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NGOS AIR CONCERNS ON TRADING SYSTEM AT WTO SYMPOSIUM

At a 6-7 July symposium organised by the WTO in Geneva, representatives from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governments, the media, the private sector, intergovernmental organisations and academia met to address a range of contentious issues confronting the world trading system.

NGOs used the opportunity to forward their concerns to Member governments and the WTO Secretariat in sessions covering topics such as intellectual property rights and medicines, trade and environment, trade and development, and services. Chairpersons from the individual sessions recognised that there was a diversity of views in each area, and reflected these in their final reports (for audio playbacks of the Chair's reports see: <http://www.iisd.ca/sd/wto-issues/>).

The symposium attracted over 400 participants from about 300 organisations. Apart from some of the prominent Member delegations, few country representatives attended. The event was structured around workshops on agriculture; Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and access to essential medicines; trade and environment; services; WTO and civil society - NGOs and capacity- building; food safety and the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards

(SPS); TRIPs and biotechnology/biodiversity; trade and development; and WTO institutional reform.

Symposium Chair Mrs. Touré Alimata Traore -- Minister for Industry, Trade and Transport, Mali -- said the event was "an attempt at solving a crisis" around the WTO and civil society, and was intended as an important exchange of views that should lead to smoothing out areas where formerly misunderstandings prevailed.

In his opening speech, WTO Director-General Mike Moore denounced protestors who use violence to disrupt international economic gatherings such as the WTO's Ministerial Conferences. "It would strengthen the hand of those who seek change if some NGOs would distance themselves from masked stone-throwers who claim to want more transparency, anti-globalisation dot.com types who trot out slogans that are trite, shallow and superficial," he said. (see Moore's speech at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/spmm_e/spmm67_e.htm)

NGOs sceptical of progress; call for change

Many NGOs remained critical of the WTO and its decision-making processes, and some called the symposium a public relations tactic rather than a real attempt to discuss 'critical issues'. On the first day of the event, a grouping of over 100 citizens' groups from 20 countries launched a global campaign opposing the WTO's support for 'corporate globalisation'. Called 'Our World Is Not For Sale', the campaign voiced its scepticism of the symposium's ability to effect change, and called for the WTO to take into account concerns of developing countries and civil society. "The WTO staff is leading the push for a new WTO round and is launching meetings like this with much fanfare, but no real intention of changing the agenda," said Tony Tujan from the IBON Foundation in the Philippines, part of the Our World Is Not For Sale campaign.

In a statement distributed at the symposium, WWF International, a global environmental NGO, challenged the WTO to respond to the critical challenge of promoting sustainable development. "The demands of developing countries, as well as many of those raised by concerned citizens around the world, reveal the continuing failure of the WTO to deal seriously with the problems of poverty, economic inequity, and the environment," the paper stated.

A paper made available by the 'Indonesia NGO Coalition on WTO' urged that agriculture should no longer be dealt with by the WTO, but rather by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and others, "by prioritising sustainable agriculture and reform of the agrarian structure in the interests of justice and welfare." Rejecting a new round of negotiations, the coalition further called on the WTO to create a fairer and more sustainable system of world trade. "This means developing a more comprehensive and detailed special and differential treatment system, for the interests of developing/poor countries, so that they can participate in creating a fairer global economic order."

Working groups spur debate

In the working sessions, panellists addressed the state-of-play of ongoing negotiations, reviews, and discussions in various WTO fora in the leadup to Doha. A range of views was expressed by

panellists and participants alike, with animated discussions emerging in particular within the working groups on TRIPs and access to essential medicines, agriculture, and WTO & Civil Society.

TRIPs and access to essential medicines

The discussion on TRIPs and access to essential medicines -- chaired by Director of the WTO's Intellectual Property Division Adrian Otten -- were marked by a sometimes heated and often polarised exchange between NGOs and private sector representatives. According to one of the discussants, the substantive input from participants tended to be limited despite the high-profile nature of this issue and the attention paid to recent discussions at the TRIPs Council meeting last month (see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 June 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/26-06-01/story1.htm>). Even among the widely diverging views, however, participants generally agreed that the debate on the relationship between the TRIPs Agreement and access to essential drugs needed to be broadened.

One industry spokesperson pointed out the need to move away from focusing exclusively on patents as the obstacle to obtaining medicines, and compulsory licensing and parallel imports as the only solutions, towards addressing other constraining factors, such as lack of financing and inadequate infrastructure. Compulsory licensing enables governments to allow the use of a patent without the consent of the patent-holder under certain conditions, while parallel imports allow governments to obtain a patented drug more cheaply from foreign suppliers rather than from the manufacturer's local subsidiary. Some NGOs, however, questioned the reasons behind the industry's strong resistance to greater flexibility in the TRIPs Agreement, especially in African countries whose market share in pharmaceutical products is extremely low.

Agriculture

In a session well-attended by NGOs, discussions on agriculture mapped closely the debates currently underway in the ongoing WTO agriculture negotiations. For many, the multifunctional nature of agriculture production had to be maintained in order to address the non-trade concerns -- rural development, food security and environmental protection -- of specific societies. For others, the inefficient use of resources associated with excessively subsidised agriculture, primarily in Europe and the US, should be curtailed so that countries with comparative advantage in agriculture production can fully benefit from the trade system. Interventions from several developing country NGOs pointed out that in absence of special and differential treatment, developing countries would continue to suffer from inadequate agriculture systems. One US-based NGO drew attention to the power asymmetries in world agriculture trade, arguing that large private interests distort commodity markets and benefit the most from state support. Accordingly, it was argued that more effective domestic and multilateral competition policy is required to re-balance these power asymmetries.

