



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

# BRIDGES

## Weekly Trade News Digest

28 May 2003

Volume 7 Number 19

### LEAD STORIES

INDUSTRIAL MARKET ACCESS MODALITIES APPROVAL AWAITS AGRICULTURE	1
WTO LIMITS NGO ACCESS TO CANCUN MINISTERIAL	2

### ICTSD REPORTING.OTHER NEWS

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARIATS TO ATTEND JULY WTO CTE SESSION	3
SERVICES: WTO MEMBERS REVIEW DOMESTIC REGULATION ANNEX, OVERALL PROGRESS	4

### IN BRIEF

MORE TO DEVELOPMENT THAN AID: REPORT	5
LDC COMMERCE MINISTERS TO ADOPT COMMON STRATEGY ON TRADE	5
EU TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TIMBER TRADE	5
CUBA WITHDRAWS COTONOU APPLICATION	6

### WTO IN BRIEF

CANADA, US DIVIDED OVER INTERPRETATION OF WTO RULING ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER	6
RUSSIAN ACCESSION PUT OFF UNTIL 2004	6

### EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS	7
RESOURCES	8

### LEAD STORIES

#### INDUSTRIAL MARKET ACCESS MODALITIES APPROVAL AWAITS AGRICULTURE

WTO Members convened on 26-28 May for what was supposed to have been the final date for approving market access modalities for non- agricultural goods. However, as was widely expected, the Negotiating Group on Non-agricultural Market Access deadline passed without agreement on a Chair's draft paper submitted on 16 May (see BRIDGES Weekly, 21 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-05-21/story1.htm>).

The missed deadline joins many others, including on special & differential treatment for developing countries, implementation, and notably modalities for negotiations on agriculture (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 April 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-04-02/story1.htm>). Dispute settlement negotiations, which are scheduled to finish this week, also appear set to miss their deadline. Many negotiators are now of the view that progress on non-agricultural market access modalities -- or formulas for achieving the objectives of the negotiations -- must await movement in agriculture.

Members used the 26-28 May meeting to express their first reactions to the draft (TN/MA/W/35, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) by Chair Pierre-Louis Girard (Switzerland). None as yet have rejected it as a basis for negotiation, and most, according to sources, see it as a good start. Of all countries, Japan has objected most strongly to the paper, saying it would prefer the use of an average percentage cut -- as opposed to the draft paper's suggested across-the-board tariff reductions -- that could allow Members to keep sensitive sectors from deep tariff cuts. The Japanese delegation also took issue with the inclusion of fish and fish products, footwear and leather goods as sectors where Members would negotiate eventual tariff elimination.

The formula suggested by the paper, inter alia, is an attempt to meet the Doha Declaration's mandate of 'less than full reciprocity' for developing countries. According to the formula, the higher a country's

**BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest** is [also available online](#) and is updated every week. To subscribe to BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, please visit the ICTSD website at <http://www.ictsd.org/subscribe>

If you require any assistance setting up your BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest subscription, please contact Malena Sell, Editor, by email at: [msell@ictsd.ch](mailto:msell@ictsd.ch), or by telephone at: (41-22) 917-8336

average tariff rate, the less it will be required to reduce its tariffs. Since developing countries on average maintain higher duties than developed countries, the formula would lead developed countries to make proportionally bigger cuts than developing countries.

Not all Members are happy with this arrangement, however. One industrialised country said that it would like to see the modalities cut more into high tariffs, adding that the modalities should not reward those who keep higher duty rates. Some developing countries, primarily those with lower average tariffs such as China and Malaysia, are not fully pleased with the draft either. Others, primarily African countries, are worried about how the modalities might affect preferential market access arrangements. Regarding the special and differential treatment aspects contained in the draft -- such as longer implementation timelines, differential sectoral commitments and exemption of least-developed countries (LDCs) from making reduction commitments -- many developing countries said they wanted more time to reflect and consider their responses.

Some low-income African countries that are not LDCs expressed concern that they might be required to make tariff concessions that could affect an important source of government revenue for them. One developed country Member indicated that the Quad (Canada, the EC, Japan and the US) might be able to show some flexibility in this regard in terms of finding solutions to help those countries, provided they would not put the whole special and differential treatment agenda at risk.

