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LEAD STORIES

WTO: MEMBERS MEET INFORMALLY TO CONSIDER AG

On 24 October, Chair Perez del Castillo and Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi held an informal "Ambassador plus one" 'green-room' consultation with a smaller group of key Members to discuss how to revive the multilateral farm trade negotiations. Talks have been stalled since the Cancun Ministerial ended abruptly before trade ministers had the chance to address agriculture in greater detail. According to Chair Perez del Castillo, it was a positive first step and a good meeting. "Everyone said they were willing to engage, without exception," the Uruguayan Ambassador said.

The agriculture talks form part of a process set out by General Council (GC) Chair Ambassador Carlos Perez del Castillo (Uruguay) on 14 October and endorsed by the GC on 21 October, wherein Members have indicated some willingness to engage in Geneva. The process involves a focus on four key areas: agriculture, NAMA, cotton and the so-called 'Singapore Issues' of investment, competition, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-10-15/story1.htm>; see also related stories, this issue).

According to trade sources, Chair Perez del Castillo is aiming for a solution that would obtain results similar to what could have been achieved in Cancun had the talks not collapsed, to be agreed at a senior-level GC meeting in mid-December. In terms of process, sources indicated that Chair Perez del Castillo was opting for the approach taken by Members in the immediate lead-up to the Cancun Ministerial, i.e. to adopt a framework for establishing modalities in agriculture, rather than agreeing on full modalities including clear targets, numbers and rules-based elements. Most Members appeared to back this approach, while some others -- such as G-20 leader Brazil -- reportedly preferred establishing real modalities (including numbers), as Members still had one and half months for further negotiations.

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Which text to use?

Following the meeting, Perez del Castillo reportedly said that no Member had outright objected to the idea of using the second revision of the Draft Cancun Ministerial text -- produced by Ministerial Chair Luis Ernesto Derbez on 13 September -- as the basis for further work (JOB (03)/150/Rev.2, available at http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/draft_cancun_minist_text_re_v2.pdf). However, he stated that the Derbez text was "more acceptable to some than to others". While the 21 Members of the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), including the US, Japan, China and Australia had agreed at the recent APEC summit in Bangkok "to build on Chair Derbez's text of 13 September," (see BRIDGES Weekly, 23 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-10-22/story3.htm>), other Members such as India expressed doubts as to whether they could accept the Derbez draft as the only basis for further agriculture trade talks. According to Indian Ambassador K. M. Chandrasekhar, India would prefer a hybrid approach under which various "positive" elements from different texts, such as the Harbinson draft modalities, would be combined.

According to trade sources, India has most problems with the language on agricultural market access in the Derbez text, as it would require developing countries to cut a certain percentage of tariff lines using the so-called 'Swiss formula' -- which would result in steeper reductions of high tariffs than low tariffs. Some net food-importing developed countries such as Japan and Switzerland also feel uncomfortable with the market access provision, especially its requirement to expand tariff rate quotas (TRQs) for products whose tariffs are cut under the (much more flexible) Uruguay Round formula.

Nevertheless, almost every Member "seems to have some sort of difficulties with certain elements of the Derbez text," one developing country delegate said. Perez del Castillo is therefore trying to come up with a revised text for further discussion, which would be based on whatever "common ground" emerges during the consultative process.

Unlike the US, which according to the APEC statement has clearly expressed its preference for the Derbez text, the EU has not yet revealed whether it could live with it. EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy has, however, voiced some doubts about the Derbez text (see related story, this issue). The European trade bloc is still in "reflection mode," holding internal consultations with its constituencies to assess the Cancun collapse and to determine the EU's post-Cancun strategy.

Plan A or plan B?

Perez del Castillo reportedly called on Members to also consider a "plan B" in the event countries would not be able to adopt a framework text by 15 December. He did not reveal what such an alternative result could look like. According to trade sources, a "plan B" could take the form of a mere process outcome, which could pack some agreed principles in a statement, determine which text to use as a basis for further work, and establish a work programme by relaunching the Committee on Agriculture special (negotiating) sessions.

Castillo plans to hold another consultation on agriculture in mid-November. A separate consultation on the cotton initiative pushed by a number of African countries at Cancun scheduled for 27 October was postponed.

ICTSD reporting; "Agriculture: WTO Chair says key members back draft text for post-Cancun Ag talks," WTO REPORTER, 27 October 2003.

WTO 'GREEN ROOM' MEETS ON NON-AG MARKET ACCESS; SINGAPORE ISSUES FORTHCOMING

Market Access informal mirrors Cancun, pre-Cancun discussions

On 28 October, approximately 30 WTO Members gathered for the first 'green room'-style informal meeting since Cancun on non-agricultural market access (NAMA). Country delegates focused on how to move forward with the NAMA text that was included as an annex in the 13 September Draft Ministerial Text (JOB(03)/150/Rev.2, available at http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/draft_cancun_minist_text_re_v2.pdf) tabled by Cancun Ministerial Chair Luis Ernesto Derbez. The meeting was preceded by several smaller informal consultations among groups of countries. Comments on the text for the most part reflected concerns voiced prior to and at Cancun on the annex, which sets out a framework for modalities for non-agricultural tariff and non-tariff liberalisation.