WTO & civil society

At the meeting on WTO and civil society, participants indicated that substantial asymmetries continue to exist between Northern and Southern NGOs in terms of their expertise and resources. Long discussions on capacity-building revealed that no consensus existed on the meaning of this term. In her concluding remarks on 'WTO and institutional reform', Chair of the civil society

sessions Dr. Sylvia Ostry from the University of Toronto reported that strong concerns were raised about the transparency and inclusiveness of the WTO decision-making process. "The WTO Secretariat was viewed as not being totally neutral and was seen to be acting incorrectly by canvassing a new round...these concerns reflect the marginalisation which certain developing countries feel in the WTO, and of course this is not unrelated to the capacity- building issue," she said.

A detailed report of the symposium by the International Institute for Sustainable Development will be available at the end of this week at: <http://www.iisd.ca>. Summaries of the different sessions will also be available on the WTO website shortly (see: <http://www.wto.org>).

"Citizens' groups and movements launch global campaign on the WTO and corporate globalisation," FOEEUROPE, 6 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

LIKE MINDED GROUP SETS OUT POSITIONS BEFORE DOHA

Trade Ambassadors from the Like Minded Group (LMG) -- a 13 member developing countries coalition -- elaborated their positions on various WTO issues in an interactive dialogue with journalists and non- governmental organisations (NGOs) held on 5 July in Geneva. It was the first time an exchange of ideas of this nature was organised by the group, attracting approximately 25 NGOs and media representatives. Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and public health, implementation issues, and trade and environment were highlighted by Ambassadors as important topics to be addressed in the run-up to the WTO's Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, in November.

TRIPs and public health

In discussing issues related to the mandated reviews of the WTO TRIPs Agreement, the LMG placed great emphasis on the link between TRIPs and public health. LMG Ambassadors said that they were seeking an Understanding on the issue that would bring clarity and a "common understanding once and for all" on relevant TRIPs provisions including Articles 31 ("other uses without authorisation of the right holder"). Encouraging discussions on the topic in the General Council session on 18 July, with no outright objection to deal with this issue in the upcoming Doha Ministerial Declaration so far, raises high expectations of potential progress on the issue.

Other TRIPs-related issues, which are part and parcel of many developing countries' broader concerns on implementation, were also discussed. In particular, the LMG stressed that "the balance between private profits and public policies" in TRIPs should be redressed and that substantive reviews under Article 71 should take place to address the "real sense" of the provisions. The Group rejected any role of non- violation complaints in TRIPs and highlighted that technology transfer provisions for least-developed countries under Article 66.2 and special and differential treatment had not been operationalised. With a high expectation on progress on TRIPs and health, the LMG Ambassadors said they were cautious to be realistic and indicated that they might target major issues such as public health.

Run-up to Doha

Consensus remained elusive within the LMG on whether or not a new round should be launched. Some LMG members stressed the priority of a positive response to their concerns relating to implementation issues, and one Ambassador said that constructive engagement in Doha preparations is unlikely without meaningful decisions on implementation issues. However, Ambassadors made it clear that progress on implementation issues did not represent an automatic "yes to a new Round", adding that they had the legitimate right to redress imbalances in the Agreements without further concessions, as they had already "paid twice" in the Tokyo and Uruguay Rounds for market access in textiles and agriculture that had not yet materialised.

No Singapore issues, no labour standards

At the meeting, Ambassadors forwarded a common demand for a clear agenda demonstrating the negotiation parameters before the WTO Ministerial Conference in November. The LMG admitted that they were not ready to negotiate on rules on Singapore issues such as trade and investment, competition policy and transparency in government procurement (see BRIDGES Weekly, 22 May 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/22-05-01/story2.htm>), and that they preferred to keep the existing working groups in these areas in an "educative mood". The LMG is solidly against addressing core labour standards, in the WTO, insisting that the right place to deal with labour standards is within the International Labour Organization.

Trade and environment

On trade and environment, the LMG remained sceptical of the selective approach of the European Communities in its demands to address the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and WTO Agreements, the precautionary principle, and eco-labelling. LMG representatives regard those demands as efforts to legitimise protectionist measures. The LMG asserted that current rules within the WTO Agreements (e.g. within the SPS and TBT Agreements and Article XX environmental exceptions) are sufficient to accommodate legitimate environmental concerns. In their view, there is no need to amend or clarify the old rules, or to insert new rules, as this could lead to the emergence of protectionist measures in the name of environmental protection. On the scope of Art XX exceptions, one Ambassador said that time will tell whether they are better or worse off with negotiating rules, subject to further decisions by the Panels and the Appellate Body.

July reality check

Market access was one of the few negotiation items that received support from the LMG. While stressing that strengthening of the WTO coupled with redressing of the imbalances within the trading system were in the interests of LMG countries, Ambassadors regarded July as a critical period for a realistic evaluation of the possible achievements in the coming Doha session. One Ambassador said that if there were no "converging of views" by late July, "expectations for Doha would have to be lowered".

Members of the Like-Minded Group are Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Honduras, Indonesia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Jamaica.

"LMG caution against 'misperceptions' about new round 2," SUNS, 9 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

CODEX: BIOTECH AND FOOD SAFETY, NEW STANDARDS ON TOXINS AND ORGANICS

Convening in Geneva from 2-7 July, the members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission -- the United Nations agency mandated to regulate global food safety -- met to discuss how best to universalise food safety standards. In particular, the delegates considered proposed safety guidelines for foods derived from biotechnology and agreed upon standards for organic livestock production and for toxic contaminants in food.

Codex membership decides domestic GM approval is necessary

Regarding the safety of foods derived from biotechnology, it was agreed, in principle, that foods produced with biotechnological inputs should be approved by domestic governments prior to commercialisation. According to Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director-General of the UN World Health Organization, "this is the first step toward the safety assessment of genetically modified (GM) foods." Although precise risk assessment methodologies were not agreed upon at the meeting, there was consensus that any risk assessment should take into account the potential for GM foods to catalyse allergic reactions.

