



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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Fisheries.....	1
US Upholds Anti-dumping Duties Against Thai And Indian Shrimp	
Environment at the WTO	2
WTO Environment Committee Debates Draft Text For Hong Kong	
Chemicals	4
Development Concerns Raised Over European Chemicals Legislation	
Biotechnology	5
EU, Canada Grant Patent On GURTS	
In Brief.....	5
Events & Resources	7

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Fisheries

US UPHOLDS ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES AGAINST THAI AND INDIAN SHRIMP

The US-based International Trade Commission (ITC) on 4 November decided not to revoke its anti-dumping duty on shrimp imports from India and Thailand. The Commission decided in April 2005 to review the 10 percent duty imposed in January of this year to light of the impacts of the December 2004 tsunami on the shrimp industries of the two countries (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 21 January 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-01-21/story1.htm>). In its final ruling, however, the ITC found that revoking the antidumping duty on shrimp imports from India and Thailand would

likely injure the US shrimp industry. This decision will be reviewed in February 2006.

The January 2005 anti-dumping duties were imposed after the US shrimp industry, represented by the Ad Hoc Shrimp Trade Action Committee, complained in December 2003 that the US industry was being materially injured by frozen or canned warmwater shrimp from Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Thailand, and Vietnam that was being sold below fair value. Such duties are regulated by the WTO Agreement on Anti-Dumping, which allows Members to impose taxes on imports if an investigation shows that the imports are being sold in the importing country at a price below the cost of production in the exporting country. However, at the same time as it imposed the duties, the Commission noted concerns regarding the impact of the December 2004 tsunami on the shrimp industries in Thailand and India, and in April launched a review to determine whether revoking the antidumping duties on Indian and Thailand shrimp would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of injury to the US industry given the amount of injury suffered by the industries in the December tsunami. Following an August visit to India and Thailand to see whether their industries could still threaten the US, the ITC ruled that revoking the duties currently in place was expected to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury within a reasonably foreseeable time.

Hard feelings against US decision

Both India and Thailand have vehemently accused the levy on the grounds that it was simply a protectionist measure calculated to shield US shrimp farmers from cheaper, more competitive imports. India and Thailand argue that they are not engaging in 'dumping', and that their shrimp are legitimately cheaper than those in the US. Critics of the duty claim that a relatively small number of

well-organised US farmers are being protected at the expense of Thai and Indian shrimp farmers that are by far poorer than their US counterparts as well as of US consumers. They also argue that since 90 percent of shrimp consumed in the US are being imported, US consumers could also be hurt by the higher prices induced by the antidumping duty. Indian and Thai stakeholders also expressed indignation at the alleged contradiction between the free trade rhetoric of the US and its own protectionist measures. Several WTO Members have been advocating for tighter rules on national antidumping investigations at the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules, saying that such rules could reduce the burden on exporters who have to supply a large amount of data for technical examinations (see Bridges Weekly, November 2, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-11-02/story7.htm>). However, the US has remained a supporter of the current broad antidumping rules.

Indian shrimp industry expected to suffer huge losses

In addition to the 10 percent antidumping duty and regular tariffs on shrimp, exporters to the US also have to give the US government a deposit or "bond" of 10 percent of the value of the year's export which the US government would hold for three years. The bond requirement, which has been imposed by the US Department of Commerce, has nonetheless been appealed by Indian seafood exporters who expect a positive result. Sources suggested that these three measures together could be devastating to an industry already hard-hit by the tsunami. Statistics indicate that shrimp exports from India to the US were 30 percent lower in September 2005 compared to the year before, and that the number of Indian shrimp exporters have been cut in half. The Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) has noted that the US market amounts to roughly 25 percent of the countries' total shrimp exports.

