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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

• General Council Meeting Discusses Dispute Settlement and External Transparency .....	1
• TRIMs Extensions, EU-ACP Waiver Request Heard at WTO Goods Council .....	3
• Washington Symposium Tackles Trade & Environment in North America .....	5
• Cairns Group Meets in Banff .....	6
• WTO Body Discusses Establishing Investment Rules .....	7
• In Brief .....	8
• WTO in Brief .....	10
• Events .....	10
• Resources .....	15

## GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING DISCUSSES DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AND EXTERNAL TRANSPARENCY

The WTO General Council met in Geneva on 10 October. Member submissions focused primarily on reforming the WTO's dispute settlement rules, amending external transparency provisions and improving the WTO system.

Japan -- supported by Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Switzerland and Venezuela -- submitted a proposal on rules and procedures related to the settlement of disputes (WT/GC/W/410). The submission proposed, *inter alia*, to establish a new Article 21 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) that would clarify the sequencing issue related to Article 21 and 22. The amended DSU would require a compliance panel to decide disagreements over measures taken to implement a panel or Appellate Body ruling before Members can request WTO authorisation to impose retaliatory trade sanctions. The provisions are intended to prevent a repeat of the US-EU banana dispute in which sequencing had arisen as a contentious issue (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 3, No. 11, 21 March 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.21-03-00.htm>).

The US disagreed with the Japanese submission on the grounds that any reform of the dispute settlement rules must include a transition period for adopting the new system, and must increase transparency of dispute proceedings by opening up panel proceedings to greater public scrutiny. The EU also declined its support, as it did not think that the timing was right to promote changes in the DSU. One trade official who was reached for comment speculated that this position was probably code for the EU wanting to wait for resolution on the issue of carousel retaliation before discussing any amendment of the DSU. Delegates requested more time to consider the proposal and will revert to it at the next General Council meeting. In June 2000, the EU requested consultations with the US through the WTO to discuss its complaint that the carousel provision violates multilateral trading rules, but thus far has not requested the establishment of a panel to rule on the issue.

### Transparency

The US introduced a proposal on external transparency (WT/GC/W/413) that stressed the need for improved communication between the WTO and the public. The submission focused in particular on access to information about the WTO at the national level and on mechanisms to ensure the credibility of the dispute settlement system. Proposed measures included opening various WTO council and committee meetings on an experimental basis, circulating documents most informative of WTO activities on an unrestricted basis, and making all parties' submissions to panels and Appellate Bodies available to the public.

An informal paper submitted by Colombia on external transparency stressed that lack of greater external transparency in the WTO has not been a "central element" in what it termed the loss of credibility in the WTO. Nevertheless, Colombia indicated that the organisation should be as open as possible, and condoned transparency through "the suppression of restricted documents," with the exception of those that are necessarily confidential in the area of dispute settlement. The submission also proposed that if there existed a clear indication on the part of WTO Members that they are willing to open a larger area of participation to non-Members, then this possibility should be open at a domestic level for each country.

The submission put forward by the EU dealt with measures to improve decision-making, the flow of information and participation, and Ministerial meetings and the General Council. Detailed suggestions included studying the feasibility of a Consultative Group; establishing a liaison office in Geneva to improve participation in particular of non-resident developing countries; enhancing the role of the General Council; and increasing external transparency.

### Other Matters

In an intervention that led to some heated discussion, Switzerland proposed that the Chair of the Council on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) should be invited to report to the General Council on work regarding geographical indications (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 36, 26 September 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.26-09-00.htm>). There was concern expressed by some countries that this could interfere with work currently ongoing in the TRIPs Council, and that the issue should remain in the body with the highest level of competence. General Council Chair Kåre

Bryn of Norway indicated he would conduct consultations on the issue and report back at the next General Council meeting.

Reports of the Special Sessions of the Committee on Agriculture (G/AG/NG/3) and of the Council for Trade in Services (S/CSS/M/4) were also presented. The Report on the Special Session on Agriculture included provisional dates for Special Session meetings in 2001 (28-30 March, 27-29 June, 26-28 September, 14-16 November). The Council will revert to this topic at the next meeting.

The possible date and venue of the fourth session of the Ministerial Conference -- to be held in December 2001 -- were discussed. So far, only Qatar has submitted an invitation and other countries were asked to inform the Chairman if they wished to host the conference by December when the representatives aim to reach a decision on the matter.

The accession of Oman to the WTO was approved. The Sultanate will become the 139th Member State of the WTO.

The next meeting of the General Council will be held on 7-8 December 2000.

