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LEAD STORIES

DOHA ROUND: DRAFT JULY DEAL EXPECTED IN NEXT FEW DAYS

At the time of publication of BRIDGES Weekly, WTO negotiators were awaiting a draft agriculture framework text. The formal Committee on Agriculture (CoA) special (negotiating) session was postponed late last week, with a new date yet to be set. A critical end-July deadline for agreeing on an overall framework for WTO negotiations is rapidly approaching (see BRIDGES Weekly, 7 July 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-07-07/story1.htm>). Trade sources indicate that Members have yet to reach agreement on key issues, and the final July text is likely to remain at a very general level rather than set out specific details.

Last week, high-level official from the Five Interested Parties' (FIPs) group -- the US, EC, Australia, Brazil and India -- met in Geneva without reaching convergence. The trade ministers from these same countries convened over the weekend in Paris, along with Tim Groser, Chair of the agriculture talks, making only minimal progress. Following the FIPs ministerial, the G-90, comprising African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, the African Union and least developed countries (LDCs) met from 12-13 July in Mauritius.

Meanwhile, Chair Groser is working on drafting a framework text on agriculture, which will form the centrepiece of the overall July framework. The entire package is likely to be released at the end of the week.

No breakthrough at FIPs ministerial

At a ministerial-level meeting hosted by Brazil in Paris from 10-11 July, the FIPs held focused discussions on agriculture, but failed to make concrete progress. "The process is moving, there was a good discussion. We're not there yet," said EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy. US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick emphasised the importance of not letting the opportunity to agree on a package in July slip, "because one never knows when that opportunity will return". Kamal Nath, Indian Commerce Minister, stressed the need for a deal that considers poor subsistence farmers in India.

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G-90 Platform flexible on trade facilitation, tough on cotton

The G-90 met in Grand Baie, Mauritius from 12-13 July. At the meeting, the group agreed on Elements of a Platform on the Doha Work Programme. These covered all relevant areas of the negotiations, and urged WTO Members to support a recent EC initiative suggesting that weak and vulnerable economies -- essentially the G-90 -- should be given special consideration (see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 May 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-05-13/story1.htm>).

On agriculture, the G-90 noted the crucial role agriculture plays in its member economies, calling for, inter alia, effective special and differential (S&D) treatment, for provisions for special products (SPs) and for a special safeguard mechanism (SSM) for developing countries. The G-90 also underscored the importance of longstanding preferences and stressed that preference erosion needs to be addressed.

On industrial market access, the G-90 said the text currently under consideration is "in contradiction with the principle of less than full reciprocity enshrined in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and, as such, would further deepen the crisis of de-industrialisation and accentuate the unemployment and poverty crisis in our countries". Instead, the group called for policy space and flexibility.

The G-90 indicated their willingness to begin negotiations on trade facilitation as part of the July package. Trade facilitation is one of the so-called Singapore issues which contributed to the collapse of the WTO ministerial in Cancun last year. The group agreed that the other three -- investment, competition, and transparency in government procurement -- should be dropped from the Doha work programme.

The G-90 supported the stance taken by four central and west African countries in Cancun that cotton should be negotiated on a track separate from the rest of agriculture, a position that is strongly resisted by the US.

US, EC urge flexibility at G-90 meeting

WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi remained in Geneva to help facilitate the negotiating process, but sent a strongly-worded statement to the meeting (see http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news04_e/stat_dg_mauritius_july04_e.htm), emphasising the need for compromise. He said that should the negotiations fail, "we will have nothing to show for nearly three years of

work in the Doha round and I believe it will be quite some time before we have another opportunity to advance these negotiations". Zoellick (see <http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2004/07/2004-07-12-transcript-mauritius.pdf>) issued a similar warning, stressing that "we only have a couple of weeks left if we are going to be able to advance the Doha Agenda at our July General Council meeting. And if we fail again, because we did fail the last time, I do not know for sure what will happen to the Doha Development Agenda. I do not know whether it will be revived. So let me urge all of you, and it's true for me too - not to make the perfect be the enemy of the good". The EC's Danuta Hübner (see http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/hubner/speeches_articles/spdh08_en.htm) emphasised that the stance taken by G-90 countries needed to be "flexible enough to give latitude to negotiators in Geneva to actually pursue their work".

