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NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS

This is the last issue of ICTSD's BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest for 2001. The first issue of 2002 -- Vol. 6, No. 1 -- will be published on 15 January. The editorial staff, together with the rest of the ICTSD team, would like to thank our reporting contributors and our funders for their critical assistance over the past year. We are grateful to our readers for their input, feedback, and ongoing support, and send to you all our best wishes for the holiday season and 2002.

MEXICO CONFIRMED FOR NEXT MINISTERIAL; WTO ADOPTS EXPANDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MANDATE

At a 19-20 December meeting of the WTO General Council, Members formally accepted Mexico's offer to host the fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in 2003, expected to take place in the middle of that year. Members also adopted the organisation's most ambitious budget ever, signing off on increases in the regular budget and in particular on funding for technical assistance, ostensibly to meet commitments made for developing country assistance under the November 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration.

Mexico confirmed

At a press briefing on 20 December, WTO Director-General Mike Moore told journalists that Mexico would be hosting the next Ministerial Conference, scheduled for 2003, and that Mexican Minister of the Economy Luis Ernesto Derbez would chair the meeting. Thus far, Moore said, there was no specific venue announced in Mexico, though Members were debating whether it should be held on the Pacific coast or the Caribbean coast. The 2003 Conference will be a critical guidepost for assessment of negotiations launched at Doha. Among other issues, Members are mandated to decide by the Fifth Ministerial and by 'explicit consensus' modalities (including whether/when/how) for launching negotiations on investment, competition policy, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation (see the November/December issue of BRIDGES Monthly, available at <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly>).

Budget boosts assistance to developing countries

In addition to an increase in the WTO's regular budget of 6.7 percent over 2001, 2002 will see an increase in WTO technical assistance activities, reaching a combined level of approximately 20 million Swiss Francs (\$US 12.2 million). According to WTO sources, this represents an increase of 80 percent over last year, with 75 percent funded by voluntary contributions from Members (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 December 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-12-12/story3.htm>). A pledging conference will be organised early in 2002 to secure the necessary funding, with a target of 15 million Swiss Francs for voluntary

Contributions.

Some of the more traditional technical assistance activities carried out by the WTO will be either continued or enhanced. For instance, the number of trade policy courses for trade officials from developing countries will be doubled by September 2002, thereby assuring at least one position in those courses for each developing country Member. In addition, the 'Geneva Week' programme assisting non-resident WTO Member officials to participate more fully in the work of the WTO has been allocated as part of the regular technical assistance budget. However, Members have yet to decide exactly what type of technical assistance and capacity-building activities will take place with the new funding.

WTO Symposium planned for May

At the Director-General's briefing, Moore indicated that a major Symposium was in the works for May 2002 that will address "the concerns expressed by some Ministers at Doha on our relations with the public." Proposed agenda items include trade and debt; trade and finance; the digital divide; participation and the problems of capacity-constrained missions; the functioning and financing of the WTO; external relations; issues of social justice; and the social, economic, environmental and political impacts of globalisation. "Much more consideration needs to be done before our agenda is finalised," Moore said.

Funding for the Symposium had previously been allocated under the regular technical assistance budget, but opposition from Pakistan and some other Members will now mean that the Symposium must be funded from voluntary contributions instead.

Trade Negotiations Committee structure still undecided

As BRIDGES Weekly went to press, Members were continuing discussions at the General Council on how to structure the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC; essentially a special negotiating session of the General Council) that will oversee the negotiations agreed to in Doha. There has recently been speculation that Director-General Moore was seeking to head up the TNC, though his candidature has been resisted by some developing country delegates and by a number of non-governmental organisations (see below). Though no formal rules exist governing this process, under the Uruguay Round, Uruguay's Trade Minister chaired the ministerial level TNC, while the GATT Director-General chaired the Geneva-level TNC.

Moore told journalists on 20 December that Members were currently considering "all options" for structuring the TNC, including drawing the TNC Chair from the Geneva-based ambassadors. According to the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the first meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee must take place by the end of January 2002. Moore confirmed his term as Director-General would be coming to an end as of 1 September, and that Supachai Panitchpakdi would then be assuming the position of Director-General as planned.