Many developing countries -- particularly African Members -- said that the Derbez text did not take into account proposals submitted earlier in the process by poorer countries (see BRIDGES Weekly, 21 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-08-21/story5.htm>). They cited serious concerns around the text's specification of a non-linear formula applied on a line-by-line basis, saying that there was no need for the framework to go into what type of formula Members should use, and that the text lacked references to

special and differential treatment and to less than full reciprocity for developing countries. They further urged that the language around sectoral tariff liberalisation/elimination should be made voluntary for developing countries, and that the overall framework should be one that allows benefits for all Members.

For their part, developed countries felt that the text needed to reflect a higher level of ambition in dismantling trade barriers. Many countries also said that progress in NAMA would be contingent on progress in the agriculture discussions.

Singapore Issues Up Next

According to sources, Members are set to discuss the Singapore Issues (investment, competition, trade facilitation and transparency in government procurement) next week. Some countries have expressed confusion here, saying the EC, which has been the main demandeur in this area, has not been clear as to its intentions, and that after Cancun Members are not sure which issues are still up for discussion (see BRDGES Daily Update, 15 September 2003, http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/wto_daily/ben030915.htm). At the 28 October NAMA green room meeting, Costa Rica reportedly suggested linking progress in NAMA to progress on the Singapore Issues. This was roundly rejected by some other developing countries, which object to launching negotiations on any of the four areas.

However, according to a statement issued by trade ministers meeting earlier this month at the Asia Pacific Economic (APEC) forum, APEC member countries "underlined their willingness to show flexibility in advancing" trade facilitation negotiations, and "urged their trading partners to do the same" (see also BRIDGES Weekly, 23 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-10-22/story3.htm>). In the final hours of the Cancun Ministerial, the EC proposed unsuccessfully to abandon all Singapore issues except the relatively less contentious topic of trade facilitation.

ICTSD reporting.

OTHER NEWS

EU STILL IN 'REFLECTION MODE'

The EU, which has taken the approach of listening rather than leading with regard to reviving international

trade talks, is planning to release the results of an internal consultation and assessment process by 15 December this year. A senior officials meeting of the 133 Committee (an EU decision-making body for trade, in which members states are represented and provide guidance to the European Commission's DG-Trade, the entity that negotiates trade issues on behalf of the EU) is scheduled for 7 November, and an informal meeting of EU trade ministers will take place either in late November or early December.

European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy has outlined a number of key questions in four areas that would provide a post-Cancun roadmap: Should the EU retain the same philosophical underpinning to its trade policy -- i.e. that trade policy should represent a combination of market access and rules? What is the best forum for pursuing the EU's trade policy agenda? There appear to be selective appetites for progress on both market access and rules within the WTO -- is there a place for a plurilateral approach? What is the future of trade preferences (given that in some cases preferences may offer greater benefits to developing countries than multilateral market opening)? What contribution can the WTO realistically make to development? What scope for WTO reform exists? To what extent is the consensus approach effective/useful? Is there a place for a Secretary General's right of initiative?

The internal EU discussion will involve EU member states, the European Parliament and representatives of civil society, with the next civil society consultation scheduled for 11 November

Supachai reaches out to the EC

A number of Members have noted that the EC has remained conspicuously quiet during informal talks currently being held at the WTO (see related story, this issue), as well as in the regular sessions. WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, in his various efforts to revive trade talks, on 23 October called on the EU to actively participate in the push and take on a leadership role as before, along with other key players. Supachai noted that, "most of us are in favour of restarting the round and we would like to have an idea from the EU (on) how we can restart the round". Notably, the G-20 coalition of developing countries (that had coalesced around a common position on agriculture in Cancun) has called for the quick relaunch of trade talks, and while the US had warned it would push ahead with bilateral trade talks with willing countries, it too recently came out in support of continuing WTO negotiations in a statement issued by the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit (see BRIDGES Weekly, 23 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-10-22/story3.htm>).

Lamy shows no enthusiasm for quick relaunch, Derbez text

Pascal Lamy, speaking at a seminar in London on 28 October, questioned using the 13 September "Derbez" text as a basis for further negotiations as endorsed by leaders at the APEC Summit a week earlier. He voiced scepticism over positions and tactics used by what he called the "quick re-launchers," especially the G-20. He also stressed that the passive stance taken by the EC has spurred movement by others, and concluded that "a number of countries are signalling their readiness to get back to work in Geneva, and signalling their *bonne volonté* (good will) in terms of offering flexibility. All I can say at this stage is that my guess is that if their *volonté* really is *bonne*, they will not have to wait too long for the EU to make its position clear".