### Environmental Goods

The Quad said that some sectors should be added to the Chair's list of sectors of particular export interest to developing and least-developed country participants that would be scheduled for phased tariff elimination. Namely, they noted the absence of environmental goods, which the Negotiating Group is still attempting to define. Canada said that the sectoral list should also include forest products and chemicals.

The Chair said he would continue consultations through June and July, but sources said it was unlikely the modalities draft will change much from its current form.

The next official meeting of the Negotiating Group on Market Access is scheduled for 18-20 August.

ICTSD reporting.

## WTO LIMITS NGO ACCESS TO CANCUN MINISTERIAL

At an informational session hosted by the Mexican government in Geneva on 27 May on logistics for the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun (10-14 September), the WTO Secretariat and the Cancun Organising Committee informed attending non-governmental organisations (NGOs) of accreditation and logistical matters for Cancun.

Citing the limited capacity of the Cancun Convention Centre (CCC) and the "massive" number of NGOs that have applied for official registration, WTO Director of External Relations Alain Frank told NGOs that the WTO had decided to place strict limits on both the number of representatives an NGO can register and the number of these registered representatives that will be permitted to enter the Convention Centre, where the Ministerial will take place.

### A 3-and-1 approach

According to Frank, and to a 23 May letter sent to every NGO considered eligible for registration, each accredited NGO will be allowed to register three representatives. Of these three, only one will be allowed into the Convention Centre at any given time. The three representatives will each be issued badges allowing them free movement in the high-security zone that will be set up around the Centre, but will have to share a single 'sur-badge' required for entry into the CCC.

Once inside the Convention Centre, NGO representatives and members of the press will have access to the main plenary and briefing rooms, space permitting. Neither will be allowed into the reserved for ministers and delegations only, which will occupy floors 1 and 2 above the ground floor.

Frank said that the WTO was expecting approximately 3000 delegates, and similarly-sized contingents from the press and NGO communities. According to the Cancun Organising Committee, the capacity of the CCC is approximately 5000. It is not the largest such facility in Cancun.

Despite the NGO limitation, there are no formal limitations on the number of representatives that Member country delegations or press organisations can register to gain access to the Conference Centre (the Press Centre will be located inside the CCC).

The announcement to limit access was not well-received by civil society. According to one NGO

representatives, "the WTO has still not learned how to deal with the idea that when Ministers make legally binding agreements with serious implications for democracy -- that the public has the right to listen, engage and react. At first they told us that we could have four participants per NGO. Now they tell us 'three with only one representative having access to the Convention Centre where the meeting is taking place.'" Two years ago, at the last Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, only 647 NGOs -- with one person per NGO -- were granted access to the venue.

One Geneva-based trade observer noted that the limitations on NGO access could well have unforeseen consequences. "It's not the accredited, analysis-oriented NGOs on the inside that they [the WTO and the Mexican government] need to be concerned about, but rather those on the outside. But if they limit access to the Convention Centre to just one NGO representative, there will be a whole lot more out on the street as a result."

An NGO Centre will be set up at the Hotel Sierra, a 20-minute walk from the CCC. It will be open from about 7-8 A.M. to midnight, according to the Cancun Organising Committee. A large room (capacity: 456) is also being reserved at the Fiesta Americana, two minutes from the Convention Centre. Ministers and the WTO Secretariat will be able to use this room for briefings. It will also be equipped with television screens showing some of the proceedings from inside the centre, and will be accessible to all accredited NGOs.

The 23 May WTO letter includes formal registration forms. These registration forms, which require photos of the three representatives, must be returned to the WTO by regular mail no later than 30 June at midnight, GMT. Each NGO has been assigned a code that will allow the registration of three hotel rooms at preferential rates. Reserving additional rooms at the special rate is possible, but will require a letter declaring responsibility for all extra rooms and the people within them. Unregistered individuals will not have access to four so-called 'red zone' hotels (Camino Real, Fiesta Americana, Hyatt Regency, NH Krystal) located near the CCC. The Cancun Organising Committee urged those who intend on attending the Ministerial to book hotels as soon as possible.

