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QUAD CONSIDERS TWO-YEAR TRIMS EXTENSION

On 3 November, the Quad group of WTO Members (Canada, the US, the EU and Japan) informed the WTO that they were prepared to endorse a compromise proposal that would give nine developing countries until 1 January 2002 to comply with the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs). Nine Members -- Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, and Thailand -- have so far requested extension of the 1 January 2000 deadline for implementation of the TRIMs Agreement so they can have more time to remove measures in their industrial policies that do not currently comply with WTO rules (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 4 No. 39, 17 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.17-10-00.htm>).

In the Quad's proposed "two-plus" formula, the nine countries would have two years as of 1 January 2000 to implement TRIMs. The Quad would also allow countries to apply for an extension to the two-year period, provided they meet strict conditions, such as demonstrating good-faith efforts to implement in time and submitting a detailed plan for phasing out existing TRIMs-inconsistent measures immediately.

As a condition for final settlement, the Quad countries, in particular the US -- which has already taken dispute settlement proceedings against India and the Philippines over TRIMs-inconsistent measures in their auto industries -- also indicated that the nine Members must agree to accelerated dispute settlement proceedings should they fail to meet the new deadlines.

Under the TRIMs Agreement, WTO Members are required to phase out trade-restrictive restraints on foreign investment, such as local content requirements. Nearly all of the deadline extension requests relate to investment measures in the automotive sector, and vary from five months in the case of Chile to seven years in the case of Argentina, Colombia, and Pakistan.

The Quad proposal remains non-final, but trade officials indicate that there is some hope that some of the deadline extension requests could be approved at the next session of the WTO Council for Trade in Goods, scheduled for 15 November.

"Quad Group is prepared to endorse 'two-plus' solution on TRIMs extension," WTO REPORTER, 6 November 2000; "Quad nations agree to lengthen TRIMs extensions," WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY, 6 November 2000.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS NEGOTIATIONS BUMP TRADE ISSUES FORWARD

The seventh meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemical and Pesticides in International Trade (INC-7) was held in Geneva on 30 October - 3 November 2000. Delegates primarily dealt with issues related to the interim period between the adoption of the Rotterdam Convention on the PIC Procedure and its entry into force. While significant progress was made in working out the "nuts and bolts" in preparation for the first Conference of the Parties (COP 1), many of the more complex issues, particularly those involving trade concerns, still remain to be finalised. They will be reverted to at the next meeting of the INC, scheduled for October next year.

Delegates successfully negotiated various operational issues around COP 1, such as the content of most of the draft rules of procedure for the Rotterdam Convention. Arrangements for the interim PIC procedure were also worked out in more detail, including: adding two PIC chemicals, thereby bringing the total number to 31; agreement on development of an incident report form for pesticide poisoning incidents; a decision to prioritise notifications of chemicals not already subject to PIC procedure; and adoption of a process for drafting Decision Guidance Documents for chemicals covered by the Convention.

One of the issues still to be resolved for the INC and the COP relates to the determination and treatment of non-compliance. INC Chair Maria Celina de Azevedo Rodrigues (Brazil) pointed out the need to adopt a recommendation on this issue due to its importance for many parties. In particular, some developing countries expressed their concern regarding illegal traffic of chemicals. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a compliance procedure model based on those in other fora and to draft a mechanism for periodic reporting on obligations for adoption by the COP. Parties interested in supporting the Secretariat in drafting models on non-compliance and reporting were invited to send their comments by 1 February 2001.

Delegates also failed to agree on the issues associated with the transition from the interim to the Convention PIC procedure, in particular the duration of the interim procedure. Canada pointed out that of the 163 countries currently participating in the interim procedure, 113 would be non-Parties once the Convention enters into force with 50 ratifications, and would therefore not be able to participate in the Convention. Colombia noted that the way in which non-Parties are treated could have important trade implications for the import and export of PIC chemicals. The Secretariat was requested to prepare an options paper on the discontinuation of the interim PIC procedure, considering, inter alia, the date of discontinuation; the nature of transitional measures; the possible need for measures regarding treatment of non-Parties; and recommendations concerning the need to mitigate possible negative effects resulting from the termination of the interim procedure.

