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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| • UN Report Labels WTO a 'Veritable Nightmare' for Poor Countries ..... | 1  |
| • Dispute Settlement I: Pharmaceutical Patents & Aircraft ...           | 2  |
| • Dispute Settlement II: Bed Linens & Bananas .....                     | 3  |
| • GMO Roundup .....   | 4  |
| • EC Bans English Swine Imports; Resumes Imports of Ugandan Fish .....  | 6  |
| • In Brief .....  | 6  |
| • WTO In Brief .....  | 6  |
| • Corrigendum .....   | 7  |
| • Events .....  | 7  |
| • Resources .....   | 10 |

## UN REPORT LABELS WTO A 'VERITABLE NIGHTMARE' FOR POOR COUNTRIES

A UN-commissioned study on "globalisation and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights," released last week at the 52nd session of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, has lambasted the WTO for its "grossly unfair" handling of the multilateral trading system.

The report, written by two special rapporteurs nominated by the UN Commission on Human Rights, describes the WTO as a "veritable nightmare" for large parts of the world, particularly citizens of developing countries. Citing an unbalanced and inequitable approach to trade liberalisation, nontransparent procedures and inattention to human rights implications of trade policy, the report concludes that "what is required is nothing less than a radical review of the whole system of trade liberalisation and a critical consideration of the extent to which it is genuinely equitable and geared towards shared benefits for rich and poor countries alike."

The report says that despite the current environment supporting transparency at the international level, the WTO "has demonstrated a particular opacity" with respect to the demand for openness.

A WTO spokesman asked for comment on the report said, "we are unlikely to comment at this stage since it is a preliminary one prepared by the rapporteurs and not by the commission itself."

On 17 August, the Sub-Commission unanimously adopted an NGO resolution that calls into question the impact of WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) on the human rights of people and communities, including farmers and indigenous people worldwide. Reminding governments of the primacy of human rights obligations over economics, the resolution pointed out that there are apparent conflicts between the intellectual property rights regime outlined in TRIPs, on the one hand, and international human rights law, on the other.

Said Miloon Kothari from the International NGO Committee on Human Rights in Trade and Investment, "This is a pathbreaking resolution in more ways than one. First and foremost [it] signifies the resolve of the UN human rights programme to monitor the work of the WTO...This historic resolution has firmly affirmed the primacy of human rights and environmental obligations over the commercial and profit-driven motives upon which agreements such as TRIPs are based."

The document will be presented to the annual session of the UN Human Rights Commission when it holds its annual six-week session in Geneva in March-April 2001.

For an electronic copy of this document, visit: <http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/0811fcbd0b9f6bd58025667300306dea/21a92d3d0425a0cec125693500484d2f?OpenDocument>.

"UN-Commissioned Report Calls WTO A 'Nightmare' for Developing Nations," WTO REPORTER, 17 August 2000; "Post Seattle, a new blast at WTO," EARTH TIMES NEWS SERVICE, 17 August 2000; "UN Body warns of conflicts between TRIPs and Human Rights," INTERNATIONAL NGO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT PRESS RELEASE, 17 August 2000.

## **DISPUTE SETTLEMENT I: PHARMACEUTICAL PATENTS & AIRCRAFT**

Although the WTO has been on official recess during the month of August, WTO dispute settlement cases and their implementation and deadlines continue to roll forward.

### **Canada to Implement WTO Pharmaceutical Patent Ruling by 7 October**

According to a WTO arbitrator, Canada must implement a panel ruling on its pharmaceutical patent regulations by 7 October 2000. The arbitrator had been called in by Canada and the EU on 20 June to determine the "reasonable period of time" that Canada would require to implement the 7 April 2000 ruling. In the dispute, a WTO panel ruled that Canadian drugs producers could continue development and testing of generic copies of patented pharmaceuticals, but that -- commensurate with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) -- they could not move into the production stage until patents had expired.

A Canadian government official said that Canada will be able to meet the 7 October deadline. According to the arbitrator's report, "Canada submits that the implementation of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)'s recommendations and rulings in this case can be accomplished through

regulatory change rather than through legislative amendment, which Canada submits is usually more time consuming." The patent ruling was welcomed by India, who was encouraged by the incentive to compete in the drugs sector after the expiry of a patent.

