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WTO AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED INTO PHASE TWO

Following a full year of deliberations, the first phase of the WTO mandated multilateral agriculture negotiations formally concluded on 23 March, marking the end of general discussions by the Committee on Agriculture. The Committee is now preparing to embark upon the more arduous task of technical discussions in the next phase of the negotiations.

Unlike the outset of the negotiations, however, the 22-23 March meeting saw a proliferation of African country participation demonstrating the importance African countries place on their agriculture sectors. Of the 16 proposals discussed, 8 of these were submitted by African countries -- Namibia, Senegal, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Egypt, Morocco, and the African Group. Moreover, of the 44 total proposals submitted to the negotiation, 10 (23%) were submitted exclusively and independently by African countries, while Uganda, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Mauritania and South Africa were listed as joint sponsors on several group proposals.

In general, the Indian proposal received favourable comment from other developing countries which also emphasised food security as a core objective. Yet, the Indian proposal has drawn criticism from several countries which argue against a two tiered system of rights and obligations. Such an approach they argue runs counter to the logic of the WTO which advocates a single set of rules with derogations permitted for qualified developing countries.

In contrast, several developing countries have consistently argued that the only way to rebalance the inequities of the present agriculture agreement is to discipline developed country subsidies and border measures while enhancing their own agriculture production capacity. Doing so will allow developing countries to more fully realise the trade benefits of their comparative advantage in agriculture production.

State-trading enterprises and export credits

Also discussed were two specific proposals, one from Mercosur on state-trading enterprises (STEs) and one from a developing country coalition -- Mercosur, India, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Chile -- on export credits. On STEs, Mercosur's message was clear. State trading enterprises possess monopoly import/export rights and distort trade in favour of domestic producers. In its proposal, Mercosur calls for disciplines on STEs. Both the US and EU were in favour of Mercosur's proposal. In response, Canada, Australia and New Zealand -- each user of STEs trade management schemes -- argued that the use of STEs is no different than the distorting effects of cross-subsidisation common in private trading practices. They argue the main issue should not be one of "ownership", but of the trade effects of cross-subsidisation.

On export credits, the "Mercosur-plus" group pressed to reinstate export credit disciplines in the new agreement. It asserts that Article 10.2 of the agriculture agreement -- an existing article in the agriculture agreement requiring that countries develop internationally agreed disciplines on export credits -- failed to achieve its purpose of curbing their use. The US -- the largest user of export credit schemes -- argued that export credit disciplines are being negotiated at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris and should continue in that forum. Export credit schemes are government-backed financing arrangements which facilitate the export of commodity surpluses mostly to developing country importers.

Phase 2 Work Plan Approved

On 27 March, the WTO Committee on Agriculture approved a work plan for the next phase of the agriculture negotiations. As with phase 1, negotiating sessions -- officially Special Sessions of the Committee on Agriculture -- have been scheduled to coincide with regular meetings of the committee in September, 2001; December 2001; and February 2002 with a formal stock-taking exercise scheduled for March 2002. Three informal Special Sessions will be held in May and July 2001 and in February 2002.

The content of the work plan, recommended by the Committee Chairperson, Peruvian Ambassador Jorge Voto-Bernales, is consistent with the phase 1 proposals and will cover: tariff quota administration, tariffs, amber box subsidies, export subsidies, export credits, state-trading enterprises, export restrictions, food security, food safety, and rural development.

This list however is not exhaustive. It refers specifically to those topics to be covered in the first two or three meetings and is meant only to guide Members' preparations as they look forward to subsequent meetings. As phase 2 proceeds, Members will be permitted to add to this list of topics. For example, Norway has said it will seek to include "environment" in future sessions.

The work plan furthermore specifies that special and differential treatment will be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations.

"Second Phase Of Ag Talks To Begin," WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY, 26 March 2001; "Work Plan Agreed For Talks' 'Phase' 2," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 27 March 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

SERVICES: WTO MEMBERS CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT ON NEGOTIATING GUIDELINES

At the end of the 20 March informal meeting of the Special Session on a third draft of services negotiating guidelines and procedures, Members requested the WTO Secretariat to draft a revised (fourth) set of guidelines reflecting comments and proposals voiced during the meeting. Issued by the Secretariat the next day, the fourth draft was circulated among Members on Thursday, and discussed at an informal meeting on Friday 23 March. According to trade sources from both developing and developed countries present at Friday's meeting, Members came very close to reaching an agreement on the fourth and latest draft. Speaking from a developing country perspective, one trade source underscored that the latest set of guidelines is even closer to developing concerns than the first draft, which was criticised by some developed countries as focusing too much on developing countries' needs (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 20 March 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.20-03-01.htm>).

