



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

Issue: 14 October 2005

Fisheries.....	1
Small States Call For Special Treatment In WTO Fish Disciplines	
Biotechnology	2
GMO Update: WTO, EU, Argentina, Brazil	
Intellectual Property	4
WIPO To Continue Work On Genetic Resources, TK	
In Brief.....	5
Events & Resources	7

[email to subscribe_biores@ictsd.ch](mailto:email%20to%20subscribe_biores@ictsd.ch)

Fisheries

SMALL STATES CALL FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT IN WTO FISH DISCIPLINES

On 30 September, WTO Members in the Negotiating Group on Rules discussed possible special and differential treatment (S&DT) provisions for small vulnerable coastal states and general features of the new architecture on fisheries subsidies disciplines. However, many were reluctant to further consider the issue of aquaculture within the framework of the current negotiations.

A large number of delegations -- including some that had not previously intervened in the discussions -- responded to a joint proposal on fisheries subsidies disciplines from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Solomon Islands, and

Trinidad and Tobago (TN/RL/GEN/57/Rev.2, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>) that was presented by the Solomon Islands. The proposal was a revised version of one that had been submitted by some of these countries to the July Rules meeting, but had not been discussed due to time constraints (Bridges Trade BioRes, 22 July 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-07-22/story1.htm>). The meeting was preceded by a series of bilateral consultations between the small coastal states on the one hand, and the EU, Japan and New Zealand on the other, which were considered very useful.

Small coastal states call for flexibility to develop fishing capacity

Stressing the economic importance of fisheries to small vulnerable coastal states, the proposal called for S&DT exempting the following categories from any disciplines: development assistance; assistance to artisanal or small-scale fisheries; access fees in fisheries access agreements; and fiscal incentives to facilitate the development of fisheries capacity in vulnerable coastal states. The proponents argued that due to the lack of capacity that characterises these small economies and consequently their inability to over-fish or distort trade in any significant way, fisheries subsidies would not have the negative impact on fish stocks that large scale industrial fleets in developed countries did. The countries also stressed that the final outcome of the negotiations should reflect their need for flexibility to take advantage of the potential of their fisheries sector.

Different mechanisms considered to address development issues

Among the proposed categories for exemption from the disciplines, fiscal incentives were particularly contentious and several Members requested further clarification. The EU and Australia declared themselves open to giving S&DT

to developing countries, pending more clarity about the future disciplines and the exact meaning of S&DT. However, the EU noted that discussions on S&DT should take place in parallel with all other issues. While New Zealand invited the proponents to provide a concrete definition of artisanal fisheries, it welcomed the fact that these developing countries had come forward and identified the types of programmes they wished to exempt from new rules. Concerning the issue of the capacity of developing countries to develop fisheries resources, New Zealand suggested the use of a "de minimis" level of permissible subsidisation as a possible alternative or complementary mechanism to the outright exemption of entire categories that may be more flexible. New Zealand said it would spell out this proposal in greater detail during the Negotiating Group's next meeting. Chile, Peru, Brazil and China objected to the implicit differentiation between small vulnerable coastal states and other developing countries introduced by the proposal's call to permit the use of fiscal incentives in particular for small vulnerable coastal states. The issue of differentiation already receives attention in negotiations in the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD).

Disagreement on scope of negotiations

The submission also called into question the suitability of the 'traffic-light approach' -- which would classify subsidies as prohibited, actionable or permitted -- to promote the conservation of fish stocks. Instead, the proponents suggested that multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) might be better suited to the task. They also expressed concern that such an approach might let Members initiate disputes against subsidies that "directly promote overcapacity and overfishing" without having to directly link them to their trade effects, and argued that this would go beyond the technical competence of the WTO.

The "Friends of Fish" -- a loosely defined group of countries, including Australia, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, Philippines, Peru, Norway, Iceland and the US, that supports a broad ban of fisheries subsidies with certain exemptions -- stressed the importance of taking into account overfishing and overcapacity, as opposed to only the trade effects of fisheries subsidies. As overfishing by one country has direct repercussions on the availability of the resource in other countries, such an activity has indirect trade implications, they argue. Japan reiterated its usual position that it

would prefer to ban fisheries subsidies on a case-by-case rather than a blanket basis. One Member suggested that further clarification would be necessary, since the document attempted to address too many issues that may not all be related.

