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## DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNITED AGAINST REVISED DRAFT SERVICES NEGOTIATION GUIDELINES

The WTO Council for Trade in Services (CTS) on 20 February held an informal meeting to discuss its revised draft guidelines and procedures for the continuation of services negotiations at the WTO.

At the meeting, the revised draft guidelines were rejected by the Group of 24 developing countries (G-24), including Argentina, Brazil, India, Pakistan, and Thailand, who according to participants at the session perceived "fundamental problems" in the drafting of the text. The opposition to the guidelines -- voiced initially by India on behalf of the G-24 -- was backed by the African group and by CARICOM. In their opinion, the continuation of discussions based on the second draft would constitute a step backward from what they felt could be a possible basis for consensus in the first draft.

When pressed for specific comments by the Chair and other Members, the opposing group only cautioned that discussions based on the second set of draft guidelines could delay the process and endanger the timetable for agreement on guidelines in March. Their preferred approach was to retain the original draft and work on resolving key issues in bracketed text.

The original draft, while in part simply restating the current GATS text, contained certain aspects that closely mirrored a proposal submitted by the G-24 in December 2000. When discussed at the first informal CTS meeting on 7 February, developed countries --particularly the US -- were said to have reacted to these aspects, which, according to them, focused too heavily on the needs of developing countries (see *BRIDGES* Weekly, 13 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story5.13-02-01>).

According to a developing country source present at the 20 February informal meeting, developing countries rejected the second draft guidelines due to the omission of development-oriented text in the new draft. Developmental dimensions present in the first draft were dropped from the new text, for example the mention of flexibility for developing countries and the grant of special treatment of least-developed countries. According to the source, others sections were selectively omitted as for example in an Article XIX citation referring to 'liberalisation' instead of 'progressive liberalisation'.

Conversely, key developed country text remained unchanged during the drafting of the second guidelines which also contained newly added text supporting developed country positions.

However, a trade source from a developed country said he thought that tactics, not substance, lay behind developing countries' refusal to discuss the revised draft guidelines. "Some Members are simply awaiting the Qatar Ministerial Meeting," he said, and added that WTO hopes to have an agreement on the guidelines prior to the stock-taking exercise by the end of March now seem rather too optimistic.

Since no agreement could be reached at the 20 February Special Session as to which of the two versions of the draft guidelines was the appropriate basis for further discussions, the meeting was adjourned. A new meeting is not scheduled for the time being; Members requested the Chair of the Special Session to undertake consultations.

ICTSD Internal Files.

## **CTE ADDRESSES MARKET ACCESS AND MEA-WTO INTERFACE**

The WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) met on 13-14 February in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss Items 2 to 6 of the CTE 10-point work programme (see [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/envir\\_e/cte00\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/cte00_e.htm) for the full work programme) under the theme of market access. Specifically, Members met on the market access implications of environmental measures and the so-called "win-win-win" potential for trade, environment and development arising from trade liberalisation. Members also addressed the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the WTO, focusing in particular on a proposal from New Zealand to develop an informal consultative mechanism.

Market access implications of environmental measures and environmental benefits of trade liberalisation (Item 6)

Several Members highlighted the growing tendency for environmental measures to be based on life cycle analysis, and on process and production methods (PPMs) that were not necessarily related to the product itself. These measures impacted on market access in particular for developing countries

and increased compliance costs due to a growing number of requirements and standards. Developing countries called for capacity building and technology and financial transfers, as well as increased participation in standard making bodies. India in its submission to the CTE (WT/CTE/W/177; available online) also called for international cooperation on several issues to move the debate forward, including transparency of the range of environment-related measures currently in force.

Regarding environmental benefits of trade liberalisation, discussions took place with respect to several sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, energy, non-ferrous metals and environmental services. In this context, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) reported on their respective fisheries-related work. Members welcomed the constructive dialogue at the UNEP Workshop on Fisheries Subsidies, held immediately prior to the CTE meeting on 12 February (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 13 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/wtoinbrief.13-02-01.htm>). Iceland, New Zealand, the US and the Philippines supported ongoing work in the WTO on the trade dimension of fisheries subsidies in collaboration with other relevant bodies. Norway, New Zealand, Iceland and others pointed out that subsidy reform represented a "win-win-win" outcome for trade, development and the environment. Canada and Norway further stated that subsidies should not be viewed in isolation from sustainable fisheries management and that they constitute only one of several elements that may have a negative impact on fisheries resources.

According to one delegate who attended the meeting, CTE sessions seem to be becoming more of a main concern for Members, due in part to the UNEP meetings -- in this case, the fisheries workshop -- held just prior to the CTE. The delegate also noted that more representatives from capitals are attending the sessions, which points to a higher priority being placed on trade-environment issues.

#### Environmental and trade principles (Item 2)

The EU submitted a paper containing the "Resolution of the European Council on the Precautionary Principle" adopted by the European Council meeting in Nice, 7-9 December 2000 (WT/CTE/W/171). There was discussion on the status of the principle in international law and some Members, including Australia, Brazil and Norway, noted that the application of the precautionary principle is context-specific and should vary depending on a case-by-case analysis. In addition, Canada presented its new "Framework for Conducting Environmental Assessments of Trade Negotiations" (WT/CTE/W/183; see also *BRIDGES Weekly*, 13 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story6.13-02-01.htm>), while Argentina and Senegal presented their national experience with assessing trade liberalisation in the fisheries sector.

#### Eco-labelling (Item 3b)

Members commented on the Secretariat's paper on "Information Relevant to the consideration of Market Access Effects of Eco-Labelling Schemes" (WT/CTE/W/150; available online), pointing out that due regard should be given to provisions of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) during the development and implementation of eco-labelling schemes, as well as to the timeframe for implementation and consequences for developing countries. The EU called for clarification of the definition of standards in the TBT Agreement with respect to the PPM issue in the context of labelling.