An NGO statement opposing Moore as Chair for the TNC is being distributed for sign-on by Malaysia-based Third World Network. The statement was drafted and discussed during a meeting in Brussels on 7-9 December attended by representatives of over 100 civil society groups. Inter alia, the statement labels Moore as inappropriate for the post of TNC Chair due to "a record of being extremely partisan and manipulative as WTO Director-General" and engaging in non-transparent decision-making practices in the leadup to and at Doha. The statement is available at <http://www.twinside.org.sg>.

ICTSD Internal Files.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UPDATE: BANANAS; US-EC STEEL

Bananas

Putting the final nail in the coffin of the almost decade-old dispute between the EC on the one hand and the US and Ecuador on the other, EU agriculture ministers on 19 December adopted regulations for the EC's new banana-import regime. EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said on Wednesday that, "this WTO-compatible system the Council [of Ministers] has decided upon today signals not only the end of the banana dispute, but will result in the lifting of some \$US 200 million worth of US sanctions, which is the good news EU exporters have been waiting for."

The adopted regulations will give the EU's traditional banana suppliers (for the most part former colonies in Africa and the Caribbean) access to 83 percent of the total import quota of 2.4 million tons, while non-traditional suppliers such as Ecuador will receive the remaining 17 percent. The regime also includes provisions on compensatory aid for the affected Caribbean and African countries. There will be three import quotas with different tariffs until 2006, at which point a tariff-only system will take effect. The EC-Ecuador deal is expected to increase banana import volumes from Latin America by 100,000 tons to 353,000 tons (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 November 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-11-15/story2.htm>).

In a statement addressed to the 18 December meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), the EC thanked Members for granting two waivers during the 9-14 November Doha Ministerial for both its commitments under the Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)-EC partnership (Cotonou) Agreement and for its aforementioned transitional banana regime.

Calling these Understandings "a very good basis" for the introduction of a WTO-compatible banana import regime, Ecuador reminded the EC in its own statement at the DSB that the new TRQ-based system was only a transitional one, and that the EC had to enter into negotiations starting in mid-2004 in order to convert the regime to a tariff-only scheme by 2006.

Steel

Foreshadowing a potential future dispute between the US and the EC together with other WTO Members over trade remedy measures such as anti-dumping duties, the EC has condemned the US International Trade Commission's (ITC) recommendation earlier this month to restrict steel imports to the US as a "blatant call for protectionism" to which -- if adopted by US President Bush -- the EC would respond with an immediate complaint at the WTO. Both states met at an 18-19 December Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) meeting to discuss steel capacity cuts in order to reduce the global excess production in the steel sector. The accusations come in the wake of the Doha Ministerial, where WTO Members agreed on negotiations in the area of anti-dumping.

As of 7 December, the US ITC announced its recommendations and views on remedies (namely measures imposed against cheaper imported goods, such as anti-dumping) to be submitted to the President by 19 December in its global safeguard investigation regarding steel imports. The independent trade panel recommended both raised tariffs on steel up to 40 percent as well as quota restrictions during a four-year period. The ITC found that at least 12 out of 33 identified product groups were being imported into the US in such increased quantities that they constituted a substantial cause of serious injury or threat of serious injury to the respective US industries. US steel makers have lost more than \$1 billion in 2001 through lower steel prices, and 25 steel companies went bankrupt. President Bush will have 60 to 75 days to make a final decision on whether to adopt the ITC's recommendations.

Speaking at the 13 December UK Steel Association Annual Forum, EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy called the recommended measures "totally unwarranted" and "a blatant call for protectionism". Stating that 123 anti-dumping and 31 anti-subsidy measures had already turned the US into an "impenetrable fortress" resulting in a 25 percent decrease in steel imports compared to last year, Lamy called on the US steel industry to rather "put its own house in order" -- just as the EC did when restructuring its steel sector in the nineties, he said -- instead of "mak[ing] others pay for American restructuring."

The EC trade chief further declared that the EC would -- in the event the recommendations were adopted -- immediately file a complaint with the WTO as the ITC's findings were in clear breach of WTO safeguard provisions.

China, together with Japan, Korea and New Zealand issued similar statements opposing to the proposed US tariffs and quota restrictions.

