



# Bridges Trade BioRes

*News, events and resources at the intersection of trade and biodiversity*

**Issue: 30 September 2005**

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## Agriculture

### BEIJING CONSENSUS CREATES BLUEPRINT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Experts on agriculture, environment and economics from around the world met in Beijing, China for a 9-10 September dialogue on "Agricultural and Rural Development in the 21st Century". The meeting, which was hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), included 30 participants from academia, civil society, government and international organisations.

Participants issued a document called the "Beijing Consensus" which highlighted what should be done to promote agricultural and rural development to reduce hunger and poverty while protecting the environment. This document drew upon panel

discussions on key agricultural opportunities and challenges related to issues ranging from trade and globalisation to environment, food security, research and science. It spelled out four emerging challenges of particular importance: urbanisation and its impact on food demand and supply systems; trade liberalisation and its consequences for the poor and uncompetitive farm households; rapid natural resource competition and degradation; and the urgent need for stepping up research and technology development.

### Key role of science in agriculture...

Participants in the Beijing dialogue paid considerable attention to opportunities for developing countries related to new technologies, as well as the need for ensuring environmentally sustainable development. In his opening speech, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said "We need the best of modern science and technology to meet the challenges of an increasingly commercialised and globalised agricultural sector, and to provide new impetus for addressing the age-old problems of production variability and food insecurity of rural populations living in marginal production environments." Several Chinese experts highlighted the role of technological development in revitalising the country's rural sector, which lags far behind the growth trends of the urban areas. Justin Lin, of the China Centre for Economic Research at Peking University, called on the government to promote innovation in agricultural technology. According to the Beijing Consensus, "New agricultural research and technology must sustain an ever-green revolution, which combines cost reduction with resource conservation and enhanced production."

Participants focused in particular on the situation in Africa, calling for concerted investment in science and rural infrastructure and highlighting the experience of the emerging economies, such as China and India, as examples of how complex the

process for building human capital in this regard is. The role of agricultural technologies such as biotechnology in addressing African development needs has been a source of some controversy, and biotechnology-related opportunities were discussed during the meeting.

### ... and of environmental stewardship

The Beijing Consensus brought to fore the key role of rural societies in the sustainable management of ecosystems, and highlighted climate change as a particular challenge for agriculture. Robert Watson, Chief Scientist at the World Bank and co-chair of the World Agriculture Assessment, outlined the impacts that variations in climate is already having on development prospects through changing precipitation patterns. Other effects of climate change of importance to agriculture include more frequent extreme weather events -- both floods and droughts -- as well as other disturbances, such as pest outbreaks and fires. According to recent modelling exercises, crop yields are likely to decrease in the tropics and sub-tropics, while increasing slightly in temperate regions. Watson outlined adaptation options, including adjusting planting times, crop varieties and the introduction of new cultivars more resistant to changes in temperature, droughts, pests and increased salinity levels. Irrigation and fertilisation could also aid in the adjustment process to a changing climate.

In the Beijing Consensus, dialogue participants stressed that agricultural practices will have to be modified so as to minimise adverse impacts on climate change and also to allow for adaptation to an already changing climate. Carbon dioxide loss from agricultural land can be reduced through changing tillage methods, reverting cropland to grassland and improving water and nutrient use. In addition, agriculture can potentially be tailored more towards climate change mitigation through the implementation of practices that enhance carbon sequestration. Better management practices include no-till or low-till agriculture, use of shelterbelts, terracing of slopes and organic farming. The production of biofuels -- clean-burning, carbon-neutral fuels derived from agricultural crops or wastes that can be used to partially replace liquid petroleum products -- provide significant opportunities for the agricultural sector to contribute to climate change mitigation at a financial profit.