Observers noted, however, that debate on the safety of GM foods remained in its infancy as the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology -- the Codex body mandated to develop safety guidelines for GM foods -- has not yet finalised GM food safety guidelines. Thus far, the Task Force has only offered Codex proposals on risk analysis in the development of GM foods, guidelines for safety assessment and a list of methods for detecting GM inputs in food. The Task Force's final guidelines are meant to be completed by 2003.

Mandatory GM food labelling rejected

On the question of GM food labelling, delegates rejected the proposal that all GM foods be subject to mandatory labelling. Instead, they agreed that labelling should be mandatory only in cases where specific GM foods and inputs are scientifically proven allergens.

However, closely related to the food safety and labelling debate, the question of traceability -- how, and the extent to which, GM inputs are detected in food -- was not addressed at the Codex meeting due to time constraints. As such, this agenda item will now be dealt with by the Codex Executive. Some advocacy groups are concerned that moving the debate on traceability to the Codex Executive will limit the range of positions submitted to the debate and thus preclude an equitable outcome.

Risk analysis and precautionary principle

Nevertheless, regarding risk analysis, there was consensus that core principles governing risk assessment should be developed within the Codex General Principles Committee. Should such

principles fail to be decided at the committee level, they would instead be decided by the Codex Alimentarius Commission itself.

Although the precautionary principle was not explicitly referred to at the Codex meeting, the question of risk uncertainty was raised. Notably, the Codex membership did agree that in cases where evidence of risk existed, but where such evidence was insufficient or inconclusive, Codex should not elaborate a specific safety standard per se, but should instead elaborate a text, such as a voluntary code of conduct or practice. One non-governmental observer noted, however, that under WTO rules the difference between elaborated standards and texts remained unspecified and could therefore generate unintended trade consequences.

New standards for food contaminants and organic livestock production

On the question of food contaminants, the delegates reached consensus on new maximum levels of environmental contaminants, notably lead, cadmium and aflatoxin. On organic farming, the Codex meeting approved new guidelines for organic livestock production. Accordingly, organic livestock farming should aim to use natural breeding methods, minimise stress in animals, prevent disease and progressively eliminate the use of certain chemical veterinary drugs, including antibiotics. The new standard recommends that animals should be fed with quality organic feedstuffs, not meat and bone meal, and prohibits the use of growth hormones.

Although the Codex Alimentarius Commission maintains a membership of 165 states, less than 100 were in attendance. Observers noted that while several developing countries did not attend the meeting, there was nevertheless a relatively strong presence of developing countries as compared with previous meetings.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission is recognised by the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) as the international organisation responsible for standard-setting related to food safety and the harmonisation of food safety measures affecting trade. WTO Members are required to base their food safety measures on the Commission's standards, guidelines or recommendations. The other two international standard-setting bodies recognised in the SPS Agreement are the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for plant health and the Office International de Epizooties (OIE) for animal health and zoonoses (see BRIDGES Weekly, 20 March 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/20-03-01/story3.htm>).

"FAO/WHO Call For More International Collaboration To Solve Food Safety and Quality Problems," WHO/FAO PRESS RELEASE, 5 July 2001; "World Guideline For Pre-Market GM Testing Agreed," REUTERS, 9 July 2001; "UN To Set Modified Food Guidelines," AP, 6 July 2001; "UN Agencies Call For Testing Of Biotech Foods," ENS, 9 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

CHINA INCHES CLOSER TO WTO ACCESSION

On 4 July, the 16th Session of the WTO China Accession Working Party finalised almost all the outstanding issues (see BRIDGES Weekly, 3 July 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/03-07-01/story7.htm>). China's hopes to join the WTO by the beginning of next year seem now more likely

to be fulfilled. No agreement has yet been reached on services and tariff-rate quotas, which the Working Party will discuss at their next meeting scheduled to begin on 16 July. According to the head of the Chinese Delegation, Long Yongtu, "it is not time for celebration, and there is still a lot of work before us".

The Chair of the China accession talks, Pierre-Louis Girard, stated that the Working Party "has effectively completed the work of producing multilaterally agreed texts" in areas such as: application of antidumping and countervailing measures; industrial policy, including subsidies; judicial review, uniform administration and transparency; the application of product-specific safeguards and textile; quantitative import restrictions, including prohibitions and quotas; China's sanitary and phytosanitary measures; trade related aspects of intellectual property rights; technical barriers to trade; trading rights; and a transitional review mechanism.

During the talks, developing countries' officials sought clarification that the concessions to China on agricultural domestic support (i.e. an 8.5 percent *de minimis* cap for domestic agriculture subsidies; see BRIDGES Weekly, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/19-06-01/story7.htm>) would not automatically be extended to other acceding developing countries. They sought to avoid that the deal might set a precedent for upcoming accessions and might even result in the US eventually calling for stricter limits on subsidies for all developing countries (currently set at 10 percent). The Working Party Chair said that the wording used would not cast doubts on the agricultural subsidy cap mentioned in the text which "are solely those of China and will not prejudice developing countries' existing rights or future negotiations".

Regarding services, discrepancies between the US and EU still persist over the "grandfathering" of rights for foreign insurers already established in China. The US wants to allow established insurers (notably the US-based American International Group) to maintain their existing ownership (which, in the case of AIG, amounts to 100 percent) structures over future branches in China. The EU, whose established insurer companies are only 51 percent owned joint ventures, supported by Japan, says that any such concession, according to the Most-Favoured Nation principle, must automatically be granted to all the other members.

