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Intellectual Property

WIPO TAKES UP 'DEVELOPMENT AGENDA', MOVES ON DISCLOSURE

In response to a proposal put forward by Brazil and Argentina, the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) General Assembly (GA), taking place from 29 September to 5 October in Geneva, adopted a decision to move forward the discussions on a 'development agenda' in WIPO. The Assembly also set up a framework to respond to a request for information by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the interrelation of access to genetic resources and disclosure requirements in intellectual property applications

Moving forward the 'development agenda' in WIPO

The WIPO Assembly decided to initiate a series of inter-sessional meetings to examine the proposal put forward by Brazil and Argentina -- supported by Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran, Kenya, Peru, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania and Venezuela -- on integrating a development agenda into all bodies of WIPO (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 10 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-09-10/story2.htm>). The inter-sessional meetings, which will be open to member states, intergovernmental organisations and accredited NGOs, will also address additional proposals by WIPO member states, including a request the EU made during the GA to analyse the impact of WIPO's work on the Millennium Development Goals. A report will be produced by 30 July 2005 for submission to the next WIPO General Assembly in September 2005. WIPO also committed itself to organising joint international seminars on

intellectual property and development with other multilateral organisations, such as UNCTAD, UNIDO, WHO and the WTO.

When presenting the proposal at the meeting, Brazil stressed that the aim was not "to reverse WIPO's work" or "to criticise WIPO's work on technical cooperation". Rather, the main purpose of the proposal was to "re-establish WIPO's central mission", namely to "promote creative intellectual activity" and the "transfer of technology to developing countries". "This debate is necessary for the sake of WIPO, for its legitimacy and credibility as an institution", Brazil stressed. By integrating the development dimension into its activities, WIPO would join similar development-oriented efforts in other fora addressing intellectual property matters, including the WTO's decision on access to medicines, as well as related discussions at the WHO, the UN Human Rights Committee and UNCTAD XI.

Even though Brazil and Argentina had originally suggested the establishment of a specific Working Group, the decision on the inter-sessional meeting series was seen as a success for continuing the debate on the issue. Industrialised countries had initially reacted warily to the proposal, arguing that WIPO already dealt with development issues through its technical assistance activities. Developing countries, however, stressed that the development focus would need to be applied more broadly. "A WIPO development agenda would obviously need to take into account any possible negative impact on the users of intellectual property, on consumers at large, or on the public policy in general, not just the promotion of the interest of intellectual property owners," the Indian delegate pointed out.

Civil society groups hailed the decision as a "change in culture and direction" in WIPO. "For years, WIPO has pushed to expand the scope and level of intellectual property rights and told developing countries that this would help their development", said James Love of the Consumer Project on Technology. "Today WIPO supported an entirely different approach," he added. Anna Fielder of Consumers International welcomed the "willingness to look at increasing access to knowledge and technology in developing countries". This move, she said, would benefit both creators and consumers. The groups had recently stepped up efforts to push for a more balanced approach to intellectual property at WIPO, culminating in the adoption of the "Geneva Declaration on the Future of WIPO" which stressed the importance of striking a balance between public domain and property rights (BRIDGES Weekly, 29 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-09-29/inbrief.htm#2>).

WIPO addresses CBD request on disclosure of origin

The Assembly also established a framework to respond to the invitation of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD -- made at the 7th meeting of the COP in February (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 20 February 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-02-20/story1.htm>) -- to examine and, where appropriate, address the interrelation of access to genetic resources and disclosure requirements in intellectual property rights applications. During the discussions, WIPO members were divided over whether the response should be prepared by the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Folklore (IGC), the Standing Committee on Patents (SCP) or the Working Group on the PCT Reform (WGPCT). While most developed countries wanted the process to be carried out by the IGC, developing countries insisted that the process should also include other relevant WIPO bodies, such as the SCP and the WGPCT.

The final framework creates a new process that will be led by the Director-General of WIPO and will include comments and reactions of different WIPO bodies, as well as observers to WIPO. Member states are invited to submit proposals by 15 December, to be compiled in a draft report by the end of January 2005. The deadline for comments by members and observers on the draft report is the end of March 2005. A one-day ad hoc intergovernmental meeting will be held in May 2005 to consider and discuss a revised version of the draft.