Exporters explore new options

To adjust to the loss in market access in the US, some of the producers in countries affected by the antidumping duties are considering striking a bilateral deal with the US, known as a "voluntary export restraint", in which the exporting countries would voluntarily reduce their exports to the US. Such a measure could address US concerns without the uncertainty or unilateralism of anti-dumping or bond measures. At present some of the countries

are diverting their products through third countries in order to circumvent anti-dumping levies, offering a possible reason why US import volumes have thus far remained unaffected by the duty. The US recently made a proposal in the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules to toughen rules on such circumvention practices (see Bridges Weekly, 2 November 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-11-02/story7.htm>).

Another way of circumventing the duty would be to move into value-added finished products like ready-to cook, eat and fry material, which would allow domestic producers to capture larger shares of the gains from trade along the production chain. To do so successfully, however, exporters would have to incur substantial marketing expenses by developing the necessary brand name involved in value-added products. Less than five percent of India's current shrimp exports to the US are value-added. Indian shrimp producers have said that once the marketing infrastructure is in place, the development of the necessary technology would not be an issue, given that the industry underwent a similar process in 1997 when the EU demanded higher health standards on many types of Indian Seafood.

US dumps Indian shrimp with anti-dumping duty," FINANCIAL EXPRESS INDIA, 4 November 2005; "US panel votes to keep shrimp antidumping duty orders for India and Thailand," FISHUPDATE, 3 November 2005; "Seafood exports may dip 10 pc", HINDU BUSINESS LINE, 10 February 2005; "Market Access and Liberalisation in Fish Trade," by Mahfuz Ahmed, WORLD FISH CENTER, Draft August 2005; "ITC Votes To Keep Shrimp Antidumping Duty Orders For India And Thailand In Place," ITC PRESS RELEASE, 2 November 2005; "Shrimp exporters may have to fish in markets other than US," FINANCIAL EXPRESS INDIA, 7 November 2005; "US dumping duty on Indian shrimps to stay," HINDU BUSINESS LINE, 3 November 2005.

Environment at the WTO

WTO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE DEBATES DRAFT TEXT FOR HONG KONG

WTO Members have been convening in informal meetings of the Committee on Trade and Environment Special Session (CTE-SS) to discuss proposed text to be included in the draft Ministerial Declaration of the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December. Discussions on the draft text brought out underlying divisions over how to identify and liberalise trade in environmental goods and services.

The latest draft text -- proposed by CTE-SS Chair Ambassador Toufiq Ali of Bangladesh and discussed at a 9 November meeting -- recognises the "significant work" undertaken in the CTE-SS under the Doha Declaration Paragraph 31 and calls on Members to "intensify work on all parts" of the mandate. With regard to the specific negotiating items, the draft text recognises the work undertaken on 31(i) on the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements and 31(ii) on information exchange between MEA and WTO Secretariat and the criteria for granting observer status. The draft text acknowledges that "more work has been undertaken" under Paragraph 31(iii) which mandates the "reduction or, as appropriate, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services", and calls for the intensification of these negotiations.

The parts of the text dealing with trade liberalisation of environmental goods and services (EGS) proved the most controversial. Members remain broadly divided into two camps over the approach to EGS liberalisation. One group dominated by developed and newly industrialised countries supports the so-called 'list' approach, which consists of listing goods earmarked for enhanced liberalisation. The second group which includes most developing country Members remains sceptical of the list approach, arguing that the lists submitted so far only contain goods of export interest to rich nations. The only alternative to the list approach that is seriously being discussed at this stage is the 'environmental project' approach put forward India according to which tariffs on environmental goods and services that are being used in specific projects would be reduced or eliminated for the duration of the project (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 24 September 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-06-24/story1.htm>).

This divide is clearly reflected in the comments on the proposed text. List supporters have favoured a draft text that would encourage the creation of a list of environmental goods to be subject to tariff cuts negotiated in the Negotiating Group on Non-agricultural Market Access (NAMA). Thus, they have supported text that would call on Members to intensify work under Paragraph 31(iii) "with a view to identifying environmental goods and services". Going one step further, the US has called for environmental services to be omitted from the text and suggested to include an explicit reference to

collaborating with the Negotiating Group on NAMA. The EU proposed a specific timeline for the negotiations, suggesting 1 March 2006 as the date when negotiations should be completed in the CTE-SS and outcomes handed over to the NAMA Group.

