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SCEPTICISM OVER AG CLOUDS UPCOMING HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

The EU and US are expected to hold high-level talks from 17-18 February focused on building consensus toward a new round of global trade talks. European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and US Trade Representative (USTR) Charlene Barshefsky reportedly remain far apart on a number of issues, most notably whether the new round should address a narrow agenda addressing only a few issues (favoured by the US), or a comprehensive round under which a number of sectors (including inter alia investment and competition policy) favoured by the EU and Japan.

Meanwhile, WTO Member countries are increasingly sceptical that any substantial work on trade talks will take place until after the US presidential elections in November 2000. Reflecting this growing consensus, New Zealand minister of agriculture Bruce Ross said that substantive talks are not likely to get underway until summer 2001. "It is likely that this year the negotiations that get underway will, to some extent, be shadow boxing and setting out people's positions in agriculture," Mr. Ross told the New Zealand parliament on 10 February.

On the agriculture front, United Kingdom Agriculture Minister Nick Brown told a Brookings Institution forum on 14 February that the agricultural text that emerged near the end of the Seattle negotiations "is an excellent basis for multilateral negotiations, and is a clear indication of the likely direction that the agricultural negotiations...will take once a broader round has been launched."

Brown said the last agricultural text or "something very close to it would have been agreed to at Seattle if a wider package launching a round had been ready." However, Brown pointed out that the United Kingdom's views on the changes in the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy and trade liberalisation are not shared by a majority of the EU member countries. Barshefsky said late last week that Lamy had told her 12 of the 15 member states would not have agreed to the agricultural text.

Dutch Foreign Trade Minister Gerrit Ybema also expressed scepticism that serious talks would commence until next year. In the meantime, Mr. Ybema said, the WTO should focus on internal reform to facilitate a more inclusive structure at the WTO to address the needs of developing countries. "[The WTO] is a rich man's club but 80 percent of its members are from developing countries. You need to reorganise the decision-making so every one can participate. What is important is that the proposals must come from the developing countries themselves," Mr. Ybema said.

US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky meanwhile warned that it was French elections scheduled for 2002 that could hold up WTO talks on agriculture. Ms. Barshefsky warned that in the run-up to French elections, Europe's agricultural positions "will harden even further."

"It should be appreciated that the WTO is an integral whole, and what it does or does not do in one area of work assigned to it will definitely be viewed against the backdrop of what it does or does not do in other areas of work assigned to it...Therefore, we have to be conscious of not only the need for parity between agriculture and services negotiations, but also the need for parity between implementation, mandated negotiations and mandated reviews, not in the narrow political sense but in the larger political sense," India's Ambassador to the WTO Srinivasan Narayanan said in a statement.

"British Ag Minister Outlines Views On Negotiating Round," NATIONAL JOURNAL'S CONGRESS DAILY, 14 February 2000; "From swans on Geneva Lake to super-tanker on high seas!" SUNS, 8 February 2000; "High-level meeting set between U.S., EU To assess prospects for new WTO talks," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 3 February 2000; "Dutch Min: Don't expect new WTO round until summer 2001," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 9 February 2000; "NZ official says WTO round pushed out to 2001," REUTERS, 10 February 2000; "Barshefsky says French elections could delay new WTO round," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 8 February 2000.

UNCTAD X UNDERWAY IN BANGKOK

In what some observers have termed an "un-eventful event", the quadrennial policy summit of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is underway in Bangkok from 12-19 February.

UNCTAD was created in 1964 to promote trade and investment as a means to economic growth in poor countries. Unlike the WTO, it doesn't set or oversee any trading rules, focusing instead on research, technical assistance and capacity building. The quadrennial UNCTAD meeting is the organisation's highest policy-making body, bringing together ministers from 188 countries to formulate major policy guidelines and deciding on the UNCTAD programme of work.

Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai opened the conference on 11 February, saying that UNCTAD X provided the first opportunity to assess what was lacking in the present international trade and financial system - which had yet to provide common prosperity and economic security for all countries. He said that the policy and institutional framework of global trade and finance must be reviewed, with an eye on development rather than a narrow focus on commercial gain.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan also addressed the opening session of UNCTAD, where he said that developing countries were not to blame for the failure of WTO talks in Seattle in December. "The round was not launched because governments -- particularly those of the world's leading economic powers -- could not agree on their priorities," Mr. Annan said. Secretary-General Annan also pointed out that while the developing world was united in Seattle, a number of rich countries lacked the political will "to confront those within their own countries that have come to rely on protectionist arrangements."

The Group of 77 developing countries plus China (G-77, comprised of 133 developing countries) have been delaying the negotiations on UNCTAD's Declaration and Plan of Action with language that relates to the WTO process. For instance, the inclusion of text on "largely agrarian economies" on the section on agriculture has prompted the protest of several developing countries who would not like to see WTO disciplines further fragmented by the creation of yet more specific interest groups. In response, the assembly already seems to have accepted language with respect to the special needs of "small and vulnerable economies".

Most heads-of-state from Southeast Asian nations were on hand as UNCTAD X opened on 11 February. Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi was the only senior official from the so-called Quad group of countries (US, Canada, EU and Japan) to attend the summit, much to the disappointment of a number of developing countries.

Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and host of UNCTAD X, Supachai Panitchpakdi, had hoped to use the meeting to convene an informal meeting of trade ministers, including representatives from the Quad countries. The US clearly rejected this idea. "The WTO is an organisation of rules and procedure: UNCTAD is not. UNCTAD is an agency that provides technical assistance to countries that need it," said US Ambassador to the WTO Rita Hayes. EU trade commissioner Pascal Lamy said the EU would not send a trade delegation since UNCTAD X was not a "trade event," by virtue of the fact that UNCTAD has no power to make trade rules.

160 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from 40 countries met for a parallel conference to UNCTAD X, marking the first major meeting of international NGOs since the Third WTO Ministerial meeting in Seattle in November-December 1999. By and large, NGOs have been critical of UNCTAD and disappointed with the direction of the Conference.

Those NGOs that are participating as members of some (primarily European) delegations have been trying to formulate language that forces countries to "examine" the current UNCTAD policy towards NGOs with a view to making it more inclusive. This push has so far been dismissed by developing countries and the US.

"Opening UNCTAD X in Bangkok, Thai prime minister urges 'new healing process' for collective action for development," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE (TAD/BKK/2), 12 February 2000; "Bid to further challenge WTO legitimacy," "UN Body emerges from WTO's shadows," BANGKOK POST, 8 February 2000; "UNCTAD meeting underlines global trade uneasiness," WALL STREET

JOURNAL, 11 February 2000; "Farewell sweetener sours IMF chief's day," BANGKOK POST, 14 February 2000; "Rich nations play down importance of UN trade group," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 7 February 2000; "UNCTAD meeting to focus on globalisation," FINANCIAL TIMES, 11 February 2000; "After crises, South-East Asian leaders demand new global order," IPS, 14 February 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO SLAMS EXPORT SUBSIDIES

At an 11 February meeting of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), Members adopted a controversial review panel ruling that requires, for the first time, a company to repay in full an illegal export subsidy from a Member government. The case involves a June 1999 dispute brought against Australia by the US over A\$30 million in subsidies to a producer of automotive leather. Departing from normal WTO practice, major WTO Members insisted that the decision not be taken as a precedent for adjudication of future disputes.

The panel ruling has been handed down shortly before the WTO is set to rule on two other cases involving export subsidies worth billions of \$US. By 24 February the Appellate Body is set to rule on an EU-US case panel that ruled against US tax exemptions for exporters, while a 21.5 panel report is expected in early March on whether Brazil and Canada have complied with WTO rulings that call for the lifting of export subsidies to their jet aircraft industries.