### Trade liberalisation and the Doha Round

In relation to agricultural trade, participants paid particular attention to its impacts on small farmers. They noted the need to integrate small farmers into global value chains in the context of increasing urbanisation and the growth of supermarkets. In the Doha Round negotiations, WTO Members are fleshing out the details for how to operationalise the concept of special products, which will be subject to lower tariff cuts based on the criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development. In addition, they are working on the modalities for a special safeguard mechanism to protect developing countries from sudden import surges. The Beijing Consensus welcomes these tools to protect small and vulnerable farmers in the face of further farm liberalisation and calls for institutional and policy form at the domestic level to flank such measures.

To access the Beijing Consensus and the meeting documents, visit [http://www.fao.org/es/ESA/beijing/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/es/ESA/beijing/index_en.htm).

ICTSD reporting; "UN agency unveils blueprint for sustainable agricultural development," UN NEWS CENTRE, 19 September 2005; "Tech solution to agricultural challenges," CHINA DAILY, 10 September 2005.

### Forests

#### GOVERNMENT ROLE IN FOREST CERTIFICATION QUESTIONED

Diverse visions of the relationship between governments and forest certification arose at a policy forum organised by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the FAO in Geneva on 29 September. European governments, along with several other countries, shared their experiences with forest certification during the one-day discussion organised as part of the UN ECE Timber Committee Session.

Given that certification is usually defined as a "voluntary, market-based instrument to promote sustainable forest management", and in order to preserve the independence and legitimacy of the certified label, several developed countries

expressed their opinion that governments should not be responsible for the certification of their private forests. Instead, their role could include stimulating discussion, creating public procurement policies requiring certified timber and supporting private certification efforts in other ways. Developing countries, on the other hand, suggested that in their experience the private sector in their countries doesn't have the scale or capacity to develop national forest certification standards adapted to regional circumstances and development needs. As well, the forests in many developing countries are entirely publicly owned. Governments are thus the only bodies with the capacity to develop and adopt certification standards that are useful to producers and suitable to national environmental and developmental conditions.

### Need to address deforestation

The original drive behind forest certification in the 1990s was to address deforestation, but participants recognised that certification is only one tool to be used to this end. In response to criticisms that certification has 'failed' because deforestation has continued, a representative of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the largest certification body, criticised the treatment of certification as a panacea for all forestry problems. Trade in forestry products currently makes up only a small proportion of timber felled and used annually. Certification does nonetheless enhance communication between consumers and producers, educate producers and enhance the profile of sustainable forest management while working towards deforestation. As pointed out by a representative from a timber firm, however, it could also distract attention from national efforts to combat deforestation and other environmental concerns such as the energy used in timber transport. Regardless, the positive impact of certification and timber trade in general would be higher if more developing countries took part in certification schemes. Representatives of producers in both developed and developing countries pointed out that certification can be a marketing tool for forest owners to enhance their market access in environmentally concerned developed countries. A representative from Ghana said that for this to happen, standards must address the needs of small-scale producers and, as a representative from the International Tropical Timber Organisation noted, the value of certified timber must increase to give

producers the incentive to undergo the long certification process.

### Public procurement could increase demand

Increased exports could indeed be in the books for certified producers if the draft public procurement rules currently being considered in several developed countries are signed into law.

The proposed rules vary from a description of a broad range of sustainable forest management criteria to be used by government purchasing bodies, to demands that only 'legal' timber be purchased. Concerns have been raised in other forums that the new focus on 'illegal' logging could distract attention from the more comprehensive goal of sustainable forest management. In this context, Malaysia suggested that the only way to get small-scale developing country forests certified would be a phased approach (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 29 April 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-04-29/story1.htm>) that specified legality as the first phase or step towards full certification. It would also thereby give developed countries a source for legally verified timber.

Procurement policies that require legal or certified imports, however, could along with certification itself be considered discriminatory and a technical barrier to trade in the WTO. However, insofar as countries are reluctant to bring up trade discrimination based upon process and production methods (PPMs), private-sector tools or public procurement policies at the WTO, the debate about market access, forestry certification and the role of governments will likely remain on the sidelines of WTO debate for now.

