



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest

13 September 2002

Volume 6, Number 30

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LEAD STORIES

SPLIT ON GIS OVERSHADOW MARKET ACCESS TALKS AT WTO'S AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Members met from 2-6 September at the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) to continue talks on market access as well as to prepare for the special (negotiating) session on domestic support scheduled to be held end of this month. Reading out his summary at the 6 September formal meeting, Chair of the CoA negotiating session, Stuart Harbinson, said that the last four days of informal negotiations had provided a lot more detail, but cautioned that "due to lack of specificity in some areas" he might not be able to prepare a first draft of the general rules ('modalities') for further farm trade liberalisation, as scheduled for the end of February 2003. His concerns may have been added to by recent statements from the EC and Switzerland indicating that they would only move in the agriculture talks if 'sufficient progress' was made on highly contentious issues such as the precautionary principle, mandatory labelling and expanding the protection of geographical indication (GIs). These subjects are currently being discussed (and/or negotiated upon) in various WTO Committees.

Market access

Following up the 29-30 July "intersessional consultations" on market access (see BRIDGES Weekly, 8 August 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-08-06/story5.htm>), Members at the 2-3 September informal special session turned to the topics of: special agricultural safeguards (SSG); state trading enterprises (STEs); and "other market access issues". On SSG [a special mechanism that protects some -- mostly developed -- countries from sudden surges in imports of certain agricultural products], many developing countries indicated that they wanted to address the technicalities leftover from the Uruguay Round that prevented them from using the SSG. The 18- member

Cairns Group of agricultural exporting nations, although reiterating its call for eliminating the SSG for developed countries, said that it would be willing to accept a new safeguard mechanism for developing countries under agreed circumstances. Trade sources reported that other Members also showed some "sympathy for this call." For their part, Japan, Korea and Switzerland proposed a new and additional safeguard for perishable and seasonal products, a suggestion that was clearly rejected by some Members, such as those from the Cairns Group.

"Alternative modality" from the Philippines

Notably, the Philippines (a Cairns Group member) tabled an interesting "contribution" aimed at interlinking tariff reductions with reductions in export subsidies and domestic support, as well as setting up a "responsive mechanism that penalises the persistence of trade distorting support." Pursuing a two-stage approach on tariff reductions, they suggested bringing down tariff peaks and tariff escalations (the existence of higher tariff levels on certain products) to a harmonised level within the initial three-year phase, with further reductions from this level during the second three-year period. However, developing countries would only be required to enter the second phase of reductions if all developed countries had eliminated export subsidies and "substantially reduced their production- and trade-distorting support." Another element of the proposal was a detailed formula for additional duties that would be available to developing countries importing products from developed countries that provided "trade-distorting export competition and domestic support measures" to such products. This latter provision is based on a proposal from last October on a special and differential countervailing measure (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-02/story3.htm>).

Non-trade concerns

Further, in the market access discussions, the EC and Switzerland indicated that non-trade concerns (NTCs) such as food safety and consumer information needed to be duly taken into account in the current modalities talks. Switzerland went as far as to say that "only a minimum result appears to be attainable in the agricultural negotiations" if Members failed to reach agreement on these related NTC concerns as per discussions in other WTO Committees. Addressing food safety, the EC said that it would like an interpretation of the AoA to allow use of precautionary measures instead of seeking an amendment of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS) or relying on dispute rulings to address the issue. Therefore, the EC suggested that the agriculture negotiations should be used to clarify under which circumstances

precautionary measures could be imposed. Countries such as Norway, Korea and Japan supported this proposal, while others as the US, Cairns Group members and China said that precaution was an SPS issue. The EC, Norway and Japan further said that mandatory labelling should be allowed under WTO rules as it was needed to provide information for consumers, and to cover issues like production methods [e.g. "organic" products] and product tracing. US, China, and the Cairns Group, however, insisted that labelling was to be discussed at the Technical Barriers to Trade Committee.