As in the third set of guidelines, the fourth draft contains the objectives of increasing participation of developing countries in trade in services and of providing for flexibility for individual developing country Members. CARICOM and the African group pushed for a reference to the needs of smaller economies and smaller service suppliers. While the criteria of the size of an economy seemed acceptable to many delegations, the reference to small service suppliers raised concern as to how such a term could be defined.

The fourth draft furthermore dropped provisions traditionally advocated by industrialised Members such as the 'standstill' requirement and the provision on technical review (the latter was excluded already from the third draft, but is being pursued by some Members in the regular session of the Council). The standstill was taken out on the insistence of developing countries. India in particular questioned how Members could determine whether a Member's action affecting access to its market were designed to improve its negotiating position or not. Other developing countries argued that they didn't see any reason why there should be an obligation of standstill in the negotiations on services when no such obligation existed in the on-going negotiations on agriculture or was foreseen as a general principle in an eventual new round of negotiations. A reference to the Annex on Air transport has also been removed.

Concerning the scope of the negotiations, a reference on flexibility for developing countries in negotiations on the Annex on Article II (Most Favoured Nation, MFN) exemptions has been introduced to the new draft. One developing country source said most developing countries have

very few, if any, exemptions to the MFN principle, whereas countries such as the US, the EC and Canada “are the champions of MFN exemptions.” Developed country Members managed to include a provision that “liberalization shall be advanced through bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral negotiations”, rather than the narrower, preferred approach of developing countries that the negotiations be conducted mainly on a request-offer approach.

Disagreement persisted concerning the sequencing between conclusion of rulemaking and the start of negotiations on specific commitments, as well as on when criteria for credit on autonomous liberalisation should be agreed. As to the former, concerning separate negotiations on domestic regulations, government procurement and subsidies, Members haven’t been able to reach consensus on the issue whether there should be an obligation or merely a “best endeavour” clause to complete such negotiations prior to the initiation of negotiations on specific commitments. Further, developing countries could not bridge divergences among themselves on the necessity for rules on subsidies.

Another source of disagreement arose in relation to the provision on credit for autonomous liberalisation. The fourth draft stipulates that Members “shall aim at” developing criteria on credit for autonomous liberalisation prior to the start of negotiation on specific commitments; a formulation thought to be too weak by several developing countries.

Members are expected to reach a final agreement on the guidelines on 28 March at the beginning of the special session during which the stocktaking exercise take place begin. The stocktaking exercise is intended to lay the ground for the next phase of the negotiation.

“Getting closer to a Framework for Services Negotiations,” DAILY WASHINGTON TRADE, 26 MARCH 2001; “WTO Members Struggle Over Services Negotiating Guidelines,” WTO REPORTER, 26 March 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

EU ATTACKS BUSH'S U-TURN ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The EU and other countries have strongly criticised the US President George W. Bush's recent turnaround in his stance on the Kyoto Protocol climate change negotiations. Bush's lack of commitment to curbing greenhouse gas emissions marks a significant setback after promising signs at the G8 meeting earlier this month that the US and EU might be coming closer to an agreement on climate change (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 March 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/inbrief.06-03-01.htm>).

The EU criticism came in response to a letter from President Bush to Senator Chuck Hagel of Nebraska last week in which Bush reverted a campaign pledge by saying that he would not seek to impose mandatory emissions reductions for carbon dioxide (CO₂) at US power plants as caps on CO₂ would force a shift from coal to natural gas which he claims would lead to higher electricity prices. He also reasserted his opposition to the Kyoto Protocol, the international treaty designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2 percent by 2012. "I oppose the Kyoto Protocol because it exempts 80 percent of the world, including major population centres such as China and India, from compliance, and would cause serious harm to the US economy," he wrote. Bush furthermore referred to "the incomplete state of scientific knowledge of the causes of, and solutions to, global warming".

Bush's remarks were met with strong criticism from around the world. In a joint letter to the US President, Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, and Göran Persson, the Swedish Prime Minister chairing the recent EU summit in Stockholm, wrote that the US and Europe "urgently needed" to continue talks on climate change after the failure of the last round of negotiations in The Hague in November last year (see BRIDGES, 29 November 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.28-11-00.htm>). They also highlighted the importance of the issue for foreign-policy relations between the EU and the US. "The global and long-term importance of climate change, and the need for a joint effort by all industrial countries in this field, makes it an integral and important part of relations between the USA and the EU," they wrote.

Criticism also came from France, Germany and Japan. In a strongly worded letter to the head of US Environmental Protection Agency, Christine Todd Whitman, French Environment Minister Dominique Voynet expressed her government's "very active concern" about the US stance, warning the US that it "would have to bear a very heavy responsibility" if it called into question the widely valued climate change treaty. These concerns were echoed by the German Environment Minister Jürgen Trittin. The Secretariat of the (UNFCCC) also joined in the criticism. In defence of developing countries, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Executive Secretary Michael Cutajar highlighted the significantly greater per capita emissions of CO₂ in the North compared to the South. "Fairness suggests that the developed countries act first to limit emissions," he said.