The way forward

As a next step in the negotiations, Supachai and WTO General Council Chair Shotaro Oshima are expected to release a draft July framework package on 16 or 17 July. They will, along with Chair Groser, brief Geneva-based delegates on its contents, after which negotiators will have the chance to consult with their capitals, and negotiations will continue in different groupings and formats in Geneva. The briefing will likely take place in the form of a heads of delegations meeting or a special session of the CoA. The end-July session of the WTO General Council is scheduled for 27-29 July.

To access the G-90 Platform on the Doha Round see http://www.acp.int/InternalSheet.aspx?ArticleFileName=2004/G90_en.html&sessLang=1

ICTSD reporting; G-90 Ministers Endorse WTO Talks On Facilitation, Take Hard Line on Cotton, WTO REPORTER; Trade talks move slowly as end-July deadline looms, REUTERS, 11 July 2004.

OTHER NEWS

AGOA III ALLOWS AFRICA'S TRADE BENEFITS IN THE US TO CONTINUE

On 13 July, US President George W. Bush signed a bill that will extend trade benefits enjoyed by African countries under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) from 2008-2015. The bill, AGOA III, represents the second renewal of the original AGOA Act, signed in

May 2000. AGOA aims to significantly liberalise access for certain African products to the US market. In his remarks at the signing of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 (AGOA III), President Bush noted that AGOA had brought gains to both African exporters and US businesses.

The bill was spearheaded by the AGOA 3 Action Committee, a coalition of businesses as well as civil society groups. Commenting on the strong US support for AGOA III -- passed in the heat of an election year -- Rosa Whitaker, the Committee's co-chair noted that "minds have met on the moral imperative of drawing sub-Saharan Africa into the mainstream of the global economy." US Senator Charles Grassley echoed the sentiment of trade observers by pointing out that the extension of AGOA would curb the environment of uncertainty which had led to investment flight from Africa.

African textiles manufacturers relieved

One of the key issues for African textiles manufacturers in the extension AGOA was the renewal of a provision that excludes African beneficiaries from complying with normal, stringent rules that define where textiles and apparel products are made and determine if they are eligible to receive AGOA benefits -- the so called 'Rules of Origin'. AGOA III extends this waiver, which was set to expire in September this year, by a further three years subject to certain conditions. In effect, the designated African country beneficiaries known as the 'Lesser Developed Beneficiary Countries' (LDBC's) under the Act can continue using fabrics produced in countries not covered by AGOA (so-called third country fabrics) in the production of clothing products for export to the US. All 37 AGOA-eligible countries, except Mauritius and South Africa, are deemed to be LDBC's for this purpose.

AGOA has been credited with raising the value of African garment exports to the US from about US\$600 in 1999 to US\$1.5 billion in 2003. Trade experts, however, point out that the gains under AGOA's textiles regime have only benefited a few countries. Countries such as those in the South Africa Development Community have generally benefited more. In Lesotho, for example, 10,000 clothing jobs were created in 2001 alone. On the other hand, the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have generally failed to gain from AGOA. Mosuo Moteane, Lesotho's Ambassador to South Africa expressed relief over the extension of the waiver. He stressed that "many of our factories faced jeopardy; orders were being cancelled; many garment manufactures were considering downsizing -- the extension is indeed joyous news".

Phase-out of textile quotas

A related area of concern for the African textile industry is how the imminent global phase-out of textile quotas will affect the benefits they enjoy under AGOA. Until the establishment of the WTO in 1995, textile and clothing quotas were negotiated bilaterally and governed by the rules of the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA). The MFA provided for the application of selective quantitative restrictions when surges in imports of particular products caused, or threatened to cause, serious damage to the industry of the importing country. On 1 January 1995, the MFA was replaced by the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), which sets out a transitional process for the ultimate removal of these quotas. Trade experts have raised concern over the prospect for the African textiles industry after the MFA expires, due to anticipated competition from Asian textile suppliers. International textile producer organisations recently voiced concern over possible market domination by China, and called for the extension of textile quotas (see BRIDGES Weekly, 23 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-06-23/story6.htm>).

Other provisions in AGOA III include technical assistance provisions aimed at assisting African producers to comply with US agricultural standards.

SACU-US FTA and AGOA: complementary or at odds?

In related developments, Xavier Carim, the South African chief negotiator for the South African Customs Union (SACU), denied allegations that AGOA could pose problems for the SACU-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Some observers have pointed out that the temporary and unilateral nature of AGOA could be used as a bargaining chip by US negotiators and is the cause of alleged areas of difficulty in the talks.