However, according to EU sources, there is an ongoing tension between the position of the Commission (DG-Trade), and EU member states, many of whom would like to see the Commission play a more active role at the WTO. One official said that member states are frustrated, firstly because of the way things transpired in Cancun, and secondly because they are seeing other WTO Members engage in talks, while they themselves cannot yet act.

Background

The EC circulated an initial think-piece on 25 September following the failed ministerial in Cancun entitled, "The Doha Development Agenda After Cancun," which analysed the conference and its failure, and identified WTO institutional reform as one area of focus on the path forward. The note specifically posed the question of whether the WTO should be split into a "WTO I" and a "WTO II" in certain areas, allowing all countries to engage in talks on tariffs and basic rules, while only some would go ahead and negotiate rules in new and complex areas -- rules that would be binding only on states which accepted them. The EC has also on several occasions stressed that while the EU had offered to move and it wanted talks to succeed, it could not be the only one to give, and to give again, calling for flexibility from other Members. Most recently, Lamy stressed at the APEC summit that, "you cannot show leadership until you don't have anything left in your pockets".

To access the speech by Pascal Lamy on 28 October, visit http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/lamy/speeches_articles/spla195_e_n.htm.

"EU will resume WTO negotiations once Cancun failure is assessed", AFP; 24 October 2003; "WTO head says EU must show desire to revive crucial round of trade

talks," AFX, 23 October 2003; "The EU, Cancun and the future of the Doha Development Agenda," SPEECH BY PASCAL LAMY, 28 October, 2003.

BRIEF CTE MEETING ADDRESSES ILLEGAL LOGGING, PARA. 51

WTO Members convened on 28 October for the first post-Cancun session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE). The meeting lasted only two hours, as most delegates perceive progress in the CTE regular sessions to be linked to the CTE special sessions (CTESS), which are currently postponed until further notice along with all other negotiating groups. Among other things, Members considered a submission from Japan on bilateral cooperation with Indonesia in combating illegal logging, discussed how to further address para. 51 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration on reflecting sustainable development in the negotiations, and agreed on meeting dates for 2004. The meeting was the last CTE session for 2003.

Japanese paper on illegal logging

Japan's submission (WT/CTE/W/233, available online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) describes various short, medium and long-term measures for bilateral cooperation between Japan and Indonesia to combat illegal logging. These include development of a mechanism to verify and track legally harvested timber, monitoring and inspection of the implementation of the mechanism by civil society, and studies on feasible trade measures against illegally harvested and processed timber that are consistent with WTO rules.

The proposal received support from the EC, Switzerland and Norway. Brazil said that the issue needed to be considered in a holistic manner that addressed the causes of illegal logging together with issues such as tariff peaks and tariff escalation. Brazil further urged that the issue shouldn't be discussed in the CTE but rather in other fora, even outside the WTO.

Chile said that Japan's statement in the paper that "these measures must be prepared in consistence with the WTO rules" could have implications for negotiations in the CTESS on the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the WTO. One trade source noted that such a contention by Japan could lead to the interpretation that trade-related environmental measures must be consistent with WTO rules, rather than 'mutually supportive'.

Echoing Brazil, Venezuela said that the issues around illegal logging should also look into wider areas, such as poverty, and added that this could be one issue to explore with respect to paragraph 51 of the Doha

Declaration. Para. 51 mandates the CTE and the Committee on Trade and Development to "identify and debate developmental and environmental aspects of the negotiations, in order to help achieve the objective of having sustainable development appropriately reflected".

Para. 51

The CTE Chair proceeded to ask countries how to progress on the para. 51 mandate, saying that he would consult with Members on this point before the next meeting of the CTE. Thus far, little progress has been made on para. 51, for which the EC was the principle demandeur at Doha. The EC, which has been quiet and reactive on most areas, including environment, did not make an intervention on this point. According to one EU trade source, the EC has not yet had any consultations with Members on environment since Cancun.

Future meetings

Members agreed to schedule three regular CTE meetings for 2004: 16-17 March, 6-7 July, and a third in October. Canada proposed that the meetings be structured around specific items of the Doha mandate, though there was no decision on this point. According to sources, Canada also proposed that the WTO Secretariat prepare a summary of CTE discussions after each meeting. Some Members expressed reservations, however, and the Chair asked Canada to come back with a written submission.

ICTSD reporting.

WTO LABELLING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES, PITFALLS IN STANDARD-SETTING

Geneva-based WTO delegates and officials from capitals convened on 21- 22 October for a workshop on labelling, where countries explored a range of standards-related initiatives. Termed a 'Learning Event', the session was organised around presentations of ten case studies, with a focus on developing country programmes and concerns in this area. The meeting was an initiative forwarded by Canada, agreed to at a 2 July 2003 meeting of the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

According to the session background document (JOB(03)/196), the meeting aimed at providing Members with a better understanding of the preparation, adoption and application of labelling requirements in the context of the implementation of the TBT Agreement.

