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SUMMIT PLEDGES SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE BLOC FOR 2002

Meeting from 31 August to 1 September, the leaders of twelve South American countries convened in Brazil's capital Brasilia on Friday to launch an ambitious bid for economic unity. A document signed by the leaders, the "Brasilia Communiqué," contains a pledge to unite South America's two main trade blocs -- Mercosur and the Andean Community -- into a single free trade zone by January 2002.

The two-day summit was convened by Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who emphasised that while the commodities-dependent region has to integrate, industrialised countries need to open their markets to South American goods. "It is necessary to unite forces to break the circle of uncertainties from abroad and promote the participation of South American countries in this scenario of globalisation," he said in his opening summit speech. "We are not prepared to open up more our economies without negotiations which will give us access to rich countries," he said, adding that South America has been "severely hurt by the protectionism of wealthier nations."

The leaders said Brazil's role as a regional leader would help create a 10-country South American trade bloc uniting the two existing economic groups: the southern Mercosur -- which consists of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, along with Bolivia and Chile as associate members -- and the northern Andean Community -- which includes Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

Trade officials attempted to calm fears that regional integration would be a threat to a potential Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The current FTAA timetable is for a 2005 launch of a single hemispheric bloc from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

In order to make closer integration physically possible, the final document also launched a new drive for the development of projects such as bridges, energy lines and roads, boosting transport links in a region with formidable physical barriers. This initiative has alarmed environmentalists, who fear such infrastructure will facilitate the exploitation of the region's raw materials in biodiversity-rich areas.

The summit follows close on the heels of visits to South America by both US President Bill Clinton and Mexican President-elect Vicente Fox. Fox is eager to strengthen ties between Mexico and its Southern neighbours, and pushed for free trade and greater regional integration during a visit to Brazil earlier in August. "[Fox] wants to send a message that while Mexico will maintain its very close and cordial relationship with the US, his government will diversify Mexico's political, cultural and strategic ties with Latin America and in particular with Mercosur," said Jorge Castaneda, Fox's chief adviser for international affairs.

"South American presidents meet, pledge economic unity," CNN Online, 1 September 2000; "South American Presidents Hold 1st Summit," REUTERS, 31 August 2000; "Mexico's Pres-elect takes free trade message to Brazil," DOW JONES INTERNATIONAL, 10 August 2000.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TACKLE TRIPS COMMITMENTS

The next meeting of the WTO's Council on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) on 21-22 September will include a review of national implementing legislation on intellectual property rights. As demonstrated by the cases of Guatemala and Pakistan (see below), developing countries have been working to enact legislation on intellectual property rights (IPR) or update existing patent laws and provide protection to plant breeders in order to keep in line with their WTO commitments. The 21-22 September TRIPs Council will also address requests for observer status (the UN Commission on Biological Diversity has asked to become an observer); review of the provisions of Article 27.3(b) (on protection of plant varieties); and a general review of implementation of the TRIPs Agreement.

In vetoing a weak intellectual property rights bill in early August, Guatemalan President Alfonso Portillo has favoured business and WTO commitments over domestic constituencies (including his own party) opposed to strong IPR protection. Pressure is now on Portillo to pass legislation through parliament that would guarantee and enforce effective copyright protection in Guatemala: under the WTO Agreement on TRIPs, developing countries such as Guatemala must have had effective IPR legislation in place as of 1 January 2000. According to sources, the vetoed bill would have made it prohibitively expensive to pursue and punish copyright infringement in Guatemala, and was largely supported by the country's street vendors.

For its part, Pakistan's military government is set to tighten intellectual property laws in the country. This was announced after a weekend visit of WTO Director-General Mike Moore to the country on 29 July, where Moore reminded Pakistan of its trade liberalisation obligations as a WTO Member.

The Director-General is also said to have assured the Pakistani government of help with regard to capacity-building in implementing the WTO Agreements. Pakistan has finalised the draft of its Patent Act and Plant Breeders Rights Act, and the two laws will go into effect once approved by the federal cabinet. "We have assured the WTO head that Islamabad will soon fulfil its obligations under TRIPs," said a Ministry of Commerce official. Non-governmental organisations in the country are demanding more participation from civil society in the process as well as the right to information on key IPR issues, emphasising that these laws may affect food supply and make essential medicines prohibitively expensive.

