



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest

03 October 2000

ISSN 1563-003X

Volume 4, N°37

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EU AG PROPOSAL RECEIVES FAVOURABLE WELCOME IN WTO TALKS

On 28-29 September, the WTO's third Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture convened on-going negotiations in the area of agricultural subsidies mandated by Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 4, No. 36, 26 September 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.26-09-00.htm>). On the agenda were 5 proposals covering a range of issues -- market access, non-trade concerns (i.e. environment and rural development), export subsidies, export competition, and domestic support -- and three EU proposals carried over from the last Agriculture Special Session in June 2000.

According to one trade official, progress was made, albeit slowly, on discussions towards the reduction (and eventual elimination) of subsidies in agriculture. Of those proposals tabled at last week's meeting, the EC proposal on export competition received the most positive commentary.

Essentially, the EC proposal outlines the EU's willingness to engage in discussions around the reduction of export subsidies to agricultural products on the condition that all forms of subsidies with trade distorting effects be given equal footing. That is, to discipline only export subsidies while disregarding other forms of subsidised agriculture -- such as export credit schemes, state trading enterprises and food aid -- would amount to discrimination and should therefore be avoided.

In response to the EU position, many countries argued for a complete elimination of export subsidies as opposed to simply their reduction. On the topic of state trading enterprises (i.e. the Canadian Wheat Board), Canada conceded its willingness to discuss the specific problems other Members have with these arrangements, an effort to move the debate away from rhetorical discussions towards more concrete progress.

The section of the EU proposal covering export credits and food aid abuse was clearly targeting the US practice of extending favourable financing to countries in exchange for the purchasing of US agricultural commodities and products. Coincidentally, a similar discussion took place last week at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris around the appropriate use of export credits in agriculture. In that meeting, the US expressed its willingness to reduce the loan tenure of farm export credits to 18 months from three years. The intended effect of this measure would be a decline in the use of farm export credits as fewer developing countries would engage in this type of short-term financing. The meeting in Paris, however, produced no binding consensus on using export credits and thus will not come to bear on agricultural subsidies discussions in Geneva. But with the US position clearly identified, some movement could be anticipated in this area when the Special Session on Agriculture reconvenes in mid-November.

Another positive outcome from the Special Session came from a proposal tabled by a group of developing countries (Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Kenya, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Zimbabwe) on the topic of market access. The proposal was mainly concerned with the size and administration of Tariff Rate Quotas in the interest of improved market access and showed on the part of many previously obdurate countries a willingness to engage the negotiations process.

Last, a proposal on the agenda that raises non-trade concerns, such as rural development and environmental issues, was not addressed due to time constraints and will be discussed in the next meeting in November.

"WTO and Distortions in World Agriculture," THE ECONOMIC TIMES ONLINE, 29 September 2000; "EU Fischler Says WTO Ag Talks Must Address Environment, Rural Development," WTO ACTIVIST, 30 September 2000; "EU Official Slams US Food-Aid Policy," UPI, 2 October 2000; "18 Month Export Credit Limits Under Discussion at OECD Talks," BRIDGENEWS, 25 September 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

CHINA ACCESSION REACHES CRITICAL IMPASSE

As the first round of plurilateral negotiations on China's accession to the WTO wrapped up on 29 September, it remained unclear whether China will accede before the end of 2000. Despite successful bilateral negotiations with the US, the EU, and 34 other Members (Mexico has not yet finalised a bilateral agreement with China), significant problems have developed in the plurilateral process that may delay China's entry until well into 2001. According to Pierre-Louis Girard, Chair of the China Accession Working Party, disagreements between Members regarding the terms of China's accession have reached an impasse and can only now be reconciled after high-level political intervention from the capitals.

At issue are a number of specific items:

- China wants access to agricultural subsidies permitted to developing countries under Article 9.4 of the Agreement on Agriculture and Articles 27 and 29 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, while the Working Party (the US, EU, Canada, Japan, and others with a significant interest in China's accession) want to exclude these Articles (a precedent exists in this case as Oman was refused access to Article 9.4 of the Agreement on Agriculture in its own accession bid);
- China has only issued 2 of the 7 permits it promised foreign insurance providers. The Working Party would like these issued or be given concrete assurance that they will be issued promptly;
- The Working Party wants assurances that China will implement a WTO- compatible intellectual property rights regime in a timely manner;
- China maintains a two-tiered product inspection regime, one for domestic goods and one for imports. The Working Party wants to eliminate the possibility of unfair treatment for imports by streamlining the product inspection process;
- China allocates its Tariff Rate Quotas both federally and regionally. The Working Party wants to streamline this procedure;
- The Working Party wants clarity on the methodology China will use when measuring injury in antidumping and countervailing investigations, specifically how it intends to cost products; and
- China and the US are in disagreement over which product safeguard procedures to follow. China wants to follow those of the WTO while the US wants to follow those agreed to in their bilateral accord.

In general, the position taken by the China Working Party is that China is now attempting to back out of its bilateral commitments in an effort to extract more concessions from the plurilateral process. According to one US trade official, "We're not going to accept anything in there (China's WTO accession protocol) that in our view undercuts their commitments, any definitions and such. "But according to Chinese Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Long Yongtu, "We would find it difficult to accept new requests on the excuse of ensuring the implementation of the agreements...We believe that this is in fact an attempt for reopening negotiation on the bilateral agreements already signed...It is impossible for China to make commitments on market access beyond those contained in the bilateral agreements."

Although it is difficult to isolate the key sticking points in the ailing plurilateral process, some analysts have speculated that in fact the impasse has more to do with China's domestic political culture than with specific unresolved trade issues. In a report released by the investment bank Salomon Smith Barney, an estimated 40 million Chinese, approximately three percent of China's population, will lose their jobs within five years of China's accession to the WTO, the majority of which will be from the agriculture and state sectors. Understanding that the costs of adjustment will be high should China be admitted to the WTO, some Beijing factions opposed to liberalised trade may be attempting to disrupt the accession bid.