Sources: "U.E., EU Reject Compromise Proposal By Japan on Reform of WTO Dispute Rules," WTO REPORTER, 11 October 2000; "WTO faces cash crunch with only 18 days' reserve," BUSINESS TIMES, 12 October 2000; "General Council: 10 October 2000," WTO DAILY BULLETIN, 12 October 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

## **TRIMS EXTENSIONS, EU-ACP WAIVER REQUEST HEARD AT WTO GOODS COUNCIL**

On 16 October, the WTO Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) convened to discuss, *inter alia*, nine requests -- from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, and Thailand -- for extended implementation deadlines for the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs). The general tone of the meeting was one of progress as the Council Chairman, Amb. Carlos Perez del Castillo (Uruguay), and several Members, notably the EU and Japan, indicated that a solution was in sight. The Chairman indicated that consultations should continue between interested parties. However, the US, while confirming its willingness to continue discussions, maintained that assurances must be given that TRIMs extensions would not adversely affect other Members.

The position put forward by several developing country Members seeking TRIMs extensions was that such requests were within their rights under Article 4 of the Agreement. Article 4 allows developing countries to deviate temporarily from National Treatment obligations with respect to their investment legislation. In particular, Mexico argued that applying conditionalities to the extension requests was extremely objectionable and that agreeing to these requests would contribute significantly to the WTO's confidence building mandate.

The Philippines expressed concern regarding a request by the US on 23 May 2000 (WT/DS195/1) for consultations over the Philippines' TRIMs implementation at the same time the Goods Council is considering the Philippines' request for an extension. According to Mexico, the Philippines'

TRIMs regime cannot be considered actionable since the Philippines is still awaiting a decision on its extension request under Article 4. In response, the US defended its position arguing that it had exercised due restraint during the last year, that a solution was not readily in sight, and that the TRIMs deadline had expired long ago (under Article 5, developing country Members are mandated to eliminate all specified TRIMs by 2000). Taken together, the US believes it is acting well within its rights by seeking action against the Philippines. The US tempered its position by saying that it hoped a solution could be reached before any panel is established.

### EU-ACP Waiver Request

Despite the Chair's July report to the General Council that the EU-ACP waiver issue had reached an impasse (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 27, 11 July 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.11-07-00.htm>), the Chair expressed the need to continue consultations.

In support of the waiver, the EU voiced its opposition to there being any link between the ACP waiver and its banana import regime. Jamaica reiterated this position, saying that the banana regime is an entirely separate issue and asked that the WTO not penalise ACP countries by delaying its decision.

A contingent of Latin American banana exporting countries were vocal against the EU banana regime, while Honduras said it would continue to oppose the waiver request until the EU presented an acceptable amendment to its banana import system (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 37, 3 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.03-10-00.htm>).

Other waiver requests were also discussed at the meeting, notably the EU Autonomous Preferential Treatment to the Countries of the Western Balkans -- which the US said it could not endorse -- and Turkey's Preferential Treatment for Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Council also referred three regional trade agreements -- EC-Mexico FTA, Turkey-Poland FTA and Estonia-Ukraine FTA -- to the WTO Committee on Regional Free Trade Agreements for further examination.

ICTSD Internal Files.

### **WASHINGTON SYMPOSIUM TACKLES TRADE & ENVIRONMENT IN NORTH AMERICA**

Meeting for a two-day symposium in Washington, DC from 11-12 October, approximately 300 participants from non-governmental organisations, academia, government, and inter-governmental organisations addressed the topic: "Understanding the linkages between trade and environment in North America". The meeting was organised by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NACEC), which was created out of the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) side-agreement on the environment. NAFTA, which comprises Canada, the US and Mexico, entered into force in 1994.

The main intent of the meeting was to examine the environmental effects of NAFTA through the use of a methodological framework developed over the past five years by the NACEC. According

to conference organiser Scott Vaughan, the framework "represents the most comprehensive guide developed to disentangle complex, dynamic links between changing trade-related economic activity and indicators of environmental quality."

At the symposium, 14 papers were presented based on the framework, and covered the following areas: Trade Liberalisation and Natural Resources; NAFTA and Pollution Impacts; Relationships between Trade Liberalisation and Environmental Policies and Regulations; NAFTA's Transportation and Manufacturing Impact on the Environment; and Services and Public Sector and the Environment. Discussions that followed the presentation of papers involved both expert panels and members of the public. In addition, an information session on government reviews of trade was convened in the first evening.

The papers presented a broad overview of how trade liberalisation has affected the North American environment, and reached a range of conclusions. *Inter alia*, the researchers found that:

- \* NAFTA-related changes in trade policies are unlikely to have significantly influenced the sustainability of North American fisheries, since most tariffs were already at or near zero prior to NAFTA.

- \* The most serious environmental consequences of NAFTA in the area of pollution occur in the base metals sector, with the greatest impacts in the US and Canada.

- \* The dynamic of dropping prices for pulp and paper products under NAFTA could put pressure on the forest products industry in Chihuahua, Mexico, to oppose environmental regulations that increase its cost of doing business.

- \* In environmental terms in Mexico, there have been winners and losers. NAFTA has helped to ease the pressures on the northern border, with the majority of the new maquiladoras established in other regions of Mexico. Also, the predictions of resounding failure of five years ago may still come true if the trade agenda is not continually informed and tempered by considerations of environmental protection and sustainable development.