The SACU-US FTA negotiations were launched in June 2003 to build on AGOA. According to the US Trade Representative the aim is to create 'a model for similar efforts in the developing world'. The FTA is the first with any sub-Saharan African country. The members of SACU -- Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland -- comprise some of the leading AGOA beneficiaries. SACU has concluded six rounds of trade talks with the US so far. The next round of talks is due to be held in Botswana in August this year.

To access the 2004 Comprehensive Report on US Trade and Investment Policy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act visit <http://www.agoa.gov/resources/2004-05-agoa.pdf>

For additional resources see <http://www.agoa.info>

ICTSD reporting; "US denies impasse in SACU-US negotiations," TRALAC News, 12 July 2004; "US Senate Approves AGOA extension," TRALAC News, 25 June 2004.

CONCERNS RAISED OVER ACCESS TO MEDICINES UNDER TRADE TREATIES

While Geneva-based negotiators work around the clock to secure a deal by the end of the month to keep the Doha Round alive, UN experts and civil society groups have raised concerns over the fate of countries trying to safeguard public health in the light of recent developments under bilateral trade treaties. Paul Hunt, UN human rights rapporteur, said on return from a trip to Peru that he was "deeply concerned that the US-Peru trade agreement will water-down internationally agreed health safeguards, leading to higher prices for essential drugs that millions of Peruvians will find unaffordable". Doctors and activists at an ongoing high-level HIV/AIDS conference in Thailand are protesting against alleged US pressure on developing countries in bilateral trade negotiations to adopt overly stringent intellectual property protection.

UN human rights rapporteur cautions against TRIPS provisions in US FTAs

Paul Hunt, UN special human rights rapporteur on the Right to Health, issued a warning on 5 July stressing that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) currently under negotiation between the US and the Andean countries must not ignore international public health safeguards under the WTO. The flexibilities contained in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health ensure easy access to affordable medicines for millions of underprivileged people. The US-Andean FTA might raise prices of essential medications that are already unaffordable for millions of Andeans, warned Paul Hunt on return from a visit to Peru. He also stated that if the final agreement in any way restricted access to medications for Andean countries, this would go against their constitutional and international human rights responsibilities.

This report by Paul Hunt follows similar recent UN initiatives highlighting the important role human rights obligations play in bilateral trade negotiations. In June, the UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Ecuador take its human rights obligations into account in its current bilateral trade negotiations with the US. Similar recommendations were also made to El Salvador by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which urged the country to consider the best interest of the child when negotiating on intellectual property (see

BRIDGES Weekly, 16 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-06-16/inbrief.htm#2>).

The US agreed to an "Understanding" in the US-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) with regard to intellectual property rights, which specifically states that intellectual property protection should not interfere with a country's obligations towards public health. The US recently published a "fact sheet", stressing that US bilateral FTAs are not intended to circumvent the right of countries to safeguard public health.

HIV/AIDS conference brings Thai concerns over trade deal into spotlight

In related news, the XV International AIDS Conference currently being held in Bangkok from 11-16 July is being used by Thai doctors and HIV/AIDS activists to protest against pressure allegedly exerted by the US on Thailand and other developing countries to implement "TRIPS-plus" measures in bilateral free trade agreements currently under negotiation. Patent regulations proposed by the US would significantly increase the price of essential HIV/AIDS medications and ultimately make it "difficult or impossible for countries to introduce generic competition for products," according to the Global Access Project's Sharonann Lynch.

Thailand has currently one of the world's most successful anti-AIDS campaigns, providing easy and affordable access to generic versions of necessary drugs. However, the Thai AIDS programme still does not match the increasing demand for medication.

There are approximately 29,000 new infections of HIV/AIDS every year in Thailand, of which 4,900 are in children. Access to affordable medications is a crucial component of the fight against AIDS.

Activists claim, however, that the US-Thailand FTA negotiations, announced in October last year, threaten to dissolve the Thai AIDS programme in favour of a stricter intellectual property rights regime. "Manufacturers with drugs under patent in Thailand now monopolise the market and prices are 10 times more expensive than generic drugs," said Jiraporn Limpananont, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Chulalongkorn University.