### Additional Resources

The background paper and presentations from the forum can be accessed at [http://192.91.247.58/trade/timber/docs/tc-sessions/tc-63/Policy\\_Forum/2005TCPolicyForum.htm](http://192.91.247.58/trade/timber/docs/tc-sessions/tc-63/Policy_Forum/2005TCPolicyForum.htm)

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**Standards**

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**CONSUMERS GROUP SAYS STANDARDS MUST ADDRESS CONSUMER CONCERNS**

Standard-setting bodies need to stay true to their original goal of protecting food safety and plant and animal health, Consumers International (CI) said at a public hearing on 20 September. Representatives of the global consumer group federation told WTO delegates, non-governmental organisations and academics meeting in Geneva that organisations such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission have increasingly emphasised the facilitation of trade, potentially at the expense of public health and the environment. Several other issues, such as services liberalisation, were also discussed during the hearing (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 September 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-09-28/inbrief.htm#2>).

Speakers at the meeting, which was entitled "putting consumers at the heart of trade" and based upon a recently released CI book, argued that the WTO needs to be made more consumer friendly through increased transparency and accountability, but also through changes to the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures. A clear message was that the interests of consumers, which can range from safe food to a healthy environment, must be central to the rules used and recognised by the WTO. Developing countries have often criticised developed-country SPS measures aimed at protecting health or the environment, saying they are unnecessary or excessive barriers to developing country exports.

**WTO reforms needed**

According to CI, more thought needs to be put into involving stakeholders in WTO decision making, including through enhancing access to WTO meetings, encouraging dispute settlement panels to read *amicus curiae* ('friends of the court') briefs from NGOs and releasing relevant documents to the public. At the same time, the WTO needs to become more internally democratic and avoid excessive use of exclusive 'green room' meetings, where only a few of the biggest countries are involved in major decision-making processes. According to Prof. Simon Evenett of the University of St. Gallen, many of the current tensions at the WTO stem from the different opinions WTO Members have about what the development

dimension of the current "Doha Development Round" of negotiations actually means. Evenett suggested that the creation of a formal constituency system could answer this question by giving developing countries, and especially the poorest, a greater say in WTO decision-making. In this scheme, a formal body could be created that would include elected representatives from different groups of developing countries and would meet more often than the WTO General Council. As well, he suggested that plurilateral agreements among subsets of WTO Members could enable more ambitious WTO Members to pursue their goals, while not forcing developing countries to sign onto deals they are unable to negotiate on actively because of lack of capacity.

While challenges to national SPS measures intended to protect health or the environment rarely make it all the way to a WTO dispute settlement panel, there have been a number of notable cases recently that have implications for what kind of regulations are considered to be "necessary" and permissible restrictions on international trade. The hormones case brought by the US and Canada against the EC, as well as the biotechnology case brought by the US, Canada and Argentina against the EC, have both questioned the role of science, risk assessment, the precautionary principle and expert opinion in WTO rules. Steve Suppan of IATP argued that WTO panels need to choose their experts more carefully and ensure that they do not have conflicts of interest. At the same time, panels need to use good-quality, peer-reviewed, impartial scientific information and make it public.

**SPS requirements too complex**

The SPS Agreement tries to strike a balance between countries' right to regulate and the need to facilitate trade, and the preamble specifies that "no Member should be prevented from adopting or enforcing measures necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health," so long as "these measures are not ... arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between Members ... or a disguised restriction on international trade." CI objected, however, to the fact that the agreement requires countries assessing the risk of an agricultural product, such as the impact of a particular kind of additive on the environment or health, to consider during the risk assessment the cost that would be incurred by any SPS measure. While the cost of preventative measures can be very large -- for

example, one World Bank study cites potential increases in African peanut exports to the EC of US\$ 38 billion if the EC were to make a small reduction in its aflatoxin restrictions -- CI argued that risks, such as those posed by biotechnology, need to nonetheless be assessed on their own.

