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SERVICES WEEK UPDATE: EMERGENCY SAFEGUARDS & DOMESTIC REGULATION	2
NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: ASIA -PACIFIC	3
NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: EAST & WEST AFRICA	5
UPDATE ON FISHERIES	6
IN BRIEF	7
EC SAYS MIXED RESULT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT DOHA	7
EU STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY	8
EXPORT CREDIT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS TO BE IMPLEMENTED DESPITE US OPPOSITION	8
WTO IN BRIEF	8
'AGRICULTURE WEEK' STARTS WITH ENVIRONMENT AND TRADE PREFERENCES	8
INDIAN TRADE OFFICIAL SAYS MOORE UNACCEPTABLE CHOICE TO LEAD NEGOTIATIONS	9
LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AT TRIPS COUNCIL	9
Event & Resources	10
EVENTS	10
RESOURCES	13

SERVICES WEEK UPDATE: EMERGENCY SAFEGUARDS & DOMESTIC REGULATION

Despite the approaching 15 March 2002 deadline (see BRIDGES Weekly, 29 November 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-11-28/story4.htm>) for a decision on whether to establish an emergency safeguard (ESM), talks have stalled within the WTO Working Party on GATS Rules (WPGR) regarding this issue. On another GATS subsidiary body front, Members discussed the applicability of the 'necessity test' provision in the context of domestic regulations affecting services trade. As to the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) special negotiating sessions, new proposals have been tabled from, inter alia, Costa Rica and Mercosur, feeding into the discussions on tourism services and their relevance for developing countries.

While Members remain committed to reaching consensus on the question of the establishment of an ESM before mid-March 2002, delegates focused in a 28 November meeting on a communication from the US submitted in October. The paper principally stated that the US would accept proceeding to detailed discussions of an ESM, but only if Members would, in return, make improved commitments in market access negotiations (see BRIDGES Weekly, 9 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/09-10-01.htm>). Such a 'down payment', as one developing country trade source called it, has polarised stances, thereby preventing Members from reaching the consensus necessary to start work on a draft safe guards instrument.

Besides that, a trade source also attributed the current logjam in the ESM debate to "Members' tiredness after Doha". Nevertheless, Members expressed their commitment to comply with the March deadline and will be participating in informal consultations throughout early 2002. The next formal meeting of the WPGR will be held in March 2002.

Qualified by one trade source as "more focused on form than substance", Members at the 29 November meeting of the Working Party on Domestic Regulation (WPDR) entered a debate on the scope of the disciplines to be established under GATS Art. VI:4 on domestic regulations.

This provision has raised much concern within civil society in relation to the so-called 'necessity test' that it contains, which requires that domestic "measures relating to qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services."

Discussions at the meeting principally revolved around the issue of whether disciplines on domestic regulation should apply generally or only to Member's specific commitments. While the wording of the provision is generally understood to encompass all relevant domestic regulations, sources indicated that the overwhelming majority of WTO Members wish to limit its scope only to sectors and modes of supply where Members have undertaken specific commitments. In relation, delegates addressed the procedural question whether a decision on the scope of the disciplines should be sought

prior to the agreement on the disciplines themselves, or whether their applicability should be decided at a later stage in order to allow for greater flexibility. According to trade sources, Members are "nowhere close" to reaching an agreement on multilateral rules for domestic regulations. The next meeting of the WPDR is currently scheduled for March 2002.

New proposals in GATS 2000 process

Members on 3 December entered a four-day special (negotiating) session within the CTS. New proposals have been tabled inter alia by Costa Rica on tourism and computer services (S/CSS/W/128, 129, available at the WTO website <http://www.wto.org>) and from Mercosur on tourism (S/CSS/W/125). In its submission, Costa Rica stresses the importance of computer services for the development of all Members of the WTO, in particular for developing countries, and thus calls for significant commitments in the sector.

Addressing tourism services, both Mercosur and Costa Rica emphasise both the economic and sustainable development elements such as the creation of employment, conservation of natural resources, and development of infrastructure as well as attraction of foreign direct exchange earnings. Costa Rica also points to the problems of anti-competitive practices in the sector and calls for calibrating special session negotiations with the future WTO negotiations on competition policy as provided for by the 14 November Ministerial Decision agreed in Doha, Qatar.

BRIDGES Weekly will report on the outcomes of the complete 3-6 December special session in the next week's issue.

