



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
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LEAD STORIES

AFRICA-US TRADE SUMMIT DISCUSSES FUTURE OF AFRICAN TRADE

Ministers and trade negotiators from sub-Saharan Africa and the US met in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 13-17 January to discuss developments under the US' African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). During the meeting -- the second US-Sub-Saharan African Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, or AGOA Summit -- US President Bush stated that he would extend the AGOA beyond the current deadline of 2008. The meeting was held in accordance with a mandate under the AGOA for a ministerial-level Forum and a parallel private sector session every year. A trade exhibition and an NGO forum were also held, and over 900 African businesses participated. The AGOA, signed by former US President Bill Clinton in May 2000, provides duty and quota-free access for nearly 2000 products from 38 (of 48) sub-Saharan African countries deemed to be promoting good governance and market economies.

AGOA Summit Outcomes

US President Bush, who opted to stay in the US during the 13-17 January AGOA Summit, sent a message to the conference, stating that he would seek for the extension in the US Congress of the AGOA beyond its current 2008 expiration. Mauritian Prime Minister Anerood Juganauth welcomed the announcement, saying it would allow for longer-term planning. US business representatives also said they were pleased, as the move would "give Africa the time it needs to become competitive." Bush also reiterated his intention to increase development aid by 50 percent over the next three years, to US\$15 billion from US\$10 billion -- much of which would target Africa -- and said the US would "continue to lead the world" in funding for HIV/AIDS.

Speaking in Mauritius, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick emphasised trade as the surest path to peace and prosperity in Africa. He reiterated an earlier US call for a global reduction in agricultural tariffs, saying that "Africa would benefit greatly from reducing or even eliminating subsidies and other barriers to trade," and

that the US was willing to lead the way. He said African farmers would benefit from being able to sell agricultural products in developed countries currently heavily subsidising their farmers.

However, some African officials commented that African farmers cannot afford to comply with developed country sanitary rules, and said African farmers themselves are in need of government support. Magnus Kpakol, chief economic advisor to Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo, commented that "I am not so sure that we are in a position that our farmers can be competitive around the world without some support." The US itself last year raised domestic agricultural support, providing subsidies to the US farm sector estimated at some USD 82 billion over the next decade (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 May 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-05-15/story2.htm>).

On a related issue, Summit participants discussed genetically modified organisms (GMOs), with the US pressing African countries at risk of starvation to accept genetically modified food aid from the US. Some countries, such as Zambia, have rejected such food aid. A US spokesman said that accepting the food aid would "help the people of Africa to eat the same food that the American people eat, and...relieve the famine. Unfortunately this type of food is being prevented from being received by the people of Africa."

Uncertain future

Many Summit participants welcomed the promise by Bush to seek the extension of the AGOA. However, some raised concerns about the sustainability of the initiative and its future impacts. They questioned whether the economic growth spurred by the AGOA could be maintained when the African privileges are cancelled out by wider global deals under the WTO, forcing African countries to compete in an increasingly open market. A recent World Bank study points to just such a challenge (see "The Perversity of Preferences: GSP and Developing Country Trade Policies" in the Resources section, this issue). The study shows that textile import quotas will be discontinued in 2005, meaning African exporters will be expected to compete on the same terms as others on the US market. According to the AGOA, all textiles from Africa must also be made from African fabrics by 2004, a deadline African trade officials at the AGOA Summit lobbied to be moved forward into the future.

A Civil Society Forum held in parallel to the Summit ended its meeting with the establishment of an AGOA Civil Society Network. The Forum made recommendations geared toward making the benefits of AGOA more accessible to all members of society, including to making the AGOA a package that caters

also to human development concerns, and the recognition that trade alone is no solution for Africa.

AGOA background: mixed results from trade

Since the AGOA entered into force, exports from Africa to the US, excluding oil, have increased by 50 percent. Textile exports have accounted for a large share of exports, though much of the growth from AGOA has been uneven. The US is now the biggest importer of African goods and an additional US\$1 billion has been invested in Africa as a result of the AGOA -- partly by Asian investors, coming to Africa for inexpensive labour costs and to escape textiles quotas in Asia. Kenyan textile exports have quadrupled under the AGOA, and 21 percent of South African exports are related to the AGOA.