Geographical indication (GIs)

The EC also called for negotiating -- as a direct market access issue -- the extension of the level of protection of geographical indications (GIs) in the agriculture talks, with the aim to include an index of additionally protected agricultural GIs in the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). While they agreed that the "issue also entails a market access dimension," Switzerland indicated that it would prefer to leave what it sees as an NTC to the ongoing discussions in the Council for Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) as long as progress was made there. Fellow 'Friends of Multifunctionality' Norway, Japan and Korea remained silent on the GI issue, while Cairns Group members Thailand and Bolivia allegedly showed some support for extending GI protection. Nevertheless, the latter agreed with Switzerland that this should rather be handled at the TRIPs Council. At the TRIPs Council, Members are currently at odds over whether Article 18 of the Doha Declaration contains a negotiating mandate on GI extension or not (see BRIDGES Weekly, 3 July 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-07-03/story5.htm>).

Domestic support

With regards to domestic support, Members started to exchange their views on the five key items identified by the Chair: i.e. the Green Box, Article 6.2 [so-called Special And Differential Treatment (S&D) Box], the Blue Box, the Amber Box and "other domestic support issues." Mainly addressing the Green Box, Members discussed, inter alia, whether the eligibility criteria of the Box needed to be revised and whether a maximum level of each Member's spending under the Green Box should be established. While it was reported that Members such as China and the Philippines supported the idea of capping the Box, the EC, Switzerland and Japan suggested expanding it so that non-trade objectives such as animal welfare and rural development could be better pursued. Nevertheless, a European delegate pointed out, there was general consensus amongst Members that the "Green Box remains green." For its part, Cairns Group country Thailand proposed to revise the general requirement of

the Box, such that the words "or at most minimally" were removed from the caveat that subsidies registered here have "no, or at most minimally trade-distorting effects". A developed country source indicated, however, that such a change was not likely in the current agriculture talks.

The discussions on domestic support will be continued at the forthcoming special session to be held on 23-25 (informal) and 27 (formal) September. A mid-November meeting will provide Members with the opportunity to address so-called inter-pillar issues.

ICTSD reporting.

FSC CASE SEES LARGEST WTO SETTLEMENT

On 30 August 2002, WTO arbitrators gave the EU permission to apply sanctions (in the form of duties) on US goods valued at more than USD\$ 4 billion until the US changed its tax policy to comply with the 'Foreign Sales Corporations' (FSC) case ruling. This amount is roughly equivalent to twenty times the amount of sanctions previously awarded at the WTO.

The longstanding case, dating back to the 1999, saw a final ruling in January 2002, when the WTO's Appellate Body upheld the 20 August 2001 compliance panel, which ruled the US FSC Repeal and Extraterritorial Income Exclusion Act of 2000 (ETI Act) inconsistent with WTO rules (see BRIDGES Weekly, 6 January 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-01-16/wtoinbrief.htm> - 2). This FSC law essentially provided for a corporate export tax credit directed at US subsidiaries acting abroad -- which the WTO found to be equivalent to a prohibited export subsidy. In its submissions, the US had asked the arbitrator to limit any sanctions to about USD\$ 1 billion.

EU officials have urged Congress to pass legislation before it adjourns for the year so as to avoid possible sanctions. A bill attempting to bring about such compliance has been introduced to the US House of Representatives, but has run into staunch opposition by powerful industry interests groups (such as US airplane manufacturer Boeing) who argue that the new legislation does not do enough to help them.

Experts on the issue offer serious doubts whether a bill that will sufficiently appease both sides can be ready before the end of the year. The US has indicated, however, that it hopes the EU will recognize the seriousness with which the US Senate is taking the issue and thus will be willing to wait until they are able to replace the current FSC legislation.