No date has been scheduled for reconvening the plurilateral process, but it is assumed that negotiations will resume sometime in late October or November. US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky will likely visit Beijing shortly to seek assurances from Beijing that the present impasse is resolvable. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy is expected to do the same before the end of the month.

In related developments, several Latin American countries have announced that they would like to begin negotiating bilateral deals with China. Presently, Nicaragua, Panama, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic all have minimal market access to China, while Bolivia has just signed a deal with China.

"Squabbling Delays China's Entry into the WTO," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 29 September 2000; "US Envoy Mulls China Trip to Break WTO Entry Logjam," BLOOMBERG, 28 September 2000; "China WTO Talks Fail to Bridge Key Issue as China Takes Hardline," INSIDE US TRADE, 29 September 2000; "Latin American Nations Seek Late Talks with China," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 29 September 2000; "US, EU to Try Breaking Deadlock in China Accession Talks," INSIDE US TRADE, 29 September 2000; "WTO Negotiator: Political Intervention Needed in China Talks," BRIDGENEWS, 28 September 2000; "China Talks Conclude at WTO with Call for Political Intervention," WTO REPORTER, 29 September 2000; "WTO Cost: 40 Million Jobs," FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW, 5 October 2000 edition; "Fact Box- Impact on China Sectors After WTO Entry," REUTERS, 20 September 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UPDATE: BANANAS, TAX HAVENS

EC Presents New Status Report; Ecuador Threatens New Dispute

At a meeting of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) on 26 September, the EC presented its proposal to implement a "first come, first served" system to replace its current preferential market-access regime for banana imports and bring its system into line with WTO rules.

The European Commission is scheduled to adopt a report on the proposed system on 4 October and present it to EU foreign ministers on 9 October. Over the past year, the EU has been attempting to devise an alternative banana-import scheme that satisfies the US and Latin American producers who challenged the existing rules at the WTO. Since then, the US has imposed \$US191 million of sanctions on EU goods in retaliation for the EU's failure to change its banana regime and is threatening to raise the pressure by rotating EU products hit with sanctions.

The EU's first come, first served proposal refers to a situation whereby licences to import bananas would be awarded within certain quotas to operators who were in a position to bring their bananas into the European market first. Then, after a 'brief transition period', the EU would move toward a tariff-only regime. EU officials are confident that their proposal will satisfy the US, which, together with Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, brought the WTO case against the EC in 1998. "Because we are basing this system on a proposal from the United States, we think they like it," one EC trade official said.

At the DSB session, Ecuador submitted a statement wherein it informed the WTO that it would take "new legal action" against the EC if it failed once again to bring its banana market access system into conformity with the WTO. Ecuador is concerned that the EC's 'brief transition period' to a tariff-only could be extended for too long a period. The Ecuadorian statement also expressed opposition to the EC's distribution of tariff rate quotas during this transitional period. "As time passes...we realise that a true solution to this problem will be possible once a system based solely on tariffs is adopted. At this stage this seems to be the only likely system to be fully WTO compatible," Ecuador said in its submission.

According to Ecuador's paper, "If there is no movement forward, that is if the EC maintains the current illegal situation, what is there to be done for the banana exporting countries? Has this lack of compliance reached the limits where those who have been injured have their rights simply extinguished? Ecuador does not believe this is the case and that is why we should not be surprised by the possibility of starting a new Banana IV case." Three cases -- two under the GATT and one under the WTO -- have already been taken against the EU's banana regime.

Ecuador's position was supported by Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama at the DSB. For its part, Honduras was concerned that the EU's proposed solution would automatically grant import licenses to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries -- with which the EU maintains its preferential market access regime -- and continue the exclusion of Latin American countries from the European banana market.

The EC has said that if no agreement is reached on the first come, first served system by mid-October, it plans to start negotiations on a tariff-only system. However, a tariff-only regime is opposed by many, including Caribbean banana producers, European importers, and some EU states. Nevertheless, one EU official indicated that there was a sense of urgency in Brussels about ending the dispute. "We think there is a need to move on and move on rather quickly," he said.

The DSB also adopted the WTO Appellate Body ruling on the 1916 US Antidumping Act that allows US companies to claim damages from foreign firms accused of dumping in the US market. The US must now amend its antidumping law within a 'reasonable period of time' -- normally 15 months -- in order to conform to WTO rules. The case was brought to the WTO last year in two separate complaints by Japan and the EC.

CARICOM Targets OECD Sanctions Through WTO

CARICOM, a 14-member group of Caribbean countries with the goal of creating a common market, may take legal action through the WTO against the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), accusing the OECD of attempting extra-territorial jurisdiction.

The OECD, which is composed of 29 of the world's wealthiest states, is threatening sanctions against countries with alleged lax regulation of financial services and tax laws.

"It was decided to look instead to the WTO rather than taking action directly against the OECD," said a CARICOM spokesman. "It appeared that any legal action would have to be directed not at the OECD but against individual members, and this promised to be somewhat cumbersome." "The

WTO has the responsibility for regulation of trade in services and we feel that is the appropriate forum to deal with disputes of this type," said Arnhim Eustace, Finance Minister of St. Vincent, one of the countries whose offshore sectors has been criticised.

While hoping for a favourable result from the WTO, several countries have started tightening regulatory oversight. The Bahamas, for instance, says it intends to correct deficiencies in its anti-money- laundering measures, including strengthening laws requiring the reporting of 'suspicious' transactions to include reporting of 'unusual' transactions. But the offshore jurisdictions – which attract financial clients by levying very low or no taxes -- maintain that they will not give in to pressure from the OECD to amend their taxation policies.