Australia expressed deep concern over the decision, bringing attention to the "punitive nature and retrospectivity" of the decision. In a statement to the DSB, Australia pointed out that: "This is a punitive remedy which appears designed to punish both Australia and the company [Howe and Company Proprietary Ltd.]. There is no basis in the WTO for punishing private companies [or] sovereign states." Even the US, in its statement to the DSB, acknowledged that the panel's remedy requiring the reimbursement of the subsidies "goes beyond that sought by the United States".

Australia has stated that it will seek to arrive at a "mutually satisfactory resolution" of the dispute with the US. Should it fail to do so, the US would be within its WTO rights to request sanctions against Australia under Article 22.6 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes.

Also at the 11 February DSB, Argentina, Chile, and Korea notified the DSB of their intention to implement the recommendations of the dispute settlement panels that had ruled in three cases in which they were defendants. Each of the three Members were losing parties in their respective disputes: Argentina - footwear; Chile - taxes on alcoholic beverages; and Korea - Definitive Safeguard Measure on Imports of Certain Dairy Products.

The DSB meets next on 24 February, at which point it will discuss, *inter alia*: the status report for the EC's banana dispute; proposed nominations for the list of governmental and non-governmental panellists; and election of chairperson of the DSB.

"WTO demands repayment of illegal subsidy," FINANCIAL TIMES, 14 February 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

TRADE ISSUES CONTENTIOUS AT FOREST FORUM

The Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF-4) took place from 31 January - 11 February in New York. Delegates meeting under the auspices of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) reached consensus on a set of proposals to facilitate and promote sustainable forest use. Delegates discussed a wide range of issues including, *inter alia*, trade in wood products, technology transfer, and whether or not a legally binding instrument addressing sustainable forest management (SFM) should be created. The conclusions and proposals agreed at IFF-4 will now be forwarded for consideration to the eighth session of the CSD in April 2000.

Regarding trade in wood products, government representatives agreed to disagree on the issue of whether trade and environment should be mutually supportive concepts, acknowledging that international trade in wood and non-wood forest products has both positive and negative impacts on SFM. Delegates noted also that while voluntary certification and labelling schemes have a potential role in SFM, more practical experience is needed to reach conclusions on the effectiveness of eco-labelling, and that application of such schemes may lead to unjustified obstacles to market access.

Members failed to reach final agreement on a proposal on continuing support for continued trade liberalisation in the forest sector and the removal of trade restrictions that constrain market access. One developed country proposed language encouraging countries to conduct environmental reviews of trade agreements, a provision many developing countries said would constitute a restriction on trade. The final IFF-4 text states that the IFF supports continued efforts by countries and the WTO toward trade liberalisation, giving special attention to removing remaining and emerging trade restrictions that constrain market access, particularly for value-added forest products.

Delegates strongly debated whether to propose launching negotiations on a legally binding instrument (LBI) to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. Supporters of an LBI argued it would be an important tool in focusing attention on SFM, while others argued it could be a mechanism with which to link financial assistance. Representatives of Indigenous Peoples expressed concern that a LBI would further impinge on their rights to a forest-based culture and livelihood, and some NGOs feared that a LBI would legitimise bad forestry practices. Some African countries expressed concern over linking LBI to promises for financial assistance to poor countries, in light of unfulfilled promises along the same lines made during negotiations toward the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD). Delegates agreed to bring the issue to the CSD, proposing that it: "...consider (within five years) with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests..."

"Forests: UN Session A "Last Chance" For Global Accord?" UN WIRE, 1 February 2000;
"Summary of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests: 31 January - 11 February 2000," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN (IISD), 14 February 2000.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: AFRICA AND ASIA

Finance and economic ministers from 22 Arab countries met from 9-11 February in Cairo, Egypt to discuss the creation of an Arab free trade zone. The so-called Arab League was created in 1996, and from 1998 has agreed to reduce custom duties on intra-regional trade by 10 percent annually. Inter-

Arab trade is worth about US\$160 billion dollars per year. The grouping anticipates the creation of an Arab League common market by 2007.