Even Canada -- traditionally a key ally of the US on climate change and part of the Umbrella Group (US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) -- expressed its disappointment with the US President's change of position. According to the Canadian Environment Minister David Anderson, Bush's move will greatly hinder breaking the stalemate over the stalled climate change talks. However, Anderson also suggested that the EU had lost an opportunity to conclude a deal with the outgoing Clinton administration and are thereby also responsible for the failure of the talks. "I would prefer Mr Bush not to have made the decision he made but I would devoutly hope that the Europeans have learned their lesson when it comes to negotiating with the Umbrella Group and not make that same mistake again," he said.

US President rolls back more of Clinton's key environmental actions

Bush's turnaround on climate change is seen by some as one in a series of environmental roll backs, regulations taken by the Clinton administration in its final days. Earlier last week, the US EPA delayed implementing a pending arsenic standard that would have cut the amount of arsenic permitted in drinking water from 50 to 10 parts per billion. The US Interior Department also announced the suspension of a regulation to toughen environmental standards for gold, silver and uranium mining on public lands. Other recent measures include a delay of Clinton's rule to ban new roads in nearly 60 million acres of US forest land, and intensifying the campaign for drilling in the Arctic national wildlife reserve.

Interested readers please take note of LEAP2000: NEW SOFTWARE TO ANALYSE GHG SCENARIOS announced in the Electronic Resources section of this edition of *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest.

"EU urges Bush to do more on climate change," FT, 24-25 March 2001; "Schröder calls on Bush to stick to Kyoto protocol," REUTERS, 22 March 2001; "Canada disappointed by Bush move on pollution," REUTERS, 21 March 2001; "UN backs India on Kyoto protocol," TIMES OF INDIA,

22 March 2001; "Environmentalists feel cheated by Bush's campaign reversals, " FT, 24-25 March 2001; "Bush rolls back water, mining, forestry rules," REUTERS, 23 March 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

US-CANADA LUMBER DISPUTE HEATS UP AS EXPIRY DATE APPROACHES

According to the Canadian press, Canadian and US trade negotiators have been engaged in unofficial negotiations to pre-empt a pending dispute over Canada's softwood lumber imports. With the current Canada-US Softwood Lumber Agreement scheduled to expire at the end of March, some form of resolution is urgently needed to avert unpalatable trade relations between the trading partners (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 February 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.06-02-01.htm>).

Last week, the US said it was considering the creation of a panel of "eminent persons" -- experts in the field -- in an effort to resolve the pending lumber dispute between the US and Canada. Yet, some speculate that this show of flexibility from the US is influenced by the forthcoming Summit of the Americas in Quebec City next month, when it is expected President Bush will indicate his favour of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The Canadian government has confirmed that negotiations regarding "special envoys" are currently underway, but has stated that no decision had been made.

The US Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports (CFLL) has said it does not oppose the idea of special envoys attempting to mitigate the dispute, yet maintains that it will file a complaint with the USTR on 2 April after the agreement expires on 31 March. CFLL claims that the Canadian government provides US\$ 4 billion in illegal provincial timber subsidies by virtue of its "stumpage" regime. This, they argue, depresses timber prices by 25 percent and allows Canadian timber producers to maintain one third of the US lumber market share, a trade flow valued at US\$ 7 billion per year. CFLL asserts that Canadian "stumpage rates" -- fees levied by the government per harvested tree -- are too low and do not adequately reflect market value.

Canada has rejected US accusations, arguing that it possesses a natural comparative advantage that make trees cheaper due to its extensive forest cover and high fibre volume.

Under the 1996 Softwood Lumber Agreement, Canada limits its US bound softwood lumber exports to 14.7 billion board feet annually, while exports in excess of this quota are taxed by the Canadian government. In exchange for the export restraint -- designed to protect US timber producers -- the US agreed to curb trade actions against the Canadian softwood lumber imports. Yet, Canada enjoys the support of US home builders who do not want lumber prices to increase after the agreement runs its course.

"Secret talks on softwood," NATIONAL POST, 24 March 2001; "Jimmy Carter blasts Canadian timber practices," THE GLOBE AND MAIL, 26 March 2001; "Early strategy gives Canada a natural softwood lumber advantage," THE GLOBE AND MAIL, 24 March 2001; "Wood split widens over summit call," NATIONAL POST, 22 March 2001; "At loggerheads," ECONOMIST, 24 March 2001.

NGO-GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE TARGETS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE IN ASIA

Environment and trade officials from 23 Asian countries will meet for a two-day multi-stakeholder seminar with civil society representatives on 29-30 March in Chiang Mai, Thailand, as part of a process geared towards better articulation of regional sustainable development interests and concerns and how they apply in the multilateral trade system.