The US has indicated that while it is willing to talk about re-opening the TRIPs Agreement for discussion, it is more interested in ensuring that countries hold to their TRIPs commitments. Assistant US trade representative Joseph Papovich stated on 27 July that there would be no extension of the 1 January 2000 implementation date for developing countries, but that if countries were making good faith efforts to modify their legislation, "we're prepared to work with them on that." Developing countries are pushing to open the TRIPs Agreement for review in order to redress what many see as serious imbalances in the provisions of the accord with respect to the developmental objectives of the Uruguay Round and the public policy aims of intellectual property (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No 26, 4 July 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.04-07-00.htm>).

"Weak patents bill vetoed," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 8 August 2000; "Pakistan to tighten patent laws," *IPS DAILY JOURNAL*, 3 August 2000; "Official says US more interested in implementing TRIPs than reopening it," *WTO Reporter*, 27 July 2000; *ICTSD Internal Files*.

US AND JAPAN AT ODDS OVER WHALE HUNT

Tokyo has responded severely to US threats against its decision to resume whale hunts in the north-western Pacific, with the Japanese government warning that US moves to boycott a number of international meetings and threaten trade sanctions could damage relations between the two countries.

Japanese officials allege that their recent (as of 29 July) expanded whale hunt, which includes minke, Bryde's and sperm whales, is for scientific research purposes and therefore allowed under International Whaling Commission (IWC) rules. According to Japan's chief cabinet secretary Hideo Nakagawa, the US boycott -- in particular of the recent Ministerial conference on environment and development in Asia and the Pacific from 31 August - 5 September in Kitakyushu, Japan -- could pose obstacles to co-operation over the environment and fisheries between Japan and the US. The US has also announced that it had cancelled regular bilateral fisheries talks scheduled for early September, and has opposed Japan's hosting of an IWC conference next year.

The US warned on 27 August that it is taking steps that could lead to economic measures against Japan in the near future. US Commerce Secretary Norman Mineta said that possible "trade measures under the Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act" were among the options being considered by his department to demonstrate US disapproval of Japan's decision to kill sperm and Bryde's whales. The two species are protected under the US Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The Pelly Amendment permits the US President to impose sanctions against countries that violate IWC rules or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The US Commerce Department has indicated that it will certify within one month that Japan is endangering a protected species. Certification will allow the President to slap penalties on a potentially broad range of Japanese seafood exports to the US, exports worth approximately \$US 800 million per year.

Thus far the Japanese have remained confident that such a move would not be WTO compatible, and have predicted a victory in the WTO should the US take unilateral action. The Pelly Amendment clearly states that any penalties executed must be "sanctioned by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade," the predecessor to the WTO.

Despite the Japanese claims that it hunts the whales to collect necessary scientific information for sustainable use of whale resources, the government nevertheless sells the meat for food once the scientists have completed their work. In 1998, these sales netted \$US6.7 million in 1998.

"Japan defies US sanction threat," ICTSD BRIDGES BETWEEN TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, July-August 2000; "U.S. weighs sanctioning Japan over its whale hunting in Pacific," BLOOMBERG, 30 August 2000; "Japan could face US sanctions over whaling," FINANCIAL TIMES, 30 August 2000; "Japan toughs out US boycott over whaling," FINANCIAL TIMES, 1 September 2000.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: THE AMERICAS

Mexico Loses NAFTA Expropriation Dispute On Hazardous Waste

In what environmentalists have labelled a blow to local control over the environment, for the first time ever under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) a private company has successfully sued a foreign government for measures amounting to expropriation.

California-based Metalclad Corp. has won a \$US16.7 million award against the Mexican government more than three years after bringing its case to a NAFTA tribunal. The company sued after the municipal government in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi refused to allow it to operate a local hazardous waste facility. The Mexican government claims that Metalclad was authorised to buy the land provided it clean up a large quantity of hazardous waste on the dump-site. Municipal permits were withdrawn after Metalclad changed its plans and expanded the site, and complaints from local people poured in about their babies becoming ill. The site was later turned into an ecological reserve by the state government.