Kenyan and Egyptian officials last month resolved a trade dispute over Kenyan tea exports to Egypt. Egypt had held up imports of about US\$20 million in Kenyan tea in apparent retaliation against Kenya's November 1999 decision to withhold preferential tariff rates for Egyptian rice imports on the basis that the rice import's country-of-origin could not be guaranteed. Egypt is Kenya's third largest export market for tea, behind the UK and Pakistan. The dispute had threatened Kenya's tea sector, already struggling with depressed world prices.

Both Kenya and Egypt belong to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African countries (COMESA). The 21-member grouping plans to launch a free trade area from 31 October 2000. COMESA Secretary-General Erastus Mwencha said on 2 February that COMESA was currently working on greater monetary co-operation between its members, and on measures designed to reduce the cost of production within the region.

Nigeria announced last month it would reduce import tariffs on key raw materials in an effort to revitalise its manufacturing sector. Custom duties reductions are also planned for the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector, as well as agriculture, petroleum, automotive, printing, textile and engineering sectors. The Nigerian government announced that duties on some imported finished products would be increased in an effort to protect and promote local industries.

India and Sri Lanka said in a joint statement on 2 February that the bilateral free trade agreement concluded by the two countries in December 1998 would go into effect as of March 2000. Disagreements over a list of items to be excluded from the agreement have delayed implementation. Trade between the two countries totals nearly US\$600 million annually, the vast majority of which represents Indian exports to Sri Lanka.

Next week in News From The Regions: updates on regional news from the EU, North America and Latin America.

"Nigeria to reduce duties on raw material imports: Obasanjo," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 20 January 2000; "Kenya seeks to end tea dispute," FINANCIAL TIMES, 26 January 2000; "Egypt allays concerns over Kenyan tea imports," FINANCIAL TIMES, 27 January 2000; "Africa's COMESA unveils ambitious agenda," REUTERS, 2 February 2000; "Sri Lanka, India agree to implement trade pact by March," DOW JONES, 2 February 2000; "Arab free-trade zone talks under way in Cairo," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 9 February 2000.

EU EXTENDS BEEF HORMONE DEADLINE

On 9 February, Standing Veterinary Committee (SVC) of the European Commission (EC) announced it would extend by one month the deadline for the US to satisfy monitoring requirements for hormone-free meat exports. The move suggests that the EC is keen to keep transatlantic trade relations on an even keel before a forthcoming meeting between European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and US Trade Representative (USTR) Charlene Barshefsky on 17-18 February. The SVC said it had accepted measures announced by the US for improving its monitoring programme to test for unauthorised substances and residue levels exceeding the maximum EU residue limits for

authorised medicinal veterinary products in fresh meat and meat products. As a result, no import ban on hormone-free beef will be imposed before 15 March 2000.

The residue issue came to light when, as part of a comprehensive risk-assessment study into hormone-treated beef, EU scientists in April 1999 announced that they had found traces of hormones in 12-20 percent of beef samples from US slaughterhouses - samples which were supposed to be hormone-free. This has posed a significant obstacle to resolving the broader dispute between the EU and US over the EU ban on US (and Canadian) hormone-treated beef. As part of a US attempt to settle the dispute, the US offered to label hormone-treated beef exports and increase its quota of non-hormone treated beef exports to the EU.

On 8 February, Barshefsky said in an address to the US Congress that the EU and US had made little progress in resolving disputes over EU compliance with two WTO rulings. The rulings in question refer to cases involving an EU ban on imports of US hormone-treated beef and a preferential EU import regime for bananas, both of which the EU has lost. Addressing the US Congress, Ms. Barshefsky said she has requested a US interagency review into whether the US should change the make-up of the retaliation lists in both the banana and beef disputes.

The WTO in 1999 authorised the US to implement US\$191.4 and US\$116.8 million in trade sanctions against the EU in the beef and banana disputes, respectively. The US has previously promised the EU that it would not pursue a so-called carousel approach to retaliation under which the US would periodically change targeted EU products in order to maximise the trade impact to the EU and to ensure that all EU members face retaliation.