- \* Most existing and many future environmental measures would not survive trade law challenges since the increase in independent disciplines under NAFTA and the 1994 WTO Agreements.

- \* The impact of free trade in electricity between Ontario and the US is not expected to affect the air quality in Ontario if both countries follow through with their plans to implement tighter NOx emission standards.

## Chapter 11

Not surprisingly, there was some discussion on recent cases brought forward under NAFTA's Chapter 11, which enables foreign corporations from other NAFTA members to sue governments for expropriation in non-transparent tribunals (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 34, 12 September 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.12-09-00.htm>). In his presentation on Analysis of the Links between NAFTA and Environmental Law, Howard Mann

(International and Environmental Law and Policy) cautioned that Chapter 11 could have serious implications for environmental law in North America.

"Without exception, every case that has dealt with these disciplines has taken a broad interpretation of what they mean, and one that is necessarily not conducive to sound environmental policy. We're facing a serious risk of Chapter 11 cases turning the polluter pays principle into a pay the polluter principle," said Mann. Echoed by symposium panellist Konrad von Moltke, Mann advocated developing an interpretative statement to Chapter 11, saying that there are opportunities to use such a statement to develop supportive relationships that protect the environment without doing damage to the purposes of investors.

#### Positive Shift in Mexican Policy on Transparency Foreshadowed

Concluding remarks by Raul Arriaga, Coordinator of the Transition Team of Mexican President-elect Vicente Fox, provided a welcome glimpse for participants of what to expect from the forthcoming Fox administration in December with respect to environmental priorities. In what points to a major shift from traditional Mexican government doctrine, Arriaga indicated that public participation in trade and environment is "fundamental," and said that future Mexican decisions will be guided by transparency and accountability. In addition, he said that the Fox government intends on using the environment as a springboard for development. "We want to pursue development, but not at the expense of the environment."

Former Quebec Premier Pierre Marc Johnson chaired the symposium. Both he and NACEC Executive Director Janine Ferretti urged that the meeting serve as a catalyst for further work and progress on integrating trade and environment issues.

All papers presented at the symposium are available online at the NACEC website at: <http://www.cec.org>. An IISD Linkages report of the meeting, together with archived RealAudio coverage of the Symposium Sessions in English, Spanish or French is available at: <http://www.iisd.ca/sd/cec/index.html>.

"North American Symposium on Understanding the Linkages between Trade and Environment," IISD LINKAGES, 11-12 October 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

#### **CAIRNS GROUP MEETS IN BANFF**

The Cairns Group of Farm Leaders held a conference last week in Banff, Canada to discuss the group's strategic position on trade liberalisation in the context of ongoing WTO negotiations in agriculture. Among those directions taken by the Cairns Group of Farm Leaders is the need to educate the public on the benefits of a liberalised global food regime, an education program that will seek support from consumer groups and taxpayers in those countries with the most protectionist regimes.

The Cairns Group is an 18-member alliance of mainly net food exporting countries, and counts as members Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Fiji,

Guatemala, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, and Uruguay.

High on the Cairns Group agenda is the elimination of trade distortions resulting from protectionist agricultural policies, notably the EU's export subsidy regime. According to Cairns, farm subsidies depress world commodity prices since they encourage overproduction. To garner political support, the Cairns Group has said it will seek to educate EU consumers and taxpayers on the harmful environmental and financial effects of these policies, arguing that farm subsidies could be used to fulfil other policy objectives or support tax reductions. The EU, however, legitimises its use of agricultural subsidies on the basis of the multifunctionality of agriculture - agriculture that produces not only food, but a host of environmental, social and cultural benefits as well.

EU Farm Commissioner Franz Fischler, who attended the Banff meeting, used the opportunity to raise concerns about animal welfare in world food production. In response to the deluge of complaints he received from several Cairns Group ministers for having made this linkage, Fischler maintained that, "Those who ignore these aspects that society increasingly demands have not learned the lessons from Seattle. The WTO must address broader concerns than just trade." Opponents to such linkages argue that social and environmental issues can be used to disguise trade-restricting policies.

The benefits of a liberalised global food regime are, however, far from certain. For instance, according to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Mozambique should not heed the International Monetary Fund's advice to liberalise its sugar industry. Doing so would, it argues, inflict huge adjustments costs which Mozambique is poorly equipped to absorb.

The WTO is currently receiving proposals on agriculture from its Members, a process that is expected to end in March 2001. At that point, Members will begin a stock-taking process that is expected to be followed by negotiations leading to the liberalisation of agricultural production. These negotiations are mandated by Article 20 of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture (AoA).

"FAO Warns Against Plan to Liberalise Mozambique's Sugar Industry," AFP, 13 October 2000; "Food Exporters Urged to Get Allies in Trade Battle," REUTERS, 10 October 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

## **WTO BODY DISCUSSES ESTABLISHING INVESTMENT RULES**

A meeting of the WTO Working Group on the Relationship Between Trade and Investment was held on 11 October at the WTO headquarters in Geneva.

