



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest

1 February 2000

ISSN 1563-003X

Volume 4, N°4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Countries Agree To Biosafety Protocol	1
• WTO Members Clash On Implementation; Developing Countries Bond	3
• US In Murky Waters Over Shrimp-Turtle	4
• Davos Forum: Renewed Calls For Trade Talks	5
• Accession Update: China, EU Resume Talks	7
• In Brief	7
• WTO In Brief	8
• Events & Resources	8

COUNTRIES AGREE TO BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL

Environment ministers and trade negotiators from 138 governments met from 24-28 January in Montréal, Canada for an Extraordinary Conference of the Parties (ExCOP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). On 29 January, delegates adopted the so-called Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety after exhaustive negotiations.

The Cartagena Protocol is intended to ensure the safe transfer, handling, use, and disposal of living modified organisms (LMOs, often referred to as genetically modified organisms or GMOs). The Protocol represents the first binding international agreement addressing situations where GMOs cross national borders (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 4, No. 2, 18 January 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.18-01-00.htm>).

The Protocol establishes an advance informed agreement (AIA) procedure for imports of GMOs; incorporates the precautionary principle; and outlines information and documentation requirements for transboundary shipments of GMOs.

The AIA provisions cover seeds, live fish, and other GMOs that are to be "intentionally introduced" into the environment. An exporter must provide detailed information to each importing country in advance of the first shipment, and the importer must authorise the shipment. Regarding bulk commodities containing GMOs, AIA provisions establish an Internet-based Biosafety Clearing House where exporters will publish information on GMO shipments.

Under a compromise agreement on labelling, any shipments of bulk commodities and food and feedstuffs containing GMOs will be required to carry a label stating that the shipment "may contain" GMOs, and that the GMO is not intended for intentional introduction into the environment. Labelling requirements are to be reviewed within two years to address the level of detail required under the regime.

The Protocol also allows importing countries to invoke the precautionary principle under Article 9, which deals with notification. The Draft Protocol states that: "lack of scientific certainty due to insufficient relevant information and knowledge regarding the extent of potential adverse effects of a [GMO] on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Party of import, taking also into account risks to human health, shall not prevent that Party from making a decision [on the import of a GMO]".

The EU and developing countries had pushed hard for the inclusion of the precautionary principle within the Protocol. At the conclusion of the Montréal talks, EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom stated that the Protocol in general -- and inclusion of the precautionary principle in particular -- represented a victory for consumers. "This will help ease the concerns of consumers", Ms. Wallstrom said. "The most important thing is that there is a system for information and for importation. This is about the right to choose for consumers, for importers. I think it's a victory for the environment and for international trade."

The Cartagena Protocol has been generally well received by the biotech industry, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), industry organisations, and the scientific community. "This is a historic step towards protecting the environment and consumers from the dangers of genetic engineering", said Benedikt Haerlin of Greenpeace. "The protocol...lays the foundation for a stronger future agreement which will eventually protect the environment from GMOs."

The American Corn Growers Association offered a less enthusiastic response to the Protocol's labelling provisions. "The only way to label GMO food products for export is to segregate those products here at home," said Gary Goldberg, Chief Executive Officer of the American Corn Growers Association. Mr. Goldberg noted that many of the US's grain elevators are simply not equipped to segregate GMOs from non-GMOs. "This action will severely burden farmers and grain elevators, resulting in higher premiums paid for non-GMOs."

The Cartagena Protocol will go into effect after 50 countries ratify the accord.

"Draft Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety," UNEP (UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/L.5), 28 January 2000; "Accord to regulate food in genetic foods," IPS, 30 January 2000; "Greens and free-traders cheer GM crop deal," FINANCIAL TIMES, 31 January 2000; "Corn growers believe results of Biosafety Protocol meeting in Montréal will demand segregation of all crops," AMERICAN CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE, 29 January 2000; "Few long faces, many sleepy eyes after biotech accord," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 29 January 2000; "Global treaty adopted on genetically modified organisms," CBD PRESS RELEASE, 29 January 2000; "Biosafety protocol: historic step in fight against environmental damage from genetically modified organisms," GREENPEACE PRESS RELEASE, 29 January 2000.

WTO MEMBERS CLASH ON IMPLEMENTATION; DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BOND

At a 24 January meeting of the WTO Goods Council, North-South tensions were evident as Members discussed requests from eight developing countries for an extension past the 1 January 2000 deadline in which to bring national legislations in line with the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs). Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Romania submitted separate requests for extensions varying in length from less than six months to seven years.