#### Brazil-Canada Aircraft Dispute Nearing Sanctions Stage

Canada and Brazil are still trying to seek a negotiated settlement to avoid the imposition of trade sanctions on a range of Brazilian goods before a WTO arbitration panel releases its decision on Wednesday 23 August. Canada has requested WTO authorisation to impose sanctions worth \$US 473 million per year against Brazilian products due to Brazil's failure to comply with an earlier WTO Appellate Body decision that required it to withdraw export financing subsidies from aircraft on order from Embraer, its regional airplane manufacturer.

The dispute has highlighted differences between the ability of developing and developed countries to employ subsidy schemes in order to promote high-tech industries (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4 No. 29, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.25-07-00.htm>). Said Brazil's delegate in a statement to the WTO Dispute Settlement Body on 4 August that adopted the Appellate Body and Panel reports, "The present dispute concerns a developing country that ventured into an industry of high cost, high technology, and high value added content. For this industry, like for many others, export financing is critical...Brazil's apprehension with current multilateral rules on export credits -- or lack thereof -- is not new."

"WTO says Canada must reform pharmaceutical patent law by Oct. 7," BRIDGENEWS, 18 August 2000; "Canada ready to implement WTO pharmaceutical patent ruling," BRIDGENEWS, 18 August 2000; "Result in the air," FINANCIAL TIMES, 21 August 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

### **DISPUTE SETTLEMENT II: BED LINENS & BANANAS**

#### India Triumphs Over EU in Bed Linens Case

Earlier this month, India scored at least a partial victory over the European Union in a trade dispute concerning antidumping duties placed by the EU on imports of bed linens. The dispute was initiated in August 1998 after the EU, citing harm to its domestic industry, imposed duties of 24.7 percent on imported cotton-type bed linens from India. According to Indian officials, these duties have seriously damaged the Indian textiles industry, which is one of the country's major sources of export earnings. While the panel report has not yet been publicly released, the WTO panel is understood to have found the EU's case to be less than watertight, validating Indian complaints that the EU had incorrectly calculated the impact of imports on domestic producers.

Already there is speculation that this case may have broader implications for both the EU and developing countries. The European Union is one of the most frequent initiators of anti-dumping suits, and many developing countries have criticised the 15-member body for blocking imports of their most important products. Some observers have expressed hope that the decision will fuel reform of the existing anti-dumping agreement, which many developing countries believe is often misused by their industrialised trading partners.

The European Union is expected to appeal this decision, but has declined to comment until the panel issues its final report, which is scheduled to be released mid to late September.

#### Latin Americans Reject EU Banana Proposal

The European Union's latest proposal toward ending its WTO dispute with Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the United States over banana imports has been rejected by Latin America's principal banana exporters. Meeting in Panama on 19 August, nine Latin American countries agreed that the new regime proposed by the EC still resulted in unfair competition favouring the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) countries with which the EU maintains preferential market access schemes. The EU's proposal would grant import licences for bananas based on a 'first-come-first-served' basis.

In a related development, the EU has delayed calling a special meeting of the WTO DSB until sometime in September to request the establishment of a panel to rule on whether a US law requiring the rotation of product lists for retaliation is compatible with the WTO Agreements. Thus far, although the US has threatened to target different lists of European products in its sanctions related to the banana and beef disputes (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4 No. 29, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.25-07-00.htm>), it has yet to make good on this threat.

"India Wins Major Trade Dispute Against European Union," *DECCAN HERALD*, 3 August 2000; "WTO Slams EU Over Duties on Indian Bedlinen," *BUSINESS TIMES*, 3 August 2000; "India Say WTO Faults EU In Bed Linen Anti-Dumping Row," *Dow Jones Newswires*, 8 August 2000; "EU banana plan rejected," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 21 August 2000; "EU likely to hold off until next month on carousel WTO panel," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 11 August 2000.

## **GMO ROUNDUP**

#### Novartis Discontinues Use of GMOs in Food Production

Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis has stated publicly its intention to discontinue the use of GMOs in its own food products. In a letter sent to the Greenpeace International office in Belgium, the company has said that, "With the current sentiment among the population towards GMOs, we have decided to take all necessary practical measures to avoid using genetically modified organisms in our products worldwide." Novartis has also declared that it now requires its suppliers to provide certificates indicating their products are GM-free.

Farmers in the United States, however, have taken exception to the new Novartis policy arguing that it is inconsistent with Novartis' production of GM seeds and pharmaceutical products that use GM inputs. According to Mike Yost, a farmer in Minnesota and director of both the Minnesota and National Soybean Growers Associations, "They are promoting something they won't put back." The use of biotech seed varieties in US agricultural production has risen dramatically in the last six years in order to safeguard against pests and to improve growth rates and harvest volumes.