The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), in collaboration with the Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF) and the Chulalongkorn University Centre for Ecological Economics (CEE) are convening the dialogue on trade, environment and sustainable development for Asian government representatives and civil society actors. The dialogue will be held immediately following a WTO secretariat Regional Trade and Environment Seminar for Asian governments. It will bring together 45 officials from environment and trade ministries as well as 40-50 key actors from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutes, and regional organisations in 23 Asian countries. The objective of this non-partisan dialogue is to provide a platform for civil society actors and domestic and regional trade policy-makers to exchange views and explore underlying interests on a series of trade and sustainable development issues of particular relevance to the region.

Previous similar meetings have been convened in Latin America and Africa by ICTSD with the three aims of reinforcing dialogue and participatory decision-making in trade policy; enhancing analytical capacity of non-governmental actors; and contributing to the dissemination of developing countries' civil society perspectives.

ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO IN BRIEF

WTO IN SEARCH FOR NEW APPELLATE BODY DIRECTOR. The WTO is seeking a new Director of its Appellate Body (AB) after the sudden departure of Debra Steger earlier this month. Steger, who is expected to take an academic posting in her native Canada, headed the AB Secretariat since its creation in 1995. Her resignation comes at a difficult time for the AB with its increasingly heavy workload and the impending departure of three of its judges -- Claus-Dieter Ehlerman, Florentino Feliciano and Julio Lacarté-Muro -- in December. The Body has also come under increasing criticism in recent months from some WTO Member States for its "judicial activism", in particular regarding its decision in the asbestos case to establish procedures for submissions of "amicus curiae" briefs (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 14 November 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.14-11-00.htm>). The WTO is now accepting applications for the post until 20 April. "WTO Seeks Replacement for Director of Appellate Body After Steger Resigns," *WTO REPORTER*, 21 March 2001.

US INCREASES PRESSURE ON TRIMS EXTENSIONS. In a letter addressed to the chairman of the WTO's Council for Trade in Goods (CTG), the US has requested that countries which have applied for extended deadlines for complying with the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs) but which have not replied to questions posed by WTO members about their requests by 30 March, "should no longer be considered by the CTG for extension." The

US has also decided to go ahead with plans to appoint a WTO panel that was established in November last year to rule on the US complaint against Philippine's local content rules for the automotive industry (see *BRIDGES*, 11 November 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.21-11-00.htm>), despite a previous preference for a negotiated settlement. According to one trade official from Manila, this move marks a grave setback to the confidence-building exercise to resolve "implementation" issues raised by developing countries. The nine countries that have applied for TRIMs extensions include Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania and Thailand (see *BRIDGES*, 20 March 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/20-03-01/story5.htm>). "U.S. Steps Up Pressure On TRIMs Extension Requests," *WTO REPORTER*, 23 March 2001; "US Gets Tougher on TRIMs Extensions," *WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY*, 23 March 2001.

EU OPTIMISTIC ABOUT LAUNCH OF NEW ROUND. EU Ambassador to the WTO Carlo Trojan last week expressed his belief that a new round of global trade talks backed by the US would be launched at the next WTO Ministerial meeting in Qatar in November. "The EU is of the opinion that at (Qatar) we have to do what we did not do in Seattle: launch a broad-based round of talks," he said at a news conference in Helsinki. Trojan added that the EU would pursue liberalisation of the agriculture, services and industrial goods markets and reform of investment rules, competition, and issues such as the environment and consumer protection. Calls for a new round were echoed by EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy during his recent visit to Egypt. He pointed out that there were hopeful signs from the new US administration in terms of pushing for a new round, but acknowledged that no consensus has yet been reached on this issue. Lamy saw Egypt and states such as Brazil and South Africa as the key to obtaining support from developing countries many of which are opposed the launch of a new round until their complaints regarding the implementation of Uruguay Round agreements have been addressed. "EU's Trojan bets on new trade round at Qatar meet," *REUTERS*, 23 March 2001; "Lamy says no consensus on new trade round yet," *REUTERS*, 24 March 2001.

IN BRIEF

EC RELEASES GREEN PAPER ON COMMON FISHERIES POLICY. The European Commission last week presented a Green Paper on a new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), aimed at making fishing efforts in the EU more sustainable and reducing the US\$994 of subsidies to the fisheries sector. "The CFP needs urgent change: many of the most important fish stocks are on the verge of collapse," said EU Farm and Fisheries Commissioner Franz Fischler. The new blueprint will now be put to the EU's fishing industry for debate before a final proposal, which is expected to lead to a new CFP by January 2003. The World Wide Fund for Nature has criticised the proposal for not going far enough in proposing concrete reforms, but has welcomed the fact that it highlighted the problems in the fisheries sector. For more information on the Green Paper, see http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/doc_et_publ/green1_en.htm. "EU plans radical overhaul of fishing policy," *REUTERS*, 22 March 2001.