Developing countries, on the other hand, would like to keep the options for the approach and process open at this point. They expressed concern that the language proposed by the list supporters would prejudice the outcomes of the negotiations, effectively turning the environmental goods talks into a sectoral NAMA discussion. Thus, they supported language that would call for the intensification of work "based on shared approaches to fulfilling the mandate" and opposed the inclusion of specific timelines. They strongly resisted specific references to the NAMA negotiations, advocating keeping open the possibility of collaboration with other negotiating groups, such as those dealing with agriculture and services.

Developing countries have also been wary of references to the "information exchange sessions" that have been organised ahead of previous CTE meetings, including one session organised by the US and two sessions organised by the WTO Secretariat. During these sessions, Members -- primarily representing the list supporters -- made technical presentations outlining the benefits to developing countries of expedited liberalisation in the environmental goods that they proposed in their lists. Developing countries felt that these informal sessions -- while generally useful for clarification purposes -- had so far mainly served the list supporters by providing a forum for advancing the examination of lists. They expressed concern that mentioning the sessions would effectively formalise them as a part of the negotiating process.

At the end of the informal session, the Chair announced that he would circulate a new version of a draft text based on the discussions and consult again with Members as soon as possible. A new proposal from New Zealand to include a paragraph that recalls the broad support for negotiations on environmental services will also be addressed at that time.

ICTSD reporting.

Chemicals

**DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS RAISED
OVER EUROPEAN CHEMICALS
LEGISLATION**

The European Parliament on 8 November said that major political groups had come to a compromise agreement on the draft European Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) legislation that is expected to ease the adoption process in the run up to the 17 November vote on the text. The REACH legislation has been the result of several years of negotiations that have sought to balance European concerns regarding the safety of the environment and human health with the insistence of EU chemicals producers that the new rules inflict the minimum cost and burden on industry in the region (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 16 September 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-09-16/inbrief.htm#2>). In the run up to the 17 November vote, South African President Thabo Mbeki took the opportunity to point out the potential impact of the new rules on trade and development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

Talks heat up in Brussels

Last-minute negotiations in the European Parliament (EP) yielded a number of concessions that suggest the 17 November vote may go more smoothly than anticipated. Socialist and centre-right groups in the EP on 8 November were able to agree on elements such as a simplified 18-month pre-registration phase; the introduction of categories to implement a risk-based requirement for testing; the creation of a waiver option to reduce safety data requirements for low-risk chemicals that are produced in quantities of between 10 to 100 tonnes per year; and the adoption of an opt-out provision to common registration procedures to enable companies to maintain confidentiality if considered necessary. The new deal would also require a minimum basic testing of the chemicals which are produced in quantities of 1 to 10 tons.

Guido Sacconi, a EP Member and the Parliament's main rapporteur on the controversial REACH dossier from the Environment committee, described the final deal as a "balance" that could enable agreement in Parliament and possibly in the final Competitiveness Council vote that is scheduled to follow on 27-28 November. However, the new

German government has asked for the Parliament to delay its vote in order to allow German decision-makers to formulate a national policy on the issue, a request that the Parliament will decide on 11 November.

Environmental group WWF criticised the new amendments, saying that as the amended legislation stands, it "will be unable to effectively address the failure of the current chemicals legislation and to protect human health and the environment".

What impact on developing countries?

The EU's trading partners have repeatedly asked the European Commission to take into account the impacts of the new rules on exports, in particular on small and medium sized enterprises in developing countries (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 2 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-04-02/inbrief.htm#6>).