However, the impacts of the AGOA have been uneven, and Africa's share of global trade as a whole has fallen from about five percent in the 1960s to less than two percent. Many countries have difficulties making use of the AGOA, due to poor infrastructure, obsolete technology, and lack of capital and resources. For example, Senegal's textile industries are closing rather than flourishing, and Nigeria has problems attracting investment due to problems with corruption. Some African civil society groups also disapprove of the US' "eligibility requirements" for the AGOA nations, which include economic liberalisation, privatisation of public assets, minimisation of government control over private business and US-style legal systems, and critics claim that US interests do not go beyond oil and fostering of closer African links to advance its war on terror.

"Africa-US Trade Conference Closes But Questions Remain," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 17 January 2003; "Foundation for Democracy in Africa," PRESS RELEASE, 17 January 2003; "African Officials Applaud Bush Plan For Trade Extension," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 16 January 2003; "US Trade Deal Brings Mixed Success To African Nations," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 6 January 2003; "US renews farm tariff cut idea at Africa meeting," REUTERS, 15 January 2003; "Bush Offers Africa \$5B In Aid, Eased Trading Rules," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 15 January 2003; "African Groups Set to Protest U.S. Forum in Mauritius," IPS, 10 January 2003.

WTO APPELLATE BODY RULES AGAINST US ON ANTIDUMPING

On 16 January the WTO Appellate Body delivered its decision on a dispute relating to US legislation that allows American companies to claim money collected from antidumping or countervailing duty orders on foreign imports. In its decision, the Appellate Body

upheld an earlier WTO panel ruling that found that the US Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 (CDSOA) -- popularly known as the Byrd Amendment -- constitutes an act against dumping and subsidisation, which is not allowed under WTO rules (see document WT/DS217/AB/R, available online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>).

The Appellate Body upheld the panel's key finding that the Byrd Amendment "is a non-permissible specific action against dumping or a subsidy" contrary to Article 18.1 of the WTO's Antidumping Agreement (ADA) and Article 32.1 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement). The Appellate Body, however, did reverse the panel's earlier finding that the Byrd Amendment would result in more applications for the initiation of antidumping and countervailing investigations by providing a financial incentive to US companies to file such applications. The Appellate Body declared that the panel had no evidence for making such an "overreaching conclusion."

The EU, one of eleven WTO Members that filed a joint complaint against the US legislation, said the US should repeal the Byrd amendment "without delay," given "the clear WTO inconsistency of the law itself and the very broad interests affected."

The three-member panel which ruled against the Byrd Amendment last September agreed with the complainants that the best way for the US to comply with its ruling was by rescinding the legislation altogether. The Appellate Body was not asked to rule on the panel's suggestion, and merely recommended that the US "bring the CDSOA into conformity with its obligations" under the ADA and SCM Agreement. The US noted that the language of the Byrd Amendment does not refer to the constituent elements of dumping or subsidisation, nor is dumping and subsidisation the trigger for the application of the legislation and the redistribution of duties.

In its ruling, the Appellate Body agreed with the panel in rejecting the US arguments. "It is clear from the text...that the CDSOA offset payments are inextricably linked to, and strongly correlated with, a determination of dumping...or a determination of a subsidy," the Appellate Body declared.

The Appellate Body said it was not necessary that the Byrd Amendment make an explicit reference to dumping or subsidisation in order to constitute a specific action against dumping or subsidisation. In the 1916 Act ruling, "we required that the constituent elements of dumping (or of a subsidy) be "present," which in our view can include cases where the

constituent elements of dumping and of a subsidy are implicit in the measure," the Appellate Body declared.

ICTSD Reporting; "WTO Appellate Body Condemns Byrd Law As U.S. Considers Repeal" INSIDE U.S. TRADE, 17 January 2003; "Appellate Panel Upholds WTO Decision Against Byrd Amendment; EU Seeks Repeal" WTO REPORTER, 17 January 2003.

OTHER NEWS

CLIMATE CHANGE: RUSSIA DELAYS RATIFICATION, US CARBON MARKET LAUNCHED

Following Canada's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol at the end of 2002, Russia has become the next focus of attention by climate change observers, as its ratification would trigger the Protocol's entry into force. However, Russian Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Maxim Yakovenko told journalists in mid-January that while the political issues related to ratification have been resolved, the economic issues have not yet been settled, and no date has yet been set for ratification. Experts have voiced their concern that delays at this point could "wreck the deal" underlying the Kyoto Protocol, which many say is already weak due to the absence of US support. Delays would also make planning activities in countries that have ratified difficult. A Greenpeace representative in Russia said the delays were due only to bureaucratic inefficiencies, and noted that Russia stood to obtain substantial economic gain from carbon trading.