"The banana 'story' continues, Ecuador warns of new claims," SUNS, 26 September 2000; "EU officials raise hope of banana row breakthrough," REUTERS, 22 September 2000; "WTO adopts final dispute report on US anti- dumping law," WTO PRESS REVIEW, 27 September 2000; "Thailand seeks talks with Egypt on tuna ban in GMO dispute," BNA WTO REPORTER, 25 September 2000; "Tax havens seek WTO intervention," FINANCIAL TIMES, 2 October 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

US-EU TRADE TENSIONS DE-ESCALATE IN FSC CASE

In an effort to subdue escalating trade tensions between the EU and the US, the two parties signed a procedural protocol on 30 September which outlines how they are to resolve the controversial Foreign Sales Corporation dispute (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 34, 19 September 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story7.19-09-00.htm>). The deal effectively grants the US Congress an additional 30 days to vote on the FSC's replacement legislation before the EU can initiate a panel to determine the WTO-conformity of the new regime. The EU has already made public both its disapproval of the replacement scheme and its intention to reconvene a panel should Congress enact the new regime before 1 November.

Under the original WTO panel that ruled against the FSC export tax regime, the US was given until 1 October to amend or replace the offending legislation. Since the US scheme remained non-compliant after the 1 October deadline, the EU was in a position to seek WTO approval to initiate retaliatory measures within 30 days of the deadline. The new arrangement, however, postpones possible EU sanctions against the US until after the second WTO panel and appeal process, should one be warranted. However, should the US Congress fail to enact the new tax legislation by 1 November, the EU could begin compensatory measures soon after the new deadline.

Although not explicitly written into the agreement, some believe that the signing of the protocol was contingent on the US relaxing its carousel retaliations against EU imports which have resulted from EU non-compliance in the banana-beef disputes. Effectively, the protocol has opened up the possibility for the EU to extract market access concessions from US in exchange for postponing its retaliation against the FSC tax scheme.

Both parties have made public commitments to resolve their trade disputes by the least trade restrictive means possible.

The signing of the protocol comes just one month before the 7 November US presidential election. The US-EU protocol also has the appearance of de-escalating trade tensions and of stalling trade retaliations until the new administration has settled into the White House.

"US, EU Reach Procedural Pact in the FSC Case, US Loss Could Still Incur Huge Damages," WTO REPORTER, 3 October 2000; "EU and US Reach Agreement on Procedures for Handling FSC Dispute," EU Press Release, 2 October 2000; "From Boom to Boon," THE ECONOMIST, 30 September-6 October 2000 edition.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: THE AMERICAS

Regional Agreements on the Menu for Canadian Prime Minister's Central America/Caribbean Tour

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien spent 27-29 September meeting with 21 Central American and Caribbean leaders. The closed-door meetings were intended to intensify Canada's sales pitch for a Pan-American free trade agreement and are a part of Canada's planning for a Summit of the Americas set to take place next April in Quebec City.

Central American leaders and Chretien spent 28 September discussing the prospects for a free trade agreement. Costa Rica is already discussing a free trade accord with Canada, while Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua are expected to join the talks soon. Guatemalan Minister of Economy Eduardo Weymann stated that, "If the talks become specific, they could be wrapped up in one year."

Caribbean leaders spent 29 September considering the Canadian Prime Minister's proposal to include Cuba in the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas. The move follows the decision by CARICOM -- a 14-member group of Caribbean countries -- to include Cuba in a free trade agreement signed in July 2000. Colin Murdoch, the permanent secretary of Antigua's foreign ministry, responded to Chretien's proposal by saying, "We have not yet decided a position on the issue of Cuba's involvement in the process." However, CARICOM is widely expected to support Chretien's proposal. A Jamaican Government official noted, "the Canadian proposal is a further message to the US that its embargo collapsed years ago."

Mexican President-elect Vicente Fox is also encouraging free trade and regional co-operation with Latin America. While Mr. Fox has proposed a free trade arrangement with Mercosur, a free trade area consisting of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay, prospects for such a treaty appear bleak due to Brazil's resentment of Mexico's trade relations with the US. Mexico may instead focus more on Central American countries in the short-term. Mr. Fox has already proposed to create a regional development zone stretching from Mexico's southern states to Panama. The development zone would initiate infrastructure projects to build highways, airports and ports.

Sugar Dominates Mercosur Talks

As *BRIDGES* Weekly went to press, trade officials from Brazil and Argentina were continuing their attempts to resolve a five-year sugar dispute at a meeting of the Mercosur parties (Mercosur is comprised of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, with Chile and Bolivia as associates).

Brazil wants Argentina to end its 20 percent sugar import tax, while Argentina says that it needs the tax to protect its northwestern cane-growing farmers. Argentina counterattacked by accusing Brazil of subsidising its own sugar industry. Brazilian Ambassador to Mercosur Jose Botafogo Goncalves responded by saying, "Today we have minimal intervention in the sugarcane production in the northeast in relation to other Mercosur partners."

US Extends Greater Duty-Free Access to 58 African, Caribbean and Central American Countries

Following up on the Africa-Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) bill enacted in May 2000 (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 19, 16 May 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.16-05-00.htm>), the US Administration announced on 1 October that it had extended greater duty-free access to the US market to 34 African countries and 24 Caribbean and Central American countries.

The initiative covers a wide range of products (including footwear, canned tuna, T-shirts and other apparel items), although the trade benefits are dependent upon the countries establishing adequate customs and visa systems. The US also will set caps on apparel imports. The move is intended to spur US commerce with many of the world's Least Developed Countries. US President Bill Clinton said that the new legislation would "help promote economic development, alleviate global poverty, and create new economic opportunities for American workers and businesses." However, due to what the US has termed political turmoil or the failure to carry out economic reforms, 14 African countries were excluded from the program, including the Ivory Coast, Gambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, the US has indicated that it would review labour conditions in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua by 30 June 2001. Guatemala's status will be reviewed in April 2001, and officials said the country could be denied future trade benefits if it ignores workers' rights.