Lamy and Barshefsky are scheduled to meet in Washington on 17-18 February to discuss a number of outstanding WTO issues. When asked by reporters if she and Lamy would cover the banana and beef disputes, Barshefsky replied: "We'll go through the full range of issues, yes." Speaking on 28 January, John B. Richardson, deputy head of the European Commission office in Washington, DC, said that the two officials were also likely to discuss China's bid to join the WTO; the forthcoming vote in the US Congress later this year on whether the United States will remain a WTO Member; and the potential for a future round of trade negotiations. A previous meeting on 17 December 1999 between the two trade representatives had failed to bridge gaps on major issues such as agriculture and scope of a new round.

"EU Commission Extends Deadline For US To Satisfy Requirements For Meats Shipments," EC PRESS RELEASE, 9 February 2000; "Administration conducts review of beef, banana retaliation," INSIDE US TRADE, 11 February 2000; "High-Level Meeting Set Between U.S., EU To Assess Prospects for New WTO Talks," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 3 February 2000.

LABOUR UPDATE

India last month announced it would soon ratify the International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention eliminating the worst forms of child labour (e.g. child slavery, sexual exploitation and hazardous work). Child labour is already illegal in India, although India puts its official estimate of child labourers at 17 million. The ILO estimates however that of the 250 million children working in the world, 60 million live in India.

Brazil in January also ratified the ILO's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention. President Fernando Henrique Cardoso said that ratifying the accord reflected Brazil's commitment to "universal rights," but warned against attempts by the developed world to link child labour standards to trade. Mr. Cardoso said that such linkages "would make [Brazil's] development more difficult," and noted that the WTO is not the appropriate forum to address the issue. President Cardoso also said that children's rights "must not be confused with the frequent attempts in international forums to create obstacles to international development." Brazil estimates that 2.9 million children work in Brazil. The Brazilian government last month announced a package to provide financial incentives to help up to 362,000 children to stop work and go to school.

Also last month, the UN and international labour unions reached an agreement to promote international co-operation in order to meet the challenges of globalisation. Representatives of the international labour movement, led by the General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) Bill Jordan, endorsed the Global Compact, first proposed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan last year. The Compact is intended to build social partnerships between business and labour, and puts forward nine principles to guide ethical business practices, covering the areas of human rights, labour and environmental standards. The International Chamber of Commerce has also endorsed the Compact.

In other news, about 700 textile workers marched on Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 3 February to protest pay and working conditions at their factory. The workers called on the US to avoid garment exports from Cambodian factories that have failed to comply with local labour laws. The US is the largest market for Cambodian textile exports, which totalled US\$606 million in 1999. The US in 1999 said it would raise its import quotas for Cambodian textiles if compliance with local labour laws was increased.

"India to ratify ILO treaty to ban the worst forms of child labour," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 20 January 2000; "Brazil warns against misusing child labour issue," REUTERS, 20 January 2000; "ICFTU statement on the Global Compact," ICTFU PRESS RELEASE, 20 January 2000; "Joint UN-ICFTU statement on the Global Compact," UN PRESS RELEASE, 20 January 2000; "Cambodian textile workers call for US action," REUTERS, 3 February 2000.

IN BRIEF

For the first time since 1986, Latin America and the Caribbean surpassed Asia last year as the largest regional recipient of foreign direct investment among developing countries. According to preliminary estimates released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the region enjoyed a 32 percent increase in investment from US\$73 billion in 1998 to US\$97 billion in 1999. The increase was largely due to the quadrupling of FDI into Argentina (from US\$6 billion in 1998 to US\$25 billion in 1999). "Latin America and the Caribbean attract largest share of foreign direct investment in the developing world," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE (TAD/INF/2835), 1 February 2000.