### Relationship between MEAs and the WTO (Items 1 and 5)

As a follow-up submission and in response to discussions at the last CTE meeting (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 31 October 2000; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.31-10-00.htm>), New Zealand elaborated its proposed informal consultative mechanism, which aims to enhance information exchange on MEAs and WTO rules and ensure the clear drafting of MEAs based on a first-best solution, i.e. the solution that most directly addresses the environmental problem in the least-distortive and most efficient manner possible (WT/CTE/W/180, available online). The proposal found broad support among Members as a useful means to minimise trade-related MEA disputes. Some Members posed specific questions related to the practicalities of the mechanism, including its location, whether the process would be prescribed or voluntary, the role of third parties, and its relationship to the WTO dispute settlement mechanism. The Chair asked New Zealand to submit a further paper outlining the proposal in more detail.

### Issues postponed from the last meeting

The CTE also addressed several issues postponed from its 24-25 October 2000 meeting. Under Item 7 on domestically prohibited goods (DPGs), Members welcomed a new Secretariat paper on the coverage of international instruments dealing with DPGs, focusing on the UN Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments (WT/CTE/W/161; available online). Members also discussed trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs; Item 8), with papers submitted by Peru on its "Experience with Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Access to Genetic Resources" (WT/CTE/W/176; available online) and Brazil on the "Review of Article 27.3(b)" of the WTO TRIPs Agreement (WT/CTE/W/186; available online), which had originally been submitted to the TRIPs Council (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 5 December 2000; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.05-12-00.htm>).

The next meeting of the CTE will take place on 27-28 June to discuss the items related to the linkages between the multilateral and environment and trade agendas (Items 1, 5, 7, 8). The meeting will be accompanied by an Information Session for MEA representatives which will focus on compliance and dispute settlement in MEAs. The date of the October meeting was changed to 3-4 October in light of the Qatar Ministerial Conference.

ICTSD Internal Files.

## **LDC COMMITTEE BREATHES LIFE INTO INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK**

At a 12 February meeting of the WTO Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries (LDCs), WTO Members agreed to adopt a proposal to improve the implementation of the Integrated Framework for trade-related technical assistance to LDCs (IF). The proposal -- which launched a new Pilot Scheme under which the IF will assist LDCs that have demonstrated a clear commitment to "mainstream a trade integration chapter" into their overall development strategies (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story5.06-02-01.htm> on 'mainstreaming' trade) -- was reportedly well-received by both LDCs and developing countries. The Pilot Scheme will operate on the basis of a trust fund and on complementary activities by donors.

The Integrated Framework seeks to increase the benefits that least-developed countries derive from the trade-related technical assistance available to them from the six agencies involved in designing this Framework -- the IMF, the World Bank, the International Trade Centre (ITC), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the WTO -- as well as from other multilateral, regional and bilateral sources. The IF aims to assist LDCs to enhance their trade opportunities, to respond to market demands, and to integrate into the multilateral trading system.

According to trade sources, the new Pilot Scheme has strengthened the role of the IF, which came under fire last summer as an ineffectual initiative (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 27 June 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story5.27-06-00.htm>). In July 2000, heads of the IF's six core agencies agreed to improve the functioning of the Framework. Following the 12 February 2001 meeting, one delegate labelled the new Pilot Scheme as "precedent-setting", in that it forces cooperation among donors, LDCs, and intergovernmental organisations such as the core agencies. Money has already been committed to the IF trust fund by the British, Dutch, Swedish, and EC governments. Canada and Denmark are waiting for their financial year to progress, but have indicated that funds will be forthcoming. Further funding is expected from Japan and from the IMF and the World Bank.

Central to the new scheme is the devising of a trade integration chapter into LDCs' trade plans. According to the Pilot Scheme proposal (WT/LDC/SWG/IF/13; available at: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news01\\_e/ifldcproposal\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news01_e/ifldcproposal_e.htm)), a trade integration chapter would encompass a number of issues. These include, inter alia: establishing the link between trade and development on the one hand and poverty reduction on the other; the impact of trade reform on economic growth and development in the country; market access issues; and an assessment of the trade-related capacity requirements of LDCs.

A further key objective of the IF will be to ensure coordination amongst all parties involved in trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building activities. Progress is to be monitored on a country-by-country basis, according to the proposal.

Aside from some initial resistance on the part of the US over inclusion of its preferred text -- which was resolved amongst Members -- there was little opposition to the final proposal. One source conjectured that the new impetus emerging in the Sub-Committee on LDCs could be a reaction to the slow progress for developing countries in talks on Implementation (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.06-02-01.htm>), and there's a feeling that development-related deliverables could instead emerge in the LDC Sub-Committee and in the Committee on Trade and Development.

For further information on the Sub-Committee on LDCs visit: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/devel\\_e/d3ctte\\_e.htm#least\\_developed](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/d3ctte_e.htm#least_developed)

#### CTD Meets on Observers, Tech Transfer, and Technical Cooperation

On 16 February the WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) met for its first session of 2001. At the meeting Members discussed, inter alia: observer status for various organisations, a WTO Seminar on technology, and technical cooperation.

### Observer status

No consensus was reached on requests for observer status from the League of Arab States, OPEC and the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting, which were carried over from the previous meeting, nor on a new request from the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. Many African countries are pushing for La Francophonie to be admitted, but, according to sources, there is little chance for this to happen as Egypt has linked Francophonie admittance to its request for observership for the three previous organisations. Israel continues to oppose the request for observer status for the League of Arab States, so the situation remains at a stalemate.

### Seminar on technology, trade and development

Outgoing CTD Chair Ransford Smith (Jamaica) presented a report on the 14 February WTO Seminar on Technology, Trade and Development. Inter alia, the seminar reviewed lessons of experience in order to identify policy choices that facilitated the enhancement of domestic technological capabilities. The Chair's report noted the regrettably low attendance but pointed to the very high quality of discussion at the seminar. Several Members pointed out that the seminar date conflicted with the Committee on Trade and Environment meeting and requested that the Secretariat try to ensure that Seminars do not conflict with key meetings of the WTO to which they are obliged to give a higher priority than a seminar. Absent at the seminar were Japan and the EC; the US attended only for half an hour.

Following the Chair's report, there were several calls for a Working Group to deal horizontally with "technology transfer". No delegations specifically opposed this. Sources expect the matter to be raised again in future sessions.