While separation of GM from non-GM agricultural products in the US has begun, less than 10 percent of the industry is engaged in segregation. According to Thomas O'Connor, National Grain

and Feed Association director of technical services, "The market demand for non-GMO products is just not that strong." In the past year, demands from -- mostly European -- consumer groups and the negotiation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4 No. 4, 1 February 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.02-02-00.htm>) have put pressure on US farmers to segregate biotech-altered grains from non-GMO varieties. A survey of 1,200 American grain elevators this spring showed that 24 percent planned to segregate corn and 20 percent planned to segregate soybeans this fall. More than half of US soybeans are GMO, and a quarter of US corn is biotech-based.

#### Saudi Arabia Bans GMO Imports

The Saudi Arabian Commerce Ministry has banned the import of foods containing GM inputs. The Commerce Minister, Osama bin Jaafar Faqih, said the decision was based on the lack of international consensus regarding the regulation and trade of GMOs. The minister said there was also no agreement on technical, operational and legal measures regulating international trade of genetically modified produce.

#### India Promotes Organic Coffee; Targets Rice Genes

In response to the growing global market for organically grown agricultural products, estimated at \$15 billion annually, the Indian Coffee Board is designing a plan to promote the growth of organic coffee. According the Indian Commerce Ministry, the potential to develop the country's organic coffee production is great since many areas of India currently do not use fertiliser or pesticide inputs. The Indian Institute of Plantation Management has said that subsidising organic farming is an option available under both the WTO and the Convention on Biodiversity.

The Department of Biotechnology and the Indian Council for Agriculture have begun a joint research project to isolate the genes/markers of importance to rice production. The project will aim to sequence a 10 million base pair (Mb) segment of the rice chromosome 11 in the next five years.

#### Genetically Modified Salmon

A new genetically modified salmon variety, said to grow four times faster than its unmodified cousin, could be sold globally as early as next year, according to its creator Hew Choy Leong. The salmon reportedly reaches its top weight of 5 kilograms in eight months rather than the three years typical for a regular farm-raised salmon. Although the US Food and Drug Administration has not yet approved the new fish breed, Hew is certain that it will be ready for market next year.

"Biotech Giant Novartis Bans GMOs from Own Foods," REUTERS, 9 August 2000; "Farmers Say Novartis A.G. Policy Creates Double Standard," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 8 August 2000; "US grain handlers see daunting task in separating GMOs," REUTERS, 15 August 2000; "Coffee Board Mulls Organic Production," THE ECONOMIC TIMES, 29 July 2000; "Rice genome sequencing project is underway in India," BOWDITCH GROUP ELECTRONIC AGBIOTECH NEWSLETTER, 9 August 2000; "Salmon GM News," UN WIRE, 9 August 2000.

**EC BANS ENGLISH SWINE IMPORTS; RESUMES IMPORTS OF UGANDAN FISH**

The European Commission decided on 14 August to ban exports of live English pigs and pig semen after an outbreak of swine fever struck farms in southeastern England. Though swine fever, unlike "mad cow" disease, cannot be transferred to humans, it spreads very rapidly among pigs. While the European Commission has banned only the export of living pigs from England, the United States has gone farther and also outlawed English pig meat and other pork products. Bans are expected to remain in place until the disease has been successfully contained and suppressed; the European Commission will meet again on 22 August to review its ban.

According to Ugandan Fishery Minister Kisamba Mugerwa, the EC has approved the resumption of Uganda's fish exports to its member states. "The decision took effect on August 4, and now the member countries of EU have already imported fishery products from Uganda, with the Uganda authorities' safety guarantees of the fishery products," Mugerwa said. "In order to confirm and upgrade its fish exports, Uganda offers EU an on-the-spot inspection of Uganda's facilities from October 2 to 6," he said. The EU imposed a ban on Uganda's fish exports to its member states in March 1999 following reports of fish poisoning in the East African country. The decision cost Uganda over \$US30 million in export earnings. Patrick Kagoda, Permanent Secretary in Ugandan Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry, said last month that the Ugandan government has spent millions of US dollars on laboratory equipment to test the quality of fish exports to the EU.

