



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

Bridges

Weekly Trade News Digest

1 October 2003

Volume 7 Number 32

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LEAD STORIES

GC CHAIR LOOKING FOR GUIDANCE ON WAY FORWARD

The Chair of the WTO General Council (GC), Uruguayan ambassador Carlos Perez del Castillo, indicated on 30 September that he would bring together the heads of delegations in Geneva to plan for the path ahead in the all-but-stalled Doha round negotiations. For the time being, WTO negotiating sessions on agriculture and non- agricultural market access scheduled for October have been cancelled. The special session of the Committee on Agriculture was to have met from 6-9 October. Members are, however, waiting for guidance from the next GC, scheduled for 20-22 October. This meeting will be preceded by at least one heads of delegation (HOD) meeting called by Perez del Castillo -- likely to be held early next week. Chair Perez del Castillo is currently in the process of meeting with delegations to get a sense of how Members hope to proceed following the collapse of trade negotiations in Cancun on 14 September (see BRIDGES Daily Updates, 10- 15 September 2003, http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/wto_daily/index.htm). However, The regular meetings on services are proceeding as scheduled, and a special services negotiating session will be held starting 6 October as planned.

On the schedule for the rest of the year, a high-level GC meeting will be held by 15 December. Chair Perez del Castillo said that "my feeling is that everybody wants to put this back on the rails. I think that there is a growing feeling that a failure of multilateralism will not help anybody." In his talks so far, he said, he had come across some "encouraging signs," and said he would continue his work. However, he warned, "if by the end of November things do not work out, then we'll have to reassess the situation".

ICTSD reporting; "WTO Chair to Ask Heads of Delegations To Cobble Together Post-Cancun Plan," WTO REPORTER, 1 October 2003; "WTO mediator sees last gasp bid to save talks," REUTERS, 30 September 2003.

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OTHER NEWS

**RUSSIA DASHES HOPES FOR KYOTO
PROTOCOL'S SWIFT ENTRY INTO FORCE**

In his inaugural speech at the World Climate Change Conference in Moscow on 29 September, Russian President Vladimir Putin gave no indication of his government's intention to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in the near future, dashing hopes for the Protocol's expeditious entry into force. Proponents of the Protocol had hoped and expected that Putin would have used the conference to announce his country's ratification. In order to enter into force, countries representing 55 percent of 1990 greenhouse gas emissions must sign on to the Protocol. Russia's ratification is the key to entry into force, after the US -- the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases -- rejected the Protocol in 2001. Russia has been sending mixed signals, with Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov assuring the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development that his country would ratify in the "very near future," followed over the past year by contradictory statements by government officials.

Recently, Russian officials have been stressing the need for guarantees on investment and the sale of emission rights in order for the country to ratify. Russia has been expected to benefit financially by selling so called emission reduction credits to other countries, as its emissions have plummeted since the 1990 base year. Most other countries have seen their emissions grow, and developed countries will have trouble fulfilling their Kyoto emission reduction commitments domestically.

Ratification linked to concessions in WTO accession talks

Many observers remain puzzled as to why Russia, which stands to gain financially by ratifying, is stalling, and speculate that Russia may be looking for concessions in other areas, such as its WTO accession negotiations. Putin, in his opening speech, stressed that Russia is "closely studying and examining" ratification on economic and political grounds, giving no timetable for a decision. In response to calls for ratification from, among others, the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Executive Secretary Joke Waller-Hunter, Putin said Russia may in fact benefit from a warmer climate, especially in terms of agriculture, acknowledging however that problems elsewhere must be considered. While the statement caused a shockwave among observers, this opinion has been expressed in the context of climate negotiations on a regular basis over

the years. Putin also called for further research rather than action on climate change, which mirrors comments made in the US camp. Indeed, some point to pressure from the US as a factor behind the current Russian stance.

Others have suggested that Russian internal bureaucracy and lack of inter-departmental coordination may be holding up ratification, or that Russia -- a major oil and gas producer -- is worried about potential negative impacts on those markets.