In one of the more contentious submissions at the meeting, the EC commented on the state-of-play in the Working Group discussions (WT/WTGI/W/89). In its paper, the EC promoted the introduction of multilateral investment rules into the WTO. Some developing countries responded promptly and questioned the need for such a WTO agreement, emphasising the importance of flexibility for governments in pursuing investment policies. The EC claimed that "flexibility" should not mean simply the absence of rules, and that under a multilateral framework, exceptions,

exemptions and transitional periods etc. should sufficiently meet developing countries' demand for flexibility. In the EC's estimation, a multilateral investment framework within the WTO would provide investors with clear, predictable legal conditions in order to encourage them to invest more and more often abroad.

On the issue of whether or not foreign direct investment (FDI) is beneficial to a host country, the EC pointed out in its paper that any negative effects of FDI are due in reality to structural problems in the host country's economy. The EC further stated that, taking into account the common ambition of all countries to attract FDI and the general consensus on FDI's overall positive effects, the question for WTO Members should not be on the benefits of FDI. Rather, Members ought to be interested in assuring that when countries decide to open their economies to FDI, they do so under certain basic conditions of fairness and non-discrimination.

South Korea's submission (WT/WGTI/W/91) attempted to consider more deeply the issues of expropriation and compensation. These have been intensely discussed in the past, particularly with respect to North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) dispute cases on the ban of the fuel additive MTBE (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4 No. 33, 5 September 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.05-09-00.htm>; Vol. 4 No. 34, 12 September 2000 <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.12-09-00.htm>). This "regulatory taking" (i.e. government policy measures which inflict damage on investment asset value of a foreign investor) was a hot topic in the failed negotiations of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment. South Korea lamented the absence of a widely accepted standing definition of "indirect expropriation" or "creeping expropriation", pointing out that this problem is behind many international disputes and promotes the idea of a multilateral framework on investment to enhance general understanding of these terms. The paper emphasised the importance of integrating civil society and non-governmental organisations in the process of developing such a framework.

Since the papers were submitted very recently, little substantial discussion took place at the meeting. The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for 16 November 2000.

ICTSD Internal Files.

## **IN BRIEF**

**AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN MINISTERS MEET IN ABUJA.** On Monday, 16 October, ministers from the EU and the West African regional grouping ECOWAS met, for the first time ever, in Abuja, Nigeria. Discussions on regional integration, political cooperation and other cooperation programmes were held. The Abuja meeting is part of the preparations on new trade agreements between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries aimed at drawing up a timetable for the gradual removal of obstacles to trade between the parties concerned under WTO rules. "Joint EU-ECOWAS ministerial meeting begins in Abuja," AFP, 16 October 2000.

**UNCTAD RELEASES LDCs 2000 REPORT.** On 12 October, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released the 2000 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Report, its third global report on the state of development, following the recent publication of the Trade and



Development Report and the World Investment Report. In the publication, UNCTAD draws a gloomy picture of the situation of LDCs in today's world, with two-thirds of the 48 countries in this category losing ground to other developing and low-income countries in the 1990s. In 22 LDCs, the income per capita was stagnant or declined. Only 15 -- including seven in Asia -- accounted for GDP per capita growth of more than two percent per year during 1990-1998. UNCTAD fears that the recent increases in oil prices are likely to have particularly detrimental effects on most LDCs, due to the close connection between their economic performance and terms of trade during the past decade. Secretary-General Ricupero made this a crucial point, saying, "It is through international trade that the LDCs will make their way in the world."

To obtain the Least Developed Countries Report 2000 (Sales No.E.00.II.D.21, ISBN 92-1-112491-3) contact the UN sales section, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: (41-22) 917-0027; email: [unpubli@unog.ch](mailto:unpubli@unog.ch); Internet: <http://www.un.org/publications>. \$US45 (\$US22 in developing countries). "World's Poorest Countries Losing Ground, Warns New UNCTAD Report", UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 12 October 2000.

**DRAFT ACTION PLAN ON ILLEGAL FISHING PRESENTED AT FAO CONSULTATION.** A Draft Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing was presented at the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Technical Consultation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, held in Rome on 2-6 October. The Plan proposes the use of trade-related measures to prevent fish caught by vessels engaged in IUU fishing from being imported into or traded within signatories' territories. It also suggests that port states should allow harbour access only if the vessel can satisfy the authorities that it has not engaged in IUU fishing. While delegates generally concurred on the need for internationally-agreed trade and port state measures, no final consensus on more detailed procedures was reached. Negotiations on the Draft Plan will continue at the next Consultation on IUU Fishing, to be held in late February 2001. The Draft Plan of Action can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/x7798e.htm>. ICTSD Internal Files.