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND CODEX ALIMENTARIUS. From 25-28 March, the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology will continue negotiating international standards for foods containing genetically modified organisms, highlighting a persistent tension between the US and EU over the safety and perceived risk associated with foods derived from biotechnology. The EU maintains a precautionary approach in dealing with

biotechnology, while the US asserts that foods derived from biotechnology pose no inherent risk to consumers. However, while the main objective of the task force is to ensure international food safety, not far beneath the surface are the trade implications of a final decision expected in 2003. Article 12 of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures recognises the Codex Alimentarius Commission as an appropriate international food safety standard. A strict decision taken by the task force will impose greater obligations on food producers that use biotechnology, while extending greater trade rights to those more risk averse countries. "UN Panel Begins Meeting On Genetically Modified Food," KYODO NEWS, 25 March 2001.

COMESA TRADE COURT SET UP. The member states of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) have set up a regional trade court in Lusaka, Zambia, which will have the power to overturn national laws and court rulings; consider matters brought by member states as well as individuals from the member countries; and interpret the treaty that established COMESA. The court will also arbitrate differences over implementing COMESA's Free Trade Area (FTA) that was launched last year by nine of the 20 member states. According to Zambia's director of public relations, the creation of the court is an important landmark for COMESA because it has the status of an international court. In its first session on 26 March, the court will deal with two trade conflicts between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and a dispute between the COMESA-created Preferential Trade Area bank and COMESA. "Regional African trade court opens in Zambia" AFP, 19 March 2001.

OAU SET TO GIVE WAY TO NEW AFRICAN UNION BY JULY. Following a decision at the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Sirte, Libya, earlier this month, African leaders are set to sign a new charter in Lusaka, Zambia, in July, which will establish an African Union to replace the OAU. "The strengthening of African Unity is consistent with a global trend towards the formation of regional blocs such as the EU and Mercosur (the Latin American trading bloc)," President Mbeki of South Africa said. The Union will be based loosely on the EU with a pan-African parliament, a monetary fund, an investment bank and a court of justice. "A new African Union to replace OAU by July" IPS DAILY JOURNAL, 21 March 2001.

MEXICO EYES MERCOSUR AND SINGAPORE. The governments of Mexico and Singapore are on the verge of signing a free trade agreement (FTA) by the end of the year. "In my opinion there is no time to lose, not for our governments or our business," Mexican ambassador to Singapore Eduardo Ramos-Gomez. Concerns, however, have been raised by Mexican businesses-- particularly within the textile sector -- that low cost states like Bangladesh and India will use Singapore as a transit point to illegally export their goods to Mexico and eventually to the US. Mexico has signed 27 similar agreements including ones with the EU and US, and is set to start free trade talks with the MERCOSUR trade bloc in April. Singapore is also negotiating FTAs with Japan and US. "Mexico, Mercosur, to start talks on free trade deal" COMTEX, 20 March 2001. "Mexico eyes FTA by year-end." THE STRAITS TIMES, 23 March 2001.

INDIAN FARMERS CALL FOR REMOVAL OF AGRICULTURE FROM WTO. The Indian National Coordination of Farmers Movement besieged the Indian parliament last week, asking the government to take agriculture out of the "unfair market" of the WTO. The Movement claims that the five years of liberalisation have dealt a big blow to Indian agriculture and farmers. In a resolution addressed to the president, it said "the GATT Uruguay Round Agreements have functioned principally to pry open markets for the benefit of transnational corporations at the expense of national and local economies, workers health and safety, environment and animal

welfare." It also criticised the subsidies and import barriers imposed by developed countries as a means to continue "unfair trade". ICTSD Internal Files.

EVENTS

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

ICTSD Event

29-30 March, Chiang Mai, Thailand: TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, TOWARDS AN ASIAN AGENDA. ICTSD, in collaboration with the Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF) and the Chulalongkorn University Centre for Ecological Economics (CEE) is convening a two-day multi-stakeholder dialogue on trade, environment and sustainable development for Asian government representatives and civil society actors. The dialogue will be held immediately following a WTO Regional Trade and Environment Seminar for Asian governments. It will bring together 45 representatives of trade and environment ministries as well as 40 to 50 key actors from civil society, research institutes, think tank, and regional organisations, in 23 Asian countries. In the run up to the Doha Ministerial Conference, the objective of this non-partisan dialogue is to provide a platform for regional trade policy makers and trade policy influencers to exchange views and explore underlying interests on a series of trade and sustainable development issues of particular relevance to the region. For information contact: Christophe Bellmann, ICTSD, 13, Chemin des Anémones, 1219 Geneva; tel: (41-22) 917-8495; email: cbellmann@ictsd.ch.

