



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest

12 December 2000

ISSN 1563-003X

Volume 4, N°47

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• WTO General Council Wraps-up 2000 with Major Issues ...	1
• WTO Services Negotiations - an Update	4
• Governments Agree to Ban or Limit 'Dirty Dozen' POPs	6
• EU and Chile Pledge to Work on Solution Before Swordfish Panel Convenes	8
• World Bank Report Targets Protectionism; UNCTAD Targets Anti-dumping	9
• Expert Panel Advocates Balanced Approach to Biotech Debate	10
• WTO LDC Meeting Addresses Shortcomings of Integrated Framework	11
• Clarification	12
• In Brief	12
• WTO in Brief	14
• Events	15
• Resources	17

WTO GENERAL COUNCIL WRAPS UP 2000 WITH MAJOR ISSUES

On 7-8 December the WTO General Council convened for its last formal session for 2000, tackling a variety of issues while pushing some of the more contentious ones forward to 2001. *Inter alia*, discussions were held on the state of the global trading system; observer status for international intergovernmental organisations; appointment of the Director-General; internal transparency in preparation and organisation of Ministerial Conferences; dispute settlement reform; and Appellate Body procedures for *amicus* briefs.

Moore's review outlines challenges for global trade

Gathering for a preliminary session as the Trade Policy Review Body, the Council reviewed developments in international trade and the trading system on the basis of an overview of these developments (see document number WT/TPR/OV/6) and a presentation by the Director-General (see http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/spmm_e/spmm46_e.htm).

In his statement -- which gives a comprehensive review of WTO developments since the failed 1999 Ministerial in Seattle -- Moore called 2000 a year of "challenge and consolidation" for the WTO and pointed to five key challenges for strengthening the world trading system:

- * starting and advancing on schedule the mandated negotiations on agriculture and services;
- * establishing a mechanism to consider implementation-related issues and concerns;
- * engaging in constructive and positive dialogue on ways to ensure the fuller participation of all Members in the work of the WTO;
- * improving consultative procedures; and
- * giving priority to the integration of Least-Developed Countries and other low-income WTO Members into the multilateral trading system to help them secure the benefits that can be derived from it.

Moore advocated the importance of assisting developing countries, saying "We must do more to help the world's poorest countries reap greater benefits from the world trading system." He finished his speech by concluding that 2000 has been a year of challenge and consolidation that leaves the WTO well-placed to carry on its work in 2001.

Observer status for international intergovernmental organisations

Observer status for other intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) in the WTO's various bodies has become a contentious issue. Some Members are looking to the General Council to lay out 'objective criteria' by which IGO applicants for observer status are granted access to WTO Committees and Councils, such as the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). Last week's General Council was unable to agree on such criteria, as the issue has become highly politicised and Members are far from consensus. Some say that observer status should be open only to organisations to which all WTO Members are party; others argue that organisations that are open to all WTO Members (but to which not all Members necessarily belong) should have observer status should they seek it. Still others are pushing for the inclusion of regional IGOs as observers.

Major disagreements are evidenced in the case of the International Labour Organisation, which many developing country Members feel should not be granted observer status due to the delicate nature of labour issues in the WTO. The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) elicits similar reactions from the US, which is not a member of the CBD and which continues to oppose its observership in the TRIPs Council. In addition, the League of Arab States -- a regional grouping -- is faced with staunch opposition from Israel in its request for observer status.

All WTO sub-bodies continue to await a General Council decision in this area, but for the time being General Council Chair Kåre Bryn (Norway) has indicated that further consultations will be required.

Appointment of the Director-General

At the General Council of 17 July 2000, the Chair forwarded a list of questions to Members asking them to outline their views on issues relating to procedures for the appointment of the Director-General (D-G) (WT/GC/M/57). Members were bitterly divided on this issue in 1999, and finished by compromising on two candidates for the post -- Mike Moore and Supachai Panitchpakdi -- who would share the six-year term.

Last week's General Council held a first exchange of views on this issue, and while Members ultimately took no formal decision, a few points of interest were raised. Most Members were of the opinion that there should not be any objective qualification criteria for candidates, and agreed that the D-G's term should be from four to five years, without renewal. Delegations for the most part wanted to keep the practice of governments nominating candidates, rather than an open nomination process.

With respect to the questions of whether there should be a WTO selection committee or whether such a committee should establish guidelines, there was no agreement. But countries did agree that the selection process should take no more than six months and should be finished six months before the outgoing D-G leaves. In addition, many countries mentioned the value of having Deputy Directors-General (DDGs) stay on for a certain period of time after the D-G has left in order to smooth the transition process. Indeed, the current DDGs will remain for one month after the arrival of Supachai in 2002. WTO sources at the meeting indicated that it was not without periodic humorous references to the ongoing uncertainty in the US over its presidential election. Consultations will continue on the matter in 2001.

Internal Transparency

The General Council will also revert next year to the question of internal transparency in the preparation and organisation of Ministerial Conferences. Nevertheless, discussions were held at the 7-8 General Council over a statement by the Chair on internal transparency, for which most Members expressed support. In the statement (JOB(00)/7891/Rev.1), Bryn pointed out broadly how Members view the process around preparing and conducting Ministerial Conferences.

In its reaction to the paper, Singapore, on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), stated that it would like a combination of informal small groups and open-ended meetings, and the outcome of the small groups should be shared with the whole Membership promptly so that all can respond to the latest proposals. Responding to a section in Bryn's paper that stated, "Members see merit in having a maximum of flexibility in the process leading up to, and including, Ministerial Conferences," India said that it wanted flexibility in Ministerials, but that undiscussed issues should not be added in at the last minute. Sources conjecture that India here was referring to the attempt by the US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky and others at the Seattle Ministerial Conference in 1999 to create a Working Group on Trade and Labour Standards during the negotiations.