China is required to conclude bilateral agreements with any WTO member seeking negotiations before the accession process can end and still has to finalise a bilateral agreement with Mexico (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 June 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/12-06-01/story1.htm>). Once the outstanding multilateral accession issues are resolved, the texts will be incorporated into the Working Party Report and a Protocol of Accession, which spells out China's rights and obligations as a WTO member. Those texts, along with market access schedules on goods and services reflecting the concessions made by China in its bilateral trade agreements with WTO members, form the accession package. The package will be formally endorsed by a Working Party to be held in mid- September. WTO Members would then have two months to ratify it before the WTO Ministerial Conference in November. China's parliament must also ratify the deal.

"Meeting of the Working Party on The Accession of China," Summing up by the Chairman, 4 July 2001; "Statement by H.E. Vice Minister Long Yongtu Head of the Chinese Delegation, at the 16th Session of the Working party on China", 4 July 2001; "Working Party Sets Rules to protect Markets From Chinese Exports," INSIDE US TRADE, 6 July 2001; "US, EU Tangle over AIG's Market Access in China Accession Talks", INSIDE US TRADE, 2 July 2001; "WTO Working Party on

China Meets; US, EU seek stamp of approval for Accords," WTO REPORTER, 29 June 2001; "China, WTO begin key membership talks," AFP, 28 June 2001; "Latest round of talks result in 'major breakthrough,'" CHINAONLINE NEWS, 5 July 2001; "Negotiators Wrap Up Successful Session On China's WTO Accession; Entry in 2002," WTO REPORTER, 6 July 2001.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: AFRICA, ACP

OAU Summit Launches African Union

At the opening session of the 37th OAU (Organisation of African Unity) Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Lusaka, Zambia, from 2-11 July, leaders of 53 African countries launched the African Union (AU), which replaces the 38-year old OAU. The AU will be based loosely on the EU with a pan-African parliament, a monetary fund, an investment bank and a court of justice. It aims to renew pan-African efforts towards economic integration, and cast off the OAU's reputation for lack of resolve and influence. The new body plans to spearhead a drive for more aid and investment with the so-called African Initiative, which calls on African leaders to consolidate democracy, and on the developed world to increase aid and investment. It is a merger of the Millennium African Recovery Programme (MAP) led by South African President Thabo Mbeki and the Omega Plan spearheaded by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade.

For more information on the OAU summit, see <http://www.oau-oua.org/Lusaka/index.htm>.

Doha prep meeting for African negotiators

Trade negotiators from 30 African countries met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 26-29 June for a preparatory meeting for the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference (9-13 November, Qatar) to discuss whether African countries should support a new round of trade negotiations, how to address the failure to implement existing WTO rules, and whether labour and environmental standards should be part of a new trade round.

In his opening statement, Patrick Asea on behalf of the Executive Director of the Economic Commission for Africa, K.Y. Amoako, called for "large reductions in actual levels of market distorting protection and support in all countries" as a fundamental requirement for successful trade negotiations. In the "Conclusions and Recommendations" of the meeting, delegates considered the status of "other issues" as proposed by some WTO members (i.e. Singapore issues including investment, competition policy, trade facilitation, transparency in government procurement; and others, eg environment), concluding that there is "no consensus to negotiate and set up rules in these areas in the WTO", as these issues are not within WTO competence, would overload the WTO agenda, and would add more burden of obligations. Furthermore, delegates emphasised the need for Africa to maintain unity in multilateral trade negotiations, and to continue to seek the "effective implementation of [WTO] obligations by developed countries, especially those relating to special and differential treatment measures for developing countries".

The preparatory meeting was jointly organised by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), in collaboration with the UN Conference on Trade and

Development (UNCTAD), the African Economic Research Consortium and the WTO. The outcome of the meeting will be forwarded to the meeting of OAU Ministers of Trade, to be held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 17-21 September. For further information on the preparatory meeting, see http://www.uneca.org/what_is_new_home.htm.

ACP-EU civil society adopt Plan of Action

Civil society representatives from the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the EU at the ACP-EU Conference on the Participation of Civil Society in the Implementation of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement on 6-7 July in Brussels adopted a Plan of Action, which provides a roadmap for future activities aimed at full participation and involvement of civil society in ACP-EU cooperation. In particular the Plan proposes various activities to support dialogue and advocacy; establish and/or strengthen civil society structures at the various levels (ie global, regional, nation and local); capacity building; and monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement and the Plan of Action. Both the Belgian Presidency of the EU and the ACP Secretariat have agreed to submit the Plan of Action to the respective ACP and EU Councils of Ministers for their attention and consideration.

"Political murder mars Africa summit," FT, 9 July 2001; "Africa: High-level meet against negotiating new issues at WTO," SUNS, 4 July 2001; "OAU's questionable purpose and prospects," CNN, 9 July 2001 ICTSD Internal Files.

SOMETHING FOR BOTH PARTIES IN CANADA-US SOFTWOOD LUMBER DISPUTE

In its report (WT/DS194/R) circulated to WTO members on 29 June, a panel issued a mixed ruling in the ongoing dispute between Canada and the US on the application of US countervailing measures against Canadian export limitations on unprocessed logs (see BRIDGES Weekly, 6 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.06-02-01.htm>).

In favour of Canada, the WTO panel ruled that a Canadian imposed export restraint cannot be regarded as a subsidy as defined by Article 1.1 of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM). The US had claimed that the restriction of Canadian softwood lumber exports maintained high supplies of softwood lumber in the Canadian market and therefore precipitated lower domestic lumber prices. This action was thus, in the view of US producers, a disguised government subsidy to the Canadian lumber industry. However, the panel did not find such a measure a "government-entrusted or government-directed provision of goods" as defined by the SCM, therefore precluding remedial action under the SCM Agreement.

For the US, the WTO panel rejected Canadian charges that Section 771(5) (B)(iii) of the US Tariff Act of 1930 is inconsistent with the SCM since, according to the panel, it does not "require the imposition of countervailing duties against practices that are not subsidies within the meaning of Article 1.1 [of the SCM Agreement]".