Several US trade remedy procedures have in the past been subject to adverse WTO rulings, including UK-Hot Rolled Lead and Carbon Steel (WT/DS138/AB/R), Japan-Hot Rolled Steel (WT/DS184/R) and Korea-Welded Carbon Quality Line Pipe (WT/DS202/R).

Not officially relating to this row between the US and its WTO partners, but in which regard a Korean trade representative saw an "invisible link", the world's steel making nations met under OECD auspices on 18-19 December and agreed to cut global steel production by about ten percent during the next decade so as to boost the steel industry by reducing overcapacity. Although the EC had originally called for reducing overcapacity while refraining from any further trade restrictions, the final non-binding agreement did not contain any such commitment.

"EU Forcefully Condemns US International Trade Commission's Recommendations To Hike Tariffs On Steel Products," EU PRESS RELEASE, 10 December 2001; "Little Avail, US Presses For Steel Output Cut Abroad," NEW YORK TIMES, 17 December 2001; "DJ China Joins International Opposition To US Steel Tariffs," DOW JONES, 14 December 2001; "ITC Announces Recommendations And Views On Remedy In Its Global Safeguard Investigation Involving Imports Of Steel," USITC NEWS RELEASE, 7 December 2001; "Steel-Making Nations See Capacity Cuts," REUTERS, 18 December 2001; "Pact to Cut Steel Production Doesn't End Risk of Trade War," NEW YORK TIMES, 19 December 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

MOORE SHUFFLES WTO SECRETARIAT DECK

On 14 December, WTO Director-General Mike Moore announced his plan to reorganise the WTO Secretariat in order to prepare for the challenge of meeting the mandate from Doha and in general to improve the functioning of the Secretariat. These changes are effective immediately and "expert advice" will be sought in March 2002 to review the new arrangements.

Citing the need for efficiency gains and cost saving measures, Moore determined that consolidating certain divisions would be of benefit. As well, in light of the ambitious timeline laid out in Doha, he cited his "duty to move now."

Notably, Moore has merged most of the Development Division with that of the Economic Research and Analysis Division. This new division will service the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) and the Informal Group of Developing Countries. While Moore speculated that this change represents a "substantial increase in resources dedicated to development issues," some trade analysts are concerned that development issues will now be seen from more of a research rather than an operational lens. One trade delegate noted that staff from the former Economic Research and Analysis Division are "up in arms" due to the lack of consultation on this move. This would appear to run contrary to Moore's opening remarks, which point to input "from staff at all levels." Heading up this new division will be Patrick Low, former Director of the Director-General's Office.

In addition, a new Council and Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Division is to be established. This move merges the Council Division with that of the Ministerial Sessions Division. Again, cost and efficiency gains were noted via the combining of related

functions of servicing the two bodies. The new Division will also service the Dispute Settlement Body. Heading up this Division is Mr. Evan Rogerson.

Furthermore, a new Resource and Performance Analysis function is to be set up in order to ensure the Secretariat divisions are optimally staffed and efficiently managed.

For a detailed view of the new Secretariat organisational chart, visit http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/spmm_e/spmm74_e.htm.

"WTO reshaped to boost development programme" REUTERS, 14 December 2001;
"Organizational changes in the WTO Secretariat" WTO, 14 December 2001.

IN BRIEF

LATEST NAFTA INVESTOR-STATE CLAIM LAUNCHED

US-based Crompton Corp. (formerly UniRoyal Chemical) has launched the latest investor-state suit against the Canadian government under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Their case alleges that the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) contravened certain articles in NAFTA's Chapter 11 (on investment rights and obligations) when it moved to phase out lindane - a pesticide produced by Crompton and historically used in canola seed production. Lindane, an organochlorine pesticide similar to DDT, has been associated with the development of breast cancer and nervous disorders and has been banned for all uses by seven countries, and severely restricted in another four (including the USA). It is also one of 27 pesticides on the PIC list (Prior Informed Consent) - which requires exporters to inform importing countries of a chemical's legal status and potential hazards. Crompton Corp. is seeking 100 million dollars in damages. Lindane remains in widespread use throughout the developing world. The notice of intent, dated 6 November 2001, is posted on the website of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade at: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/NAFTA-e.asp#Notices>.

