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WTO DECIDES ON STRUCTURE FOR NEGOTIATIONS

Following a week of intense consultations, delegates to the WTO's Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) agreed on 3 February on how to organise negotiations mandated from the Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar last November, appointing the WTO Director-General (D-G) as 'ex officio' Chair. A group of developing countries -- including China -- that had previously opposed having the D-G chair the TNC withdrew their opposition once it became clear that certain procedures would be adopted that would help ensure Member supervision over the negotiating process (see BRIDGES Weekly, 29 January 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-01-29/story1.htm>).

Current D-G Mike Moore will chair the negotiations until 1 September 2002, at which point he will hand over the post to the next D-G, Supachai Panitchpakdi. According to the agreed procedures, this arrangement will only remain in place until 1 January 2005 and "does not create a precedent for the future".

Agreement was reached on the basis of a statement submitted by current Chair of the General Council Stuart Harbinson that laid out the structure of how talks would proceed, together with "Principles and Practices" for General Council-TNC relations, transparency and process, and Chairs of the TNC and its sub-negotiating groups (see Harbinson's text at http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/tnc_1_01feb02_e.htm). Notably, the General Council will be in charge of the Doha Ministerial mandate and negotiations will be conducted in a "transparent manner among participants, in order to facilitate effective partnership of all".

Developing countries that had been pushing for more transparency and accountability -- such as China, Pakistan and others from the Like-Minded and African groups -- succeeded in including language ensuring that the regular reports issued by the chairs of the negotiating groups to their overseeing bodies should "reflect consensus, or where this is not possible, different positions on issues." This stems from concerns these countries expressed in the leadup to Doha regarding draft Ministerial Declaration texts that they said did not adequately reflect their positions. Egypt successfully lobbied to include language stating that, as a guideline, only one negotiating body should meet at the same time in order to facilitate the participation of smaller delegations.

Developing countries were also able to secure a higher profile for outstanding demands on the implementation of existing trade agreements. Harbinson's proposal states that, "negotiations on outstanding implementation issues will take place in the relevant bodies in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 12 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration and of the Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns of 14 November 2001." According to trade officials, this means that implementation demands that fall under explicit negotiating mandates and those that do not will both be part of the Doha negotiating agenda.

In addition, Harbinson's proposals reflect a priority raised previously by Pakistan with respect to the importance of special and differential treatment for developing countries. The text states that, "the negotiations and other aspects of the work programme shall take fully into account the principle of special and differential treatment for developing and least-developed countries as provided for in paragraph 50 of the Ministerial Declaration." Further, Special Sessions of the Committee on Trade and Development are mandated to review all special and differential treatment provisions with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational.

Procedurally, the negotiations will be conducted by special sessions of existing bodies, including Agriculture, Services, Dispute Settlement, Intellectual Property Rights (including geographical indications). Two new Negotiating Groups will be created on Market Access and Rules, while negotiations on Trade and Environment will take place in Special Sessions of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE). The Chairpersons of individual negotiating bodies will serve up to the Fifth Ministerial Conference (in Mexico in 2003), at which time all the appointments will be reviewed.

Of particular interest from an environmental point of view will be the negotiations on fisheries subsidies, the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the WTO, and the reduction and/or elimination of trade barriers to environmental goods and services. According to trade sources, fisheries subsidies are likely to be discussed in the context of "Rules" rather than in the CTE Special Sessions, which, according to one environment official, will help to mainstream environmental concerns into the broader negotiating agenda.

Observers note that the negotiations in the CTE Special Sessions should significantly boost the status of the Committee whose role in the past had been restricted to studying the relationship between trade and environment and to making recommendations. It remains unclear, however, to what extent issues related to environmental goods and services (para. 31 (iii)) will also be covered in other bodies, such as market access and services.

Sources are confident that Chairs for the TNC sub-committees, together with Chairs for the regular bodies of the WTO, should be agreed upon by the next meeting of the General Council on 13 February. Both Brazil's and India's ambassadors said they thought it might take until the middle of March before discussions on substance would begin in the negotiating bodies. The TNC was instructed to develop its own work schedule "on the basis of one meeting every 2-3 months" or more if necessary.

"WTO procedural fight boosts developing country agenda," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 1 February 2002; "WTO Members reach agreement on framework for Chair of Doha Round," *WTO REPORTER*, 4 February 2002; ICTSD Internal Files.

BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY CONVENE AT SEPARATE WORLD FORUMS

Two world forums convened this week from 31 January to 4/5 February to discuss a variety of issues currently confronting the global community. Some speculate the events have a similar focus, however their divergence in approach is as vast as the income gaps they both profess to want to eliminate. The World Economic Forum (WEF), normally held in Davos, Switzerland but this year moved to New York City amid security concerns, focused on the subject "Leadership in Fragile Times". For its part, the World Social Forum (WSF), the second annual counter-conference to the WEF, held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, centred on the theme "Another World Is Possible".

The WEF began in 1970 with the aim of discussing a "coherent strategy for European business to face challenges in the international marketplace." Since then, the world's business and governmental elite have met annually in the quiet Swiss ski village of Davos. With so much political and economic clout at one event, the WEF over the years has positioned itself as the "global summit which defines the political, economic and business agenda for the year".

The WSF, seeking to show there are alternatives to neoliberal economic globalisation, formed in 2000 as a counterweight to what some perceive as the "corporate-driven WEF". Its first meeting saw an attendance of 20,000 representatives from civil society and government. The forum is now an annual event held in Porto Alegre, the heartland of Brazil's socialist Workers Party. As renowned US linguist Noam Chomsky said in a keynote address to this year's WSF, "the World Social Forum is really the first and most promising realisation of the traditional commitment of the left and the workers' movements to an international forum with the interests of the people in mind."

The agendas

This year's World Economic Forum carried six primary themes: advancing security and addressing vulnerability; redefining business challenges; re-evaluating leadership and governance; restoring sustained growth; sharing values and respecting differences; and bridging the income gap between the rich and poor to promote stability.

The WSF's themes included the production of wealth and social reproduction (incorporating issues such as international trade, debt, aid, capital and finance); access to wealth and sustainability (intellectual property rights, sustainable environment, water, indigenous peoples and urbanisation); civil society and the public arena (democratising media, cultural identity, combating intolerance and violence); and political power and ethics in the new society (international organisations, participatory democracy, globalisation and militarism, and human rights).

WEF -- aid and trade taking aim at poverty

The general consensus among delegates in New York was the need to focus more on trade and aid in the fight against poverty. While many felt that official aid needed to be increased, most agreed that trade could do more to reduce poverty. Despite this, both World Bank President James Wolfensohn and UN Director-General Kofi Annan repeated calls for a doubling, or \$US50 billion dollar increase, of official development aid -- with Wolfensohn going on to criticise the USA for continually rebuking this call.

At the WEF, both Mike Moore, current Director-General (D-G) of the WTO, and Supachai Panitchpakdi, D-G Designate, noted the need for developed country Members, and their corporate lobbies, to bring concessions to the negotiations launched at the Doha Ministerial Conference last November. Specifically, they touched on the need to speed up the liberalisation of developed country agriculture and textile markets, which comprise nearly 70 percent of developing country exports. Should Northern markets not open up in these areas, Moore said, "[t]his will be a 300-year round and not a 36-month round [...]". Niall Fitzgerald, chairperson of large multinational Unilever and deputy chair of the conference, noted that it was not credible for the EU to stick to its 2006 deadline of reforming its farm policies when the deadline of the WTO talks was the end of 2004.

In further discussions around the impact of the commitments made at Doha, Moore, alongside ministers from 14 countries, discussed an initiative to finance much wider participation by developing country Members in the latest round of negotiations. This initiative is in addition to the 15 million Swiss francs (approximately \$US9 million) recently earmarked by WTO Members for a trust fund for technical assistance (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 December 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-12-12/story3.htm>). Supachai took this point even further in noting that the success of the Doha round rested on the handling of negotiations on Investment, Competition, Transparency in Government Procurement, and Trade Facilitation (the so-called the 'Singapore Issues') at the Fifth Ministerial (set to take place in Mexico in 2003).

Amongst other initiatives, the WEF featured results from its Agricultural Trade Task Force. The Task Force issued a joint Communiqué that included key recommendations on the equitable reform of the global agricultural trade system, as well as "investment and capacity building efforts needed in developing countries if they are to ensure food security and compete more effectively in agricultural and processed food markets." It was signed by a variety of intergovernmental, non-governmental and private sector groups, and is available at:

<http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/Agricultural+Trade+Task+Force%5CRecommendations+for+Action+on+Trade>.