Aquaculture de-emphasised

Members also continued discussions on an earlier proposal from Australia, Ecuador and New Zealand (TN/RL/GEN/54) that had raised a number of questions on subsidies to aquaculture (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 22 July 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-07-22/story1.htm>). The EU and India felt that aquaculture was already covered by existing subsidies disciplines and that the new disciplines should only cover wild capture. They were unenthusiastic about further complicating the discussions and asked the paper's sponsors to stay within the scope of the present negotiations. China emphasised the importance of aquaculture for food security. It also underlined the differences between aquaculture and wild capture in terms of environmental impact. In light of the lack of enthusiasm, no further investigations of the issue are expected for the moment.

At the end of the meeting, the Chair announced that he wanted to reserve some time at the next session, scheduled to start on 24 October, for a general discussion about delegates' expectations for the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December.

ICTSD Reporting.

Biotechnology

GMO UPDATE: WTO, EU, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL

WTO Biotech Ruling Delayed Until January 2006

The WTO dispute panel adjudicating the case brought by the US, Canada and Argentina against the EU's alleged de facto moratorium on the approval of new genetically modified organisms (GMOs) has once again pushed back the date for issuing its preliminary ruling, this time to January 2006. Panel Chair Christian Haberli informed the parties to the dispute on 3 October that the panel would be unable to meet the 10 October deadline that it had announced in July (see BRIDGES Weekly, 3 August 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-08->

03/wtoinbrief.htm#2). This means that the much-awaited ruling will not be released before the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December. Trade sources speculate that the ruling might have been delayed due to concerns that its findings could adversely affect negotiations in Hong Kong, especially given that civil society reactions are expected to be substantial.

The controversial case springs from the complainants' allegation that the EU's failure to approve any GMO between 1998 and 2004 constitutes a de facto moratorium that, along with marketing and import bans within the EU, is not scientifically justified and thus contrary to WTO rules. Some see the dispute as a test case for how the WTO will deal with precautionary decision-making. The panel was originally expected to present its report in September 2004.

EU court rules against Austrian regional ban on GMOs

The EU Court of First Instance on 5 October ruled against a 2003 draft law passed by the parliament of Upper Austria that aimed to prohibit the cultivation of GM crops in the region. The Austrian province's Genetechnology Prohibition Law was based on a precautionary approach, with the argument that genetically modified crops could potentially damage ecosystems. However, the second highest court in the EU argued that general considerations of precaution, as put forward by the Austrian region, constituted no proper scientific evidence "by their general nature". In addition, the court argued that the failure of the government to demonstrate even the presence of GMOs in the regions, let alone the existence of a significant problem caused by GMOs, weighed against them. Along with similar bans in 163 other regions across the EU, the measure was based upon a 2001 EU law that allows for national or regional bans on a product authorised across the EU if new scientific evidence was provided to justify the measure. However, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) declared Upper Austria's move illegal under EU internal market rules soon after Austria notified the measure in March 2003, which means that the law remains in draft form. While the European Commission welcomed the ruling, Friends of the Earth Europe called for European law to reflect the wishes of the majority of European citizens, which they suggested could be achieved through a new European law allowing regions to ban genetically modified crops.