The Rotterdam Convention on the PIC Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade was adopted on 10 September 1998. It aims to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment. So far, only 12 countries have ratified the Convention. It will enter into force once 50 ratifications are made. Until COP 1 of the Convention, the INC will continue to guide the implementation of the PIC procedure during the interim period.

The next meeting of the INC will take place in Rome, Italy, on 8-12 October 2001. For more information on the Rotterdam Convention, see: <http://www.pic.int/>

Sources: Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 15, No. 47, 6 November 2000, <http://www.iisd.ca/vol15/enb1547e.html>; ICTSD Internal Files.

CHINA TALKS RESUME; CAIRNS AND US PRESS FOR AGRICULTURE CONCESSIONS

On 6 November, the WTO's China Accession Working Party reconvened under acting chairman Henri-Paul Ravier with consultations on the terms outstanding in China's WTO accession protocol following a month-long hiatus. Of the multiple issues that thwarted the Working Party's progress earlier this fall, seven specific issues have been isolated on which the Chinese have shown increased flexibility, notably: judicial review; administration of tariff rate quotas; agriculture; industrial subsidies; the protection of intellectual property; transitional review mechanisms; and import restrictions (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4 No. 37, 3 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.03-10-00.htm>).

In spite of increasing flexibility, however, many trade officials remain sceptical that China's accession will be reached quickly. Aside from these areas where agreement is likely, several more contentious issues -- trading rights, antidumping calculation procedures, product safeguards, licensing procedures for service providers, and technical barriers to trade -- are proving more difficult to resolve, rendering the actual accession date elusive.

Cairns and US Press for Agriculture Concessions

At the same time that the China Working Party struggles with the broader terms of accession, the US and the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters continue to haggle with China over agricultural policy. At issue is the extent to which China may invoke certain rights granted to developing

countries in the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). In particular, the US and Cairns want to prohibit China's use of Article 6.4 of the AoA, which allows developing countries a 10 percent *de minimis* exemption from their total Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) calculation (AMS is a current total amount of subsidies allowable to Members under WTO rules). Developed countries are afforded a 5 percent *de minimis* threshold.

In addition to these demands, the US and Cairns Group are demanding that China limit its use of so-called 'blue box' supports (production-limiting subsidies) granted under Article 6.5 of the AoA, a strategic move likely meant to set a precedent for the ongoing agriculture negotiations. Convincing China to accede to the WTO with a limited agriculture policy would likely lend weight to US and Cairns Group demands for the elimination of all agricultural supports in the agriculture talks.

Other Articles of the AoA which the US and Cairns want to exclude are:

- Article 6.2, which exempts government farm supports and investment subsidies used in conjunction with rural development schemes and domestic supports used in the 'diversification from growing illicit narcotic crops';
- Article 12.2, which exempts developing countries from notifying the WTO Committee on Agriculture of export restraints on agricultural commodities used in accordance with paragraph 2(a) of Article XI of GATT 1994 (for food security purposes), unless the country is a net exporter of the specific foodstuff concerned;
- Article 16, which is intended to protect net food importing countries; and
- Section B of Annex 5 which gives developing countries some flexibility in setting non-tariff barriers on imports considered the 'predominant staple' of that countries' traditional diet.

As *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest went to press, a tentative formal meeting of the China Working Party has been scheduled for 9 November, at which time the Working Party will be updated on the progress of the ongoing consultations process.

"Negotiators Focus China Talks On Potential Areas of Agreement," 7 November 2000; "Cairns, US Renew Pressure On China's Agriculture Subsidies," 3 November 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

BUSH & GORE EVOKE DIVERGENT VIEWS ON TRADE, LABOUR AND ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES

As the Democratic and Republican campaigns come to an end and the US public goes to the polls in what is one of the country's closest elections ever, many differences and a few similarities on trade policy between the two major candidates have emerged.