### Technical cooperation

A Secretariat paper on this item entitled "A Strategy for Technical Assistance in the WTO" (WT/COMTD/W/78) is close to the point of approval, though there remain a few comments to be taken into consideration with respect to priority setting: a number of delegations stressed the need for coordination of technical assistance activities within the Secretariat and with other agencies. The EU suggested that the paper should be presented to the General Council as an important step in confidence building efforts. The paper is expected to be adopted at the next CTD formal meeting in May, together with a work program on technical cooperation.

### Procedural items

The Chairman informed the CTD about informal consultations on a possible work programme on small economies. While there was no consensus on a work programme, Members agreed to ask the Secretariat to draft terms of reference for a possible study on trade-related problems of small economies. This item had occupied much of the preceding day's informal discussions.

Finally, the CTD elected Ambassador Irumba of Uganda as its Chairman for 2001. Discussions are continuing regarding the chairmanship of the Sub-Committee on LDCs. Members are expected to convene a special short official CTD to decide on this post, though no date has been selected.

ICTSD Internal Files.

**REVISED GMO DIRECTIVE GETS EU PARLIAMENT NOD**

On 14 February the European Parliament (EP) passed the revised "Council Directive on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)" (90/220/EEC) (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 23 Jan 01, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.23-01-01.htm>), making it one of the strictest regulations in the world. The rules governing the testing, planting and sale of crops and food for humans and animals, as well as the testing and sale of pharmaceuticals, are expected to put an end to the current de facto moratorium on the approval of GM seeds and foods, in place since mid-1999. According to David Bowe, British Member of the EP and author of the bill, the earliest date for approval of genetically modified (GM) crops and foods under the new regulation is sometime in Spring next year. France, Austria, Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg and Italy all pledged to continue blocking approvals of new GM crops until traceability rules are in place.

The revised directive specifically refers to the 'precautionary principle' -- which calls for precautionary measures to be taken when an activity raises threats of harm even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. The directive puts into place, among others, (a) a requirement for a case-by-case environmental risk assessment considering also potential cumulative long-term effects associated with the interaction with other GM organisms (GMOs) and the environment; (b) a public register containing GMOs released for trial and for commercial purposes; (c) authorisation for the release of GMOs limited to 10 years and renewable; and (d) a timetable for the gradual elimination of antibiotic resistance markers in GMOs until 2004 for commercial purposes and until 2008 for research.

The European Commission also committed to bring forward legislative proposals on: (a) environmental liability, including damage resulting from GMOs before the end of 2001; (b) the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety up until July 2001; and (c) labelling and traceability in the course of 2001.

**New EU labelling scheme taking shape**

According to an EU source, the section in charge of working out the legislative proposals on labelling and traceability for GMOs at the Commission's Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General for a new labelling scheme, which applies to GMOs and products derived from GMOs, whether or not they are detectable in the final product.. The Commission is likely to adopt this position after an internal review process, the source further said. This marks a shift away from the EU's previous practice of content-based labelling, mirrored in its current labelling requirement based on a 1 percent threshold of GM ingredients allowed in the final product.

Process-based labelling as proposed now is strongly opposed by the US biotech and food industry as it implies an extensive documentation regime that ensures that ingredients do not contain GMOs. Labelling remains a hot topic in the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 14 Nov 00, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.14-11-00.htm>), with several WTO Members arguing that mandatory labelling schemes based on process and production methods constitute a protectionist measure. No mandatory labelling scheme has been challenged yet at the WTO and it therefore remains unclear whether or not a process-based labelling scheme is compatible with WTO rules. Traceability, which is part of the EU proposal, is the tracking of GMO varieties throughout the distribution chain and is regarded as an important prerequisite for labelling.

### 14 GM farm products shelved waiting for approval

Presently around a dozen GM crops, mostly maize and soya have been authorised for use in the EU. 14 GM farm products blocked by the ban are awaiting consideration. These include corn, tomato, beet, chicory, rapeseed for canola oil, and cotton. In light of the mad cow problem and the connected ban on meat and bone meal, European farmers are being forced to seek alternative high-protein feed. This is expected to ignite a new debate on whether or not GM feed such as soya or maize should be imported.

Public opinion towards GM food in Europe remains hostile. France has announced that further rules on ensuring GMOs can be identified throughout their production and consumption must be in place before new GMOs are allowed on the EU market. Others, such as Austria, Italy and Denmark raised the possibility that countries may continue with national bans on clearances despite the new legislation at the EU level. Environmental NGOs expressed their concerns about the new regulations saying that they should have been better. In a press release, Friends of the Earth Europe admitted that the revised Directive includes significant improvements compared to the previous one but fails to address key issues to protect consumers and the environment.

### EU to push forward stringent standards at Codex meetings

The EU is expected to push forward international food safety standards on GM foods based on the same stringent approach as its own regulation. The Codex Alimentarius, the international standard-setting body of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), is expected to be one of the foci of the EU initiative, especially at Codex meetings scheduled for March and April. Observers see this as an effort of the EU to protect its new regime from possible challenges it could face at the WTO. The FAO Codex Ad Hoc Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology will meet on 25-29 March in Tokyo, Japan; the Committee on General Principles on 23-27 April in Paris, France; and the Committee on Food Labelling on 30 April - 4 May in Ottawa, Canada. For further information visit the Codex website at: <http://www.fao.org/es/esn/codex>.

In the Codex Ad Hoc Task Force on Biotechnology Foods, the US has sought to put discussion of traceability into the committee that deals with trade, which it claims has the proper expertise to deal with the issue. US industry opposes traceability, arguing that it would be very difficult if not impossible to implement because of how shipments of crops currently co-mingle with crops from both GM and non-GM sources. American farm groups also point out the enormous costs linked to traceability. The StarLink scandal is widely seen as a proof that the US crop industry is presently not ready to ensure segregation of GM and non-GM crops (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 28 Nov 00, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.28-11-00.htm>).

"New GM crop directive requires "traceability" - EU", REUTERS, 19 February 2001; "EU to Seek International Backing for Biotech Regulations", INSIDE US TRADE, 16 February 2001; "Food, Agriculture Groups Urge U.S. Officials To Impede Mexican Bill Mandating Labeling", 14 February 2001, INT. ENVIRO REPORTER; ICTSD Internal Files.



