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NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS

This is the last issue of ICTSD's BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest for 2004. The first issue of 2005 -- Vol. 9, No. 1 -- will be published on 14 January. The producers of the Weekly as well as the rest of the ICTSD team would like to thank our contributors and funders for the critical assistance they provide. We would also like to thank our readers for their interest and feedback and wish you all the best for the holiday season and 2005

LEAD STORIES

WTO AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS: MEMBERS TO AGREE ON "PRE- MODALITIES" BY AUGUST 2005

On 17 December, delegates wrapped up their final "agriculture week" of the year, with Chair Tim Groser of New Zealand calling for agreement on "pre-modalities" by mid-2005, so that Members can strike a deal at the sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December 2005. The agriculture week was the third set of agriculture talks since the July Package, and started off with informal talks from 13-15 December (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 December 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-12-15/story6.htm>).

Among issues discussed during the week were the tariff reduction formula and a paper submitted by the G-33 ("friends of special products") on the special safeguard mechanism (SSM) for developing countries.

Groser highlights progress, process

At the formal meeting of the special (negotiating) session of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) that concluded the week's negotiations on 17 December, Chair Groser summarised the discussions and gave

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some pointers to what is needed to move the process ahead. He said that although significant technical work had taken place since July, more was needed. In order to focus the process and achieve tangible results, he proposed that Members produce a "first approximation," or sketch, of the modalities (formulas for negotiations) before the 2005 annual WTO break in August. This would then feed into an agreement on the actual modalities, to be agreed at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December. This would be in line with a timeline previously proposed by the EC, Japan, and the G-20 (which includes Brazil, India and China). Urging Members to shy away from political rhetoric at this stage, Groser commented that "behind every technical issue lies a political question, but underlying every political issue are technical issues which our ministers cannot possibly be expected to resolve".

The negotiations during the agriculture week took place in three different settings: in an informal negotiating session open to the full Membership that allowed for general statements on issues under review; in more focused open-ended technical consultations that delved deeper into the issues; and in small group consultations involving technical experts. Groser specified that this set-up sought to respond to the conflicting objectives of transparency and efficiency. Providing their reactions, a number of Members supported the process. Some called for more transparency, suggesting that some of the small group technical discussions be video-linked to another room in order for other delegates to listen and learn, or that written reports of the meetings be provided.

No progress on tariff reduction formula

In informal discussions leading up to 17 December, Members discussed -- for the first time since the July Package -- issues related to the tariff reduction formula. Delegates reportedly stuck to their old positions, with countries such as the US and G-20 members supporting the "Swiss" harmonising formula (which would see higher cuts in higher tariffs) and the EC and G-10 group of developed country agricultural importers favouring the "Uruguay Round" formula, which sets an average tariff cut with a minimum reduction per tariff line. In the July Package, Members agreed to build on a "banded" or "tiered" approach, which classifies tariffs into various bands for reduction from bound rates, with higher tariffs being cut more than lower ones. In addition, the G-20, supported by the US, stressed that non ad-valorem tariffs (tariffs based on factors other than price, such as volume) must be converted into ad valorem (tariffs based on price) equivalents before the final formula can be agreed. The EC and the G-10 disagreed, arguing that this would slow down the process too much.

G-33 outlines special safeguard mechanism, special products

At the beginning of the agriculture week, the G-33 submitted a paper on the special safeguard mechanism (SSM), which will provide developing countries with protection against sudden import surges. The paper notes that existing safeguard provisions have been inadequate "to address the concerns of developing country Members related to stabilising domestic markets and avoiding sudden increases of imports that threaten to disrupt domestic production and employment." Therefore, the SSM must be an improvement upon existing safeguards. The paper goes on to highlight developing country Members' experiences with existing safeguards, noting that such countries often lack the capacity to follow their rigorous procedures, and that in a situation where most farmers are small subsistence farmers, it is difficult to establish the necessary causal link between imports and injury. The paper also noted other built-in constraints of the existing safeguard mechanisms.