For its part, Metalclad has called the ruling a "hollow victory", as it had sought \$US90 million in damages, which included lost potential business costs. The tri-country tribunal only awarded the company the actual cost of the original investment. Despite this, the case is expected to have ramifications for a number of other disputes currently pending under NAFTA's controversial Chapter 11, which enables private companies to sue governments in the event of expropriation.

Methanex, a Canadian methanol company, is suing the US for \$US970m over a California ban on MTBE, a methanol-based petrol additive. SD Myers, a US maker of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), is challenging Canada over its ban on PCB waste, while United Parcel Service has also sued Canada over anti-competitive behaviour by the government postal service. Canada has been lobbying the US and Mexico to limit the scope of Chapter 11.

This is the third decision to have been ruled under Chapter 11; the Mexican government won the first two (another investor lawsuit by Ethyl Corp. against Canada in 1998 was settled out of court, with Canada paying the company \$US13 million).

Mexico has said that while the decision has not forced it to change its mind about supporting NAFTA's investment rules, it will attempt to appeal the decision before another court, in this instance through the British Columbia court system. Unlike the WTO, there is no formal appeals court under NAFTA.

Brazil-Canada Aircraft Dispute Talks Extended Over Sanctions

While Canadian and Brazilian negotiators have "made progress" in talks over how to implement a recent WTO decision to award Canada \$US344.2 million over six years in sanctions against Brazil, the two countries were unable to reach a final agreement on 29-30 August (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 32, 22 August 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.22-08-00.htm>). Further negotiations have been scheduled for 19-20 September in New York. Brazilian trade negotiator Graca Lima on 30 August said that "some progress had been made at the two days of talks," and added that Canada will delay withdrawal of trade concessions to Brazil until October while the two sides attempt to forge an agreement.

On 21 July, the WTO Appellate Body upheld an earlier panel decision that Brazil was continuing to provide export subsidies through its "Programma de Financiamiento as Exportaciones" (PROEX) program to the Brazilian aircraft producer Embraer. The four-year-old dispute proceeded to an arbitration panel that ruled that Canada was entitled to over \$US1.39 billion in trade sanctions.

Brazil has agreed to have its proposed revision of the government's PROEX export subsidy program prepared for the New York meeting, although the Brazilian government has yet to determine whether it would adjust the term of PROEX financing, which is currently set at 15 years for aircraft. In the ongoing discussions with Canada, Brazil is offering a compensation package that may include lower tariffs on selected Canadian products, preferential treatment on government procurement to Canadian companies, and special advantages to Bombardier, the Canadian aircraft company that initially raised the dispute through the Canadian government.

"Mexico loses NAFTA Case," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 1 September 2000; "Mexico holds firm on NAFTA investment rules," *THE GLOBE AND MAIL*, 2 September 2000; "NAFTA ruling raises environmental questions," *THE GLOBE AND MAIL*, 1 September 2000; "Brazilian, Canadian Negotiators fail to agree in latest talks on aircraft subsidy sanctions," *BNA WTO REPORTER*, 5 September 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

FAO PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES NEGOTIATIONS COULD IMPACT TRIPS

From 26-31 August, delegates from 36 countries and four intergovernmental observer organisations met for the third Inter-Sessional Contact Group on the Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, (IU), in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Tehran, Iran. At the meeting, delegates made significant progress on intellectual property rights (IPR) issues relating to facilitated access to technology and commercial benefit-sharing.

The session set the stage for the IU to potentially provide technical input into the WTO's discussions on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and other processes relating to genetic resources for food and agriculture. The suggestion to include a "savings clause" to address the IPR issue -- a provision that would subordinate the IU to existing international commitments (e.g. WTO rules) -- prompted heated debate amongst delegates and remains to be sorted out before the November 2000 deadline to conclude discussions.

The non-binding IU was founded in 1983 by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. Its objective is to ensure that plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) -- especially species of present or future economic and social importance -- are explored, collected, conserved, evaluated, utilised and made available for plant breeding and other scientific purposes. Thus far, 113 countries have adhered to the IU, with Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, Malaysia and the US as notable exceptions.