The Ministerial Conference website is at <http://www.omcmexico.org.mx>. During the Conference, it will be updated with daily news bulletins and an update on the day's events, both official and unofficial. As in past Ministerial Conferences, ICTSD will also publish daily updates on the negotiations in English, French and Spanish editions.

Melba Pria, the Mexican government's Director of NGO relations for the WTO Ministerial, can be contacted at [mpria@omcmexico.omc.mx](mailto:mpria@omcmexico.omc.mx).

For further information also see ICTSD's Cancun Ministerial webpage at <http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/index.htm>.

ICTSD reporting.

---

## ICTSD REPORTING.OTHER NEWS

---

### ENVIRONMENT SECRETARIATS TO ATTEND JULY WTO CTE SESSION

At a 22 May informal consultation of the WTO special session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), delegates agreed to admit secretariats from six multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) as well as the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to the body's next meeting on 8 July.

The invited secretariats are the same as at the last meeting of the CTE special session (see BRIDGES Weekly, 7 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-05-07/story1.htm>), namely the Basel Convention; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); the Montreal Protocol, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). They have been asked to attend as ad-hoc invitees, and will only be allowed to participate in discussions under paragraph 31(i) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration -- on the relationship between WTO rules and specific trade obligations in MEAs.

In addition to talks on para. 31(i), Members will use the 8 July CTE session to consider a report by Chair Yolande Biké (Gabon) to be submitted under her own responsibility to the Fifth Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico on 10-14 September. Thus far, there has been only one submission from Members on making recommendations to the Ministerial, namely from the EC on consolidating the ad-hoc invitations to MEAs and UNEP, though the EC has not specified what it means by 'consolidating'.

Members did not decide on 22 May whether or not to allow MEA secretariats to attend the October meeting of the CTE special session, preferring instead to wait

until after the Fifth Ministerial in the event a decision is taken on the issue of observership, which remains blocked for political reasons at the level of the General Council.

At the 8 July meeting, Members will also discuss para. 31(ii) -- procedures for regular information exchange between MEA secretariats and relevant WTO committees, and the criteria for the granting of observer status. According to sources, Malaysia, supported by Brazil and other developing countries, said that Members should agree on guidelines / format for MEA participation in the special session, including how they should participate and which MEAs should attend.

ICTSD reporting.

---

### **SERVICES: WTO MEMBERS REVIEW DOMESTIC REGULATION ANNEX, OVERALL PROGRESS**

The WTO Working Party on Domestic Regulation (WPDR) met on 15 May to consider, inter alia, a revised draft proposal by Japan for a General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) Annex on domestic regulation (JOB/ (03)/45, available at: <http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/services/index.htm>). Further, the special (negotiating) session of the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) reconvened on 22 May, primarily to review the overall progress made in the ongoing request/offer negotiations.

#### **Proposal for GATS Annex on domestic regulation under development**

The initial Japanese proposal for a domestic regulation Annex was presented at the March meeting of the WPDR (see Bridges Weekly, 5 March 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-03-05/story3.htm>). At that time, the Japanese proposal received various comments from WTO Members, which Japan tried to address in the recently released revised proposal. The new proposal seeks to develop the content of article VI.4 (domestic regulation) of the GATS and to facilitate trade in services by ensuring that measures relating to licensing and qualifications requirements and procedures, and technical standards do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services.

Such an annex to the GATS could have implications with regard to sustainable development. Licensing and qualification requirements and technical standards are government tools for assuring the competence and ability of a services supplier, whether an entity or a natural person. They also define the characteristics and

the manner in which a service is performed. As a result, they can be essential for ensuring quality, expertise, capability, safety, sound environmental and social performance and the use of particular methods of production.

#### **Content of the revised draft annex**

The revised draft Annex applies to measures affecting trade in services, including those relating to licensing and qualification requirements and procedures as well as technical standards. The revised draft Annex contains: general transparency provisions; provisions to ensure that measures are not more burdensome than necessary to fulfil national policy objectives (necessity test); due process-like provisions regarding administrative guidance by governments relating to licenses and qualifications; and the availability of administrative and judicial reviews. The reviewed draft annex does not preclude Members from developing disciplines for specific sectors.