The Group of 77 developing countries plus China (G-77, comprised of 133 developing countries) will meet in Havana, Cuba from 10-14 April for its first ever South Summit since its creation in 1964. The summit will focus on globalisation, South-South co-operation, North-South relations and knowledge and technology. G-77 officials said in a statement that they hoped the South Summit would be "an historic event commensurate with the needs and the aspirations of the countries of the

South for meeting the challenges of the new millennium." The G-77 will also host a series of preparatory forums in advance of the summit. These include "South NGOs and the challenges of globalisation" from 1 to 3 March, and a workshop on "North-South relations in the era of globalisation" from 9-10 March. Both events will take place in Havana. "Press Conference by the Chairman of Group of 77 on the South Summit," G-77 PRESS RELEASE, 9 February 2000; "More than 25 heads of state to attend Group of 77 summit in Cuba," REUTERS, 7 February 2000.

The US-based Foundation for Advancements in Science and Education (FASE) recently reported an analysis of US Customs shipping records which found that shipments of pesticides that have been designated as persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals (PBTs) were exported from US ports at the rate of at least 16 tons per day in 1998. The total quantity of PBT shipments increased from almost 2.3 million pounds in 1994 to nearly 12 million pounds in 1998. "Persistent pesticides exported from U.S. ports," PANUPS, 4 February 2000.

Germany's environment ministry hopes to boost the country's exports of environment-related technology by launching a website of environmental technologies available from German companies. Environmental technology accounted for US\$28 billion in exports in 1998, or nearly five percent of Germany's total exports. "Environment technology products export hit," IPS, 7 February 2000.

WTO IN BRIEF

Germany on 25 January announced it would contribute US\$500,000 to the WTO Global Trust Fund. Established in July 1999, the Fund receives extra-budgetary donations from WTO Members to finance technical co-operation activities carried out by the WTO. Germany's contribution will be used to undertake Trade Policy Reviews for developing countries and to improve the Trade Policy Review Mechanism and better adapt it to the specific requirements of developing countries. Norway on 25 January announced it would contribute US\$600,000 to the Fund. WTO Director-General Mike Moore has called on WTO Member governments to raise the budget for technical assistance to US\$6 million to better meet the demand of developing countries for WTO-related financial assistance. "Germany contributes to WTO's global trust fund," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 25 January 2000; "Norway makes another contribution to WTO's global trust fund," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 28 January 2000.

ON THE MOVE: KÅRE BRYN

WTO Members on 8 February elected Norway's ambassador to the WTO Kåre Bryn to lead the WTO General Council with immediate effect for the mandated one-year term. Ambassador Bryn, 56, replaces outgoing Chair Tanzanian ambassador Ali Said Mchumo. Bryn has previously worked on issues of development and multilateral co-operation at Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and has held posts at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). In 1999 he joined Norway's mission to the WTO and spent several months as head of the Dispute Settlement Body. Ambassador Bryn said in a statement that "preservation and consolidation of the WTO system" would be the first priority of the General Council in 2000.

"Un Norvegien prend la tête du Conseil général de l'OMC," LA TRIBUNE, 9 February 2000;
"Priority: to preserve and consolidate the WTO system," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 8 February 2000.

EVENTS & RESOURCES; ICTSD POSITION VACANCIES

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

WTO Meetings

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

29 February - 1 March, Geneva: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. Members will discuss items 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the CTE's 10-point work programme. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

Other Events

22 February, Brussels: CONFERENCE ON FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR GLOBAL TRADE. This conference, hosted by the British Chamber of Commerce (BCC), the law firm of Herbert Smith and APCO Europe, is entitled The International Trade Agenda: Key Issues and Future Prospects for a New Round. For information contact: Harry Leff at APCO Europe, tel: (32-2) 645-9831; email: hleff@apco-europe.com or contact Kees Jan Kuilwijk at Herbert Smith, tel: (32-2) 511-7450; email: Kees.Jan.Kuilwijk@HerbertSmith.com. To register for the conference contact: British Chamber of Commerce, tel: (32-2) 540-9030; email: brit.cham@skynet.be.