Therefore, the paper proposes "building on the flexibilities embedded in the existing safeguard provisions [in the Agreement on Agriculture] rather than extracting from them." It provides the following general parameters for negotiations on SSM modalities: the safeguard measure should be automatically triggered; it should be available to all agricultural products; both price and volume-triggered safeguards should be considered; both additional duties and quantitative restrictions should be considered as response measures; and the mechanism should be simple, effective and easy to implement.

Kenya, the Philippines, China, and Brazil supported the paper, with Kenya adding that no limitations should be placed on the SSM so as to allow countries to effectively address import surges and price fluctuations. Developed country Members, including the EC, the US and New Zealand, had some comments and objections. The EC and the US did not support the extension of the SSM to all agricultural products, preferring to negotiate criteria to for how to limit its coverage. Under such a scenario, the SSM might apply only to staple food products or products necessary for food security. The countries added that the SSM might apply to products that already have low tariffs in order to facilitate the overall liberalisation process.

The next agriculture week is scheduled to begin on 7 February 2005.

ICTSD reporting; "WTO Agriculture Chair Cites Need For Modalities 'Outlines' by Summer," WTO REPORTER, 20 December 2004; "G33 presents

detailed paper on Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM)," TWN, 14 December 2004.

OTHER STORIES

FEUD OVER TEXTILES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ENDS

A disagreement among developing countries that had prevented them from approving the WTO technical assistance and training plan (TATP) for 2005 was resolved at a meeting of the WTO's Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) on 10 December. The TATP had been blocked due to resistance from China, India, Pakistan and Hong Kong. These countries had objected to the plan's inclusion of four regional seminars on textiles and clothing addressing the post-quota trading environment, although the latter three countries' opposition has dwindled (see BRIDGES Weekly, 1 December 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-12-01/story1.htm>).

Members struck a compromise that will have programmes on textiles and clothing trade proceed as part of national technical assistance seminars -- but not of regional ones. In return for this concession, China agreed to let the CTD add language to the programme mandate saying that the seminars "will be conducted in response to the demand of beneficiaries" in light of the importance of the sector to several developing and least-developed countries. Countries including Mexico, El Salvador, Kenya, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and Uganda had wanted textiles to remain on the technical assistance agenda.

China argues that once textiles and clothing are incorporated into regular WTO disciplines on 1 January 2005, they should be treated the same as any other non-agricultural goods -- the TATP for 2005 does not provide for technical assistance seminars in any other specific product sectors.

China has repeatedly suggested that the adjustment-related needs of smaller developing countries should be dealt with by national industries in the concerned countries, as well as through assistance from international financial institutions. WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi echoed these sentiments in a 2 December speech in Beijing, declaring that "Adjustment challenges are complex... The starting point is domestic reform. There is a role for international financial institutions in facilitating a coordinated response in support of domestic reform efforts."

Smaller developing countries, on the other hand, have stressed that they need broad-based assistance from the WTO to facilitate transition in the sector (see BRIDGES Weekly, 17 November 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-11-17/story3.htm>), and have criticised China's pressure to exclude the issue from the TATP as "heavy-handed". One diplomat suggested that China was unnecessarily antagonising its developing country partners over a minor issue. "There's a lot of bitterness," said one Latin American official who took part in the CTD discussions. "China failed to show solidarity with its developing country partners on this issue."

ICTSD Reporting; "China Ends Feud With Developing Nations On WTO-Sponsorship of Textile Aid Program," WTO REPORTER, 13 December 2004; "Supachai Praises Textile Tariff Elimination, Foresees Benefits to Developing Countries," WTO REPORTER, 10 December 2004.

VIETNAM'S ACCESSION PROGRESSES; CIVIL SOCIETY CONCERNS RAISED

After finishing the ninth round of its WTO membership talks at the 15 December meeting of the Working Party on its accession, Vietnam is looking to complete the negotiations in time for the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005. Entry talks have been underway for ten years.