**NGOs CAMPAIGN AGAINST AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.** In a reaction to the US Trade and Development Act of 2000, which went into effect on 1 October (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 37, 3 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story5.3-10-00.htm>), African NGOs have launched a campaign to alert African governments and the public on the dangers of the US' Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). AGOA promises duty and quota-free access for selected African products to the US market. The NGOs point out, however, that this is a dubious promise, since AGOA is eligible only to products deemed "not import sensitive" (i.e. those which do not maintain negative effects for US producers), a determination reserved for the US Trade Representative (USTR) and the US International Trade Commission (ITC) to decide.

The duty and quota-free access for African textiles and apparels to the US market -- a substantial contribution of products under AGOA -- is also judged dubious by the NGOs. That is, only those products using fabrics and yarns produced in the US will benefit from easy access to the US market.

A range of other conditionalities is imposed on countries seeking AGOA eligibility. These include: market-based economic policies; the rule of law and political pluralism; the elimination of barriers

to US trade and investment; the protection of intellectual property; efforts to combat corruption; policies to reduce poverty, increase the availability of health care and educational opportunities; protection of human rights and worker rights; and elimination of certain child labour practices. Furthermore, countries are required by the act not to engage in any activity undermining US national security, to respect human rights and to stay away from international terrorism. The official AGOA web site of the US government (<http://www.agoa.gov>) concludes on this subject, "these criteria have been embraced overwhelmingly by the vast majority of African nations, which are striving to achieve the objectives although none is expected to have fully implemented the entire list." "NGOs start campaign against US AGOA," SUNS, 5 October 2000.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

**WTO RULING IN THAI STEEL DISPUTE HAS BROAD IMPLICATIONS.** In its ruling released 28 September, the WTO found that Thailand failed to consider the price effect of dumped duties as required under Articles 3.1, 3.2 of the Antidumping Agreement and failed to take into account some of the 15 factors listed in Article 3.4. While Thailand is expected to appeal the ruling, the panel's findings will impact the rulings in several current antidumping disputes. Specifically, the panel's findings will require national authorities to investigate the impacts of dumped imports on their domestic industries more thoroughly. The panel stated, "we are of the view that the language in Article 3.4 makes it clear that all of the listed factors in Article 3.4 must be considered in all cases." In future cases, countries must present "a persuasive explanation as to how the evaluation of relevant factors led to the determination of injury." Another hotly contested aspect of the case will have broad implications if it is not overturned in an appeal. At issue is whether secretive proceedings of national antidumping authorities and confidential business information related to the case must be made available to interested parties during an antidumping investigation. On this matter, the panel ruled that an interested party must have access to the relevant information at the time of the investigation in order to "exercise its judgement as to whether action under [WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding] procedures would be fruitful." The panel ruled that if evidence is not made available during the investigation, it may not be submitted during the presentation of the case. The panel findings are likely to affect both current cases on India-EU Bed Linen and US-Japanese Steel. "WTO Ruling in Thai Steel Dispute May Raise Bar in Antidumping Cases," WTO REPORTER, 11 October 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

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>.

18-19 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL: SPECIAL SESSION ON IMPLEMENTATION. For information contact: Keith Rockwell, Director of Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5015; Internet: [http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/gcounc\\_e/gcounc\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/gcounc_e/gcounc_e.htm).

18-20 October, Aalborg, Denmark: EURO ENVIRONMENT 2000, 2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE. For information contact: Else Herfort, EURO ENVIRONMENT Secretariat; tel: (45) 993-55555, email: [elseherfort@akkc.dk](mailto:elseherfort@akkc.dk), Internet: <http://www.akkc.dk/environment>.

19 October, Brussels, Belgium: GLOBALISATION: FRIEND OR FOE TO SOCIAL INCLUSION? Sponsored by Solidar. For information contact: Solidar; tel: (32-2) 500-1030; email: [suzu@solidar.org](mailto:suzu@solidar.org).

19-20 October, Portland Oregon: UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITES FOR ECO-LABELS AND ECO-BRANDS. For information contact: Deborah Kane, Executive Director, The Food Alliance; tel: (1-503) 493-1066; email: [conference@thefoodalliance.org](mailto:conference@thefoodalliance.org); Internet: <http://www.thefoodalliance.org/confprog.html>.

19-21 October, Seoul, S. Korea: THIRD ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM). Meeting between EC President Romano Prodi and heads of government of 15 EU and 10 Asian countries. EU leaders will advocate the early launch of a comprehensive round of WTO negotiations and the early accession of China and Vietnam to the WTO. For information contact: Unit Trade a.3. Information, European Commission, 200, Rue de la Loi (CHAR 7/82), B-1049 Brussels, Belgium; tel: (32-2) 295-2888; fax: 296-9854; email: [trade-a3@cec.eu.int](mailto:trade-a3@cec.eu.int); Internet: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/index_en.htm).

20 October, Boston Massachusetts: SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE. For information contact: Jeffery Atik, email: [Jeff.Atik@lls.edu](mailto:Jeff.Atik@lls.edu), tel: (1-213) 736-8369 or David Wirth, email: [sciconf@bc.edu](mailto:sciconf@bc.edu); Internet: <http://www.law.suffolk.edu/scitrade.html>.