WSF -- fair trade working for people

Being a forum for activists from around the globe, with very different views and perspectives, the WSF does not seek nor claim to have any one position or solution. Despite this fact, a broad consensus did prevail at its 1 February conference on the theme of International Trade. This consensus was that free trade, and the neoliberal ideology underpinning it, does not guarantee wealth and development for nations and people. Furthermore, some participants claimed that the WTO is systemically biased against

developing countries and thus its powers and scope need to be reduced accordingly -- some suggesting as far as subordinating it to the United Nations.

The workshop looked at putting trade and export-oriented growth in it their "rightful place" in the development paradigm and sought the use of alternative trading regimes based on fair trade -- "which seeks to make trade, and the economy in general, serve better the people engaged in it, and not just corporate interests at the top of the trading pyramid." There was also a great deal of focus on the impact of trade on areas which carry the greatest impact on the most marginalised people of the world -- most notably that of agriculture.

On that topic, proposals ranged from taking agriculture out of the WTO completely, to forbidding dumping in the agricultural sector, to the development of a 'Universal Right on Food Sovereignty' -- which would seek to protect local markets, stabilise prices, and provide greater choice to consumers on the type of products they consume.

"WORLD SOCIAL FORUM: Anti-Globalisation Event Opens in Brazil," UNWIRE, 31 January 2002; "WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM: World Bank Presses U.S. to Increase Foreign Aid," IHT, 31 January 2002; "GLOBAL ECONOMY: Forums Open In U.S., Brazil," Wofensohn Urges More Aid" UNWIRE, 1 February 2002; "Conference Synthesis: International Trade" WORLD SOCIAL FORUM, 1 February 2002; "US-EU want more poor countries at trade round," FT, 3 February 2002; "Brazillian City Sees a Good Side to Globalisation," IHT, 5 February 2002; "WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM: Annan Calls On Business To Help The Poor," UNWIRE, 5 February 2002.

In Brief

NORWAY DRIVING FORCE BEHIND SANCTIONS FOR CROSS-BORDER POLLUTERS

In response to evidence that radioactive emissions of technetium-99 from Britain's Sellafield nuclear power plant are spilling over to the Norwegian coastline, Norway stated on 31 January that it would push for a binding international polluter-pays scheme for countries. Norway has repeatedly asked Britain to stop emissions from the reprocessing plant. Environment Minister Boerge Brende has called for economic sanctions against Britain, and said that there is a "lack in environmental legislation on a global basis". Brende has been working to create a UN High Commissioner for the environment and a UN expert panel to lift environmental issues higher on the global agenda. A Norwegian parliamentary foreign affairs committee has made it clear that it wants Norway to "become the main driving force in the work internationally to introduce state liability and economic responsibility for damage caused by transfrontier pollution." Committee spokesman Lars Rise said that Norway, in line with previous efforts to promote environmental issues, should also consider whether to propose a binding

convention for the environment, based on the 1992 Rio declaration. "The goal is to make the polluter-pays principle effective not only for individuals and companies, but also for states," said Rise. He suggested that a convention to follow up on the proposal should first be tried on a European level and then possibly on a global level at the UN.

"Norway Wants Sanctions for Cross Border Polluters," REUTERS, 1 February 2002.

FAO DISCUSSES S&D, SOLUTIONS ELUSIVE

Just three days before the last WTO 'agriculture week' in Phase II of the ongoing negotiations in the Committee on Agriculture (CoA), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organised, on 1 February, a roundtable on "Special and Differential Treatment in the Context of the WTO Negotiations on Agriculture" with presentations by speakers from, inter alia, CAFOD, Institutes of Development Studies, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It was the fourth in a series of informal meetings of representatives from WTO Members, international organisations and non-governmental organisations held to provide a forum for exchanging information and analysis -- usually prior to the launch of WTO special sessions on agriculture.

Following the agenda of this week's negotiating session of the WTO's CoA, the FAO roundtable focused on the concerns of developing countries related to a proposed 'development box' (i.e. a mechanism which would allow for special treatment for developing countries under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA)).