Labour and environment standards

The question of whether or not to include labour standards and environmental safeguards in future trade agreements has emerged as the defining difference on trade policy between the Democratic nominee Al Gore and Republican candidate George W. Bush. Gore has promised to sign only deals

that include labour and environmental provisions, while Bush prefers to keep the issues separate. According to Columbia University Professor of Economics and Political Science Jagdish Bhagwati, "the outcome of the election has huge implications -- disturbing under Mr. Gore and comforting under Mr. Bush -- for trade liberalisation and the trading system." US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, however, doubts that US trade policy would change much, regardless of who wins the White House. "That's because it is a bipartisan effort and because the direction the country needs to take on trade is so clear. This is not rocket science. We have to be able to expand foreign markets and have ready access to those markets."

Many developing countries in particular oppose the inclusion of labour and environmental provisions in trade agreements, as they are concerned that their products would be discriminated against simply because they are produced more cheaply. Gore's position also worries many in the business community who believe that the environment-labour approach to trade accords will hinder the launching of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Role of IMF and World Bank

George W. Bush acknowledges the role of the IMF and World Bank, but says they should only be available for emergency situations. Some analysts think that his administration may push for a scaling down of the institutions' roles in developing countries. Gore's position on the Bretton Woods institutions has been less clear, but sources indicate that he will continue the current relationship. During the US presidential campaign, he expressed his intention to curb corruption in the agencies and possibly to increase US funding. He also supports stronger IMF efforts to contain financial crises.

Climate change policies

Gore supports the Kyoto Protocol limiting greenhouse gas emissions, and says he will encourage new energy technologies and provide tax breaks to companies and individuals switching to environmentally friendly homes, cars and businesses. In contrast, Bush opposes the Kyoto treaty. He states that he would give tax breaks for ethanol use and supports state efforts to reduce pollution from coal-fired power stations.

Common ground

Both Gore and Bush have promised to seek fast-track trading authority from the US Congress that would allow them to negotiate trade deals that Congress can only reject or accept, but not amend. Neither of the candidates has been specific on future trade preferences, but both support China's accession to the WTO. Both candidates favour expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico to accommodate the entire Western Hemisphere.

Sources: "Next U.S. President to Inherit Trade Policy Problems," REUTERS, 2 November 2000; "Discrimination disguised as free trade," FINANCIAL TIMES, 31 October 2000; "Developing nations have state in US elections," TERRAVIVA, 7 November 2000; "Bush and Gore positions on top issues," REUTERS, 3 November 2000.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UPDATE

India to Implement new Auto Policy by Year's End

The Indian government announced last week that it intends to put into place a new automobile policy by the end of this year that will conform to WTO rules, including the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs). The details of the policy, however, have yet to be unveiled. India's investment regime in the automotive sector has repeatedly come under attack, in particular by the US and EU who have requested that the WTO Dispute Settlement Body investigate the matter (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 41, 31 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story6.31-10-00.htm>) (also see related TRIMs story, this issue).

EU Extends Deadline for US FSC Legislation until 7 Nov

The EU has agreed to postpone a trade retaliation request against the US foreign sales corporation (FSC) scheme until 7 November, thereby extending the original 1 November deadline (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 41, 31 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story6.31-10-00.htm>). If the US passes its FSC reform legislation by this date, the EU will request a WTO "compliance panel" to evaluate whether the amended legislation complies with WTO rules. If the reform bill is not approved by the US -- as appears likely with US President Bill Clinton threatening to veto the tax package containing the FSC reform measures -- the EU will submit its request for sanctions at the next meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body on 17 November. In this case, retaliatory measures -- expected to run into billions of dollars -- could be imposed as early as February 2001.