ICTSD Internal Files.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: ASIA-PACIFIC

China Endorses GMO Deal with US

In a letter dated 26 November, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture formally endorsed a deal reached in October with the US regarding China's regulations on imports of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), according to the office of the US Trade Representative (USTR). The interim deal (see BRIDGES Weekly, 30 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-30/story4.htm>) had been put in place until China issued implementation details for its 6 June GMO regulations. The USTR office welcomed the official endorsement, which they said was needed to increase orders of US soybeans from Chinese importers. The USTR also announced that it was sending its top agriculture negotiator, Allen Johnson, to China in mid-December for further discussions on China's GMO rules. The release of implementation details, however, has been further delayed until further notice, according to the China's Ministry of Agriculture.

China Assures Commitment To WTO Obligations

Speaking at a meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council last week, China's chief WTO negotiator, Long Yongtu, assured delegates of his country's commitment to its obligations as a WTO Member despite recent efforts towards regional free trade deals. According to one Chinese trade official, China, among other measures, had already reduced its overall tariffs to 15.3 percent and was committed to a further reduction to 10 percent by 2005. Long also confirmed that his country was seriously considering entering into a free trade agreement with Hong Kong and possibly the former Portuguese colony of Macao, in order to strengthen economic cooperation between them. The envisaged trade zones, however, would not include Taiwan due to continued tension between the two nations. Following approval of China's accession to the WTO at the Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha and subsequent ratification of the accord by the Chinese government, China will formally accede to the WTO on 11 December.

Asia-Pacific Prep Meeting Adopts Platform For WSSD

In what some described as perhaps the best outcome yet of the five regional prep meetings for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), government officials at the High-level Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (27-29 November) adopted the "Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific" which includes a regional assessment of Agenda 21 implementation, key issues and priorities for sustainable development, follow-up actions, and financing sustainable development. The Platform highlights, inter alia, the need for better integration of developing countries into the world economy and international trading system, recognising in particular the vulnerability and special needs of least-developed countries (LDCs). The Platform furthermore calls for the elimination of trade barriers to improve developing countries' access to industrialised countries' markets, and for technical assistance for LDCs.

Despite the fact that WTO Director-General Mike Moore was at the same hotel where the WSSD prep meetings were being held, he did not speak at or participate in the sessions. Sources say Moore was in Cambodia for meetings on that country's accession to the WTO, and was reportedly unaware that the WSSD process was underway in the same location.

For a summary and analysis of the meeting, see IISD Linkages at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/2002/wsasi/>.

"China says delays issuing details of GMO rules," REUTERS, 3 December 2001; "China endorses deal on GMO soybeans," REUTERS, 4 December 2001; ENB Vol. 22 No. 8, 3 December 2001; "Asia-Pacific governments adopt platform," UN WIRE, 29 November 2001; "China considers FTA with H.K., Macao," KYODO, 28 November 2001; "China to cut tariffs to 10% by 2005," DOW JONES, 25 November 2001; "Pacific Rim Economic figures discuss China in WTO, impact of globalization," AP, 29 November.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: EAST & WEST AFRICA

East African Community leaders push Customs Union

On 30 November in Arusha, Tanzania, the presidents of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania instructed the Council of Ministers of the East African Community (EAC) to finalise the draft protocol on the establishment of the East African Customs Union.

In a joint statement, the three leaders -- Kenya's Daniel arap Moi, Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, and Tanzania's Benjamin Mkapa -- advocated the need to focus on priorities that will have the greatest impact on poverty eradication and income generation. "Concerned measures will be taken in the areas of economic infrastructure, health, agriculture and food security, cross-border trade, and human resource development, including skills upgrading and promotion of the informal sector," the statement said.

The leaders acknowledged progress achieved in the implementation of the East African Development Strategy, in particular with regard to consultations initiated with civil society, the private sector, and development partners. According to the EAC, the Development Strategy sets out the priority programmes to be implemented during the period 2001 - 2005 which include widening and deepening of cooperation in all areas for the mutual benefits of the partner countries.

The presidents were on hand to launch two new EAC institutions: the East African Legislative Assembly and the East African Court of Justice. In separate speeches, arap Moi, Museveni, and Mkapa described the launch of the parliament and the court as significant fulfilment of the EAC Treaty, which was signed on 30 November 1999.