**TRIPS, AIDS DRUGS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Western governments, the WTO and pharmaceutical companies have come under heavy attack from developing countries and NGOs recently for their AIDS medication policies towards the world's poorest developing countries. Particularly harsh criticism came from the international aid group Oxfam and Nobel Prize winning Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), who accused drug companies of waging an undeclared war on the world's poor.

**Oxfam launches campaign to cut cost of medicine for poor nations**

In a report released last week, Oxfam said it would launch a new worldwide campaign to cut the cost of medicines for the poor, calling on the WTO to change patent rules, which it says result in restricted access to life-saving drugs. In addition, the group seeks changes to WTO dispute settlement rules, under which disputes over the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and other WTO Agreements are adjudicated. Oxfam argues that relevant experts such as health professionals should be appointed to dispute settlement panels; that amicus curiae briefs should be accepted; and that joint panels with other organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) should be set up when disputes have a significant non-trade dimension. The group proposes broadening and clarifying the criteria under which compulsory licensing and parallel imports can be invoked, and shortening patent terms protected under the TRIPs Agreement. "Under WTO rules, patents on medicines produced by the drug industry are protected for 20 years. This is the shadowy side of globalisation," the report stated. "The WTO must change the rules that the drug industry is now using to cripple cheap, local competition, which in turn is inflating the cost of new and patented medicines."

Oxfam also demanded that developing countries should be allowed to make cheap copies of drugs to treat diseases such as AIDS, respiratory tract infections and childhood diarrhoea. It called on the US government and major pharmaceutical companies -- in particular singling out GlaxoSmithKline, one of the world's largest drug companies -- to drop legal action against countries that are producing cheaper drugs. "This industry campaign has been led by the pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), one of the worlds most politically influential and well-financed industrial lobbies," Oxfam said. "The primary source of PhRMA's power is its influence over the office of the US Trade Representative, which has repeatedly backed its claims with the threat of trade sanctions."

In response, Mark Grayson from the PhRMA stated that the organisation shared Oxfam's concerns regarding access to affordable medicines in poorer countries, but said that the problem is not related to IPRs, but rather to infrastructure bottlenecks such as poor roads as well as the low priority placed by some governments on public health. WTO spokesperson Keith Rockwell said that "the TRIPs Agreement strikes a reasonable balance between the interests of the private sector to ensure protection for their patented goods and the interest of governments to ensure their rights to protect public health." Rockwell also pointed out that the Agreement allows WTO Members to write provisions in their intellectual property legislation allowing them to adopt measures necessary to protect public health and nutrition. Oxfam, however, argued that "these TRIPs provisions are hedged in by onerous conditions and, in practice, efforts to apply these measures have been fiercely contested by pharmaceutical companies, often with the backing of western governments."

### US-Brazil dispute over patents

Oxfam's campaign comes less than two weeks after MSF accused the US of using the WTO to undermine Brazil's successful national program for combating AIDS. The US has taken Brazil to the WTO Dispute Settlement Body where it is facing legal challenges for manufacturing and distributing drugs for free to victims of AIDS disease (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.06-02-01.htm>). US officials have denied MSF's accusations, noting that their WTO dispute with Brazil centres on a provision of the patent law which they say is discriminatory and thus contrary to the non-discrimination provisions of TRIPs Articles 27.1 and 28.1 which confers patent rights on the owner.

Meanwhile, the Swiss pharmaceutical group Roche Holdings has opened talks with legal experts of the Brazilian government on the patent rights of its AIDS treatment Nelfinavir. Officials of Roche Holdings say the discussions will focus on the conditions under which international patent rights could be overruled by national legislation. The Brazilian Health minister has threatened to issue licenses for local production of Nelfinavir and of Efavirenz, manufactured by Merck Inc. of US, unless they agree to cut their prices by 50 percent by June this year.

### Indian company offers low-cost AIDS medicine to Africa

In a related development, the Indian company Cipla Ltd. of Bombay has offered to supply Africa with AIDS medicine at a low cost that could force larger western pharmaceutical companies to reduce their prices. Cipla Ltd. has offered to provide limited supplies of the so-called "triple-therapy" medications to MSF for around US\$350 per person per year for use in Africa. The normal cost of the AIDS drug in the US is \$10,000 per year. GlaxoSmithKline has already warned Cipla that it may take action against the firm since it claims exclusive marketing rights over lamivudine, one of the drugs involved.

"Oxfam accuses drug firms of war against poor," UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, 12 February 2001; "Oxfam seeks major changes in TRIPs rules to lower drug prices," INSIDE US TRADE, 16 February 2001; "Indian company offers low cost AIDS drugs," UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, 7 February, 2001; "Roche open to discuss patent rights of AIDS drugs with Brazil" AFP, 9 February 2001; " Offer to Africa on AIDS drugs," NEW YORK TIMES, 7 February, 2001; "GlaxoSmithkline dismisses drugs, Animal Rights Criticism," DOW JONES, 12 February 2001.

## **CANADA UNDER PRESSURE TO REVOKE BAN ON BRAZILIAN BEEF**

Canada's continuing refusal to lift its ban on Brazilian beef imports until a Canada-led team of veterinarians has issued a report certifying the absence of mad cow disease, or BSE, among Brazilian cattle has led Brazil's beef industry and port workers to boycott Canadian imports. Simultaneously, Canadian and Brazilian firms and the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce urged Canada to revoke the two-week old ban immediately.

Canada issued the ban on 3 February citing Brazil's failure to provide information requested in 1998 to show that Brazilian cattle is not infected by mad cow disease, or BSE (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 13 Feb 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.13-02-01.htm>). Brazil, which has never had a

case of mad cow disease, tends to see the ban as a reprisal in the ongoing, unrelated battle over aircraft subsidies (see WTO In Brief, this issue). Canada denies the charge.

As demanded by Brazil, a joint US-Canada-Mexico health delegation, led by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Brian Evans, arrived in Brazil on 14 February to examine Brazilian cattle and were expected to have finished the following Sunday. However, the assessments of the results would normally take another ten days. This would exceed Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's deadline for lifting the ban, at which point Brazil might retaliate, for instance by taking its complaint to the WTO.