While the US is not planning to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, the US private sector is nevertheless proceeding with carbon trading schemes. The Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) announced on 16 January that trading in greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, would begin this spring under a four-year pilot programme. The CCX has 14 members, including multinational corporations, and hopes to attract further members and to extend the programme beyond the pilot phase. The members -- committed to voluntary reductions of greenhouse gas emissions by one percent annually over the next four years based on 1998-2001 levels -- include Motorola, Ford Motor Co., DuPont, Finland-based Stora Enso, and American Electric Power, the largest carbon dioxide emitter in the US. Sources indicate that the participating companies hope the credits will eventually become internationally tradeable. The Bush administration, for its part, is seeking voluntary pledges, to be announced at the

White House on 6 February, in an effort to show that voluntarily controlling emissions can make mandatory reductions unnecessary.

"Russia delays global warming pact, may wreck deal," REUTERS, 17 January 2003; "US pressing for cuts in greenhouse gases," REUTERS, 21 January 2003; "Greenhouse gases rise to exchange-traded status," REUTERS, 17 January 2003; "Big names join effort to tackle global warming," CHICAGO BUSINESS, 17 January 2003; "Shareholders act on global Warming," MSNBC, 16 January 2003.

IN BRIEF

EU BANS ANIMAL TESTING FOR COSMETICS

On 15 January, the European Parliament approved an EU-wide ban on the use of animals to test cosmetic products. Testing will be prohibited by 2009, and apply also to products originating outside the EU. The ban, which has been debated for over ten years, was approved by a vast majority of Members of the European Parliament across political parties. Animal rights groups welcomed the ban, noting however that loopholes still exist that allow animal testing until 2013 or beyond in some cases in which "insufficient non-animal tests are available." Representatives of the cosmetics industry, on the other hand, expressed grave concern, noting that the ban may lead to a trade dispute with the US or other trading partners who use animal testing methods, and that the timeline for finding alternative testing systems is too tight. Annick Colman of Colipa, the European Cosmetic Toiletry & Perfumery Association, cautioned that "the rules diminish consumer choice and could create a black market for products that are made in the US, Japan or China." The EU is, however, planning to work with the US to develop alternative testing methods that could be accepted at an international level.

"EU bans 'cruel beauty' cosmetics tested on animals," REUTERS, 17 January 2003; "EU bans animal testing for cosmetics," BBC ONLINE, 15 January 2003; "EU Animal-Testing Ban Could Spark US Cosmetics Trade Row," DOW JONES, 15 January 2003.

US, MOROCCO LAUNCH FREE TRADE TALKS

On 21 January, the US and Morocco launched negotiations for a bilateral free trade agreement. The talks are the first bilateral negotiations the US has launched with a Northern African country, and the move has raised concerns in Europe, which has its own plan in place aimed at gradually freeing up trade with Morocco. At the launch of the negotiations, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick noted that the agreement "sends a signal throughout a tempestuous region of America's support for tolerant, open and more prosperous Muslim societies." He stressed that Morocco is a close US ally in the war against terrorism. The bilateral agreement, scheduled to be concluded by the end of the year, is the second such agreement the US has with an Arab country (the first was concluded with Jordan in 2001). It follows on new bilateral free trade agreements between the US and Singapore and Chile, as well as negotiations recently launched between the US and five Central American countries as well as five Southern African countries (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 January 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-01-15/inbrief.htm#2>).

"U.S. in free-trade talks with Muslim ally Morocco," REUTERS, 21 January 2003; "Morocco, US raise EU hackles," APF, 20 January 2003; "US, Morocco To Launch Free Trade Talks Tuesday," DOW JONES, 17 January 2003.