Columbia's trade minister, Marta Lucia Ramirez, is lobbying the US to include Columbia in the new trade program. With the implementation of the new program, Columbia is expected to lose 50,000 jobs and \$US250 million in clothing exports to the US per year as companies currently located in Columbia relocate to Caribbean and Central American countries. US Senator Bob Graham of Florida has introduced legislation to eliminate restrictions on Colombian clothing exports assembled with US fabric. Graham said that failure to pass the measure "would be a giant step backward from our goal of helping Colombians find employment in legitimate industries." However, White House officials warn, "given the fight on CBI and China, you just run out of juice," indicating that the White House may not have the energy to deal with another trade battle in Congress.

"Aid groups eye Chretien visit to Caribbean, Central America with scepticism," CANADIAN PRESS, 25 September 2000. "Mexico's Fox urges freer trade in Latin America," FINANCIAL TIMES, 14 September 2000. "Call to bring Cuba into all-American trade area," FINANCIAL TIMES, 29 September 2000. "Argentina stands firm on limiting Brazil chicken imports," BRIDGENEWS, 29 September 2000. "Sugar spat likely to be top issue at Mercosur meet," REUTERS, 22 September 2000. "Bogota jobs plea to US," FINANCIAL TIMES, 21 September 2000. "US extends trade benefits to Africa, Caribbean," REUTERS, 2 October 2000. "Central America to seek free trade agreement with Canada," AFP, 27 September 2000.

UN COMPETITION CODE UNDER REVIEW

The United Nation's 1980 Competition Code -- the only universal, voluntary instrument on competition -- recently came under review at the Fourth UN Review Conference on the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, held in Geneva from 25 to 29 September.

In the resolution agreed upon at the review -- which was hosted by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) -- the signatories called for more efficient and equitable globalisation and the need for controls on anti-competitive practices. While delegates did not explicitly commit themselves to implementing a multilateral framework on competition, UNCTAD was mandated to continue its research into possible international agreements on competition.

According to an UNCTAD representative, the US' lack of opposition to further studies into a multilateral framework and the acceptance of possible preferential or differential treatment for developing countries signifies a softening of the US position, at least within UNCTAD. Officially, the US has tended to oppose a multilateral agreement on competition.

The EU, Japan and the Republic of Korea have for some time been calling for a multilateral competition framework (see BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 4, No. 24, 20 June 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.20-06-00.htm>) within the WTO.

Economies in transition generally support a multilateral framework, whereas developing countries are divided. While many Latin American and African countries support the proposals for global competition rules, some countries in Asia, notably India, Pakistan and Malaysia, are still unsure.

A report published in February 2000 by the US Justice Department's International Competition Policy Advisory Committee called for a "Global Competition Initiative" to "foster dialogue among officials along with broader communities to produce more convergence of law and analysis". In a recent speech, former US Assistant Attorney-General Joel Klein also supported a more global approach as part of US antitrust policy, endorsing the establishment of an international antitrust body. However, the US opposes EU proposals to establish any such international organisation within the WTO.

Currently, all OECD countries have implemented national competition legislation. Similarly, most economies in transition and a growing number of developing countries have adopted or begun to develop national competition laws. However, due to a lack of institutional capacities, financial resources and political support, many of these countries have been unable to implement and enforce their competition rules effectively, so states are now considering the feasibility of multilateral rules to govern competition policies.

The WTO Working Group on the interaction between Trade and Competition is meeting from 2 to 3 October; *BRIDGES Weekly* will report on the outcomes of the session in the next issue.

"Fourth UN Conference to review UN Competition Code opens in Geneva," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE TAD/INF/2862, 25 September 2000; "Final Report to the Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust," US INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, February 2000; "Review of all aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices - Agreed Resolution," UNCTAD, 29 September 2000.

GMOS IN BRIEF

Thailand Brings First GMO Complaint to WTO

The government of Thailand on 22 September filed a complaint against Egypt in the first case to come before the WTO involving genetically modified organisms (GMO). Egypt had banned imports of canned tuna from Thailand in January 2000, believing them to be packed in genetically modified soybean oil.

"We object to the ban because it is imposed only on Thai products", said a Thai official. Thailand imports, but does not grow GM soybeans, the official added.

While Thailand is not disputing Egypt's right to ban food imports, Bangkok complains that the Egyptian ban illegally discriminates against its exports because Egypt has no evidence that the soybean oil contains GMOs.

Before reaching WTO arbitration, the two governments now have two months under dispute rules in which to attempt to reach a solution.

GMOs have threatened to create a trade-environment stir in the WTO, primarily with respect to different approaches to GMO regulation in the US and Canada, on the one hand, and the EU, on the other. Thus far, the US and Canada have refrained from bringing GMO-related trade differences to WTO dispute settlement, due in part to domestic environmental and social sensitivities to the issue.

Monsanto Seeks to Shape GMO Debate

GeneWatch UK, a British non-governmental organisation, last month released the news that one of the largest corporations involved with development of GMOs, US-based Monsanto Corp., is involved in a global campaign to promote genetically-modified foods by influencing which experts are selected for international scientific committees. The information comes from a leaked confidential Monsanto memo on the activities of its Regulatory Affairs & Scientific Outreach teams for May and June 2000. GeneWatch UK says the multinational company was seeking to promote its views through supposedly independent scientists and gaining influence with key decision makers in government departments in developing countries.

Monsanto's 10-page internal report, headed "company confidential", describes developments in the regulation of genetically modified crops in 20 countries worldwide and Monsanto's efforts to influence these policies. The countries include Japan, Bulgaria, Thailand, Mexico, Brazil and Korea as well as the US and the EU.

Indian Peasant Groups on Campaign against Global Seed Firms

Indian farmers have sought an immediate freeze on commercialisation of genetic engineering in food and farming. Various peasant groups held a two-day meeting in the city of Bangalore last week to protest the entry of multinational seed companies into traditional farming practices.

Vandana Shiva, an Indian ecologist who is heading the conference, accused the World Bank and the WTO of being responsible for the downfall of Indian public sector firms by allowing multinational companies to operate in the Indian seed industry.