There was general agreement amongst the speakers that developed countries needed to bring down their domestic support expenditures, ban export subsidisation and provide developing countries with greater market access to rich country markets so as to make developing countries more competitive on the international agriculture market.

Regarding the concept of a development box, however, it appeared that much analysis needed to be done to be able to define the main targets of such an instrument, i.e. safeguarding "low income and resource poor" farmers as well as the production of "food security crops". In addition, identifying a common approach to how developing country WTO Members could tackle their food security problems remained elusive, as did the question whether the AoA could accommodate such approaches. While some argued that a simple overall approach would be the correct one, others advocated for better understanding and classification of country issues. Addressing the suggestion that new categories of Members besides the current differentiation -- i.e. developed, developing, and least- developed countries -- should be created, some participants cautioned that this could lead to a split in the solidarity amongst developing countries and others pointed to the drawbacks of increasingly complex agreements. It also remained an open question as to how far more flexibility under special and differential treatment (S&D) to protect developing countries' agriculture markets would impede the market access of other developing countries, as a major share of their farm products is traded via "south-to-south" exports and imports.

In its 4-6 February Special (informal) Session, the WTO CoA is addressing the topics of development box, single commodity producers, special and differential treatment, small island developing countries, and "other issues". BRIDGES Weekly will report on this meeting more fully in its forthcoming edition.

African regional conference to focus on agricultural issues

On 4 February, the FAO also launched a five-day regional conference for Africa in Cairo where African agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development ministers are expected to address various policy issues such as food security, sustainable development, land and water development, nutrition, and the impact of HIV/AIDS on the agricultural sector. The meeting will also focus on preparations for the World Food Summit scheduled for 10-13 June in Rome, Italy. The FAO is expected to organise further regional conferences leading up to the World Food Summit to examine national difficulties when addressing agricultural development as well as to find ways to improve global food security.

"AFRICA: FAO Opens Regional Conference On Food Security, Development", UN WIRE, 4 February 2002. ICTSD Internal Files.

DELEGATES PRIORITISE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

This week, the Second Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), chaired by Emil Salim of Indonesia and attended by delegates from around the world, is meeting at UN headquarters to outline priorities for the WSSD, to be held 26 August - 4 September in Johannesburg, South Africa. The talks began on 28 January and are slated to continue through 8 February. Many delegates agreed last week that despite the promises made at the last Earth Summit in 1992 and the adoption of Agenda 21, little progress has been seen in terms of protecting the environment and stimulating peaceful, sustainable development. Some of the ideas forwarded include: global climate issues; innovative and practical funding for sustainable development; and open, competitive international markets to foster innovation and efficiency.

"Stakeholders Write Wish Lists for Sustainability Summit," ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 1 February 2002.

WTO In Brief

CHINA FILES COMPLAINT OVER EU FOOD BANS

On 24 January, China filed a WTO complaint over a European ban on Chinese honey, shrimp, and other foodstuffs that contained traces of banned antibiotics. This is China's first complaint about a European trade measure since its inception into the WTO in December. According to WTO rules, the Europeans have the right to ban food products for health reasons, but the issue in this case is whether or not the EU gave China enough time to deal with the issue after detecting the problem. Both sides are eager to resolve the dispute peacefully, and have agreed upon a joint study group to explore health concerns as well as setting up "early warning systems" to prevent similar future occurrences. The EU's \$US40 billion trade deficit with China is its largest with any other WTO Member.

"China Complaint On EU Trade Ban Shows Emboldened Policy," DOW JONES, 1 February 2002.

US ANGER GROWING OVER EU, CHINA GMO POLICY

The US is growing increasingly impatient with European and Chinese policies on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) which it claims are seriously affecting US exports of agricultural products. According to trade sources, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick last week repeated threats that the US administration would seriously consider a challenge at the WTO should the EU not lift its de facto moratorium on the approval of new GMOs, in place since 1998. Zoellick also attacked China's import regulations for GMOs -- scheduled to come into effect on 20 March -- which he said "as drafted, could serve as an unfair barrier to trade". China, however, remains adamant that it will not postpone the entry into force of its GMO regulations. For further details, see the forthcoming issue of BRIDGES Trade BioRes (for subscription details, see the Resources Section of this issue).