Argentina meets with European Commission over Monsanto lawsuits

At a meeting with European Commission officials on 6 October, Argentine Agriculture Secretary Miguel Campos argued that Monsanto's claims to royalties on Argentinean soybean exports to EU countries were unfounded. Monsanto has been filing lawsuits in European courts since June 2005, alleging that they deserve to collect royalties on Argentinean exports of soybean to EU countries in which the company has patent protection for its Roundup Ready soybean. Monsanto does not collect royalties on the sale of soybeans that contain the Roundup Ready (RR) gene in Argentina owing to a disagreement regarding Monsanto's rights over the technology in the country (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 22 July 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-07-22/story3.htm>). Campos argued that since Monsanto's patent protection in Europe extends strictly to soybean seeds and not to the grain, meal or oil actually produced by them, Monsanto could not lay claim to royalties for processed Argentinean soy products that arrive at EU borders. Monsanto, on the other hand, argued that as long as the RR gene can be detected, they have the right to collect royalties. Monsanto spokesman Federico Ovejero noted, however, that "while we are still moving forward with the lawsuits, our preference is to reach a consensus agreement locally in Argentina". Argentina exported around 10 million tons of soybeans, soy oil and soy meal to EU countries last year.

Brazilian biotech conference calls for open debate on GMOs

Participants in the fourth Brazilian Congress on Biosafety and the fourth Latin-American Symposium on Transgenic Products held from 26 to 29 September agreed to strengthen cooperation amongst Latin American countries in the fields of biosecurity, biosafety regulations and public communication and perception. The meeting, which was organised by the National Biosecurity Association (ANBio) -- a non-profit scientific society providing information and capacity building on biosafety in Brazil -- in Porto Alegre, Brazil, issued a manifesto that called for the support of scientific autonomy in biotechnology research while taking into account ethical principles in the use of biotechnology as an alternative to solve the health, agriculture and environmental problems of Brazil. The manifesto also called on the Brazilian government to issue regulations to implement its new Biosafety Law (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 1

April 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-04-01/story2.htm>) and to ensure that the debate on biotech products is open, frank and supported by solid scientific data. The manifesto also said that the regulation must promote the international competitiveness of Brazil in the field of biotechnology, while guaranteeing the preservation of the country's biodiversity for future generations. Innovations in biotechnology have led to the development of insulin, vaccines and other health necessities, they pointed out, and also have potential for agriculture. GM crops that allow for more intensive production, they suggested, could halt the rate of deforestation and reduce pesticide use.

ICTSD Reporting; "WTO Postpones Ruling on EU Restrictions On GMOs Until After Hong Kong Ministerial," WTO REPORTER, 5 October 2005; "European Court overrules ban on GM crops," FOEE, 5 October 2005; "Regions not allowed to ban GMOs, court rules," EU OBSERVER, 5 October 2005; "Monsanto strikes royalty deal for transgenic soybean seeds," VALOR ECONOMICO, 3 October 2005; "Brazil biosafety congress yields manifesto," CROBBIOTECH UPDATE, 7 October 2005; "Brazil's Monsanto RR soy patent questioned in Brazil," MARKET WATCH, 26 September 2005; "Monsanto responds to news reports questioning patent situation on Roundup Ready soybeans in Brazil," MONSANTO, 27 September 2005; "Argentina's Ag Sec to discuss Monsanto with US Ag Sec," DOWJONES, 12 October 2005; "Argentina Ag secretary says Monsanto EU patent claims wrong," BUSINESS ONLINE, 10 October 2005.

Intellectual Property

WIPO TO CONTINUE WORK ON GENETIC RESOURCES, TK

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) General Assembly (GA) at its 26 September to 5 October meeting decided to extend the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) for another two years, renewing their 2003 directions to the IGC to accelerate its work, particularly with a focus on the international dimension. Also of particular interest to developing countries was the GA's decision to establish a "Provisional Committee" to continue discussions on how to mainstream the 'development agenda' into all of WIPO's activities (see BRIDGES Weekly, 5 October 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-10-05/story2.htm> for further details on this agenda item).

Also important is the establishment of a Voluntary Fund for Indigenous and Local Communities to directly facilitate and support the participation of

representatives from these communities in the work of the IGC. Beneficiaries of the Fund will be members of indigenous or local communities, or other representatives of customary holders or custodians of TK or folklore to be selected from already accredited IGC observers. The fund will provide for travel and living expenses, and will be reliant upon voluntary contributions.