"US Chemical Company Seeking 100 Million in Damages" STRAIGHT GOODS, 8 December 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CAUTIOUSLY SUPPORTS FTAA

A two-day summit in Venezuela of the Association of Caribbean States (ASC) ended on 12 December with a cautious endorsement of the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The proposed FTAA would create an economic free trade area that spans the western hemisphere - comprising 33 of 34 countries (except Cuba). At the summit, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, alongside Cuba's Fidel Castro, made clear

their concerns that the FTAA, with economies such as Canada and the USA, could spell doom for the smaller economies in the proposed zone. Chavez took the point one step further by proposing that should developed countries not lower tariff barriers for developing country goods, an alternative agreement should be considered. He went on to suggest that such an agreement could be called the "Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas," after South American independence fighter and hero Simon Bolivar. In addition, he indicated his government's intention to put the deal to a popular vote.

"Caribbean Leaders Endorse Trade Pact" AP, 12 December 2001.

EU SIGNS ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH ALGERIA

On 19 December, the EU and Algiers concluded seven years of negotiations with an 'Association Agreement'. This type of agreement -- which the EU has signed with seven other countries -- mandates the two countries to open up trade and provides for greater cooperation on a broad set of issues - ranging from education to fighting terrorism. In addition, the agreement binds Algeria to modernise its legislation in areas such as competition policy and intellectual property rights. As such, sources speculate that this is a preparatory step for Algeria to move from observer status to being a full member at the WTO. Critics, including as Amnesty International, condemn the EU over the agreement, saying it is turning a blind eye to abuses by Algeria's security forces in return for support for the 'coalition against terrorism'.

"European Union Wraps Up Trade Cooperation Deal with Algeria" AP, 19 December 2001.

INSURANCE AGREEMENT AIMS TO ASSIST AFRICAN TRADE

On 11 December, the African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI) and insurance group Gerling signed a pact that will allow companies trading to and within Africa to obtain insurance against non-payments by buyers. ATI was established at last May's Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) summit, with start-up funding provided by the International Development Association - the concessional lending arm of the World Bank (see BRIDGES Weekly Digest 29 May 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/29-05-01/story3.htm>). The seven African countries that have joined the agency include Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The ultimate aim of the pact is the creation of a private sector and pan-African credit insurance company.

"Insurance pact aims at boosting trade in Africa" FT, 11 December 2001.

WIPO COMMITTEE: COUNTRIES DIVIDED OVER NEED FOR NEW LEGAL NORMS TO PROTECT TK

Substantive discussion at the second meeting of the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore on 10-14 December in Geneva focused mainly on two subjects: operational principles for contractual agreements concerning access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing; and traditional knowledge as prior art. While there was little in the way of a debate and the atmosphere was non-confrontational throughout, there was a clear division between those countries that favour the creation of new legal norms (mainly from Latin America and the Africa Group) and those that do not, including the US and Canada. The latter group of countries considers that solutions should be sought within existing legal frameworks and, while willing to contemplate additional obligations, would prefer these to be non-binding. Industry representatives also shared this view by calling for non-binding obligations. The official documents on the second WIPO Intergovernmental Committee can be downloaded from the WIPO website at: <http://www.wipo.int/globalissues/igc/documents/index.html>. For further information, see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 20 December 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/01-12-20/story4.htm>

ICTSD Internal Files.

US STEPS UP PRESSURE OVER BIOTECH RULES

The US is reported to be losing patience with the continued EU de facto moratorium on the approval of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), with pressure mounting within the US to bring a case to the WTO. According to EC Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom, however, the ban -- in place since 1998 -- is likely to remain for at least another two years while EU member states continue to debate proposed labelling and traceability regulations (see BRIDGES Weekly, 31 July 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/31-07-01/story5.htm>). At the same time, environmental organisation Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) has attacked the US and Argentina for allegedly pressuring small countries, such as Bolivia, Sri Lanka and Croatia, to refrain from implementing strict import rules for GMOs. For further information, see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 20 December 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/01-12-20/story2.htm>

"U.S. said losing patience with EU ban on GMOs; pressure rises for WTO complaint," WTO Reporter, 13 December 2001; "US and biotech corporations impose genetically modified organisms worldwide under WTO threats," FoEI PRESS RELEASE, 17 December 2001.