The EA Customs Union protocol will include provisions on elimination of internal and external tariffs, elimination of non-tariff barriers, establishment of a common external tariff, dumping and countervailing measures, and competition. The EAC Treaty says that a Common Market will follow the establishment of a Customs Union, followed in turn by a Monetary Union and a Political Federation of East African States. According to the Treaty, member countries shall "within a period of four years conclude the Protocol on the Establishment of a Customs Union."

For further information visit: <http://www.eacq.org/>.

Common currency to be introduced in West African Economic Bloc

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are set to introduce a common currency in 2004, according to a statement issued on 23 November 2001 by the Nigerian Ministry of Cooperation and Integration. Arrangements exist for making the currencies of member countries convertible to each other and creating a fixed relationship to the new currency through an exchange rate mechanism being worked out by the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI). The statement notes that a single currency would both increase the rate of economic growth and help alleviate poverty in the sub-region. It

adds that benefits also include stability of currency, enhancement of the purchasing power of workers, access to a variety of goods without additional cost, elimination of currency trafficking and financial stability.

The single currency concept for the West African sub-region lies in ECOWAS' Fast Track Approach, which acknowledges the need to adopt a two-track approach to the implementation of the integration programmes of ECOWAS. As agreed during a meeting of heads of state in Bamako, Mali on 15 December 2000, a second monetary zone, a common central bank, and a common currency are to be established by 2003. ECOWAS was founded in 1975 and comprises 15 members, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

ECOWAS Summit

On 20-21 December, leaders of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will meet in Dakar, Senegal to assess progress made in the implementation of integration programmes and designate the definitive host countries for ECOWAS' nascent parliament and court of justice. For further information visit: <http://www.ecowas.int/>.

"New step for East Africa Common Market," XINHUA, 30 November 2001; "East African leaders call for early setting up customs union," XINHUA, 30 November 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

UPDATE ON FISHERIES

New Study Reveals Significant Decline In Fish Catches

Contrary to statistics released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a new study, published in the 29 November edition of the science journal *Nature*, shows that fish catches have actually been declining since the late '80s rather than increasing as previously thought. At the current rate, by 2015, world fish stocks will have fallen by half. The world is "playing with the food supply of the planet," said Reg Watson, one of the authors.

According to the study, the discrepancies are mainly due to over-reporting by China, which accounts for almost 40 percent of the deviation between reported and corrected levels. "FAO must generally rely on the statistics provided by member countries, even if it is doubtful that these correspond to reality," the study points out. While some blame incorrect reporting by Chinese local officials, the authors point to the institutions involved in the reporting process. "The same parts of the state devoted to monitoring the economy are also tasked with increasing its output," they state. "Our studies showed that whatever China's leaders set as production targets is what is officially reported." Others,

however, prefer to focus on the widespread problem of overfishing rather than looking for whom to blame. "This is a global problem not a case of a few bad actors," said Andy Rosenberg from the University of New Hampshire.

Agreement On Fish Conservation Adopted By UN General Assembly

The 56th session of the UN General Assembly on 28 November adopted an Agreement setting out provisions concerning the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. The Agreement -- which will enter into force on 11 December following deposition of the thirtieth instrument of accession to the Agreement on 11 November -- also includes provisions on sub-regional and regional cooperation in enforcement, binding dispute settlement and the rights and obligations of states in authorising the use of vessels flying their flags for fishing on the high seas. It furthermore "invites" member states to provide assistance to developing and least-developed states to enable them "to develop their national capacity to exploit fishery resources" while ensuring adequate conservation and management of those fisheries resources. The Agreement also includes references to precaution, urging all states "to apply the precautionary approach widely to the conservation, management and exploitation of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks."

"Experts say Chinese overreporting masks decline in catches," UN WIRE, 29 November 2001; "Inflated Chinese fisheries data masks global fish decline," ENS, 29 November, 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

IN BRIEF

EC SAYS MIXED RESULT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT DOHA

On 29 November, Director General of the EC Commission Directorate for Trade, Peter Carl, briefed civil society and business representatives on the outcome of the WTO Doha negotiations held last month in Qatar. Carl said that market access was the biggest interest area for developing countries in Doha, followed distantly by technical assistance and WTO reform. On the latter issue, Carl noted that many developing countries remain opposed to increased openness of the WTO to civil society. With regard to forthcoming negotiations, he said that the talks would be taxing on the human resources of all Members, in particular developing countries. He said that one idea being discussed in terms of technical assistance by the EC to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries was for the EC to help establish ACP regional offices in Geneva that would match regional groupings of ACP countries that are expected to begin negotiating free trade agreements with the EC under the new ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement. Many NGOs are concerned that this could be an excessive burden on ACP delegates, who would be responsible for negotiating trade arrangements with both the EC and the WTO.