It was clear through the meeting that despite ongoing concerns around potential market access barriers, developing countries -- at least those with the means to do so -- are moving ahead with domestic labelling and certification schemes. According to Armando Mariante, President of Brazilian certification agency INMETRO, Brazil is adopting labelling initiatives in order to both move domestic production processes in a more environmentally and socially conscious direction and meet export-market criteria for sustainably-produced goods. "We try and adapt as much as we can to the international situation," said Mariante, who presented Brazil's voluntary labelling schemes on wood, fruit and appliances.

Santiago Rojas, Former Vice Minister of Trade for Colombia, described the development of his country's certification scheme for flower production (Florverde), which was developed partly in response to difficulties in accessing the European flower market, to which Colombia is a major exporter. Rojas said that European consumer perceptions were a major factor in leading Colombia to seek certification with an internationally-recognised certifying agency (in this instance, the Swiss-based firm SGS). He emphasised the importance of establishing mutual recognition agreements with third parties, but warned that it can be very expensive to meet importing countries' individual requirements. "We came up against a lack of transparency in labels in importing countries, especially where these are mandatory," Rojas said.

Presentations were also made by Chinese Taipei, the EC, Mexico, Canada, China, Argentina and the US.

Responding to the presentations, a number of countries -- both developed and developing -- welcomed the opportunity to explore labelling schemes and the opportunities and challenges these presented. The EC, which provided funding to bring capital-based officials from developing countries to the event, took the opportunity to remind Members of its proposal aired before Cancun to hold three dedicated sessions of the Committee on Trade and Environment on labelling, and re-stated its enthusiasm for holding further such sessions.

Some smaller developing country Members voiced their worries around the difficulties in conforming to foreign standards. St. Lucia pointed in particular to a proliferation in the use of private standard-setting bodies, which they said complicates and retards the development of developing countries' own national certification processes. The Dominican Republic stated its concerns over the lack of international labelling and traceability standards, reinforced by the fact that mutual recognition agreements with other countries' standards can often be difficult to achieve. "There is inconsistency

in how rules in the TBT Agreement are applied," the Dominican Republican said, "developed countries can develop their own criteria, but developing countries can't, resulting in high costs to producers". Uruguay expressed interest in how to start up its own labelling framework, particularly for meat and other agricultural products; Rojas suggested starting with a national-based process that included integrating international standards, though he warned that it was not an easy job, as global standards are far from being harmonised.

It was not clear at the conclusion of the meeting whether or how the exercise would be repeated in future.

ICTSD reporting.

EU's de facto moratorium on the approval of new GMOs. The moratorium has been in place since 1998, allowing the EU to revise its regulatory framework for GMOs in the meanwhile (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 15 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-05-15/story1.htm>).

For further information, see the forthcoming issue of BRIDGES Trade BioRes, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/index.htm>.

"EU rethinks strategy on agreeing gene seed rules," REUTERS, 23 October 2003; "New GM legislation in force as moratorium expires," NZ PRESS RELEASE, 29 October 2003.

IN BRIEF

GMOS: EU POSTPONES SEED LAW, NZ ENDS MORATORIUM

The European Commission has delayed a decision on new rules for the purity of seeds, including thresholds for the presence of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The EC Standing Committee on Seeds had been scheduled to vote on the rules at its 27-28 October meeting. Under a new procedure established by the Commission, the rules now first need to be adopted under the EU Directive on the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment, and then must be submitted to the Seed Committee, likely in early 2004 in time for the next growing season. A Commission official noted that the delay should not affect EU member states' decision on authorising new GMOs, which will end the current de facto moratorium. Bt-11 maize is the first item up for a vote, possibly as early as November.

In related news, New Zealand ended its moratorium on the approval of GMOs on 29 October with the entry into force of amendments to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, the main legislation covering GMOs. Under the new rules, the Environmental Risk Management Authority will be able to attach controls on a case-by-case basis to any approval to release new organisms, enforced through strict liability rules. "We put in place the moratorium on applications specifically so that we could strengthen the legislation and improve the way it worked for new organisms," said New Zealand's Environment Minister Marian Hobbs. New Zealand is one of the third parties in the WTO dispute initiated by the US, Argentina and Canada against the

CLINTON FOUNDATION CLINCHES DEAL ON GENERIC AIDS DRUGS

The Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative announced on 23 October that it had reached an agreement with four generic-drug companies -- three in India and one in South Africa -- for the production of antiretroviral AIDS medicines at a reduced price for distribution in some African and Caribbean countries. The reduction would make the drugs available at about a third of the original price, or at 36-38 cents instead of 55 cents per day per patient. The cost of patented versions of the drugs amounts to USD 1.54. The reduction would be achieved based on the results of an assessment of the companies' cost structures, which had identified areas to cut costs. Some areas identified included marketing and distribution, and the companies would also use profits from other drugs to offset the cost. Yusuf K Hamied, head of Indian drugs company Cipla, one of the companies involved, noted that the initiative had given an important boost to the generic drugs industry. "Generic drug companies, especially from India, have now got respectability, quality and trust," he said.