Separately, member states also agreed to transmit a WIPO study on the relationship between disclosure requirements within the IP system, GRs and associated TK to the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (WO/GA/32/8). The study has responded to an invitation by the CBD COP to review operational mechanisms and policy matters on the cross-cutting issue and will be considered at the next COP to be held in Curitiba, Brazil in March 2006. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is also preparing a draft document on the relationship between the disclosure issue and developments for an access and benefit-sharing regime for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing meeting of the CBD in January-February 2006 in Granada, Spain.

Member states also agreed on a work plan for talks on the draft Substantive Patent Law Treaty (SPLT). Delegations focused particular attention on how developing country concerns would be reflected in the discussions, especially with regards to the incorporation of a disclosure mechanism to ensure protection of genetic resources and TK, as well as other public interest flexibilities. This is also discussed in the WIPO submission to the CBD COP.

Mixed views on IGC's role

A diverse array of opinions has been expressed on the work of the IGC to date. On the positive side, a number of delegates have commented upon the role of the IGC for asserting the importance of traditional knowledge (TK) and folklore (or traditional cultural expressions), for asserting the need for respect of such traditional innovations and expressions, and for the dissemination of useful information to policy makers about particularly national sui generis systems and mechanisms for the protection of TK, genetic resources and folklore. They also pointed to the fact that the IGC enabled an amendment to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) minimum documentation lists examined by

national patent offices. Literature on TK has come to be included in the list which is reviewed by patent offices before submission of a preliminary search report on a decision, in an attempt to highlight aspects of previously disclosed TK as prior art and thus to reduce improper utilization of such knowledge. Previously the list only contained scientific literature.

On the other hand, some developing country members have been critical of the sheer volume of materials produced by WIPO without making substantive progress on international mechanisms for TK, genetic resources and folklore. Whilst their assistance with national systems is important, it is noted by many developing country members that it cannot stop the misappropriation and potential patenting of genetic resources, TK and folklore in other countries. For this it has been suggested that an international mechanism is required, most likely as part of an existing treaty, but possibly as a separate *sui generis* system outside the intellectual property regime. There is thus concern that without substantive progress on such international protections the role of the IGC is becoming, or has already become too academic.

On a strategic note, it has also been suggested that having the forum at WIPO has made progress in other fora problematic. For example some feel that certain developed countries have delayed progress on finding a solution to the 'disclosure issue' (of source and/or country of origin of genetic resources and associated TK) in the WTO's Council for Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), with those countries able to shift onus of the matter to WIPO as the appropriate forum to deal with such matters. Developing countries would like to see progress in the TRIPS Council on the matter because it has the backing of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, whereas the WIPO agreements have less enforceable measures. Developing countries are anticipated to make a substantial push for a disclosure requirement under the TRIPS Agreement at the Hong Kong Ministerial meeting.

Additional Resources

Documents of the meeting are available at http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=8906.

For further information on the IGC, see <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/>.

ICTSD Reporting; "Protecting Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Folklore: The Way Forward," IDDRI, Forthcoming; "Invitation to WIPO from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity," WIPO, 24 August 2005, "WIPO Assemblies Conclude," WIPO, 5 October 2005.

In Brief

ROTTERDAM CLASHES ON COMPLIANCE-FINANCING LINK, STALLS ON ASBESTOS

Delegates gathered in Rome, Italy, from 27 to 30 September for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC COP-2) where they discussed the link between compliance with the Convention and financing, as well as the adoption of new substances, without reaching agreement. The Convention's prior informed consent (PIC) procedure aims to promote shared responsibility between exporting and importing countries in protecting human health and the environment from the harmful effects of certain hazardous chemicals that are traded internationally. However, the link between compliance with the Convention's provisions for information exchange about the characteristics of certain hazardous chemicals and financing remains unclear. During the negotiations, links between these two issues appeared time and again, with developing countries arguing that unless they receive financial and technical support they will not be able to comply and present complete notifications including local risk assessments. Developed countries responded that compliance and financing were separate issues, with some noting that it was in the developing countries' own interest to comply with the Convention, and they should not wait for additional funds to make all efforts to comply with their obligations.