US Criticised at WTO over New Anti-Dumping Legislation

At the meeting of the WTO Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices on 2-3 November and again at the 7 November meeting of the WTO Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, Japan -- supported by Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, the EU, India, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and South Korea -- criticised the US strongly for the anti-dumping proposals contained in the US' 2001 agricultural spending bill (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 40, 24 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/inbrief.24-10-00.htm>). US President Bill Clinton had signed the bill into law despite a joint letter by the EU, Canada and Japan urging him to veto the bill. Japan complained that the redistribution of anti-dumping duties to US industries would amount to "double protection" for the companies. In addition, claims Japan, the payments would encourage US companies to file complaints, exaggerate claims of injury and distract attention from seeking other "constructive solutions". Japan and the EU have already begun talks over the US anti-dumping measures and Japan has announced plans to lodge a complaint with the WTO against the US legislation.

"India's new auto policy to be in place by year-end, says minister," BRIDGENEWS, 1 November 2000; "EU would give U.S. some leeway in export tax row," REUTERS, 31 October 2000; "WTO: Japan, EU, Canada threaten challenge to US anti-dumping law," BRIDGENEWS, 2 October 2000; "Japan, EU begin talks on U.S. antidumping law, Yanai says," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 31 October 2000.

A NEW TRADE ROUND?...NOT YET

One year after the failed Seattle Ministerial, WTO Members continue to debate the likelihood of a new round of negotiations. Despite ongoing efforts by the EU to garner support for a comprehensive round, the possibility of this happening anytime soon, according to sources, remains extremely remote. At the core of the stalled process are a host of issues, most of which remain unresolved from last fall's Seattle Ministerial. Of note are those dealing with the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements, a polarised agricultural negotiation, uncertain trade relations between the EU and the US, and general disagreement regarding the contents and scope of a new round.

In addition, after Qatar's recent withdrawal of its invitation to host the next Ministerial, no country remains willing to play host to the event, leaving -- at this point at least -- the WTO's home town of Geneva as the default convenor.

In spite of the consternation in Geneva, however, Italy and South Africa have conjoined their efforts to build a consensus for a new round of talks, a process they will undertake outside the entrenched atmosphere of the WTO. Italy will concentrate its efforts among the developed country cadre, while South Africa will appeal to the developing country bloc, both in the hope of securing the interest of a core group of roughly 15. This core group, they hope, will form the kernel of a much broader consensus for a new round of negotiations. In the absence of any such consensus, it is feared that the multilateral trade system may, in the words of South African Industry Minister, Alec Erwin, "close down within five years".

It is expected that next week, APEC leaders will lend their symbolic support to the idea of a new round, though they are not expected to address the question of content or procedure.

"Italy and South Africa in Trade Initiative," FINANCIAL TIMES, 3 November 2000; "US, EU May Wait Until Late 2001 To Agree To Launch New WTO Trade Talks, Lamy Says," 3 November 2000; "APEC Leaders To Give Global Trade Talks Gentle Push," REUTERS, 6 November 2000.

EXPERTS TACKLE PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AT UNCTAD MEETING

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Experts Meeting on Systems and National Experiences for protecting Traditional Knowledge (TK), Innovations and Practices was held in Geneva from 30 October to 1 November. The meeting brought together representatives of national governments, intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in what participants described as a state-of-the-art summary of current activities in this field.

The role of Traditional Knowledge in general and in the sectors of agriculture, traditional medicine and healthcare, and folklore was discussed in the first part of the conference, while the focus of the following parts was on systems for the protection of TK with a special emphasis on so-called *sui generis* systems and on how to harness TK for development. Along with the statements of experts, many countries took the opportunity to present their national experiences with TK.

One of the most controversial issues raised at the meeting was the question whether or not to discuss protection of TK within WTO bodies. While the Indian delegation spoke in favour of an integration of the discussion in the multilateral trade system, other countries such as the Philippines and Switzerland indicated that they did not want the conference to explicitly recommend this line of action.

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) announced the creation of an Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as decided by WIPO's General Assembly a few weeks ago. The committee will be open to all Member States of WIPO and is scheduled to meet for the first time from 30 April to 3 May 2001.

Representatives of Holders of TK repeatedly expressed their discontent that the meeting had been convened on 'Systems to Protect TK', while in their view the only issue actually discussed was the 'commercialisation' of TK. They called upon participants consider non-material values of TK (e.g. cultural, philosophical, spiritual) equally with commercial values and to develop strategies to strengthen customary laws rather than focussing on the adaptation of the existing intellectual property rights system (IPR).