"The liberalisation of the seeds industry and the arrival of Monsanto has resulted in frequent crop failures, huge expenses for pesticides and high levels of debts for the farmers," Shiva said. In a statement released at the conference, the farmers demanded that Indian agricultural universities should test the agroclimactic suitability, germination characteristics and vulnerability to pests and diseases of the seeds distributed by multinational companies. Seed supply to the farmers should be strengthened through community seed banks, they added.

The farmers also called for exclusion of seed, life and life forms from the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) under the WTO.

Speaking at the forum, French farmer-leader Jose Bové said, "farmers from Europe have to join farmers from India to drive away multinationals. The farmers have started winning in Europe and the farmers in India will also win."

Indonesia Postpones Deal on Transgenic Cotton Seeds

Strong public pressure and concern over transgenic products have caused the postponement of an agreement between the government of Indonesia and Monsanto Corp. on the development of cotton seeds in South Sulawesi, according to a report in the Jakarta Post.

Sonny Keraf, State Minister of Environment, was quoted as saying that his personal disapproval of the project, along with pressure from non-governmental organisations, resulted in the Coordinating Minister for the Economy Rizal Ramli postponing the agreement which was due to be signed on 15 September.

Nevertheless, Monsanto's subsidiary, PT. Monagro Kimia, has been providing farmers in Bantaeng and Bulukumba regencies, South Sulawesi, with transgenic cotton seeds for the past five months in the 500- hectare plantations now being harvested. The products are exported and some are distributed in local markets. Indonesia has a great need for cotton, covering only 1 percent of domestic demands as high as 1.5 million tons of cotton seeds.

According to the Jakarta Post, Minister Keraf said he will send a warning letter to Monagro to stop production. But Monagro's Corporate Communications Manager Tri Soekirman claims that the company had obtained permission for the plantation earlier this year from the Research and Development Department of the then Ministry of Forestry and Plantation.

As for the suspended agreement, Tri said it was merely a statement of cooperation that reconfirmed Monsanto's activities in Indonesia producing seeds and herbicides. Farmers from South Sulawesi claimed that they were very satisfied with the yield of transgenically modified Bt cotton or Bollgard cotton. The cotton was said to have a yield of two to three tons of seed per hectare, compared to local cotton, which has a yield of only 401 kilograms per hectare.

"Thailand Files First GMO Complaint Against Egypt at WTO", BRIDGENEWS, 28 September 2000; "Indian Peasant Groups to Launch Campaign Against Global Seed Firms", AFP, 23 September 2000; "Indian Farmers Protest Sale of Genetically Engineered Seeds", BRIDGENEWS, 25 September 2000; "Indonesia: Deal on Transgenic Cotton Seeds Delayed", SUNS, 14 September 2000.

IN BRIEF

US SENATE RATIFIES SHRIMP IMPORT, TURTLE PROTECTION TREATY. On 21 September, the US became the sixth nation to ratify the Inter-American Convention for the Protection & Conservation of Sea Turtles. The treaty was designed in response to the 1999 WTO ruling against a US law that required all imported shrimp to be caught using nets with turtle excluder devices (TEDs) (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, Number 4, February 01, 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.01-02-00.htm>), a standard required of all US shrimp fishermen. The US President is expected to sign the treaty to complete the US ratification, while Ecuador and Honduras also appear to be nearing ratification. Eight of the eleven countries that signed the treaty have yet to ratify it. The treaty is likely to be challenged by Malaysia. "US Ratifies Treaty To Limit Shrimp Imports, Protect Sea Turtles," ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWSLINE, 21 September 2000.

HOPE FOR PAKISTAN'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY. Pakistan's textile sector, which accounts for two-thirds of the country's export earnings, has shown recent signs of recovery. Government officials state that an estimated \$US500m has so far been invested in machinery this year, half the level necessary to boost cotton textile exports to the government's ambitious target level of \$US14bn. Businesspeople, however, warn that this high-growth scenario might be overly-optimistic due to a variety of structural problems and the industry's reliance on the availability of cheap raw cotton. Moreover, it remains uncertain the extent to which improved textile market access for foreign imports will affect Pakistan's potential growth in exports. "Vision of hope for Pakistan clothmakers," FINANCIAL TIMES, 19 September 2000; "Commerce ministry removing clothing, textile items under Customs tariff," BUSINESS RECORDER, 18 September 2000.

INDIA AGREES TO CAP TARIFFS ON KEY TEXTILE AND APPAREL PRODUCTS. In a recent trade agreement with the US, India has agreed to reduce barriers to American textile imports, allowing US producers of textile and apparel products to expand shipments to India, one of the world's largest and fastest growing markets. The textiles agreement will require India to establish its first-ever legally binding tariff ceilings on key textile and apparel items. According to the American Textile Manufacturer Institute, the duty restrictions are an important step towards opening India's markets to foreign exporters, even though other barriers remain in place, including prohibitive marking rules, add-on taxes and onerous customs procedures. In a similar agreement with the EU, India will cut levies on textiles from Europe. Recognising India's efforts to fulfil its WTO

obligations, the EU has agreed to allow an extra 3,500 tons of textiles and clothing imports from India. "US, India announce trade agreement on textiles," BUSINESS RECORDER, 17 September 2000; "India says extra EU textile imports to lift earnings by 68 mln dollars," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 15 September 2000; "India agrees to lift several textile, apparel import tariffs," BRIDGENEWS, 18 September 2000.

WTO IN BRIEF

SUPACHAI SUGGESTS NEW ROLE FOR NGOs IN WTO NEGOTIATIONS. Speaking at a 22 September George Washington University symposium on global trade, WTO Director-General in-waiting Supachai Panitchpakdi -- currently Thai Deputy Prime Minister -- encouraged the establishment of committees comprised of accredited non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide input to WTO trade ministers. While this new system would not give NGOs a direct negotiating role, it would give NGOs an increased role in WTO proceedings. Supachai also wants the WTO to accelerate the accession process in order to increase the number of WTO Members to 170 by the time he takes office in 2002. Additionally, Supachai suggested that the WTO's current consensus-based decision-making would render the organisation unmanageable in the near future. Under the current system, one country may object to a decision and "the whole thing will go down the drain," he said. "Negotiations: Supachai Suggests Gradual Approach to Launching New Trade Round," WTO REPORTER, 25 September 2000.