23 October 2000, 13:00-18:00, Geneva, Switzerland: ICTSD DIALOGUE ON FISHERIES, INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. For information contact: Caroline Dommen, ICTSD; tel: (41-22) 917-8497; email: [cdommen@ictsd.ch](mailto:cdommen@ictsd.ch).

23 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5186.

23-27 October, Cape Town, South Africa: POVERTY, SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES FOR THE 21st CENTURY. For information, contact: Global Conferences, P.O. Box 44503, Claremont 7735, South Africa; tel: (27-21) 762-8600; fax: 762-8606; email: [icsw@globalconf.co.za](mailto:icsw@globalconf.co.za); Internet: <http://www.icsw.org>.

23-27 October, Bremerhaven, Germany: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL ZONES. For information contact: Albert Caspari; email: [CaspariA@cdg.de](mailto:CaspariA@cdg.de); Internet: <http://www.geocities.com/cdgcaspari/>.

23-27 October, Athens, Georgia, USA: ETHNOBIOLOGY, BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY, AND BENEFITS SHARING. For information contact: Seventh International Congress of Ethnobiology, c/o LaBau Bryan, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, 250 Baldwin Hall, Athens, GA 30602-1619 USA; tel.: (1-706) 542-3922; fax: 542-3998; email: lbryan@arches.uga.edu; Internet: <http://guallart.dac.uga.edu/ISE/>.

23 October - 23 November: JOINT WTO-WORLD BANK ONLINE FORUM ON TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The WTO and the World Bank are inviting government officials, NGOs, students and anyone interested in trade matters to participate in a month-long online forum on "Trade and Sustainable Development" on their joint web site (<http://www.itd.org>). Interested participants should visit: <http://www.itd.org/forums/tsdfor.htm> or: [http://www.worldbank.org/devforum/forum\\_tradeforum.html](http://www.worldbank.org/devforum/forum_tradeforum.html).

24-30 October: ONLINE-FORUM: SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY: MANAGING CONSUMPTION IN A GROWTH ORIENTED ECONOMY. For information contact: Ewa Charkiewicz, Tools for Transition Netherlands; Atjehstraat 20, NL-2585 UK Den Haag; tel: (31-70) 3520-289; Internet: <http://www.cuspforum.com/>.

24-25 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. For information contact: Sabrina Shaw, WTO Trade and Environment Division; tel.: (41-22) 739-5482; email: [sabrina.shaw@wto.org](mailto:sabrina.shaw@wto.org); Internet: <http://www.wto.org/wto/envIRON/te030.htm>.

### WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/meets.doc](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.doc). Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of its various bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland.

27 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

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

30-31 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES - AD HOC GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

1 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES - INFORMAL GROUP ON ANTI-CIRCUMVENTION. For information contact: Luis Ople, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

1 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - BRAZIL. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

2-3 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES. For information contact: Luis Ople, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

3 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORIGIN. For information contact: Luis Ople, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

#### Other Forthcoming Events

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](mailto:ers@unctad.org); Internet: <http://www.unctad.org>.

30 October - 3 November, Geneva, Switzerland: SEVENTH INC PIC MEETING. The seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior in-formed consent (PIC) procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade. For information contact: Niek Van der Graaff, FAO; tel: (39-6) 5705-3441; fax: 5705-6347; email: [Niek.VanderGraaff@fao.org](mailto:Niek.VanderGraaff@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.fao.org/waicent/FaoInfo/Agricult/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Events/c.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

31 October - 3 November, Beijing, China: THIRD WORLD FISHERIES CONGRESS. Organised by China Society of Fisheries. This years sessions will include: fish farming, aquafood, information technology, coastal zone management, social and economic dimensions of fisheries, technology on impacts of fisheries production, biodiversity and fisheries production, and paradigm shifts in fisheries management, assessment and policy. For information contact: Congress Secretariat; Bldg. 22, Maizidian Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China; tel: (86-10) 6419-4233; fax: (86-10) 6419-4231; email: [cnsfish@public.bta.net.cn](mailto:cnsfish@public.bta.net.cn) or [csfish@agri.gov.cn](mailto:csfish@agri.gov.cn); Internet: <http://www.fisheries.moa.gov.cn>.

1 November, Montreal, Canada: IMPERIALISM AND THE AMERICAS. Hosted by the International Research Collective (IRC), the conference seeks to share knowledge and analysis about the FTAA leading up to next spring's Summit of the Americas. For information contact: the IRC, Montreal; tel: (1-514) 937-3200; email: [lombrenoire@tao.ca](mailto:lombrenoire@tao.ca).