For similar reasons, speakers rejected a proposal made by Brazil at the SPS Committee that would require SPS measures to be notified to the WTO and considered by Members before their application. Such pre-notification, they suggested, could delay implementation of a measure necessary to protect health and the environment. CI also called for the repeal of Article 5.5 of the SPS Agreement, claiming that it imposed unnecessary burdens on small SPS bureaucracies in developing countries. Article 5.5 and the guidelines that implement it require countries considering an SPS measure to ensure that the measure, while achieving an adequate level of protection, avoids any arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination in the form of import restrictions. The guidelines say that countries have to justify their protection by comparing the level of protection imposed by the measure to all other comparable measures. CI said that this was too complicated a process and interfered with the ability of countries to determine what kind of protection was necessary to protect against risk to human life or health, or to animal or plant life and health. Participants added that you may sometimes have two issues that are similar and so "comparable", but that pose different levels of perceived risk and as a result need different levels of protection.

### **Codex needs to focus on health, fair practices**

A 2002 evaluation of Codex -- whose standards on food safety are presumed compliant with the WTO according to Article 3.4 of the SPS Agreement -- said that the "programme's importance has gradually shifted from providing a basis for national standards to providing the point of reference in standards, guidelines and codes of practice for international trade." Presentations at the CI meeting, and the research in the CI book, confirm that since the SPS agreement recognised Codex standards and thereby made them less voluntary and more enforceable, the pressure to elaborate standards to minimise trade barriers, rather than to maximise consumer or environmental protection, has been overwhelming. This has had impacts on the scope and focus of Codex's work, which was

originally to protect consumer health and ensure fair trade practices in food trade.

Instead, based upon its experience in dozens of Codex bodies, CI says that the organisation is taking a narrower focus and trying to create standards that minimise trade barriers while achieving basic health needs, neglecting other food trade issues such as ethics and the environment (see related story, this issue). The fact that authority is split on trade standards -- with the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) responsible for animal health and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (which will be replaced by a new revised convention as of 2 October) responsible for plant health -- has led to some confusion on who is responsible for what aspect of which regulation. For example, different standards to guide national policy-making on biotechnology are found in all three organisations.

Codex needs to be better funded to carry out better risk assessments, CI said, and the FAO/World Health Organization Trust Fund for developing country participation in Codex needs to continue to enhance participation. Most importantly, however, CI argues in its book that delegates need to continue grappling with the balance between the need for SPS measures to protect health and the environment and the prevention of unnecessary obstacles to trade. The question then is: what is necessary?

### **Additional Resources**

The Codex book, "Decision Making in the Global Market: Trade, Standards and the Consumer," along with other resources from the event, are available at <http://www.consumersinternational.org>

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### **In Brief**

#### **US BANS CASPIAN SEA BELUGA CAVIAR**

On 30 September the US suspended imports of beluga caviar from Caspian Sea nations after they failed to present information on their conservation efforts by the 6 September deadline. Survey results cited in *Science* magazine in September 2004 indicate that the stocks of the Caspian beluga

sturgeon have declined as much as 30 percent in the last year alone, and experts suggest that stocks have decreased by as much as 90 percent in the last 20 years. These statistics prompted the US, which imports 60 percent of the world's beluga caviar, to list the species as threatened in October 2004 and in March 2005 it demanded that Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Russia, the Caspian states which export the caviar, present evidence of their conservation activities. Caviar Emptor, an environmental coalition including SeaWeb, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the University of Miami's Pew Institute for Ocean Science, welcomed the ban. "Time is running out for the beluga and there's no excuse for the free-for-all in the Caspian," Shannon Crownover, program manager for Caviar Emptor, said. "We hope the ban sends a clear message to governments in the region from their biggest market and offers some temporary relief for the sturgeon." Annual quotas for the beluga sturgeon in the Black Sea and Caspian regions have been a source of debate at the meetings of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 10 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-09-10/inbrief.htm#4>). One ounce of beluga sturgeon caviar can sell for approximately US\$250.