The 63 Members that are negotiating a membership package with the Southeast Asian country used the meeting to review the first draft of the report that they will submit to the General Council for approval by consensus at the end of the accession process. Vietnam announced that it had signed six of the bilateral market access deals (with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, the EU, and Singapore) that play a crucial though controversial role in ensuring that Members agree to an applicant's accession, and was close to concluding another seven. Other members of the Working Party on the Accession of Vietnam include the US, Canada, Japan, India, Switzerland, and Australia.

Members applaud Vietnam's efforts; say more needs to be done

Vietnam reported on how it was bringing its trade regime into line with WTO law, and said that it would speed up the passage of pending WTO-related legislation in 2005. Members praised it for its "hard work," paying particular attention to the bilateral market access negotiations. Members unanimously reiterated that they would like to see Vietnam join the WTO as soon as possible.

Members did have some criticisms of Vietnamese policy. Several pointed to discrimination between domestic and foreign investors in the country's investment regime -- even though, as pointed out by some observers, investment is not a subject of WTO negotiations -- and asked for a list of sectors in which investment was prohibited. Others contended that Vietnamese law discriminated between domestic and foreign enterprises with regard to trading rights, saying that it was in violation of WTO provisions on national treatment and quantitative restrictions.

Civil society: Bilateral market access talks unfair, dangerous

Civil society organisations have criticised the way Vietnam's accession talks have proceeded thus far, arguing that it is being forced to accept commitments that go above and beyond the requirements of WTO rules, and thus runs the risk of liberalising its economy faster than may be desirable from a developmental standpoint. Oxfam researchers Duncan Green and Le Kim Dung have described the bilateral market access negotiations as "a form of political tag wrestling in which the world's mightiest economies take it in turns to climb into the ring and squeeze yet more concessions, with scant regard to an applicant's development needs." They point out that Vietnam has been compelled to accept a far higher level of liberalisation in farm products than any of its neighbouring WTO Member countries. Green and Le warn that as part of its accession process, Members might try to make Vietnam multilateralise several provisions of its "heavily 'WTO-plus'" bilateral free trade agreement with the US, including those on market access and intellectual property rights.

Indeed, in the accession talks, some Members have seemed less than willing to accord Vietnam the special and differential treatment ordinarily due to developing countries on some aspects of its potential future WTO commitments. Though one developing country Member of the Working Party argued that Vietnam should be entitled to special and differential treatment on subsidies, several other Members wanted it to implement the Subsidies Agreement upon accession. Vietnam has already dropped its request for a gradual implementation of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, and has agreed to comply with it from the date of its accession.

The date for the next meeting of the Working Party has not been set, but is likely to be in the first half of 2005.

Background

An applicant for WTO Membership must first describe all of its WTO-related trade and economic policies to

the Working Party set up for its accession. Members of the Working Party -- which will subsequently vote on the applicant's accession in the General Council -- may then ask it to engage in bilateral negotiations on market access. Commitments made in these bilateral talks must be extended multilaterally to all WTO Members as part of the applicant's 'accession package.' The tiny Pacific island of Vanuatu completed accession talks in 1999 but turned down the WTO's offer of Membership, judging the high cost of its terms of accession -- including full and immediate compliance with WTO disciplines on intellectual property rights -- to exceed any likely benefits.

ICTSD reporting; "Accession moves forward as members examine the terms," WTO NEWS, 15 December 2004; "Members praise Viet Nam's new offers, but seek improvements and more clarification," WTO NEWS, 15 June 2004; "Birth defects of WTO accession process," KATHMANDU POST, 27 March 2002; "Vietnam: The excessive cost of WTO admission," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 17 December 2004.

RULES GROUP DISCUSSES FISHERIES SUBSIDIES, ANTI-DUMPING

The WTO Negotiating Group on Rules held a formal meeting on 16 December to talk about fisheries subsidies and anti-dumping measures. This was preceded by three days of informal meetings during which Members discussed issues including regional trade agreements in addition to anti-dumping.