Coming Up This Week

25-28 March, Chiba, Japan: AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON FOODS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY (2ND SESSION). For more information contact the Codex Secretariat at the FAO, tel: (39-06) 5705-1; fax: 5705-4593; email: codex@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/es/esn/codex/>.

26-30 March, Rome, Italy: 16TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: For further information contact FAO, tel: (39-6) 5705-2287; fax: 5705-3369; Internet: <http://www.fao.org>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

28 March, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, England: GLOBALISATION, ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND HEALTH: EVIDENCE, ESTIMATION AND RESPONSE. This inaugural symposium will discuss putative health impacts that are being attributed to the contemporary forces of globalisation and global environmental change. These large scale processes- such as economic globalisation, freer trade and investment, climate change, loss of biodiversity and urbanisation- will affect patterns of population health in various ways. For further information contact Phillip Raponi, tel: (44-207) 612-7825; fax: 580-6897; email: cgech@LSHTM.ac.uk; Internet: <http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/centres/cgech/InauguralSymposium.htm>.

28-30 March, Montreal, Canada: AMERICANA ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW. For its 4th edition, with the theme "Evolving solutions for a changing world",

AMERICANA keeps growing in 2001 expecting 10,000 participants, 400 exhibitors, 300 guest speakers in different tracks (Air, Climate Change, Water, Contaminated Sites, Solid Wastes, Environmental Management, etc.) and 600 business meetings that will be organised for the International Business Matchmaking Program. It is organised by RESEAU environment, the Quebec's largest business association in the Environmental Industry. For further information contact Americana 2001, 911 Jean-Talon East, # 220, Montreal, Quebec H2R 1V5, tel: (514) 270-7110; fax: 270-7154; email: info@americana.org; Internet: <http://www.americana.org>.

29-30 March, Montreal, Canada: SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS: MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS. Environment ministers from US, Mexico, Caribbean and Latin America will attend a special meeting during the AMERICANA International Environment Trade Show and Conference in Montreal. The objective will be to set an agenda in order to make significant contributions at the Third Summit of the Americas. Issues to be discussed include transboundary air and water pollution, climate change, and biodiversity. For information contact Green Lane, Environment Canada, 351 St. Joseph Boulevard, Hull, Quebec, K1A 0H3; tel: (1-819) 997-2800; fax: 953-2225; email: enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca; Internet: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/envhome.html>.

2 April, 18:00-20:00 CET: ON-LINE CHAT WITH COMMISSIONERS LAMY AND NIELSON. Join European Commissioners Pascal Lamy (Trade) and Poul Nielson (Development and Humanitarian Aid) for an on-line chat. The theme is: New Millennium, New Opportunities for a Global New Deal. This chat will take place as part of the preparation for the third UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (Brussels, 14-20 May) For further information contact European Commission, Trade DG, Information Unit, fax: (32-2) 296-9854; email: eis@cec.eu.int; Internet: http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/chat_en.htm or http://europa.eu.int/comm/chat/lamy-nielson/index_en.htm.

2-6 April, Florence, Italy: ADVANCED RESEARCH AND RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF GMOS. For further information contact Giovanni Ferraiolo, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology; tel: (39-40) 3757364; fax: 226555; email: ferraiol@icgeb.trieste.it

2-6 April, Rome, Italy: THIRD SESSION OF THE INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (ICPM). Organised by Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention. For further information contact Ms. Christina Devorshak, Associate Professional Officer, Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, tel: (39-06) 5705-4006; fax: 5705-6347; email: Christina.Devorshak@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/AGRICULT/AGP/AGPP/PQ/Default.htm>

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.

26-28 March, Geneva, Switzerland: SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (NEGOTIATIONS STOCK-TAKING EXERCISE). For further information contact Peter Ungphakorn, Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

28 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN QATAR. The purpose of the meeting is to share the information available at present; identify possible problems and concerns; and to see in what way we can cooperate in the run-up to Qatar. The idea is to hold such meetings on a more regular basis during the preparatory phase of the Ministerial Conference. Mr Patrick Low, Director of the Office of the Director-General, Mr. Jacques Chabert, Director of the Finance and General Services Division and head of our Logistical Taskforce will be in attendance. For further information contact Keith Rockwell, Director WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5015.

28 March, UN Palais, Geneva, Switzerland: JOINT WHO-WTO BACKGROUND BRIEFING on pharmaceutical prices and the coming WHO-WTO workshop in Norway. For further information contact Peter Ungphakorn, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

28-30 March, Geneva, Switzerland: SPECIAL SESSION OF THE WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES. This session will be a stocktaking exercise to discuss proposals submitted by Members and provide preliminary responses to issues raised. Member States have submitted to the Special Session of the Council on Trade in Services proposals on various issues including: elements of the new round of negotiations; negotiating guidelines and procedures; movement of natural persons; matters of assessment, and specific sectoral commitments. For further information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 73-5393.