All major IGOs involved in the discussion around TK and Intellectual Property Rights were represented at the meeting, including the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the WTO, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO), the World Bank, the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), and UNCTAD. Among the NGOs participating were WWF International, and IUCN-the World Conservation Union. The perspective of Traditional Communities was represented among others by Alejandro Argumedo (Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Network), Suman Sahai (Consultant) and Maui Solomon (Consultant).

Proceedings and documentation of the meeting are expected to be posted to the UNCTAD website shortly at: <http://www.unctad.org>.

ICTSD Internal Files.

IN BRIEF

MEXICO IMPOSES IMPORT DUTIES ON MAQUILADORAS. New Mexican regulations will require its assembly-for-export companies (maquiladoras) to pay duties on imported components from countries outside the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) area and will allow maquiladoras to market their products inside Mexico without restrictions. Currently, maquiladoras do not pay import duties on components. The regulation aims to ensure that benefits of NAFTA do not flow through to non-member nations. "Mexico Slaps Tariffs On Maquiladora Imports," NEWSEDGE, 1 November 2000.

LAMY SETS OUT PROPOSALS ON LABOUR FOR MORE EQUITABLE GLOBALISATION. At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Confederation of European Trade Unions on 26 October, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy called for a more equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of globalisation. Lamy outlined two proposals aimed at improving dialogue and

cooperation between the relevant international organisations. First, he suggested establishing a joint platform for international organisations -- including the WTO, ILO, UNCTAD, World Bank and IMF -- to discuss the question of trade and core labour standards with a greater emphasis on the interests of developing countries. Such a dialogue should be initiated before the next WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2001. Second, Lamy pointed out that the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises -- adopted on 27 July 2000 by the OECD member states as well as Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Slovakia -- were "a step towards the greater recognition by international investors of their responsibilities towards what one can call 'enterprise citoyenne'" and advocated that the Guidelines should become an integral part of day-to-day management practices. He also called for National Contact Points to be established in the signatory states to raise awareness of the Guidelines among CEOs and other interested parties, and to supervise their implementation. "Propositions de la Commission européenne dans le domaine du commerce et du développement social," *TRADE*, 3 November 2000. The complete speech can be found at: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/trade/speeches_articles/spla19_fr.htm. For more information on the OECD Guidelines, see: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/investment/guidelines/>.

WTO CALLED UPON TO FORMALISE NGO PARTICIPATION. At a recent meeting of the Global Business Dialogue Forum on the role of NGOs, US Senate Finance Committee International Trade Counsel Grant Aldonas called for the establishment of formal rules to allow NGOs to participate in the dispute settlement proceedings at the WTO and other international institutions. "NGOs should be able to submit amicus briefs in WTO disputes and it should be up to the panellists to determine what briefs to hear," he said. Aldonas' call was echoed by attorney John Magnus, who noted that while amicus briefs may be accepted by WTO panels, the next step should be to establish criteria for considering and responding to such briefs. Edward Graham from the Institute for International Economics, however, cautioned that the "tyranny of minority" must be avoided if NGOs are brought into the system in a more formal manner. "WTO Should Formalise Process For NGO Participation in Disputes," *WTO Reporter*, 7 November 2000.

WTO IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA SUBMITS NGO PAPERS AS FORMAL WTO DOCUMENTS. Despite Australia's conservative position on external transparency in the WTO (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 40, 24 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/wtoinbrief.24-10-00.htm>; and <http://www.ictsd.org/html/transparencydocs.htm>), the country has recently put forward two non-governmental position statements as formal WTO documents (WT/L/367 and WT/L/368). The documents are de-restricted and, not surprisingly, relate to agricultural liberalisation: as a leading member of the Cairns Group of agriculture-exporting countries, Australia is a strong proponent of reducing restrictions in global farm trade. The two organisations that have submitted papers are the Cairns Group Farm Leaders and the Global Alliance for Sugar Trade Reform Liberalisation. According to trade sources, Australia's approval of non-governmental submissions is not only awkward considering its stance on transparency, it also may open the door for other non-governmental organisation (NGO) positions to be fed into various negotiating processes. "Depending on the willingness of a Member," said one official, "one could think of some areas in the services sector where some Members may wish to submit NGO statements." The WTO is scheduled to convene Member-wide informal consultations on external transparency on 9 November. WTO documents can be searched at: <http://www.wto.org/wto/ddf/ep/public.html>. ICTSD Internal Files.