The Foundation combined this agreement with funds to buy the drugs and to improve low-quality health infrastructure in several Caribbean states and three African countries where the Foundation has helped governments prepare detailed plans for distributing the drugs nationwide. The initiative comes as US President George W. Bush is awaiting congressional approval for funds amounting to USD 15 billion over five years to fight HIV/AIDS, which he had called for several months ago. The World Health Organisation and AIDS campaigners including Médecins Sans Frontières, Health GAP and the Uganda Coalition for Access to Essential Medicines welcomed the Clinton Foundation's initiative as an important step forward and as a breakthrough in the fight against AIDS.

"Clinton brokers landmark Aids deal," BBC, 24 October 2003; "Clinton Program would help," WSJ, 23 October 2003; "Clinton Foundation Announces Agreement On Major Reduction In Price Of AIDS Drugs," CPC, 23 October 2003; "Indian drugs boss hails Aids deal," BBC, 29 October 2003.

US CONFRONTS CHINA ON TRADE

In meetings earlier this week with Chinese trade officials, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and US Commerce Secretary Don Evans, reiterated that the US wants China to develop "fair and open" trading rules, and focussed in particular on the current weakness of the yuan, which is pegged to the US dollar. The yuan's weakness vis-à-vis the US dollar is seen to contribute to the US' expanding trade deficit. According to Evans, "China's current trade practices are exploiting our open markets and are creating an unfair advantage that is undercutting American workers... China needs to create an economic system that is more transparent and one that allows capital to flow freely in response to market forces". Evans warned the Chinese Premier that the US would be ready to "vigorously enforce" its trade laws if China failed to produce results. US Congress has already seen a proposal to impose a 27 percent tariff on Chinese goods, and rising US unemployment figures ahead of next year's presidential elections have put the White House under pressure. The US trade deficit with China was USD103 billion last year, part of an overall USD500 billion US current account deficit. The figure could top USD130 billion this year. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue, however, stressed that, "China's surplus, in reality, is not as big as some people in the US say... On the whole, I think the development of bilateral trade is fast and healthy". Other issues under American scrutiny include: China's intellectual property breaches, its unwillingness to loosen controls on agricultural imports, and blocked access to industries such as telecommunications and banking.

"China says trade with US 'fast and healthy'", REUTERS, 28 October 2003; "US takes China to task on trade," BBC NEWS, 27 October 2003; "China, US agree to strengthen dialogue, cooperation in trade," CHINAVIEW, 28 October 2003; "US warns China to open markets faster," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 28 October 2003.

WORLD TOURISM ORGANISATION TO BECOME SPECIALISED UN AGENCY

The 15th General Assembly of the World Tourism Organisation opened on 20 October in Beijing with a

decision to make the organisation a specialised UN agency. With final approval by the UN's General Assembly expected on 7 November, the World Tourism Organisation will become the first new specialised agency of the UN since 1985. The World Tourism Organisation has observer status at the WTO on issues related to trade in tourism services. At its assembly, the World Tourism Organisation said it hopes to influence the Doha Agenda to ensure that trade ministers are fully aware of the important potential of tourism as a catalyst for sustained growth and sustainable development. The organisation emphasised opening tourism markets to allow for socio-economic development (especially in poorer nations), eliminating all barriers to tourism growth affecting the total supply chain, and ensuring the free flow of transport systems that are vital to the tourist industry. The World Tourism Organisation has also placed emphasis on sustainable tourism and has initiated such recent efforts as a series of regional conferences on Sustainability Certification of Tourism Activities. The World Tourism Organisation came into existence 30 years ago and now has 143 members overseeing a rapidly expanding tourist industry worth USD 473 billion in 2002.

For more information on the World Tourism Organisation visit: <http://www.world-tourism.org>

ICTSD reporting; "General Assembly Gives Green Light for WTO to Become a UN Specialised Agency," WORLD TOURISM ORGANISATION RELEASE, 20 October 2003.

WTO IN BRIEF

WTO MEMBERS CRITICISE IF EVALUATION REPORT

The WTO Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries (IF) Steering Committee met on 27 October to discuss an IF evaluation report. Bangladesh issued a statement on behalf of least-developed countries (LDCs), noting that the entities responsible for producing the report -- a consortium consisting of CAPRA International Inc. and the Canadian Trade Facilitation office -- had not followed the outline set out in the Terms of Reference (TOR). According to Bangladesh, the report excluded three of six objectives in the TOR deemed vital by LDCs, namely: evaluating the impact of the IF in generating sufficient funding to government-owned trade capacity building programmes; addressing challenges related to systematic and predictable

implementation and follow-up processes in the Post-DTIS (Diagnostic Trade Integration Study) stage; and exploring the IF's potential as an instrument to address the supply-side constraints of LDCs. Pointing to a lack of guidance in the report on improving the TOR of Window II of the Integrated Framework Trust Fund (ITF), the statement also criticised the report for the absence of perspectives provided by the LDC missions in Geneva and for adopting perspectives of certain groups (for details on Window II Funds, see BRIDGES Weekly, 21 May 2003; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-05-21/wtoinbrief.htm>). A number of delegates said the report was not very accessible. The consortium is now expected to incorporate the comments received and submit a revised version with an executive summary and a clear set of recommendations at the next IF Steering Committee meeting, scheduled for early January.