One Russian sceptic, Vyacheslav Nikonov, director of the Politika Foundation, listed a number of reasons to avoid ratification in an opinion piece in the Russian daily Pravda, including the fact that with the US out of the game, Russian gains from emissions trading would be much smaller than earlier projected. Further, the EU created its emissions trading scheme without consulting Russia, and the scheme would not provide Russia with the kind of market it had hoped. In fact, the fairly closed scheme would probably lead to trades being focussed on the new EU member states that would benefit from the influx of money and new technology. Nikonov also pointed to concessions by the EU in the trade area that Russia had hoped for, but that had not been granted: on WTO accession, visa-free entry and anti-dumping investigations. He warned that with a number of uncertainties surrounding the effects of the Protocol on Russia and the potential of the emissions trading market, we cannot "sell our future economic growth for an unspecified price".

At the Moscow climate meeting, the EU, Canada and others were quick to respond and to reiterate their commitment to reducing emissions and to the Protocol. Chris Davies, a Member of the European Parliament said "it must be hoped that this announcement signals a last minute attempt at brinkmanship to extract further financial concessions out of the EU rather than heralding the collapse of the world's only agreement to curb global warming". Canadian Environment Minister David Anderson remained optimistic, stressing his firm belief that Russia would come on board. According to Anderson, "there's absolutely nothing in today's statement to suggest they're falling back or away from that commitment".

Following the World Climate Change Conference, a ministerial consultation on the way forward under the UN Climate Change Convention is scheduled for 5-6 October in Rome. The next Conference of the Parties will be held from 1-12 December in Milan, Italy.

ICTSD reporting; "Putin Undecided on Kyoto, Snubs U.N. Appeals," REUTERS, 29 September 2003; "EU alarmed as Putin backtracks on Kyoto," GUARDIAN UNLIMITED, 30 September 2003; "Canada to stick with

Kyoto regardless: Anderson," CTV, 29 September 2003; "Putin undecided on Kyoto," AFP, 29 September 2003; "The Kyoto Protocol: A Sceptic's Opinion," PRAVDA, 11 September 2003.

FROM THE REGIONS: CHINA INTENSIFIES REGIONAL TRADE TALKS

China has recently been engaging in regional trade talks, and is set to continue during the coming months. On the agenda are talks with Mercosur -- the South American Common Market comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay -- as well as intensified cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which includes China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, will also meet.

China and Mercosur to strengthen ties

Delegates from the Mercosur countries and China met for a fourth round of bilateral talks on 24 September in Montevideo, Uruguay. Officials at the meeting pledged to increase cooperation in agriculture and capacity building, among other areas. Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim noted that the commercial interests between Mercosur and China, and especially Brazil and China, had been growing rapidly in recent years. Ministers who attended talks issued a statement claiming that stronger China-Mercosur ties not only serve bilateral interests, but also "help maintain world peace and establish a new international order". Although experts admit that it may be difficult to reach an all-encompassing trade agreement at this time, China and Mercosur would begin with bilateral agreements in specific areas and mechanisms to increase integration and facilitate trade. This meeting was presided over by Uruguay's Acting Foreign Minister Guillermo Valles, the current president of Mercosur, and visiting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhou Wenzhong. A Mercosur trade delegation is scheduled to visit Shanghai in the first half of 2004.

ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement

On 27-28 September, a two-day ASEAN Joint Commission meeting was held in Jakarta, to prepare for the next ASEAN Summit meeting in October. Items discussed included developing a regional regulatory framework to boost ASEAN's competitiveness, facilitating creation of business partnerships, day-to-day business transactions and operations and cooperation with China on free trade issues. Rudi Pesik, chair of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council at the Joint Commission Meeting saw potential growth from the development of a joint free trade area between China

and the ASEAN by 2010, as promising: "It is not possible for China to absorb all the foreign investment. Through cooperation with ASEAN, a lot of foreign direct investment will be channeled to the region and still it will not hurt China".

The ministers of the ASEAN countries -- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam -- and China, Japan and the Republic of Korea met on 3 September in Phnom Penh, Cambodia for a consultation. At the meeting, the ministers expressed satisfaction with recent trends in the trade volume between ASEAN and China, Japan and Korea. The volume grew by 6.5 percent from USD 171.6 billion in 2001 to USD 182.8 billion in 2002. The value of trade between China and members of ASEAN continues to grow, reaching USD 34.24 billion in the first half of this year, up 45.3 percent from the same period last year, according to Pacific Business News.

China and the ASEAN countries signed a Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation on November 4, 2002, marking the formal launch of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA). In a first stage, tariffs will be reduced or eliminated by 2010 for ASEAN-6 (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand), and in 2015 for the newer ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam).