DSU Review

A proposal to amend certain provisions of the WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) submitted by Japan and several other Members (see

WT/GC/W/410 and Add.1) was also on the table. This proposal was also discussed at the 10 October 2000 General Council (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 4, No. 39, 17 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.17-10-00.htm>). The submission focuses primarily on establishing a new Article 21 of the DSU that would clarify the sequencing issue related to Articles 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 Chair indicated that there had been little progress on this issue as yet, though consultations were continuing.

Japan -- the main proponent of the submission -- said it had a large degree of support and asked other Members to join it in support of the proposal. The EC said that it couldn't be satisfied with amendments on only Articles 21 and 22, and would like the entire agreement opened for discussion. The US said that the proposal did not go far enough for its liking with respect to opening up the dispute settlement process to public scrutiny. Nor did it say how the proposed amendments would apply to existing disputes such as the ongoing banana row between the EU and the US, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. Bulgaria and Argentina opposed the proposal on the grounds that it would speed up a process they find already fast enough.

Appellate Body procedures for *Amicus* Briefs

Finally, Chairman Bryn informed the General Council that as a follow-up to the Special General Council meeting on *amicus* briefs on 22 November (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 4, No. 45, 28 November 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.28-11-00.htm>), he met with the Chairman of the Appellate Body and some of its members on 24 November and informed them of his conclusions made at the special meeting. In particular, he drew attention to two conclusions: (a) the agreement that the Chairman of the General Council should start consultations on the matter and that he should be in contact with the DSB Chairman on what sort of rules should be developed in this area and on the procedure to be followed; (b) in the meantime the Appellate Body should exercise extreme caution on the issue of *amicus* briefs. According to Bryn, the Chairman of the Appellate Body expressed his gratitude for having been informed about the views of Members and took note of the information provided by the General Council Chair.

The next General Council is scheduled for 8-9 February.

Most unrestricted WTO documents are available online at the WTO's Document Dissemination facility at: <http://www.wto.org/wto/ddf/ep/public.html>.

ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS - AN UPDATE

On 1 December and again on 5-6 December, the WTO Council for Trade in Services met in Special Session to negotiate further liberalisation of trade in services as mandated by Article XIX of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Services trade liberalisation under the GATS constitutes one component of the WTO's "built-in agenda" for trade negotiations, the other being the liberalisation of agricultural trade.

Thus far during this first phase of the negotiation, Members have submitted proposals containing elements for the guidelines and procedures necessary for the structuring of the second phase of the negotiations expected to begin in March 2001 (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, 10 October, 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.10-10-00.htm>). To this end, and what some considered a significant step in moving the process forward, Members last week authorized the WTO Secretariat to compile a draft text including both written and oral proposals put forward to date. This decision is an indication that Members are ready to examine the commonalities and differences in the proposals presented so far in an effort to shape things such as the objectives, scope, methods of proceeding, and pace of negotiations. It comes following the submission of proposals from more than 60 members, including a detailed submission from 24 developing countries.

In fact, the proposal put forward by this group of developing countries -- including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Venezuela -- was considered by some to be important in underscoring the willingness of this group to move ahead in negotiations. In it, the group indicates what it considers should be the principles that should frame the negotiations. Of note, it reiterates many of the themes already in the GATS provisions, namely that countries should retain the flexibility to pursue commitments commensurate with each country's level of development, while respecting their national policy objectives. This proposal also sets out the objectives of the negotiations, notably the achievement of progressively higher levels of liberalization in the trade of services, while respecting the existing architecture of the GATS; balance in the rights and obligations of the Members; and increased participation of developing countries in the international trade in services. The proposal also addresses other aspects of the negotiations including a call to moderate the number and frequency of meetings in order to ensure that they are able to participate fully.

Discussion at last week's Special Session also focused on three additional proposals, one from the EU on the overall approach to the negotiations; one from India on the movement of natural persons -- the so-called Mode 4 supply of services; and one from Australia on the liberalization of telecommunications services.

In the EU proposal, the Commission outlined its objectives for the negotiations asserting that the liberalization of services trade must be consistent with, and complementary to, the objectives of sustainable development. In particular, it stressed that European trade policy, environmental policy, social policy and development cooperation must play mutually supportive roles in favour of sustainable development. Moreover, the EU proposal stated that it was of the view that Members should retain the right to protect national policy objectives, recognizing explicitly the right to regulate and introduce new regulations. It also stressed that the services negotiation did not mandate privatisation and deregulation. Last, the EU proposal stated that it was still too premature to set a definite deadline for the negotiations. In related news, at the recent European leaders summit in Nice, it was agreed that the European Parliament voting structure would be reformed giving more independence to the European Commission to set EU trade policy. (SEE THIS ISSUE IN BRIEF)

The Indian proposal on Mode 4 was significant in that it offered a detailed account of the factors related to the movement of natural persons in the supply of services. The proposal outlines what India considers to be the most pressing problems facing the temporary movement of developing country professionals in the provision of services and is considered by some to be representative of the views of many developing countries on this issue. Of note, it argues that liberalization in this

area has been very slow and that many general border restrictions continue to impede the movement of developing country independent contract suppliers. Among these, visa and work permit administrative procedures in overseas markets are claimed to be discretionary non-transparent. Also, Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs), used to acknowledge the qualifications of foreign service providers such as professional certifications, are said to be limited to developed country professionals and thus acting as a technical market access barriers to service providers from developing countries. The Indian proposal elaborates on how these restrictions might be liberalised.

Also noteworthy is a joint submission from Slovenia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland and the Slovak Republic under the assessment of trade in services GATS Article XIX. Their communication is not meant to be a negotiating proposal, but rather a useful background document to inform the Special Session discussion on the overall assessment of trade in services. The paper gives a short history of the evolution of the services sector in Slovenia in order to exemplify some of the common themes shared in Economies in Transition. It was originally presented to the OECD in May 2000.