"U.S. Authorities Forbid Import of Russian Beluga Caviar," MOSNEWS, 30 September 2005; "In Conservation Effort, U.S. Bans Caspian Beluga Caviar," NEW YORK TIMES, 30 September 2005; "US to ban Caspian beluga caviar imports--group," REUTERS, 30 September 2005; "U.S. BANS IMPORTS OF CASPIAN SEA BELUGA CAVIAR," CAVIAR EMPTOR, 29 September 2005.

### **THAI GM PAPAYA BENEFIT-SHARING DEAL CAUSES CONCERN**

Thailand's Department of Agriculture said on 26 September that it is likely to sign an agreement with US-based Cornell Research Foundation to share the benefits from the patenting and commercialisation of a virus-resistant genetically modified papaya called eksotika. The deal would cover a gene making the variety resistant to the papaya ringspot virus, a disease that wiped out papaya trees in Johor, the main papaya-growing state, in 1991. The gene that scientists at the Malaysian Agriculture Research and Development Institute (Mardi) and the Cornell foundation identified as the source of the virus

would be included in the deal. However, experts said that the second proposed patent, on the ringspot virus gene itself, is a naturally occurring microorganism and so under Section 9 of the Thai Patents Act cannot be patented. The question is whether the isolation of the virus-causing gene by the scientists is sufficient to make the discovery "non-natural", as would be the case under US patent law, or whether the long experience of Thai farmers with the virus makes the gene natural and the identification not sufficiently new to warrant patenting. Dr Surawit Vanakarod of Kasetsart University suggested that the latter was the case, and said that an agreement sharing the patent benefits of a pre-existing gene with a foreign foundation would set a precedent for future patents on genes that are contrary to the spirit of Thai laws and public concerns over GMOs. Jaroen Compeerapap, Vice-President of Silpakorn University argued that such a transfer of biological materials must adequately obtain prior informed consent of relevant authorities and local communities who could have knowledge of the papaya virus, or else the benefit-sharing agreement and patent would be in breach of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). GM papaya is a controversial issue in Thailand, where ongoing scandals regarding unintentional contamination of conventional crops with GM papaya have raised public wrath. On 6 September, Thailand's Human Rights Commission said that a third of 31 papaya orchards tested across the country in July had been contaminated with GM seeds despite a ban on field trials.

"Deal to Share GM Benefits Likely," BANGKOK POST, 27 September 2005; "More genetically-modified papaya contamination found - Thai rights commission," FORBES, 6 September 2005; "New papaya gene may revive industry," NST ONLINE, 20 April 2005.

### **FISHERFOLK CONFERENCE ADOPTS JAKARTA DECLARATION**

During a workshop in Jakarta on 26 to 28 September, approximately 40 participants representing small-scale fisherfolk organisations from Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines arrived at a common position on trade liberalisation of fisheries and the definition of small-scale, 'artisanal' fisheries. The conference, which was organised by the SEAFish for Justice Network in collaboration with Oxfam International,

adopted the Jakarta Declaration on Sustainable Fisheries. The definition of "artisanal" fisheries in the declaration includes criteria such as the direct engagement of fisher families in all phases of fisheries production or of fishworkers whose earnings are based on share of the product, percentage of sales or wages. Other characteristics are the use of passive and traditional fishing gears, vessels with low horsepower or no engines; use of fish catch mainly for consumption; and limited access to capital to upscale production levels. The declaration highlights the vulnerable position of artisanal fisherfolk and the urgent need for government policies to give priority to artisanal fisheries in recognition of their importance as a source of food for local and national consumption and for sustainable livelihoods. Mr. Anang Anoeegroho, Director for Foreign Market Development, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia strongly recommended subsidies to small-scale fishing and for artisanal fishing to be considered non-actionable under WTO law.

The conference concluded with the delegates agreeing to form a network in response to the problems besetting the artisanal fishers in the region. This new network is called "Southeast Asia Artisanal Fisherfolk Movement for Sustainable Fisheries and Fair Trade." Its members are expected to lobby their respective governments to submit positions to the WTO based on the Jakarta Declaration.