At the WTO Ministerial meeting in Seattle in December, Members failed to agree on a deal that would have extended the deadline for developing countries to implement TRIMs (extensions of WTO agreements on intellectual property and customs valuation were also not resolved). Developing countries argue that an extension is needed because their economies are still vulnerable to external economic shocks. Since Seattle, there has been an informal understanding between Members to "exercise restraint" with regard to "deadline issues," at least until the WTO General Council meets this 7 February to formally discuss how the WTO will move forward post-Seattle (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 1, 10 January 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.10-01-00.htm>).

Prior to the Seattle meeting, the so-called Quad countries (US, EU, Japan and Canada) demanded that requests for extensions be considered on a case-by-case basis. They maintained this view at the 24 January Goods Council meeting and noted a general willingness to consider such requests. This position clashed with developing countries' views, voiced by Pakistan, Mexico, and Malaysia, that the requests should instead be considered as part of the larger, not yet agreed-to, accord on implementation, and that discussion should be deferred until the General Council meeting. The Goods Council took no decision on the matter.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the failure of the Seattle WTO Ministerial, developing countries are seizing the opportunity to foster closer ties amongst themselves toward forging a WTO agenda that addresses their needs. The developing countries want to remedy the imbalances between developed and developing countries borne out of the last round of global trade talks.

South African Trade Minister Alec Erwin said that as a result of the Seattle WTO Ministerial, developing countries "are much closer than we were before...Brazil, South Africa and the South East Asian nations and India are beginning to seek a way of shaping the upcoming negotiations in a way that would benefit the developing countries." Mr. Erwin also announced that a joint meeting between S. Africa, Brazil, India, Nigeria and Egypt was planned for sometime in February to discuss ways of restarting WTO talks toward addressing developing countries' interests.

WTO General Council Chairman Ali Mchumo of Tanzania said that the least developed countries would continue to fight to rectify the imbalances from previous trade agreements. "[Rich countries] have been telling us to cease subsidising our farmers, but they continue subsidising their farmers," Mr. Mchumo said, speaking in his dual role as Tanzania's Ambassador to the WTO. "That is why we demand a quick change for the sake of benefiting all Member states."

WTO Members will meet next on 7 February at a WTO General Council meeting in Geneva. In advance of that meeting, WTO Director-General Mike Moore will be holding bilateral consultations with Members on issues related to transparency and internal decision-making at the WTO. Mr. Moore is expected to report on these issues at the 7 February General Council meeting.

"Quad Group, developing countries split over TRIMS deadline extensions," *INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER*, 27 January 2000; "Nations fail to agree on investment," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 25 January 2000; "Developing countries close ranks after Seattle fiasco," *REUTERS*, 26 January 2000; "Erwin launches WTO initiative," *BUSINESS DAY (S.Africa)*, 27 January 2000; "LDCs to demand fair share of WTO cake," *TOMRIC (Tanzania)*, 27 January 2000; "Moore begins consultations with delegations," *SUNS*, 25 January 2000.

US IN MURKY WATERS OVER SHRIMP-TURTLE

The US on 27 January submitted to the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) its fifth and final status report on its implementation of the WTO Appellate Body's decision on the Shrimp-Turtle dispute (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 2, Number 39, 12 October 1998). The case was brought to the WTO in 1998 by India, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Thailand, who objected to a US measure that required countries exporting shrimp to the US to be certified as having enforced legislation mandating the use of turtle excluder devices, or TEDs on their shrimp trawlers. TEDs allow endangered sea turtles to escape incidental capture by shrimp nets.

The US status report posited that the US had implemented the recommendations and rulings of the DSB during the 13-month implementation period agreed to with the complainants last January, and brought attention to its offer of technical training in the design, construction, installation and operation of TEDs to any government that requests it. As of 6 December 1999, the US had changed its shrimp-import policy from one of country-by-country certification to one of shipment-by-shipment certification. In response the US status report, India reserved its rights to bring the complaint forward again to the DSB, while Malaysia insisted that the only way for the US to fully comply with the final ruling was for it to remove completely its measure banning imports of shrimp from non-certified states. Thailand and Pakistan did not respond to the US report.