29-30 March, UN Palais, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS-STOCK TAKING. For further information contact Nuch Nazeer (41-22) 739-5393.

30 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING. For further information contact Josep Bosch, tel: (41-22) 739-5681.

Other Forthcoming Events

4 April, New Orleans, Louisiana: NORTH AMERICAN FISHERIES ECONOMICS FORUM. The goals of this first Forum are to strengthen communication between North American fisheries economists in industry, government and academia, and to provide opportunities to discuss research results, research in process and future research needs and plans. The keynote theme for the Forum is "The State of North American Fisheries Economics." Sessions relating to this keynote theme will include discussions on the future of North American fisheries economics, fisheries economics data, teaching fisheries economics, and publishing in the area of fisheries economics. For further information contact: Gunnar Knapp, Program Chair, University of Alaska Anchorage, tel: (907) 786-7717; email: afgpk@uaa.alaska.edu.

5-6 April, Manchester, United Kingdom: 7TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2001. Sponsored by ERP Environment, publishers of Sustainable Development. The conference seeks to bring together an international interdisciplinary audience to begin to tackle many of the issues connected with sustainable

development, to both share ideas and continue the debates surrounding sustainable development. For information contact: Elaine White, Conference Coordinator, ERP Environment, PO Box 75, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD17 6EZ, UK; tel: (44-1274) 530-408; fax: 530-409; email: elaine@erpenv.demon.co.uk; Internet: <http://www.erpenvironment.org>.

4-6 May, Pacific Grove, California, USA: THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL'S 55TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT ASILOMAR. The conference will focus on globalisation, with a look at global trends, global actors, and global dangers. A stellar cast of speakers will provide insights into the positive and negative impacts of globalisation and offer their solutions for closing the gaps between those who have benefited, and those who have not, from the new global system. For further information contact: Suzan Negip-Schatt, Asilomar Coordinator, tel: (415) 293-4644; Internet: www.wacsf.org/asilomar.

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 Hugo Cameron, hcameron@ictsd.ch. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact Marc Galvin, mgalvin@ictsd.ch).

THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS AND THE THREAT TO SOCIAL PROGRAMS, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN CANADA AND THE AMERICAS, by Maude Barlow. In this paper, the author cautions against certain areas of the proposals discussed around the FTAA. The Trade Negotiations Committee of the FTAA is proposing expanded services agreement in the hemispheric pact with a similar take on services to that addressed in the GATS. It is also proposing to retain, and perhaps expand, the "investor-state" provisions of NAFTA, which give corporations unprecedented rights to pursue their trade interests through legally binding trade tribunals. The author fears that combining these two powers into one agreement will give unequalled new rights to the transnational corporations of the hemisphere to compete for and even challenge every publicly funded service of its governments, including health care, education, social security, culture and environmental protection. As well, the proposed FTAA contains new provisions on competition policy, government procurement, market access and dispute settlement that, together with the inclusion of services and investment, could remove the ability of all the governments of the Americas to create or maintain laws, standards and regulations to protect the health, safety and well-being of their citizens and the environment they share. In response, if the terms and recommendations of the FTAA Negotiating Groups are the substantive basis for a hemisphere trade pact, the author sees that the whole process is totally unacceptable and calls for the citizens of the Americas to work to defeat it entirely. The paper is available at <http://www.canadians.org/campaigns/campaigns-ftaa-threat-MBarlow.pdf>.

THE IMPACT OF THE WTO AGREEMENT IN AGRICULTURE. Edited by Antonio Tujan, Jr, ISBN 971-8707-54-9, 2000. A collection of impact research on Philippine's sensitive crops - sugar, grains, vegetables, and livestock and poultry - focusing particularly on the production and income of Filipino small farmers and farmworkers. A product of IBON's peasant research agenda that contributed to the people's struggle against the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle in November 1999. For more information, contact: Reach Expansion Department of IBON Foundation, Inc. Rm.

303 SCC Bldg., 4427, Int. Old Sta. Mesa, Manila, Philippines. Tel: (63-2) 7132729, 7132737, 7130910 Fax: (63-2) 7160108, email: orders@ibon.org, editors@ibon.org, <http://www.ibon.org>.

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION, AND HEALTH. Edited by D. Pimentel, L. Westra and R. F. Noss, published by Island Press (ISBN 1-55963-807-9), 2000. The book presents a synthesis and findings of the Global Integrity Project that brought together leading scientists and thinkers from around the world to examine the combined problems of threatened and unequal human well-being, degradation of the ecosphere, and unsustainable economies. Based on the proposition that healthy, functioning ecosystems are a necessary prerequisite for both economic security and social justice, the project is built around the concept of ecological integrity and its practical implications for policy and management. For more information contact Roger Segelken phone 607-255-9736, email hrs2@cornell.edu; Internet: <http://www.islandpress.org>.