Disagreement on approach to fisheries subsidies disciplines

At the 16 December meeting, the US put forward a submission (TN/RL/W/169; available online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) expressing its support for a November 2004 proposal (TN/RL/W/166) by Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Peru which would have Members first broadly prohibit fisheries subsidies and subsequently negotiate appropriate exceptions to the ban. (see BRIDGES Weekly, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-11-10/story2.htm>) According to the US submission, the "primary focus of the negotiations should be to strengthen disciplines on fisheries subsidies that contribute directly to overcapacity and overfishing," and the November proposal's 'top-down' approach "offers a simple, administrable, enforceable and realistic structure" for doing so. In addition to the six sponsors of that proposal, Australia, Brazil, Pakistan, and Venezuela expressed support for the US submission.

Japan opposed the proposal for a general prohibition on fisheries subsidies, and once again argued for a 'bottom up' approach (TN/RL/W/164) that would require Members to evaluate each type of subsidy and slate it for preservation or elimination depending on its effect. (see BRIDGES Weekly, 6 October 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-10-06/story5.htm>) The American submission countered that the Japanese approach would "contemplate a very small number of prohibited subsidies and a large number of permitted subsidies," and that it "could potentially lead to a set of disciplines weaker than the current rules."

Korea, which supports the Japanese approach, said that the fisheries subsidies talks were proceeding far too quickly. It pointed out that though such subsidies only became the subject of negotiations at the November 2001 Doha Ministerial Conference, Members were already contemplating their general prohibition. Korea urged other Members to make concessions on the issue, arguing that it had already given enough ground itself.

Meanwhile, the EC said that the simple fact that Members' generally agree that harmful subsidies must stop already represented significant progress. It also urged participants not to take hardline positions in favour of the top-down approach on the grounds that the alternative approach might also yield results. India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and China emphasised developing countries' need for special and differential treatment.

US proposal on Anti-dumping Agreement

At the same meeting, the US submitted a paper (TN/RL/W/168) that proposed modifying the Anti-Dumping Agreement to ensure that importing Member governments are required to pay interest when refunding excess anti-dumping duties to importers. It argued that failing to compel Members to pay interest on such duties would in effect force importers to make interest-free loans to their governments.

The Negotiating Group held informal meetings on 14-15 December where Members discussed a proposal by Canada on 'like products' as well as others by the 'Friends of Anti-Dumping Negotiations' group on the definition of 'domestic industry' and on the determination of injury. The Friends of Anti-Dumping Negotiations include Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Japan, Korea, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong.

At the 13 December informal session to discuss the Chair's draft text on transparency in the WTO review of RTAs, Members broadly supported the creation of a mechanism similar to the trade policy review to look at such agreements.

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING TAKES CAUTIOUS LOOK AT POST-KYOTO ERA

On 18 December climate change negotiators wrapped up two weeks of discussions by agreeing to engage in further talks on what might come after the Kyoto Protocol. The tenth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) convened on a high note in Buenos Aires, Argentina, following the recent Russian ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and its imminent entry into force (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 19 November 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-11-19/inbrief.htm#2>).

Despite all the positive momentum, the climate change conference quickly became bogged down in disagreement, with negotiators haggling over the turn of phrase on just how to move beyond the expiry of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012, and on how to treat oil exporting countries that might be adversely affected by climate change mitigation measures taking off around the world. The US and oil exporters such as Saudi Arabia provided fierce resistance to attempts to move the process ahead, and large developing countries with soaring emissions, such as India and China, were explicit about not yet wanting to take on any emissions reduction commitments.

In the end, negotiators agreed to hold a seminar in June 2005 to exchange information on possible future climate change measures, rather than start an actual negotiating process. The COP also adopted the "Buenos Aires Programme of Work on Adaptation and Response Measures," under which a number of workshops and papers will be prepared on these issues and support will be provided for mainstreaming adaptation into sustainable development planning in developing countries. Certain issues were left unresolved; these included issues related to the adverse effects of policies and measures under the Kyoto Protocol. Such adverse impacts would mainly be felt by oil exporting countries.

The next meeting of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies will be held in Bonn in June 2005.