At a recent Malaysia-China Partnership Summit on September 19, Jiang Chengzong, Secretary-General for the National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation in China, noted that both ASEAN countries and China have a "strong political will" to push forward the ACFTA process. He stated that his country's reform of financial and legal institutions would be accelerated as a result of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement. The next ASEAN +3 (China, Republic of Korea and Japan) Summit will be held from the 7-8 October in Bali, Indonesia.

China proposes SCO free trade area

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a group formulated in 1996 to improve relations between countries that border China, signed a multilateral economic cooperation Framework Agreement in Beijing on 23 September to 'deepen' their mutual economic connections and "improve the investment environment". At the meeting, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao made three proposals. He wanted members to set as a long-term objective the establishment of a free trade area within the SCO; elaborate a series of more immediate measures such as improving the flow of goods across the member-states and reducing non-tariff barriers such as customs, quarantine, standards and transport

services; and create large projects on economic and technological cooperation, giving priority to those in transportation, energy, telecommunication, agriculture, home appliances, light industry and textiles.

The SCO countries have agreed to transform the SCO into an international organisation by 2004. A permanent secretariat is set to be established in Beijing and regional anti-terrorism headquarters in Tashkent by the end of 2003.

"South America to negotiate FTA with China," PEOPLE'S DAILY ONLINE, 21 September 2003; "Trade agreement speeds up China's reforms, says diplomat" THE EDGE DAILY, 23 September 2003; Joint Media Statement, The Sixth ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Ministers of People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea Consultation (AEM +3). 3 September 2003, Phnom Penh, Cambodia; "China trade with ASEAN rises 45% in one year," PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS, 17 August 2003; "MERCOSUR-China talks in Montevideo," MERCOPRESS, 24 September 2003; "China, MERCOSUR seek stronger trade ties," CHINESE RADIO INTERNATIONAL NEWS, 25 September 2003; "Prime ministers of China, Russia, Central Asia hold talks," ABC ASIA PACIFIC, 23 September 2003; "Shanghai Six mulls over free trade zone," THE HINDU, 25 September 2003; "China, Russia, Central Asia PMs meet on cooperation," CHINA DAILY, 23 September 2003.

IN BRIEF

BRAZIL AGREES TO GROW GM CROPS

Last week, Brazil authorised the planting of GM soy until the end of the year, and the sale of GM soy crops until the end of 2004. This is considered a victory for US-based Monsanto Co., which wants to sell its Roundup Ready soybean seeds to the second largest producer after the US and recoup lost profits from widespread illegal use of their product. Although planting and sale of GM soy crop is allowed until end of 2004, the government has not given permission to sell or import GM soy seed. Farmers will only be able to plant GM seed stocks they already possess. "It would still be two to three years before we can go to the producer with any significant volume of GM seeds," said Caio Vidor, director general of Embrapa Soja, the government's crop research company. Experts estimate that 15-17 percent of the country's 52 million metric tons of soybean crop are grown from seeds smuggled

from neighbouring countries, especially from across the Argentine border.

In response, Greenpeace said it would challenge this move, claiming that the authorisation is unconstitutional. A court order in 2000 required environmental studies to be carried out before GM crops were planted, but there have been no such studies. "We will go to court immediately and so will the Green party and the public prosecutor," said Tatiana Carvalho, co-ordinator of the consumer rights campaign with Greenpeace Brasil. Opponents to legalisation are also frustrated that the government making this decision includes the Workers Party, which resisted GM crops when it was in opposition.

"Brazil removes block on GM soya," CHECKBIOTECH.ORG, Friday September 26, 2003; "Brazil's president to decide whether to legalize genetically modified crops," SIOUX CITY JOURNAL, 19 September 2003; "Brazil agrees to grow GM crops," THE GUARDIAN, 26 September 2003.

CANADA TO BE FIRST G-7 COUNTRY TO ALLOW EXPORT OF GENERIC HIV/AIDS DRUGS

Responding to a call by former Canadian politician Stephen Lewis -- currently the UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS -- the Canadian government announced on 26 September that it would move to amend patent laws to allow generic pharmaceutical companies to produce and export certain patent-protected drugs. The call by Lewis came during his address at the 13th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA), which ran from 21-26 September in Nairobi, Kenya. The possibility of enacting such an amendment, the fine print of which is still being considered by the Canadian government, was opened up by a 30 August agreement at the WTO on the matter (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 September 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-09-04/wtoinbrief.htm#1>). This agreement, flowing out of a deal cut at the 2001 Ministerial Conference in Doha, spelled out the conditions under which countries without pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity can import generic versions of drugs still under patent. Noting the inherent flaws of the compromise agreement, Richard Elliot, Director of Policy & Research for the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, noted that "the deal could, if robustly implemented with a minimum of interference, help countries circumvent patent restrictions and import generic versions of patented medicines if they cannot manufacture them within their own borders".