"Europe Bans British Pigs," UPI, 14 August 2000; "Brussels Bans Exports of Live English Pigs," FINANCIAL TIMES, 15 August 2000; "US, Fearing Swine Fever in Britain, Bans Imports," NEW YORK TIMES, 16 August 2000; "EU Lifts Fish Ban on Uganda," XINHUA NEWS AGENCY, 11 August 2000.

**IN BRIEF**

**GORE'S ADVISOR PROPOSES GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATION.** United States presidential candidate Al Gore's economic policy advisor recently proposed the creation of a global environmental organisation to address concerns about the impact of international trade on natural resources. "If this pattern of multilateral environmental agreements is going to continue, then you are going to see a sensible development of an institution which allows environmental negotiations to be done on more of a standing, regular basis," argued Laura Tyson, who also serves as dean of the University of California-Berkeley's business school. "You wouldn't expect the WTO to be the right forum." This move by the Gore campaign mirrors a recent proposal made by French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin to create a World Environment Organisation (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 4, Number 25, 27 June 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/inbrief.27-06-00.htm>).

**WTO IN BRIEF**

**POTENTIAL FOR TRADE ROUND BY 2003.** Speaking to reporters in New Zealand, WTO Director-General Mike Moore said he was hopeful that the WTO could launch a new round of negotiations before the end of his term in 2003. Responding to a question to that effect, he said, "I'd

hope so. It depends whether it's right...I believe we can do this but in 1982 when [the launch of the Uruguay Round] failed, we couldn't get it going until '86 and there was a vacuum. I promise you there is no vacuum and the homework is being done." Moore remained confident that China would join the WTO by the end of the year. He also said that Jordan, Georgia, Croatia, Albania, Oman, Lithuania and Taiwan should also accede to the trade body this year.

"WTO chief says hopeful of trade round launch by 2003," REUTERS, 10 August 2000.

**ALBANIA TO BECOME NUMBER 138 IN SEPTEMBER.** Albania will become the WTO's 138th Member on 8 September. The accession follows eight years of negotiations with existing Members on market access, foreign exchange, investment, subsidies, and export controls.

"Albania to become 138th Member of the WTO in September," BLOOMBERG, 16 August 2000.

**US REQUESTS CONSULTATIONS WITH MEXICO OVER TELECOMS.** The US on 17 August filed a request for consultations with Mexico at the WTO in a bid that it hopes will force Mexico to open up its domestic telecommunications market, according to trade officials. The US alleges that Mexico is breaking its obligations under the WTO's agreement on trade in services by allowing former state monopoly Telefonos de Mexico SA, or Telmex, to manipulate the domestic market. Under WTO rules, Mexico has 10 days to respond to the US request and 30 days to begin consultations. If no agreement is reached within 60 days, the US can then ask the WTO to set up a panel to look into its complaint.

"US takes Mexico to the WTO," REUTERS, 21 August 2000.

## **CORRIGENDUM**

In the 8 August issue of BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest in the story entitled "SADC to Launch Free Trade Area from 1 September", we reported that "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 [free trade agreement] protocol." The list of countries should instead read: Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia. We apologise for the error.

## **EVENTS**

26-31 August, Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran: **THIRD INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE CONTACT GROUP OF THE UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION'S COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.** In April 1999, a Chairman's Contact Group was established to facilitate the ongoing negotiations for the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. This is its third inter-sessional meeting. For information and supporting documentation visit: <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/AGRICULT/cgrfa/docscg3.htm>.

30 August - 1 September, Miami, Florida, USA: 7th Meeting of the FTAA Negotiating Group on Intellectual Property Rights. For more information visit: <http://www.ftaa-alca.org>.

3-8 September, Berlin, Germany: BIOTECHNOLOGY 2000 - 11TH INTERNATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM. For information contact: DECHEMA eV, German Society of Chemical Apparatus, Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, Theodor-Heuss-Allee 25, D-60486 Frankfurt am Main, Germany; tel: (49-69)-7564-235; email: [biotechnology2000@dechema.de](mailto:biotechnology2000@dechema.de); Internet: [http://www.dechema.de/englisch/veranst/ibs11/pages/ibs11\\_1.htm](http://www.dechema.de/englisch/veranst/ibs11/pages/ibs11_1.htm). From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

4 September, Dublin, Ireland: TASK GROUP ON EU, TRADE, AND FOOD SECURITY (TG1). For information visit: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/2000\\_round/timetable.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/2000_round/timetable.htm).