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## **CODEX STARTS WORK ON SECOND GENERATION BIOTECH**

The Codex Alimentarius Commission Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology decided on 23 September to create guidelines for the conduct of food safety assessments of food derived from GM animals and from plants modified for nutritional and health benefits. The group was re-created by the Commission at its July 2005 session with a mandate to work on food safety issues related to biotechnology after the last manifestation of the group created principles and two guidelines on GM plants and microorganisms that were adopted in 2003 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 11 July 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-07-11/inbrief.htm>). On 19 September, the task force

began its work in Chiba, Japan and discussed priorities for the standards that the task force should work on in the future. Countries such as Canada and Australia stressed the need for standards on so-called "second generation" biotechnology, such as products derived from GM animals and plants that have been modified for nutritional and health benefits. Delegates argued that although such products -- which could include milk from GM cows or "golden rice" that has been modified to have more pro-vitamin A -- are not yet on the market, countries are currently in the process of developing standards to regulate these products and need guidance. Other countries argued for the inclusion of ethical and environmental concerns in the guidelines, though some pointed out that the mandate of Codex is solely to create guidelines relating to food safety and human health. Owing to the lack of consensus on the need for guidelines on plants that have been genetically modified to create pharmaceuticals ("biopharmaceuticals"), another second generation technology, the group did not agree to launch standards procedures on this issue. Instead, the group agreed, subject to the formal approval of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2006, to launch standard drafting processes on food safety and products from GM animals and nutritionally or health-enhanced GM plants. A working group will meet to start drafting text of the standard in spring 2006, and the next meeting of the task force is planned for fall 2006.

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## **Events & Resources**

### **EVENTS**

#### **ICTSD Vacancy**

ICTSD is currently recruiting a JUNIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE PROGRAMMES. The JPO will be responsible for editing BRIDGES Trade BioRes, writing for BRIDGES Weekly and assisting the team in organising dialogues and papers on biotechnology, fisheries, environmental goods and services and agriculture; maintaining the ICTSD trade & environment and agriculture trade web portals and other tasks as required. Applications should be sent to Oscar Fornoza,

jobs@ictsd.ch. For further information, including qualifications required, see [http://www.ictsd.org/vacancy\\_jpo.pdf](http://www.ictsd.org/vacancy_jpo.pdf).

## Events

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

### Coming up in the next two weeks

2-6 October, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: REGIONAL ABS CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. The workshop is being organised by the Institute for Biodiversity Conservation and GTZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The aims of the workshop are to foster an open exchange between stakeholders based on existing local, national and regional initiatives and experiences and to create an understanding of how local, national and international regulations depend on each other to be effective in implementing the third objective of the CBD. For further information, contact Andreas Drews, tel: (+49 6196) 79-1363; fax: 79-801363; email: [andreas.drews@gtz.de](mailto:andreas.drews@gtz.de); Internet: <http://www.abs-africa.info/>

3-7 October, Nairobi, Kenya: THIRD WORLD CONGRESS ON CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE. Organised by the African Conservation Tillage Network, this conference aims to share experiences and lessons on the role of conservation agriculture in enhancing rural livelihoods in diverse environments. This is expected to contribute to enhancing the promotion/adoption of conservation agriculture as a method of production that ensures food security, economic benefits and global environmental benefits such as biodiversity and a cleaner environment. For further information contact Martin Bwalya, tel: (+263 4) 882107; email: [actnetwork@africaonline.co.zw](mailto:actnetwork@africaonline.co.zw); Internet: <http://www.act.org.zw>

5 October, Geneva, Switzerland: TOWARDS A NEW INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND BENEFIT SHARING. This roundtable, organised

by the Geneva Environment Network, explores linkages between ABS and international trade as well as how to achieve a balance between equity and traditional knowledge. For further information contact Fatma Gordon, tel: (+41 22) 917-8326; fax: 797-3464; email: [fatma.gordon@unep.ch](mailto:fatma.gordon@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.environmenthouse.ch>