For more information on the UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS, visit
<http://stephenlewisfoundation.org/index.html>

For more details on the ICASA meeting, visit
<http://www.icasanairobi2003.org/>

"Ottawa heeds call on AIDS," GLOBE AND MAIL, 26 September 2003; "Canada Can Carry Much More" GLOBE AND MAIL, 23 September 2003.

US SHRIMP FISHERS SEEK PROTECTION AGAINST ASIAN IMPORTS

Shrimpers from eight US states recently asked the government to impose a tariff to protect them from low-cost Asian competitors. Shrimp is now the most popular US seafood and more than 85 percent of US shrimp is imported, at a value of US\$ 3.4 billion a year. US shrimp imports almost doubled from 1996 to 2002 and have increased by 14 percent in the first half of 2003, while US shrimp production has remained flat. Correspondingly, US domestic prices of shrimp have almost halved since 1998. The long-established American fishing industry has been unable to compete and so has leveled allegations of dumping against several countries. The case could damage relations with several of the US's largest Asian trading partners, including Thailand, Vietnam, and India. Trade relations with Vietnam are already tense as a result of US tariffs placed on imported catfish earlier this year (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 July 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-07-28/inbrief.htm#5>). At the time Vietnam feared that its shrimp industry might be the next target of the US fishing industry. Vietnam has denied dumping shrimp into the US market and has developed a cynical view of US views on free trade. "It seems totally unfair that they [the US] can insist on free trade and opening of the Vietnamese market and whenever there is a successful Vietnamese export, the Americans slap it down," says Tony Foster, chair of the Hanoi chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam. Vietnam is the second largest exporter of shrimp to the US after Thailand.

"US shrimp fishermen seek tariffs safety net," FINANCIAL TIMES, 29 September 2003.

FIERCE BATTLE OVER REVIEW OF EU CHEMICAL POLICY CONTINUES

The European Commission is in the process of revising its proposal for the EU's new chemicals legislation REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restrictions of Chemicals) in response to comments

received during a public consultation period. The revised (and as yet unofficial) proposal introduces some key changes regarding, inter alia, the scope of the system, safety assessment requirements, substances in articles, and substitution with less dangerous chemicals. The revision is fast becoming one of the most fought over policy developments in EU history, pitching civil society groups and industry against each other in an effort to strike a balance between safety and competitiveness concerns. The May proposal attracted severe criticism from industry groups, with backing from some governments, for being overly burdensome and harmful to industry competitiveness. To address some of these concerns, the revised proposal would, inter alia, no longer apply to polymers, thereby removing an estimated 30,000 substances from the system (although registration might be required for "certain" polymers at an unspecified date). Moreover, the requirements for undertaking chemical safety assessment have been considerably reduced in the revised proposal. In an effort to address concerns expressed by the EU's main trading partners, the previously vague provisions for chemicals in imported articles have been clarified and softened. Environmental and consumer have, however, strongly criticised the revisions, which they said revealed the European Commission's plan "to make far-reaching concessions to industry". The Commission is expected to finalise its proposal by 29 October.

For more detail, see the forthcoming issue of BRIDGES Trade BioRes, Vol. 3 No. 17, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/index.htm>.

"Chemicals: Commission modifies legislative plans after successful consultation," EURACTIV, 25 September 2003; "European Chemicals Authorization Plan Changed to Suit Industry," ENS, 24 September 2003; "WWF slams Chirac-Schroeder-Blair letter against draft EU chemical law," WWF, 23 September 2002; "NGOs call on European Commission to stop reversing on chemicals reform," NGO PRESS RELEASE, 25 September 2003.