Last, a provisional schedule of meetings was set for the coming year subject to confirmation. This tentative schedule is as follows: 19-30 March; 9-17 July; 1-9 and 12 October; and 26 November-7 December. A one-day symposium on tourism services was scheduled for 27-28 February 2001.

Unrestricted WTO documents relating to the Services negotiated can be found on the WTO Document Dissemination Facility using the following symbol: S/CSS/W/*

ICTSD Internal Files.

GOVERNMENTS AGREE TO BAN OR LIMIT 'DIRTY DOZEN' POPS

Following a week of negotiations lasting well into the last night, delegates from 122 countries on early Sunday morning agreed to ban 12 highly toxic, long-lasting chemicals known as persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants, meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa on 4-10 December, thereby concluded a two-and-a-half year long process. Four out of the 'Dirty Dozen' (the 12 chemical substances covered by the new convention) -- namely DDT, PCBs, dioxins and furans -- were treated with exemptions from the total ban imposed on the other eight. The resulting agreement was hailed from all sides, with governments, industry, and environmentalists seeing their interests respected in the treaty. Compromises were achieved on the inclusion of the precautionary principle to the agreement and also for the channelling of the funds for technical assistance for developing countries.

One of the most contentious issues was the introduction of a "precautionary approach" for adding toxic substances to the list of banned substances despite the absence of scientific certainty. The EU promoted the idea with the argument that where there is scientific evidence of a threat to wildlife, human health or the environment, protective measures should be taken even without full scientific certainty. The US, together with Japan and Australia, argued that the draft treaty was already flexible enough and explicitly addressing precaution would not add anything to the agreement. The conference finally settled on an inclusion of precaution as guiding principle to the treaty.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism designed to assist developing countries in achieving the convention's objectives. For this purpose, the GEF will be strengthened once the treaty is ratified. Developing countries had been asking for a mandatory special fund, and were not satisfied at first with developed countries' pledges. Finally both sides agreed to a compromise that does not include any mandatory obligations for developed countries. In particular, numerous obsolete stockpiles of POPs found in developing countries remain a cause of great concern, and delegates pointed out that financial and technical assistance from developed parties will be necessary to ensure their elimination.

While the ban on the pesticides aldrin, endrin, chlordane, dieldrin, heptachlor, mirex, and toxaphene, as well as the industrial chemical hexachlorobenzene were not disputed, the treatment of DDT heated up the discussion considerably. Health officials and delegates from developing countries that had faced an escalation of malaria cases in the past few years (e.g. South Africa and India) stressed that DDT still has an important role to play in saving lives through its effectiveness in controlling malarial mosquitoes. Only three countries (Mexico, India and China) still produce the substance, considered to be the cause of several medical problems, while most developed countries banned the domestic use of DDT several years ago.

Under pressure from developing countries, the conference granted a phase-out period of up to 2025 for governments to replace polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in existing facilities such as electrical transformers. Although PCBs are no longer produced, hundreds of thousands of tons are still in use in such equipment. Dioxins and furans, which are mainly produced unintentionally due to incomplete combustion, were not banned completely after the US asserted that it would not be possible to eliminate all sources of these substances due to technical reasons. The convention states, however, that emissions should be reduced as much as possible, and where practicable should be ultimately eliminated.

Questioned on how the new agreement handled trade concerns, John Buccini, the Canadian Chairman of the conference, stated that the provisions did not contravene WTO rules, as potential trade conflicts had been discussed throughout the negotiations and that trade experts had assured delegates that was no conflict.

The convention will be formally signed on 22-23 May 2001 in Stockholm and enters into force once at least 50 countries ratify the agreement. This process is expected to take three to four years.

POPs are highly stable chemical compounds that can last for years or decades before breaking down. They have been linked to an array of adverse effects, including death, cancer and birth defects among humans and animals. They can travel thousands of miles from their original source and accumulate in fatty tissues of animals and humans.

"Weltweites Verbot von Umweltgiften", NZZ, 11 December 2000; "Global accord bans 12 toxic chemicals", FT, 10 December 2000; "Toxic chemical treaty in sight despite EU-US dispute", REUTERS, 8 December 2000; "POPs: US Confident Of Deal On Toxic Chemicals Treaty", UN WIRE, 8 December 2000; "UPDATE - Talks start on accord to ban toxic chemical output", REUTERS, 5 December 2000; "UN conference on toxic chemicals seeks global ban", REUTERS, 5 December 2000; "POPs: International Conference To Finalise Treaty Opens Today", UN WIRE, 4 December 2000; "Toxic Legacy Rests With POPs Treaty Negotiators", ENS, 4 December 2000;

"Toepfer Urges Agreement on Global Treaty to Protect Health, Environment From Persistent Organic Pollutants", UNEP NEWS RELEASE, 9 November 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

EU AND CHILE PLEDGE TO WORK ON SOLUTION BEFORE SWORDFISH PANEL CONVENES

At a meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) on 12 December, the EU submitted a second request for a panel to be established to resolve a trade dispute with Chile over Chile's restrictions on the importation and transit of swordfish (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 4, No. 44, 21 November 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.21-11-00.htm>). Following a second panel request, a panel is automatically established within 20 days. If the parties cannot agree on panellists, then -- according to the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding -- the Director-General will appoint a panel. The EU and Chile, however, remain optimistic that they will be able to reach an agreement on the conservation of swordfish outside the DSB. The EU had sent a compromise proposal to Chile on 28 November to which Chile responded relatively favourably on 4 December, indicating, *inter alia*, that it was willing to pursue the option of establishing a "scientific research fishery" on the basis of not more than four vessels for each party. The EC is currently considering Chile's response. Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Norway, Iceland, the US and India -- all of whom are Members with significant fisheries interests -- requested and were granted third party status in the dispute.