RUSSIA RESUMES TALKS ON WTO ACCESSION. Last week, Russia resumed talks with the US, Canada and EU countries in Geneva on its bid to join the WTO. The talks focused primarily on tariff policy and agricultural issues. Russia's accession to the WTO was recently supported by the EU at the EU-Russia summit in Paris on 30 October. Russia applied for WTO Membership in 1993 and has recently intensified its efforts to join. US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky expressed hope that the next US administration would bring Russia into the trading system, but US trade officials indicated that it could take several years to complete the process. "Russia says resumes talks on WTO entry," REUTERS, 30 October 2000; "EU Backs Russian Reforms, Plans Closer Energy Ties," BLOOMBERG, 30 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>.

ICTSD Events

ICTSD will be holding two informal *Café & Croissants* dialogues in Geneva on ongoing Agriculture and Services negotiations at the WTO, featuring presentations by the respective Chairs of the Agriculture and Services Committees, Amb. Jorge Voto-Bernales (Peru) and Amb. Sergio Marchi (Canada), respectively:

24 November, 10:00-11:00am, Room 2, International Environment House, 13 Ch. des Anémones, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland: INFORMAL DIALOGUE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE. Peruvian Ambassador Jorge Voto-Bernales, Chair of the Special Session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture, will give a brief presentation on the subject matter, after which the floor will be given to the participants for an informal, open, and constructive discussion from a sustainable development perspective.

1 December, 09:00-11:00am, Room 2, International Environment House, 13 Ch. des Anémones, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland: THE PROGRESS OF THE SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS AT THE WTO. Canadian Ambassador Sergio Marchi, Chairman of the WTO Council for Trade in Services, will give a brief presentation on the subject matter, after which the floor will be given to the participants for an informal, open, and constructive discussion from a sustainable development perspective.

Please note that participants in ICTSD *Café & Croissants* meetings are invited in their personal capacity and that a non-attribution policy is rigorously applied. Given that there is limited seating, we would highly appreciate it if you could kindly RSVP to us your intention to participate by email to: ictsd@ictsd.ch or by fax at: (41-22) 917-8093.

Events This Week

6-10 November, Monaco: THIRD GLOBAL MEETING OF REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS. For more information contact: Jorge Illueca, Assistant Executive Director, Division of Environmental Conventions, UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya; tel: (254-2) 624-011; email: Jorge.Illueca@unep.org. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

6-7 November, New York, New York: FfD HEARINGS. For information contact: Federica Peitracci, FfD Secretariat; tel: (1-212) 963-8497; fax: 963-0443; email: peitracci@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/analysis/ffd>.

6-7 November, Brussels, Belgium: EUROPEAN COMMISSION-EU CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATION ON WTO ISSUES. For information contact: Fatiha Kacimi, CHAR 13/234, The European Commission DG Trade; 200 Rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels; tel: (32-2) 295-6673; fax: 296-9309; email: fatiha.kacimi@cec.eu.int.

7 November, New York, New York: FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT: INVESTING IN WOMEN. For information contact: Miriam, FES, 342 Madison Avenue Suite 1912, New York, NY 10173; tel: (1-212) 687-0208; fax: 687-0261; email: miriam@igc.org.

10 November, London, England: 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE WTLA: THE WTO: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES. Sponsored by the World Trade Law Association and Rowe & May. For information contact: Secretariat of the WTLA; Roew & May, 20 Black Friars Lane, London EC4V 6HD; tel: (44-0-20) 7248-4282; fax: 7782-8658; Internet: <http://www.lexmercatoria.org>.