For more information on the AIDS conference see <http://www.aids2004.org/>

To view the CAFTA understanding regarding certain public health measures visit <http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/Cafta/final/letter-publichealthunderstand.pdf>

ICTSD reporting; "Derechos de propiedad intelectual relacionados con el comercio, acceso a los medicamentos y derecho a la salud-Ecuador," 3D, April 2004; "Acceso a medicamentos asequibles: un derecho que ningún ALC puede ignorar," 3D, 18 May, 2004; "US-Peru trade negotiations: Special Rapporteur on right to health reminds parties of human rights obligations," UN PRESS RELEASE, 5 July, 2004; "UN official warns that US-Andean FTA may Water Down WTO Medicines Pact," WTO REPORTER, 7 July, 2004. "AIDS body says WTO drug deal not being implemented," REUTERS, 6 July, 2004.

sustainable development and the gradual integration of ACP countries into the world economy. The EPAs are mandated to enter into force from 2008 until 2020.

ICTSD reporting; "EU, SADC launch trade negotiations," Namibian Marketplace News, 12 July 2004; "EU-ACP: Launch of trade negotiations with Southern African region," EC RELEASE, 7 July 2004; "Stakeholders voice their concern over SADC-EU negotiations," TRALAC News, 7 July 2004.

IN BRIEF

EU, SOUTHERN AFRICA LAUNCH TRADE TALKS

On 8 July, the EU and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), comprising Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Tanzania, launched trade and development negotiations in Windhoek, Namibia. These are the fifth in a series of regional Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) signed between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement of 2000 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 22 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-04-22/story6.htm>).

Speaking at the opening of the EPA talks, SADC Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy, reiterated the position of many ACP regional groupings by noting that the EPA negotiations should strengthen regional integration in his region. "The EPA should add value to our development process, and, in particular, assist us to implement appropriate strategies to deal with the problems of underdevelopment and poverty in a sustainable manner," he said. SADC has raised concern with regard to certain negotiating areas such as the EU's food safety requirements and rules of origin. SADC also expressed concern that the EU's reform of its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) might weaken the value of traditional trade preferences enjoyed by its exporters.

The launch of the EPA talks will be followed by a first negotiating session, during which both sides will discuss a "roadmap" outlining the next steps in the negotiations. The Cotonou Agreement provides the framework for the negotiation of new reciprocal WTO-compatible trading arrangements between the EU and the ACP. The EPAs are aimed at reducing and eventually eradicating poverty while contributing to

EC REFORMS GSP IN LIGHT OF TEXTILE QUOTA PHASE-OUT

On 7 July, the EC announced a major overhaul of its Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). The changes will increase the EC's trade preferences for the world's poorest countries and decrease them for faster growing economies, such as China and India. Through the GSP the EC grants imports from 178 developing countries either duty-free access or a tariff reduction. In 2002, the EC imports under this system were worth EUR53.2 billion, while total EC imports amounted to EUR900 billion. EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy did not release any details about the reform, but did say that instead of "having a scattered benefit to all developing countries" the new GSP would "focus efforts on the most needy countries".

These changes have implications for many developing countries, with the greatest effect expected to be felt by China. Currently, goods from China make up 33 percent of all EC imports under the GSP. Under the revamped scheme, they are likely to shrink due to the fact that the EC will make decisions on trade preferences based on a country's market share in a particular export product rather than on the overall state of the country's development. China's surging exports in textiles mean it will lose tariff benefits. Since joining the WTO two years ago, China's global market share in some textiles exports has increased from 9 percent to 64 percent. Chinese current dominance in the global textile market, and the upcoming expiration of the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) at the end of the year played a large role in the EC's decision to reform its GSP (see BRIDGES Weekly, 23 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-06-23/story6.htm>). Lamy said the EC wanted to make sure the new GSP system would help weaker textile countries, such as Bangladesh, to better deal with the expected boom in Chinese textiles once the ATC expires. The final blueprint for the new GSP will be ready on 31 December 2004, a full year before its renegotiation deadline.

For more information on the EC proposal, see http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/global/gsp/pr070704_en.htm

"Generalized System of Preferences," EUROPEAN COMMISSION RELEASE, 7 July 2004; "EU to Overhaul Import Tariffs," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 7 July 2004; "EU Aims to Add To Trade Benefits For Poor Nations," THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 7 July 2004.

UNAIDS REPORT: WTO DEAL ON GENERIC DRUGS - AN EMPTY PROMISE?