A copy of the interim report can be accessed at <http://brettonwoodsproject.org/doc/trade/ifinterimeval.pdf>

More information on the DTIS is available in the ICTSD-IISD Doha Round Briefings on Technical Assistance accessible at <http://www.ictsd.org/pubs/dohabriefings/doha12-techassist.pdf>

ICTSD Reporting.

WTO REPORTS STEEP DECLINE IN ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATIONS

On 24 October the WTO Secretariat released a report on the antidumping activities of Members during the period from 1 January to 30 June 2003. During this time, 18 Members initiated 79 anti-dumping investigations against exporters from a total of 30 different nations or customs territories. This was a significant decline from the January- June 2002 period, in which 17 WTO Members initiated 149 anti-dumping investigations. Developed countries reported 28 of the 79 initiations during the first semester of 2003. The US initiated the most investigations during the first semester of 2003, 16, a drop from the 22 investigations of the first semester of 2002. India followed for the first semester with 12 initiations, followed by China's 11. China had the most investigations on its exports this semester with 12, followed by Korea (8) and India (6). The chemicals sector of the Harmonised System of Tariff Classification had the greatest number of classified products, 26, investigated this semester. The second most active area was base metals, which include iron, steel and aluminium products, with 15 investigations initiated, followed by plastics (10 investigations).

The anti-dumping semi-annual reports by members for the period 1 January - 30 June can be found under the document series G/ADP/N/105 at <http://docsonline.wto.org>.

"WTO Secretariat Reports Significant Decline In New Anti-Dumping Investigations," WTO RELEASE, 24 October 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.

Coming Up: 30 October to 5 November

29-30 October, Rüschlikon, Switzerland: BEYOND CARBON - EMERGING MARKETS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES. This initiative is organised by Forest Trends, the Katoomba Group and Swiss Reinsurance. The conference will promote the development of markets, trading and financial mechanisms that recognise the value of the environmental services of ecosystems. It will aim to expose participants to the thinking of leading practitioners and innovators in the field of environmental service finance. The conference will aim to bring together drivers of innovation from the business, financial and regulatory worlds, public opinion leaders and the NGO community. For further information, please contact James Congram, tel: +41 1 704 88 12; email: James_Congram@swissre.com.

29-31 October, Davis, USA: WORKSHOP ON ACCESSING BIODIVERSITY AND SHARING THE BENEFITS. Scholars at the University of California have conducted an international study of the status of access and benefit-sharing policies among countries on the Pacific Rim. The international workshop will review the findings of that study, draw lessons from it, and design strategies to facilitate the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding genetic resources. For further information contact Santiago Carrizosa, tel: +1 530 754 8506; email: scarrizosa@ucdavis.edu; Internet: <http://www.grcp.ucdavis.edu/>.

30-31 October, Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt), Berlin, Germany: MOVING FORWARD FROM

CANCÚN - A CONFERENCE ON THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This conference, hosted by Ecologic, will provide an opportunity to take stock of the negotiations of the September WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancún, Mexico. The conference, which will bring together over one hundred researchers, policymakers, and NGO representatives, is part of the European Union-funded "Concerned Action on Trade and Environment" network. Paper submissions are currently being accepted. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ecologic.de>. To submit a paper, send an email to: cat-e@ecologic-events.de.

31 October, Zürich, Switzerland: GLOBALISATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MEETING. Organised by the World Economic Forum and the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL), this meeting seeks to bring clarity to how economic globalisation can be combined with social and environmental globalisation to ensure sustainable development. For more information contact: Christina Hürzeler; tel: +41-31-322-8262; fax: +41-31-323-0367; e-mail: christina.huerzeler@buwal.admin.ch; Internet: <http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/Globalization+and+Sustainable+Development+Meeting>.

31 October - 6 November, Kathmandu, Nepal: INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS ON "CREATING BDS MARKETS FOR SMME - OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES". The core of the proposed training workshop will be to articulate working experiences of business development services (BDS) practitioners, with a view to aligning these with the best practices and delivery models suitable (and economically viable) and tailored to small, medium and micro enterprise (SMME) needs. Objectives of this workshop include: to enable BDS Providers to examine their potentials and strength, to see the opportunities available and the challenges they will face, and to help explore the new areas of operation & develop critical insight into the changing market trends. For more information please contact Aseed Asia Office; tel: (011) 6130635, email: npsaseed@nda.vsnl.net.in; training@aidmat.com; or Aseed Eastern Europe, fax: (007) (095) 3970096; email: anu@online.ru; Internet: <http://www.tradepoint.si/eng/news/doc002.asp>.