"USTR Zoellick questions China's food import intent," REUTERS, 4 February 2002; "Zoellick warns Lamy of possible biotechnology WTO challenge," INSIDE US TRADE, 1 February 2002.

BANANA DISPUTE OFF THE DSB AGENDA

At the 1 February meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), the EC issued a request to officially remove its dispute with the US/Ecuador over the EU's banana import regime from the DSB agenda. The long-standing dispute had finally been resolved in December 2001 when EU agriculture ministers adopted the EC's new banana regime as agreed to by Ecuador and the US in October last year (see BRIDGES Weekly, 20 December 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-12-20/story2.htm>). In its statement, Ecuador reiterated that the new regime consisted of various phases, culminating in the

entry-into-force of a tariff-only scheme by 1 January 2006, and reserved its right under the Dispute Settlement Understanding to refer back to the original panel if the EU did not comply with the recommendations of the DSB.

ICTSD Internal Files.

On The Move

TAIWAN'S FINANCE MINISTER APPOINTED WTO REP

On 1 February, Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian named Yen Ching-chang, former Finance Minister, as the country's chief representative to the WTO. Appointed as Finance Minister in 2000, Yen also served as Vice Finance Minister from 1996-2000, department director at the presidential office from 1992-1996, and held other positions in the finance ministry from 1981-1992. In January, Taiwan became the 144th Member of the WTO.

"Former finance minister named Taiwan's WTO representative," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 1 February 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>.

Coming up this week: 5-12 February

28 January - 8 February, New York, USA: SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2002 WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Participants will review the results of national and regional preparatory processes, examine the main policy report of the UN Secretary-General, and convene a Multi-stakeholder dialogue. For further information contact: Andrey Vasilyev; tel: (1-212) 963-5949; fax: (1-212) 963-4260; email: vasilyev@un.org; Internet: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.ca/linkages/>.

5 February, Washington, DC, USA: SERVICES 2002 BUSINESS-GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE ON US TRADE EXPANSION OBJECTIVES. The Services 2002 event will be sponsored by the US Coalition of Service Industries and the Commerce

Department's Office of Service Industries. Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Director-General Designate of the WTO, will be the keynote speaker and will be joined by senior officials from the US Department of Commerce, the Office of the US Trade Representative, and other agencies responsible for developing US services trade policy, as well as top executives from global US services firms and major trade associations. For further information contact: Bob Vastine or Mathew McTighe, Coalition of Service Industries; tel: (1-202) 289-7460; fax: 775-1726; Internet: <http://www.oscsi.org/>.

7-8 February, Paris, France: CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND ENVIRONMENT. Organised by the OECD, the conference aims to shed light on the broader linkages between FDI and the environment in the mining sector, particularly in developing countries, and where environmental concerns have frequently been voiced. For further information visit:

<http://www.oecd.org/oecd/pages/home/displaygeneral/0,3380,EN-document-0-nodirectorate-no-20-21276-0,FF.html>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

9-11 February, New Delhi, India: DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2002. The theme of this meeting will be "Ensuring sustainable livelihoods: challenges for governments, corporations, and civil society at Rio+10." For further information visit: <http://www.teriin.org/dsds/index.htm>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/>.

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

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.doc. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland. For further information on WTO events contact: WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org.

6-8 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - MALAWI.

7 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL (FORMAL) SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. The following items-inter alia-are proposed for the agenda: a) work programme for the second phase of the negotiations for continuing the

reform process under Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture; b) review of the negotiations and conclusion of the work programme for the second phase (G/AG/NG/9, Paragraph 5): Statements by Members; and c) Chairperson's outline of her report to the General Council.

7 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF ALGERIA.

13 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL.

14 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

Other Forthcoming Events

13-15 February, Cartagena, Colombia: SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM. For further information contact: Secretary for Governing Council; tel: (254- 2) 623-431; fax: (254-2) 623-929; email: beverly.miller@unep.org; Internet: http://www.unep.org/governingbodies/gc/specialsessions/gcss_vii/. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.ca/linkages/>.

25 February, Brussels, Belgium: EUROPE IN THE WORLD WORKSHOP. The workshop is being organised by the European Rio+10 Coalition. For further information contact: European Partners for the Environment; fax: (32-2) 539-4815; email: info@epe.be; Internet: <http://www.epe.be/>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.ca/linkages/>.