WTO IN BRIEF

UN OFFICIALS DOUBT DOHA'S DELIVERABLES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

At a 12 December panel discussion sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, UN Development Programm (UNDP) Senior Civil Society Advisor Kamal Malhotra and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Economics and Trade Unit Director Hussein Abaza both espoused a different take on the success of the so-called 'Doha Development Agenda' than previously put forth by the UN. Both UN officials noted grave concerns over the increased obligations that developing countries would have to assume as a result of the negotiations, in addition to the lack of gains made on issues already on the WTO table. While technical assistance has been one of the elements highlighted by some as evidence of the 'development agenda' -- namely WTO Director-General Mike Moore -- UNEP's Abaza stated that capacity building training programs at the WTO have been conducted in an "uncoordinated manner" and as a result, "developing countries are not aware of the implications of signing off on a particular agreement". These positions put the UN officials at odds with both Deputy US Trade Representative Pete Allgeier and Chilean Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Heraldo Munoz, who were also present at the panel discussion. Allgeier hailed Doha as a "reversal of Seattle" and noted that the increased role of developing countries in the negotiations, combined with strong US leadership, restored the WTO's credibility in negotiating trade agreements.

"U.N. Officials Question Doha Success" UNWIRE, 13 December 2001.

EVENTS AND 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

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/>.

24-25 December 2001, Jaipur, India: SEMINAR ON COMPETITION REGULATION AND INVESTMENT: ROLE IN ECONOMIC GROWTH. The event is organised by the CUTS Centre for International, Trade, Economics & Environment. Representatives of all the stakeholders, viz. policy makers, sectoral regulators (focusing on energy and telecoms sectors), experts on investment and competition issues, media and civil society will deliberate on the interface between investment policy, competition policy and regulatory design. For further information contact: Anjali Bansal/Sanjay Varma; tel: (91-14120) 7482; fax: 7486; email: cuts@cuts.org

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

19+21 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - UGANDA.

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

16+18 January 2002, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - GUATEMALA.

17 January 2002, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS.

22-23 January 2002, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

23-24 January 2002, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

23+25 January 2002 Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - PAKISTAN.

28 January 2002 Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS.

Other Forthcoming Events

January 2002, Helsinki, Finland: AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE. For more information contact: CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada: tel: (1-

514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca>.

28-29 January 2002, Nairobi, Kenya: REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AFRICA. For more information contact: Anna Ogalo or Harrison Maganga, African Centre for Technology Studies, Nairobi, Kenya; tel: (254-2) 524-700/6; fax: 524-701; email: acts@cgiar.org or a.ogalo@cgiar.org; Internet: <http://www.acts.or.ke>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca>.

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. The conference will adopt a double roundtable format, focusing on: Day 1: The Financial Sector in Africa: The Business Case for Sustainability Performance. Day 2: Foreign Direct Investment: Creating a Sustainability Dynamic. For further information contact Niamh O' Sullivan, UNEP FI, Geneva; tel: (41 22) 917 81 78; fax: 917 80 76; 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/>.

4-7 February 2002, San José, Costa Rica: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE IMPACTS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. Sponsored by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, the conference will bring together researchers and other professionals interested in documenting and measuring the impact of international agricultural research. Participants are expected to highlight experiences and case studies of impacts on agricultural productivity, equity, poverty, social health, and nutrition, the environment, as well as on institutions and human capital. For more information contact: email: impacts@cgiar.org; Internet: <http://www.cimmyt.org/Research/Economics/impacts/index.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca>.

8-26 April 2002, The Hague, the Netherlands: SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY/CARTAGENA PROTOCOL MOP-1. This gathering is also expected to serve as the First Meeting of the Parties

(MOP-1) to the Cartagena Protocol. CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada: tel: (1-514) 288-2220; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca>.

26-28 June 2002, Rome, Italy: SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION: The Executive Committee of the Commission will convene its 50th session from 26-27 June 2003. For further information contact: Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme; tel: (39-06) 5705-1; fax: 5705-4593; email: codex@fao.org. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca>.

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 Matteo Rizzolli, mrizzolli@ictsd.ch).