10-11 November, Bloomington, Minnesota, USA: JUBILEE FOR THE AGRICULTURAL WORLD NATIONAL MEETING, NCRLC 77th ANNIVERSARY AND ANNUAL MEETING. For more information, contact: The National Catholic Rural Life Conference, 4265 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310; tel: (1-515) 270-2634; fax: 270-9447; email: ncrlc@aol.com; Internet: <http://www.ncrlc.com>.

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 more 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>.

12-16 November, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam: APEC ECONOMIC FORUM. For information contact: APTN's Broadcast Services; tel: (44-0-20) 7482-7580; fax: 7413-8340; email: aptn_broadcast_services@ap.org.

13-14 November, Miami, Florida: 9th MEETING OF THE FTAA NEGOTIATING GROUP ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. For more information visit: <http://www.ftaa-alca.org>.

13-15 November, Malaysia: ELECTRONIC BUSINESS AND SERVICES: TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE. For information contact: Commonwealth Business Council, tel: (44-0-20) 7747-6344; fax: 7747-6530; email: cbc@commonwealth.int.

13-15 November, Libreville, Gabon: AFRICAN TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING. The Gabonese Government has invited all of the African Member or non-Member countries of the WTO to this meeting, the objective of which is to enable African trade officials and private-sector partners to acquire a better grasp of the WTO rules and agreements. The meeting should also help the African countries in their technical preparations for the future trade negotiations. For information contact:

the office of the Director-General; tel: (41-22) 739-5100; Internet: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news00_e/libreville_e.htm.

13-15 November, Washington, DC: CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE POST-SEATTLE WORLD: REDEFINING THE "LICENCE TO OPERATE" IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY. For information contact: Nauko Kubo, GRI Secretariat, 11 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116 USA; tel: (1-617) 266-9384; email: kubo@globalreporting.org.

13-21 November, Montreal, Canada: NAFTA, THE FTAA AND THE SUMMIT OF 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: tel: (1-514) 937-3200; email: lombrenoire@tao.ca.

13-24 November, The Hague, Netherlands: SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE. For information contact: the UNFCCC Secretariat, tel: (49-228) 815-1000; fax: 815-1999; email: secretariat@unfccc.de; Internet: <http://www.unfccc.de>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/updates/upcoming.html>.

14 November, Durban, South Africa: ARE TRADE SANCTIONS A PART OF LEGITIMATE INSTRUMENTS FOR ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR? For information contact: Mr. KS Sajeev, CUTS, D127, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India; tel: (91-141) 20 7482-4; fax: 20-7486; email: cutsjpr@jp1.dot.net.in; Internet: <http://www.cuts-india.org>.

WTO Events This Week

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.

7-8 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES. For information contact: Louis Ople, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

8 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (Thirty-First Session). Follow-up from last week's meeting on 27 October. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

8 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF CHINA. This is a follow-up meeting from 2 November. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

8-9 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES. For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

9 November, Geneva, Switzerland: INFORMAL WTO MEETING ON EXTERNAL TRANSPARENCY. Delegates will address recent submissions by Members on external transparency (see <http://www.ictsd.org/html/transparencydocs.htm>).

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

10 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF ANDORRA. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

13-15 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

14-16 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY-JAPAN. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

14-17 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. Will meet in both regular and special (negotiations) sessions. For information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

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).

A FORCED EVOLUTION? THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, SCIENTIFIC UNCERTAINTY AND THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE. By Aaron Cosbey, 2000. This paper looks at how scientific uncertainty is forcing a crisis in the Codex-the international food safety standard setter-and proposes an organisational evolution based on some of the key elements of the precautionary principle. The paper is available in PDF format at IISD's trade and investment publications page, at: <http://www.iisd.org/trade/pubs.htm>. For further information contact: Aaron Cosbey, 2619 2nd Ave. NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2N 0H9; tel: (1-403) 270-2700; fax: (1-914) 992-9545; email: acosbey@iisd.ca.