WTO IN BRIEF

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE DISCUSSES US FARM ASSISTANCE

The WTO Agriculture Committee met on 25 September to review Members' implementation of commitments. The EC and Canada requested that the US notify Members of the details of its Trade Adjustment

Assistance Programme for Farmers, which aims at providing technical assistance and adjustment payments to agricultural, livestock and aquaculture producers. Australia enquired on the products covered by the scheme, as well as the guidelines for payment. The US will report back later to the Committee. During its Annual Transitional Review, China re-iterated the importance it attached to implementing its commitments under the WTO agreements. China outlined how over the past year it had reduced its tariffs by an average of 7.2 percent and highlighted its revised procedures for tariff quota administration. China also stated that it had eliminated export quotas on sugar and garlic. The Chinese delegate said that its 'Amber Box' trade distorting domestic support was at 8.5 percent, which was lower than the de minimis level developing countries were allowed.

The Committee invited a representative of the IMF to present the proposal on a new trade initiative at the next meeting, scheduled for 20 November. In her speech at Cancun, IMF First Deputy Managing Director Anne Krueger had announced that the IMF was preparing a new initiative that would provide financial assistance to developing countries adjusting to the multilateral trade reform.

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: 2 - 8 October

30 September to 2 October, Cairo, Egypt: ENVIRONMENT 2003 "THE GATEWAY FOR PROFITABLE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE". Organised by the Egyptian Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs and its Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, the 4th international conference and exhibition on environmental technologies will act as a gateway for profitable environmental compliance, showcasing business opportunities posed by environmental legislation. Topics to be discussed include various ecoefficiency concepts, the relation between trade and environment, funding of

environmental compliance and novel technologies in various environmental fields. For more information contact Magicx, tel: +20 2 3368183; fax: +20 2 736 3663; email: magicx@ahk-mena.com; Internet: <http://www.eaaa.gov.eg/English/main/Env2003.asp> or <http://www.ahkmena.com/>.

1-4 October, Boulder, Colorado, US: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES 2003 - SOLUTIONS TO WORLD POVERTY. The event is organised to promote sustainable development by connecting grassroots leaders with engineers, entrepreneurs, inventors, vendors and philanthropists. It will provide opportunities for non-profits/NGOs, foundations, government agencies, and for-profit businesses to share technical expertise, connect, collaborate and establish cross-border partnerships. Conference themes include: economic development, education, water and food. For further information contact Lili Francklyn, tel: +1 303-998-1323; email: lili@sustainablevillage.com; Internet: <http://www.sustainableresources.org>.

2 October, London, UK: WHAT HAPPENED AT CANCUN? AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? DISCUSSION MEETING. Jointly organised by the Sustainable Development Programme and the International Economics Programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. This debrief meeting is designed to explore what actually happened at Cancun and includes speakers from various relevant organisations. For further information e-mail: sustainable-development@riia.org.

3-5 October 2003, Loccum, Germany: ENVIRONMENT FOR PEACE: THE ROLE OF THE BUSINESS SECTOR. This international conference is organised by Inwent (International Capacity Building) and supported by the UNEP Finance Initiative. The goal of this high-level international consultation is to identify and put into motion practical and effective strategies for helping the private sector, government and civil society work together to address the links between environmental precaution and conflict prevention. It will explore, inter alia, the following questions: Is there measurable value to be gained by the private sector in investing in environmental security? What kind of activities should governments and civil society actors undertake, to contribute to targeted corporate investment in environmental security? For further information contact Demetrio Polo-Cheva, tel: +49 30 25482 109; fax: +49 30 25482 103; email: demetrio.polo-cheva@inwent.org.

5-8 October, Marburg, Germany: WORKSHOP ON BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND MIGRATION. This international conference will cover the migration of biological resources such as plants, animals, microorganisms and water and combine these fields with the migration of people in various countries and

continents. It will serve as a discussion forum for scientists from various disciplines and responsible politicians in OECD and EU member countries. For further information contact Dietrich Werner, Philipps-Universität Marburg, tel +49-6421-28 21546; fax: 49-6421-28 28997; email: werner@mail.uni-marburg.de; Internet: <http://www.biol-resource-migration.de>.

7-8 October, Bali, Indonesia: 9TH ASEAN SUMMIT. At this summit, the heads of government of the ten countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will be joined by China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and India. The Bali Concord II will be signed to establish a common economic, security, social, and cultural community among the ASEAN members, while China and India are expected to sign the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, the initial treaty that formed ASEAN. For further information visit: <http://www.9aseansummit.com/>.