#### **New elements and the WPDR debate**

The Japanese revised Annex differs from the first in clarifying that it only applies to sectors where specific commitments are undertaken. This was a response to requests by various developing country Members for such a clarification -- a view not shared by the US and the EU, who would like to see an Annex on domestic regulation applying horizontally to all sectors, whether commitments have been taken or not.

Regarding the applicability of Mode 4, (temporary movement of persons), the Japanese proposal continues to exclude the disciplines in the revised Annex. Nevertheless, the Japanese introductory note to the proposal indicates the need to examine whether the disciplines contained in the Annex should apply to measures regulating the entry of natural persons or if alternative disciplines should be elaborated for this particular mode. In the view of many developing countries, the exclusion of Mode 4 in the Japanese proposal is artificial and responds more to "protectionist" interests regarding visa-granting procedures than to actual considerations of a technical nature.

Various developing countries, including Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Uruguay and Peru reacted positively to the revised Annex. They consider it could be a good base for implementing article VI.4 of the GATS. However, concerns were expressed regarding the necessity test, burdensome procedures for the request of information and public comment procedures, the definition of a "reasonable" period of time and the exclusion of any of specific commitments on Mode 4.



**CTS reviews progress made in services negotiations**

When Members reconvened on 22 May for a negotiating session of Council for Trade in Services (CTS) (for the first day of the meeting see BRIDGES Weekly, 21 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-05-21/story3.htm>), the discussions mainly concentrated on a review of the progress made in the services trade negotiations. Sources close to the negotiations reported that several key Members such as the EU and Japan had expressed their concern that some offers tabled by other (primarily developing country) Members were not very substantial. In their reactions, many developing countries reportedly defended their cautious services offers by pointing to certain developed countries' positioning in other negotiating areas -- particularly agriculture -- which they said showed a similar degree of ambition as their own offers in services.

Furthermore, so as to provide for adequate transparency with regard to the current request/offer exercise, some Members suggested that the Secretariat could prepare a note on the initial offers received so far -- outlining which countries have tabled offers, which sectors have been covered, etc. Nevertheless, no decision was made on this point as various developing countries objected to this proposal. They reportedly said that no such tool was needed, as interested parties could contact the Chair of the CTS special session to get related information on an informal basis.

ICTSD reporting.

---

**IN BRIEF**

---

---

**MORE TO DEVELOPMENT THAN AID:  
REPORT**

---

On 26 May, the Centre for Global Development and Foreign Policy Magazine launched their Commitment to Development Index (CDI) in Geneva, which ranks 21 of the world's richest nations according to how much their policies in six areas help or hinder the economic and social development of poor countries. The six areas include aid, trade, environment, investment, peacekeeping, and migration policies. The Netherlands ranks top while the world's two largest aid donors, Japan and the US, finish last. Participants of the launch welcomed the Index as an important stride towards building a popular base in rich countries in support of

development, underscoring the need to link the CDI to delivering the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. On trade, where the US came out first, several participants noted that results would likely have been different had the Index, in addition to looking at market access, taken into account "the rules of market access and trade", such as subsidies and anti-dumping measures. Also, the Index did not factor in the positions adopted by rich countries in multilateral trade negotiations, such as on intellectual property rights and health, they noted.

The Index is available at <http://www.cgdev.org/>.

ICTSD reporting.

---

**LDC COMMERCE MINISTERS TO ADOPT  
COMMON STRATEGY ON TRADE**

---

Trade ministers of the 49 least-developed countries (LDCs) meeting on 31 May - 2 June in Dhaka, Bangladesh, are expected to finalise their common strategy on trade for the next WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico, in September, according to Bangladesh's Commerce Minister Amir Kasru Mahmud Chowdhury. "LDCs have no alternative...but to adopt trade as a principal too for fighting poverty," Chowdhury noted. The countries are likely to call for the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers, facilitated movement of natural persons from poor countries to developed nations, simplified rules of origin on the exports from the LDCs, financial assistance for trade-related technical cooperation and technology transfer.