Bananas and Aircraft also on menu

The DSB also discussed the EU's latest proposal of a "first come, first served" system to replace its current preferential market-access regime for banana imports and bring its system into line with WTO rules (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 4, No. 37, 3 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.03-10-00.htm>). Banana exporters are still divided over the measure, and various countries -- notably Columbia, Ecuador, and Mexico -- repeated their previously voiced concerns that the EC must implement the WTO's ruling in full. Other issues discussed at the meeting included Canada's criticism of the Brazilian export financing programme for aircraft, and the first panel request by the US to evaluate Mexico's measures related to telecommunication services. The next regular meeting of the DSB will be held on 1 February 2001. Special sessions have been scheduled for 20 December (to address the US Foreign Sales Corporation tax law dispute) and 10 January (to address the Korea-beef dispute and US retaliatory measures against the EU in the banana dispute). In the Brazil-Canada dispute, the DSB authorised Canada to suspend concessions against Brazil to the amount of \$CDN344.2 million per year. Canada did not indicate whether or when it would impose the sanctions. Japan was not comfortable with Canada's request, pointing out that it was difficult to assess whether Brazil had changed its measures or practices to bring them into conformity with the WTO. For its part, Brazil claims that its new legislation fully complies with WTO rules.

ICTSD Internal Files.

WORLD BANK REPORT TARGETS PROTECTIONISM; UNCTAD TARGETS ANTI-DUMPING

According to a recently released World Bank report, the year 2000 yielded the highest increase in world trade volumes since the pre-oil crisis 1970s. If the trend continues, trade volumes will reach 12.5 percent growth by the end of the year, according to the study. Despite these figures, the report - entitled "Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries" -- also shows that the world's poorest countries were not among the principle beneficiaries of the recent trade boom, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where export volumes have not risen in step with other regions.

The World Bank contends that the trade problems of the world's poorest countries are exacerbated by their limited access to northern markets. The report calls upon developed countries to restrict their use of import barriers (tariffs and subsidies) on goods -- particularly agricultural goods and textiles -- from the developing world. The study admonishes the incorporation of environmental and labour standards and sanctions into trade agreements, arguing that doing so will only serve as an additional market access impediment for developing country goods destined for developed country markets. Moreover, according to the Bank, "The imposition of trade sanctions is vulnerable to capture by protectionist interests and hurts workers by reducing demand for the goods they produce."

Another reason why poor countries had little success sharing in the expansion of global trade, according to the study, is that many continue to rely on tariff-based financing, which in turn generates additional costs for exporters and reduces their competitiveness in international markets. It also posits that insufficient export infrastructures and services, relatively high transportation costs, and volatile exchange rates continue to impede the export of goods.

The World Bank gives a passing grade to those developing countries that aggressively liberalised their domestic markets through the 1980s and early 1990s -- Latin America and South Asia for example -- where the share of trade volumes was much greater. Aggressive liberalisation, it argues, created the economic conditions needed to attract foreign investors with strong export interests. But it cautions that a pending downturn in US consumption, rising crude oil prices and non-performing loans in South East Asia could likely slow the growth of world markets considerably, thus limiting the efficacy of developing country export-led development models.

For information on the report, which will be available on 31 December, visit: <http://www.worldbank.org/html/extpb/gep2001.htm>.

UNCTAD links lower tariffs to surge in anti-dumping actions

In a background note emanating from its 4-6 December Expert Meeting on the Impact of Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Actions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) highlighted the increased incidence of anti-dumping investigations and measures since the WTO was established in 1995. According to the document, while developing country exports continue to be the main targets of anti-dumping measures from developed countries, poor countries now account for half of all anti-dumping actions. UNCTAD accounts for the increase by arguing that after having aggressively reduced their tariff regimes, countries must now resort to anti-dumping measures in order to protect their domestic industries.



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest

17 October 2000

ISSN 1563-003X

Volume 4, N°39

Anti-dumping measures against developing countries has the effect of creating instability and uncertainty for their exports, which has resulted in reductions in trade volumes and market shares for their goods, according to the report. The increased resort to anti-dumping measures and the rising number of disputes related to these actions have prompted many developing countries to call for improvements in the application of anti-dumping duties at the WTO. The paper argues that due to resource constraints, developing country small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have trouble defending their interests in anti-dumping investigations and are therefore usually unable to apply adequate compensatory measures. Meanwhile, developed countries are better positioned to finance thorough anti-dumping investigations resulting in greater application of measures.

At the 4-6 December meeting, several legal experts made the case that a revision to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing measures is required in order to stem the tide of their abuse as a protective instrument.

To download the background note, visit <http://www.unctad.org/en/pub/pubframe.htm> and search for "antidumping".

"Global Trade Boom Lifts Developing Countries," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 6 December 2000; "Bank Says Sanctions Can Backfire," FINANCIAL TIMES, 6 December 2000; "Developing World To Enjoy Growth Spurt But Face Trade Barriers," AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE, 5 December 2000; "Poorest Countries Left Behind By Trade Boom," TERRAVIVA, 6 December 2000; "Developing Countries Growing Targets Of Antidumping Measures, UNCTAD Says," WTO REPORTER, 6 December 2000; "Legal Experts Urge WTO to Reform Antidumping Agreement to Curb Abusive Use," WTO REPORTER, 6 December 2000.