8-9 October, Johannesburg, South Africa: FIFTH AFRICA DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CONFERENCE AND AFRICA SMME AWARDS. The aim of this conference is to discuss key issues in development finance relevant to promoting sustainable investment in Africa, and to showcase Africa's success stories in the SMME (small, medium and micro enterprise) sector through recognition and awards of excellence. Speakers include Trevor Manuel, Finance Minister of South Africa, Baledzi Gaolathe, Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Botswana, and Kwesi Botchwey, former Finance Minister of Ghana and now Executive Chair of the African Development Policy Ownership Initiative. For further information send an email to: claireds@acia.sun.ac.za.

8-10 October, Bangkok, Thailand: WORKSHOP ON NON-TARIFF MEASURES AND TRADE FACILITATION. Australia and the US, with support from the APEC Trade and Investment Liberalisation Fund, are sponsoring a workshop on quantitative methods for assessing non-tariff measures (NTMs) and trade facilitation. The topics include quantitative restrictions, trade facilitation, government procurement, trade and investment, and various standards with trade implications. Participants will include international experts and professionals from developing APEC countries. Abstract submissions are welcomed. For more information, contact Philippa Dee, Productivity Commission, tel: +61 2-6240-3253; fax: +61 2- 6240-3322; e-mail: pdee@pc.gov.au; Internet: <http://www.usitc.gov/apec.pdf> or <http://www.pc.gov.au/news/apecworkshop.html>.

WTO Events

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

Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, and are open to WTO Members and accredited observers only.

2 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES.

2 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

2 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING.

2 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

3 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORIGIN.

3 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE-RELATED INVESTMENT MEASURES.

6, 9 & 10 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES - SPECIAL SESSION.

6 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS VALUATION.

6 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN FINANCIAL SERVICES.

Other Forthcoming Events

15 October, Geneva, Switzerland: CANCUN - WHAT IS NEXT. The Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN) is holding a debriefing to cover: what happened in Cancun; where we stand; and the road ahead. For further information contact CASIN, e-mail: chz@casin.ch; fax: +41 22 730 8690; Internet: <http://www.casin.ch>.

15-17 October, Geneva, Switzerland: CIVIL SOCIETY MEETING IN PREPERATION FOR UNCTAD XI. The civil society meeting, organised by UNCTAD, will follow up on the discussions and outcome of the Strategic Group Meeting, which was held in September 2002 and will provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange views among civil society representatives and UNCTAD secretariat with regard to pertinent organisational and substantive preparations of the civil society dimension for UNCTAD XI. For further information contact Amel Haffouz of the UNCTAD secretariat, tel: +41 22 907

5048; fax: +41 22 907 0122; e-mail: amel.haffouz@unctad.org.

16 October, Basel, Switzerland: FOOD SECURITY AND BIODIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM. Hosted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture and the International Plant Genetics Resources Institute. The event will examine practical approaches and varied perspectives on what constitutes reasonable sharing under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. For further information visit: http://www.benefitsharing.org/index_en.asp?br=ns.

20-21 October, Bangkok, Thailand: 11TH APEC LEADERS' MEETING. The failure of trade negotiations at the WTO summit in Cancun is at the top of the agenda for this summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. APEC aims to facilitate economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. Its members include the US, Chile, Peru, and Russia as well as most Asian countries. For further information visit: <http://www.apecsec.org.sg>.

5-6 November, Brussels, Belgium: MEETING ON HOW TO MAKE EUROPE'S FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE. The agenda will focus on the sensitive issues of consolidation, globalisation and horizontal/vertical integration. There will be key members of the food industry as well as high-level participation from Members of the European Parliament (and the Agricultural Committee), DG Trade, DG Agriculture, DG Fisheries and DG Enterprise. For further information contact Keith Thomas, e-mail: kthomas@foodsupplychain.com; Internet: <http://www.ethicalcorp.com/foodsupplyconference>.

10-14 November, Cavite City, Philippines: SOUTHEAST ASIAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND TRADE. Oxfam International in cooperation with the Tambuyog Development Center/Philippines is organising a Southeast Asian Conference on Sustainable Fisheries Management and Trade for national fishers' federations, NGO partners and Oxfam staff with the main objective of educating partners on the inter-relationship of sustainable fisheries management, subsidies and trade. For further information contact Ephraim Patrick T. Batungbacal, e-mail: sonny@tambuyog.org.

12-13 November, New Delhi, India: EASING THE TRANSITION TO MORE OPEN GLOBAL MARKETS. This seminar is co-organised by the International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) and the Indian National Institute of Agriculture. The IPC develops policy recommendations addressing the critical issues facing the world's agricultural system, and conveys

these recommendations directly to policy-makers and stakeholders around the world. For further information contact the IPC, tel: +1 202 328 5117; fax: +1 202 328 5133; Internet: <http://www.agritrade.org>.