"Commission briefs civil society organisations and business representatives on the outcome of the WTO Ministerial in Doha," EUROSTEP, 30 November 2001.

EU STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

At the annual meeting of the European Institute transatlantic seminar on trade and investment in Washington, EU representative to the WTO Carlo Trojan highlighted the importance of granting Trade Promotion Authority to the US President for future trade negotiations. "There is a general perception outside the United States -- whether it is true or not -- that without Trade Promotion Authority there are no trade negotiations," he said. "We in the EU do consider that the US should have TPA as soon as possible so we can engage in real negotiations," he added. Some US trade officials have expressed concern that without TPA, the new trade round launched at the Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha would be of little effect. On 6 December, the US House of Representatives will vote on the TPA bill, which if passed would allow the US President to negotiate trade deals which Congress can only adopt or reject, but not amend. "World trade deal depends on Congress," UPI, 28 November 2001.

EXPORT CREDIT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS TO BE IMPLEMENTED DESPITE US OPPOSITION

In spite of US refusal to accept what it regards as a weak agreement, export credit agencies from Europe, Japan and Canada have decided to implement new international rules for environmental reviews of their lending initiatives -- the biggest source of government financing for large infrastructure projects in the developing world -- following approval of the rules by 24 of the 26 countries involved. While the US has advocated establishing such rules for almost five years after implementing national requirements for environmental reviews which US companies claim have put them at a competitive disadvantage, it opposes the voluntary nature of the agreement. The US also regards recommendations for public discussions as falling far short of its calls for allowing public discussion of a project's environmental impacts before any government support is approved.

"Agencies plan to ignore US over new rules," FT, 3 December 2001.

WTO IN BRIEF

'AGRICULTURE WEEK' STARTS WITH ENVIRONMENT AND TRADE PREFERENCES

Meeting for this year's last 'agriculture week' consisting of a 3-5 December informal special (negotiating) session of the Committee on Agriculture, a regular session on 6

December, as well as a 7 December formal special session, WTO Members discussed on Monday the relationship between environment and both domestic support and special and differential treatment (S&D). Non-papers have been tabled by Japan, Norway and the Cairns Group. Reconvened in the afternoon, Members addressed the role of trade preferences for the reform programme, especially from the view of less competitive developing countries, with non-papers put forward by Namibia, Swaziland, Paraguay, the African Group and the EU. On food aid, papers are expected to be tabled from the EC, Mercosur, Norway, and seven Like-Minded Group members, whereas Switzerland prepared a paper on animal welfare/consumer information in line with the EU's paper on animal welfare tabled during the September informal negotiations (see BRDGES Weekly, 2 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-01/story4.htm>). Finally, Canada and, more than likely, the US are issuing non-papers on sectoral initiatives. BRIDGES Weekly will report comprehensively on the outcomes of the agriculture negotiations in next week's edition. ICTSD Internal Files.

INDIAN TRADE OFFICIAL SAYS MOORE UNACCEPTABLE CHOICE TO LEAD NEGOTIATIONS

India will oppose any attempt by current WTO Director-General Mike Moore to chair the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) that will oversee the negotiations mandated at the Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, according to an Indian trade negotiator. The official, who wished not to be named, said that, "any eventual chairmanship of Mr. Moore is seen as a sure sign that developed countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will hijack its working, with consequent implication on the interests of the rest of the world." Moore has reportedly already sought and received support from the US and the EU for the position of head of the TNC. The Indian trade source said that current Chair of the General Council Stuart Harbinson might be acceptable, but only if he shows reassuring signs of neutrality.

"OECD steps up effort to subvert Supachai at WTO," FINANCIAL EXPRESS, 2 December 2001.

LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AT TRIPS COUNCIL

In its first meeting after the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) focused only on the review of national implementing legislation. According to one trade source, Members had decided to not hold discussions on the remaining items -- including reviews under Articles 27.3(b) (patentability of life forms) and 71.1, and the issue of intellectual property rights and public health -- at this stage in order to give countries time to consider the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference and develop their positions. The next meeting of the TRIPs Council has been tentatively scheduled for 5-7 March 2002, with informal consultations to be held early next year on how the Council should organise its work in the light of the Doha Declaration. Members will discuss, inter alia, the extension of

geographical indications for products other than wines and spirits, which has proven particularly contentious, with some countries claiming that the Ministerial Declaration provides a mandate for negotiations on GI extensions while others dispute this interpretation. For further details on this controversy, see the forthcoming editions of BRIDGES Trade BioRes (<http://www.ictsd.org/biores/>) and BRIDGES Between Trade and Sustainable Development (<http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/>). ICTSD Internal Files.

Event & Resources

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/cal/index.htm>.

Coming Up This Week

1-4 December, Pretoria, South Africa: FAO EXPERT CONSULTATION ON TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND TRANSFER. For further information visit the FAO calendar at <http://www.fao.org/events/index.asp>.

4-5 December, Calcutta, India: CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP: MEETING THE CHALLENGES. This conference, organised by the Centre for Social Markets, will bring together senior figures from business and industry, finance, media, government and NGOs for open discussion. For further information contact: Malini Mehra, Director, Centre for Social Markets; tel: (44-20) 7407-7625; fax: 7407-7082; email: info4csm@aol.com; Internet: <http://www.csmworld.org>.

5 December, Geneva, Switzerland: UNEP/GEF BIOSAFETY PROJECT: A BRIEFING ON GOALS AND ACTIVITIES. The UNEP/GEF Biosafety Project will host this meeting to promote regional and sub-regional collaboration on issues relevant to developing countries' national biosafety frameworks. For further information contact: The International Environment House; tel: (41-22) 917-8505; fax: 797-3464; email: info@environmenthouse.ch; Internet: <http://www.environmenthouse.ch>.

7-8 December 2001 in Berlin, Germany: 2001 BERLIN CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE. Entitled "Global Environmental Change and the Nation State," the conference will examine the interlinkages between global and national environmental politics, and look at new forms of global environmental governance that link global institutions with a significant degree of national decision-making. For further information visit: <http://www.environmental-policy.de>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

10-13 December, New York, US: UNITAR/WTO WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. Jointly organised by the UN Institute for Training and

Research and the WTO as part of their International Trade Series, the workshop will focus on a debriefing of the Fourth Ministerial Conference held in Doha from 9-14 November. Intended for Permanent Mission Representatives in NYC. For further information contact: Cecelia Coleman, New York; tel: (1-212) 963-9196/9196.

10-14 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WIPO SECOND SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE. The following are on the agenda for this meeting: "Accreditation of certain Non-Governmental Organizations," "Operational Principles for Contractual Agreements Concerning Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing," "Traditional Knowledge" which includes a review of current IPR protection, Folklore, and Future Work. For further information contact: WIPO Secretariat, tel: (41 22) 338-9428; email: francis.gurry@wipo.int;

Internet: http://www.wipo.int/eng/meetings/2001/igc/index_2.htm.

20-21 December, Dakar, Senegal: ECOWAS SUMMIT. Leaders of the Economic Community of West African States will assess progress made in the implementation of integration programmes and designate the definitive host countries for ECOWAS' nascent parliament and court of justice. For further information contact ECOWAS Secretariat, Abuja, Nigeria; tel: (234) (9) 31 47 647-9; fax: 31 43 005, 31 47 646; email: info@ecowasmail.net; Internet: <http://www.ecowas.int/>.

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

3-5 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: INFORMAL SPECIAL SESSION (For details see WTO In Brief, this issue).

3-6 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES: SPECIAL SESSION.

4 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS.

5 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

6 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: REGULAR SESSION.

7 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: FORMAL SPECIAL SESSION.

7 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES.

10 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY

10-12 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY

12 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS - BANGLADESH.

18 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

19-20 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL.

Other Forthcoming Events

28-29 January 2002, Midrand, South Africa: UNEP FI REGIONAL OUTREACH EVENT - AFRICA. Organised by the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiatives (UNEP FI). The conference aims to address the role of the African financial sector in the progression of sustainable development. The objective of the conference is to highlight and encourage the active participation of diverse African financial institutions within the dynamics of sustainability. For further information contact Niamh O' Sullivan, UNEP FI, Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 917-8178; fax: 917 8076; email: niamh.o.sullivan@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.unepfi.net/africa>.