Additional Resources

Documents of the meeting: http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=6309

Argentina-Brazil proposal: http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=31737

Geneva Declaration: <http://www.cptech.org/ip/wipo/genevadeclaration.html>

ICTSD reporting; "Development: South Gains Ground in Intellectual Property Debate," IPS, 5 October 2004; "Member States Agree to Further Examine Proposal on Development," WIPO, 4 October 2004; "WIPO to Convene Meetings on Development Agenda," SUNS, 5 October 2004; "Strong Support from South for WIPO 'Development Agenda'," SUNS, 4 October 2004.

Fisheries

WTO MEMBERS SCRUTINISE JAPAN'S FISHERIES PROPOSAL

The ongoing negotiations on disciplining subsidies in the fisheries sector featured high on the agenda of the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules, meeting from 28-30 September in Geneva. Discussions focused mainly on a Japanese proposal on fisheries subsidies disciplines presented at the last meeting (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 11 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-06-11/story3.htm>)

Japan outlines criteria for permitted, prohibited subsidies

In a communication dated 24 September (TN/RL/W/164, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), Japan proposed rules on fisheries subsidies that would "strike the balance between promotion of the trade in fisheries products and conservation of natural resources". Japan opposed a blanket ban on subsidies, and instead proposed that each type of subsidy be evaluated and placed in a "box" according to its effect.

Thus, legal subsidies supportive of sustainable development would end up in a "green box". These could include subsidies that "promote the conservation and sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources," including specific measures such as management plans, environmentally friendly fishing gear, surveys, research and monitoring, measures to enhance stocks, preserve habitats, and the development and diffusion of new technologies. In addition, the "green box" could include measures that, as long as there is an adequate management plan in place, do not have any harmful effects.

Illegal subsidies supporting illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing or over-capacity would be placed in a "red box", including subsidies "related to IUU fisheries and fishing vessel construction engaging in poorly managed fishery, which are against the conservation and sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources and encourage the fishing activities that exacerbate the status of the resources". Here, Japan differentiates between vessel construction in cases where fisheries are properly managed and where they are not, with construction subsidies prohibited in the latter case.

Certain subsidies fall outside the remit of fishing subsidies, according to the Japanese paper. These subsidies include: capacity building/human resources development; relief for natural disasters; and certain types of structural adjustment and regional development assistance.

Members respond to Japanese proposal

Reacting to the Japanese proposal, the US -- a member of the so-called "Friends of Fish" -- said Japan would be able to exempt its subsidies from any disciplines under the proposal, and that the proposal was a "significant step backwards" and unworkable. Instead, the US, together with Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Peru and the Philippines, supported an approach proposed by New Zealand, which would prohibit all subsidies, spelling out certain exceptions only. New Zealand also suggested that the

Japanese proposal served to safeguard existing Japanese subsidies, and the EC commented that the proposed "green box" seemed rather full as compared to a slim "red box".

On the other hand, Chinese Taipei and Korea supported the Japanese approach, with Korea commending its focus on conservation, and also noting that whether subsidies are harmful depends on the specific circumstances.

Brazil, Malaysia and Mauritius reminded Members of the fact that special provisions needed to be agreed for developing countries in any deal struck on fisheries subsidies, and that developing countries should be allowed the space to support the development of their fisheries sectors.

The next Rules meeting is scheduled for 1-3 November.

ICTSD reporting; "United States Blasts Japanese Proposal on WTO Disciplines for Fisheries Subsidies," WTO REPORTER, 30 September 2004.

Biotechnology

AFRICAN BIOTECH MEETING WORKS TOWARDS POLICY CONSENSUS

On 20-22 September representatives from across Southern Africa met in Harare, Zimbabwe, for a policy dialogue aimed at building consensus and strategies for common action on biotechnology in the region. While delegates agreed that there was a need to develop a common approach to biotechnology regulation in order to ensure biosafety, as well as food security, opinions diverged on the potential of genetically modified organisms (GMO) to help end African hunger.

In her opening speech, Olivia Muchena, Zimbabwe's Minister of State for Science and Technology Development pointed to "serious rifts over the economic, social and ecological value and costs of modern biotechnologies such as genetic engineering". "Genetic and molecular breakthroughs are pushing forward the frontiers of how people can use biotechnology to eradicate poverty, increase their incomes, live longer, be healthier, enjoy a better standard of living, participate more in their communities and lead more creative lives." At the same time, she noted that proponents of the technology had often exaggerated the benefits of the technology for economic, political and social reasons. "We know that poverty and hunger are caused by a number of economic, social and political factors. Narrowing the cause of hunger to the absence of one technology is really missing the point," she added.