TRADE POLICY REVIEW OF KOREA. At the third Trade Policy Review of Korea, WTO Members acknowledged that Korea's "strong and swift recovery" from the 1997 crisis was largely a result of prudent macroeconomic policies and far-reaching structural reforms. The Members also recognised the significant contribution of the multilateral trading system and urged Korea to further reduce state involvement and facilitate foreign participation in several sectors. Concerns, however, were expressed regarding persistent administrative delays in customs clearance and certification procedures, and in Korea's increasing level of agricultural support. Seoul was urged to maintain the momentum of reforms to ensure that the recovery is sustained. ICTSD Internal Files.

FRANCE FUNDS WTO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. The French government on 2 October made a contribution of 1 million euros for the period 2000-2003 to the WTO's fund on technical assistance. This voluntary contribution will benefit especially Least Developed Countries and African countries "to help them take their place in the multilateral trade system," said François Huwart, French Minister of State for Foreign Trade. WTO Director-General Mike Moore invited all the other governments to increase the part of the regular budget dedicated to technical assistance, which, as he explained, "at 741 000 CHF, is insufficient." "La France verse une contribution de 1 million d'euros au fonds de l'assistance technique de l'OMC", WTO PRESS RELEASE, 2 October 2000.

MOORE URGES MEMBER COUNTRIES TO INCREASE WTO BUDGET. Noting that the number of trade conflicts being brought to Geneva is continuing to increase, WTO Director-General Mike Moore has circulated a note to Members urging them to increase the WTO budget. Translation bottlenecks have forced the WTO to delay the public release of panel reports by up to 11 weeks. Moore stated that the dispute settlement, implementation activities, IT, and trade policy reviews are the four areas in desperate need of increased funding. The WTO has estimated that an

additional 11.2 million Swiss francs (\$US 6.3 million) are needed to meet basic needs and an additional Sfr. 20.1 million (\$US 11.25 million) are needed to cover "enhanced activities". The recent request for budgetary increases follows Moore's proposal in July to allow private individuals and NGOs to make financial contributions to the WTO (See *BRIDGES* Trade News Digest, Vol. 4, No. 33, 5 September 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/wtobrief.05-09-00.htm>). "Administration: WTO Chief Urges Budget Increases, Highlights Dispute Settlement Logjam," WTO REPORTER, 22 September 2000.

EVENTS

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

Coming Up This Week

2-6 October, Loctudy, France: WORLD FORUM OF FISH-HARVESTERS AND FISHWORKERS (WFF). For information contact: WFF Organising Committee; email: peche.dev@wanadoo.fr; Internet: <http://assoc.wanadoo.fr/peche.dev/>.

2-6 October, Rome, Italy: FAO TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING. Organised by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. For information contact: D. Douman, Senior Fishery Liaison Officer International Institutions and Liaison Service (FIPL), FAO; Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy; tel: (39-0) 657-051; fax: 657-053-152; email: fi-inquiries@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/fi/meetings/meetings.asp>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

3 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPANTS ON THE EXPANSION OF TRADE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

3-4 October, Amsterdam, Netherlands: WORLD POVERTY: A CHALLENGE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR. For information contact: UvA Conference Office, P.O. Box 19268, 1000 GG Amsterdam; tel: (31-20) 525-4791; fax: 525-4799; email: congres@bdu.uva.nl.

3-4 October, St. Peter, Minnesota, USA: GLOBALIZATION 2000: ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES. For information visit: <http://www.gac.edu/news/campusevents/nobel/2000.html>.

3-6 October, Cartagena, Colombia: REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. Convened by the FAO and UNEP. For information contact: Gerold Wyrwal, FAO; tel: (39-06) 5705-2753 fax: 5705-6347; email: Gerold.Wyrwal@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/waicent/FaoInfo/Agricult/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Events/c.htm>.

4-6 October, Vienna, Austria: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT. This conference will be hosted by the Austrian Government. For information contact: Cecelia Cerredo, Transport Unit, OECD Environment Directorate, 2 rue André Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16; tel: (33-1-45) 24-98-40; fax: 24-78-76; email: cilla.cerredo@oecd.org; Internet: <http://www.oecd.org/env/ccst/est>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

4-11 October, Amman, Jordan: WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS (IUCN). For information contact: IUCN Congress Office, Gland, Switzerland; tel: (41- 22) 999-0020; email: jth@iucn.org; Internet: <http://www.iucn.org/amman/index.html>.

5 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES. This meeting will focus on review of MFN exemptions. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

5-6 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES (Special Session). On the agenda: Negotiating Guidelines and Procedures Pursuant to Article XIX of the GATS – Note by the Secretariat and Communication from the EC; Assessment of Trade in Services -- Note by the Secretariat; Tourism Services; the use of Clusters approach in the Negotiations -- note by the Secretariat; and Communications from the US and China. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5393. *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest will report on the outcomes on this meeting in the next issue.

5-8 October, Montpellier and Me'ze, France: MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MCSD) WORKSHOP: FREE TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE EURO MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT. For information contact: MCSD; tel: (33- 49) 238-7130; fax: 238-7131; email: planbleu@planbleu.org.

6 October, Hannover, Germany: CONFERENCE ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY, GLOBALIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. For information contact: FAW Research Institute, Harald Pandl, FAW Research Institute; PO Box 2060, D-89010 Ulm, Germany; tel.: 49-731-501-555; Internet: <http://members.tripod.com/ruddyconsult/expo2.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

6 October, Geneva, Switzerland: COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

6 October, Geneva, Switzerland: COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

9 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

9-10 October, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: SECOND GLOBAL FORUM ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. Sponsored by the UN Development Programme. For information contact: Sarah

Burd-Sharps, UNDP; tel: (212) 906-3664; email: sarah.burd-sharps@undp.org; Internet: <http://www.undp.org/hdro/Rioforum.html>.