Most recently, development concerns were raised by South African President Thabo Mbeki in letters sent the week of 24 October in which he urged European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and British Prime Minister Tony Blair to consider the costs of the REACH legislation on South African and ACP country producers, costs which he said "would push African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states further into poverty". Jerry Matjila, South African ambassador to the EU, pointed out that the current REACH coverage of the mining sector could adversely affect the development prospects of African nations and potentially hurt the achievement of the development objectives that the UK, which currently holds the presidency of the EU and the G8, has been striving to promote. He indicated that 20 ACP states depend on mining exports for more than 10 percent of their total revenues, and in 16 of those countries, mining makes up more than 30 percent of exports. He added, "If REACH is passed in its present form ... we will suffer quite a lot in Africa, in the ACP countries".

South African Foreign Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma brought up the issue at a 7 November meeting of the sixth South African-European Union Joint Co-operation Council (JCC) in Belgium. While pointing out the concerns of South African industry, South African and European officials also discussed broader developmental implications of REACH will have,

including by affecting the access that African countries will have to EU markets.

"African Nations Pressure EU Over Chemicals Bill," REUTERS, 31 October 2005; "Dlamini-Zuma Leads SA Delegation to Belgium," BUANEWS, 4 November 2005; "Germany calls for time out on REACH," EURACTIV, 7 November 2005; "Cross-party agreement on REACH emerges in Parliament," EURATIV, 10 November 2005; "EU Lawmakers Reach Compromise on Chemicals Bill," REUTERS, 10 November 2005.

Biotechnology

EU, CANADA GRANT PATENT ON GURTS

The EU on 5 October and Canada on 11 October issued a patent to Delta & Pine Limited, a US-based biotech company, for a genetic use restriction technology (GURTS) that could be used to make plants sterile. The technology has been dubbed "terminator technology" by environment, farmer and indigenous groups, who warn that inhibiting a plant's ability to reproduce could have adverse effects on rural livelihoods and biodiversity. GURTS provide the means to turn on or off genes, for example genes that control fertility and formation of seed.

The particular EU and Canadian patents, EP 775212 and CA 2196410 respectively, cover a genetic modification process that enables a characteristic such as sterility or enhanced growth to become active in a plant only when the plant is treated with an external chemical, reaches a certain stage of growth, or bred with another GM plant (in which case the characteristic is present only in the offspring). The patent application notes that the "preferred" way the technology could be used would be to create seeds which, when matured into fully-grown plants, become sterile and produce seeds that will not germinate. This use could help to avoid "accidental reseeding, escape of the crop plant to areas outside the area of cultivation, or germination of stored seed", according to the application.

Greenpeace International and the Ban Terminator Campaign, who have long been campaigning against GURTS and have called for an explicit ban to be instituted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) based upon the work they have done since 1998 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 18 February 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-02-18/story1.htm>), said in a press release that the new technology would create a monopoly, lead to unnatural control of the seeds and restrict farmers'

ability to use seeds from such plants for the following season's cultivation.

Countries that have supported the technology are thought to be preparing to challenge the CBD opposition to GURTS at the upcoming March 2006 meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD. Similarly, a meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 23-27 January 2006 will discuss the impacts of GURTS technologies on indigenous peoples and smallholder farmers.

At its 5th Conference of the Parties in Kenya in 2000, the CBD decided in what has been described as a "de facto" or "informal ban" to recommend that "in the current absence of reliable data on genetic use restriction technologies [...] in accordance with the precautionary approach, products incorporating such technologies should not be approved by Parties for field testing until appropriate scientific data can justify such testing, and for commercial use until appropriate, authorized and strictly controlled scientific assessments [...] have been carried out." (CBD V5/3). The move was sparked by three patents granted the US granted three patents on similar technologies in 1998.

Additional Resources

The EU patent can be found at <https://publications.european-patent-office.org/PublicationServer/search.jsp> by searching for EP 775212 B1

The Canadian patent can be found at http://patents1.ic.gc.ca/details?patent_number=2196410&lang_uage=EN

CBD V5/3:
<http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.aspx?m=COP-05&id=7147&lg=0>

ICTSD Reporting; "Corporates Gain Control - Terminator Patent Granted," GREENPEACE/BAN TERMINATOR CAMPAIGN, 25 October 2005.