The stark contrast between these two views on biotechnology had left many African policymakers and sections of the public uncertain about how to proceed because reliable information and guidance are lacking, a group of researchers warned in one of the conferences' background papers. This confusion was likely to deny African countries opportunities to derive benefits from the technology while minimising the associated risks. Joseph Mugabe, Executive Secretary of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Science and Technology Forum, added that the "increasing uncertainty and confusion in many of the African governments' responses to a wide range of social, ethical, environmental, trade and economic issues associated with the development and application of modern biotechnology is worrying and hence the need for a common ground".

Mugabe called on African governments to step up budget allocations for research and development in the field of science to allow Africa to embrace technological development from an informed point of view. He stressed the need for capacity building to enable countries to carry out their own research into the risks and benefits of biotechnology. Muchena also urged delegates to not "throw away the baby with the bath water", and instead to "separate genuine concerns from rumours, real benefits from hype" through transparent dialogue, systematic research and the creation of a coherent system of biotech regulation in Africa.

Many delegates were sceptical about the benefits of biotechnology. "Contrary to the promises made by the biotech corporations, the reality of the last 10 years shows that the safety of GM crops cannot be ensured, that they are neither cheaper nor higher quality and that they are not the magical solution to solve world hunger," a Friends of the Earth official said. "We must be constantly on guard against new forms of exploitation," Joshua Mpinga from Zambia said. "This biotech thing is just another way for these people to make themselves richer -- to make us more dependent on them. And if the Europeans and Americans want to fight over who will get richer from biotechnology, then they should not use us as proxy battle grounds." Delegates charged that promoters of GMO technology had failed to deliver on their promises that genetically modified crops would benefit consumers and poor farmers.

The challenges faced by Southern African countries in making policy choices on biotechnology-related issues became particularly apparent in 2002 when countries were faced with the decision on whether to accept food aid containing GM maize (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 10 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-10-10/story3.htm>). A number of countries, including Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique, initially rejected the food aid, but eventually accepted the GM maize on the condition that it was milled prior to or immediately upon arrival on the continent.

Background

The meeting was the second organised by a regional project called the African Policy Dialogues on Biotechnology. Co-ordinated by the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in collaboration with Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FARNPAN), it aims to ensure that African countries will be able to engage in dialogue and develop a common biotechnology strategy. The dialogues recognise that African countries will need first and foremost to build consensus and common strategies on how best to ensure that they maximise benefits from the technology while at the same time addressing the potential environmental, health, ethical and economic risks or concerns emerging from rapid advances in biotechnology. The first meeting was held in Johannesburg on 25-26 April 2003. Similar roundtables are planned for eastern, western, central, and northern Africa under the auspices of NEPAD's Science and Technology Forum, beginning in 2005.

Additional Resources

For further information on the African Policy Dialogues on Biotechnology, visit <http://www.ifpri.org/africadialogue>.

"Delegates Underscore Need for Uniform Policies," THE HERALD, 23 September 2004.

In Brief

THAILAND TO LEAD INITIATIVE AGAINST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

In his opening speech to the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP-13) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) in Bangkok on 2 October, Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra stressed the need for global and regional efforts to fight organised criminal activities related to international trade in wildlife. He proposed that Thailand could take the lead in forming a regional law enforcement network to combat wildlife crime, offering to host a meeting in 2005 to work out the details of establishing such a network. According to WildAid Thailand, a non-profit group committed to fighting wildlife trafficking, organised crime is attracted to wildlife trade because of the high profits, which can reach up to 800 percent in some cases. Sen Kraisak Choonhavan, chairman of WildAid, said "This proposal from Thaksin is excellent, this is what many of the conservationists have been urging Thailand to

do. And he even set a deadline for it." Conservation groups say that cross-border trafficking in wildlife was difficult to curb owing to few or no laws, the low priority given to it by governments and poor resources and training for enforcement. Roger Lahanan, from the Asian Conservation Alliance, said that "this region badly needs such a body proposed by the Thai Prime Minister and we'll work with the government to make sure it happens as soon as possible." Greenpeace, however, was sceptical of Prime Minister Shinawatra's comments, saying it wanted "action and not words".

On the sidelines of COP-13, the CITES Secretariat on 8 October announced the 2004 export quotas for Caspian Sea sturgeon, following an agreement by the five Caspian Sea states to significantly reduce their caviar export quotas for this year. The allocation had been delayed as the Secretariat was awaiting submission of the required conservation information (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 10 September 2004; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-09-10/inbrief.htm#4>).