An approved and finalised IU is supposed to be ready for presentation to the 119th FAO Council scheduled for November 2000. While many delegates described the third Contact Group meeting as the most successful to date, further negotiations are required to finalise an agreement. The Chair pushed to conclude the negotiations at a meeting from 9-20 October 2000 in Rome, but further negotiating sessions are contingent upon extra-budgetary funds.

At the six-day August meeting, negotiators continued discussions on a Consolidated Draft Text, specifically on facilitated access, benefit-sharing and financial resources. Finalising the list of crops covered by a so-called 'Multilateral System' to facilitate access to PGRFA remains the biggest hurdle to overcome before the November deadline.

Online coverage of this meeting can be found at: <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cgrfa2000a/>.

Adapted from "CGRFA Summary," IISD EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, Vol. 9 No. 161, 4 September 2000.

IN BRIEF

G-77 SEEKS VOICE IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. Concerned about the lack of a voice for developing nations in WTO and IMF affairs, representatives from the 133 developing countries making up the G-77 met in London to discuss ways of securing political muscle in economic fora. A source close to the discussions stated, "They want informal influence at the WTO and IMF rather than long speeches at the UN." At the end of the two-day meeting, members expressed concern about trade barriers biased against developing nations, the environment, and

national debt. Members also agreed on the necessity of becoming better organised through the development of a small coordinating group which is to meet periodically in London. Early indications are that former Commonwealth secretary-general Sonney Ramphal will chair the coordinating group. An early test of the political strength of the organisation will be seen when a special report on trade and the environment will be presented by the G-77 to the UN Millennium Summit in New York this week. Main participants in the conference were Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo, Malaysian president Mahathir Mohamad, and Algerian president Abdelaziz Bouteflika. "Third world aims a spearhead at rich club," THE GUARDIAN OBSERVER, 25 August 2000.

WORLD FINANCIAL LEADERS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE FUTURE OF TRADE LIBERALISATION. Calls for greater public support for free trade agreements emerged as a central theme at a Jackson Hole, Wyoming (USA) conference sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Mike Moore, the WTO's Director-General, told the conference that "It's my conclusion that launching a new round is going to be extremely difficult," adding that "it will only happen if sustained pressure on governments produces the political will needed to adopt positions in sensitive areas." While Moore applauded the increasingly active role played by developing countries in trade negotiations he also noted that "getting 137 discordant voices to sing the same hymn sheet is harder" than getting the US and European Union to agree. Stanley Fischer, former managing director of the International Monetary Fund, urged developed countries to adopt more liberal trade policies in agricultural trade so as not to shut out developing countries from global markets. He also urged officials to listen to critics in leading industrialised countries about the potential damage to labour rights and the environment due to globalisation. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, also addressed the conference, saying that policy-makers must "understand and, if possible, address the concerns that give rise to the desire to roll back globalisation". "Moore Sees Difficulty In Launching New Trade Talks," DOW JONES CAPITAL MARKETS REPORT, 25 August 2000; "Critics of globalisation promised a hearing," FINANCIAL TIMES, 28 August 2000; "Amid Talk of Financial Crises, More Worry on Protectionism," BLOOMBERG, 26 August 2000.

CANADA INCREASES MARKET ACCESS FOR LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. The Canadian government announced on Friday that it would allow 570 additional products produced in the world's least-developed countries (LDCs) to enter its market duty-free. The tariff measures, which took effect on 1 September, mean that 90 percent of product categories from the world's LDCs may now enter Canada duty-free. "By gaining greater access to the Canadian market, least-developed countries are benefitting from the global trading system," said Canada's International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew. "These measures also demonstrate Canada's support for the WTO and its efforts to promote further trade liberalisation." Canada's market access announcement forms part of its commitment to contribute to a four-point WTO plan which seeks to build the capacities of developing countries within the world trading system.. "Canada Further Opens Market To Least-Developed Countries," CANADA DFAIT, 25 August 2000. "Canada Govt Opens Markets To Least-Developed Countries," DOW JONES NEWS SERVICE via DOW JONES, 25 August 2000.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS URGE CANADA TO STOP ACCEPTING PCB WASTE FROM THE US. Greenpeace and the Basel Action Network (BAN) have sent a letter to the Canadian Minister of the Environment David Anderson urging Canada to categorically halt imports of PCB wastes from the US. This follows a report by the two groups that earlier this month the US Defence