"Bangladesh to urge trade strategy for poor nations,"  
REUTERS, 24 May 2003.

---

**EU TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TIMBER TRADE**

---

The EU announced on 21 May an Action Plan to combat illegal logging and trade in related timber products. Global forest product trade is worth US\$ 150 billion per year, and according to the European Commission, "in some forest-rich countries, the corruption fuelled by profits from illegal logging has grown to such an extent that it is undermining the rule of law, principles of democratic government and respect for human rights". According to the World Bank, developing country governments are currently losing US\$10-15 billion annually due to illegal logging. Under the FLEGT Action Plan, the EU would support improved governance in wood-producing countries and initiate voluntary partnerships with these countries to ensure that only legally harvested timber entered the EU

market. The Action Plan would also seek to strengthen international collaboration to combat illegal timber trade. The European Commission approved the FLEGT Action Plan just prior to the UN Forum on Forest, which is taking place from 26 May to 6 June in Geneva.

For further information, refer to the Royal Institute of International Affairs' "Illegal-logging.info" website, which provides information on the current international debate around the control of illegal logging and forest crimes: <http://www.illegal-logging.info/>.

"E.U. bids to cut down worldwide illegal timber trade," REUTERS, 20 May 2003; "Commission adopts Action Plan to combat illegal logging and the trade in illegal timber," EC PRESS RELEASE, 21 May 2003.

---

### **CUBA WITHDRAWS COTONOU APPLICATION**

Cuba announced on 19 May its intention to withdraw its application to join the Cotonou Agreement. Under this agreement, the EU provides its former colonies in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region with trade preferences and aid. Had Cuba become a member, EU aid to the country would have tripled. However, in a review in April the EU had decided to hold up the Cuban application process due to human rights concerns. According to a Cuban official, this move was seen as an unacceptable attempt to pressure the country into approving external conditions. The EU had criticised Cuba for the severe treatment of 70 dissidents and for the execution of three hijackers in April.

"Cuba Withdraws Application To Join EU Aid-And-Trade Pact," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 19 May 2003; "Castro Slams the Door Once Again," IPS, 20 May 2003.

---

### **WTO IN BRIEF**

---

#### **CANADA, US DIVIDED OVER INTERPRETATION OF WTO RULING ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER**

Canada claimed vindication in the long-running softwood lumber dispute between Canada and the US after the WTO ruled this week in favour of Canada that timber-harvesting ('stumpage') fees administered by its provincial governments were not subsidies. The US, however, dismissed Canada's claim of victory as premature. The panel had ruled against the US' 18.79

percent countervailing duties on Canadian lumber, arguing that while the system of 'stumpage fees' used in some Canadian provinces to sell cutting rights on public land could theoretically be used as a subsidy, the US trade figures did not show that this was the case. "There is no longer any question that the United States can impose countervailing duties against softwood lumber imports from Canada," a US trade official said. "The only question now is the amount of the countervailing duties that the United States can impose," he added. The ruling -- and the countries' reactions -- echoed a very similar WTO ruling last year when the US duties were still temporary (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-02/story2.htm>). Canadian Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew said he expected the US to appeal the panel decision. Canada believes that the ruling will also support its suit filed with a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) panel against the US duties.

"Canada claims vindication with WTO softwood ruling," REUTERS, 27 May 2003.

---

### **RUSSIAN ACCESSION PUT OFF UNTIL 2004**

Russia's chief negotiator at the WTO said on 20 May that the country will not accede this year. In late 2002, when WTO Members and Russia had agreed on a new, accelerated accession schedule, they had hoped that the ten-year process could have been finalised by the time of the fifth WTO Ministerial in Cancun in September this year (see BRIDGES Weekly, 20 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-12-20/wtoinbrief.htm>). However -- according to chief negotiator Maxim Medvedkov -- Russia will not enter this year, and will make use of a longer break in negotiations to fine tune negotiating positions. The next meeting of the WTO Working Party on the Accession of Russia will be held on 7 July, and Working Party Chair Kare Bryn said that during this meeting "we will completely finish the stage of questions and answers and will be able to get to the core issue of working out Russia's obligations".