On 12 September, the EU published its initial list of possible US goods that could be hit with the retaliatory duties, including politically sensitive farm exports such as oil seeds and wheat gluten, as well as iron and steel exports -- over which the two countries already have a number of disputes in the works or on the horizon. Many experts familiar with the case do not expect the EU to actually apply this list, but rather to use it as leverage to coerce the US into speeding up the legislative process and arriving at a bill as soon as possible. As well, some experts have speculated that the EU will use it to weaken certain US initiatives against them, such as the EU ban on genetically-modified (GM) foods, of which the US has notified its intent to start dispute proceedings if the ban is not lifted soon (see BRIDGES Weekly, 16 January, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-01-16/inbrief.htm> - 2).

"WTO Gives EU OK for U.S. Sanctions," REUTERS, 30 August 2002; "EU Has U.S. Trade Sanctions List," AP, 12 September 2002.

ON THE MOVE

WTO SECRETARIAT WELCOMES NEW TEAM AT THE HELM

On 1 September 2002, Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi (Thailand) took over his duties as new Director General (DG) of the WTO; duties which are to last three years. On 16 August 2002, he announced the four new Deputy Director-Generals, who would take office (also for three years) starting 1 October 2002.

Background

This switch mid-way through the usual four-year term for a DG is the result of a hard-fought battle between developed and developing countries over who would succeed former DG Renato Ruggiero (see BRIDGES Weekly, 3 May 1999, http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/getbulletin.cfm?browse=1&Issue_ID=1322&Bulletin_ID=14&SID=). The battle over former DG Mike Moore or new DG Supachai lasted over a year and resulted in the WTO not having any DG for a number of months, but an Australian proposal that each take a three-year term finally resolved the deadlock in late-summer 1999.

The new DG

The new DG has a long history with trade and trade theory. With a PhD in economics that took 10 years to

complete, he has often been said to be more preoccupied with the theory of trade than with its actual practice. The former Buddhist monk also headed Thailand's delegation at the end of the Uruguay Round and has recently held top-level positions in the Thai government, including Deputy Premier and Minister of Trade.

As the organisation's first leader from the developing world, a great deal of pressure has been put on him to champion the causes of the poor. And while his speeches throughout the year would indicate that he certainly intends to push those causes to the top of the agenda, some comments have prompted a few developed country delegates to comment that a danger does exist that he will be marginalized and ignored by the larger powers if not more careful with his words.

One of the concerns of the new DG, aside from ensuring that the latest round of negotiations finish on schedule, is the declining trend in the value of developing country exports versus their imports (what is referred to as their 'terms of trade'). The international community must find "more innovative solutions to arrest this decline in terms of trade," he said. He has also remarked that his intention is to back all projects, of the WTO and other organizations, public or private, aimed at assisting developing countries.

New DDGs

The new team of Deputy Director-Generals or DDGs who will support Dr. Supachai in his aims include Mr. Roderick Abbott, (UK) who until recently was deputy Director-General of the EC Commission's Trade Directorate and former head of the delegation in Geneva; Dr. Kipkorir Aly Azad Rana (Kenya), a former Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva and currently a senior representative at the WTO and the United Nations; Mr. Francisco Thompson-Flôres (Brazil), a former chief trade negotiator during the creation of MERCOSUR (1985-1988) and currently Brazil's ambassador to Uruguay; and Mr. Rufus H. Yerxa (US), former deputy US Trade Representative and former permanent representative to the GATT (1989-93).

Some controversy has been raised with regards to Mr. Yerxa's previous positions in the US's corporate lobbying sector, pointing specifically to his position since 1998 as Chief European Counsel at Monsanto Europe (the EU arm of the large US biotechnology firm that is pushing, along with the US government, for the EU to accept imports of genetically- modified (GM) foods, see BRIDGES Weekly, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-01-16/inbrief.htm> - 2).

"Tough Legacy To Be Inherited By New WTO Chief," NYTIMES, 15 August 2002; "WTO DG Designate Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi Selects Deputies," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 16 August 2002; "New WTO Head Sets Out His Priorities," AP, 2 September 2002.