In a public exchange of letters between Malaysia and the US dated 22 December 1999, Malaysia has agreed not to challenge US assertions that it has complied with the 1998 Shrimp-Turtle ruling, at least until March. The Clinton Administration must present a report to Congress on 1 March on how the US has fared in the WTO over the last five years. The report presentation will be followed by a vote on a resolution on whether the US should remain part of the WTO. In exchange, the US has agreed not to oppose any Malaysian efforts to seek a WTO ruling on the question of US compliance under Articles 21.5 or 22.6 of the WTO's Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) should Malaysia wish to initiate such proceedings at a future time.

Under Article 21.5 of the DSU, Members have the right to call for the creation of a panel to determine whether a country's implementation of a DSB decision meets the recommendations of the original ruling. Article 22.6 of the DSU enables Members to suspend trade concessions within 20 days after the date of expiry of the "reasonable period of time" if other Members fail to bring their inconsistent measure(s) into compliance with the Panel or Appellate Body ruling within the agreed-upon implementation period. Practice up until this point stipulates that an Article 21.5 panel should proceed before countries seek the right to retaliate under Article 22.6, though there is currently no explicit deadline for filing an Article 21.5 case.

The arrangement between the US and Malaysia avoids a potentially embarrassing situation for the Clinton Administration whereby the WTO could rule that the US has failed to implement the ruling, thereby opening the way for Malaysia to impose trade sanctions on US goods at the same time that

Congress debates whether the US should remain a WTO Member. Technically, however, India, Pakistan and Thailand could still bring compliance proceedings against the US. Indian officials have affirmed that they are in talks with the US and are attempting to resolve the Shrimp-Turtle dispute but warned that New Delhi will seek a WTO ruling on U.S. compliance should the talks fail to result in an agreement.

In its last status report, dated 9 November 1999, the US outlined a non-binding Regional Agreement on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian Region that it had negotiated with 22 countries -- including the four Shrimp-Turtle complainants -- during a 19 to 22 October 1999 meeting in Australia.

"Malaysia poised to challenge US turtle law after March WTO Report," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 21 January 2000; "Malaysia, US reach modus vivendi on WTO Shrimp-Turtle row; India next," *BNA*, 21 January 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

DAVOS FORUM: RENEWED CALLS FOR TRADE TALKS

British Prime Minister Tony Blair last week called for a new trade round to be launched this year despite the failure of WTO talks in Seattle. "I believe we can and should try to launch the new trade round this year," Mr. Blair told the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "We cannot afford another Seattle, but nor can we afford to postpone the massive gains that a successful new trade round would deliver," he said. The Davos meeting runs from 28 January - 2 February, and hosts leaders from governments, business, academia, and international organisations.

Mr. Blair's comments reinforced statements made on 25 January by EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, outlining plans to help rebuild momentum toward a new round of global trade talks. Mr. Lamy, addressing the European Parliament, said that by urgently addressing the two key obstacles to launching a new, comprehensive round of trade talks (specifically, the needs of developing countries within the WTO and the issue of institutional WTO reform), consensus on a new round could be found. Mr. Lamy called on developed countries to move forward with the EU initiative that would provide duty and quota-free access to goods from the least developed countries. He urged that these be complemented by measures facilitating capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries aimed at improving their participation in WTO negotiations. Commissioner Lamy also called for a dialogue with developing countries on the issues surrounding implementation and imbalances within existing WTO agreements (e.g. subsidies and textiles), and that the EU and other developed countries "should continue to be willing to offer reasonable solutions" to developing countries' concerns.

With respect to institutional reform in the short term, Pascal Lamy suggested improving the organisation of the WTO Ministerial Conference to facilitate improved participation by developing countries in WTO negotiations, and a more structured dialogue with civil society (including a proposal for an annual public meeting to discuss WTO activities). Mr. Blair and Mr. Lamy both suggested the creation of a so-called Eminent Persons Group to provide advice on how to improve the working methods of the WTO. Mr. Blair indicated that the group could provide conclusions by the summer of 2000.

On longer-term reform, Mr. Lamy said that he envisaged the establishment of a consultative parliamentary assembly at the WTO, "in order to strengthen the democratic control of [WTO] work." But he cautioned, "we should make no mistake: such an initiative runs the risk of being seen

in developing countries as yet another attempt by industrialised countries to impose structures they are not able to support, given their limited resources and capabilities."

US President Bill Clinton also addressed the Davos meeting. Mr. Clinton stressed that globalisation and the rules-based system of the WTO must move forward to keep global prosperity growing. He also addressed the issues that greatly contributed to the failure of the Seattle WTO Ministerial - trade linkages to labour and environmental standards.