Logistics Agency (DLA) sent a mission to Ottawa to explore the possibility of disposing of PCB wastes in Canada which had already been rejected by the Government of Ontario, Environment Canada and the Port of Vancouver. Peter Tabuns, Greenpeace Canada executive director said, "Canada must set a policy of not accepting PCB waste imports from the United States." The letter urges the Canadian government to reject the waste under the Basel Convention, which does not allow countries to import hazardous wastes unless they have the "technical capacity and necessary facilities" for adequate disposal. The letter goes on to note that non-combustion technologies are currently available commercially and would allow the US to safely dispose of the waste. "Environmentalists Denounce New U.S. Government Attempt to Unload Military PCB Waste in Canada," BASEL ACTION NETWORK, 31 August 2000.

WTO IN BRIEF

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND WTO EXCHANGES. The office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) has responded to an earlier letter of complaint sent to the UNHCHR Mary Robinson by WTO deputy Director-General Miguel Rodriguez Mendoza. In his 18 August letter, Mendoza expressed concern about the "language, methodology and main conclusions" of a recent UN report condemning the WTO (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4 No. 32, 22 August 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.22-08-00.htm>). The report was released by the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on 17 August, and describes the global trade body as a "nightmare" for developing nations. Mendoza noted that WTO decisions are agreed upon by a consensus of WTO members, two thirds of which are developing nations. Mendoza also expressed surprise that the WTO was not consulted during the preparation of the report and offered to meet informally with the two special rapporteurs who authored the paper. A UNHCHR spokesman said the response to Mendoza points out that the Sub-Commission report had been prepared by two independent experts; that the report itself is being looked into; and that a UNHCHR official will soon meet with a WTO official to discuss the paper. "WTO voices concern to UN human rights chief over critical report," AFPviaNEWSEDGE, 25 August 2000; "UN Human Rights Commissioner responds to the WTO," SUNS, 30 August 2000.

WTO RULES AGAINST THE US IN DISPUTE OVER TRADE LAWS. The WTO Appellate Body said a 1916 US antidumping law violated WTO rules in a final ruling released last Monday. The ruling upheld two earlier dispute settlement panel findings. Under the 1916 law, US firms could claim damages from foreign firms accused of selling their products under market prices (dumping) in the US market. While the US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky has questioned the Appellate Body's reasoning, the EC called it a "clear-cut condemnation" of US antidumping practices. Barshefsky responded to the ruling by saying, "We believe the panel and Appellate Body should not have assessed the 1916 Act under WTO antidumping rules because it is more akin to an antitrust law than an antidumping law." In addition to overturning the 1916 law, the WTO also ruled that under global trading rules, import duties are the only permissible remedy to confirmed cases of dumping. While the WTO has given the United States a 1 October deadline to revise its legislation, the WTO's ruling does not affect the 1930 Tariff Act which has been defended successfully before the trade body in the past and is most commonly used by the US to pursue allegations of unfair pricing. "WTO Finds U.S. Trade Law Violates Rules," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 28 August 2000. "U.S. antidumping law breaks WTO rules: WTO appeals body,"

JAPAN ECONOMIC NEWSWIRE via DOW JONES, 28 August 2000. "U.S. Loses Appeal to WTO on 1916 Law on Imports," HERALD TRIBUNE, 29 August 2000.

MOORE PROPOSES WTO ACCEPT PRIVATE DONATIONS. WTO Director-General Mike Moore has proposed that the trade body accept donations of goods and services from NGOs and private individuals (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 29, 25 July 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/wtoinbrief.25-07-00.htm>). The proposal, made available 14 August, argues that "the activities, aims and motivations of the individuals, non-profit organisations or foundations" should not conflict with those of the WTO and that the donations "shall not give rise to conflict of interests on the part of the donor or the WTO." In order to prevent conflicts of interest, Moore proposed that all contributions be cleared through the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration. All such contributions will then be deposited into the "WTO Private Sector Trust Fund" and be used exclusively for trust fund activities. Under the proposed plan, rules on contributions would be reviewed every five years. Currently, WTO revenue is derived from Members' annual contributions and trust funds and amounts to approximately 136.5 million Swiss francs per year. "Private Groups, Non-profits May Help Fund World Trade Organisation, Moore Proposes," WTO REPORTER, 17 August 2000.