IN BRIEF

ITC WILL STUDY EFFECTS OF ELIMINATING US FARM TARIFFS

Members of the Bush administration have asked for an independent study by the International Trade Commission (ITC) concerning the impact of removing tariffs on farm goods from 33 countries in the Western Hemisphere. The study will take place as part of Bush's plan to create a free trade zone with every country in the Hemisphere, excluding Cuba, by the end of his term in 2005. The request for the study has caused some serious concern among US farmers, as it includes certain goods that have been highly protected in the past, including peanuts, sugar and orange juice. At the same time, the administration asked that the ITC prepare a study to see what the impact would be if tariffs on farm goods were reduced by half or even eliminated by all Members of the WTO, a move that various WTO trading partners have been pressuring the US to make for some time. These reports are expected to be finished by November 15 (which corresponds with the 'mini-ministerial' set for Australia, at which agriculture is expected to play a key role, see related article). Under the provisions of the recently passed Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation (BRIDGES Weekly, 6 August 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-08-06/story3.htm>), the Bush administration, when negotiating trade agreements, is required to conduct a review before tariffs can be reduced on "sensitive" products.

"US to Study Impact of Eliminating Farm Tariffs," REUTERS, 30 August 2002; "Zoellick: Farm Tariffs May Go," WASHINGTON POST, 5 September 2002.

GOVERNMENTS & NGOS CRITICISE EU FOR SUGAR SUBSIDIES

In response to increased criticism of subsidies to their sugar farmers, an EU official indicated that they "are the world's biggest importer of sugar," and that roughly 95% of their imports from 2000 came from developing countries. The 23 August response came on the heels of the latest Oxfam trade report, entitled "The Great EU

Sugar Scam", which adds to recent calls by the world's top two sugar exporting countries, Brazil and Australia, on the need to reform the sugar regime, which is depressing world prices and destroying market opportunities for more efficient producers (many of whom are developing countries). Joined most recently by Thailand, the three top sugar exporting countries have now indicated that they are considering challenging these "trade-distorting" subsidies at the WTO which they view as export subsidies. Such criticisms lie at the heart of the WTO's ongoing agricultural negotiations, which were intensified under the latest mandate given at the last Ministerial Conference in Doha (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 November 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-11-15/story1.htm>). The sugar case would mark the first challenge at the WTO of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) -- which is allowed to function as it does in part through deals cut at the end of the last round of negotiations making allowances for certain policies in place to persist.

The Oxfam report can be found at <http://www.oxfam.co.uk/policy/papers/27sugar/27sugar.html>

"Australia and Brazil attack EU sugar subsidy," THE GUARDIAN, 17 August 2002; "EU defends sugar policy in face of Oxfam attack," REUTERS, 23 August 2002; "EU defends aid for sugar producers," YAHOO NEWS DIGEST, 26 August 2002; "Thailand Mulls Filing WTO Complaint On EU Sugar Subsidies" DOW JONES, 29 August 2002.

WTO IN BRIEF

MINI-MINISTERIAL SCHEDULED FOR AUSTRALIA LATER THIS YEAR

On 16 August, Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile announced that Australia would host a 'mini-ministerial' of approximately 25 trade ministers on 14 November 2002 -- one year after launching a new round in Doha. Countries expected to attend include the US, EU, Japan, Senegal, Lesotho and Singapore. This will also be the first such meeting for the WTO's new Director General Supachai Panitchpakdi (see related article). The meeting aims to push forward the negotiations that were agreed to at Doha and to provide some political direction to areas of the negotiations that have been progressing slowly. At the same time, said Vaile, this gathering will help assure that the next meeting of the entire WTO body in Cancun, Mexico in September

2003 will be a successful one. Specific concerns that are likely to be addressed during the meeting include agricultural subsidies provided by the US and EU (see BRIDGES Weekly 15 May 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-05-15/story2.htm>) as well as the US steel safeguard duties (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 May 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-05-28/story3.htm>). Two 'mini-ministerial' meetings were organised in last year, one from 31 August to 1 September in Mexico (see BRIDGES Weekly, 11 September 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-09-11/story1.htm>) and a second on 13-14 October in Singapore (see BRIDGES Weekly, 16 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-16/story1.htm>).