31 January - 4 February 2002, New York, USA: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING 2002. For the first time in its 31-year history, the World Economic Forum will conduct its Annual Meeting outside of Davos, Switzerland. Experts, business and political leaders will gather for next year's annual meeting to address key economic, political and societal issues. For more information contact: Charles McLean, Communications and Public Affairs; email: public.affairs@weforum.org; Internet: <http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/Annual+Meeting+2002>. >From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

7-8 February 2002 in Paris, France: CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND ENVIRONMENT. Organised by the OECD, the conference aims to shed light on the broader linkages between FDI and the environment in the mining sector, an important sector for the economy in many developing countries, and where environmental concerns have frequently been voiced. For further information visit: <http://www.oecd.org/oecd/pages/home/displaygeneral/0,3380,EN-document-0-nodirectorate-no-20-21276-0,FF.html>.
From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

12-21 February 2002, New York, US: 40TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. At its 40th session, the Commission for Social Development will focus on the 'Integration of social and economic policy.' Key topics to be discussed include: social aspects of macro- economic policies, social assessment as a policy tool, and expenditures in the social sector as a productive factor. For further information, contact: ESA Secretariat, email: esa@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2002.htm>.

8-26 April, The Hague, Netherlands: SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP-6) & FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY (MOP1). For further information contact: CBD Secretariat, Montreal; tel: (514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org>.

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).

WORLD MARKETS FOR ORGANIC FRUIT AND VEGETABLES. Published by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), November 2001. The report encourages developing countries to increase their exports of organic produce in light of growing demand in industrialised countries, which is unlikely to be met through domestic production. To this end, the report outlines several recommendations, including establishing national or regional organic standards and regulations, increasing know-how on organic farming, and good post-harvest handling, infrastructure and logistics. For a copy of the report, contact: Ms. Daniela Piergentili, FAO, Rome, Italy; tel: (39) 06 5705 2864; email: daniela.piergentili@fao.org.

PUBLIC SUBSIDIES AND POLICY FAILURES: HOW SUBSIDIES DISTORT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, EQUITY AND TRADE AND HOW TO REFORM. By Cees van Beers and Andre de Moor, published by Edward Elgar, 2001. The paper shows how public subsidies can harm the environment, distort trade, and benefit those in society who do not require support. The authors propose the establishment of new international structures to institutionalise the review and reform of subsidies. The authors conclude by arguing that subsidy reform should be placed at top of the World Summit on Sustainable Development agenda. From IISD Linkages Journal, Volume 6 Number 11, 1 December 2001.

"Food security and sustainable livelihoods: the policy challenge," by Anne M. Thomson, in DEVELOPMENT 44 No. 4, 2001: 24-28. The author argues that food security is now generally recognised as a matter of microeconomics (household access to food) rather than a macroeconomic problem (national food production levels). This raises issues of

how to address this at the policy level. Holistic approaches to poverty reduction, livelihoods and food security are proving a challenge to operationalise, as indicated by examination of PRSPs, but are essential to achieving food security targets set at the World Food Summit.

E-COMMERCE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2001, published by UNCTAD, November 2001. The publication advises developing countries on the relevant trends as they try to position their economies to take advantage of ICT and the Internet. It provides basic facts and figures about electronic commerce and discusses the impact on sectors of particular relevance to developing countries. It also suggests, with concrete examples, ways in which developing countries can create the necessary enabling environment for e-commerce. The report is available online at: <http://www.unctad.org/en/pub/ps1ecdr01.en.htm>.

"Value chains and trade policy: the case of agriculture," by Chris Stevens, in IDS BULLETIN 32 No. 3, 2001: 46-59. Value-chain and traditional trade policy analysis are complementary: each throws light on areas overlooked by the other. Trade policy analysis highlights the extent to which value-chain dynamics are influenced by market rents. The article uses the examples of sugar and horticulture to illustrate the potential gains from combining the two methodologies. It demonstrates that in markets that combine heavy trade protection against some suppliers with preferences for others there exists a relationship of mutual dependency between the elements of the value chain. From IISD Weekly Journal Review Year 2001 - No. 19, November 30.

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