EXPERT PANEL ADVOCATES BALANCED APPROACH TO BIOTECH DEBATE

"Biotechnology: Challenges and Opportunities" was the subject of a Panel discussion convened on 6 December by ICTSD, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the South Centre. The panellists, Calestous Juma of Harvard University and Arturo Martinez from Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were joined by three discussants, Maria N. F. Azevedo from the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN, Gretchen Stanton from the Agriculture and Commodities Division of the WTO, and Kathryn Stokes from the Technology for Development Section of UNCTAD. The discussion was held in advance of this week's meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Cartagena Protocol in Montpellier, France.

Panellists and discussants agreed on the importance of a balanced approach in assessing the benefits and risks of biotechnology in policy-making. While consideration of risk and precautionary measures were seen as essential elements, it was equally important to ensure that possible health and environmental benefits of biotechnology were fully examined. Science-based evaluations were endorsed to foster predictability and confidence in the trade system and help "draw the line between protection and protectionism". One panellist reminded the gathering that "the recognition of the limits to science [was] not evidence of the basis to reject science."

The debate arose over whether food security was primarily an issue of quantity, quality or distribution. Biotechnology was seen as a method to increase production without cultivating new lands while also reducing the use of pesticides and agro-chemicals. Critics contended that ownership, distribution and biodiversity issues would worsen as technology and patents are concentrated into the hands of a few suppliers and that issues regarding environmental safety have not been fully addressed.

The question emerged of whether the Cartagena Protocol would compete with or complement WTO agreements. Participants were divided on how the precautionary principle outlined in the Protocol would fare when compared with related language found in the WTO's Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards, Technical Barriers to Trade, and Article XX of the GATT. One panellist noted that under WTO rules, states had a great deal of flexibility in their treatment of GMOs.

While it was predicted that most trade disputes arising from Protocol based measures would likely be resolved outside the WTO, those that did reach the DSB would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if the trade-related aspects of precautionary measures taken were compatible with WTO rules. The need for maintaining broad policy flexibility in this area was stressed by many participants considering the significant technical and political pressures upon their countries in forming biotechnology policies. As such, issues such as trust, choice, consumer understanding, and technological maturity were all potentially significant in shaping the treatment of biotechnology issues domestically and internationally.

Developing countries were urged to engage in the Protocol debate in order to safeguard their interests and to contribute to the development of the instrument. In addition, a need was recognised to help developing countries establish research capacity, as well as the creation, implementation and enforcement of national biotechnology policies. Suggestions included donor support and a call for a neutral source of reliable information free from political, commercial and consumer interests. In addition, a call was made to increase the role of science in diplomacy.

ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO LDC MEETING ADDRESSES SHORTCOMINGS OF INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK

The Integrated Framework (IF) was a major item on the agenda for the 22nd Session of the WTO's Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries (LDCs), which met in 6 December. The Framework is the central programme governing technical cooperation for LDCs, and is coordinated together with five other agencies: the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the International Trade Centre, and the UN Development Programme.

At the meeting, delegates identified two deficiencies faced by the IF. The first was one of organisation. Many countries pointed to confusion in knowing which organisation to go to in order to benefit from training and technical assistance, and that coordination between the agencies takes a long time to happen. The second problem was one of funding, which has been a common difficulty encountered by the IF. Some developing countries wanted a trust fund for the IF to be set up. The US was against this approach, but acknowledged that it would not block the establishment of such a funding mechanism. In past months, both the US and France have contributed funding to technical assistance, though this money has been earmarked for WTO-exclusive usage and is separate from IF funding.

On the agenda item for preparation for the UN conference for LDCs (to be convened 14-20 May 2001 in Brussels; see <http://www.un.org/events/ldc3/conference/ldc3.htm>), the Sub-Committee decided on four inputs. First, that Members will report on their support for effective implementation of the Integrated Framework; second, that the WTO Secretariat will compile a study on market access opportunities for LDCs; third, that the Secretariat will compile a report on 'mainstreaming' based on a joint agency seminar scheduled for January 2001; and finally, that the Secretariat will prepare a report on LDC accession to the WTO. On this last point, Members expressed concern that since the WTO was established in 1995, no new LDC has acceded. There are currently 29 LDCs represented at the WTO, out of a total of 48.

ICTSD Internal Files.

CLARIFICATION

In the last issue of *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest (Vol. 4, No. 46, 5 December 2000), in the article entitled "TRIPs Council Discusses Relationship with CBD", it was reported that Switzerland was opposed to the request by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for observer status to the WTO Council on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). In fact, Switzerland did not oppose this request. The Swiss asked that the decision-making procedures for granting observer status be based on objective criteria, and referred in this context to the current discussions in the WTO General Council on this issue. The General Council has for the time being postponed a decision on observer status for intergovernmental organisations to the new year.

We apologise for this oversight.

IN BRIEF

FIRST INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING FOR THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL UNDERWAY. The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) is currently taking place in Montpellier, France (11-15 December 2000). The ICCP -- chaired by Ambassador Philemon Yang of Cameroon -- is mandated to undertake the preparations necessary for the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP) which is scheduled to be held in April 2002 -- together with the Sixth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) -- provided that 50 states have ratified the Protocol by that date. Up to now, 78 countries are signatories but only two (Trinidad and Tobago and Bulgaria) have ratified the

agreement. Amongst other items, the ICCP meeting will address issues relating to information-sharing, capacity-building, decision-making procedures, handling, transport packaging and identification, and compliance. The Biosafety Protocol regulates the safe transfer, use and handling of living modified organisms that may have adverse effects on biodiversity, taking into account risks to human health, with a specific focus on transboundary movements. It was adopted as a supplementary agreement to the CBD on 29 January 2000. *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* will report on the outcomes of the first ICCP meeting in a forthcoming issue. For a daily coverage of the meeting, see IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/biodiv/iccp1/>. Additional information on the meeting and relevant documents prepared can be found at: <http://www.biodiv.org/biosafe/protocol/iccp/iccp1/index.html>. ICTSD Internal Files.