"WTO trade chiefs to meet in Australia," XINHUA, 16 August 2002.

EVENTS & 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>. If you would like to submit an event, please email events@ictsd.ch.

Coming Up This Week: 10-17 September

9-13 September, Monterrey, Mexico: THE APEC YOUNG LEADERS AND ENTREPRENEURS FORUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS WITH SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. Organised by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Canada. For further information on how to register, contact: Geneviève Jones, Economic Policy Officer, International Economic Relations and Summits Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A 0G2; tel: (1-613) 944-0930; fax: 944-2732; email: Genevieve.Jones@dfait-maeci.gc.ca.

13 September, London, England: THE WTO AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. A one-day conference on this theme will be held under the auspices of the KCL Asia Forum. Location: Waterloo campus of King's College London; Time: 9.30am-6pm. For further information contact Professor Homi Katrak (44) 020-7586-2039 and Roger Strange roger.strange@kcl.ac.uk.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.pdf.

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.

11 & 13 September, 9:30, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY, MAURITANIA.

12-13 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO NEGOTIATING GROUP ON MARKET ACCESS.

13 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKSHOP ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

16 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

16 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

16-18 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

17-19 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

19 September, Geneva, Switzerland: COMMITTEE ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES.

Other Forthcoming Events

18-21 September, Edinburgh, UK: GENETIC ENGINEERING AND THE INTRINSIC VALUE AND INTEGRITY OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS. The multidisciplinary workshop is meant to bring together different voices and concerns in respect to genetic engineering and its products. For further information contact Ifgene UK co-ordinator: David Heaf, Hafan, Cae Llwyd, Llanystumdwy, LL52 0SG, UK. tel/fax: (44-1766) 523-181; email: 101622.2773@compuserve.com; Internet: <http://www.anth.org/ifgene/2002.htm>.

19-21 September, Ljubljana, Slovenia: EASTERN ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU: IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY. This is the 10th General Conference that is hosted every three years by the European Association of Development

Research and Training Institutes (EADI). For further information contact: Susanne von Itter, EADI; tel: (49 22) 8261-8101; fax: 8261-8103; email: itter@eadi.org; Internet: <http://www.eadi.org/generalconference.htm>.

23-24 September, Cambridge, MA, USA: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION: EMERGING INTERNATIONAL POLICY ISSUES. Organised by the Centre for International Development, Belfer Centre for Science and International Affairs, Asia Programs at the Centre for Business and Government at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in cooperation with UNCTAD. For further information contact: Derya Honca, Centre for International Development, 79 JFK Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 USA; tel: (1-617) 495-1923; fax: 496-8753; email: m_derya_honca@harvard.edu; Internet: http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidbiotech/intconf_sti/description.htm. 22- 24 September, Miami, Florida: THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: ALLIANCES FOR DEVELOPMENT. Sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank in cooperation with the Dante B. Fascell North-South Centre. Location: Inter-Continental Hotel, Miami, Florida. Attendance: By invitation only. For further information contact: Nelid@iadb.org; or visit <http://www.csramericas.org/>.

26-27 September, Castries, St. Lucia: REINVENTING PORTS OF ENTRY AND BORDER MANAGEMENT. Cosponsored by the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center; the Council on Foreign Relations; and the University of the West Indies; with the support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. By invitation only. For Further information contact: Anthony Bryan, North-South Centre at (1-305) 284-8980 or abryan@miami.edu.