For a longer report on the meeting, see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 20 December 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-12-20/story1.htm>

ICTSD reporting; "U.S. Waters Down Global Commitment to Curb Greenhouse Gases," NY TIMES, 19 December 2004; "Buenos Aires conference advances Efforts to adapt to climate change and meet Kyoto targets," UNFCCC RELEASE, 18 December 2004; "Summary Of The Tenth Conference Of The Parties To The UN Framework Convention On Climate Change," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, 20 December 2004.

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING QUOTAS SET TO EXPIRE

As the 1 January 2005 date for the elimination of all textile and clothing quotas approaches, key players in the global industry have been posturing about their efforts to deal with the new trading environment.

Long Yong-tu, China's chief negotiator during WTO accession talks, told a recent conference on the quota phase-out that the textile export duties recently announced by the Chinese government can be expected to be between two and four percent, and will be levied on clothing categories in which export surges -- and safeguard actions by the US -- are expected. (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 December 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-12-15/story4.htm>) Long cautioned that the end of quotas would not lead immediately to unfettered free trade, and that the "psychological impact of [the expiry of the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing] will be greater than the actual impact." The American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC), a Washington-based textile industry lobby group that has opposed reductions in US textile tariffs, expressed scepticism about the export tax, saying that Chinese prices would nonetheless unfairly undercut those of US products. The US Commerce Department has agreed to consider at least 11 controversial petitions from AMTAC to impose safeguards to block imports of Chinese textile products such as trousers and shirts. The EU, for its part, welcomed China's decision to impose export duties.

The EU adopted a regulation on 13 December that will eliminate all quantitative restrictions on the import of textile and clothing products from WTO countries. It did leave open the possibility of taking legal steps to block surges of Chinese imports, although said that it would do so "only if strictly necessary." The EU also agreed to eliminate all quotas on imports of Vietnamese garments -- despite the fact that Vietnam is not expected to become a WTO Member until late 2005 -- in return for Vietnam's agreement to the extension of some commitments contained in an October Vietnam-EU WTO accession agreement.

ICTSD Reporting; "The EU to lift textiles quotas from 1 January 2005," EU, 13 December 2004; "EU says block Chinese textiles 'only if necessary,'" REUTERS, 13 December 2004; "US skeptical about China's planned self-imposed textile export duties," XFN-ASIA, 13 December 2004; "Vietnam to Boost EU's Market Access in Garment Quota Agreement," BLOOMBERG, 13 December 2004; "China's Textile Duties Seen Totalling 2% To 4%," ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL, 20 December 2004; "CITA Determination...," US INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION PRESS RELEASES, November - December 2004; "Six types of textile exports face duties," XINHUANET, 21 December 2004.

WTO IN BRIEF

CONSULTATIONS ON GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS UNDERWAY

Members met on 16 December for the first session of technical consultations on whether or not to extend to other products the additional protection for geographical indications (GI) that the WTO Agreement on Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) currently accords to wines and spirits. The consultations were provided for in the July Package.

Most of the meeting's discussions repeated traditional arguments over the extension of the scope of GI protection (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 6 December 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/01-12-06/story1.htm>). Advocates of extension such as Switzerland, the EU and Bulgaria said that future discussions should focus only on GI extensions, while opponents including Australia countered that they should be broadened to include other GI-related issues such as the Multilateral Register for GIs (currently being negotiated in the TRIPS Council) and the issue of "clawback", i.e. the EU's proposal to reclaim terms used in other countries for the purposes of agricultural market access negotiations. The meeting's Chair, WTO Deputy Director-General Francisco Thompson-Flôres, will prepare a list of topics to be covered by subsequent informal meetings based on suggestions by Members.

The next consultations will take place in February and March 2005. For further information on GIs, see http://www.iprsonline.org/ictsd/docs/Rangnekar_Bridge_s8-8.pdf

ICTSD reporting.

SUPACHAI: REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS THREATEN WTO SYSTEM

WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi has warned Members that the proliferation of bilateral and regional trade agreements poses a "significant challenge" to the multilateral trading system.

The Director-General submitted his annual report on developments in the international trading environment (WT/TPR/OV/10, available online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) to the 16 December meeting of the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB). In his remarks to the meeting, Supachai observed that 21 bilateral and regional trade agreements had been notified to the WTO between January and August 2004, bringing the number of notified agreements to 206. He suggested that this number could soon approach 300.

