of forest preservation. "Blair Leads Global Efforts to Tackle Illegal Timber," GREENPEACE NEWS RELEASE, 28 July 2000.

**MONSANTO WAIVES IPRS ON GOLDEN RICE.** The US-based biotechnology company Monsanto announced on 3 August that it will make available patent rights at no charge to developers of "golden rice", a variety of genetically modified rice enriched in beta carotene, the building block of Vitamin A. The rice was developed using technologies owned by Monsanto and other companies and institutions. Adequate Vitamin A intake can reduce mortalities associated with infectious diseases such as diarrhoea and childhood measles by enhancing the activity of the human immune system. Vitamin A deficiency also leads to blindness in hundreds of thousands of children annually. But before the rice can be offered to developing country farmers for free, Monsanto's waiver will need to be followed by other companies who also have intellectual property rights over technologies used in the creation of golden rice. The initiative is not without critics, such as the non-governmental Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI). RAFI is concerned that golden rice's alleged 'quick-fix' for Vitamin A deficiency could discourage other more cost-effective alternatives, such as the re-introduction of many vitamin-rich foods that were once cheap and available. "Rather than nurture a strategy that encourages biodiversity, golden rice could promote

monocultures and genetic uniformity." "Monsanto Offers Patent Rights to Golden Rice," US STATE DEPARTMENT WASHINGTON FILE, 4 August 2000; "Monsanto offers patent waiver," WASHINGTON POST, 4 August 2000.

**US, EU UPSET OVER AUSTRALIAN MEDIA RULE.** In a letter dated 1 August, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy warned his Australian counterpart Mark Vaile that Sydney's attempts to restrict foreign media companies' access to the Olympic Park may incite a formal dispute at the WTO. Australia announced earlier this year that TV crews from foreign companies who had not purchased exclusive rights to broadcast Olympic sporting events would not have access to Sydney's Olympic Park. According to Lamy, this policy may violate the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS), where Australia committed to "open its news agency market for foreign suppliers without restrictions and on the basis of a treatment not less favourable than offered to Australian service suppliers." US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky also attacked Australia's decision, and noted that her next move would depend on Australia's response to her concerns. Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile deflected criticisms about Sydney's handling of the media curbs, claiming that, "it is a decision the International Olympic Committee must make." "Commissioner Lamy Warns Australia Over Olympic Games Media Curbs," EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 1 August 2000; "EU Threatens WTO Case Over Olympics News Policy," REUTERS, 2 August 2000; "IOC Says Television Dispute Storm In a Tea Cup," REUTERS 3 August 2000; "US Enters Olympics TV Battle," FINANCIAL TIMES 4 August 2000.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

The government of Sweden announced last week a donation of 7 million crowns (approximately 750,000 USD) to the WTO's Technical Assistance programme for least-developed countries. Leif Pagrotsky, Sweden's Minister for Trade, noted that "the very poorest of the countries are in need of extra support, partly in order to protect their own interests in ongoing negotiations and trade disputes and partly in order to be able to carry out the necessary adjustments prescribed by WTO agreements." The donation is nearly twice as large as the Technical Assistance programme's regular annual budget and will help the WTO respond to an "increasing demand" by developing countries for trade-related technical assistance, according to WTO Director-General Mike Moore.

WTO Press Release

## **ON THE MOVE**

US President Bill Clinton appointed Robert LaRussa to become the new Under Secretary for International Trade at the US Department of Commerce on 4 August, where he will assume responsibility for programmes to strengthen US engagement in international trade and investment. Mr. LaRussa was previously the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration at the Department of Commerce, where he was responsible for administering antidumping and countervailing duty laws.

"Clinton Names LaRussa Under Secretary for International Trade," WASHINGTON FILE, 4 August 2000.

## **EVENTS**

### Coming Up This Week

5-11 August, W. Lafayette, Indiana, USA: EIGHTH ANNUAL COURSE IN GLOBAL TRADE ANALYSIS. The Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) is designed to facilitate multi-country, economy-wide analyses of issues relating to trade, technology, resources and the environment. For information contact: Judy Conner, Center for Global Trade Analysis, 1145 Krannert Building, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1145 USA; tel: (1-765) 494-4267; fax: 494-9176; Internet: <http://www.gtap.org>; select "courses".

13-20 August, Central America (Location to be announced): SEMINAR ON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, sponsored by the Latin American Energy Organization and the German Government, among others. A subregional seminar for Central America on Energy and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the approaches to Energy Policy. For information contact: Francisco Figueruera; email: [figueroa@olade.org.ec](mailto:figueroa@olade.org.ec) From IISD Linkages, [www.iisd.ca/linkages](http://www.iisd.ca/linkages).

### WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/meets.doc](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/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.

Due to holidays, the WTO will not hold meetings in the month of August.

### Other Forthcoming Events

17-19 August, Ottawa, Ontario & Montreal, Quebec, Canada: NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE, Carleton University's Centre on North American Politics and Society. Themes include: Cultures in the New North America, Governance Across Borders, Sustainable Development. For information contact: Dr. Laura Macdonald, Department of Political Science, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5B6; email: [lmacдона@ccs.carleton.ca](mailto:lmacдона@ccs.carleton.ca).