30 September-1 October, Berlin, Germany: GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY - NEW CHALLENGES FOR THE STATE, BUSINESS AND CIVIL SOCIETY. The design and implementation of sustainable development is a complex issue for society and is currently being hotly debated at a variety of levels. The conference on Governance and Sustainability takes a close look at the protagonists, their agendas and methods, forms of organisation, problems and limits, institutions as well as real-life examples for governance in different areas of society. Organisers: Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; Location: Berlin, Germany Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Hiroshimastr. 17; For further information visit <http://www.ioew.de/governance>; Contact: konferenz@ioew.de.

18-19 October 2002, Nairobi, Kenya: AFRICA REGIONAL SEMINAR ON "INVESTMENT FOR

DEVELOPMENT", organised by CUTS' Center for Trade Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE) and Eco News Africa (ENA) in collaboration with UNCTAD. At this seminar, held under the "Investment for Development"-project, participants will discuss economic and political issues relating to Foreign Direct Investment, so as to better understand national, regional and international rule-making in this area. Project researchers from South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia will present their findings at the seminar. For further information contact: Sanchita Chatterjee at ifd_cuts@rediffmail.com or citee@cuts.org, or log on to <http://www.cuts.org/>.

28 October-1 November, Nassau, Bahamas: FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA). Delegates from the 34 member nations of the proposed FTAA will meet to discuss issues such as agriculture, intellectual property rights and antidumping measures. For further information, visit <http://www.ftaa-alca.org/>.

14 November, Sydney, Australia: 'MINI-MINISTERIAL' MEETING OF CERTAIN WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION MEMBERS. A so-called 'mini-ministerial' meeting to discuss ongoing negotiations aimed at lowering global trade barriers. The Sydney meeting will occur a year after the WTO launched the current round of trade liberalisation talks in the Qatari capital of Doha (see related article, this issue).

12-15 February, Tenerife, Spain: EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS (ESEE) CONFERENCE, FRONTIERS 2: EUROPEAN APPLICATIONS IN ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS. The meetings will focus on state-of-the art applications of ecological economics for environmental planning and management, in education and for testing the robustness of research tools. The submission deadline for contributions is the 20 October 2002. For further information on the conference, visit <http://www.euroecolecon.org/frontiers/>

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 resources@ictsd.ch. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (see mailing address below).

WTO AGREEMENTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH -- A JOINT STUDY BY THE WHO AND THE WTO SECRETARIAT. August 2002. The 171-page study 'WTO Agreements and Public Health' explains how WTO Agreements relate to different aspects of health policies. It is meant to give a better insight into key

issues for those who develop, communicate or debate policy issues related to trade and health. The study covers areas such as drugs and intellectual property rights, food safety, tobacco and many other issues, which have been subject to passionate debate. In this joint effort, the first of its kind, WHO and the WTO Secretariat endeavour to set out the facts. (further coverage coming in next week's issue.) For further information on this document or to attain a copy, contact: World Trade Organization, rue de Lausanne 154, CH-1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland.

INTEGRATING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY, Government of UK's Commission on Intellectual Property Rights. The report looks at the interaction of intellectual property rights (IPRs) and development policy, calling into question the framework of the WTO's Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) Agreement. It identifies that the functioning of IPR systems raise genuine concerns, even in developed countries, and that countries with different levels of development require different approaches to intellectual property rights. Copies of the report can be downloaded from the Commission's website: http://www.iprcommission.org/graphic/documents/final_report.htm.

PERILOUS LESSONS: THE IMPACT OF THE WTO SERVICES AGREEMENT (GATS) ON CANADA'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM. By Jim Grieshaber-Otto and Matthew Sanger, August 2002. Written for professionals and citizens alike, this book provides a primer on the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). It highlights the threats the treaty already poses and, using highly plausible scenarios, describes how it could undermine public education in the future. The authors dissect federal government efforts to reassure and mislead Canadians about the threats GATS poses to public education. They advocate specific changes to Canada's negotiating approach to safeguard our vital public education system. For more information visit <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/perilouslessons-intro.pdf>.