Supachai's report noted that the number of regional trade agreements (RTAs) grew in 2004 in the wake of the failed Cancun Ministerial Conference in 2003. Notably, the report asserted that the rising number of RTAs "has eroded the scope of application of MFN tariffs, with the outcome that for a number of Members MFN tariffs tend to be the exception rather than the rule."

The report noted that the worldwide increase in RTA negotiations has been particularly pronounced in the Western Hemisphere and the Asia-Pacific region, with the US playing a leading role in the trend. Supachai told the meeting that RTAs -- when fully compliant with WTO rules -- "can complement multilateral efforts to liberalise trade," but could also "pose a systemic risk to the global trading system that merits closer scrutiny."

"WTO Chief Sounds Alarm Over Rising Number of Bilateral, Regional Trade Deals," WTO REPORTER, 21 December 2004.

KITUYI DROPS OUT OF DG RACE; FOUR CANDIDATES REMAIN

Kenyan Trade and Industry Minister Mukhisa Kituyi has decided to drop his bid to become the next Director-General (DG) of the WTO after failing to win the support of his own government for his nomination. (see BRIDGES Weekly, 8 December 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-12-08/story5.htm>)

Four candidates have been officially nominated to succeed current DG Supachai Panitchpakdi when his term ends on 1 September 2005: former EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, former Uruguayan WTO Ambassador Carlos Perez del Castillo, Brazil's current

WTO Ambassador Luiz Felipe de Seixas Correa, and Mauritius' Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Jayakrishna Cuttaree. 31 December 2004 is the deadline for nominations.

The 79-member group of Asian, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries are expected to formally endorse Cuttaree's candidacy this week. They had held off endorsing a candidate over the past three weeks following the surprise announcement of Kituyi's candidacy at a 29 November - 3 December ACP ministerial meeting.

The nominees to succeed Supachai will make presentations to the WTO General Council on 26 January 2005.

"Kenyan Kituyi Reported to Drop Bid for Position of WTO Director-General," WTO REPORTER, 21 December 2004; "Poor nations to back Mauritius for top WTO job," REUTERS, 21 December 2004; "Kituyi Won't Bid for WTO Top Job," THE NATION (Nairobi), 20 December 2004.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

VACANCIES

ICTSD Vacancy

ICTSD is seeking an intern for the Trade and Natural Resources cluster. The intern will be responsible for supporting the agriculture, environment and natural resources team at ICTSD. The main tasks will comprise assisting in organising meetings on agriculture, biotechnology, fisheries and environment; maintaining the ICTSD trade & environment and agriculture trade web portals; writing for the ICTSD publications BRIDGES Weekly and BRIDGES Trade BioRes; and other tasks as required. For further information see

<http://www.ictsd.org/about/TORnaturalresourcesintern.pdf>; to apply, send a cover letter, CV and writing sample to Heike Baumuller and Malena Sell at hbaumuller@ictsd.ch and msell@ictsd.ch by 15 January 2005.

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.

ICTSD Event

17-19 January 2005, Paris, France: TRADE IN CULTURAL GOODS, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. ICTSD session at the Third Global Forum on Human Development (see below). Trade in cultural goods and the protection of traditional knowledge have become increasingly prominent issues during the last few years. The first is related to trade in collective expressions; the second is to the protection of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, particularly with respect to biological diversity. This workshop will analyse the latest developments at the international and national levels regarding trade in cultural goods and the protection of traditional knowledge, and consider options for protecting, preserving and commercialising cultural goods and traditional knowledge in a sustainable manner. For more information, see http://www.iprsonline.org/unctadictsd/dialogue/2005-1-17/2005-1-17_desc.htm