1-3 November, Sarawak, Malaysia: BIODIVERSITY 2000 KUCHING: PRUDENT BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The conference aims to take stock of the current biodiversity status at the global and regional level and to review the progress in implementing the Convention on Biodiversity. For information contact: Chua Tek Kheng, Sarawak Biodiversity Centre, KM 20 Jalan Puncak Borneo, Smengoh, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia; tel: (60-82) 610-610; fax: 611-535; email: [chuatk@sbc.org.my](mailto:chuatk@sbc.org.my); Internet: <http://www.sbc.org.my>.

2-5 November, Anacapri, Italy: **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY: ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL TOURISM AS NEW OCCUPATION OPPORTUNITY.** The event is organised by the University of Sannio, in cooperation with the Government of Italy, with speakers from the European Commission, the European Parliament and various Italian government and non-government agencies. A feature of the event will be the links between sustainable tourism and economic stability, focusing on the subject matter of employment, among others. For information contact: Prof. Eugenia Aloj Totaro, Facoltà di Economia, Università del Sannio, Piazzazza Guerrazzi, 1 - BENEVENTO, Italy; email: [aloje@complab.com](mailto:aloje@complab.com) or [ecolab@inwind.it](mailto:ecolab@inwind.it).

3 November, Madison, Wisconsin: **GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD: RISKS, REWARDS, & REALITIES.** Organised by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. The goal of the conference is to educate and encourage people to better evaluate the rewards and risks of biotechnology as it relates to food and agriculture. For information contact: Michael Goodman, Conference Director; Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, 1922 University Ave., Madison, WI, 53705-4099, USA; tel: (1-608) 263-1692; fax: 265-3039; email: [conference@Wisconsinacademy.org](mailto:conference@Wisconsinacademy.org); Internet: [www.wiconsinacademy.org](http://www.wiconsinacademy.org).

3-5 November, Boulder, Colorado, USA: **THE SEVENTH ANNUAL EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONFERENCE.** The Departments of Economics at Purdue University and the University of Colorado will collaborate to host the seventh EIIT conference. Economists specialising in empirical international trade will present their latest research at this meeting. For information contact: Keith Maskus, Department of Economics, Campus Box 256, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0256; tel: (1-703) 566-6003; email: [maskus@colorado.edu](mailto:maskus@colorado.edu); Internet: <http://www.eiit.org/>.

3-5 November, Miami, Florida, USA: **THIRD WATER INFORMATION SUMMIT.** This meeting will continue discussions on the identification of water information needs of water managers, the use of the Internet to promote and support Integrated Land and Water Resources Management, and the development of water information dissemination technologies. For information contact Terry Dodge, Florida Centre for Environmental Studies, 3932 RCA Blvd., Suite 3210, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, USA; Tel: (1-561) 691-8557; email: [tdodge@ces.fau.edu](mailto:tdodge@ces.fau.edu); Internet: <http://www.waterweb.org>.

10-19 November, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam: **APEC MINISTERIAL AND SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING.** The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum's annual meetings for 2000. For information contact: APEC Secretariat, 438 Alexandra Road, #1400, Alexandra Point, Singapore 119958; tel: (65) 276-1880; fax: 276-1775; Internet: <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/whatsnew/calend/calendar.html#Dec99>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

16-17 November 2000, Frankfurt, Germany: **GLOBALIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR.** Organised by the UN Environment Programme. The Conference will provide a forum to share experiences and develop strategies for the integration of environmental considerations in the insurance and banking services sector. It will specifically review and consider best practice and practical approaches for sound environmental management. For information contact: Jacob

Malthouse, UNEP, Economics & Trade Unit; 15 ch. des Anemones, CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 917-8268; email: [malthouj@unep.ch](mailto:malthouj@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/etu/>.

11 December, New Delhi, India: LINKAGES BETWEEN TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT, 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@jp1.dot.net.in](mailto:cutsjpr@jp1.dot.net.in); Internet: <http://www.cuts-india.org>. (This seminar was postponed from 12 October to the date stated).

## RESOURCES

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

DOMESTIC SUPPORT AND THE WTO NEGOTIATIONS. By Daniel A. Sumner. In THE AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS, Vol. 44/3, September 2000. In this article, analysis and examples support the notion that more liberalisation will be achieved in the new WTO round by emphasis on lowering border barriers and export subsidies rather than attempting to discipline domestic farm subsidies directly. For a free abstract visit: [http://papers.ssrn.com/paper.taf?ABSTRACT\\_ID=241296](http://papers.ssrn.com/paper.taf?ABSTRACT_ID=241296)

ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN INDONESIA: THE CHALLENGE OF COMBINING FDI AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT. By Fredrik Sjöholm. This paper discusses some requirements for a long-term recovery of Indonesia, with special focus on FDI and an even spatial development. To obtain a copy visit: <http://swopec.hhs.se/hastef/papers/hastef0347.pdf>

HOW THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION'S NEW "SERVICES" NEGOTIATIONS THREATEN DEMOCRACY. By Scott Sinclair, Ottawa, 2000. ISBN 0-88627-229-7. The book critically analyses the existing GATS, how its broadly worded provisions have been forcefully interpreted in recent disputes such as EC bananas and the Canadian Autopact case, and the policy implications of the negotiations currently underway to broaden and deepen the GATS. For a free summary visit: [www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca). To obtain a copy contact: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Suite 410, 75 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5E7, tel. (1-613) 563-1341, fax (1-613) 233-1458, email: [ccpa@policyalternatives.ca](mailto:ccpa@policyalternatives.ca).