4-9 September, Jaipur, India: REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR ON UNDERSTANDING WTO INSTRUMENTS - BUSINESS IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. This training seminar, sponsored by CUTS-CITEE and the London School of Economics, is designed for functionaries from the government, inter-government bodies, private and public sector, business chambers, academic institutions, media and civil society from developing countries. For more information contact: Srinivas Krishnaswamy, Consumer Unity & Trust Society, Jaipur; tel: (91) (0)141-207 482; fax: 141-207 486/203 998; email: [cutsjpr@jpl.dot.net.in](mailto:cutsjpr@jpl.dot.net.in); Internet: <http://www.cuts-india.org>.

5 September, New York, New York, USA: 55TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS - THE MILLENNIUM ASSEMBLY. The Millennium Assembly will be attended by a large number of world leaders and will provide an opportunity to articulate and affirm an animating vision for the United Nations in meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century. The role of the UN in promoting peace and sustainable development in the era of globalisation has been identified as one of the key themes for the session. For more information visit: <http://www.un.org/millennium>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages>.

5 September, New York, New York, USA: TEACH-IN ON GLOBALISATION AND THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS: CAN THE UN BE SAVED? This event, sponsored by the International Forum on Globalization, will explore the full range of arguments about the UN, as well as launch a new set of ideas for alternative economic models and institutions that give primacy to values favouring human welfare and the natural world over global corporate interests. For tickets call: (in the US) 1-888-629-9269 or visit the IFG web site at <http://www.ifg.org>.

6-10 September, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam: APEC FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING. For more information visit: <http://www.apecsec.org.sg>.

7-8 September, London, England: THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES INSTITUTE 10th ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. This two-day conference will examine institutional reforms and their impact on poverty reduction. It will also look at the impact of reforms on finance, health care, labour, and governance at international, national, and community levels. For information contact: Sue Redgrave, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE; tel: (0207) 955-7425/6252; fax: (0207) 955-6844; email: [s.redgrave@lse.ac.uk](mailto:s.redgrave@lse.ac.uk); Internet: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/destin>.



7-9 September, Edinburgh, United Kingdom: LOCAL REGENERATION - DEVELOPING CAPACITY, TAKING ACTION. Organised by European Network for Economic Self-Help & Local Development. For information contact: Claire Lyddall, The Capacity Building Project, 63 Niddrie Mains Terrance, Edinburgh EH 16 4NX; tel: (44 0131) 661-0200; fax: 661-5826; email: [euroconf2000@talk21.com](mailto:euroconf2000@talk21.com).

7-10 September, Rigi, Switzerland: FIRST INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY ASSOCIATIONS MEETING. This research conference will initiate the global GMBA network and organise the new DIVERSITAS-GMBA-Network. For information contact: Eva Spehn, GMBA Secretariat, Institute of Botany, University of Basel, Schönbeinstr. 6, 4056 Basel, Switzerland; tel: (41-61) 267-3511; fax: 267-3504; Internet: <http://www.unibas.ch/gmba/conference.html>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

8 September, London, England: ALISTAIR BERKELEY MEMORIAL LECTURE: LEGAL REFORM AND POVERTY REDUCTION. The memorial lecture aims to bring together the legal and development communities around matters of immediate public concern. The speaker is Michael Anderson, Director of Studies, British Institute of International and Comparative Law. The lecture is free and open to all. For information contact: Sue Redgrave, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE; tel: (0207) 955-7425/6252; fax: (0207) 955-6844; email: [s.redgrave@lse.ac.uk](mailto:s.redgrave@lse.ac.uk); Internet: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/destin>.

10-17 September, Ecuador: 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 the Andean Community on Energy and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the approaches to Energy Policy will also take place. For information contact: Francisco Figueruera; email: [figueroa@olade.org.ec](mailto:figueroa@olade.org.ec). From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

11 September, Geneva: GENEVA WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE (GWIT) INAUGURAL EVENT WITH UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MARY ROBINSON. GWIT -- newly formed in 2000 -- is a non-profit professional organisation designed to promote women working in the field of international trade by providing networking and educational opportunities. GWIT hopes to attract both women and men who wish to enhance their professional skills, share information on international trade and establish contacts in the private and public sectors. The High Commissioner will be speaking on the topic of "Human Rights and the Global Economy". The event will be hosted by the Permanent Mission of Canada, 5 avenue de l'Ariana, Geneva, at 18:00. Ms. Robinson's speech will be followed by a reception. Please RSVP by 4 September to: Dariel Desousa, email: [dariel.desousa@wto.org](mailto:dariel.desousa@wto.org) or Kara Leitner, email: [vbb@vanbaelbellis.ch](mailto:vbb@vanbaelbellis.ch).