Another important set of issues related to the procedures for adding new chemicals to Annex III, which lists the chemicals subject to the PIC procedure and the desirability of including more chemicals in the list. A number of delegates and NGOs said that the PIC process would be futile if countries single-handedly had the power to prevent the addition of hazardous substances from the list for economic or political reasons. Many point to the ongoing opposition by Canada, the Russian Federation, India and others to include chrysotile asbestos in the PIC procedure (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 23

September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-09-23/inbrief.htm#1>). All these issues will be taken up again at COP-3 in Geneva from 7 to 13 October 2006.

Daily reporting provided by IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pic/cop2/>.

ICTSD reporting; ENB, Vol. 15 No. 129, 3 October 2005.

INDIA TO TALK WITH CHINA ON ILLEGAL TIGER TRADE

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on 7 October launched a process to combat illegal trade in tigers and other wildlife products between India and neighbouring China and Nepal. Singh told the Ministry of Environment and Forests to take up the issue diplomatically with Nepalese and Chinese officials. As part of the action plan Environment Minister Namo Narain Meena will soon visit China to advocate for stronger measures against the sale of such products within Chinese borders. China is reportedly considering reopening the domestic trade in tigers and tiger parts, banned there since 1993, but only in the trade of captive-bred tiger bone for traditional medicine from so-called "tiger farms". TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, said that an end to the ban would threaten the world's remaining wild tiger populations by making it easier to launder black market tiger parts.

At home, India plans to increase border control and monitoring by providing training for the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and customs officers at the China and Nepal borders. Additionally, a proposal for the creation of a National Wildlife Crime Bureau, to investigate poaching cases and catch poachers, will be put before the cabinet of India next week. "We are delighted the Prime Minister is taking a lead role on the international stage and look forward to seeing effective enforcement and co-operation between India, Nepal and China to stop the trade", Belinda Wright of the Wildlife Protection Society of India said. In August 2005 TRAFFIC investigators found 23 shops in the city's main square openly selling skins and parts of tigers and leopards in Lhasa, the capital of the Tibetan Autonomous Region, evidence that sources suggested spurred the Prime Minister's actions. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Standing Committee in June 2005 asked all Asian Big Cats range states to report next year on their work in combating illicit trade in specimens of Asian Big Cat species.

"PM gets a pat for save-tiger push," OUR CORRESPONDENT, 10 October 2005; "Reopening Tiger Trade After a 12-Year Ban; WWF, TRAFFIC Fear Increase in Tiger Poaching," US NEWSWIRE, 26 September 2005; "India wants Chinese action against wildlife trade," SILICON INDIA, 7 October 2005.

UN TO BACK HIGH SEAS BOTTOM TRAWLING BAN?

Political momentum in favour of a moratorium on high seas bottom trawling appears to be building as negotiations on a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution to ban on deep-sea bottom trawling started on 12 October and are set to continue until 13 November. Palau, supported by Costa Rica and Brazil, is expected to propose an immediate moratorium on deep-sea bottom trawl fishing on the high seas until legally-binding regimes for the effective conservation and management of fisheries and the protection of biodiversity on the high seas can be developed, implemented and enforced by the global community. Over the past two years, the General Assembly has issued Oceans and Law of the Sea Resolutions calling on the international community to "take urgent measures to manage the risks to vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems". According to a number of conservation groups, the international community faces a crisis of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing. The high seas make up the majority of the world's oceans and large parts of the high seas are both outside of national sovereignty and devoid of effective internationally agreed controls for activities such as high seas bottom trawling, a fishing practice that uses nets with steel plates and heavy rollers that devastate entire ecosystems while capturing only a few commercially valuable species. However, the previous resolutions leave it upon individual states as well as Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO) to take such action. According to Kelly Rigg from the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (CSCC), some states, following informal backroom discussions at a conference on the governance of the deep seas organised by Canada in May this year, signed a "Gentlemen's Agreement" according to which states would wait until next year in order to determine whether RFMOs indeed took effective action before they would decide on stronger measures such as a moratorium. A moratorium would require governments to impose an immediate halt on any bottom trawling on the high seas involving either their nationals or vessels flying their flag or licensed by them and should enter into force within six to

twelve months following adoption of the UNGA resolution.