"I know that the words "labour and environment" are heard with suspicion in the developing world when they are uttered by people from the developed world. I understand that these words are code for rich-country protectionism. So let me be as clear as possible on this. We shouldn't do anything to stunt the economic growth and development of any developing nation. I have never asked any developing nation, and never will, to give up a more prosperous future. But in today's world, developing countries can achieve growth without making some of the mistakes most developed countries made on worker protection and the environment as we were on our path to industrialisation," Mr. Clinton said.

Also addressing the forum, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo remarked at the "very peculiar alliance" between international labour and environmental groups which emerged around the Seattle WTO Ministerial and who are claiming responsibility for contributing to the failure of WTO talks there in December. He dubbed the alliance "globophobic," and said the labour and environmental groups have undertaken a "common endeavour to save the people of developing countries from development."

Davos also provided an opportunity for an Informal Gathering of World Economic Leaders (IGWEL), attended by ministers from over 40 countries and chief executives of leading technology firms. The discussions included steps taken to strengthen the global financial system in the aftermath of the crisis that hit emerging markets two years ago, and the digital divide between developed and developing countries and initiatives needed to bridge this gap. Ministers also discussed co-operation with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in light of protests in Seattle and similar activities on the streets of Davos as the World Economic Forum took place.

"The issue of bringing the NGOs into this process also received attention," US Senator John Kerry, chair of the IGWEL talks said. "IGWEL participants feel that we need to work on a new model of co-operation, with the objective of greater inclusivity and greater transparency." Mr. Kerry said that everyone should have the same chance in the free trade system. "The people out on the streets protesting feel disenfranchised. They need to be franchised. Every leader recognises that the world is changing and we need to change with the times," Mr. Kerry said.

"Davos: that's snowbiz," FINANCIAL TIMES, 29 January 2000; "Clinton vows to play a lead role in global trade round," ECONOMIC TIMES (India), 30 January 2000; "Blair: start a new round this year," WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM PRESS RELEASE, 28 January 2000; "Remarks by the President at World Economic Forum," WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY, 29 January 2000; "Davos debate," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 28 January 2000; "Long way to go before WTO ministerial meet: Sinha," ECONOMIC TIMES, 31 January 2000; "World leaders, technology chief hold informal talks," WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM PRESS RELEASE, 30 January 2000.

ACCESSION UPDATE: CHINA, EU RESUME TALKS

EU and Chinese trade negotiators met from 24-26 January for bilateral talks towards China's accession to the WTO. While the two sides made "substantive progress" on market access, they left unresolved a number of key issues.

A key objective for EU negotiators is to expand market access commitments beyond those already concluded between the US and China, both from the standpoint of ensuring the competitiveness of EU goods and services, but also as an effort to exert the EU's influence as the world's largest trade bloc. While the EU has said the US-China agreement addresses 80 percent of EU objectives, its trade negotiators are now looking to enhance market access for areas such machine tools, glassware, leather goods, ceramics, building materials and cosmetics; and services such as banking, mobile telecommunications and life insurance. EU and Chinese negotiators are expected to meet again in late February.

China on 21 January signed bilateral WTO accession agreements with both Brazil and Sri Lanka, followed by an agreement with Cuba on 27 January. China must still conclude agreements with a number of WTO Members, including (in addition to the EU) India, Thailand and Switzerland. Talks within the WTO's Working Party on China's accession -- the committee charged with drafting the WTO membership protocol for China -- are expected to resume work in March after a 19-month hiatus.

In other news, Saudi Arabia and Japan on 16 January concluded a bilateral agreement toward Saudi Arabia's WTO accession. This is the first bilateral accord signed between Saudi Arabia and those WTO Members who have requested talks. The Saudi delegation is expected to face difficulties in talks with the US and EU over what the two trade powers allege are unfair subsidies provided to the Saudi petrochemical industry.

"Joint EU-China statement: EU and Chinese negotiators make progress on Chinese accession to the World Trade Organisation," EC PRESS RELEASE, 26 January 2000; "Talks with EU need more time," SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, 27 January 2000; "EU, China agree to further WTO talks as Brazil concludes its bilateral," INSIDE US TRADE, 28 January 2000; "China, EU aim for WTO deal in February," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 26 February 2000; "EU, China negotiate membership in WTO," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 26 January 2000; "China clinches accords with Brazil and Sri Lanka," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 27 January 2000; "China signs WTO deal with Cuba," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 28 January 2000; "WTO eyes working party meeting on China entry," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 25 January 2000; "Japan, seeking oil deal renewal, supports Saudi WTO membership," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 16 January 2000.