EFFORTS TO STREAMLINE EU FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS MADE AT EUROPEAN SUMMIT. Possible amendments to Article 133 of the EU Treaty, which deals with decision-making in the area of trade, were among the most contentious issues discussed at the recent European Summit in Nice, France (7-9 December). In an effort to overhaul the cumbersome EU machinery for handling international trade negotiations, the European Commission had proposed substituting unanimous decision-making in the areas of trade in services, intellectual property and investment with qualified majority voting (QMV), as is already applied to trade in goods. According to the Commission, reform is needed in order to (a) prevent members from blocking trade deals, particularly in an enlarged EU where such tactics could paralyse trade policy; (b) allow the EU to exercise trade leadership; and (c) remove the anachronism of restricting QMV to trade in goods in a world where services generate a quarter of EU exports. In the end, governments agreed to extend QMV to services and intellectual property rights. Some delegates, however, expressed doubts that practices would significantly change due to the large number of conditions and restrictions attached to the decision, including exemptions for France in the fields of culture and audio-visual services. "Brussels fight to win support for reforms to trade talks rules," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 1 December 2000; "Die Union als Geisel nationaler Vetos," *NEUE ZÜRICHER ZEITUNG*, 11 December 2000.

CONSERVATIONISTS FEAR WEAKENING OF CITES. Environmental groups have expressed their concerns regarding a proposal to amend restrictions on trade in live endangered species. This and other proposals are currently being discussed as a way to reduce the administrative burden on the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Secretariat at the meeting of the CITES Plants Committee, currently underway in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA, from 11 to 15 December. The Committee has suggested preparing a list of species recognised as being "critically endangered" or difficult to breed or house in captivity. Any animal not on the list could be bred for commercial purposes if the country where the breeding facility is located approves. CITES currently requires that parties must agree if any species listed as an 'Appendix I' species (i.e. under highest protection) may be traded even if it is bred in captivity. Conservation groups fear that hundreds of highly endangered species, such as tigers, rhinoceros and bears, could legally become part of the international wildlife trade should the proposal be accepted. "Conservationists fear weakening of endangered species trade pact," *INTER PRESS SERVICE*, 7 December 2000.

MALAYSIAN NGOS CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO OPPOSE NEW TRADE ROUND. In a statement released on the occasion of the first anniversary of the WTO Seattle Ministerial conference, 14 Malaysian NGOs -- including leading consumer, environmental and youth organisations -- called on the Malaysian government to "resist and reject the pressures for a New Round" of multilateral trade negotiations. "Instead, the government should work together with other developing countries to insist that the WTO concentrate on reviewing and reforming its existing

Agreements and its non-democratic processes of decision-making," according to the statement. The NGOs claim that adverse economic, social and environmental consequences will result if a new round is launched in 2001 with the agenda currently being sought by developed countries. At a recent meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum, Malaysia had called on member states to first agree on an agenda before the timetable for negotiations can be set (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, Number 43, November 14, 2000; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/inbrief.14-11-00.htm>). The NGOs added that the future agenda must resolve the problems caused by existing WTO rules before injecting new issues into the WTO that will further cause disadvantages and problems. "Malaysian NGOs call on government to reject launching of a new WTO round," TWN INFO SERVICE ON WTO ISSUES, 8 December 2000.

WTO IN BRIEF

SWITZERLAND URGED TO REDUCE FARM SUBSIDIES. A large cross-section of developed and developing countries have called upon Switzerland to dismantle the "costly and trade-distorting barriers" to its agricultural sector. The recent WTO Trade Policy Review (TPR) of Switzerland stated that, "Switzerland's agricultural sector remained highly protected despite the reforms implemented in recent years". Average tariffs on farm imports to Switzerland were found to be 34 percent, almost four times the overall average for all goods, with meat being subject to a duty of up to 678 percent. The US was particularly vocal in its criticism. "In 1999, Switzerland provided aid to farmers equivalent to 73 percent of gross receipts from agricultural products, well above the average of 40 percent for OECD countries," said US deputy trade representative Rita Hayes. Switzerland responded by proposing a reduction of export subsidies and other forms of support to farmers, but also stressed the "multifunctional" nature of agriculture that includes social and labour aspects, the environment, and rural development and landscape protection. On the positive side, the TPR commended Switzerland for its open-market policies for industrial goods and for its commitment to continuing market-opening initiatives in telecommunications and utilities. "Swiss urged to dismantle world's highest farm subsidies," UPI, 6 December 2000; "Swiss protective measures keep domestic prices high: WTO," AFP, 6 December 2000; "Swiss Ready to Cut, Not End, Farm Subsidies in Trade Talks", BLOOMBERG, 6 December 2000.

LITHUANIA SET TO BECOME 141ST WTO MEMBER. The Lithuanian president Valdas Adamkus last week signed the formal documents that will allow Lithuania to become the 141st Member of the WTO. The agreement now has to be ratified by the Lithuanian parliament. The Baltic nation, which would follow Estonia and Latvia into the WTO, has committed itself to reducing the level of domestic support to its agricultural sector by 20 percent over five years and to eliminating its use of export subsidies entirely upon joining the WTO. It has also signed separate trade deals with a number of countries. "Lithuania now has a stable and predictable framework for economic engagement with other nations which will boost trade, growth and prosperity", WTO Director-General Mike Moore said. "For the WTO, it means another big step in our goal of becoming a truly world organisation," he added. "Lithuania given green light for WTO entry," WORLD TRADE NEWS, 11 December 2000; "World Trade Organisation welcomes Lithuania," AP, 8 December 2000.