Background to the softwood-lumber dispute

The Canada-US lumber dispute has been going on for almost 20 years, during which time US softwood lumber producers have repeatedly alleged that the stumpage fees -- a tax on each harvested tree -- levied by provincial governments are below market value and therefore constitute a subsidy to Canadian lumber producers. The US initiated countervailing duties in 1982, 1986 and 1991, but in each case the US Department of Commerce found the Canadian practice did not warrant countervailing duties.

In an effort to settle the dispute, at least temporarily, both sides entered into the 1996 Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) in which Canada imposed a five-year export restraint on raw logs. In return, the US agreed to curb remedial actions against Canadian softwood lumber imports. One day after the expiration of the SLA, US lumber producers announced that they would call on the US International Trade Commission to impose anti-dumping and countervailing duties up to 70 percent on Canadian lumber. The new complaint also incorporates the argument that Canada is subsidising its wood industry by lowering domestic lumber prices artificially by limiting the volume of raw logs exported for processing.

Although the US has never used Section 771 of the Tariff Act 1930, Canada attempted to pre-empt their doing so by bringing the case to the WTO and seeking clarity on whether or not Section 771 is consistent with the WTO Subsidies Agreement when applied to certain export restraints. The laws in question principally implement the SCM Agreement in the US and thus allow for the imposition of countervailing duties on subsidised imports.

The panel however concluded that Article 771(5)(B)(iii) "does not require the treatment of export restraints as financial contributions". Despite the panel's rejection of Canada's argument, Canada is still free to bring the case again to the WTO in case the US ever applies the rule to Canadian lumber because the panel approved the Canadian export limitation practice.

Both Canada and the US can appeal the panel decision within 60 day after its publication.

The complete panel report can be viewed at http://docsonline.wto.org/gen_search.asp.

"Countervailing Duties: WTO Publishes Mixed Final Ruling In US-Canada Export Restraint Dispute," WTO REPORTER, 2 July 2001; "USITC Finds 'Reasonable Indication' Of Threat From Canadian Softwood Lumber," EXPEDITORS, 17 May, 2001; "Pettigrew Vows To Defend Lumber Producers From US Cases," INSIDE US TRADE, 6 April 2001; "Commerce to Monitor Canadian Lumber, Warns Against Surges," INSIDE US TRADE, 6 April 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

IN BRIEF

FTAA DRAFT TEXT RELEASED. On 3 July, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Secretariat made publicly available the draft negotiating text of the proposed FTAA. Included in the draft are nine chapters covering the following policy areas and sectors: Agriculture; Government Procurement; Investment; Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Duties; Intellectual Property Rights; and Competition Policy. In releasing the draft, the FTAA Secretariat upheld a promise issued by the 34 FTAA member states that the text be made public sometime following the Summit

of the Americas in Quebec City, Canada, in April this year. A draft copy of the investment chapter was previously made public after being leaked in the lead-up to the Quebec City Summit. The draft text is available from the FTAA Secretariat website at: <http://www.ftaa-alca.org>. ICTSD Internal Files.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION STREAMLINES AID MANAGEMENT. The European Commission on 3 July announced a reform of its aid and trade functions by overhauling its External Service by the end of 2002, responding to the three-fold increase in spending on aid programmes over the 1990s. The Commission intends to close some existing offices and open several new ones throughout the world, in locations such as Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Taiwan, Paraguay, Cambodia, and Laos, as determined by a set of criteria comprising volumes of aid and trade, political significance, workload, and management responsibility. The External Service has 128 delegations and representations, which represent the Commission in trade negotiations and undertaking of development cooperation activities, and in other areas of Community activity. "European Commission shakes up aid, trade machinery," EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS, 3 July 2001.

UNDP LAUNCHES HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2001. The UN Development Programme's Human Development Report (HDR) 2001, released this week, focuses on ways that biotechnology, information and communications technology influence development. The report addresses controversial issues such as GM foods, intellectual property rights (including access to AIDS drugs) and the South-North brain drain. The Report introduces a "technology achievement index", designed to rank countries' abilities to create and use technology. The publication classifies 162 countries according to their level of human development, based on life expectancy, achievement in education and standard of living. The report also checks the progress and achievements of countries in regard to the goals for development and poverty eradication agreed on by world leaders at the UN Millennium Summit 2000, held last September in New York. The report argues that developing countries need to invest in both economic and intellectual openness in order to benefit from the investment and innovation brought by international competition. Eventually, in order to counterbalance global market failures, new international initiatives should focus especially on areas such as medicine, agriculture, low-cost computers and wireless technologies, or low cost energy such as fuel cells and solar power. To order a copy of the report contact: UN Publications at (1-212) 963-8302 in New York or Oxford University Press at (+44-1865) 556-767 in Oxford. "Human Development Report 2001 will spotlight technologies' role in reducing poverty", UNDP Newsfront, 9 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO IN BRIEF

PANEL OF EXPERTS TO ADVISE MOORE ON CHALLENGES OF GLOBALISATION. On 5 July, WTO Director-General Mike Moore appointed a panel of experts devoted to "examining how the WTO should respond to the needs of Member governments and its citizens at a time when an increasingly integrated global economy has brought profound economic and political change." According to Moore, the priorities which the panel will deal with include ways of ensuring the fullest participation of each Member government, and possible avenues for the WTO to enhance its partnership with civil society. In introducing the team of new panellists, Moore stated that he had "asked this remarkable collection of talented individuals to join [him] in finding solutions to the

problems that face us today." The advisory panel is composed of Prof. Robert Baldwin, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin; Prof. Jagdish Bhagwati, Colombia University and Special Advisor to the UN on globalisation; Dr Peter Eigen, Chairman, Transparency International; Prof. Victor Halberstadt, Public Economics professor, Leiden University; Prof. Koichi Hamada, Professor of Economics, Yale University and President, Economic and Social Research Institute (Cabinet Office) Tokyo; Prof. Patrick Messerlin, Professor, Institute of Political Studies, Paris; Dr Konrad Von Moltke, Senior Fellow, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Winnipeg; Dr Sylvia Ostry, Distinguished Research Fellow, Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto; Prof. Manmohan Singh, Leader of the Opposition and former Finance Minister and Governor of the Reserve Bank of India; Senator LeRoy Trotman, Former President, ICFTU and General Secretary, Barbados Workers' Union; and Dr. Ernesto Zedillo, former President of Mexico. "Moore sets up advisory panel on global trade," SUNS, 9 July 2001.