4-5 March, Ottawa, Canada: FIRST JOINT MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS: The meeting will serve as a follow-up to the 2001 First Meeting of the Ministers of the Environment of the Americas. For further information contact: Environment Canada; tel: (1-819) 956-5212; fax: (1-819) 956-5964; email: enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca; Internet: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.ca/linkages/>.

11-12 March, Vancouver, BC, Canada: FORUM ON THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF POPs. The forum is designed to examine current themes and management issues for persistent organic pollutants. The overall objectives of the Forum are to: provide an overview of POPs and the Stockholm Convention; discuss financing for implementing the Convention; and highlight opportunities for governments and industry. The Forum is designed to assist senior policy makers, corporate industry executives and international agency representatives gain a better understanding of POPs and the Stockholm Convention. The Forum also seeks to identify opportunities for both the public and private sector. For further information contact: Candice Ford, Forum Coordinator; tel: (613) 253- 4343 ext.230; email: cford@rfigroup.com.

30 March, Washington, D.C., USA: 7th INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE LAW CONFERENCE. The conference will focus on the effectiveness of the Convention on Biological Diversity after ten years and will also feature several presentations of wildlife trade issues with speakers drawn from the legal, policy and science sectors. For further information contact: William C.G. Burns, Co-Chair, American Society of International Law-Wildlife Interest Group, USA; tel: (1-650) 281-9126; fax: (1-801) 838-4710; email: asilwildlife@pacbell.net; Internet: <http://eelink.net/~asilwildlife>.

29-30 April, Washington, DC, USA: 14TH ANNUAL BANK CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS. The Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) presents and discusses new knowledge about development. For further information contact: Boris Pleskovic, conference organizer; fax: (1-202) 522-0304; email: abcde@worldbank.org; Internet: <http://econ.worldbank.org/abcde/index.php>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.ca/linkages/>.

6-10 May, Canada: CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WEEK 2002: BETTER BUSINESSES, BETTER WORLD. CSR Week 2002 is dedicated to highlighting good corporate citizenship, sustainable economic development, community investment, environmental stewardship and more-all in the context of corporate social responsibility. The aim of CSR Week 2002 is to raise awareness and understanding of CSR with Canadians. For further information contact: email: beaufort@conferenceboard.ca; Internet: http://www.conferenceboard.ca/ccbc/CSR_week/default.htm.

13-14 May, London, UK: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW ROUND - TRADE, INVESTMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AFTER DOHA. Organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, this conference will discuss the major issues arising from the Doha Declaration and look at what the new round will bring to the debate regarding multilateral environmental agreements, dispute settlement, institutional changes, investment and services, agriculture and fisheries, and the role and position of developing countries. For further information contact: Chatham House, London; tel: (44-20) 7957- 5700; fax: 7957-5710; Internet: <http://www.riia.org/>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.ca/linkages/>.

27 May - 7 June, Indonesia: FOURTH SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2002 WSSD. The meeting will include Ministerial and Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Segments, and is expected to result in elements for a concise political document to be submitted to the 2002 Summit. For further information contact: Andrey Vasilyev, DESA, New York; tel: (1-212) 963-5949; email: vasilyev@un.org; Internet: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.ca/linkages/>.

17-22 June, Geneva, Switzerland: SIXTH SESSION OF THE POPS INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE. The committee is for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants. For further information contact: tel: (41-22) 917-8193; fax: (41-22) 797-3460; email: pops@unep.ch. From IISD Linkages:

<http://www.ca/linkages/>.

RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy for review by the BRIDGES staff to Hugo Cameron, hcameron@ictsd.ch. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact Matteo Rizzolli, mrizzolli@ictsd.ch).

NOW AVAILABLE: JANUARY 2002 EDITION OF ICTSD'S BRIDGES BETWEEN TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. News and analysis on trade and sustainable development issue-areas, including this month: Financing for Development; Liberalising environmental services; and Trade concerns in the Kyoto Protocol. Available on the ICTSD website in pdf at: <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/index.htm>.

ICTSD BRIDGES TRADE BIORES. A bi-weekly email publication covering news and events in trade and biological resources. First edition of 2002 available at: <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-01-24/index.htm>; second edition available on 8 February. To subscribe to BRIDGES Trade BioRes, please send an email to subscribe_biores@ictsd.ch. In the body of the message, type subscribe BioRes.