Coming up: 23 December 2004 - 19 January 2005

13-14 January 2005, London, United Kingdom: SENIOR LEVEL FORUM ON DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN FRAGILE STATES. Organised by the Development Cooperation Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD DAC), the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank; hosted by the UK Department for International Development. Although there is broad agreement that aid for poverty reduction is more effective in countries with sound institutions and policies, a number of donors agree on the need to work with fragile states (i.e. countries that are not able or willing to provide basic social services to the poor in their populations) by promoting the goals of peace, security, respect for the rule of law, human rights, and social and economic development. The impact of weak and fragile states on global security, and the imperative to ensure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), make it clear that development agencies must also find effective ways to remain engaged, even in the countries where doing so is most difficult. Participants at the meeting will include ministers, senior government officials, leading development practitioners and academics; their objective will be to help shape a consensus on how donors should be engaging in fragile states. For further information, see http://www.oecd.org/document/30/0,2340,en_2649_33721_33964254_1_1_1_1,00.html

17-19 January 2005, Paris, France: THIRD GLOBAL FORUM ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT -- CULTURAL IDENTITY, DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL JUSTICE. Organised by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report Office, Sciences-Po Paris, Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI). This session of the Forum will focus on two main themes: "cultural diversity and democracy" and "equity and human development." It will consider the conclusions of the 2004 edition of the United Nations Human Development Report entitled "Cultural Liberty in a Diverse World," as well as the current research surrounding the HDR 2005 entitled "Reshaping international cooperation: aid, trade and security in an unequal world." For further information, see <http://hdr.undp.org/events/forum2005/contact.cfm>

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.

The next formal WTO meeting is scheduled for 17 January 2005.

17 January: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - JAMAICA

18-19 January: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY - SPECIAL SESSION

19 January: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - JAMAICA

RESOURCES

A MODEL INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. By Konrad von Moltke, International Institute for Sustainable Development, November 2004. The current model for international investment agreements (including many failed attempts, such as the OECD's MAI) is too narrowly focused on investor rights. This paper asks what an investment agreement would look like if its goal from the outset were to achieve sustainable development. The result is a novel mix of rights and obligations for investors, host states and home states.

Available online at
<http://www.iisd.org/publications/publication.asp?pno=660>

IMPLICATIONS OF THE COTONOU AGREEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE ACP COUNTRIES AND BEYOND. By Konrad von Moltke, International Institute for Sustainable Development, November 2004. This paper assesses the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) -- an agreement between the EU and a group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, most of them former colonies. The CPA relies heavily on the benefits of trade liberalisation, complemented by EU aid in various forms. How likely is it that this grand experiment will promote sustainable development, and what else needs to be done to ensure that it does? Available online at <http://www.iisd.org/publications/publication.asp?pno=659>

CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR THE WTO. Edited by Andrew D. Mitchell. Cameron May, 2004. This book from international law publishers Cameron May includes contributions from academics, lawyers, and diplomats based on papers delivered at the Sixth and Seventh Conferences of the World Trade Law Association (WTLA) in London, as well as specially commissioned chapters. The chapters of this book follow four broad themes: (1) the state of play in WTO negotiations and disputes; (2) defining the boundaries of the WTO; (3) the scope of WTO dispute settlement; and (4) the interface between regional trade agreements and the WTO. For further information, contact Cameron May Ltd. International Law Publishers, 17 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BU, England; tel: +44-(0)20-7799-3636; fax: +44-(0)20-7222-8517; email: info@cameronmay.com; Internet: <http://www.jus.uio.no/lm/cameronmay/cm>

THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA - IMPACTS ON TRADE AND POVERTY. Overseas Development Institute (ODI), October 2004. The Doha Round of the World Trade Organization was named the Development Agenda, but there are clear divergences of interests among developing countries. The slow progress of the negotiations, the breakdown at Cancun, and the uneasy compromise reached in July 2004 confirmed that we must look at different parts of the agenda and different groups of countries in order to determine who benefits. Even where trade reforms unambiguously improve total world welfare, the distribution among countries may leave some losers, and even in countries that gain, some may lose. This series of papers summarises the ODI's assessments of the principal issues of the WTO round, how the outcome might affect poverty, the progress of the negotiations, and the impact on four different countries. Available online at

<http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/briefing/doha/index.html>

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