AFRICAN SOCIAL FORUM DEBATES 'ANOTHER AFRICA'

The second African Social Forum (ASF), held from 5-9 January, conveyed strong anti-globalisation and anti-imperial sentiments. This event, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, brought together more than 200 participants rallying around the theme "Another Africa is possible." The meeting, overlapping with the Asian Social Forum -- held from 2-7 January in Hyderabad, India -- reaffirmed the participants' shared rejection of the neo-liberal, global system. The ASF is affiliated with the World Social Forum, an annual meeting in Porto Alegre, Brazil, which is held as an alternative to the World Economic Forum held yearly in Davos, Switzerland. Several presentations were made in Addis Ababa on issues such as international trade, privatisation, debt, the African Union, and questions of food security. Calling for an end to privatisation of basic social services on the African continent, massive debt relief, and the abolition of WTO-enforced TRIPs, the ASF stated that it "will build Another Africa that is independent, self-reliant and prosperous."

For further information visit:
<http://www.portoalegre2003.org/publique/>.

"Another Africa is Possible," ECONOMIC POLICY E-BULLETIN, Issue No. 5.

the fifth Ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, in September.

"Japan wants WTO ministers to take up 'new' issues," KYODO NEWS, 17 January 2003.

EU-US DISPUTE OVER GMOS HEATING UP

According to sources, the US National Security Council is set to schedule a cabinet-level meeting in the next two weeks to discuss whether to mount a legal challenge at the WTO of the EU's de facto moratorium on the market approval of new genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Support for such a challenge appears to be growing in the US, with US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick calling for a case to be brought "sooner rather than later". His position was supported by a number of farm-state senators who in a letter to US President Bush urged the President to "take that step without delay". European Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler, however, warned that the US would lose out if it were to challenge the de facto moratorium, regardless of the outcome. He added that even if the US won the case, it would jeopardise the possibility of "real dialogue" that was necessary to move to a less emotional debate.

For further details on the EU-US dispute and other biotech-related news, see the 23 January issue of BRIDGES Trade BioRes.

ICTSD reporting.

WTO IN BRIEF

JAPAN CALLS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON INVESTMENT

On 17 January, Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Takeo Hiranuma, called for the inclusion of new topics, such as investment rules, at an upcoming WTO informal ministerial meeting. The meeting will be held from 14-15 February in Tokyo, and will focus primarily on advancing the agricultural negotiations, for which there is a 31 March deadline around the corner. Minister Hiranuma said Japan considers investment rules and antidumping rules to be "very significant." The WTO is set to decide on whether and when negotiations on investment will take place at

ENVIRONMENT NEGOTIATING GROUP TO BEGIN WTO-MEA TALKS IN EARNEST

When it meets on 12-13 February, the special (negotiating) session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) is expected to focus on its mandate of clarifying the relationship between WTO rules and specific trade obligations in MEAs. The meeting, which will be the group's first in 2003, will follow up from a 12 November 2002 session wherein Members reached a compromise agreement on how to structure talks around the WTO-MEA linkage (see BRIDGES Weekly, 14 November 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-11-14/story1.htm>). As such, according to trade sources, discussions will centre around specific trade obligations contained in certain MEAs, particularly those outlined in Secretariat document WT/CTE/W/160/Rev.1 (available online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>). The special session will be followed on 14 February by a regular meeting of the CTE, where Members are expected to focus on the WTO's market access and agricultural negotiations in the context of Doha Declaration para. 51 (helping achieve the objective of having sustainable development appropriately reflected in the negotiations). The CTE will also consider initial input into its report to the fifth Ministerial (in Cancun, Mexico, 9-13 September), where the CTE Chair is mandated to make recommendations on future action, including the desirability of negotiations on various other aspects of the CTE mandate (Doha Declaration para. 32).

ICTSD reporting.

LITTLE PROGRESS AT S&D INFORMAL TALKS

The first in a series of five Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) informal meetings took place on 17 January. Delegates discussed how to break the present deadlock on talks relating to special and differential' (S&D) of developing countries. The meeting saw little progress, as developing countries -- notably Kenya and Zambia -- opposed any 'watering down' of the mandate originally agreed in Doha. The two countries did not support confining discussions to Chair Ambassador Ransford Smith's list of 22 agreement-specific proposals proposed in December (and including an additional three and five proposals from the Africa

Group and India respectively). Kenya reminded the Chair that there were other proposals on the table that needed to be made 'precise, effective and operational.' Another African delegate expressed frustration over the significant 'watering down' from the original list of 85-plus proposals from the original mandate at Doha. The delegate voiced concerns that rolling deadlines for S&D would result in 'inadequately staffed' developing country missions losing out on the ability to follow other equally important negotiating issues, and warned of a slowdown of talks in other negotiating bodies. Supporting Kenya's and India's desire not to push talks beyond February, he preferred instead fresh guidance from Ministers at Cancun in the event of any failure to reach an agreement by then.