Documents COP-13: <http://www.cites.org/>. For background, see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 23 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-09-23/story2.htm>.

ICTSD Reporting; "Proposal for Wildlife Interpol Gets Support," TERRAVIVA, 4 October 2004; ENB, Vol. 21 No. 35, 3 October 2004; CITES authorizes 2004 export quotas for Caspian Sea caviar," CITES, 8 October 2004.

UGANDAN COFFEE EXPORTERS CONCERNED OVER DDT USE

The Ugandan Health Ministry's approval of the use of DDT for the prevention of malaria has raised concerns among coffee farmers in Uganda over possible negative impacts on coffee exports. They fear that the DDT, though sprayed only in houses, could easily spill into agricultural fields, thus contaminating agricultural products that are then exported to Western countries with extremely strict market requirements. According to Clayton Arinanye, the executive director of the Uganda Coffee Trade Federation, if Europe -- Uganda's biggest coffee importer -- tested any of Uganda's agricultural products and found DDT residues, they would suspend Uganda's exports. "The result would be catastrophic not only to the private sector but also the government," said Arinanye. Given these consequences, much attention has been given to consultations and public awareness seminars about the use of DDT. During the private sector consultative workshop of the East African Customs Bill, exporters demanded that the government explain to the public the effects of DDT use to an agricultural economy such as Uganda's. Farmers argue that since DDT has been banned in the US and other countries, it would be best for Uganda to consider other options.

When used to prevent malaria, DDT has proven to be highly effective. South Africa reduced the incidence of malaria in one province, KwaZulu Natal, by over 80 percent in one year largely as a result of applying DDT. DDT is also appealing to developing countries because it is extremely cheap. At the same time, it is highly toxic, does not easily degrade into non-poisonous substances and can remain in the environment and the food chain for prolonged periods. After controversial negotiations, DDT was included under the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants, which however provides for certain exemptions if DDT is used for "disease vector control" (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 December 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.12-12-00.htm>).

"DDT Use Irks Coffee Exporters," NEW VISION, 28 September 2004; "MPs Back DDT to Curb Malaria," NEW VISION, 1 October 2004; "Uganda's New War," TECH CENTRAL STATION, 26 May 2004; "Anti-Malaria Use Of DDT May Be Necessary Evil," REUTERS, 2 April 2003; "Flower Farmers Petition Parliament over DDT," THE MONITOR, 20 September 2004.

'OPEN-SOURCE' INITIATIVE TO FACILITATE BIOTECH RESEARCH

Biologists launched an 'open-source' initiative last week which aims to make research tools, information and patented technologies more readily available to scientists, in particular in developing countries. Founded by the Australia-based Center for the Application for Molecular Biology to International Agriculture (CAMBIA), the Biological Innovation for Open Society (BIOS) initiative describes itself as "an effort to develop new innovation systems for market failures and for neglected priorities". Richard Jefferson, CAMBIA's Chairman and leader of the initiative, hopes that BIOS can create an "open source movement" in biotechnology, similar to the one that has developed in the computer software industry, and establish an international community of interested researchers. BIOS' first priority will be to create a portfolio of research tools that can be used for free, and to construct an easy-to-use database of patent information. BIOS will include information on all forms of biological innovations, including agricultural and animal-breeding tools, genetic resources, medical treatments and environmental remedies. Open-access licenses will be granted for free under the condition that the user grants BIOS the rights to any improvements made. Licensees can contribute a non-compulsory annual fee to BIOS, proportional to their capabilities. Sponsors and "non-compulsory" subscription fees are expected to cover all costs. Though BIOS expects some resistance from biotechnology companies, some have expressed their support for the initiative. "We have had discussions with BIOS and these will continue," says Ganesh Kishore, Vice-President of Technology at DuPont. "I don't view BIOS as a threat: it will be complementary. We need many innovations to build all the products that we want to build."

For further information, see <http://www.bios.net/home>.