In Brief

WTO MEMBERS SCALE BACK EXPECTATIONS FOR HONG KONG MINISTERIAL

Trade ministers from the US, the EU and Brazil told the press in Geneva on 9 November that it was highly unlikely that WTO Members would be able to agree on a detailed framework for the Doha

Round in time for the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December. Members had hoped that negotiations in Hong Kong would lead to agreement on full 'modalities', namely specific numerical values and formulae for reducing tariffs on farm products and industrial goods. However, the failure of the EU and US in particular to agree to cuts on tariffs on agricultural products, along with differing opinions on how much sectors such as services and non-agricultural market access should be liberalised, has cast a pessimistic shadow over Geneva negotiators in the run-up to the Hong Kong meeting. Representatives from influential Member governments reported that they were unable to bridge the wide differences that separate them, particularly on agriculture. Negotiations, which have for the most part been held between the new "group of five" (US, EU, Australia, India and Brazil), have also struggled with development questions such as the extent of reductions in subsidies to agriculture, how to enhance special and differential treatment for developing countries and whether there should be differentiated treatment between small, medium and large developing countries. Delegations are scaling back their expectations for what they will be able to achieve in Hong Kong following three days of disappointing meetings in London and Geneva, but insist that their expectations for the round as a whole have not changed. Trade diplomats are now looking to the December summit for 'partial modalities' and agreement on a date for finalising full modalities, possibly at a second ministerial-level gathering in early 2006 that some have dubbed 'Hong Kong Two'.

Although environmental issues have not explicitly been contentious in these high-level negotiations, issues such as agricultural, services and NAMA liberalisation, along with anti-dumping, have impacts on environment and sustainable development more broadly (see cotton, shrimp stories, this issue, on agriculture and anti-dumping respectively; for services, see Bridges Trade BioRes, 16 September 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-09-16/inbrief.htm#5>; for NAMA, see Bridges Trade BioRes, 28 October 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-10-28/inbrief.htm#2>). While the environmental group Friends of the Earth described the standstill as "good for people and the planet" and urged

developing countries to not make concessions to trading partners, others expressed fears that a failure at Hong Kong would slow down the round and delay the gains that developing countries are could get from agriculture liberalisation.

For more detailed information on the state of WTO negotiations, see BRIDGES Weekly at <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/index.htm>

ICTSD Reporting; "Trade Talks at a Standstill: Good for People And Planet," FOEI PRESS RELEASE, 11 November 2005.

CHINA HIGHLIGHTS TRADE IMPLICATIONS OF EU ECODSIGN REQUIREMENTS

At a bilateral US-China meeting on 1 November, China expressed concern that the European Directive 2005/32/EC -- a framework to create EU rules for the eco-design requirements of electronic devices -- could create market uncertainty and prove to be a technical barrier to trade. At the meeting of the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade the next day, China noted its concerns. Given that the EU Directive is designed to regulate the environmental standards of a given energy-using product, China argues it could create market uncertainty by, for example, requiring different products to meet rigorous standards that could also vary between EU countries and be altered at short notice. The EU, on the other hand, maintains that creating eco-design standards for energy-using products throughout the EU is intended to ensure that the current variation amongst domestic regulations amongst EU members is replaced by a system that does not interfere with intra-EU trade. The initiative aims to integrate aspects of environmental performance into the early design process in order to reduce energy consumption throughout the product lifecycle.

The "framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-using products" was adopted by European Parliament on 6 July 2005. Actual implementation of the directive is expected in 2007.

The Directive 2005/32/EC is available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/eco_design/directive_2005_32.pdf.

ICTSD Reporting.

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

8-15 November, Kampala, Uganda: 9TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS. The Conference of the Parties will review the work of the Convention, plan its future activities, and advance wetland science and policy and management tools. The conference's focus will be on the effective wetland management for poverty eradication, taking into consideration related priority actions found in Agenda 21, the UN Millennium Development Goals, and the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. For further information contact Dwight Peck, tel: (+41 22) 999 0170; fax: 999 0169; email: peck@ramsar.org; Internet: <http://www.ugandawetlands.org/Cop9/index.htm>.