17-19 November, Miami, US: AMERICAS TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM (ATSDF). Preceding the FTAA Ministerial, the ATSDF will convene workshops, panels and roundtables to discuss social, economic, political and practical concerns relating to trade liberalisation in the Americas. For further information visit: <http://www.miami.edu/nsc/pages/FTAA.html>.

18-19 November, Washington DC, US: CONFERENCE ON EMISSIONS STRATEGIES IN THE NORTH AMERICAN CARBON MARKET. The latest in the Oil & Gas IQ conference series, this event will offer strategies to help companies based in the US and Canada maximise the benefit from their emissions reductions. For further information visit: <http://www.oilandgasiq.com>.

26-27 November, New Delhi, India: SYMPOSIUM ON GM TECHNOLOGY. Gene Campaign is organising a national symposium on "The Relevance of GM Technology to Indian Agriculture and Food Security". A range of national and international experts will deliver talks on various aspects of GM technology and its application. Panel discussions will be held involving a variety of stakeholders. For further information visit: <http://www.genecampaign.org>.

RESOURCES

"When the Peace Ends: The Vulnerability of EC and US Agricultural Subsidies to WTO Legal Challenge," by Richard H. Steinberg and Timothy E. Josling in JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW Vol. 6, No. 2 (7, 2003). This article evaluates the strength of the main legal theories likely to be used in challenges to EC and US agricultural subsidies after expiry of the Peace Clause, and then employs economic techniques (regression analysis and equilibrium modelling) to meaningfully apply the soundest legal theories to economic data about agriculture trade. Available on-line at: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=413883.

RETHINKING US AGRICULTURAL POLICY: CHANGING COURSE TO SECURE FARMER LIVELIHOODS WORLDWIDE. By Daryll Ray, Daniel De La Torre Ugarte, and Kelly Tiller (Agricultural Policy Analysis Centre, University of Tennessee). This paper discusses the problems of US agricultural policy, impacts on farmers around the world, and suggests

how to address the problems. To access the study visit:
<http://agpolicy.org/blueprint.html>.

BRIDGING THE DIFFERENCES: ANALYSES OF THE FIVE ISSUES OF THE WTO AGENDA. Edited by Alan Winters and Pradeep Mehta (CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment, 2003). This book is the product of a programme known as the EU-India Network on Trade and Development (EINTAD). The programme was designed both to analyse some of the contentious issues of the Doha round of trade negotiations and to attempt to identify similarities and differences in developed (EU) and developing (India) country interests, and to help to bridge the differences by providing a sound analytical basis for thinking about them. The programme has so far considered five areas: Investment, Competition, Mobility of Labour, Anti-dumping and Textile & Clothing, involving teams of European and Indian economists and legal scholars. For further information see: <http://www.cuts.org/eintad.htm>.

"Interpreting Paragraph 6: Deal on Patents and Access to Drugs," by K.Ravi Srinivas in *ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY*, Vol. 38, No. 38. Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration, recognising the need to ensure adequate and affordable supplies of needed drugs in countries which do not have manufacturing capacities while protecting the rights of patent-holders, had directed the TRIPS Council to find an expeditious solution. The solution came on the eve of the Cancun meeting. How is it likely to affect developing countries? The article is available at <http://www.epw.org.in>, and can be downloaded from: <http://in.geocities.com/ravisrinivasin/drguswto.doc>. For a copy by email, contact krsrniv@indiana.edu.

ENVIRONMENTALLY HARMFUL SUBSIDIES: POLICY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES. By the OECD, 2003. This report contains the proceedings of the OECD Workshop on Environmentally Harmful Subsidies held in Paris from 7-8 November 2002. The workshop brought together, for the first time, academic, industry and government experts on subsidies to agriculture, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, forestry and water resources. The participants took stock of both the available information on subsidies and the current understanding of their environmental impacts. The workshop identified numerous technical issues and policy challenges that need to be addressed in pursuing the reform of environmentally harmful subsidies, and highlighted the need to develop a common framework to define and measure subsidies. A policy "checklist" was presented as a potentially valuable tool to help identify those subsidies whose removal would benefit the environment. The 216-page book can be ordered on-line from [http://oecdpublications.gfi-nb.com/cgi-](http://oecdpublications.gfi-nb.com/cgi-bin/OECDBookShop.storefront/)

[bin/OECDBookShop.storefront/](http://oecdpublications.gfi-nb.com/cgi-bin/OECDBookShop.storefront/). Individual presentations to the workshop can also be downloaded from the Environmentally Harmful Subsidies Workshop web site: <http://www1.oecd.org/agr/ehsw/>.