9-11 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

9-13 October, Arusha, Tanzania: UNEP WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT OF DIOXINS. Organised by the UN Environment Programme. 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/>.

9-13 October, Edinburgh, Scotland: EUROPA BIO 2000 - BIOTECHNOLOGY TODAY FOR A BETTER LIFE TOMORROW, THE CHALLENGE OF AN OPEN DIALOGUE. Part of the European Biotechnology Congress, organised by EuropaBio, BIA and Scottish Enterprise. For information contact: EuropaBio 2000; Avenue de l'Armée 6, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium; tel: (32-2) 735-0313 ; fax: 735- 4960; email: mail@europa-bio.be; Internet: <http://www.europa-bio.be>.

9-13 October, Geneva, Switzerland: BASEL CONVENTION WORKING GROUPS. For information contact: Pierre Portas, Technical Unit; tel: (41-22) 917- 8217; email: pierre.portas@unep.ch; or Pavel Suian, Legal Unit; tel: (41-22) 917- 8219; email: pavel.suiian@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/basel/meetings/calendar.html>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

9-17 October, Montreal Canada: CAPITALIST GLOBALISATION AND ITS IMPACTS. Hosted by the International Research Collective (IRC). For information contact: the IRC; tel: (1-514) 937-3200; email: lombrenoire@tao.ca.

9-20 October, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, 47th SESSION. For information contact: UNCTAD Office of the Secretary of the Board; tel: (41-22) 907-5007; fax: 907-0056.

10 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING. Meeting will address: Accession of Oman, proposals to amend rules and procedures for settlement of disputes pursuant to article 10 of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO, reports from the Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture and the Council for Trade and Services. For information contact: Keith Rockwell, Director of Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5015.

10-12 October, Warsaw, Poland: THIRD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE ELECTRICITY AND GAS TRADE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE. Sponsored by EconTrade. For information contact: Walter Leal Filho; tel: (49-351) 871-8344; fax: 871-8448; email: mr@econtrade.com.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO 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.

11 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY (Bahrain). For information Contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

11-12 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT. Meeting will address: relationship between trade and investment for development and economic growth and analysis of existing international instruments and activities regarding trade and investment. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

12 October, Geneva Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

12-13 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

16 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

16 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. Meeting will address: Attendance of LDCs at meetings, follow-up to the high level meeting on LDCs, and Market access for LDCs. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

17 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF SAUDI ARABIA. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

24-25 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

Other Forthcoming Events

10 October, Brussels, Belgium: ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. The Environment Council will meet three times during the remainder of 2000: 10 October, 7 November (tentative), and 18-19 December (tentative). The Development Council will meet only once, on 10 November 2000. For information visit: <http://www.europa.eu.int/scadplus/cal/en/c01010.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

11-12 October, Washington DC, USA. CEC SYMPOSIUM ON UNDERSTANDING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. Sponsored by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. This conference will present the findings of 14 original papers exploring the relationship between trade and the environment. For information contact: Andrew Horsman, NACEC; tel: (1-514) 350-4300; fax: 350-4314; email: ahorsman@ccemtl.org; Internet: <http://www.cec.org>.

12 October, New Delhi, India: LINKAGES BETWEEN TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT, TRADE AND LABOUR STANDARDS. A seminar will be held in New Delhi on the issues related to linking trade with environment, and on trade and labour standards. For information contact: Srinivas Krishnaswamy, CUTS; D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India; tel: (91-141) 207-482-85; fax: 207-486 or 203-998; email: cutsjpr@jpl.dot.net.in; Internet: <http://www.cuts-india.org>.

12-13 October, Dublin, Ireland: EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - SMEs AND NEW ENTERPRISES. Hosted by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. The conference will last two days and will comprise a plenary session and four parallel sessions dealing with the following themes: Product design - practical examples of SMEs; Support systems for SMEs - innovative examples; Training needs of SMEs; Evaluation of draft Foundation report on Factors and Processes leading to Successful Design. For information contact: Sarah Farrell, Secretary; tel: (353-1) 204-3172 or John Hurley, Information Liaison Officer; tel: (353-1) 204-3209; Internet: <http://susdev.eurofound.ie/conference.html>.

13 October, Bern, Switzerland: SWISSAID SYMPOSIUM ON PATENTED HUNGER. The symposium looks at the WTO TRIPs Agreement and how it should be changed to promote the public interest. For information contact: SWISSAID, email: tagung@swissaid.ch; Internet: <http://www.swissaid.ch>.

16-17 October, Cambridge, MA, USA: RAISING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN THE TROPICS: BIOPHYSICAL CHALLENGES FOR TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY. Hosted by the Harvard Center for International Development (CID), the objective of the workshop is to bring forward new data and ideas to help identify the economically relevant differences in biophysical conditions around the world, analyse their effects on productivity in agriculture and the whole economy, and prescribe appropriate responses through agricultural research and government policy. For information contact: CID; email: cid_events@harvard.edu; Internet: <http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidbiotech/ag/>.

16-20 October, Isle of Skye, Scotland: SMALL ISLANDS IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM: SHARING SOLUTIONS TO COMMON PROBLEMS. Organised by Habitat Scotland. There will be ten sessions covering such themes as: biodiversity and protected areas, sustainable tourism, coastal zone and fisheries management, among others. For information contact: Graeme Robertson, Secretary, ISLANDS VI Conference, Hazelmount, Heron Place, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9EU, Scotland; tel: (44-1478) 612-898; fax: 613-254; email: graeme@islandstudies.org; Internet: <http://www.islandstudies.org/>.