15-18 November, Rome, Italy: AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON RISK ASSESSMENT UNDER THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY. This meeting will look at existing approaches to risk assessment, whether they can and should be used within the Protocol's regime of approvals of imports of living modified organisms and identification of areas in which capacity constraints can impact on the ability of countries to carry out an adequate biosafety risk assessment. 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/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=TEGR-A-01>

16-18 November, Berlin, Germany: 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; Internet: http://www.inwent.org/themen_reg/themen/umwelt/biodiversitaet/forests/index.en.shtml

16-18 November, Mumbai, India: WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION. This event will address the specific need of corporate sector

involvement in disaster management. It comes as the follow up of the WCDR held at Kobe, where need to involve all stakeholders in the disaster mitigation will be to connect government agencies, corporate world, expert organisations, relief organisations, and the communities to discuss the crucial role they can play in mitigating human suffering wrought by disasters. For further information, see <http://www.wcdr.gfdrr.org/>.

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>.

19-26 November, Rome, Italy: FAO CONFERENCE 33RD SESSION. This Conference is the supreme governing body of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Comprising all 184 FAO Members (presently 183 States and one Member Organisation, the European Community) it meets in regular session every two years. Its main functions are to determine the policies of the organisation, approve the budget, and make recommendations to Members and international organisations on any process was identified and enforced. This conference in November 2005 is aimed to identify sectors' strengths and highlight the areas where they can create a difference. For further information contact, email: FAO-Conference@fao.org; Internet: http://www.fao.org/unfao/bodies/conf/c2005/c2005_en.htm

24 November, London, UK: EUROPEAN EMISSIONS TRADING WORKSHOP: WHAT'S IN STORE IN PHASE II AND BEYOND. This event is organised by the British Energy Association. For further information contact Di Mammet, tel: (+44) 20- 8767-9744; fax: 8767-9744; email: BEAwec@aol.com; Internet: <http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/global/downloads/bea/events2005.pdf>

24 November, Geneva, Switzerland: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LINKAGES BETWEEN TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION. Organised by the Jaipur, India-based Consumer Unity and Trust Society Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE) in association with the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, the symposium will discuss stakeholder perceptions on linkages between trade, development and poverty. For further information

contact Ms. Pooja Sharma and/or Mr. S. K. Soni, tel: (+91) 141-228-2821; fax: 228-2485; email: tdp@cuts-international.org; internet: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events.htm>.

Other upcoming events

28 November, Montreal, Canada: ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, MEAS AND MARKET BASED APPROACHES. This United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) side event to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 11 and COP/MOP 1) aims to reassess the current status of market based mechanisms for ecosystem services, and identify ecosystem services that while serving the purposes of the CBD and UNFCCC, developing countries may have a market advantage in a liberalised market. For further information contact Rebecca Carter, tel: (+81) 45-221-2300; fax: 221-2302; email: carter@ias.unu.edu; internet: <http://www.ias.unu.edu/events/workshops.cfm>.

1-2 December, Beirut, Lebanon: REGIONAL SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AGRO-FOOD SECTOR. Some topics addressed at this UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia seminar include strategies for overcoming obstacles that are hindering the growth of the agro-food sector, ways of enhancing competitiveness through clusters and networks, safety and technical regulations, and labelling and marketing. For further information contact Issa Toubbeh, tel: (+961) 1-978117; fax: (+961) 1-981501; e-mail: toubbehi@un.org; internet: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdpd/events/1-2dec05.pdf>.