IN BRIEF

The Commission for Environmental Co-operation (CEC), the institution created by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)'s side-accord on the environment, has requested that the US respond to a third-party complaint relating to migratory birds. A number of environmental groups including the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and the Alliance for the Wild Rockies allege that the US is failing to effectively enforce Section 703 of its Migratory Bird Treaty Act which prohibits the killing of migratory birds without a permit. The CEC was established in 1994 to foster public participation in NAFTA affairs, including the review of US,

Mexican and Canadian citizens' complaints of environmental infringements resulting from NAFTA. "CEC requests US response on migratory birds," CEC NEWS, 14 January 2000.

The US Trade Representative is seeking public comment as part of its efforts to develop proposals and positions concerning the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The FTAA would link economies from Alaska to Patagonia into an estimated US\$10 trillion economy. As part of the FTAA negotiating process, a Committee of Governmental Representatives for Civil Society (CGR) was created to facilitate public participation in FTAA negotiations in which governmental representatives will receive, analyse, and present for ministerial consideration input from all sectors of civil society, including business, labour, environmental and academic groups. For procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the US Trade Representative, at (1-202) 395-3475.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has drafted a review of its "Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises." The guidelines are intended "to encourage the positive contributions which multinational enterprises can make to economic and social progress and to minimise and resolve the difficulties to which their various operations may give rise." The guidelines cover corporate governance, bribery, environmental protection and workplace conditions. The rules (which are non-binding) would apply to businesses based in the 29 OECD member countries, plus Brazil, Argentina and Chile. The draft rules and implementation guidelines are available for public comment. Comments must be posted by 15 February 2000. The guidelines and information on the public comment process can be found at: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/investment/guidelines/newtext.htm>. "OECD drafts tough rules for multinationals," FINANCIAL TIMES, 12 January 2000.

New Zealand trade officials last month hailed a UK decision finding no scientific grounds for blocking imports of New Zealand packaged bees. Two disease risk assessments were undertaken by British authorities, finding no grounds for blocking imports. UK beekeepers had raised concerns about disease risks as reason for blocking imports. "The British decision is a quiet reminder, among the ballyhoo from some groups, that the WTO rules-based system does benefit New Zealand, right down to the grassroots of our smaller, but still highly successful, export industries," New Zealand Trade Negotiations Minister Jim Sutton said. "Bee decision shows merit of WTO, says Sutton," NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE 31 January 2000.

WTO IN BRIEF

Baker & McKenzie, a leading international law firm, last week launched an initiative offering developing countries free legal advice on WTO issues. The program will provide up to 40 hours of legal guidance per year per country and is intended to help enhance developing countries' ability to participate in the WTO. "Law firm offers free service," FINANCIAL TIMES, 25 January 2000.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

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

- **WTO Meetings**

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at <http://www.wto.org/wto/about/meets.doc> . Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of different WTO bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, Rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland.

24 February: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO; tel: (41-22) 739-5393

25 February: COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE. For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO; tel: (41-22) 739-5412

- **Other Events**

4 February, Brussels: CONFERENCE ON GMOs AND WORLD TRADE. For information contact: Ida Belling; tel: (32-2) 295-1334; email: ida.belling@cece.eu.int; or Anna Albovias; tel: (32-2) 295-2355; email: st2b1@dg24.cec.be

9-10 February, Bangkok, Thailand: POST-SEATTLE FORUM ON TRADE AND AGRICULTURE: ADVANCING THE CALL TO TAKE AGRICULTURE OUT OF THE WTO. This forum is co-organised by the International South Group Network, Focus on the Global South, the Thai NGO Coordinating Committee, and PKMM-Philippines. For information contact: Naty Bernardino, ISGN-International Secretariat, c/o Resource Centre for People's Development, #24 Unit 7, Mapang-akit St., Pinyahan, Quezon City, Philippines; tel/fax: (632) 436-1831; email: rcpd@info.com.ph or isgn@tri-isys.com

11 February, Bangkok, Thailand: FORUM ON TRADE, FINANCE LIBERALISATION AND IMPLICATIONS ON THE DEBT CRISIS. Sponsored by Focus on the Global South. For information contact: Naty Bernardino, ISGN-International Secretariat, c/o Resource Centre for People's Development, #24 Unit 7, Mapang-akit St., Pinyahan, Quezon City, Philippines; tel/fax: (632) 436-1831; email: rcpd@info.com.ph or isgn@tri-isys.com