The UNAIDS Report 2004 was launched on 6 July in advance of the XV International AIDS Conference, which is being held in Bangkok from 11-16 July. The report heavily criticises the lack of drugs for HIV/AIDS infected people, primarily in developing countries. Even though in 2001 UNAIDS and the WHO launched an initiative to provide three million people with the appropriate medication needed by 2005, leading health experts warn that this goal is very unlikely to be met. One main reason cited is the fact that a WTO deal to make generic medicines available to developing countries without domestic manufacturing capacity (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 September 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-09-04/wtoinbrief.htm#1>) is not being implemented. According to Peter Piot, Director of UNAIDS, only Mozambique, Canada and Malaysia have translated the deal into legislation. The report emphasises the need to transfer antiretroviral production technologies from countries such as Brazil, India and Thailand to interested countries in Africa, as locally produced medications further reduce the cost of the medicines in the long term.

To access the "2004 Report on the global AIDS epidemic" see <http://www.unaids.org/bangkok2004/report.html>

"Aids drugs aim 'will not be met,'" BBC NEWS ONLINE, 9 July 2004; "AIDS body says WTO drug deal not being implemented," REUTERS, 6 July 2004.

NEW US TARIFFS ON SHRIMP IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND VIETNAM

On 6 July, the US Commerce Department proposed new tariffs on shrimp imports from China and Vietnam. The announcement followed a decision by the US International Trade Commission (ITC) that exporters in these countries had been dumping shrimp into the US at artificially low prices. The proposed tariffs, which will go into effect shortly, range from 8 to 113 percent on

Chinese exporters, and 12 to 93 percent on Vietnamese exports. However, the Commerce Department will not set final dumping penalties until after the ITC makes its final ruling in January 2005 on whether the US shrimp industry is being harmed by these imports. The tariffs will only apply to frozen and canned warm-water shrimp and prawns, and do not affect breaded, fresh, dried and coldwater shrimp and prawns, and shrimp found in prepared meals.

This decision is part of a preliminary ruling in an antidumping case launched by US shrimpers and processors last year (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 3 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-10-03/inbrief.htm>). The shrimpers filed the case to combat low domestic shrimp prices. They claim the value of the US shrimp harvest was more than halved between 2000 and 2002, decreasing from US\$1.25 billion to US\$560 million, because of the dumping of cheap imports. The case is against six countries in total, but decisions against Thailand, Brazil, Ecuador and India are not expected until later this month. Shrimp from these six countries account for 75 percent of total US imports of frozen and canned warm-water shrimp. Not everyone in the US is happy about this decision. US seafood distributors and retailers are opposed to the duties, claiming they will drive up shrimp prices by as much as 44 percent and reduce consumption.

"Update 2: US proposes Tariffs on China Shrimp," FORBES, 6 July 2004; "US Proposes Tariffs on Shrimp Imports," BOSTON GLOBE, 6 July 2004.

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: 15-21 July

13-16 July, Geneva, Switzerland: 24TH SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. The Open-Ended Working Group to the Montreal Protocol, convening for its annual mid-year meeting, is expected to review progress in the various committees and prepare for MOP-16 in November 2004. For further information contact the Ozone Secretariat, UNEP, tel: +254-2-62-

3850; fax: +254-2-62-3601; e-mail:
ozoneinfo@unep.org; Internet:
<http://www.unep.org/ozone/>

15 July, Washington, D.C., USA: GLOBALISATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: IMPLICATIONS FOR CAFTA AND BEYOND. This meeting, organised by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Organisation of American States Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment, and the Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, will focus on globalisation and environment in the Americas. For further information see
<http://www.boell.org/docs/Invitation-Globalization&Enviroment-July15.pdf>

19-22 July, London, UK: TAKING FORWARD THE WORLD TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. This Wilton Park conference will explore issues such as the way forward in the Doha Round, ways to improve the functioning of the WTO, the roles of the various new negotiating groups, regionalism, coherence, developing country issues, and implications of EU enlargement and agricultural reform. For further information contact Susan Linfield, Conference Administration, Wilton Park, Wiston, tel: +44-1903-817728; fax: +44-1903-814217; email: susan.linfield@wiltonpark.org.uk; Internet: <http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/web/welcome.html>

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.pdf. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, and are open to WTO Members and accredited observers only.