EVENTS

Coming Up This Week

4-10 September, New York, New York, USA: FORUM 2000: SHAPING GLOBALISATION: CONVENING THE COMMUNITY OF STAKEHOLDERS. Hosted by the State of the World Forum, the Forum will focus on shaping globalisation in light of such themes as: social implications of globalisation, core economic productivity & sustainability, and governing globalisation. For information contact: Headquarters, State of the World Forum, The Presidio, PO Box 29434, San Francisco, California 94129, United States; tel: (1-415) 561-2345; fax: 561-2323; email: info@worldforum.org.

5 September, New York, New York, USA: 55TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS - THE MILLENNIUM ASSEMBLY. World leaders will gather from 6-8 September for the UN Millennium Summit under the theme "The Role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century". For more information visit: <http://www.un.org/millennium/summit.htm>.

5 September, New York, New York, USA: TEACH-IN ON GLOBALIZATION AND THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS: CAN THE UN BE SAVED? For tickets call: 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. 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; 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) (0) 131 661-0200; fax: 661-5826; email: euroconf2000@talk21.com.

8 September, London, England: ALISTAIR BERKELEY MEMORIAL LECTURE: LEGAL REFORM AND POVERTY REDUCTION. For information contact: Sue Redgrave, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE; tel: (44) (0) 207 955-7425/6252; fax: 955-6844; email: 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. For information contact: Francisco Figueruera; email: figueroa@olade.org.ec.

11 September, Geneva: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

11-12 September, San Francisco, California, USA: GLOBAL NETWORKS/LOCAL RULES: DOING BUSINESS OVER A BORDERLESS MEDIUM. The Internet Law and Policy Forum's conference on jurisdiction over cross-border electronic commerce and communications will provide an advanced overview of fundamentals, analysis of particular topics, and practical advice on the legal rules which govern a government's authority to enforce its rules outside its borders. To register for this event visit: <http://www.ilpf.org/confer/regform00.htm>. For more information as well as to obtain an Advanced Program, updated weekly, visit: <http://www.ilpf.org>.

11-14 September, Prague, Czech Republic: FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT. For information contact: EIA Prague 2000, Czech Medical Association JEP, P.O. Box 88, Sokolská 31, 120 26 Prague 2, Czech Republic; tel: (420-2) 296-889 or 297-271; fax: 421-6836 or 491-9740; email: lonkova@cls.cz; Internet: <http://congress.cls.cz/IUAPPA2000>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

11-15 September, Lyon, France: 13TH SESSION OF THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC) SUBSIDIARY BODIES: SB-13. For information contact: the UNFCCC Secretariat, Bonn, Germany, tel: (49-228) 815-1000; fax: 815-1999; email: secretariat@unfccc.de; Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int>.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming World Trade Organisation meetings is posted at: 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 the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, Rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland.

12 September, Geneva: WTO INFORMAL ACCESSION WORKING PARTY ON CHINA. The meeting will be followed by two and a half weeks of consultations. For information contact: Keith Rockwell, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5007. 12-15 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, Switzerland: WTO TRIPS COUNCIL MEETING. Included on the agenda: observer status for international intergovernmental organisations; review of national implementing legislation; technical cooperation; review of the provisions of article 27.3(b); review of the implementation of the agreement under article 71.1; and non-violation complaints. For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5412; email: peter.ungphakorn@wto.org.

22 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5007; email: enquiries@wto.org; Internet: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/devel_e.htm. For schedule updates visit: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.doc.

26 September, Geneva: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact: Gabrielle Marceau, tel: (41-22) 739-5519; fax: (41-22) 739-5788.