KOREA ANNOUNCES CONTRIBUTION TO WTO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. On 4 July, Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Dr. Seung-soo Han announced a voluntary contribution of 385 million Korean Won (about \$US300,000) to the WTO to help finance technical cooperation in favour of least-developed countries. Dr. Han hoped that the contribution "be used before November 2001 to facilitate the launch of a new round of trade negotiations at the Doha Ministerial Conference". "Korea's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade announces contribution to WTO technical assistance in meeting with WTO Director-General," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 4 July 2001.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS

ICTSD Event

18 July, from 10.00 to 12.00, International Environment House, Geneva, Switzerland: ICTSD CAFÉ & CROISSANTS ON "ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY SAFEGUARD MECHANISM (ESM) UNDER THE GATS: PROS AND CONS IN VIEW OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON FURTHER LIBERALISATION IN SERVICES TRADE". The overall aim of this informal dialogue is to exchange views in relation to the ongoing discussions in the Working Party on GATS Rules where Members strive to find consensus on the question of an ESM. Discussions will focus on the desirability and feasibility of an ESM under the GATS, in particular in relation to a draft proposal submitted by the ASEAN group, and to a 'non-paper' recently issued by Chile, Costa-Rica and Switzerland. Thierry Buchs, first Secretary of the Swiss Mission to the WTO, Virachai Plasai from the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the WTO, and Sergio Dos Santos from Brazil's Permanent Mission, will give a 15- minute presentation each on the issues outlined above, after which the floor will be given to the participants for an informal and open discussion. Given that there is limited seating, please RSVP to us your intention to participate to: Caroline Wiman, Geneva; fax: (41-22) 917- 8093; email: cwiman@ictsd.ch.

18 July, from 9.30 to 13.00, Room B, World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland: ICTSD ROUNDTABLE ON THE COMPATIBILITY OF TRIPS WITH THE CBD: WHAT LANGUAGE TO TAKE TO DOHA?. Calestous Juma, Director of the Science, Technology and Innovation Programme at Harvard University, Atul Kaushik, Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet Secretariat in India, and Francisco Cannabrava from the Permanent Mission of Brazil will give a brief presentation each on the compatibility of the WTO Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), after which the floor will be given to the participants for an informal and open discussion. We welcome any material specific on this topic, which we will distribute at the meeting. Given that there is limited seating, please RSVP to us your intention to participate to: Christophe Bellmann, Geneva; fax: (41-22) 917-8093; email: cbellmann@ictsd.ch.

Coming Up This Week

2-11 July, Lusaka, Zambia: 37TH OAU ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT. The leaders of 53 independent African states will convene to promote the unity and solidarity of African States; defend the sovereignty of members; eradicate all forms of colonialism; promote international cooperation having due regard for the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; coordinate and harmonise Member States' economic, diplomatic, educational, health, welfare, scientific and defence policies. For further information visit: <http://www.oau-oua.org/Lusaka/index.htm>.

8-11 July, Madrid, Spain: 10TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY - BIOTECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM. Organised by the Spanish Society of Biotechnology. The Congress will cover the present and future of all fields of knowledge and application relating to biotechnology in Europe, connecting and convening active specialists from academia and industry. More than 60 symposia will cover research and application of biotechnology in, inter alia, biotechnology for human and animal health, agrobiotechnology, environmental biotechnology and biosafety. For further information contact: Dr. Rüdiger Marquardt, c/o DECHEMA e.V., Theodor-Heuss-Allee 25, D-60486 Frankfurt am Main; tel: (49-69) 7564-443; fax: 7564-169; email: efb@dechema.de; Internet: <http://www.sebiot.es/default.htm>.

11-12 July, Bangkok, Thailand: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW BIOTECHNOLOGY FOODS AND CROPS: SCIENCE, SAFETY AND SOCIETY. Organised by the OECD and the British Government in cooperation with UNEP, FAO, WHO and the Royal Thai Government. The conference will bring together representatives of government, civil society, industry, the scientific community and environmental and consumer groups to explore how scientific knowledge on the safety of genetically modified crop plants and foods is accessed and taken account of in the various international institutions and decision-making bodies. A key aspect of the dialogue will be to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders, from both developed and developing countries, to highlight their concerns and needs, including some that may be specific to particular regions. For further information contact: Helen Fisher, Paris, France; tel: (33-1) 4524-8097; fax: 4524-8500; email: helen.fisher@oecd.org; Internet: http://www.oecd.org/media/release/bangkok_e.pdf.

12-13 July, Geneva, Switzerland: UNECE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The UN Economic Commission for Europe meeting will consider a draft Ministerial Statement to be adopted by the Regional Ministerial Meeting in September. This Statement will be the key political component of the input of the UNECE region to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) and will contain commitments and proposals for action at both regional and global levels. For further information contact: Mary Pat Silveira, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 917-1315; email: mary.pat.silveira@unece.org; Internet: <http://www.unece.org/env/rio+10/welcome.html>.

12-13 July, Kathmandu, Nepal: LAUNCH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME ON FARMERS' RIGHTS TO LIVELIHOOD. South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) are jointly conducting a programme to protect the rights of the farmers and marginal communities of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. For further information contact: South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE); tel: 977-1-268681; fax: 977-1-268022 and Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, email: rmadi@propublic.wlink.com.np or Mr. Navin K. Verma, email: navin@hqsawtee.wlink.com.np.