16 July: WTO COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT.

16 July: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

19 July: WTO WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

20 July: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

20 July: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT - SPECIAL SESSION.

21-22 July: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

Other Forthcoming Events

4-7 October, Boca del Rio, Veracruz, Mexico: YES MEXICO 2004 - A LEARNING SUMMIT. This event will evaluate global progress on youth employment, with the sharing of national strategies within the context of YES Framework for Action. Over 1000 youth delegates will deliberate on the issue of youth employment on the focal areas of: renewable energy, water and sanitation, on-farm & off-farm enterprises, ICT, HIV/AIDS and post conflict reconstruction. A global "State of the YES Campaign 2004" report will also be released. To register and to apply for partial scholarships, visit: <http://www.yesweb.org/mexico/register.html>; for further information contact Gustavo Payan, YES Mexico Summit Coordinator, email: gustavo@yesweb.org; Internet: <http://www.yesweb.org/mexico/index.html>

31 May to 3 June 2005, Boston, Massachusetts, USA: IAIA'05 - ETHICS AND QUALITY IN IMPACT ASSESSMENT. This event is the 25th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), and will explore the fundamental questions of ethics and quality in the impact assessment profession. Workshop and session proposals are invited by 15 August 2004. Papers and posters are invited by 15 November on all aspects of the conference theme. For submission instructions or more information on the conference, contact Bridget John, tel: +1 701 297 7908; email: bridget@iaia.org; Internet: <http://www.iaia.org>

RESOURCES

DEVELOPED COUNTRY COTTON SUBSIDIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: UNRAVELLING THE IMPACTS ON AFRICA. Briefing Paper by the Overseas Development Institute (July 2004). Cotton trade and production are highly distorted by policy. More than one-fifth of world cotton producer earnings during 2001/02 came from government support to the sector. Support to cotton producers has been greatest in the US, followed by China and the EU. Cotton subsidies encourage overproduction, which is then sold on the world market. To access the paper visit http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/briefing/bp_july04_cotton.pdf

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF COTTON SUBSIDIES ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. By Ian Gillson, Colin Poulton, Kelvin Balcombe, and Sheila Page (Overseas Development Institute, May 2004). Models developed to investigate the impact of cotton subsidies tend to generate results that support the contention that US subsidies, by virtue of their absolute

magnitude, are particularly damaging and that the impacts of current EU cotton support are relatively small. Research conducted by ODI and Imperial College challenges a number of critical assumptions upon which contemporary models are based and in doing so, demonstrates that EU cotton subsidies may have a disproportionate and significant impact on developing country cotton production, particularly on those of its traditional trading partners, which include West African countries. For further information and to access the report visit http://www.odi.org.uk/iedg/Projects/cotton_report.html

WHY MARKET ACCESS REFORMS MATTER. By Peter Gallagher (Australian Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, July 2004). This report brings together pertinent research results from a variety of World Bank, IMF, Australian government (ABARE), WTO and UNCTAD research publications, presented in a series of concise charts and diagrams. Includes estimates of the levels of protection in different groups of markets (industrialised and developing), the direction and composition of agricultural trade flows and projections of the impact of different approaches to agricultural trade liberalisation, contrasting the impacts of cutting export subsidies and reducing market access barriers. To access the report visit <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/GLC/04-110sum.html>

CLIMATE POLICY BEYOND 2012: A SURVEY OF LONG-TERM TARGETS AND FUTURE FRAMEWORKS. By Asbjørn Torvanger, Michelle Twena and Jonas Vevatne (CICERO, July 2004). This report is based on a comprehensive and structured literature review of key issues associated with long-term goals for climate policy, and to the framework for implementing climate policy. The study provides a basis for working with global climate policy after 2012, whether the Kyoto Protocol enters into force or not. The main challenges are to achieve broader participation in future climate agreements than has been the case with the Kyoto Protocol, especially with respect to the USA and developing countries, and to achieve deep emissions reductions to prevent human-induced climate change from getting out of control. The discussion of climate goals is divided into advantages and challenges presented by long-term climate goals, goals connected to the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, goals connected to the impacts of climate change, and the issue of setting short-term emissions targets as a step in meeting long-term goals. The discussion of implementing climate policy is divided into architecture of future climate policy, different types of national commitments under a global agreement, and differentiation of national emissions reductions targets. To access the report visit http://www.cicero.uio.no/publications/detail.asp?publication_id=2776

"Climate change and the WTO: Opportunities to Motivate State Action on Climate Change Through the World Trade Organisation". By Meinhard Doelle in *RECIEL: REVIEW OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY & INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW* 13 (1, 2004) pp. 85-103. Meinhard Doelle examines the possible trade implications of actions taken under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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