27 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

27 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON GATS RULES. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

28 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES. This meeting will focus on air transport services. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

28-29 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE -- SPECIAL SESSION (negotiations). For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

Other Forthcoming Events

18-19 September, University of Leeds, United Kingdom: BUSINESS STRATEGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE. The Conference will be a workshop on papers from researchers and practitioners in the fields of corporate environmental management and business strategies for

sustainable development. For more information contact: ERP Environment, tel: (44) (0) 127 453-0408; fax: 127 453-0409; email: elaine@erpenvironment.co.uk.

18-19 September, Vienna, Austria: MEETING OF THE TASK GROUP ON DEBT AND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT. For information visit: http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/2000_round/timetable.htm.

18-20 September, London, United Kingdom: COMMONWEALTH BUSINESS FORUM. The Forum will concentrate on globalisation policies, strategies and partnerships at both national and corporate levels. For more information contact: The Commonwealth Business Council, tel: (44) (0) 207 747-6344; fax: 747-6530; email: cbc@commonwealth.int.

18-20 September, Vigo, Spain: INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON AUTHENTICITY OF SPECIES IN MEAT AND SEAFOOD PRODUCTS. The Congress will cover a wide range of aspects involved in food authenticity. The Congress also includes the symposium "Food labelling for transgenic organisms" that will address the problems related to the production and detection of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in foodstuffs. For information visit: <http://www.iim.csic.es/~qpmfsi>.

18-21 September, Rome, Italy: 26th SESSION OF THE FAO COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY. For information contact: Barbara Huddleston, email: Barbara.Huddleston@fao.org.

18-21 September, Rome, Italy: 26th Session of the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS). For information contact: Barbara Huddleston, FAO, email: Barbara.Huddleston@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/events/>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

18-22 September, Uruguay: UNEP WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT OF DIOXINS. Workshop on the management of dioxins, furans, and PCBS, organised by UNEP. For information contact: Murray Newton or Heidi Fiedler, UNEP Chemicals (IRPTC); tel: (41-22) 979-9111; fax: 797-3460; email: mnewton@unep.ch or hfriedler@unep.ch; Internet: <http://irptc.unep.ch/pops>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

19-20 September, Madrid, Spain: SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CEPHALOPOD TRADE CONFERENCE. The conference will look at squid and octopus fisheries, a review of cephalopod resources, world consumption and the influence of the WTO on trade in these seafood products. For more information email: conferences@agra-europe.com.

19-21 September, Geneva, Switzerland: SECOND EMERGING MARKETS INTERNATIONAL FAIR. This fair will include interaction booths and presentations as well as a forum with workshops, roundtable discussions and interministerial conferences. For information visit: <http://www.ema2000.ch/>.

19-22 September, Geneva, Switzerland: THE WORLD MEETING OF THE REAL ECONOMY. Topics to be addressed include: direct investment, sustainable development, and investment funds. For information visit: <http://www.ema2000.ch/uk/program.html>.

19-28 September, Prague, Czech Republic: WORLD BANK/IMF JOINT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARDS OF GOVERNORS. A program of seminars will run from 23-26 September; the plenary sessions of the Boards of Governors will run from 26-28 September. For information visit: <http://www.worldbank.org> or <http://www.imf.org>.

20 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PROFITABILITY. The Workshop is organised by the New Approaches of Development section of the EMA Foundation's Emerging Markets International Fair. For more information contact: Claire Peracino, EMA Foundation, CP 731, 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 827-2642; fax: 827-2310; Internet: <http://www.ema2000.ch>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

20 September, Cambridge, MA, USA: BIOSAFETY REGULATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO. With presentations by Professor Amanda Galvez, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico and Professor Michelle Chauvet, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana. For more information contact: cid_events@harvard.edu.