13 July - 10 August, Adelaide Research Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences, Adelaide, South Australia: LIVE & ONLINE. This symposium will include an online conference and live series (a conference on 26-29 July and a symposium on globalising art on 4 August). Refereed clusters will include the following topics: (i) global economies; (ii) global culture; (iii) globalising art protest movements; (iv) local, regional, global dynamics international aid and human rights; (v) global ecologies; and, (vi) the www world administration (WTO, UN, World Bank). The conference will be hosted at: <http://arts.adelaide.edu.au/ARCHSS/>. Registration information online from 1 May 2001. for questions about the online or live series contact the ARCHSS administrative officer Judy Barlow; tel: (618) 8303-4817; fax: 8303-4882; email: judy.barlow@adelaide.edu.au. Internet: <http://arts.adelaide.edu.au/ARCHSS/>.

14-15 July, Kathmandu, Nepal: A SOUTH-SOUTH SEMINAR "FROM BRUSSELS TO DOHA: INTEGRATING LDCs INTO THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM". South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) and CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE) are jointly organising a seminar to prepare a plan of action to influence the WTO agenda with a view to operationalising overt and covert commitments made by the developed countries to facilitate better integration of the LDCs into the multilateral trading system. For further information contact: South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE); tel: 977-1-268681; fax: 977-1-268022 and Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, email: rmadi@propublic.wlink.com.np or Mr. Navin K. Verma, email: navin@hqsawtee.wlink.com.np.

16-18 July, Geneva, Switzerland: UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL HIGH - LEVEL SEGMENT. Topic: ROLE OF THE UN SYSTEM IN SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. For further information visit: http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/dev_afr/index.htm.

16-18 July, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD EXPERT MEETING ON "WAYS TO ENHANCE THE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CAPACITIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTS, INCLUDING NICHE PRODUCTS, SUCH AS ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PRODUCTS (EPPS)". Experts from around the world will discuss: (i) trends in production of and trade in food and agricultural products; (ii) measures to enhance production and export opportunities for developing countries; (iii) role of fair-trade organisations; (ix) impact of quality and organic standards, and (x) improving market access for developing country food exports. For further information visit the UNCTAD website at: <http://www.unctad.org/en/special/c1em15no.htm> or contact Dr. Sophia Twarog, Trade, Environment and Development Section, UNCTAD/DITC; tel: 41-22-907-5082, fax: 41-22-917-0047; email: sophia.twarog@unctad.org.

16-27 July, Bonn, Germany: RESUMED COP-6/14 SESSIONS OF THE UNFCCC SUBSIDIARY BODIES. Key issues that must still be resolved at the resumed talks include a package of financial support and technology transfer to help developing countries contribute to global action on climate change, including measures for adapting to climate change impacts; the establishment of an international emissions trading system and a "clean development mechanism"; the extent to which targets should be achieved through domestic action (vs. emissions trading and CDM); the rules for counting emissions reductions from carbon "sinks" such as forests and farmland; and a compliance regime. For further information contact: UNFCCC Secretariat, Bonn; tel: (49-228) 815-1000; fax: 815- 1999; email: secretariat@unfccc.in ; Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int/>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/>.

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. For further information on WTO events contact: WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org.

9 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL GENERAL COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS: PREPARATIONS FOR DOHA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. Members will continue discussions on the relationship between trade and investment. BRIDGES Weekly will report on this session in its next issue.

9-13 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES -- Special (Negotiations) Session.

10 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL GENERAL COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS: PREPARATIONS FOR DOHA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. Members will continue discussions on the interaction between trade and competition policy. BRIDGES Weekly will report on this session in its next issue.

10 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS: PREPARATIONS FOR DOHA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. Members will discuss technical cooperation and capacity-building. BRIDGES Weekly will report on this session in its next issue.

10-11 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES. On the agenda are inter alia: information on the foot-and-mouth disease status, new specific trade concern issues such as EC restrictions on the use of fishmeal, developing countries' issues as implementation of the provisions for special and differential treatment, and the third annual report on monitoring the use of international standards.

11 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL GENERAL COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS: PREPARATIONS FOR DOHA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. Members will discuss bullet point 4 of the Chair's draft (other elements of the work programme), i.e. subsidies, regional trading arrangements, small economies, trade & debt, trade & finance, LDC issues (integrated framework), and special & differential treatment provisions. BRIDGES Weekly will report on this session in its next issue.

12 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS: PREPARATIONS FOR DOHA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. Members will continue discussions on Ministers' views and statements (chiefly preambular language).

12-13 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF KAZAKHSTAN.

13 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL -- INFORMAL STOCK- TAKING MEETING ON DOHA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. Members will take stock of overall situation, assess progress made, and maintain transparency. BRIDGES Weekly will report on this session in its next issue.

16-20 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

18 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL.

24 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

Other Forthcoming Events

18 July 2001, International Environment House, 15, chemin des Anemones, 1219 Chatelaine, Room 3, Geneva, Switzerland: NGO BRIEFING ON "PREPARATIONS ARE INTENSIFYING AS THE JOHANNESBURG 2002 WORLD SUMMIT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD) DRAWS CLOSER". The meeting will include a briefing by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Sustainable Development, from 13h00-15h00. This will be followed by a presentation on the regional preparatory process in the Europe and North America region, by the UN Economic Commission for Europe and UNEP's Regional Office for Europe, from 15h00-16h00. This meeting is being organised by the Geneva Environment Network in cooperation with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York (UN/DESA) and

the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS). Given that there is limited seating, if you should wish to participate, it is essential that you register your interest by sending your name, organisation, and contact information by Monday 9 July at the latest to: Aniket Ghai, Geneva; fax: (41-22) 797-3464; email: aniket.ghai@unep.ch. Seats will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Internet: <http://www.environmenthouse.ch/howtogetto.htm>.