Meanwhile, informal Brazilian "retaliation" has already begun. Not only have Brazilian beef producers threatened to take legal action against Canada, but stevedores at Brazil's key port of Santos, the largest in South America, also decided last Thursday to suspend unloading of all Canadian goods. "Until Canada starts importing our beef, there will be no unloading of Canadian products here," said Paulo Pereira da Silva, president of the trade union confederation Força Sindical. Further, the Brazilian Rural Society (SRB), representing hundreds of thousands of small farmers -- including 70,000 cattle ranchers -- said last week it was suspending imports of Canadian potassium chloride, used in fertilisers and one of Canada's chief exports to Brazil.

"Basically, Canada took the wrong step...They erred in not realising this (beef ban) would have a great deal of popular consequence and easily be seen as unfair," said Albert Fishlow, head of Columbia University's Brazil studies programme.

But Canadian Foreign Minister John Manley countered in an interview last week that Canada had no choice but to ban imports of Brazilian beef and cited the example of Germany where the health and agriculture ministers were forced to resign last month because of their late acknowledgement of the risks from mad cow disease. "It certainly was not in our interest from the point of view of solving the aircraft dispute to precipitate an issue over beef. It was done strictly because we had no choice," he said.

Ottawa has said it will lift the ban once the inspectors have given the all-clear.

"Canada-Brazil firms demand immediate end to beef ban," REUTERS, 16 Feb 2001; "Inspectors to check 4,000 imported cows, stevedores block Canadian," WORLD TRADE REPORT, 15 Feb 2001; "Brazil eyes moral, diplomatic victory in Canada row," REUTERS, 14 February 2001; "Canada sees no Brazil threat to trade summit," 13 Feb 2001; "Brazil ranchers, workers boycott Canada in beef row," REUTERS, 13 Feb 2001; "LatAm unites behind Brazil ahead of North American visit to check out beef," AFP, 14 Feb 2001; "Brazilian Stevedores Boycott Canadian Products," EFE/COMTEX, 15 February 2001.

## **IN BRIEF**

**GROUP SET UP TO HASTEN BIRTH OF CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET.** At the Caricom summit in Barbados last week, Caribbean leaders announced the establishment of a task force to accelerate the creation of a common market and to ease restrictions on travel and immigration between them. To this end, the full-time working group -- to be based at the Caricom headquarters in Georgetown, Guyana -- will oversee the creation of uniform labour laws and set common

customs duties, import taxes and tariffs. Its mandate, however, "did not include such things as e-commerce and intellectual property rights", Guyana's Foreign Minister Clement Rohee said. The group will also work to create a common Caribbean Community passport, ease travel and immigration, and harmonise social security laws, though a common currency was not mentioned in the talks. As an important step towards a common market, the leaders also signed an agreement to create a new regional supreme court -- the Caribbean Court of Justice -- which will act as a final arbiter in trade, labour, and commercial disputes, thereby replacing the British Privy Council as the highest civil and criminal court in most of the region's former British colonies. The EU-style common market is expected to be implemented by the end of 2001. In related news, leaders at the Caricom summit were also negotiating details of an agreement between Cuba and the Caribbean community trade bloc to boost trade in a range of goods and services. While not establishing free trade in all sectors of Cuba's government-managed economy, the pact would lay out the list of products and services to be bought and sold freely with little or no tariffs. "Caribbean leaders set up Grp to speed birth of common market" AP, 16 February 2001; "Caribbean, Cuba free trade pact to be signed- officials" AP, 15 February 2001.

**CANADA CHALLENGES NAFTA TRIBUNAL'S JURISDICTION.** The Canadian government has asked the Federal Court of Canada to set aside a decision by a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) tribunal which ruled in favour of the US-based company S.D. Myers when it decided that Canada's temporary ban on the export of PCB waste between 1995 and 1997 had breached two provisions of NAFTA's Chapter 11 on investment (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 14 November 2000; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/inbrief.14-11-00.htm>). "While Canada agrees with certain aspects of the NAFTA tribunal's ruling, we are seeking this review because we believe the tribunal exceeded its jurisdiction in several key elements of the award," said Canada's International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew. Canada also announced that it would support an appeal by Mexico in the Metalclad case before the British Columbia Supreme Court, arguing in its written submission that the NAFTA tribunal had overstepped its authority and that any interpretation of NAFTA must promote a government's ability to safeguard public interests. Last August, a NAFTA tribunal found that Mexico had failed to treat the Californian company Metalclad Corp. by the rules outlined in NAFTA when it denied the company the licence to operate a toxic waste dump and treatment facility in Mexico (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 5 September 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.05-09-00.htm>). The Canadian government is also under heavy pressure from environmental and other groups to push for NAFTA rules on investment to be reviewed. "Canada takes controversial NAFTA ruling to court," REUTERS, 12 February 2001; "Canada challenges NAFTA ruling against Mexico," REUTERS, 16 February 2001; "NAFTA appeal on toxic-waste dump in Mexico begins in B.C. court," CANADIAN PRESS, 19 February 2001.

**EU SUGAR POLICY CHANGE INEVITABLE.** The EU sugar program -- under attack for allegedly dumping the product on the global market and distorting prices -- will be forced to change, according to a report to the annual Sweetener Colloquium released last week. With the forthcoming enlargement of the community to include another 13 countries, EU ministers will not be able to afford a regime of subsidies for sugar, the report said. "The writing is on the wall for EU sugar policy. This 30-year-old regime will be forced to change. That is inevitable. What is unclear is how deep the reform will be or the timing of the changes". Key sugar producers such as Australia have joined US producers in their criticism of EU subsidies for deflating markets. Joan Noble, author of the report, also pointed out that the proposed EU "Everything but Arms" initiative, which stipulates a phasing-in of duty free access for sugar from least developed countries by 2009 (see

*BRIDGES* Weekly, 13 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/inbrief.13-02-01.htm>), is likely to put considerable strain on the current sugar policy and the existing import arrangements. "Unlimited duty free access for sugar from third world countries could lead to a change in the EU preferential import quota arrangements as well as the policy covering domestic sugar production," she said. "EU sugar regime seen being forced to change" REUTERS, 14 February 2001.