The next informal meeting is scheduled to take place on 24 January. Three more informal meetings and a final formal meeting on 3 February are to follow. The CTD Special Session is to report to the General Council at its session on 10 and 11 February 2003, as it was unable to do so at the General Council meeting on 20 December 2002 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 January 2003 <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-01-15/wtoinbrief.htm>).

ICTSD reporting.

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: 23-29 January

23-28 January, Davos, Switzerland: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING 2003. The theme of the WEF annual meeting is "Building Trust." For further information, visit: <http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/Annual+Meeting+2003>

23-28 January, Porto Alegre, Brazil: WORLD SOCIAL FORUM (WSF). This year's WSF focuses on five themes: democratic sustainable development; principles and values, human rights, diversity and equality, media, culture and counter-hegemony; political power, civil society and democracy; and democratic world order, fight against militarism and promoting

peace. For further information, visit: <http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/home.asp>.

23-27 January, Davos, Switzerland: THE PUBLIC EYE ON DAVOS 2003. At the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), the international NGO-coalition "The Public Eye on Davos" organises an independent conference in Davos. NGO experts, academics and political representatives from the global North and South will provide a critical analysis of corporate-driven globalisation and present alternatives towards more equitable and sustainable world economic policies. Session topics include: corporate accountability - binding rules for big business; corporate PR strategies; the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline; impacts of globalisation on Switzerland - cutbacks in public services?; and window to the World Social Forum; globalisation and labour rights. For further information, visit: http://www.evb.ch/index.cfm?page_id=1772.

24 January, Porto Alegre, Brazil: IMPACT OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES. At this seminar, at the World Social Forum, the impacts that trade liberalisation has on the environment with respect to natural resources, domestic legislation and multilateral agreements will be discussed. The purpose is to understand the core of these impacts and the problems that they cause concerning people's livelihoods, health, and local economies. The will serve to link activists around the world in preparation for the WTO's ministerial meeting in Cancun in September. For further information, visit: http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/main.asp?id_menu=7&cd_language=2.

27 January, New York, US: CSD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING. The 11th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) will hold an organizational session to elect the Chair, and other Bureau members. For further information, visit: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd11/csd11_2003.htm.

WTO 2003 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.

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

24 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. .

24 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

24 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF BELARUS.

27 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

27-29 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

28 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPANTS ON THE EXPANSION OF TRADE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS.

29 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION.

28-30 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

Other 2003 Events

ET101 - INTRODUCTION TO EMISSIONS TRADING. The Emissions Marketing Association will arrange several introductory conferences focusing on emissions trading during 2003. For further information, visit: <http://www.emissions.org/et101.html>.

6-7 February, The Hague, Netherlands: CHANGING DIMENSIONS OF THE FOOD ECONOMY: EXPLORING THE POLICY ISSUES. This Conference is organised by the OECD in collaboration with the government of the Netherlands to examine the changes underway in the food economy and explore the policy implications. The main themes of the conference are: changing balance of power along the food supply chain; food lifestyles and challenges for the food industry; and Transparency and responsibility in the food economy. For further information, visit <http://www.oecd.org/oecd/pages/documentation/display.xml/0,3375,EN-document-0-nodirectorate-35999-0,00.html>.

7-8 February, Budapest, Hungary: EMISSIONS TRADING AND PROJECT-BASED MECHANISMS: SYNERGIES BETWEEN EMERGING REGIMES. This Concerted Action on Tradeable Emission Permits (CATEP) workshop is organised by FIELD, UNEP and the Central European University. It aims to explore synergies, possibilities for linking instruments and

possible conflicts between the new and emerging frameworks for the implementation of GHG emissions trading at the domestic, regional and international levels. It includes workshops focusing on the following questions: What role can project-based activities play in domestic and regional trading regimes? How can coherent accounting and institution building be ensured? (How) can different domestic, regional and international trading regimes be linked? What lessons can be learned from GHG emissions trading for other environmental issues?. For further information, visit <http://www.ucd.ie/~envinst/envstud/CATEP%20Webpage/publications/ceuprog.pdf>.