ICTSD Reporting; "Call to ban destructive fishing," BBC NEWS, 4 October 2005.

Events & Resources

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

22-25 October, Dublin, Ireland: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PLANT CONSERVATION. The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, with support from Botanic Gardens Conservation International - HSBC Investing in Nature Programme and the Office of Public Works, Ireland, is organising an International Conference on Plant Conservation. The aim of the Conference is to promote and support the national implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. For further information contact Louise Scally, email: lscally@biodiversityresearch.ie; Internet: <http://www.plants2010.org/>

25-28 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (TRIPS). For further information contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (+41-22) 739-5007; fax: (+41-22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org

26-27 October, Geneva: WTO COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES. For further information on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) events, contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (+41-22) 739-5007; fax: (+41-22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org

27 October, New York City, US: SEFI'S SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FINANCE ROUNDTABLE. This Roundtable will help financiers understand how and where new investment patterns are evolving in an energy sector that will require \$500 billion of new capital a year for the coming decades. How these funds are invested will determine the sustainability of the global energy mix for the next century. The financial sector is a key player in developing market solutions to the challenge of building a sustainable energy future. For further information contact Nadim Chaudhry, email: nadim.chaudhry@greenpowerconferences.com; Internet: <http://www.sefi-roundtable.org/>

27 October, Copenhagen, Denmark: THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM (CDM) - LINKAGES TO POVERTY REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY. This conference is organised by the Research Network for Environment and Development (ReNED) and will aim to identify, analyse and discuss opportunities and limitations of CDM with regard to sustainability and poverty reduction, focusing on renewable energy, 'sink' projects and capacity development. For further information contact the ReNED secretariat, tel: (+45) 35 32 25 29; email: mim@geogr.ku.dk; Internet: http://www.rened.dk/static.asp?page=CDM_2005

28-29 October, Brussels, Belgium: SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION 05 CONFERENCE: GLOBAL 'STATE OF THE ART' IN SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT/SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN. Organised by an advisory board, the O2 - global network of sustainable designers, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), this conference will focus on the global 'state of the art' in sustainable product/service development and design and will provide an update on worldwide developments. This event will analyse the obstacles and opportunities for sustainable product/service development and design. For further information contact Professor Martin Charter, tel: +44 (0) 1252 892772; fax: +44 (0) 1252 892747; email: mcharter@surrart.ac.uk; Internet: <http://www.cfsd.org.uk/events/tspd10/>

Other upcoming events

7-8 November, Beijing, China: BEIJING 2005 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. Following up on the Renewables 2004 event held in Germany, China is planning an international conference on renewable energy in late 2005. The conference will address issues such as the development and transfer of renewable energy technologies. This meeting is being organized by the Governments of China and Germany in cooperation with the UN DESA. For more information contact Mo Xiong Bing, tel: (+86-10) 51665898 or 68501341; fax: (+86-10) 84064862 or 68501971; email: wangwh@mx.cei.gov.cn; Internet: <http://www.birec2005.cn/>

15-18 November, Rome, Italy: CBD AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON RISK ASSESSMENT UNDER THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY. For further information contact the CBD Secretariat, tel: +1 (514) 288-2220; fax: +1 (514) 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/default.asp>

19-23 November, Manila, Philippines: 5TH INTERNATIONAL RICE GENETICS SYMPOSIUM. This Symposium, held every 5 years, will explore developments in rice genetics and their applications. It

will be held jointly with the Third International Rice Functional Genomics Symposium, an annual event. World famous geneticists will deliver plenary lectures covering a wide range of topics from classical genetics to the most advanced research on gene isolation and functional genomics. The symposium will provide an important forum for reviewing the latest advances in rice research and for in-depth discussion and exchange of information on classical genetics and genomics. For further information contact, email: rg5@cgiar.org; Internet: <http://www.irri.org/rg5>.