CLIMATE TALKS SET TO CONTINUE IN JUNE/JULY 2001. Jan Pronk -- Netherlands Environment Minister and President of the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-6) -- announced last week that the climate change negotiations would resume at COP-6 Part II within the period from mid-June to late July 2001. The exact dates and venue are to be announced shortly. The decision to hold the meeting at that time was taken after wide-ranging consultations with the Bureau of the Conference and with governments who wanted sufficient time to prepare adequately. The talks had failed in November 2000 mainly due to differences between the US and EU regarding supplementarity (the extent to which greenhouse gas emissions targets can be met through flexibility mechanisms), the inclusion of carbon sinks and the nature of the compliance regime (see *BRIDGES* Weekly, 28 November 2000; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.28-11-00.htm>). "I hope that the shock of our inability to reach agreement last November will spur all governments to further efforts to find the middle ground of compromise and consensus," Pronk said.

Pronk's announcement followed shortly after the release of a major report by Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the scientific basis of climate change which had highlighted the contribution of human activities to global warming (see *BRIDGES* Weekly, 23 January 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/inbrief.23-01-01.htm>). Working Group II of the IPCC met on 13 to 16 February 2001 in Geneva where it accepted its draft report "Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" (a summary is available at <http://www.ipcc.ch/>). The report concluded that while all regions are likely to experience some adverse effects of climate change, "most less-developed regions are especially vulnerable because a larger share of their economies are in climate-sensitive sectors and their adaptive capacity is low due to low levels of human, financial and natural resources, as well as limited institutional and technological capacities". The third report on options for limiting greenhouse gas emissions and otherwise mitigating climate change will be finalised in Accra, Ghana, from 28 February to 3 March; in September, the final report will bring together the conclusions and recommendations. "Disease, floods seen as global warming outcome," REUTERS, 20 February 2001; "IPCC to adopt major report on the impacts of climate change," IPCC PRESS ADVISORY, 12 February 2001; "Climate change talks to resume," UNFCCC SECRETARIAT, 12 February 2001.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

CHINA'S ACCESSION "IRREVERSIBLE" SAYS TOP NEGOTIATOR, BUT DECLINES TO SPECIFY DATE. China's chief trade negotiator Long Yongtu said last week that the timing of China's entry into the WTO is not of importance since its accession is irreversible. He declined to give a new target date for the country's admission to the WTO and rejected demands from WTO Members that China cut farm subsidies. In a speech at the China Development Forum on 15 February, he said, "the Chinese government is absolutely able to meet its commitments." The last talks ended in deadlock as China rejected demands from the US and other WTO Members to cut income support to its 900 million farmers. Talks are set to resume in March. In exchange for

admission to the WTO, China pledged to the US, EU, and other Members to open its markets from telecommunications to retail to more foreign competition, reduce tariffs and scrap other barriers to free trade. Meanwhile, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy stated on 14 February that China will only be allowed into the WTO if it can provide an "explicit commitment" to open up its service sector to foreign competition. The EU is seeking assurances that China will be consistent in issuing licenses in the service industry, especially in banking, insurance, telecoms, and brokering sectors. "The problem is what sort of explicit commitment will we get from the Chinese authorities...what sort of guarantees are there to ensure that procedures will be predictable, stable and transparent?" said Lamy. "China's Long Yongtu says timing of WTO entry of no importance," BLOOMBERG, 15 February 2001; "Lamy pinpoints China services as stumbling block for WTO," SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, 14 February 2001.

EU TO CONSIDER FLEXIBILITY OPTIONS IN NEW ROUND STRATEGY. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy visited South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong last week to drum up support for a new round of world trade talks. In order to bring developing countries into a new round of trade talks, the European Commission has submitted a revised strategy paper to the EU member states and the European Parliament that demonstrates the EU's flexibility (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.06-02-01.htm>). The paper outlines, inter alia, a solution in which a new round can include the topics of investment and competition. The solution is an "escape clause," through which each WTO Member State would be able to abstain from endorsing negotiations in these areas. Meanwhile, South Africa's Trade Minister Alec Erwin said that his country was ready to join with other developing countries in hopes of launching "the new round of trade negotiations...this year not next year." The last attempt to launch a new round collapsed at the WTO Ministerial meeting in Seattle in December 1999, due in part to the reluctance of developing countries to include investment and competition rules in the talks. WTO Director-General Mike Moore is striving to set the basic agenda for the round by July and to formalise the launch at the fourth WTO Ministerial meeting in Qatar in mid-November. "S. Africa backs calls for 2001 trade round launch," REUTERS, 14 February 2001; "SA calls for urgent trade talks," IAFRICA, 15 February 2001; "EU's Lamy to explain WTO's new approach," THE JAPAN TIMES, 14 February 2001; "EU's Lamy visits Japan, SKorea, Hong Kong to win support for new trade round," FINANCIAL TIMES, 12 February 2001.

## **ON THE MOVE**

Stuart Harbinson

Ambassador Stuart Harbinson -- Hong Kong's permanent representative to the WTO since 1994 -- took over the chairmanship of the WTO General Council from Ambassador Kåre Bryn of Norway at the 8-9 February session of the General Council. Harbinson's most challenging task will be to oversee preparations for the next WTO Ministerial Conference in Qatar in November. He will also likely be in office when China joins the WTO, expected around the middle or second half of this year (see *WTO In Brief*, this issue). Amb. Harbinson, who previously chaired the WTO Dispute Settlement Body, said that the choice of Hong Kong to chair the General Council in the year China and Taiwan were expected to join the WTO was a vote of confidence from Members in "one country, two systems". ICTSD Internal Files.

Rita Hayes

Deputy US Trade Representative Rita Hayes has been asked by the Bush administration to stay in Geneva for the "foreseeable future" as the head of the US delegation to the WTO. She is expected to return shortly to Geneva from Washington D.C. where she has been working for the past several weeks as head of the Bush transition team at the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR). Mrs. Hayes, a Democrat, took the post in Geneva in 1997 after having served as chief US textile negotiator at USTR from 1995 to 1997 and as deputy assistant secretary for textiles and apparel, and consumer goods industries at the Commerce Department from 1993 to 1995. "Rita Hayes Will Stay on as Deputy USTR At WTO in Geneva for 'Foreseeable Future'," WTO REPORTER, 14 February 2001.