15-16 February, Japan: WTO MINI-MINISTERIAL. Reportedly, Egypt has also offered to host a mini-ministerial sometime between February and the Fifth WTO Ministerial in Cancun in September.

17-18 February, Geneva, Switzerland: FINAL MEETING ON COMPETITION AND INVESTMENT UNDER THE WORKING GROUP ON THE DOHA AGENDA (IWOGDA) PROJECT. This meeting, organised by CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment, will consider the Synthesis Report on Elements of a Possible Multilateral Agreement on Competition and on Investment. For further information, visit: www.cuts.org/iwogda.htm.

20-21 February: SEMINARIO:¿EL ALCA, NEGOCIO PARA TODOS? Se analizarán las amenazas y consecuencias del ALCA para la soberanía, la industria, la agricultura, el mercado interior y exterior, los recursos naturales, los servicios públicos, la educación, la salud y los derechos humanos. For further information contact: Hernan Perez Zapata, email: hernanperezapata@hotmail.com.

17-18 March, Montreal, Canada: GREENING THE FTAA? - TOWARDS THE PROTECTION OF ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY IN OUR HEMISPHERE. Environmental Law McGill (ELM) will host an international conference to highlight issues of environmental governance and sustainable development in the context of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. For more information, visit: <http://www.law.mcgill.ca/elmftaaconference>.

24-26 March, Kathmandu, Nepal: REGIONAL SEMINAR ON POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF FARMERS' RIGHTS IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS. The seminar, focusing on "Evolving Sui Generis Options for the Hindu Kush Himalayas," is being organised by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). Its main

objectives are to help policy makers and civil society actors understand the contemporary debate on intellectual property protection and rights of the poor, marginalised and vulnerable farmers of the Hindu Kush region in general and mountain farmers in particular; and to explore various options available under the TRIPS Agreement of the WTO to prepare a balanced "Sui Generis" legislation that would protect the rights of commercial breeders without impairing the ability of farmers to save, exchange, re-use and sell seeds. For further information please contact Mr. Dhrubesh Chandra Regmi, SAWTEE, P.O. Box 19366, 341 Alok Madhya Marg, Min Bhawan, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel 977-1-482217; fax: 9771-430608; email: dhrubesh@hqsawtee.wlink.com.np, or visit: <http://www.sawtee.org/forthcoming.html>.

25–26 March, Mexico City: SECOND NORTH AMERICAN SYMPOSIUM ON ASSESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF TRADE. At this meeting, organized in collaboration with UNEP, sixteen research papers will be presented and discussed on issues ranging from energy subsidies to invasive species and intensive livestock operations. For more information visit: <http://www.cec.org/calendar/details/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1819>.

8-10 April, Manila, the Philippines: SOUTH EAST ASIA FORUM ON GHG MARKET MECHANISMS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Arranged by the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), the event will provide the opportunity for participants to discuss and interact with policy makers and business representatives from Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam, as well as OECD countries. Recent developments in climate change policy, their impact on market mechanisms and GHG market and the overall contribution they can make in the drive for sustainable development in the region will be some of the topics discussed. For further information, see: <http://www.ieta.org>.

24-26 April, Beijing, China: WIPO SUMMIT ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY. Heads of State, government officials, CEOs, judges and academics will discuss issues of relevance for the future of intellectual property and its role in stimulating innovation and creativity, and in generating economic growth through business development. An Industry and Private Sector Forum will be held in conjunction with the Summit, and World Intellectual Property Day will be celebrated on 26 April. For more information visit: <http://www.wipo.int/summit-china>.

5-6 May, Brussels, Belgium: SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING TRADE AFTER 2005. The European Commission is hosting a symposium to examine the consequences and policy implications of the abolishment of quotas on textiles and clothing after 2005. The symposium is geared at trade and industry representatives, senior policy makers of governments and international organisations, trade unionists, and representatives of NGOs and consumers from around the world. For further information, visit: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade>.

RESOURCES

THE PERVERSITY OF PREFERENCES - GSP AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY TRADE POLICIES, 1976-2000. By Caglar Ozden and Eric Reinhardt. World Bank International Economics Working Papers (November 2002). Based on an extensive data set of developing countries' trade from 1976-2000, this World Bank paper suggests that developing countries may be best served by full integration into the reciprocity-based world trade regime rather than continued GSP-style special preferences. To access the paper, visit: http://econ.worldbank.org/files/23188_wps2955.pdf.