"Russia WTO entry working group to hold next meeting July 7," PRIME-TASS, 19 May 2003; "Russia sees no chance of entering WTO in 2003," REUTERS, 20 May 2003.

## 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](mailto:events@ictsd.ch).

#### Coming Up: 29 May - 4 June

26 May - 6 June, Geneva, Switzerland: THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF-3). Delegates will discuss a variety of issues, including: means of implementation; progress in implementation, specifically related to economic aspects of forests, forest health and productivity, and maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs; and common items. For further information, contact: Mia Soderlund, UNFF Secretariat, tel: (212) 963-3262, fax: 963-4260, email: [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org), Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>.

1-3 June, Evian, France: G8 SUMMIT. World Leaders will meet to discuss issues relating to globalisation. Among the proposed themes are solidarity, with particular emphasis on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and access to water for all. Other topics include government and corporate responsibility, security and democracy. For further information see: <http://www.g8.fr/evian/english/home.html>

1-12 June, Bonn, Germany: 18TH SESSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC SB-18). The Subsidiary Bodies will meet to continue negotiations on the institutional and implementation aspects of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. For further information, contact: UNFCCC Secretariat, tel: (49 228) 815-1000, fax: 815-1999; email: [secretariat@unfccc.int](mailto:secretariat@unfccc.int), Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int>

2-3 June, Mexico City, Mexico: MONTERREY BRIDGE COALITION MEXICO ACTION SUMMIT. This meeting is aimed at leaders and stakeholders from around the world, allowing them to explore how increased food production to feed the rural poor can be made compatible with natural resource management and biodiversity stewardship. The participants will examine how international trade and domestic subsidy policies can be reformed to make sustainable development possible, and the summit will provide an action programme for cooperation between business,

governments, multilateral institutions and civil society from developing and developed countries. For further information, contact: Monterrey Bridge Coalition, Future Harvest Foundation, tel: +1-202-223-1313; Internet: <http://www.futureharvest.org/>.

2-5 June, Brussels, Belgium: EUROPEAN GREEN WEEK CONFERENCE. The European Commission's Environment Directorate-General is sponsoring a "Green Week" conference aimed at bringing together local, regional and national decision-makers, as well as environmental stakeholders including companies, industry associations and non-governmental organisations. Key environmental issues to be discussed include sustainable consumption and production, renewable energy, climate change and water. For further information, contact: EC/EDG; fax: +32-2-29-69560; e-mail: [mailto:env-greenweek@cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto:env-greenweek@cec.eu.int); Internet: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index_en.htm).

4 June, Toronto, Canada: DRIVING THE RETURN ON RESPONSIBILITY - CEO STRATEGIES FOR THE 21st CENTURY. Organised by Corporate Knights Roundtable. Emerging social and environmental issues in business are creating a new leadership challenge for Canada's corporate elite. Organised by Corporate Knights Roundtable Inc., "Driving the Return on Responsibility," is committed to helping Canadian firms find value creation levers through corporate responsibility. A major objective of the conference will be to set 10 national goals for corporate responsibility in Canada. Join the business, government and NGO communities and Ralph Nader on 4 June at the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto. For further information, contact: Jordan Gold, tel: +1-416-305-2578; e-mail: [jordan@corporateknights.ca](mailto:jordan@corporateknights.ca); Internet: <http://www.ckroundtable.ca>.

4 June, London, UK: SEMINAR ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND JUDICIAL LEGISLATION: WHERE IS THE BOUNDARY? This is the final seminar in a series on "The Function of International Courts and Tribunals". Organised by the Centre for International Courts and Tribunals the seminar will be led by guest lecturer Professor Laurence Boisson de Chazournes from the University of Genova. Please confirm your attendance. For further information contact Heather Watson, tel: +44 (0) 20 7679 1439; fax: +44 (0) 20 7209 3468, Internet: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/laws/cict>.

4-6 June, Montreal, Canada: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONGRESS (IEDC). The conference, entitled "Global Alliances," will bring

competitors together and document the successes of those businesses that have achieved economic development. It will also provide current perspectives on the EU, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Europe, and the Pacific Rim. For more information, please visit: <http://www.iedconline.org/InternationalCongress/index.html>.

### WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/meets.pdf](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, and are open to WTO Members and accredited observers only.

4 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN CIVIL AIRCRAFT.

### Other forthcoming meetings

10-12 June, Carillo Puerto, Mexico: ZONA MAYA MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR CANCUN. The International Forum on Globalization (IFG) and the Organization of Communal Forest Producers of the Zona Maya (OEPFZM) are organising a meeting to prepare for the upcoming WTO Ministerial in Cancun, Mexico. The meeting's agenda will focus on two objectives: to deepen the understanding among forest groups of the potential impacts of WTO on forests and to explore what can be done to impact WTO decisions in Cancun. To better know the emerging alternatives, and truly comprehend "what's at stake," a visit to at least one forest community that has been FSC-certified will be organised. For further information contact Victor Menotti, IFG, tel: +1-415-561-3482; email: [vmenotti@ifg.org](mailto:vmenotti@ifg.org).

23 June, Washington, D.C., US: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE TRADE IN THE AMERICAS? LESSONS FROM MEXICO. This meeting is organised by WWF, the Texas Center for Policy Studies, Global Development and Environment Institute - Tuft's University, Fronteras Comunes and Pesticide Action Network - Mexico (RAPAM). In this symposium, Mexican and US researchers will present their findings from two new reports on the social and environmental impacts of NAFTA. Through a series of case studies, panelists will discuss key impacts on Mexico's economy and environment and present policy recommendations, particularly for the on-going CAFTA and FTAA

negotiations. Several of the case studies are available at <http://www.texascenter.org/bordertrade/reports.htm>. For further information and to confirm your participation, please contact Priscilla Stephan, email: [priscilla.stephan@wwfus.org](mailto:priscilla.stephan@wwfus.org).

---

## RESOURCES

### WTO Resources

REFLECTION PAPER ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPING AND LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (2003), Communication from the European Communities and their member States, WT/WGTTT/W/5 and IP/C/W/398, 14 February 2003. Available on the WTO website at: <http://docsonline.wto.org/>.

THE WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY (2003), Communication from Cuba, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, WT/WGTTT/W/6, 7 May 2003. Available on the WTO website at: <http://docsonline.wto.org/>.

CREATING INCENTIVES FOR THE TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES (EST) - The Experience of the Swiss Development Cooperation, Communication from Switzerland, WT/WGTTT/W/7, 9 May 2003. Available on the WTO website at: <http://docsonline.wto.org/>.

### Other Resources

CONFRONTING GLOBALISATION: ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND POPULAR RESISTANCE IN MEXICO. Edited by Timothy A. Wise, Hilda Salazar, and Laura Carlsen (Kumarian Press, 2003). The authors seek to tell globalisation's untold stories: its social and environmental costs and the grassroots search for alternative paths. They highlight how indigenous coffee farmers fight for a place in the global market, how sweatshop workers demand safe working conditions and basic labor rights, and how corn farmers organise to prevent the flood of imported grain from driving them off the land. The editors set the context and draw lessons from these real stories, offering a grounding in how trade policies affect vulnerable communities and the environment and what those communities are doing to defend themselves and promote their own homegrown alternatives. For further information see <http://www.kpbooks.com/details.asp?title=Confronting+Globalization>.

CHANGING LANDSCAPES. By Duncan Poore (Earthscan, May 2003). The author reviews the evolution of policies for the sustainable use of tropical



forests through a history of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). Beginning with an introduction to the ecological, historical and socio-economic trends that have influenced contemporary global forest management regimes, he goes on to explore the complex political forces that have shaped the trade in tropical timber and its regulation. For further information visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3949&field=new>.

VITAL SIGNS. Worldwatch Institute (2003). Vital Signs 2003 comprises a set of global indicators that together document the trends that are shaping our future in analyses and tables and graphs. This twelfth volume of the Worldwatch Institute series finds that the twin goals of protecting Earth's fragile ecosystems and improving the prospects of billions of people will not be achieved as long as humanity remains divided into the extremes of rich and poor. For further information visit: <http://www.worldwatch.org/pubs/vs/2003/>.