## **EVENTS**

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

### ICTSD Event

22-24 February, Cusco, Peru: LATIN AMERICAN MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON TRADE, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. This workshop is convened by ICTSD in collaboration with the Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA), ANDES, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva (QUNO). The objective of the present multi-stakeholder dialogue is to strengthen Latin American countries' ability to understand the options for advancing their own public policy objectives through the implementation or review of the TRIPs Agreement and in particular to participate actively in the review of Article 27.3(b). The dialogues will mobilise 30 key stakeholders from the region including national Ministries (Environment, Health, Agriculture, Trade), Intellectual Property Offices, academics, environment and development NGOs, indigenous people representatives, farmers, and the private sector (pharmaceutical and seed industries).

The outcomes of the workshop will feed into an on-going Geneva-based process aimed at facilitating consensus building and creative thinking for the review of TRIPs. This process will include a series of seminars and informal discussions for developing country delegations to the WTO. It is expected that the conclusions and experiences shared in the regional multistakeholder dialogues will contribute to strengthening the Geneva-based process as well as developing country negotiators' ability to better define and advance their own public policy objectives in the field of trade, IPRs and biodiversity. For more information contact: Christophe Bellmann, email: [cbellmann@ictsd.ch](mailto:cbellmann@ictsd.ch); Internet: <http://www.ictsd.org/dialogueweb/Dialogues/22-02-01-desc.htm>.

### Coming Up This Week

19-21 February, Mexico City, Mexico: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. The conference entitled, "Development: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean", is being co-hosted with the Government of Mexico by UNEP, IISD, UNAM, COMEDS, and UNCTAD. Confirmed speakers include Victor Lichtinger, Mexican Environment

Minister and Juan Mayr, Colombian Environment Minister. This meeting is designed to provide an open forum to develop ideas and analysis relevant to ongoing trade liberalisation processes involving LAC countries; provide an excellent opportunity to share perspectives, experience and expertise; and, ensure that all stakeholders working with trade, environment and development issues in the LAC region are represented. For more information contact: Mindahi C. Bastida, UNEP-ROLAC. Environmental Training Network, tels: (52) 5202-6394, (52) 5202-4841; fax 5202-0950; email [mbastida@latino.rolac.unep.mx](mailto:mbastida@latino.rolac.unep.mx). You can find the draft Agenda at the website: <http://www.iisd.org/trade/webag2.htm>.

22-24 February, Cusco, Peru: LATIN AMERICAN MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON TRADE, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. See above for details.

24 February, Brussels, Belgium: CIVIL SOCIETY-EUROPEAN COMMISSION TRADE DIALOGUE. EU NGDO networks that make up the informal grouping known as the EU-WTO Steering Group of NGDOs will hold a meeting on the 'structured' dialogue process between the European Commission, and civil society and other stakeholders on WTO/trade issues. The issues to be discussed are: investment, competition, WTO reform and TRIPs. For further information visit: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/csc/dcs\\_nig.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/csc/dcs_nig.htm).

25 February, Cairo, Egypt: THIRD SUMMIT OF THE D-8. Leaders of the D-8 Muslim countries--Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan And Turkey--are meeting to draw up plans for expansion of trade and investment and map out goals in shipping, insurance and cyber communications to bolster the economic bloc that represents nearly 800 million people. Further information is not available at this time.

26-27 February, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: WORKSHOP ON INTERLINKAGES, SYNERGIES AND COORDINATION AMONG MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS. For further information contact: Motoyuki Suzuki, United Nations University, tel: (81-3) 3499-2811; fax: 3499-2828; Internet: <http://www.unu.edu/capacitybuilding/index.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

27 February, Labour Centre LC-101 South Campus, 8th Street and 107th Avenue, Miami, Florida, USA: SUSTAINABLE SOUTH 2025: ECOLOGY, THE SOCIAL DIMENSION AND TRADE IN THE SOUTHERN CONE. Panel discussions will include a review of the trade negotiations and their relations to the social dimension, labour rights and their effect on the environment in the Mercosur and as they relate to the FTAA experience. There will also be a discussion on specific cases where globalisation is directly impacting on the ecology of the Southern Cone as well as a review of the efforts to effectively include environment in the Plan of Action of the Quebec Summit as well as the FTAA. It features the vision of prominent Uruguayan Ecologist Eduardo Gudynas of the Centro Latino-Americano de Ecología Social (CLAES). For information contact: Bruce Jay, email: [BruceJay@compuserve.com](mailto:BruceJay@compuserve.com). Further information on Sustainable South 2025 (in Spanish) is available at: <http://www.ambiental.net/sustentable2025>.

### WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/meets.doc](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.

22-23 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SYMPOSIUM ON TOURISM SERVICES. The purpose of the symposium is to evaluate current developments in international tourism that may be of relevance to the GATS negotiations, and particularly to the proposal for a tourism annex. The items on the agenda are without prejudice to their eventual discussion in the Council for Trade in Services or to the position of any delegation on any of the issues. For further information contact: Mr. Dale B. Honeck, Counsellor, Trade in Services Division, WTO; tel: (41-22) 739-5149; fax: 739-5771; email: [dale.honeck@wto.org](mailto:dale.honeck@wto.org); Internet: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news01\\_e/symposium3r.doc](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news01_e/symposium3r.doc).

22-23 February, Geneva, Switzerland: TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS. The committee will be discussing Regional Trade Agreements involving the following countries: Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, and Estonia. In addition, the committee will be discussing the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement between the European Communities and Tunisia and the Free Trade Agreements between: Efta and Morocco, Hungary and Lithuania, Hungary and Latvia, and Poland and Latvia. For further information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5015.

#### Other Forthcoming Events

16-17 March, Faculty of Law, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia: CONFERENCE ON CHINA AND THE WTO. This conference offers an opportunity for lawyers, economists, government officials, business representatives and academics to analyse and discuss the impact of China's accession to the WTO. Keynote Speaker: Professor John Jackson, professor of law at the Georgetown University Law Centre. For further information contact: Wendy Forster, Conference Administrator, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia; tel: (61-2) 6125-8354; fax: 6125-3971; email: [china-wto@anu.edu.au](mailto:china-wto@anu.edu.au); Internet: <http://law.anu.edu.au/china-wto/index.html>.