2001 HANDBOOK OF STATISTICS ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. Published by UNCTAD, December 2001. UNCTAD has just released its handbook of statistics that keeps track of trends in world trade, the global economy and development. Available in three formats: print, CD-ROM and online. The CD-ROM presents the full time series of data, in some cases going back as far as 1950. The report is also available online at: <http://stats.unctad.org/>. For further information contact Henri Laurencin, tel: (+41-22) 907-5734, fax: 907-0048, email: henri.laurencin@unctad.org.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AND BANKING - THE FINANCIAL SECTOR AND THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET, by Marcel Jeucken, Published by Earthscan Publications (UK) and supported by the Dutch Ministry of Environment and the Rabobank Group, 2001. The book answers two broad questions: why is the financial sector crucial to achieving sustainability and why does sustainability pose threats and opportunities to banks? From a systematic assessment of major banks around the world, the book presents a comprehensive account of current best practice, an analysis of the differences in approach and performance, and recommendations of actions and policies for improved performance that will contribute to sustainable development. Further information is available at: www.sustainability-in-finance.com

PROTECT OR PLUNDER? UNDERSTANDING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. By Vandana Shiva, Published by Zed Books, December 2001. The author argues that the Western-inspired and unprecedented widening of the concept of intellectual property does not in fact stimulate human creativity and the generation of knowledge. Instead, in the view of the author, intellectual property is being exploited by transnational corporations to increase their profits at the expense of the health of ordinary people, especially the poor, and the age-old knowledge of the world's farmers. For further

information contact: Mohammed Umar, Zed Books, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, tel (+44-20) 7837-4014, fax (+44-20) 7833-3960, email: sales@zedbooks.demon.co.uk.

NEGOTIATING THE TRIPS AGREEMENT: INDIA'S EXPERIENCE AND SOME DOMESTIC POLICY ISSUES. By Julius Sen, Published by CUTS, December 2001. The paper finds that many of the lessons that can be drawn from India's experience with the TRIPs negotiations are the same as those that can be drawn from the negotiations more generally and true for many other countries. It goes beyond a narrow analysis of events relating strictly to the negotiations during the Uruguay Round and looks at the negotiating context in which these negotiations took place. Further information is available online at: <http://www.cuts.org>; or by contacting Bipul Chatterjee: email: cuts@cuts.org.

HANDBOOK OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. Published by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, December 2001. The handbook contains the full texts of the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties from 1994 to 2000. It presents all the most important information about the Convention and the Protocol, including a description of the background to the Convention and its institutional arrangements, a guide to the decisions adopted and a guide to ongoing activities in relation to particular Articles and thematic areas. The accompanying CD-Rom contains the electronic book (e-book) of the Handbook. Further information available at:

<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3557>.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

NEW WWF WEBSITE ON SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS (SAS) AND TRADE. The new website addresses the potential economic, developmental and environmental implications of trade and investment agreements. Available at: <http://www.panda.org/balancedtrade>. For further information contact: Mireille Perrin, WWF, Gland, Switzerland; tel: (+41-22) 364-9026, or Claudia Saladin, WWF USA; tel: (+1-202) 778-9774.

WORLD BANK TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT GATEWAY. The new release of the World Bank website allows users to access a concise selection of resources on current and emerging issues; stay up to date by receiving email alerts when new content is added; upload articles and other materials; be listed in a directory and network with other members; search and publicize events.

Visit <http://www.developmentgateway.org/node/137197>.

POSITION VACANCY

RESEARCH FELLOW ON BIODIVERSITY, CENTRE FOR PHILOSOPHY OF LAW. The Centre for Philosophy of Law in Belgium is seeking a Research Fellow to work on its Biodiversity empirical investigation and related theoretical issues on international regimes. Research will focus on the mechanisms of intellectual property rights as organised by the UPOV Convention in order to meet its objectives with regard to the

protection of biodiversity and its interaction with other international regimes such as WTO, UPOV, FAO's International Undertaking and the Biodiversity Convention. Research Fellow candidates must have a PhD or equivalent degree in a relevant academic discipline or be very close to completing their degree, with solid training in theory and research methodology. It is a 12 months fellowship with the possibility of renewal (from one to four years). Candidates should send a letter of application, CV, and writing sample to: Professor Jacques Lenoble, Director of the Centre, Centre for Philosophy of Law, College Thomas More, Place Montesquieu, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, or by email to Lenoble@cpdr.ucl.

A searchable archive of BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest© can be accessed at: http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/WhichBulletin.cfm?Bulletin_ID=14&SID=

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