10-14 October, Lisbon, Portugal: TOPS 2005: THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATED OCEAN POLICY. This conference will examine the growing experience around the world with the formulation and implementation of integrated ocean policies at national and regional levels, with the intent of drawing lessons and suggesting emerging best practices. For further information contact Biliana Cicin-Sain, tel: (+1-302) 831-8086; fax: 831-3668; e-mail: [bcs@udel.edu](mailto:bcs@udel.edu); Internet: <http://www.globaloceans.org/tops2005/>

11 October, London, UK: THE END OF OIL: AND ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ECONOMY, FOOD SUPPLY AND CLIMATE CHANGE. This event is organised by East Anglia Food Link, CRed and PowerSwitch and will look at the peak oil problem and its impact on climate change, the world's food supply and the world economy. For further information contact Tracy Prendergast, tel: (+015 08) 536-666; email: [cred@uea.ac.uk](mailto:cred@uea.ac.uk); Internet: <http://www.eafl.org.uk/default.asp?topic=OilConf>

11 October, Geneva, Switzerland: TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - THE ROLE OF LAW AND SCIENCE. This colloquium is organised by the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva in cooperation with UNEP-ETB and aims to offer researchers and diplomats a forum where they can discuss the relationship between law and science in the development of trade and environmental policies and in the implementation of related legal agreements primarily at the multilateral level. For further information, contact Urs P. Thomas, tel: (+4122) 379 8491; fax: 379 8543; e-mail: [urs.thomas@droit.unige.ch](mailto:urs.thomas@droit.unige.ch); Internet: <http://www.unige.ch/droit/>

12-14 October, Montreal, Canada: EXPERTS MEETING ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. This meeting, organised by the CBD Secretariat, will analyse activities and situations that contribute to damage to biological



diversity, including situations of potential concern; look at proposals regarding the possible introduction of elements to address liability and redress for damage to biological diversity into existing liability and redress regimes; and examine the appropriateness of a liability and redress regime under the Convention. For further information contact the CBD Secretariat, tel: (+1 514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org); Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=EGLR-01>

### Other Upcoming Events

Ethiopia, 28 October: RABESA INITIATIVE CONSULTATIVE MEETING. This meeting, organised by the Regional Approach to Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy in Eastern and Southern Africa (RABESA) initiative of the African Centre for Technology Studies, will provide a forum for presenting and discussing RABESA country findings. Stakeholders' thoughts and country positions on the need for a regional policy on biotechnology and biosafety will be captured. For further information contact the ACTS Secretariat tel: (+254-20) 7224700/7224000; fax: 7224701/7224001; email: [acts@cgiar.org](mailto:acts@cgiar.org) Internet: <http://www.acts.or.ke/pages/events.html>

Hamburg, Germany, 28-29 October: CLIMATE OR DEVELOPMENT? This conference organized by the Hamburg Institute of International Economics addresses issues revolving around linkages between climate policy and poverty reduction. For further information contact Heike Kern, tel: (+49 40) 42834 337; fax: 42834 451; e-mail: [heike.kern@hwwa.de](mailto:heike.kern@hwwa.de); Internet: <http://www.hwwa.de/Forschung/Aktuell/Veranstaltungen.htm#Oktober>

Berlin, Germany, 16 - 18 November: SCOPING FOR A FUTURE AGREEMENT ON FORESTS. The objective of this country-led initiative in support of UNFF is to contribute to the preparations for UNFF-6. Drawing from the Chair's text of UNFF-5, the meeting will provide an opportunity for experts to explore and develop further some of the concepts and ideas on the future of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). For further information contact Marika Schinkel-Kleinke, Capacity Building International (InWent), tel: (+49 178) 7160-667; fax: (+49 342) 0284-5777; email: [marika.schinkel-kleinke@inwent.org](mailto:marika.schinkel-kleinke@inwent.org); Internet:

[http://www.inwent.org/themen\\_reg/themen/umwelt/biodiversitaet/forests/index.en.shtml](http://www.inwent.org/themen_reg/themen/umwelt/biodiversitaet/forests/index.en.shtml)