"Reducing Carbon Dioxide Emissions through Joint Implementation of Projects". By Will Martin in: WORLD BANK WORKING PAPER No. 2359, June 2000. Most proposals for joint implementation of energy projects emphasise installing more technically efficient capital equipment to allow reduced energy use for any given mix of input and output. The paper suggests that increases in energy efficiency are likely to have second-round effects. Reducing energy demand, for example, will reduce the market price of energy and stimulate energy use, partially offsetting the initial reduction in demand. These effects are likely to be substantially larger in the long run, reducing the magnitude of these offsets. To download a copy visit: www.worldbank.org/research/trade/majoract.html#seven. To obtain a hard copy contact: trade@worldbank.org.

Electronic Resources

THE ONLINE HALON TRADER, by UNEP. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a web portal to help implement a key environmental treaty on protecting the ozone layer, the Montreal Protocol. The new portal - The Online Halon Trader - will facilitate the international exchange of "banked" halons and reduce the use of newly produced halons that damage the ozone layer, the agency said in a statement issued in Paris. Halons are manufactured brominated hydrocarbons that act as very effective fire extinguishants. But they are three to 10 times more effective in depleting the ozone layer as compared to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), the refrigerants that have been limited by the Montreal Protocol. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a web portal to help implement a key environmental treaty on protecting the ozone layer, the Montreal Protocol. A halon bank is the total quantity of halon existing at a given moment in a facility, organisation, country or region. It may be held in fire protection systems, fire extinguishers, and in storage. UNEP's new portal, designed for companies that use halons in fire protection and control, provides a virtual marketplace where people can match demand with supply. Companies or halon banks that can meet this demand with recovered, reclaimed or recycled halon will be able to respond or post their own listings. As part of the terms of service, providers agree that their halons are recovered, recycled, reclaimed or banked, and that they are not newly produced halons being sold for the first time. The web address is: <http://www.halontrader.org/>

LEAP2000: NEW SOFTWARE TO ANALYSE GHG SCENARIOS. The Stockholm Environment Institute, at the Boston Centre, has designed a software tool for analysing energy and greenhouse

gas scenarios. It is called LEAP2000. Created by SEI-Boston and several leading research institutions (EDRC, ENDA-TM, ETC, and IDEE/Bariloche) with support from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the software is now available on-line and is free to non-profit and governmental organisations in developing countries. Using an intuitive Windows interface, LEAP 2000 offers improved representation of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other technologies within a bottom-up, scenario analysis framework. LEAP 2000 includes a new Technology and Environment Database that provides descriptions, technical characteristics, costs and emissions of a wide range of energy technologies. For more information contact, Charlie Heaps and Michael Lazarus, SEI-Boston/ Tellus Institute, 11 Arlington Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116-3411, Tel: (617) 266 5400, Fax: (617) 266 8303, Email: leap@tellus.org . Visit the LEAP web site at <http://www.seib.org/leap>.

POSITION VACANCIES

DIRECTOR, FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND DEVELOPMENT (FIELD). FIELD is a NGO specialising in international environmental law. FIELD's work focuses on legal advice and assistance, research, teaching and capacity building. FIELD is looking for a Director who will provide overall management and leadership to the organisation as well as contribute to its substantive work. The successful candidate will have proven experience in international environmental issues, appropriate management experience, vision and the desire to take the organisation to its next stage of development. Salary: £40,000 - 45,000. Application forms can be found on our website <http://www.field.org.uk/> or obtained by telephoning: +44 (0) 207 637 7950. Deadline for completed applications: 17 April 2001.

REGIONAL PROGRAM OFFICER, International Development Research Centre (IDRC; Canada), regional office in Nairobi. Working in the Social and Economic Equity Program Area, the incumbent will work as a member of the Trade, Employment and Competitiveness Program Initiative, principally developing and monitoring its activities in Eastern and Southern Africa, but also participating in the global activities of this program. In addition, the incumbent will support the Centre's work in the region on SME development and employment issues, or on the interaction between macroeconomic and adjustment policies and poverty outcomes. Principle responsibilities are in areas of program development, project development, project management, project evaluation, and Centre-wide collaboration. Minimum education requirement is a post-graduate degree in economics or international economic relations. Minimum experience required is five to eight years of professional job-related experience, including research background; and working experience in a developing country. Skills and qualities required are particular research expertise in two or more areas of international trade, finance, labour economics, and the like; familiarity with donor agency and/or Canadian government programs and activities in the pertinent fields, with particular reference to the international trade and regional integration process in Eastern and Southern Africa; ability to supervise research and administrative support staff; knowledge of computer systems; bilingual (English-French). Competence in one of the languages of the region is desirable. Apply on-line at: <http://www.idrc.ca/careers/roe06.htm>.

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