INFORMATION IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE: THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE FOR TRADE IN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES. By Jonathan Krueger, in ENRP Discussion Paper 2000-15. This paper addresses questions on information flow and proceeding in international institutions by examining the functioning of the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure for chemicals and pesticides. To obtain a copy visit: <http://environment.harvard.edu/gea/pubsbytype.html>

EURO-MED FREE TRADE ZONE: CAN IT BE SUSTAINABLE? Proceedings from the conference organised by Friends of the Earth Europe and Friends of the Earth Middle East. The

conference was held in the European Parliament in April 2000. To obtain a copy contact: Alexandra Wandel, Trade and Sustainability Co-ordinator, Friends of the Earth Europe; tel: (32-2) 542-0185; fax: 537-5596; email: [mftz@foeeurope.org](mailto:mftz@foeeurope.org).

**A REVITALIZED TRADE AGENDA: COMPLICATIONS AND DIRECTIONS IN WORLD TRADE POLICY.** By Charlene Barshefsky, in *HARVARD INTERNATIONAL REVIEW*, 2000, vol. 22, no. 3, pp. 64-67. In this article Barshefsky says that this year, America's trade agenda concerns much of the world and an enormous array of issues. But each of America's initiatives ultimately shares common goals: to create opportunities to raise the living standards of Americans, to spur development and growth worldwide; to advance American values, and to build a stronger peace.

**WILL GROWTH HALVE GLOBAL POVERTY BY 2015?** By L. Hanmer, J. Healey, and F. Naschold, 2000. Examines progress towards meeting the international development targets set by OECD/DAC in 1996: to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. To obtain a copy contact: Overseas Development Institute; 111 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JD, UK; tel: (44-0-20) 7922-0300; fax: 7922-0399; email: [odi@odi.org.uk](mailto:odi@odi.org.uk); Internet: <http://www.oneworld.org/odi>.

**ECAS: A GUIDE TO EU FUNDING FOR NGOS YOUR WAY THROUGH THE LABYRINTH,** 6th Edition, 2000. A guide to making EU and other European funding more accessible to NGOs. The guide provides: the Vademecum on Grant Management explained, funding success stories, analysis of the new EU Structural funds regime through 2006 and a line-by-line description of all EU budgets for NGOs. To obtain a copy contact: Isabelle Dambrun, ECAS, 53 rue de la Concorde, B-1050, Brussels, Belgium; tel: (32-2) 548-0490; fax: 548 04 99; email: [admin@ecas.org](mailto:admin@ecas.org).

**GREEN EVOLUTION: ARE ECONOMIC INCENTIVES THE NEXT STEP IN NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL?** By Terry Young and Joe Karkoski in *Water Policy*, v.2 no.3; 2000; pp.151-173. Pollution from agriculture remains one of the United States' most vexing water pollution problems. Quantitative limits on selenium discharges have been imposed on a regional consortium of farm districts. The consortium has developed a relatively streamlined institutional system that uses tradable discharge permits to enforce the limits. Agricultural pollution from the region has decreased.

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTIONS: ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS FOR CHANGE.** Produced by The Royal Institute of International Affairs, 2000. The report looks at the discussions surrounding the possibility of a new World Environment Organisation, as well as many other possible reforms of the existing system. To obtain a copy visit: <http://www.riia.org/Research/eep/eep.html>.

### Electronic Resources

"SD-ONLINE." Developed by EDEN B.V. on behalf of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. A new web site with links to over 1000 sustainable development and environmental sites. To view visit: <http://susdev.eurofound.ie>.



## **POSITION VACANCIES**

International Co-operation for Development (ICD) at the Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR) has a number of posts vacancies available. These include the following: Specialist In Gender and Rural Development, Cajamarca, PERU; Social Scientist, specialist in Gender with a community development approach (closing date 20 October 2000); Community Development Worker for a Horticultural Project, Zimbabwe (closing date: 27 October 2000); potential for two Agroforesters (tropical-humid specialists) and on Communications specialist in Peru - Amazon region. ICD's benefits package includes: Salary based on local rates; UK savings allowance of £180 per month; accommodation paid; Return flights; Pre-departure grant; accident/illness insurance cover; Minimum two-year contract; and Language training. For more information about ICD or a full job description for any of the above posts, please contact the Recruitment Section, International Cooperation for Development, Unit 3 Canonbury Yard, 190a New North Road, London N1 7BJ; tel: (44) (0171) 704-1738; email: [jobs@ciir.org](mailto:jobs@ciir.org); web: <http://www.ciir.org>.

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