"Biologists Launch 'Open-Source Movement'," NATURE, 30 September 2004; "Open Source Bt," ELLINGHUYSEN, 4 October 2004; "BIOS to Break Biology's Tech Barrier," AUSTRALIA IT, 6 October 2004.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS LIBERALISATION IMPACTS ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Market liberalisation in Central and Eastern Europe as part of EU accession has neglected opportunities to enhance energy efficiency in the region, the environmental group WWF concluded in its September 2004 report entitled "Ending wasteful energy use in Central and Eastern Europe". "In preparing countries of Central and Eastern Europe for the accession to the EU, negotiations have focused mainly on market liberalisation, with insufficient attention given to environmental and energy demand implications of energy market reform," WWF noted. The report suggests that energy waste is endemic in the region, with average energy intensity at least double that of the EU. Investments in energy efficiencies could benefit the region and the EU's economic competitiveness and security of supply, enable the region and the EU to reduce greenhouse gas emissions according to the goals of the EU's climate change policy and could in Slovakia alone lead to the creation of up to 10,000 jobs. "Energy liberalisation can have a detrimental impact on energy efficiency, with a decrease in market actors," WWF said. "Incentive regulations for Demand Side Management like in Italy and the UK are needed to provide a win-win approach and reward suppliers for increased efficiency for supply, transport and use".

The WWF research was issued partly in reaction to a recent European Commission proposal for a directive of on energy end-use efficiency and energy services. This 'energy services directive', released in December 2003, is currently being discussed in Parliament and Council. The EU directive aims to increase end-use energy efficiency in Europe through a number of operational measures, including developing the market for energy services, thereby making energy efficiency an integral part of the internal market for energy.

WWF report: http://www.wwf.at/downloads/EWE_Report.pdf

"WWF: Energy Efficiency Can Fire Up New Member States' Competitiveness," EURACTIV, 10 October 2004.

DRAFT PLAN RELEASED ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On 23 September, an advisory body to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan -- the Millennium Project -- released a preliminary draft report on meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Regarding the role of trade, the draft report stresses that while increased openness to trade is key to economic development, it is not a "magic bullet" for developing countries. Rather, the draft report suggests that trade policy should complement other parts of development policy such as infrastructure investments and social programs. The draft criticises agricultural protectionism in wealthy countries and urges developing countries to seek enhanced market access in the agricultural sector. The report, now open for public consultation, will undergo revisions before the final report of the Project is published in January 2005 to be used by a UN Summit reviewing progress towards achieving the MDGs. Adopted in September 2000, the eight MDGs are centred on national targets for poverty, child mortality, maternal health, education, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. They also include targets for establishing an international trade and finance policy framework that favours development. Numerical targets have been set for each goal, most of which are set to be achieved by 2015.

Draft "Global Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals":
<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/html/about.shtml>

Interim report of Task Force 9 on trade: <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/html/tf9docs.shtml>

RUSSIA'S KYOTO RATIFICATION REACHING HOME STRETCH?

On 30 September, the Russian Cabinet approved a draft law aimed at the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, which would trigger the Protocol's entry into force. For Russian ratification to proceed, the law has to be approved by the State Duma (the lower house of the Russian parliament, which is dominated by President Vladimir Putin's United Russia party). President Putin is pushing through the ratification against the opinions of some of his economic advisors, such as the outspoken Andrei Illarionov, who claimed the treaty would be disastrous to economic growth. Economy Minister German Gref, on the other hand, supported the treaty, although he said that "the Protocol hardly has any real impact on improving ecology. It is fairly symbolic". Russia has been stalling on ratification since Putin announced, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002, that the country would ratify "soon". The move towards ratification is considered to be political, and follows support by the EU of Russia's WTO accession, formalised at a summit in May (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-06-02/story5.htm>). The news prompted positive responses in the EU and among environmental groups. Friends of the Earth International's Catherine Pearce said "If Russia ratifies Kyoto it will be a significant step forward in the fight against global warming. It will also turn up the heat on President Bush and other world leaders who have refused to join the only international treaty that could help avoid a global catastrophe". The Kyoto Protocol, which obliges developed countries to reduce carbon emissions by five percent as compared to 1990-levels, is considered by climate scientists to be only a small first step on a long road ahead.

"Putin Revives Hopes for Kyoto Protocol," EURAKTIV, 1 October 2004; "Russia Backs Kyoto Climate Treaty," BBC, 30 September 2004; "Russia to Ratify Kyoto Treaty, GUARDIAN," 1 October 2004; "Climate Change Treaty Only One Step Away?," FOEI RELEASE, 29 September 2004.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar, <http://www.ictsd.org/cal/2004calendar.htm>. 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.