11-15 September, Lyon, France: 13TH SESSION OF THE UNFCCC SUBSIDIARY BODIES: SB-13. The meeting will be preceded by one week of informal meetings, including workshops. For information contact: the UNFCCC Secretariat; tel: (49-228) 815-1000; fax: 815-1999; email: [secretariat@unfccc.de](mailto:secretariat@unfccc.de); Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

13-14 September, Singapore: APEC WORKSHOP ON TRADE FACILITATION: NEW DIRECTIONS AND THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE. Workshop Objectives: to contribute to a renewal of APEC's trade facilitation agenda - including exploration of obstacles and opportunities for developing member economies in APEC - by identifying the most effective measures for action in four areas: a) regulatory reform and standards; b) customs procedures; c) mobility of business persons; and professional accreditation; and d) electronic commerce. For information visit: [http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiep/trade/new\\_standards.html#seminars](http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiep/trade/new_standards.html#seminars).

### WTO Meetings

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.

13-15 September, Geneva: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations division, tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

21-22 September, Geneva: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (TRIPs). Members are expected to discuss progress on review of the TRIPs Agreement and on Article 27.3(b). For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO Information and Media Relations division, tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

### **RESOURCES**

IMPACT OF ECONOMIC GLOBALISATION ON WATER RESOURCES: A SOURCE OF TECHNICAL, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT DECADE. By Daniele Cesano and Jan-Erik Gustafsson in *Water Policy*, v.2 no.3; 2000; pp.213-227. The aim of the paper is to identify those areas in water resource management where the global economy seems to be too unregulated to be considered sustainable.

PRINCIPLES AND ELEMENTS OF FREE TRADE RELATIONS. Edited by Hanspeter Tschani and Ossi Tuusvuori, April 2000. This book, published by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Secretariat, addresses the context of free trade, the EFTA, and trade in goods, as well as new areas such as services and intellectual property. It also addresses the policies that accompany free trade, and institutional aspects of free trade as well as dispute resolution. To obtain contact: European Free Trade Association Secretariat, 9-11 rue de Varembe, CH-1211 Geneve 20; Internet: <http://www.efta.int>; or Verlag Ruegger, Chur/Zurich 2000; email: [info@rueggerverlag.ch](mailto:info@rueggerverlag.ch); Internet: <http://www.rueggerverlag.ch>.

LOCALIZATION: A GLOBAL MANIFESTO. By Colin Hines, 2000. This book seeks to contribute a "mindwrench" to move away from globalisation "towards considering the possibility of its replacement with a localism that protects and rebuilds local economies worldwide". While offering a harsh critique of modern economic governance structures in which maximum trade and money flows bring maximum profit, Hines calls for a "localisation" that supports a policy and

economic framework which allows people, community groups and businesses to rediversify their own local economies. The author advocates a system in which trade and investment continue to play important roles in the service of "localisation", rather than a return to autarky. The book offers an analysis of globalisation, how localisation can reverse the problems generated by globalisation, and how localisation might come about. Available from Earthscan Publications, 120 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JN, UK; tel: (44 (0)) 20 7278 0433; email: [earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk](mailto:earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk); Internet: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk>.

### Electronic Resources

**DRAFT REPORT ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OPEN FOR COMMENTS.** The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is inviting public comment on a comprehensive study, the first of its kind, on the intellectual property-related needs of holders of traditional knowledge (TK). The report is based on hundreds of interviews conducted by WIPO during nine fact-finding missions in almost all regions of the world in 1998 and 1999. Comments on the draft, available at: <http://www.wipo.int/traditionalknowledge/report/>, can be sent to WIPO until 30 October, 2000, after which the report will be finalised for consideration by WIPO's 175 member states and other interested parties.

**NORTHERN LIGHT SPECIAL EDITION ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD.** Northern Light -- a search engine and web resource point -- produces special briefings on a wide variety of topics, and has assembled a selection of reports, statistics, statements, and editorials on the topic of genetically modified foods. To view the report visit: <http://special.northernlight.com/gmfoods/index.html>.

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