4 November, Geneva, Switzerland: GATS, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT. This workshop is sponsored by the WWF and CIEL to share and discuss the findings of a study on GATS, water, and the environment. The study analyses the implications of WTO negotiations to liberalise trade in services on global water resources. For more information and to register contact: Sabine Granger; tel: (41) 223649012; email: sgranger@wwfint.org.

4-5 November, London, England: DELIVERING CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY: PROGRAMMES, POLICIES AND POLITICS. This two-day international conference is organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA) in association with the Carbon Trust. It will address the emerging questions surrounding delivering climate technology. Building on the success of earlier RIIA climate change conferences, this year's focus on delivery will provide a key international forum for debate as the attention moves from general commitments to specific implementation. For further information contact RIIA, tel: +44 (0)20 7957 5700; fax: +44 (0)20 7957 5710; email: contact@riia.org; Internet: <http://www.riia.org/index.php?id=5&cid=36>.

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>.

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.

30 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES.

30 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

31 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - GUYANA.

31 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKSHOP ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES.

4 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - HAITI.

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

Other Forthcoming Events

3-9 November: E-FORUM ON GM TECHNOLOGY AND YOU. Gene Campaign is providing an e-forum for debate on GM issues every alternate month. Theme one poses two questions. "What do you understand by GM technology"? "What are the priorities that India/developing countries should address"? For further information contact Gene Campaign, email: gmforum@genecampaign.org; Internet: <http://genecampaign.org>.

3-17 November: E-FORUM ON ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS PERSPECTIVE. The topic of debate will be how enhancing the provision of select global public goods could facilitate achieving the Millennium Development Goals at the select target date of 2015. For more information visit <http://www.gpgnet.net/discussion.php>.

7-8 November, Krakow, Poland: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EU ACCESSION AND AGRICULTURE. This conference is organised by the Friends of the Earth Europe, Friends of Earth Poland, Heinrich Boell Foundation and the Dutch Ministries for Agriculture and for Environment. The conference's goals are to stimulate public awareness and discussion on the impacts of the EU Common Agricultural Policy on nature and the countryside of the Accession Countries. For further information visit <http://www.foeeurope.org/events/krakow>.

11 November, Brussels, Belgium: GENERAL MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER PASCAL LAMY - AFTER CANCUN - WHAT NEXT? At this EC civil society consultation, Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy will discuss the roadmap for EU trade policy following Cancun, focusing on the relationship between the EU and WTO. For more information visit http://trade-info.cec.eu.int/civil_soc/meet.php?action=consult&criter e=128.

12 November, Washington D.C., US: WORKSHOP ON BILATERAL/ REGIONAL IPR AGREEMENTS. Workshop on Bilateral/ Regional IPR Agreements, including current or proposed negotiations (such as the Dominican Republic, Thailand, Australia, Morocco, El Salvador, Egypt, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, Namibia, Lesotho, South Africa, Botswana, etc). For further information contact Michael Palmedo, tel: +1 202 387 8030; e-mail: mpalmedo@cptech.org.

13 November, Edinburgh, UK: CONFERENCE ON PRECAUTION AND PROGRESS: LESSONS FROM THE UK GM CROPS DIALOGUE. Co-sponsored by the Scottish Executive and the Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission, this conference will consider the components of the recent UK dialogue on GM crops and how these might be integrated into the policy decision-making process. For more information contact ESRC Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics: tel: +44-131-650-9113; e-mail: innogen@ed.ac.uk; Internet: <http://www.innogen.ac.uk/events.php?page=2>.

17-21 November, Rome, Italy: FAO/WHO EXPERT CONSULTATION ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ANIMALS, INCLUDING FISH. This event is organised by FAO and WHO. Its purpose is to review and analyse data on the current situation of GM animals, in particular fish, and the foods derived from them. For further information contact Ezzeddine Boutrif, FAO; tel: +39-6-5705-6156; fax: +39-6-5705-4593; e-mail: ezzeddine.boutrif@fao.org; Internet: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/biotech/meetings/ec_nov 2003/en/.

RESOURCES

FTAA: A THREAT TO FREEDOM AND FREE TRADE. IP Justice, October 2003. This report by the international civil liberties group IP Justice analyses sections of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Treaty having to do with intellectual property (IP). According to the group, the treaty will vastly expand criminal procedures and penalties against intellectual property infringements throughout the Americas. In conjunction with this report, IP Justice published an online petition to delete the chapter on IP rights. To read the report, visit: <http://www.ipjustice.org/ftaa/whitepaper.shtml>. For further information contact: Robin Gross; phone: (1) 415-553-6261; email: robin@ipjustice.org.