20-29 September, Geneva, Switzerland: JOINT FAO-WHO MEETING ON PESTICIDES RESIDUES. The 25th session of the joint meeting of the FAO panel of experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Expert Group on Pesticide Residues. This meeting is expected to produce reports and monographs summarising the assessments of certain pesticides. For further information please contact: Amelia Tejada, at FAO; tel: (39-6) 5705-4010; fax: 5705-6347; email: amelia.tejada@fao.org; or check FAO's website at : <http://www.fao.org/waicent/FaoInfo/Agricult/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/events/c.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

22-23 September, Boston, USA, Harvard University: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY: SCIENCE AND THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE. The conference will cover the social, economic and political implications of the principle in developed and developing countries. For information contact: Derya Honca, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Center for International Development, Harvard University, 70 John F. Kennedy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA; tel. (1-617) 495-1923; fax: 496-8753; email: Derya_Honca@KSG.harvard.edu ; Internet: <http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidbiotech/bioconfpp/home.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages>.

26-30 September, Villa Manin di Passariano, Codroipo, Udine, Italy: VII CONFERENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN EUROPE. The conference will cover the role, trends, communication and integration of networks involved in education for environment and sustainability within local, national, and European policies. For information contact: Preliminary Registration Secretariat, Laboratorio Regionale di Educazione Ambientale, Piazza del Castello 7, 33010 Colloredo di M.A. (UD), Italy; tel: (39-0432) 889014, 889698; fax: 889798; email: larea@cifra.uniud.it; Internet: <http://www.larea.uniud.it>.

28-30 September, Joensuu, Finland: MEETING ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS AND FORESTRY TO THE MITIGATION OF GREENHOUSE EFFECTS: This meeting will be held in conjunction with the international conference on "Woody Biomass as an Energy Source - Challenges in Europe." For information contact: Brita Pajari, Seminar Coordinator, European Forest

Institute, Torikatu 34, FIN-80100 Joensuu, Finland; tel: (358-13) 252-0223; fax: 124-397; Internet: <http://www.efi.fi/events/2000/coste21/>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages>.

RESOURCES

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

LA INEFICIENCIA DE LA SALMONICULTURA EN CHILE: ASPECTOS SOCIALES, ECONOMICOS Y AMBIENTALES. By Fundacion Terram, 2000 (in Spanish). This research study incorporates new variables into the evaluation of the social, economic, and environmental impacts generated by salmon farming in Chile. To obtain contact: Fundacion Terram, Huelen 95 tercer piso, Providencia, Chile, tel: 264-0682; fax: 264-2514, email: terram@ctcinernet.cl.

INTERTEMPORAL FLEXIBILITY IN A TRADABLE CO2 QUOTA SYSTEM. By Hege Westkog in *Environment and Development Economics*, v.5 no.3; July 2000; pp.203-220. The paper compares the total costs of abating CO2 emissions in two different intertemporal trading systems. In addition, the paper gives an analysis of how abatement costs are distributed among different countries/regions. It is shown that the total cost of implementing a climate treaty is considerably reduced in a system where both banking and borrowing of quotas are allowed compared to a system where quotas only can be banked.

SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA AND COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS. By Dirgha N. Tiwari in *Environment and Development Economics*, v.5 no.3; July 2000; pp.259-288. This article develops a framework for environmental-economic decision-making in a single project case that includes the ecological sustainability criteria, environmental costs, natural resource scarcity prices and local peoples' preferences and presents a case study of the lowland irrigated agriculture system.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: A SURVEY. By R. Jayadevappa and S. Chhatre in *ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS*, 2000, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 175-194. In the survey the authors discuss the effects of international trade on environmental quality, economic development and energy as well as examining the relationships between them. The authors advocate additional research into trade theories, environmental policies and development.

BRINGING SOCIAL ANALYSIS INTO A MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL. Appearing in *Journal of Environment & Development* vol. 9, no. 3; September 2000. By Doreen Stabinsky. The author considers the rationale for inclusion of socioeconomic considerations in the evaluation of LMOs for import and evaluates the arguments that such provisions would not be WTO legal.

GLOBALIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: AN OECD PERSPECTIVE, by T. Jones in the *International Journal of Sustainable Development*, v.3 no.2, 2000; pp.146-158. This paper reviews both sides of the discussion, from the perspective of two aspects of economic

activity often associated with globalisation - trade and investment liberalisation. Although the net environmental effects of trade and investment liberalization are not yet fully understood, the paper concludes that with deregulation there is some tendency to attribute more environmental ills to the globalisation process than may be warranted.

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