CINCO ESTUDIOS SUDAMERICANOS SOBRE COMERCIO Y MEDIO AMBIENTE. Edited by Nicolas Lucas, and supported by CEPAL, FFLA, FARN, and Instituto Humboldt. The study looks at five cases of trade and environment in South America, including foreign investment in environmental industries; legal, political, socioeconomic and scientific issues around trade in and use of genetically modified organisms. In Spanish. For further information or to obtain a copy, contact: Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano, Av. Atahualpa 1127 y Juan Gonzalez, 2do piso, Casilla 17-17-558, Quito, Ecuador; tel: (593-2) 292-0635; email: ffla@fulano.org; Internet: <http://www.fulano.org/>.

THE JOURNAL OF WTO LAW & POLICY. Published by Scionco Publications. This journal is an interdisciplinary publication dedicated to the examination of WTO rules and their international implications, and is published quarterly. It provides a forum for in-depth analysis of the legal or public policy implications of problems related to WTO law, articulation and examination of proposals and new ideas for the resolution of issues relating to WTO issues, and descriptions of current developments and opinions related to WTO law and policy. The price per annum is 100GBP for the UK and Europe and 120GBP for the rest of the world. You can order a sample copy for 25GBP. For further information contact the Journal of WTO Law and Policy, PO Box 35825, London E11 1WE, UK; email: journalwto@webpawner.com.

A GENUINE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR THE DOHA ROUND OF WTO NEGOTIATIONS. 28 January 2002. This report is a joint statement of United Kingdom

non- governmental organisations NGOs on their view of a genuine development agenda for the Doha Round. The statement can be downloaded in pdf format from http://www.scfuk.org.uk/development/resources/gen_dev_agenda.pdf, or in html from <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/policy/papers/gda/gda.html>. For further information, contact: John Hilary, Trade Policy Adviser, Save the Children, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD, UK; email: j.hilary@scfuk.org.uk.

GATS: A DISSERVICE TO THE POOR. Published by the World Development Movement (WDM), January 2002. The report explores in detail the implications of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) for developing countries. It concludes that the promised benefits of service liberalisation have not always been forthcoming and the potential benefits from GATS for developing countries are extremely limited, particularly for their poorest and most marginalised citizens. The report asserts that GATS extends beyond other WTO agreements by restricting the rights of governments to regulate in the public interest. The report is available in PDF at: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/cambriefs/gatsdiss.pdf>. For a hard copy, email Mark Ellis-Jones (mark@wdm.org.uk) with address details and send GBP3.50 to cover postage and production costs.

REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS IN THE GATT/WTO: ARTICLE XXIV AND THE INTERNAL TRADE REQUIREMENT. By James H. Mathis, 2002. This new book addresses legal aspects of GATT Article XXIV and its "internal" trade requirements as they define the WTO gateway for regional trade agreements. It is geared toward trade lawyers and academics, international economists and policy professionals working with non- discrimination issues and the question of legal compatibility of regional agreements in the WTO.

E-Resources

AGRICULTURAL MARKETS IN BENIN AND MALAWI: THE OPERATION AND PERFORMANCE OF TRADERS. By Marcel Fafchamps and Eleni Gabre-Madhin, 18 December 2001. These surveys of the operation of agricultural traders in two Sub-Saharan African countries suggest that their performance would benefit from policies aimed at increasing their asset base, reducing transaction risk, promoting more sophisticated business practices, and reducing physical marketing costs. The aim is to provide some insights into how agricultural trade could be improved. It suggests possible policy interventions in four main areas: increasing traders' asset base, reducing transaction risk, promoting more sophisticated business practices, and reducing physical marketing costs. For the full text, visit http://econ.worldbank.org/files/3193_wps2734.pdf. The authors may be contacted at marcel.fafchamps@economics.oxford.ac.uk or e.gabre-madhin@cgiar.org.

Position Vacancies at ICTSD

ICTSD is seeking to strengthen its current team of 10 staff plus interns in 2002. We are looking for exceptionally talented and motivated people to join our team at all levels including senior programme and project staff, and interns. We seek people who are demonstrated doers with solid academic backgrounds and an intense interest in understanding and facilitating the policymaking interface between international trade and sustainable development.

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