20-21 March, Berlin, Germany: MINISTERIAL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE. Co-organised by UNEP and the German Ministry for the Environment, this meeting will provide a platform for environment ministers and senior officials from developed and developing countries, and other stakeholders to discuss areas of mutual concern in the environment, development and trade debate. It will also serve to review and provide guidance to UNEP country projects on integrated assessment of trade policies. For further information contact: Sophie Forster, UNEP Economics and Trade Unit, Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 917-8620; email: [sophie.forster@unep.ch](mailto:sophie.forster@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/upcming/berlin.htm>.

21 March, Brussels, Belgium: NGO STRATEGY MEETING ON TRIPs. The meeting will be held back-to-back with Oxfam International's seminar on Intellectual Property and Development: What future for the WTO TRIPs Agreement? The NGO strategy meeting will serve as a debriefing and follow up meeting of the seminar as well as exchange of information and coordinate NGO advocacy and campaigns, including the planning of an international day of action on TRIPs. The meeting is a

follow-up of earlier meetings in Boston, Geneva and Bern, and aims to bring together the group of affiliates of the so-called TRIPs Action Network (TAN). The meeting will allow for discussions on development/food security as well as health, environment and human rights concerns. Part of the meeting will focus specifically on enhancing the work and coordination among NGOs lobbying in specific regions (e.g. the EU). Funding for travel and accommodation, in particular for participants from Latin America, Asia and Africa, may be available on an individual basis by way of sponsorship. For further information contact: [lopez@cidse.org](mailto:lopez@cidse.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](mailto:hcameron@ictsd.ch). Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact Marc Galvin, [mgalvin@ictsd.ch](mailto:mgalvin@ictsd.ch)).

**PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF LIBERALISATION IN TOURISM SERVICES.** A WWF International Discussion Paper by Natacha Juda and Sarah Richardson, February 2001. This study aims to identify and assess potential environmental and social effects of trade and trade liberalisation in the tourism sector. It identifies ways through which changes in the services sector, brought about by liberalisation, can be linked to sustainable development. For a copy of this paper contact: Mireille Perrin, Policy Adviser, Trade & Investment Unit, WWF International, Ave Mt Blanc, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 364-9026; fax: 364-8219; email: [mperrin@wwfint.org](mailto:mperrin@wwfint.org). The paper will also shortly be available on the WWF website at: <http://www.panda.org>.

"North-South Conflicts in Intellectual Property Rights", by Vandana Shiva. In *PEACE REVIEW* 12:4 (2000), pp. 501-508. In this work, Shiva voices her opinion of the North's abuse of its Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) regime. Shiva argues that IPRs block technology transfer and facilitate piracy of the indigenous knowledge and biodiversity of Third World countries. She fears that left unaltered, these regimes will cause the North to be the monopoly owners of knowledge, including knowledge that originated in indigenous cultures of the South. Shiva examines the problem and calls for revision and review of the current rules surrounding property rights. This paper can be downloaded at: [http://www.biotech-info.net/north\\_south.pdf](http://www.biotech-info.net/north_south.pdf).

**NEGOTIATING THE WORLD ECONOMY.** By John Odell, Cornell Press, 2000. In response to the recent difficulties in negotiations of bilateral trade agreements, John Odell compares ten major economic negotiations since 1944 that have involved the United States, Brazil, the European Union, Japan, and Mexico. He provides inside stories, revealing strategies used by negotiators, and explains strategies chosen as well as why the same strategy gained more in some situations and less in others. He identifies three broad factors -- changing market conditions, negotiator beliefs, and domestic politics -- as key influences on strategies and outcomes. To request a review copy contact: Andrea Fleck Clardy, Cornell University Press; tel: (1-607) 277-2338, ext. 230.

**AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SECURITY: ISSUES AND OPTIONS IN THE WTO NEGOTIATIONS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.** By the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2000. This book, available in English, French, Spanish,

and Arabic, contains the report and papers of the symposium held in Geneva on 23-24 September 1999, as well as 14 country case studies which reviewed national experience with the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture. For further information contact the FAO; Rome, Italy; tel: (0657) 055629; fax: 056204.

### Electronic Resources

NATIONAL POLICY ASSOCIATION: Policy Solutions for the 21st Century, has launched a website. USTradePolicy.org gives the public the tools to gain a better understanding of how the US government makes trade policy; the forces that influence trade policy; and the views of the many actors that try to affect trade policy. Redefining the Terms of Trade is the National Policy Association's trade policy project. NPA seeks to modernise US trade policy and make it more transparent and well understood. NPA, with the support of a wide range of companies, unions, and nongovernmental organisations, has organised a series of seminars on these issues. They are open to the public and will be summarised on the website: <http://www.USTradePolicy.org>

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NACEC) is calling for proposals for community-based projects seeking funds from the organisation's North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC). The fund supports grassroots environmental work that complements NACEC's own program activities. This year, a total of US\$400,000 will be shared among projects that involve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and projects that enhance community access to information and participation in addressing issues related to children's health and the environment. Grant proposals must be received by NACEC prior to 31 March 2001. For further information contact: NACEC, tel: (1-514) 350-4300; fax: 350-4314; Internet: <http://www.cec.org>.

### **TRAINING PROGRAM**

The Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM), in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), is now accepting applications for its Professional Trainees Programme. This is an opportunity for suitably qualified CARICOM nationals, who have a long-term career interest in international trade policy and negotiation issues, to acquire a grounding in these areas and to assist in building the Region's expertise. A higher degree, at least at the Masters level is required. The Professional Trainees Programme is a one-year intensive programme designed to equip eligible candidates with the skills and techniques of external trade negotiations taking place under the aegis of the WTO, with the EU, and with countries of the Hemisphere towards a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Specialised training will be carried out at several locations within the Region, including RNM offices in Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, London, Geneva and Washington DC, and will also include a period of internship with a regional or international organization active in trade negotiation issues. Fellowships provide for living expenses, travel and tuition fees. Applications should be submitted no later than 30 March 2001 to: Communications Director-RNM Office, "Windmark", First Avenue, Harts Gap, Hastings, Christ Church, Barbados; tel: (246) 430-1673; fax: 228- 5264; Internet: <http://www.caribrnm.net>.

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