"World Summit on Sustainable Development: Accomplishments and New Directions?," in INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW QUARTERLY 52 (3, 2003): 256-268. By Kevin Grey. The article provides a legal analysis of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including the Johannesburg Declaration and the Plan of Implementation. It summarises some of the negotiating issues and focuses on the international law elements of the Plan of Implementation as they relate to the development of customary and treaty-based international environmental law.

"The Efficacy of TRIPs: Incentives, Capacity and Threats," in the ESTEY CENTRE JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TRADE POLICY 4 (1, 2003). William Kerr, in the Editor's pages, argues that the dispute over TRIPs is symptomatic of the difficulties of incorporating a non-trade issue into a trade organisation. He examines incentives and threats are in the context of the TRIPs and concludes that developing countries have no direct incentives to protect intellectual property, that the threat of trade actions is unlikely to induce compliance and that the use of indirect incentives is discredited and will fail to achieve its objective over the long run. Successful protection of intellectual property in developing countries will require a way to provide them with a direct incentive to enforce such protection.

GENETIC INVENTIONS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND LICENSING PRACTICES: EVIDENCE AND POLICIES. By the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2002. This report is based on discussions at an expert workshop held by the OECD Working Party on Biotechnology on 24-25 January 2002 in Berlin, Germany. The workshop sought to assess the impact of patents on genetic inventions (i.e. patents whose claims include DNA or RNA sequences) on access to the information and technologies covered by DNA patents and to discuss the challenges they pose for scientists, industry and medical practitioners. To access the report, visit: <http://www.oecd.org/pdf/M00037000/M00037885.pdf>.

NEGOTIATING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: MANDATES AND OPTIONS IN THE DOHA WORK PROGRAMME. By Jonathan Hepburn, Quaker United Nations Office. Occasional Paper 10, November 2002. This paper seeks to identify important mandates and options in the Doha work programme of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), and bilateral and regional initiatives. It aims to explore the main challenges facing developing countries, as well as ways in which they might pursue their interests. Its purpose is to serve as a guide for those interested in following the negotiations. To access the paper, visit: <http://www.geneva.quno.info/pdf/OP10%20JH.pdf>.

STATE OF THE WORLD 2003. Worldwatch Institute, 2003. The 20th edition of the State of the World argues that past successes, such as the elimination of smallpox and the encouraging drop in birth rates in many countries, prove that humanity is capable of redirecting itself in positive ways. The world is sitting on the cusp of similar successes that could usher in a sustainable human civilisation. For example, the use of clean, renewable energy technologies, such as wind turbines and photovoltaics, is growing at over 25 percent per year, and they are increasingly competitive with fossil fuels. The challenges are still immense, of course, as the book also documents, but the building blocks for a historic reinvention of human civilisation are now within reach. For further information, visit: <http://worldwatch.org/pubs/sow/2003/>.

CONTROLLING IMPORTS OF ILLEGAL TIMBER: OPTIONS FOR EUROPE. By Duncan Brack, Chantal Marijnissen and Saskia Ozinga. The Forests and the European Union Resource Network and the Royal Institute of International Affairs, 2003. The authors note that illegal logging is rampant and is destroying forests and forest communities around the world. Yet Europe's vast imports of illegally-sourced timber - worth EUR1.2 billion a year¹ - are tacitly supporting this trade. The report provides a blueprint to combat illegal logging calls for new legislation to stop illegal timber entering

the European Union. It outlines detailed measures to halt the import of illegal timber into the EU, spanning legal and voluntary initiatives, including: new EU legislation to halt the entry of illegally-produced timber; bilateral agreements between producer countries and the EU to encourage trade in legal timber; support for producer countries in developing licensing systems; and improved regulation of forestry industry finances to steer investment away from illegal activities. To access the report, visit: <http://www.fern.org/pubs/reports/options.pdf>.

WTO RESOURCES

MORATORIUM TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF DEVELOPING AND LEAST-DEVELOPED MEMBERS WITH NO OR INSUFFICIENT MANUFACTURING CAPACITIES IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR (2003), IP/C/W/396, 14 January 2003. This communication from the US to the TRIPs Council regarding paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPs Agreement and Public Health contains the provisions of the dispute settlement moratorium that was announced by the US on 20 December 2002. Available on the WTO website at: <http://docsonline.wto.org/>.

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