AFTER THE COLLAPSE: DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MUST BECOME RE-ENGAGED AFTER THE FAILED CANCUN MINISTERIAL. By Luke Peterson (IISD, 2003). This commentary looks at the nature and potential impact of the collapse of talks at the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Cancun, Mexico, in September 2003. It states that the short-term outlook for the Doha Round does not look propitious. While the round had been characterised by a series of missed deadlines in the lead-up to Cancun, recriminations have flown in the wake of the Cancun collapse; as have suggestions that countries like the US will simply choose to trade with countries to whom it will not need to make any deep concessions in advance of next year's presidential elections. To view the article, see

<http://www.iisd.org/publications/publication.asp?pno=571>.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WORLD TRADE - PERFORMANCE AND PROSPECTS. By Yilmaz Akyuz (Zed Books, September 2003). This book examines world trade patterns over the last 20 years and concludes that while developing country exports have grown faster than the world average, the rich countries have meanwhile increased their share in world manufacturing valued added. Thus the author contends that the key challenge confronting poor countries today is not related to their engagement in more trade liberalisation, but to how to they can improve the terms of their participation in world trade and increase the limited and unstable benefits they derive from it. The book contains a particular focus on China's rapid transition to being a major player in world trade.

POVERTY, GROWTH, AND INSTITUTIONS IN DEVELOPING ASIA. By Anil B. Deolalikar and Ernesto M. Pernia (Asian Development Bank, October 2003). This book contends that changes in institutions and policies, as well as economic growth, are necessary to reduce poverty in Asian countries. The authors found that these policies and attributes are critical in explaining disparities in economic and social progress between and within countries. For more information and to order the book visit: <http://www.adb.org/Publications/product.asp?sku=100203>.

LIBERALISATION OF THE CROP SECTOR: CAN BANGLADESH WITHSTAND REGIONAL COMPETITION? By Mahabub Hussain and Uttum Kumar Deb (Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh, September 2003). The liberalisation of the crop sector in Bangladesh will affect more than just production and imports. As the source of staple food, livelihood and employment for millions of people, changes in the crop sector could have far-reaching impacts on poverty and welfare. This paper addresses some of these issues and their implications. It presents a comparative picture of the costs of production and the prices of major crops, and also examines the impact of recent trade policies pursued by India. To access the report visit http://www.cpd-bangladesh.org/cpdiri_4.pdf.

THE IMPACT OF FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBALISATION PROCESSES ON WOMEN OF FISHING COMMUNITIES IN THE ASIAN REGION. By Chandrika Sharma (Asia Pacific Research Network 2003). This paper looks at the impact of fisheries development and globalisation processes on women of fishing communities in the Asian region. It also examines the responses of women of these communities to these developments as well as initiatives taken by them to deal with the situation in

positive ways. The paper demonstrates that there is a lack of information or statistics on the issues involved and thus proposes areas for future research. To access the paper go to <http://www.aprnet.org/journals/8/v8-2.htm>.

"African land ecology: opportunities and constraints for agricultural development," by Roelf L. Voortman, Ben G. J. S. Sonneveld, Michiel A. Keyzer in: *AMBIO: A JOURNAL OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT* 32 (5, 2003) pp.367-373. Compared to other continents, the economic growth performance of Sub-Saharan Africa has been poor over the last four decades. Likewise, progress in agricultural development has been limited and the Green Revolution left Africa almost untouched. The question raised in the literature is whether the poor performance is a question of poor policies or of an unfavourable biophysical environment (policy versus destiny).

"Transformations in food consumption and production systems" by Ken Green, Mark Harvey and Andrew McMeekin in *JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & PLANNING* 5 (2, 2003) pp. 145-163. The sustainability of global food consumption and production systems (FCPSs) over the next 25 years depends on changing economic developments, changing household consumption patterns and new technological developments, as well as on the environmental context of agriculture. This paper explores the interaction of these dynamics by examining the claims for sustainability of supposedly competing 'strategies' for the transformations of FCPSs. An FCPS includes not just agricultural production but also processing, retailing, eating and waste disposal phases. The four strategies are characterised as 'industrialised', 'traditional sustainable', 'organic' and 'new industrialised'. The paper argues that each strategy works in a variety of politico-economic structures and that focusing only on food crop production (such as in agriculture) ignores major environmental problems that are due to other phases of a food's lifecycle.

"Sustainable development, market paradigms and policy integration" by Emyr V. Thomas in *JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & PLANNING* 5 (2, 2003) pp. 201-216. This paper's overall purpose is to assess the viability of a particular form of integration, termed 'goal integration', based on a 'market' paradigm. The first section discusses the concept of integration in recent sustainable development policy thinking, outlines several ways of understanding it and culminates in highlighting and explaining the concept of goal integration. Two conditions relating to 'goal integrity' for policy design are set out. The remainder of the paper is concerned with whether and to what extent a market paradigm can meet these necessary conditions. The

overall conclusion of this paper is that there are key respects in which the pursuit of goal integration by a market paradigm involves a logical failure to meet the conditions required for an appropriate degree of respect for goal integrity.

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