REFORMING GLOBAL TRADE IN AGRICULTURE: A DEVELOPING COUNTRY PERSPECTIVE, by Shishir Priyadarshi, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: Trade, Equity, and Development Series. Noted international trade and agriculture expert Shishir Priyadarshi looks at the rising inequities stemming from the 1994 Agreement on Agriculture. Priyadarshi concludes that the agreements' stated goals to reduce trade barriers and increase food security for the developing world have not been met. Instead, methods designed to reduce or eliminate industrialized nations' agricultural protectionism have merely served to

institutionalise it. "These countries now enjoy a unique privilege among members of the WTO, in the sense that the AOA gives them the legal right to continue to distort agricultural markets," he notes. For more information, visit http://www.ceip.org/files/news/TED_2.asp?from=newsn_ews

WORKING PAPER NO 7. A FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS: IMPLICATIONS OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE OAS. By Stephen K. Keat, August 2002. Published by the North-South Centre. Ongoing negotiations involving all the nations in the Americas except for Cuba are aimed at agreeing on a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA or ALCA in Spanish) "from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego" by 2005. In addition to potentially revolutionizing the economies of some of the members of the Organization of American States (OAS), an FTAA will have major political, social, and even military ramifications for the Inter-American System. Failure to agree, however, will not just leave the member states with the present status quo, it would have negative impacts in the above-cited areas. Available at <http://www.miami.edu/nsc/publications/pubs-WP-pdf/WP7.pdf>.

"Beyond pollution havens," in GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS 2. By David Wheeler (2, 2002): 1-10. Poor countries suffer from serious environmental damage, and much more pollution control is justifiable. Weak regulation is partly to blame, but the evidence suggests that it reflects a general development problem. Aid from the OECD countries can help reduce pollution in poor countries by promoting better public information about polluters, stronger regulatory institutions, and more explicit attention to environmental risks in large projects. However, attempts to enforce OECD-level regulatory standards through general trade and aid sanctions are both "regressive and useless".

STUMBLING TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY. Edited by John Dernbach, July 2002. The book is an assessment of U.S. environmental law and policy written by 42 scholars released by The Environmental Law Institute. According to the Institute the book is a road map showing the route around the political and technical barriers that have so severely hampered US efforts to achieve greater sustainability. The US, according to Dernbach, "has unquestionably begun to take some steps toward sustainable development" but is "far from being a sustainable society and, in many respects, is farther away from that goal than it was in 1992," the year of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. To obtain a copy of the book, visit <http://www.eli.org/store/bsts.html>.

THE COTONOU AGREEMENT - NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR EUROPEAN TRADE POLICY? By terre des hommes, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Weed, June 2002. Documentation of an International Conference in Preparation of the Negotiations between the EU and ACP Countries on Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreements. It was the organ-isers objective to subject the strategies and aims of European trade policy towards the ACP countries in its totality to critical examination and investigate its underlying political tendencies. To order the publication concerning this conference visit <http://www.weedbonn.org/info/matlist.htm - EU>.

"The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture," in REVIEW OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW by H. David Cooper (RECIEL) 11 (1, 2002): 1-16. This article analyses the main features of the Treaty, reviews some of the major issues at stake during the negotiations and considers its relationship to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

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WTO TERMINOLOGY DATABASE. The WTO has posted a new database where viewers can find the terminology used by trade specialists in the organisation in English, French and Spanish. WTOTERM currently contains 8600 terms and is updated every month. To view this site, visit http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/res_e.htm#terminology.

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BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest is made possible in 2001 - 2002 through the generous support of the Government of the United Kingdom (DFID). Additional support is provided by ICTSD's core donors: the Governments of Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden; Christian Aid (UK), MISEREOR, NOVIB (NL), Oxfam (UK) and the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations (Switzerland). BRIDGES Weekly also benefits from support for the BRIDGES series of publications including: the Rockefeller Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and Swiss Development Cooperation.

ISSN 1563-003