ICTSD Event

14 October, Geneva, Switzerland: ROUNDTABLE ON EMERGING ISSUES IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CLIMATE AND TRADE REGIMES (CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, ADAPTATION AND THE WTO). Organised by ICTSD. The objective of the roundtable is to examine the linkages between two major aspects of current global change -- the processes of trade liberalisation and global warming. Presentations will explore the relationship between the climate change regime and trade rules, including the implications of the current Doha Round of trade negotiations. Discussions will seek to identify areas of potential synergies and conflict between the two sets of rules, and explore windows of opportunity for promoting sustainable development. The interaction between trade liberalisation with both climate change mitigation and adaptation will be addressed. For further information contact Malena Sell, tel: +41 22 917 83 19; fax: 917 80 93; email: msell@ictsd.ch; Internet: <http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2004-10-14/invite-cc-and-trade.pdf>

Coming up in the next two weeks

10-12 October, Egypt: BUSINESS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN AFRICA ON THE WTO AGREEMENT ON SPS. This workshop is organised by the International Trade Centre's World Trade Net, a project under the auspices of UNCTAD and the WTO that responds to the requests for information, practical advice and training for the business community on WTO issues that are directly relevant to their business operations. This topical workshop will look into the practical implications of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement on the African Private Sector. For further information contact Sabine Meitzel, email: meitzel@intracen.org; Internet: <http://www.intracen.org/worldtradenet/welcome.htm>

12-14 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT (special and regular sessions). For further information contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: (41-22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org

12-13 October, Maryland, US: WORKSHOP ON TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE. This workshop, organised by the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), aims to bring together experts from academia, government, business, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to discuss the future of transportation against the backdrop of global climate change. The workshop will consider regional and global trends, new technologies for vehicles and fuels, air and marine transport, and near-term measures that could contribute to longer-term strategies on climate change. For further information contact Tim Stileman; tel: 44-20-7633-2388; fax: 44-20-7633-2389; email: tim.stileman@ipieca.org; Internet: http://www.ipieca.org/climate/climate_news.html.

12 October - 14 December, Brussels, Belgium: AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES ON THE EU AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - INTERNATIONAL AND EXTERNAL DIMENSIONS. This series of meetings are organised by the Institute for European Studies and the Department of Human Ecology of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, in cooperation with the Flemish Environment and Nature Council. The lectures will cover topics such as: The EU Sustainable Development Strategy: A First Assessment 3 Years After Göteborg; Sustainable Development and Political Union; Global Sustainable Development and Multilateralism: Towards a Partnership between Japan and the EU?; The EU's Global Leadership on Sustainable Development: Myth or Reality?; The New Constitution: A Charter for Sustainable Development in Europe?; Democratisation, Economic Transition and Sustainable Development: A Perspective from the EU's New Member States and Neighbors. For further information contact the Institute for European studies; tel: +32-2-629-1222; fax: 629-1809; email: ies@vub.ac.be; Internet: <http://www.ies.be>.

13-15 October, Cape Town, South Africa: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION - THE MACRO-MICRO LINKAGE. Hosted by the University of Cape Town's Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU) and Trade and Industrial Policy

Strategies (TIPS) in association with Cornell University, this conference will consider evidence-based policy recommendations on trade and investment that stem from analysis of macro-micro linkages in the African context. For further information contact DPRU, tel: +27-21-650-5705; fax: 650-5711; email: dpruconf@commerce.uct.ac.za; Internet: <http://www.commerce.uct.ac.za/dpru/dpruconference2004/>

15-16, Geneva, Switzerland: AFRICA WORKSHOP ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. For further information contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: (41-22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org

17-20 October, Mariánské Lázně, Czech Republic: EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION OF TOURISM ACTIVITIES. This event is the third of a series of World Tourism Organisation regional conferences aimed at providing forums for discussing the opportunities and challenges of setting up and operating certification systems. For further information contact Sarka Tittelbachova; tel: 420-224-861-572; fax: 861-348; email: titsar@mmr.cz; Internet: <http://www.world-tourism.org/sustainable/conf/cert-czech/eng.htm>.

18 October - 15 November, Online: BIOSAFETY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS FOR MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL POPULATIONS. Organised by the Biosafety Clearing-House of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, this online conference will facilitate exchange of views on a range of important issues such as the use of genetically modified micro-organisms, nematodes and insects for biological control (including those used to cause sterility in pest species for conservation and/or commercial purposes); the use of genetically modified viruses to protect mammal populations against disease; and the use of genetically modified insects for reducing disease transmission rates. To register, visit <http://bch.biodiv.org/onlineconferences/GMOAM.shtml>.