12 March, Jaipur, India: CONFERENCE ON "GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS AND CONSUMERS: THE ROAD AHEAD." Hosted by the Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), this conference's objectives are to inform and educate consumers on genetically modified foods and related issues with a special emphasis on food security and health and environmental risks. For information contact: Ujjwal Kumar, Consumer Unity & Trust Society, Jaipur, India, tel: (91-141) 202-940 or 205-202; fax: 202-968 or 203-998; email: cutsjpr@jpl.dot.net.in or cuts.jpr@cuts-india.org; web: <http://www.cuts-india.org>

24-26 May, Islamabad, Pakistan: 4th SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE. This conference is hosted by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and is entitled "Dialogue on Human Security." SDPI invites submissions of papers on any of the following topics: livelihoods security, food security, social security and political security. Abstracts are due 20 February while full drafts will be required by 30 April. All accepted contributions will be published in the conference proceedings. For submissions or information contact: SDPI, SDC Program Committee, PO Box 2342, Islamabad, Pakistan, tel: (92-51) 278-134; email: saima@sdpi.org or fari@sdpi.org

Resources

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, TRADE AND BIODIVERSITY. 2000. By Graham Dutfield. Published by IUCN - The World Conservation Union and Earthscan Publications. This book provides a detailed picture of the legal and scientific issues surrounding the international debate over how to protect genetic resources. It introduces all the key actors, concepts and legal and policy instruments in the field of trade IPRs, and biodiversity. 238 pps. £35.00. ISBN# 1 85383 692 3. To order contact: Earthscan Publications Ltd., 120 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JN, UK; tel: (44(0)) 171-278-0433; fax: 171-278-1142; email: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk; web: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk>

WORLD COMMODITY SURVEY 1999-2000. February 2000. Published by UNCTAD, this survey provides unique and practical information on markets, structures and innovations for more than 80 commodities. It explores recent world trends and developments that have had an impact on commodity markets and analyses the increasingly globalised markets for commodities. 350 pp. \$85. ISBN# 92-1-101009-8. To order contact: United Nations Publications, Sales Section, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: (41-22) 917-0027; email: unpubli@unog.ch; web: <http://www.un.org/publications> or contact United Nations Publications, Two UN Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017, USA; tel: (1-212) 963-8302 or (1-800) 253-9646; fax: 963-3489; email: publications@un.org

MILLENNIUM ANGST OR MILLENNIUM HOPE? UNCTAD IN THE 21ST CENTURY. February 2000. This is a discussion paper by the People's Decade for Human Rights Education (PDHRE). This paper presents seven things that UNCTAD should do and one thing it should not do as it consolidates its existing territory and charts out new paths thrown up by the upheavals of recent global economic activity. To obtain, contact: PDHRE, Eurolink Business Centre, Suite 13, 49 Effra Road, London SW2 1BZ, United Kingdom; tel/fax: (44-171) 924-0169; email: pdhre@aol.com or contact: 526 West 111th Street, Suite 4E, New York, NY 10025, USA; tel: (212) 749-3156; fax: 666-6325; email: pdhre@igc.org; web: <http://www.pdhre.org>

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN A TIME OF CHANGE. February 2000. By Christopher L. Avery. Published by Amnesty International UK. This report is intended to further discussion on business and human rights and to provide senior managers with terms of reference and sources of information to assist them in the development of company policy. 80 pp. \$24. ISBN# 1-873328-39-7. To order contact: Amnesty International UK, 99-119 Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1R 4RE; tel: (44-20) 7814-6200; fax: 7833-1510; web: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/business/index.shtml>

Web Resource

NEW WEBSITE ON THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. The Dutch Joint Implementation Network recently launched a new website to help people understand the flexible mechanisms available to meet emissions limits under the Kyoto Protocol. With the website, the JI Network aims to create an easy access international platform for the exchange of information on the Kyoto Mechanisms. To view: <http://www.northsea.nl/jiq/>

Position Vacancies at ICTSD

ICTSD is advertising for two position vacancies: (1) Assistant Editor-Bridges; and (2) Information Technology and Web Support Technician. Terms of reference for these positions can be found at: <http://www.ictsd.org/forms/vacancies.htm> . Please submit resume and cover letter to: ictsd@ictsd.ch.

ICTSD is also seeking a marketing consultant. For terms of reference please see web address above. Deadline for application is 27 February 2000.

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