18-20 July, Geneva, Switzerland: PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE WORLD CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM. The World Civil Society Forum seeks to strengthen international cooperation between civil society organisations (NGOs, indigenous peoples, etc.) as well as with international organisations. The Forum will consist of thematic working groups, working areas, and information and discussion sections. The preparatory meeting intends to bring together organisations that wish to participate in preparing for the Forum, organising the thematic working groups or sections, and establishing the steering committee for 2002. For further information contact: sziegler@mandint.org; Internet: <http://www.mandint.org/forum>.

18-27 July, Bonn, Germany: UNFCCC CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES' 6TH SESSION PART II (COP-6, part 2). Following up from the UN Framework Convention On Climate Change COP-6, part 1 in The Hague, The Netherlands, which took place from 13 - 24 November 2000. The Parties will finalise their 6th annual meeting in Bonn. For further information visit: http://www.unfccc.de/sessions/cop6_2/index.html.

17-21 September, Abuja, Nigeria: 4TH CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN TRADE MINISTERS. For further information contact the Nigerian mission to the WTO, Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 733-1000; fax: 733-1080; email: info@nigera-wto.ch.

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).

GREENING TRADE AND INVESTMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WITHOUT PROTECTIONISM. By Eric Neumayer, published by Earthscan, June 2001. The book examines the environmental consequences of existing multilateral trade and investment regimes, such as the WTO and the investment provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement, and explores whether and how they should be reformed. The book explains how liberalisation of international trade and investment can go hand in hand with environmental protection. It offers constructive solutions to some of the most important and difficult issues in international economic policy. To obtain a copy contact: Earthscan, (+44-20) 7278- 0433; email: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk; Internet: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk>.

COMPETING FOR CAPITAL: EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA IN A GLOBAL ERA. By Kenneth P. Thomas, published by Georgetown University Press. In the view of the author, the use of locational incentives to divert corporations from one site to another, or to prevent them from moving, is an escalating problem in international political economy. As corporations search for new

production sites, governments compete furiously using location subsidies and tax incentives to lure them. Yet underwriting big business can have its costs: reduction in economic efficiency, shifting of tax burdens, worsening of economic inequalities, or environmental degradation. Thomas documents Europe's relative success in controlling and decreasing subsidies to business, even while they rise in the US. An example that should be followed not only within or between states, but also globally, within NAFTA and the WTO as well. He concludes with policy recommendations to help promote international cooperation and cross-fertilisation of ways to control competition for investment. Internet: http://www.georgetown.edu/publications/gup/nrt/nrt_pspia_thomas.html.

TRADE POLICY, STANDARDS AND DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA. By Gary Clyde Hufbauer, Barbara Kotschwar and John S. Wilson, published by the World Bank, 2001. According to the authors, faster economic growth and expansion of exports in Central America in the 21st century will depend on efficient and modern standards systems and an end to technical barriers to trade. Regional efforts can be an efficient way to modernise standards systems. After reviewing the current state of standards and trade in Central America, Hufbauer, Kotschwar, and Wilson suggest top priorities for reform from a trade policy perspective in a new and increasingly important area of public policy and development. They conclude that it makes sense to: take a regional rather than a national approach to setting up accreditation, testing, and metrology infrastructure; to share equipment, experts, and information to get more bang out of limited funding; promote regional bodies as venues for Central American countries to develop common positions in international discussions of the development of standards; and regionalize information-gathering efforts and use information technology to disseminate information rapidly and push for a sunset clause in international standards development.

SERVICES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY. By Robert Stern, published by The University of Michigan Press, May 2001. This volume, in three parts, explores a number of issues including the role of services in developing economies such as Brazil, Mexico, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Senegal. The book also explores geographic determinants of business services location, e-commerce, and incorporates case studies focusing on the structure and potential for services liberalisation in India, Egypt, and Kenya, among others. The book discusses measurement, modelling, analysis, and forecasting. Specific areas such as telecommunications policy reform, insurance and media services are also discussed.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The McKeever Institute of Economic Policy Analysis wishes to award very modest gifts of US \$ 100 each to five papers which present examples of such alternatives. Awards will be granted in the Summer of 2002. All accepted papers will be made available on a website. Papers which present real life examples of alternatives to globalisation which are self-supporting will be reviewed by a small panel of volunteers; the panel will decide which papers win the awards, which are worthy of publishing and which are not acceptable. There will be no requirements for authors' experiences or qualifications nor for papers submitted other than a minimum of 1,000 words and a maximum of 5,000 words in English. Currently seeking judges, who will be selected on the basis of their interest and qualifications to address the subject, regardless of ideological inclination. The entire process will be conducted via email. For further information visit: <http://www.mkeever.com/>.

POSITION VACANCY

DIRECTOR FOR LIVELIHOODS. Based in Oxford, 36 hours per week, Salary: £ 31 250 - £ 40, 200, 2 year contract, Ref: ID/DL/PS/NET. UK-based NGO Oxfam is looking for someone to provide top level corporate leadership and vision for its work on livelihoods within Oxfam GB, and within the wider Oxfam International confederation. Candidates will have an excellent understanding of market economics and livelihoods approaches and a track record in integrating gender at all levels of analysis and programme delivery. They will also have proven leadership skills, strategic planning and business management skills at a senior level, excellent networking and communication skills and a strong commitment to Oxfam's values and beliefs. Closing date: 2 August 2001; interview date: 9 August 2001. For further details and an application form please visit Oxfam's website at: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk>, send a large stamped addressed envelope to International Human Resources, Oxfam GB, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7DZ, UK or email: ihrapps@oxfam.org.uk quoting the job title and reference number.

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