24-27 August, Georgetown, Guyana: GUYEXPO2000 TRADE AND INVESTMENT EXPOSITION, "SHOWCASING GUYANA FOR THE NEW MILLENIUM." Organised by the Ministry of Trade, Tourism & Industry and the Office for Investment (GO-INVEST). This event will showcase opportunities for trade and investment in Guyana in a variety of sectors and industries, with seminars on "Doing Business in Guyana" and the participation of key business executives, trade operators, and government representatives. Sector coverage will include agroprocessing, textile and garments, wood and furniture, tourism, mining, forestry and fisheries, livestock, financial services, telecommunications, and other manufacturing sectors. For more information contact: GUYEXPO Secretariat, National Exhibition Centre, Georgetown, Guyana, tel: 5922-74346/56164/70653/50658; email: [gepc@sdpn.org.gy](mailto:gepc@sdpn.org.gy).



## 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](mailto:hcameron@ictsd.ch). Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact [mgalvin@ictsd.ch](mailto:mgalvin@ictsd.ch)).

THE SUPERVISION OF HEALTH AND BIOSAFETY REGULATION BY WORLD TRADE RULES, by Steve Charnovitz, in the *Tulane Environmental Law Journal*, v.13, 2000, pp. 271-302. This paper examines the SPS Agreement in the context of the precautionary principle and product labelling. It also addresses the new Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The author concludes that "while there are legitimate concerns about whether the SPS interferes too much in health policy, a comprehensive evaluation of the SPS aimed at seeking major revisions is premature."

GREEN KOREA REPORTS, Summer v. 7, no. 1, 2000. The report contains an article by Dr. Son, a Gi-Woong Research fellow at the Korean Institute for National Unification in the Division of Unification Policy, entitled "Inter-Korean Summit Talks and Environmental Cooperation." According to the author, the environmental field will be a concrete and practical stage that will intensify and activate inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation. To obtain the report, contact Green Korea United, 605 The Korean Ecumenical Building, 136-56, Younji-Dong, Jongro-Gu, Seoul, Korea; tel: (82-2) 747-4180; email: [environ@chollian.net](mailto:environ@chollian.net).

COMERCIO Y AMBIENTE: TEMAS PARA AVANZAR EL DIALOGO, edited by Monica Araya. This book, published by the Organisation of American States, has fourteen chapters addressing general trade and environment issues. One chapter in particular addresses the FTAA resistance to the inclusion of environmental concerns in the negotiations. For more information contact Ivonne Zuniga, OAS Trade Unit, at [izuniga@oas.org](mailto:izuniga@oas.org).

REGULATORY PROTECTIONISM, DEVELOPING NATIONS, AND A TWO-TIER WORLD TRADE SYSTEM, by Richard Baldwin, July 2000. The main thesis of this paper has five steps: (i) TBTs are important, (ii) TBT liberalisation will continue, (iii) this liberalisation will involve "hegemonic harmonisations" or mutual recognition of rules and test, (iv) such liberalisation will almost surely entail preferential arrangements among rich nations, creating in essence, a two-tier system of market access with developing nations in the second tier. According to the author, the final step is to conclude that the WTO should be modified to address the potentially discriminatory aspects of regional TBT liberalisation initiatives. To obtain, visit: <http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiep/trade/Standards.html>.

### Electronic Resources

IMAGES OF SOCIAL REALITY. The Inter-Press Service and the Danish Institute for International Cooperation have co-produced a collection of articles reflecting social realities in nine developing countries. Prepared in the run-up to the UN Social Summit held in early June, this collection is available on the IPS web site at: <http://www.ips-solidarity.net>.

A VISUAL GUIDE TO THE FUTURE WORLD FOOD SITUATION. You can now download 23 of the most-requested charts and graphs showing past and future trends in the world food situation.

Many of the figures are based on IFPRI's global model of future food supply, demand, and trade. All those interested in the future world food situation are invited to use and share these visuals. New visuals will be added as they become available. DOWNLOAD AT: <http://www.cgiar.org/ifpri/2020/visuals/2020idx.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](mailto:hcameron@ictsd.ch). Special thanks to Ali Dehlavi (ICTSD). Managing Editor is Andrew Crosby <[acrosby@ictsd.ch](mailto:acrosby@ictsd.ch)>. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, [rmelendez@ictsd.ch](mailto:rmelendez@ictsd.ch). ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 13, ch des Anémones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: (41- 22) 917- 8492; fax: (41-22) 917- 8093..

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

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

ICTSD would like to thank the funders that have made the *BRIDGES* series of Publications possible in 2000: Christian Aid (UK); The Government of Denmark (DANIDA); IUCN The World Conservation Union (Switzerland); The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (US); The Government of the Netherlands (DGIS); Oxfam (UK); The Government of Switzerland (SECO); and the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations (Switzerland).

ISSN 1563-003X