20-21 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL. For further information contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: (41-22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org

21-22 October, Brussels, Belgium: EU EMISSIONS TRADING 2004. This event, organised by the publishers of Environmental Finance magazine, will look at competitive implications of allocation plans, outlooks for carbon prices, impact on electricity prices, bilateral and exchange-traded contracts, accounting and legal issues, and industry views on electricity and cement. For further information contact Elizabeth, tel: +44 207 251 9151; fax: 251 9161; email: elizabeth@environmental-finance.com; Internet: <http://www.environmental-finance.com>

Other upcoming events

22-23 October, Mexico City, Mexico: CONFERENCE ON BIOPOLITICS 2004: PRIVATISATION OF NATURE AND KNOWLEDGE: UNDER THE BIOS SIGN: TECHNOLOGY, ETHICS, DIVERSITY AND RIGHTS. This conference is organised by the Heinrich Böll Foundation. For further information contact the Foundation; tel/fax: +52-55-52-64-28-94; Internet: <http://www.boell-latinoamerica.org/es/web/198.html>.

30 October, Bonn, Germany: THE WORLD DOESN'T NEED GENETIC ENGINEERING IN AGRICULTURE -- THE PROTEST BECOMES GLOBAL. The German Forum on Environment and Development together with the Church Development Service EED, BUND and others are organising an international Meeting on the Cartagena Protocol and its relevance for the debates on gene technology and its regulation in developing countries. For further information contact Rudi Buntzel, EED; tel: +49-30-20355-225; fax: 20355-250; email: r.buntzel@gkke.org.

2-3 November, Johannesburg, South Africa: BIO2BIZ 2004 CONFERENCE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY. This conference will happen concurrently with INSITE – the International Science, Innovation & Technology Exhibition and is jointly hosted by the four Biotechnology Regional Innovation Centres (BRICs) in South Africa: BioPAD, Cape Biotech, LifeLab, and PlantBio. The conference aims to inform, stimulate and

facilitate the quest to develop and promote biotechnology industries in South Africa. It will bring together both private and public sector biotechnology representatives from South Africa, countries across our border and around the world. Topics to be addressed include patenting issues, regulatory requirements, licensing strategies, due diligence and cluster development. For further information contact conference organisers; tel: +27 11 886 3734; fax: +27 11 789 6562; email: moreinfo@bio2biz.co.za or booking@bio2biz.co.za; Internet: <http://www.insitex.co.za>.

8-11 November, Loskop Dam, South Africa: WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS, AND POLICIES. This workshop is organised by the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry (South Africa), the Water Research Commission (WRC), and the Centre for International Cooperation and Research for Development. It aims to explore the developmental implications of in-depth policy reforms in the water sector in the last 20 years. The emphasis is on water management for local sustainable development, through proper and sound governance, institutions and policies. For further information contact Sylvain Perret; fax: +27 11 786 5683; email: sylvain.perret@cirad.fr; Internet: <http://wrm2004.cirad.fr>.

25-27 November, Dhaka, Bangladesh: ASIA-PACIFIC PEOPLE'S CONVENTION ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY. This conference, co-organised by the Asia Pacific Research Network, People's Food Sovereignty Network Asia-Pacific and the Policy Research for Development Alternative (UBINIG), hopes to provide analysis on current trends in food and agriculture, promote people's food sovereignty as alternative, to solve problems in food and agriculture, prepare people's intervention for the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference and other regional/bilateral agreements and to promote and strengthen local, national and popular movements and initiatives. For further information contact UBINIG; tel: (+880-2) 8111465, 8116420; fax: 8113065; email: nkrishi@bdmail.net; Internet: <http://www.peoplesfoodsovereignty.org/PFSCov.htm>.

RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy or review by the BRIDGES staff to Heike Baumüller, hbaumuller@ictsd.ch.

THE EARTHSCAN READER IN ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS. Edited by Samantha Jones and Grace Carswell, September 2004. This reader brings together a core selection of recently published key articles that have helped define the emerging field of 'environment and development'. For more information visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=4096>.

BLUE GENES: SHARING AND CONSERVING THE WORLD'S AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY. By David Greer and Brian Harvey, September 2004. The book looks at issues of ownership, governance, and trade in aquatic genetic resources. It describes the growing demand for aquatic genetic resources and the urgent need to fill the policy vacuum for the management and conservation of aquatic biodiversity as a foundation for rules of governing access to and use of aquatic genetic resources. The book concludes with policy recommendations specifically tailored to aquatic resources and uses six case studies from four continents to illustrate key issues. For more information visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=4098>.