"Can corals be harvested sustainably?". By Vicki Harriott in AMBIO (Volume 32, Nr.2 2003). The international coral trade is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) agreement, which requires that export of corals is not detrimental to the species. The primary coral importing regions (USA and Europe) have threatened to limit or ban coral imports unless sustainable practices can be demonstrated. The spatial and temporal scale at which sustainability is defined is important in evaluating sustainability, e.g. at geological, regional or local scales. Other major issues are: the ecology of the target species; management options including provision of no-take areas; and the potential for coral culture. Implementation of practices that enhance ecological sustainability in the coral harvest fishery is possible, but may be difficult in some developing countries because of limited natural-resource management capacity.

TRADE STRUCTURE AND GROWTH. By William Maloney and Daniel Lederman (World Bank April 2003). Lederman and Maloney examine the empirical relationships between trade structure and economic growth, particularly the influence of natural resource abundance, export concentration, and intra-industry trade. They test the robustness of these relationships across proxies, control variables, and estimation techniques. The authors find trade variables to be important determinants of growth, especially natural resource abundance and export concentration. In contrast with much of the recent literature, natural resource abundance appears to have a positive effect on growth, whereas export concentration hampers growth, even after controlling for physical and human capital accumulation, among other factors. For further

information and to download the report visit <http://econ.worldbank.org/view.php?type=5&id=25647>.

AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH IN RAPIDLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Edited by Frank Murray and Gordon McGranahan (Earthscan, May 2003). In this book, researchers in both the scientific and policy dimensions of air pollution and health have synthesised the recent developments in the field and their relevance for public health in developing countries. The authors review studies from Asian, African and Latin American countries and contrast the findings with those from Europe and North America. They also describe various tools and systems for air pollution management and emphasise approaches that can be used when data are scarce. For further information visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3927&field=new>.

CAPTURING CARBON AND CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY - THE MARKET APPROACH. Edited by Ian Swingland (Earthscan, May 2003). The authors make a case for the maximum use of carbon sinks, particularly in the developing world. Representing ecologists, conservationists, economists, lawyers, community and tribal specialists, financial specialists, climatologists, and project developers, they highlight the benefits of a market-based system of reducing and sequestering carbon. Combined with emissions trading, this approach would maximise benefit to the rural poor and indigenous people, while promoting habitat preservation and biodiversity, watershed protection, and the mitigation of global warming. Such a strategy would be the lowest cost approach, and the one most likely to succeed where central planning has failed. The authors seek to move beyond theory to show how people can build such a self-sustaining system by exploring the range of instruments available, and what can be achieved in the absence of undue regulation. For further information visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3944&field=new>.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES. The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) has launched an updated version of this CD-ROM. The CD-ROM is available free of charge in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish), and is part of the Organisation's efforts to raise awareness about the role of intellectual property (IP) in leveraging business development and improving competitiveness among the global SME community. These information tools are designed to enable SMEs to fully capitalise on their intellectual assets and to use the tools of the intellectual property system to advance their business goals. The CD-ROM seeks to supplement IP resources used for teaching and training business aspects of IP in

law, engineering and management courses in a number of countries. For further information see <http://www.wipo.int/sme>.

A searchable archive of **BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest**® can be accessed at:  
[http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/WhichBulletin.cfm?Bulletin\\_ID=14&SID=](http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/WhichBulletin.cfm?Bulletin_ID=14&SID=)

**BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest**® is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), <http://www.ictsd.org/>. Electronic distribution is carried out by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP).

Contributors to this issue of **BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest**® are Heike Baumüller, Cecile Giraud, David Primack and Alex Werth. Editor: Malena Sell, [msell@ictsd.ch](mailto:msell@ictsd.ch). Managing Editor is Hugo Cameron. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, [rmelendez@ictsd.ch](mailto:rmelendez@ictsd.ch). ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 13, ch. des Anémones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 917-8492; fax: 917-8093. Excerpts from **BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest**® may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editor or the Director.

**BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest** is made possible in 2001 - 2003 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). The **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 1563-003X