### 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 [smohan@ictsd.ch](mailto:smohan@ictsd.ch).

HOW TO LOBBY AT INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS- MINE IS A CAFÉ LATTE. By Felix Dodds and Michael Strauss, September 2005. This book is a guide on how to participate and be heard at intergovernmental meetings, whether as a stakeholder or a government official. Based on 10 years of lobbying at the international level, this book provides detailed advice on the preparation and presentation of ideas, the consultation and negotiating process, and practical and logistical matters. To access this book visit <http://www.stakeholderforum.org/StakeholderForumbooks3.pdf>

THE OIL FOR APE SCANDAL: Friends of the Earth Trust, Orangutan Foundation, the Sumatran Orangutan Society and the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation September 2005. This report concludes that without urgent intervention the palm oil trade could cause the extinction of the orangutan, Asia's only great ape, within 12 years. To access this report visit [www.greatapetrust.org/media/pdfs/nr\\_52a05.pdf](http://www.greatapetrust.org/media/pdfs/nr_52a05.pdf)

ECONOMICS FOR COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT. By Graham Marshall, August 2005. This groundbreaking book diagnoses the weaknesses of mainstream economics in analysing collaborative and other decentralized approaches to environmental management, and presents a unique operational approach to how collaborative environmental governance might be brought to fruition in a variety of contexts, whether in industrialized or developing countries. To access this book visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk>

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM: CHALLENGES FOR THE PHILIPPINES. By R.B.A. Alampay, 2005. This book, a collection of research papers funded by the Philippine APEC Study Center Network (PASCN), reflects the scope and

complexity of sustainable tourism development. The various papers also mirror the complexity of sustainable tourism development and hint at the multidisciplinary approach that this mode of tourism needs to succeed. Each paper applies a different disciplinary framework to its particular tourism problem: economics, sociology, anthropology, environmental science, management science, human resources development, and others. Each paper also provides a unique academic angle on sustainability and tourism. To access this book visit

<http://publication.pids.gov.ph/pubdetails.phtml?code=PIDS%20Book%202005-01>

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING REGARDING GMO'S IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: HOW TO EFFECTIVELY INVOLVE RURAL PEOPLE.** Summary Document of the e-mail Conference 12 of the FAO Biotechnology Forum running from 17 January to 13 February 2005. The 12-page document provides a summary of the main issues discussed during the moderated e-mail conference, based on the messages posted by the participants. During the 4-week long conference, over 500 people subscribed to the conference and 116 messages were posted, from 70 people living in 35 different countries. To access the document visit <http://www.fao.org/biotech/logs/C12/summary.htm>

**THE ENVIRONMENT IN ASIA PACIFIC HARBOURS.** Edited by Eric Wolanski, October 2005. This book, containing the writings of 63 eminent marine scientists in the Asia Pacific region, deals with the ecological sustainability of global trade. This book details how science can provide solutions so that economic and social developments can be ecologically sustainable. It also demonstrates

the different solutions and pitfalls, successes and failures in a large number of ports and harbours in the Asia Pacific Region. To access this book visit <http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,11855,5-40109-22-73123674-0,00.html>

## ELECTRONIC RESOURCE

**THE INTERNATIONAL PORTAL ON FOOD SAFETY, ANIMAL & PLANT HEALTH.** This website is run by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Trade Organization (WTO). It aims to facilitate trade in food and agriculture products and support the implementation of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement by providing a single access point for authorised official international and national information across the sectors of food safety, animal and plant health. For further information see <http://www.ipfsaph.org/En/default.jsp>

## VACANCY

**TRANSLATOR, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORTING SERVICES.** IISD is seeking to translate a backlog of about a dozen summary reports from meetings that took place in 2004 and early 2005. They are seeking an experienced translator who is able to commit to working full-time or close to full-time (at least 3 full days per week) from October through to December 2005. The deadline for applications is 5 October. For further information see <http://www.iisd.ca/francais-2005-e.html> (English) and <http://www.iisd.ca/francais-2005-f.html> (French).

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