REGIME SHIFTING: THE TRIPS AGREEMENTS AND NEW DYNAMICS OF INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWMAKING. By Laurence Helfer, in Yale Journal of International Law, Vol 29, No 1, Winter 2004. Drawing on the writings of political scientists who analyse international regimes, the Article concludes that TRIPs has had unanticipated effects on international intellectual property lawmaking. The author argues that the expansion of intellectual property lawmaking into diverse international fora is the result of a strategy of "regime shifting" by developing countries and NGOs that are dissatisfied with many provisions in TRIPs or its omission of other issues and are actively seeking ways to recalibrate, revise, or supplement the treaty. Available at http://law.vanderbilt.edu/faculty/pubs/helfer-regimeshifting.pdf?abstract_id=459740.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW. By William M. Landes and Richard A. Posner, American Enterprise Institute and Brookings Institution, AEI-Brookings Joint Centre for Regulatory Studies, Washington DC, 8 June 2004. This monograph focuses on the expansion of intellectual property law over the last half century. It first describes the expansion and then seeks to explain it. In so doing, it explores a fundamental, unresolved issue in the theory of regulation: why some kinds of regulation have increased dramatically over this period while others have virtually disappeared. Available at http://www.aei.org/docLib/20040608_Landes.pdf.

THE BIG CHILL: THE WTO AND MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS. By Robyn Eckersley in *Global Environmental Politics* 4 (2, 2004): 24-50. This paper assesses the claim that the WTO exerts a form of disciplinary neoliberalism that has a 'chilling effect' on both the implementation and negotiation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially in the light of the stalled deliberations of the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment and recent WTO jurisprudence, and concludes that the WTO's trade agreements do serve to limit the scope and operation of MEAs. The paper then explores a range of possible reforms and concludes that the prospects for greening the WTO from both within and without are by no means bright.

OVERLAPPING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GOVERNANCE: CAN FOREST CERTIFICATION FILL THE GAPS IN THE GLOBAL FOREST REGIME? By Lars H. Gulbrandsen in *Global Environmental Politics* 4 (2, 2004): 75-99. This article investigates whether forest certification (eco-labelling) is likely to rectify certain omissions in the current global forest regime. Gulbrandsen argues that the gaps in the forest regime to date could be filled by including a broad range of stakeholders in certification standards development; promoting strong environmental and social performance standards in forestry; providing effective control mechanisms, securing producer participation; and penetrating markets.

THE CITES TREATY AND COMPLIANCE: PROGRESS OR JEOPARDY? By Rosalind Reeve, Sustainable Development Programme, September 2004. This paper examines recent developments in the current CITES compliance regime and assesses whether negotiations for new guidelines on compliance threaten to undermine the existing regime. Available at <http://www.cahthamhouse.org.uk/sustainabledevelopment>.

A GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF FISHERIES BYCATCH AND DISCARDS. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), September 2004. The FAO released a new analysis indicating an average of 7.3 million tons of fish are being discarded globally each year, a decrease of about 12 million tons from the FAO's previous estimate. Available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/t4890e/t4890e00.htm>.

Electronic Resources

PHARMACROPS.COM. This website focuses on crops genetically engineered to produce pharmaceuticals. It features an information section that contains reports, articles and links meant to educate its visitors about the issue of PharmCrops and an action section providing the means to send letters and e-mails to members of Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture. Visit <http://www.pharmacrops.com/>.

Vacancies

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER, *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* (INEA). INEA is a peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary journal focusing on theoretical, methodological, and practical dimensions of cooperative solutions to international environmental problems. INEA is seeking individuals with a background, knowledge, or experience in water, biodiversity, air pollution, waste, Antarctica, and sustainability, to sit on the journal's Scientific Advisory Board. Scientific Advisory Board members are responsible for reviewing two to three articles per year, completing each review within one month of reception. Interested colleagues are asked to submit their C.V.'s to Editor-in-Chief, Joyeeta Gupta at: [Institute for Environmental Studies; Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam; De Boelelaan 1087; 1081 HV Amsterdam; joyeeta.gupta@ivm.vu.nl](mailto:joyeeta.gupta@ivm.vu.nl).

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