ACCESS TO WTO SPS DOCUMENTS. All unrestricted documents to the Agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) are now publicly available through a self-subscribing electronic mailing list. Documents will be sent through email, usually twice a week. To subscribe to the list, send an email message to listproc@list.unicc.org with the following in the body of the message (leave subject line blank): SUBSCRIBE SPS your full name. Your email address will be automatically registered. To unsubscribe, please follow the same procedure but with the following message: UNSUBSCRIBE SPS your full name. Please note that the SPS documents will be sent in the language originally received.

"Global Capitalism: Can It Be Made to Work Better," BUSINESS WEEK, 6 November 2000. This article provides an in-depth examination of globalisation and its discontents. The magazine wonders at the bad reputation globalisation has acquired in the face of its rampant successes -- millions of jobs "from Malaysia to Mexico," the transferring of \$US2 trillion from rich to poor countries, and the toppling of dictatorships fostered by more open relations. "The overwhelming conclusion of this reporting," says the lead article, "is that there are many examples of where reckless investment has done harm -- but there is no case where the hazards can't be addressed with better government and corporate policy. The real question isn't whether free markets are good or bad. It is why they are producing such wildly different results in different countries." To access the article visit: http://www.businessweek.com/@/@/@z4TcWUQ7fxCowcA/premium/00_45/b3706001.htm.

"Trade measures in multilateral environmental agreements and WTO rules: potential for conflict, scope for reconciliation. By Eric Neumayer in AUSSENWIRTSCHAFT 55, 2000. Paper seeks to demonstrate how the most important MEAs employ trade measures to further their objectives and how this might clash with WTO rules. To obtain a copy contact: Eric Neumayer, London School of Economics, Department of Geography and Environment, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE; tel: (44-20) 7955-7598; fax: 7955-7412; email: E.Neumayer@lse.ac.uk; Internet: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/geography/Eric1.htm>.

"Riding high or nosediving: development NGOs in the new millennium". By Rajesh Tandon in DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE, 2000, vol. 10, no. 3 & 4, pp. 319-329. The author starts by examining the experiences of development NGOs over the last five decades, and then examines some of the major socio-political changes that have occurred in recent years and their impact on development NGOs. The paper concludes with a look at the dilemmas facing NGOs and the potential implications for the roles and contributions of NGOs in the next millennium.

WEALTH, POVERTY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. By David Barkin. The author focuses on the problem of poverty while using a "Southern" perspective that differs from the theorisations coming from "Northern" authors. The author identifies diversity, self-sufficiency, local control and participation as basic canons of sustainable development. For information contact: UAM-X; Apartado 23-181, 1600 Xochimilco DF, Mexico; email: barkin@cueyatluam.mx.

THE GHG INDICATOR: UNEP GUIDELINES FOR CALCULATING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FOR BUSINESSES AND NON-COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS. Published by the United Nations Environment Program. The guidelines are designed for internal management purposes and to respond to self-imposed or governmental emissions-reduction targets. To obtain a copy contact: Joel Makower, Editor, The Green Business Letter, Tilden Press Inc, 6 Hillwood Place, Oakland, CA 94610 USA; tel: (1-510) 451-3100; email: gbl@greenbiz.com; Internet: http://www.greenbiz.com/toolbox/tools_third.cfm?LinkAdvID=6023.

ATMOSPHERIC CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATIONS OVER THE PAST 60 MILLION YEARS. By Paul Pearson, in NATURE, 2000, vol. 406, no. 6797, pp. 695-699. Although atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations in the early Cenozoic era are widely believed to have been higher than present, there is disagreement regarding the exact carbon dioxide levels, the timing of the decline mechanisms that are most important for the control of CO₂ concentrations over geological timescales. Through boron-isotope ratios of ancient planktonic foraminifer shells, the pH of surface-layer seawater over the past 60 million years is used to reconstruct atmospheric CO₂ concentrations.

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