ACCESSION TALKS IN SLOW BOAT TO CHINA. After the meeting of the WTO China Accession Working Party on 5-8 December, China and the WTO announced that Beijing has reached an agreement in principle with WTO members on a 12-page text setting out the "most

comprehensive description of China's plan to protect intellectual property rights", according to China's chief negotiator on WTO accession Long Yongtu. Work had also advanced on other outstanding issues, such as the removal of technical barriers to trade, trading rights of foreign firms in China, agriculture and product-specific safeguards. "In each of these areas the picture is now much clearer and efforts are now focused on producing textual solutions for multilateral examination and approval at our next meeting, said Working Party Chair Paul-Henri Ravier. Officials, however, expressed their disappointment that the momentum that had picked up at the last round of talks in November appeared to have dissipated (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, Number 43, November 14, 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/wtoinbrief.14-11-00.htm>) "The progress has been slow, slow, slow," commented an EU official. The Working Party will meet again on 10-17 January 2001. "Officials Cite Slow Progress In China WTO Membership Talks," WTO REPORTER, 8 December 2000; "China Talks Wrap Up with IP Accord, Work to Continue In January," WTO REPORTER, 11 December 2000.

EVENTS

Coming Up This Week

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>.

11-15 December, Montpellier, France: FIRST MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL. For information contact: Cyrie Sendashonga, CBD Secretariat, World Trade Center, 393 St. Jacques Street, Suite 300, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1N9, Canada; tel.: (1-514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: cyrie.sendashonga@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/updates/upcoming.html>.

11-15 December, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: 12TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. For information contact: the Ozone Secretariat; tel: (254) 262-1234; fax: 262-3601; email: ozoneinfo@unep.org; Internet: <http://www.unep.org/ozone/meet2000.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/updates/upcoming.html>.

11-15 December, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA: CITES TENTH MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE. Issues under discussion include implementation of strategic and action plans; provision of scientifically-based advice for drafting proposals; development of regional directories of botanists; implementation of new resolutions on significant trade and identification manuals; and review of the biological and trade status of listed plants. For information contact: CITES Secretariat tel: (+4122) 917 8139/40; email: cites@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.wcmc.org.uk/CITES/eng/cttee/plants/index.shtml>.

11-15 December, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA: CITES SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE. Issues under discussion include hard corals, significant trade, traditional medicines, the Scientific Authority and transport of live animals. For information contact: CITES Secretariat; tel: (+4122) 917 8139/40; email: cites@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.wcmc.org.uk/CITES/eng/cttee/animals/index.shtml>

11-22 December, Bonn, Germany: FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION: COP-4 For information contact: the CCD Secretariat, P.O. Box 260129, D-53153 Bonn, Germany; tel.: (49-228) 815-2800; fax: 815-2899; email: secretariat@unccd.de; Internet: <http://www.unccd.de>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/updates/upcoming.html>.

WTO Events

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

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

11-13 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

13 & 15 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW: CANADA. For information contact: Josep Bosch, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5681.

14-15 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, SPECIAL SESSION ON IMPLEMENTATION. For information contact: Keith Rockwell, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5015.

15 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS - BANGLADESH. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

18-19 December, Geneva Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF RUSSIA. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

Other Forthcoming Events

10-12 January, Monterey, California: THE THIRD ANNUAL MONTEREY CONGRESSIONAL FORUM ON TRADE POLICY. The Forum will prepare for the new US Congress and Administration by helping the members of the California Congressional delegation understand the complexity of the issues that will confront them on the subject of trade. This will be the first major West Coast trade policy forum since the Seattle WTO meetings last year, and will be the first event to bring together the different voices that have a serious stake in the future direction of American trade policy. Officials of government, business, labour, environmental organisations, and developing economies will engage in discussions on how to formulate and enact sound trade policy for the new century. For information contact: California Council for International Trade; email: info@ccit.net; Internet: <http://www.ccit.net/>.

10-17 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO CHINA ACCESSION WORKING PARTY. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5007.

22-24 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY. For information contact: Luis Ople, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

24 & 26 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - MOZAMBIQUE. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

25-30 January, Porto Alegre, Brazil: WORLD SOCIAL FORUM. The goal of the Forum will be to strengthen South-North alliances between NGOs, unions and social movements. The four themes for the conference are: production of wealth and social reproduction; access to wealth and sustainability; civil society and the public arena; and democracy and citizens' power. For information contact: Secretaria do Forum Social Mundial, Rua General Jardim, 660 sala 81, CEP 01223-010, Sao Paulo - Capital- Brasil; tel: (55-11) 258-8914; fax: 258-8469; email: fsm2001@uol.com.br.

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).

ACHIEVING BETTER REGULATION OF SERVICES. A joint conference volume published by the Australian Productivity Commission and the Australian National University that seeks to improve the regulation of services industries in Australia and overseas. The volume outlines principles of good regulatory design and identifies regulatory options to deliver better economic and social outcomes. It brings together conference papers presented by leading Australian and international experts in the fields of regulation, services and international trade at a conference in June 2000. It also includes assessments of each paper by prominent discussants and summaries of the issues raised in general discussion. For information contact: Dr Philippa Dee email: pdee@pc.gov.au; Internet: <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/confproc/abros/index.html>.

"Trade and environment after Seattle: a negotiation agenda for the South," Najam, Adil in: JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT 9 (4, 2000): 405-425. This article argues that the developing countries cannot afford to disengage themselves from the discussion. It proposes a proactive and positive strategy for the South for future international negotiations: one that seeks the achievement of sustainable development through an active engagement of the developing countries in the trade and environment discourse.

AFTER SEATTLE - THE WTO AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. By the International Development Committee of the United Kingdom House of Commons, 2000. The failure of the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle in 1999 raised publicly and dramatically important questions over the future of the WTO and the value of trade liberalisation. Is the WTO the enemy of the poor

or their only hope for a fair share of world trade? The International Development Committee has conducted an inquiry into the WTO and developing countries and presents its conclusions in this report. The report can be found at: <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/selcom/indhome.htm>.