16 February, Bangkok, Thailand: UNCTAD/UNDP GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON GLOBALISATION, LIBERALISATION AND SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. The theme of this conference is capacity building in developing countries to manage globalisation in pursuit of sustainable human development. For information contact: Jagdish Saigal; tel: (41-22) 907-5731; fax: 907-0050; email: Jagdish.saigal@unctad.org

24-25 February, Brussels: DEBATE/CONFERENCE: AGRICULTURE AND THE WTO. Hosted by the European Training Association for Farming and Rural Affairs. For information contact: AEFPR, Rue de la Sablonnière 18 - 1000 Brussels, Belgium; tel: (32-2) 218-2195; fax: 218-450

3-7 April, Durban, South Africa: ICFTU 17th WORLD CONGRESS. This Congress, sponsored by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, will focus on questions of democracy and social justice in a global economy. For information contact: Bd Emile Jacqmain, 155, B-1210, Brussels, Belgium; tel: (32-2) 224-02-11; fax: 201-58-15, or 203-07-56 or 224-02-97; email: internetpo@icftu.org; web: <http://www.icftu.org>

10-14 July, Corvallis, Oregon, USA: IIFET 2000: MICROBEHAVIOUR and MACRORESULTS. Sponsored by the International Institute of Fisheries Economies and Trade, the theme of this conference will focus on the long-term interest in the social, behavioural and biological sciences, and among marketers and policymakers in the fishing industry. Papers may be submitted. For information contact: Pam Garland, IIFET 2000 Conference Co-ordinator, PO Box 2423, Corvallis, OR, 97339-2423, USA; tel: (1 541) 754-9080; fax: 752-5450; email: garlandp@peak.org; web: <http://www.osu.orst.edu/dept/IIFET/2000/index.html>

- **Resources**

NET GAINS: LINKING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT, INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. December 1999. By Carolyn Deere. Published by IUCN, (World Conservation Union). Available at: <http://economics.iucn.org/issues.htm> and at www.fao.org/fi or from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Bookshop; tel: (39-06) 5225-5688; fax: 5225-5155; email: publications-sales@fao.org; or from IUCN Publications Service; tel: (44-1223) 277-894; fax: 277-175; email: info@books.iucn.org

ECO-LABELLING AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES. November 1999. By Carolyn Deere. Published by the UNFAO and IUCN. Available at: <http://economics.iucn.org/issues.htm> and at www.fao.org/fi or from FAO Bookshop; tel: (39-06) 5225-5688; fax: 5225-5155; email: publications-sales@fao.org; or from IUCN Publications Service; tel: (44-1223) 277-894; fax: 277-175; email: info@books.iucn.org. Available in Spanish, French and English.

BACKGROUND STUDY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IUCN EUROPEAN POLICY ON AGRICULTURE AND BIODIVERSITY. September 1999. By Peter Nowicki, Clive Potter, Tim Reed, Anna Dyduch, Rorie Fulton, and Isabelle Poudevigne. Published by the IUCN European Regional Office. 85 pages. To order contact: Liz Hopkins, Marienhof, Bredaseweg 387, Tilburg, 5037 LD; tel: (31-13) 590-0347; fax: 590-0345; email: liz@iucn-ero.nl

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK 2000. 1999. This report is the flagship publication of the United Nations Environment Program, (UNEP), which contains a comprehensive and authoritative review and analysis of environmental conditions around the world. The book presents a region by region analysis of the state of the worlds environment, highlighting key global concerns and making recommendations for policy action. Published for UNEP by Earthscan Publications. 398 pp. ISBN# 1 85383 588 9. To order contact: Earthscan Publications, 120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN.

Grant Proposals

The North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC) is now accepting proposals for the 2000 grant cycle. Proposals may be submitted until 31 March 2000 for community-based projects that focus on: (1) linking biodiversity conservation with trade in green goods and services; or (2) pollutants and health: improving public access to information, decision-making and environmental justice. For details, please see the 2000 Call for Proposals at: <http://www.cec.org/english/nafec> or contact NAFEC at nafec@ccemtl.org

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) with support from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP). This issue has been researched at ICTSD by Dara Edmonds and Jay Wilkinson; written by Judy Brienza (IATP) and edited by Hugo Cameron, hcameron@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.

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