16-27 October, Miami, Florida, USA: INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COURSE: SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS CENTER (SOAC). Sponsored by Florida International University. For information contact: Summit of the Americas Centre; Florida International University, University Park, DM 353, Miami, FL 33199, USA; tel: (1-305) 348-2894; fax: 348-3593; email: summit@fiu.edu; Internet: <http://www.americasnet.net>

17-18 October, Cyprus: ITC CONFERENCE ON GATS AND GENERAL SERVICES EXPORTING. Hosted by the International Trade Centre. For information visit: <http://www.intracen.org>

26-28 October, Bergen, Norway: ECONOMICS AND THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY - PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT OF EUROPE'S FISHERIES. The aim of the final workshop is to explore from an economic perspective the key issues of resource allocation, and to consider other international issues relevant to the CFP, such as stocks shared with third countries and the particular problems of the Mediterranean. For information, contact: Aaron Hatcher; CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth PO4 8JF, UK; tel: (44 2392) 844-230 or 844-082; fax: 844-037; email: aaron.hatcher@port.ac.uk.

30 October - 1 November, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD EXPERT MEETING ON SYSTEMS AND NATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR THE PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES. For information contact: External Relations Service; UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 907-1234; fax: (41-22) 907-0043; email: ers@unctad.org; Internet: <http://www.unctad.org>.

RESOURCES

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

FOOD SECURITY AND THE ROLE OF DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. Discussion Paper Three presented by Japan and the Republic of Korea at the International Conference on Non-Trade Concerns in Agriculture, 2-4 July, 2000. The summary defines food security before addressing concerns about food security such as the lack of food access and present WTO rules and disciplines. The summary then discusses desirable international frameworks to ensure food security. To obtain a copy visit: http://www.wtowatch.org/wtowatch/library/admin/uploadedfiles/Food_Security_and_the_Role_of_Domestic_Agricul.pdf.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTIONS: ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS FOR CHANGE. Prepared for the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (UK) by Joy Hyvarinen and Duncan Brack, Energy and Environment Programme, Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), September 2000. This publication is designed to look at the discussions around the possibility of a new World Environment Organisation, as well as many other possible reforms of the existing system. It does not attempt to come to any conclusions; it only outlines the various

different options. The full text of the report is available at: <http://www.riia.org/Research/eep/eep.html>. An expanded version of the report will be published by RIIA and Earthscan in early 2001.

REINTERPRITING THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE. Edited by Tim O'Riordan, James Cameron, and Andrew Jordan, 2000. The book looks at how the precautionary principle is evolving in various countries. It addresses the international debate over the incorporation of the principle into science and public affairs as well as the movement of the precautionary principle within the evolution of the public interpretation of science and regulation. The book also looks at the manner in which the principle is evolving in international law and international trade. To obtain a copy contact: Cameron May LTD; 69-71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ, UK; tel: (44) (020) 7582-7567; fax: 7793-8353; email: orders@cameronmay.com; Internet: <http://www.cameronmay.com>.

LAND USE, LAND-USE CHANGE, FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM: ESTIMATES OF GREENHOUSE GAS OFFSET POTENTIAL. By Janine Bloomfield and Holly Pearson in *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*, v.5 no.1; 2000; pp.9-24. In this paper the authors examine the various options and trade-offs that landowners and managers in developing, primarily tropical countries face in undertaking LUCF activities and assess how realistically these estimates capture existing constraints and driving forces.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. By Andreas Lowenfield, 2000. The book examines the evolution of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs to the WTO, addresses bilateral accords such as the Canada- US Free Trade Agreement and its dispute settlement mechanisms, and addresses American legislation on the global stage. To obtain a copy contact: Cameron May LTD, 69-71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ, UK; tel: (44) (0-20) 7582-7567; fax: 7793-8353; email: orders@cameronmay.com; Internet: <http://www.cameronmay.com>.

NEW JOURNAL PROMOTING TRANSGENIC CROPS. The 1 September issue of *Science* (p.1447) reports that scientists working on genetically- modified organisms are seeking to unite and are launching a new journal to promote transgenic crops. The new publication, to be produced by Elsevier, a scientific publications company, will be titled "Environmental Biosafety Research", and is expected to be launched early next year. For more information visit the *Science* website at: <http://www.sciencemag.org>.

REIMAGINING THE FUTURE: TOWARD DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE. By Joseph Camilleri, Kamal Malhotra and Majid Tehranian, 2000. The volume proposes reforms for the democratisation of global governing bodies, covering UN institutions, humanitarian interventions, and international financial flows. The authors identify the growing gap between *de facto* and *de jure* institutions of global governance as the central problem of our time. The authors argue that current trends will exacerbate conflicts between rich and poor within and between states and weaken existing states without substituting alternative forms of legitimate governance. The publication offers a number of proposals for bridging the gap, with a focus on long-term structural form. To obtain a copy contact: Majid Tehranian, tel: (1-212) 586-7000.

Electronic Resources

"CRIES WebSite on Central American Free Trade Agreements." Maintained by CRIES. The website covers texts of FTAs, civil society and FTAs, a Monthly Bulletin, and Daily News coverage. For information contact: email: criesmm@nicarao.org.ni; Internet: <http://www.cries.org/tlc>.

OECD REPORTS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND FOOD SAFETY. OECD, 2000. In response to a request from the G-8 Heads of State and Government, the OECD has published various reports on the implications of biotechnology and other aspects of food safety. To access the reports, visit the OECD Biotechnology and Food Safety Web site at: <http://www.oecd.org/subject/biotech>.

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) <http://www.ictsd.org>, with technical support from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP). Contributors to this issue are Andrew Baldwin, David Linnell, Anton Kuchler, and Heike Baumuller. Edited by Hugo Cameron, hcameron@ictsd.ch. Managing Editor is Andrew Crosby <acrosby@ictsd.ch>. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, rmelendez@ictsd.ch. ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 13, ch des Anémones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: (41- 22) 917-8492; fax: (41-22) 917- 8093.. 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.

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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