28 November - 2 December, Melbourne, Australia: CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS (14TH SESSION). The session is organised by the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat. For further information, contact the Codex Secretariat, tel: (+39 06) 5705 2287; fax: 5705 3369; email: codex@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/current.jsp>

28 November - 9 December, Montreal, Canada: FIRST MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL AND ELEVENTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC. Canada is hosting the historic first Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (MOP-1), which is taking place in conjunction with the eleventh session of the Conference of Parties (COP-11) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). For further information contact the UNFCCC Secretariat, tel: (+49 228) 815-1000; fax: 815-1999; email: secretariat@unfccc.int; Internet: http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php

29 November - 1 December, Washington, D.C., US. GMA CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF FOOD. This event will consist of a discourse on the future of the food industry such as health and wellness, market access, regulation, emerging science and innovation. For further information contact Lynda Prioleau of GMA, tel: +1 202 337 9400; Internet: <https://www.seeuthere.com/rsvp/invitation/invitation.asp?id=/m2c79e-416061647196>.

1-2 December, London, England: PATENTING LIVES CONFERENCE. This event is hosted by the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute, University of London. Included in this event will be presentations on Human Rights and Ethical Frameworks, Development and Innovation, Public Goods and Public Interest, Traditional Knowledge, Medicine, Ethical Legal and Social Issues of Human Gene Patents, and Agriculture. For further information contact Dr Johanna Gibson, email: j.gibson@qmul.ac.uk; Internet: <http://www.patentinglives.org/conference.htm>

RESOURCES

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

PUTTING DEVELOPMENT FIRST: THE IMPORTANCE OF POLICY SPACE IN THE WTO. Edited by Kevin P. Gallagher, 2005. The authors of this book argue that the WTO is shrinking the ability of nations to put proper policies in place for sustainable development. This book includes original contributions by: Alice Amsden, Joseph Stiglitz, Sanjaya Lall, Ha-Joon Chang, Peter Evans, Robert Wade, Nagesh Kumar, Carlos Correa, Navroz Dubash, Albert Cho, Ajit Singh, and Kevin P. Gallagher. For information and ordering information, see: http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/policy_research/PuttingDevelopmentFirst.htm

BIOSAFETY LAWS: CO-OPTED BY CORPORATIONS. This GRAIN report argues biosafety laws are being created behind closed doors, far from grassroots realities, and co-opted into tools for corporations for imposing GM crops. These processes need to come down to the fields and the streets, where the issues matter most. On the other hand, it finds that resistance to GMOs is increasing and that social movements are becoming more sophisticated in their efforts to oppose GM crops and create GM-free zones. <http://www.grain.org/nfg/?id=341>

GM CROPS: THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT – THE FIRST NINE YEARS 1996-2004” By Graham Brookes and Peter Barfoot of PG Economics Ltd., UK, October 7, 2005. Both researchers found that the use of biotech crops in the last nine years has brought substantial net economic benefits at the farm level and has reduced pesticide spraying as well as the release of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. The article appears in the online AgBioForum journal. <http://www.agbioforum.missouri.edu/v8n23/v8n23a15-brookes.htm>.

THE IMPACT OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION ON AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. Montreal, SCBD, (CBD Technical Series no. 16), 2005. This study provides an in-depth analysis of the potential implications for biodiversity of a reduction in and reform of agricultural support activities. It is an update an earlier note prepared by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which gave a broad analysis of the different impacts trade liberalisation may have on agricultural biological diversity. <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/cbd-ts-16.pdf>

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CAPTURE AND ENHANCEMENT FISHERIES IMPORTANT TO THE POOR: ANALYSIS OF THE VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTABILITY OF FISHERFOLK LIVING IN POVERTY. Report commissioned by the Fisheries Management Science Programme, Department for International Development, UK. This recent report reveals that African fisheries and fishing communities are amongst the most vulnerable in the world to climate change. Not only are most of these countries heavily reliant on fisheries as contributions to national economies, food security and employment (over 90% of fish in Africa comes from capture fisheries), but also climate change is predicted to be particularly significant in this region. The main threats in the marine sector include changes to upwelling patterns and associated distribution of fish stocks as a result of rising water temperature, sea-level rise and increased storminess. http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/summary_climatechangefisheries.pdf

MEDICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY: ACHIEVEMENTS, PROSPECTS AND PERCEPTIONS. By A. Sasson, August 2005. This book - which shows that the main beneficiaries of the so-called biotechnology revolution and the resulting bio-industries are the industrialized countries - heads a series of reports by UNU-IAS Visiting Professor Dr. Albert Sasson. The two accompanying reports are entitled "Industrial and Environmental Biotechnology: Current Achievements, Prospects and Perceptions", and "Food and Nutrition Biotechnology: Current Achievements, Prospects and Perceptions". Ensuring that those who need biotechnology have access to it remains a major challenge, says the report. Link to book: <http://www.unu.edu/unupress/2005/medicalbiotechnology.html>. Reports are freely available on the web. See <http://www.ias.unu.edu/publications/details.cfm/articleID/703>

FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES: SAFEGUARDING NATIONAL ASSETS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND TRADE. By I. Köhler-Rollefson, November 2004. Summary of a series of four workshops

on farm animal genetic resources held in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 2001-2003. The workshops considered, among others, the topic of policies on biotechnology. The summary has been published by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and FAO. See <http://dad.fao.org/en/refer/library/reports/FarmAnimalGeneticResources.pdf>

THE GM DEBATE – WHO DECIDES? AN ANALYSIS OF DECISION-MAKING ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. By Ehsam Mahood, The Panos Institute, London 2005. This report explores how decisions are made about genetically modified (GM) food crops in five developing countries - Brazil, India, Kenya, Thailand and Zambia - by drawing on current research and personal interviews. The framework for decision-making on GM crops varies considerably between countries, according to specific political, economic, agricultural and environmental contexts. Opinions, even among common interest groups, are not homogeneous across the developing world. Despite these differences, the report finds it possible to draw some broad conclusions about how governments in developing countries make decisions, and who has access to decision-makers. http://www.panos.org.uk/PDF/reports/gmdebate_report.pdf

VACANCY

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, ANDES REGION: NATURAL RESOURCES ECONOMIST / ECONOMISTA DE RECURSOS NATURALES. The purpose of the Natural Resources Economist (NRE) position is to guide the development and implementation of economic and financial instruments for conservation, as an integral part of CI's conservation strategy for the Andean Region. The position may be based in any Andean country. Applicants should send CV and cover letter, explaining interest in and aptitude for the position, by 21 October 2005 to: ci-ecuador@conservation.org. Further information about the position is available on www.andescbc.org/economist_tor.doc.

BRIDGES Trade BioRes© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), <http://www.ictsd.org>, in collaboration with IUCN - World Conservation Union, <http://www.iucn.org>, and IUCN's Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, CEESP, <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/index.html>. This edition of BRIDGES Trade BioRes was edited by Heike Baumüller, hbaumuller@ictsd.ch. Contributors to this issue were Ruth Fend, Sarah Mohan, Daniel Robinson and Amy Unander. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, rmelendez@ictsd.ch. ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 7, ch. de Balexert, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 917-8492; fax: 917-8093. Excerpts from BRIDGES Trade BioRes may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editors or the Director. BRIDGES Trade BioRes is made possible in 2004 through the generous support of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (BUWAL) and the State Secretary for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of The Netherlands (VROM). It also benefits from ICTSD's core funders: the Governments of Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden; Christian Aid (UK), the Rockefeller Foundation, MISEREOR, NOVIB (NL), Oxfam (UK) and the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations (Switzerland). ISSN 1682-0843

To subscribe to BRIDGES Trade BioRes, please send a blank email to subscribe_biores@ictsd.ch.

To become a member of the CEESP Working Group on Environment, Trade and Investment, please send an email to: jvonbraun@ictsd.ch