FROM OCEAN TO AQUARIUM: THE GLOBAL TRADE IN MARINE ORNAMENTAL SPECIES. By Colette Wabnitz, Michelle Taylor, Edmund Green and Tries Razak (UNEP- WCMC Biodiversity Series No 17, 2003). This report takes a look at the aquarium trade industry. A potential source of income for communities living close to coral reefs, the aquarium trade has been heavily criticised for the use of unsustainable collection techniques and poor husbandry practices. Policy makers have been faced with something of a dilemma in trying to control the environmentally undesirable aspects of the industry without risking the economic incentive, which aquarium fishers have in caring for the coral reefs that provide their livelihoods. Through linking trade data to what is known about the life histories of the target organisms, conservation priorities and management recommendations are identified. For report, see: http://www.unep.org/PDF/From_Ocean_To_Aquarium_report.pdf

SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE PROVISION AND PRICING OF WATER SERVICES. By the OECD, 2003. This book examines social issues related to the provision and pricing of household water services. Properly designed water management policies can contribute to both environmental and economic goals, but may face resistance due to the perceived negative social impacts for some stakeholders. Given the importance of household water supply and sanitation services for social welfare, these social dimensions need to be taken into account when key policy decisions are made regarding the provision of water services. For more information on purchasing the book, visit the OECD Online bookshop at: <http://www.oecd.org/bookshop> or send an email to: sales@oecd.org

"Is multilateralism the future? Sustainable development or globalisation as 'a comprehensive vision of the future of humanity'," by Marc Pallemmaerts in *ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY* 5 (1- 2, 2003), pp. 275-295. This paper provides an overall evaluation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which took place in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002, in a historical perspective, against the background of earlier major UN conferences and General Assembly resolutions on environment and development. It focuses on the political and institutional context of the WSSD and its preparatory process and explores its policy implications for future international cooperation on sustainable development in a globalising world.

"The CEC's citizen submission process: still a model for reconciling trade and the environment?" by David J. Blair in *JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT* 12 (3, 2003), pp. 295-324. The citizen submission process administered by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation was one of the key concessions made to the environmental movement by the governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States in their effort to build political support for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1993. A review of the operation of the process reveals a number of problem areas, the most important of which have resulted from various actions taken by the three governments over the past several years. It is argued here that these actions threaten to undermine the credibility of the citizen submission process, even among environmentalists who supported NAFTA, and that the resulting disillusionment could strengthen opposition to future trade agreements.

"Sustainable development: a new challenge for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe" by Istvan Lang in *ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY* 5 (1-2, 2003), pp. 167-178. The paper gives an overview on the transformation process of 10 Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries leading to a change of political structure and the emergence of market mechanisms.

"The Johannesburg Conference," by L. Hens and B. Nath in *ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY* 5 (1-2, 2003), pp. 7-39. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg during 26 August and 4 September 2002, was the biggest event of its kind organised by the United Nations to date. A major objective of the WSSD was to set out strategies for greater and more effective implementation of Agenda 21, negotiated in Rio ten years ago, than hitherto. An overview of the WSSD is presented in this chapter, including a scrutiny of its major outcomes. Discussion begins with a detailed account of major UN environmental conferences and related events, such as Doha and Monterrey conferences, that led to the WSSD, followed by a brief discussion of the deliberations that took place at the preparatory meetings (PrepComs) of the WSSD.

"Poverty reduction and sustainable development," by Francine Mestrum in *ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY* 5 (1-2, 2003), pp. 41-61. This article focuses on the chapter on poverty in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPI). Section one sets out a factual comparison of the poverty chapters in Rio's Agenda 21 (AG21) and in the JPI. Section two reviews the conceptual links between poverty reduction and sustainable development, since poverty is used both as a dependent and as an independent variable. Section three explores the

'naturalisation' of development thinking in its economic and social dimensions and shows how this affects the policy options for social protection. Finally, in section four three lines of action are suggested to enhance the emergence of a socially meaningful sustainable development agenda that, ideally, would make poverty reduction strategies redundant.

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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).

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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-