"The environment as a commodity," Vatn, Arild in: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES 9 (4, 2000): 493-509. This paper addresses problems related to transferring market concepts to non-market domains. More specifically it is about fallacies following from the use of the commodity concept in environmental valuation studies.

"The market creation approach to development: poverty alleviation as a business for the poor," by Urs Heierli in DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES, 2000, vol. 10, no. 10, pp. 1, 5-8. The market creation approach to development combines two aims: to supply useful and affordable products with a high poverty alleviation impact to poor people, and to create a viable business as a private delivery channel, run by poor people.

TRADE AND HUNGER. Overview by John Madeley, 2000. Released by Forum Syd, among other Swedish NGOs. The 77-page report is an overview of case studies on the impact of trade liberalisation of food security. The report includes a description, overview and summary of conclusions from each study. To obtain a copy contact: Programmet for globala studier, Forum Syd; Box 15407; 104 65 Stockholm, Sweden; tel: (1-46-8) 506-371-64; fax: 506-370-99; email: johanna.sandahl@forumsyd.se; Internet: <http://www.forum.se/globala.htm>.

Electronic Resources

"Sitrends.org," created by the Mark Twain Institute. The new service sector website tracks the latest service sector data, including industry growth, job creation, and trade surplus figures from major countries around the world. The site will also contain analysis of service sector issues and updates on pending legislation that affects the service industry. The site is designed as a reference tool and a gateway to broader information about the subject. To access go to: <http://www.sitrends.org>.

"RIO +10 Links" Hosted by SDinfo (Environment Canada). A list of Rio+10- related sites has been opened on the SDinfo Links page. Anyone can submit links to the page. For suggestions contact: Gail Anderson, email: gail.anderson@ec.gc.ca. To access go to: http://www.sdinfo.gc.ca/SDinfo/Eng/Links_e.cfm.

"Food Labels: A Guide to the UK Regulations." Part of the University of Reading Food Law pages, this site is designed to provide useful introduction to requirements of United Kingdom labelling regulations and EU-wide regulations and agreements. The site includes images of labels and links to official documents and interpretations of EU-wide labelling regulations. The site can be found on the World Wide Web: <http://www.fst.rdg.ac.ukk/foodlaw/index.htm> or <http://www.fst.rdg.ac.uk/foodlaw./label/index.htm>.

"Science, Technology and Innovation Program" at Harvard University. Distributes information on research and training opportunities, vacancies and conferences related to science, technology and development. To access visit: <http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidtech/>. To subscribe to the mailing list contact: Emily Spengler, email: cid_sti@ksg.harvard.edu or spengler@fas.harvard.edu or subscribe directly by sending an email to subscribe-tech.cid@silver.lyris.net.

CALL FOR PAPERS

ECO-MANAGEMENT AND AUDITING CONFERENCE. Incorporating the Symposium on Accountability towards Civil Society and the Research Workshop on Corporate Environmental Management and Social Accountability. The Conference will be held on 21-22 June 2001, organised by ERP Environment in association with Nijmegen Business School, The Netherlands and the International Research Network for Quality, Environment and Corporate Social Responsibility. The seventh annual Eco-Management and Auditing Conference is aimed at a range of practitioners, researchers and other business stakeholders and will bring together an international, interdisciplinary audience in order to share knowledge and experience. It provides a forum for the dissemination of research findings, practical guidance and case studies associated with the implementation of environmental management systems and associated tools. It has an emphasis on practice and theory and it encourages debate and discussion. The deadline for abstract submission is 15 December. For further information contact: Elaine White, Conference Administrator, ERP Environment, PO Box 75, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD17 6EZ, tel: (44- 1274) 530408, fax: (44- 1274) 530409, email: elaine@erpenviron.demon.co.uk, Internet: www.erpenvironment.org

SCHOLARSHIPS

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PROGRAM. The program for faculty and professionals is offering more than 61 awards in Environmental Science for lecturing and/or doing research abroad during the 2001-2002 academic year throughout many parts of the world. The Fulbright Scholar Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). US citizenship is required. Non-U.S. citizens should contact the Fulbright agency of US embassy in their home countries. The award listings and application materials are downloadable from the Web site at: <http://www.iie.org/cies/> or you can request printed versions from email apprequest@cies.iie.org. Contact the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 3007 Tilden Street NW, Suite 5L, Washington, DC 20008-3009; tel: (1-202) 686-7877; fax: 362-3442; Internet: <http://www.iie.org/cies/>.

MARGARET MCNAMARA MEMORIAL FUND. The MMMF awards six grants of about \$11,000 each year (not renewable) to a female national of a developing country (and not a U.S.Green Card holder) enrolled in an accredited educational institution in the U.S. by September 2000. Candidates must be interested in issues that relate to women and/or children and be planning on returning to her country within two years of the date on which the grant is made. She must be at least 25 years old by 1 January 2001, residing in the U.S. at the time she submits the application and demonstrating financial need. She must not be related to a World Bank staff member or spouse. The deadline for receiving completed applications is 15 February 2001. The MMMF will notify recipients after April 30, 2001. To obtain applications until 31 January 2001, contact: Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund, World Bank Volunteer Services, Room H2- 200, 1818 H Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20433; tel: (1-202) 473-8751; fax: (1-202) 676-0419; email: MMMF@worldbank.org.

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

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>

ICTSD would like to thank the funders that have made the *BRIDGES* series of Publications possible in 2000: Christian Aid (UK); The Government of Denmark (DANIDA); IUCN The World Conservation Union (Switzerland); The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (US); The Government of the Netherlands (DGIS); Oxfam (UK); The Government of Switzerland (SECO); and the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations (Switzerland).

ISSN 1563-003X