14 December, Hong Kong, China: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND TRADE LIBERALISATION. This event, organised by JF ZENGYOREN (the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations of Japan) and YUTAIKYO (the All Japan Seafood Import Consultative Group), will discuss necessary considerations for forthcoming trade rules with regard to ensuring the sustainable development of fisheries and fishing communities. For further information contact JF ZENGYOREN, tel: (+81) 3-3294-9617; fax: (+81) 3-3294-9602; e-mail: kokusai-sato@r6.dion.ne.jp.

23 January, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE. This seminar, coordinated by the Institute for Environmental Studies (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE), will address the issue of how multilateral agreements can be designed to foster sustainable development while also promoting and providing protection for investment. in the context of the Concerted Action on Trade and Environment

(CAT&E). For further information contact Kyla Tienhaara, tel: (+31) 20-598-8257; e-mail: kyla.tienhaara@ivm.falw.vn.nl.

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.

THE EU-CHILE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT: THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR IN CHILE: ISSUES ARISING. BY Juan Carlos Cárdenas N., Patricio Igor Melillanca and Patricia Cabrera D. (Centro Ecocéanos, September 2005). The 2003 Protocol on Fisheries Investment establishes conditions, on a reciprocal basis, for European investment in the Chilean fisheries sector. Through it, European investors may acquire 100 percent ownership of fishing vessels operating in Chile's EEZ, offering them direct access to the diverse marine resources linked to the fishing quotas and permits of the vessels. Despite the importance of the industry to national economy, and its impressive growth rates, the regulation of the fisheries sector by the Chilean government is weak. The Government recognises that it has the capacity to effectively control only 12 percent of the salmon industry. There is also evidence of widespread abuse of environmental and labour laws. Major steps need to be taken, possibly through existing provisions within the EU-Chile Association Agreement, to change the current situation. To access this report visit <http://www.cape-cffa.org/issues.php>

THE CHANGING NATURE OF HIGH SEAS FISHING: HOW FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE PROVIDE COVER FOR ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING. By Matthew Gianni and Walt Simpson (Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, International Transport Workers' Federation and WWF International, October 2005). Illegal fishing fleets are devastating fish stocks around the world by purchasing "flags of convenience" that for a fee allow a fishing vessel to identify its nationality without abiding by national and international standards. Under international law, countries issuing flags for boats are supposed to ensure that they abide by standards such as fishing quotas and labour and safety standards. However, this report suggests that for a fee, flags can be bought without environmental or social regulations, thereby making possible illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing on the high seas. To access this report visit http://wwf.org.au/News_and_information/Publications/PDF/Report/IUU_ChangingNatureOfHighSeasFishing.pdf

AGRICULTURE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD: CONNECTING INNOVATIONS IN PLANT RESEARCH TO DOWNSTREAM APPLICATIONS.

By Deborah P. Delmer (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, November 2005). Enhancing agricultural productivity in those areas of the world bypassed by the Green Revolution will require new approaches that provide incentives and funding mechanisms that promote the translation of new innovations in plant science into concrete benefits for poor farmers. Through better dialogue, plant breeders and laboratory scientists from both the public and private-sectors need to find solutions for the key constraints to crop production, many of which center around abiotic and biotic stresses. For a few crops with viable markets, such as maize and cotton, some of the traits developed by the private sector are already showing benefits for farmers of the developing world, but the public sector will need to develop new skills and overcome a number of hurdles to carry out similar efforts for other crops and traits useful to very poor farmers. To access this article visit <http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/full/102/44/15739>.

DISCREPANCIES IN REPORTED LEVELS OF INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE TRADE. By Athur G. Blundell and Michael B. Mascia in CONSERVATION BIOLOGY 19: 6 (November 2005). This paper, written by authors from Conservation International and WWF, compares data from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) with US customs data and reveals that the two monitoring systems report substantially different volumes of wildlife trade. The divergence in the data suggest that inaccuracies distort the perceived risk of targeted wildlife exploitation, leading to misallocation of management resources and less effective conservation strategies.

WELFARE IMPACTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION IN THE SEED INDUSTRY. American Journal of Agricultural Economics 87(4) (November 2005): pp. 951-968. By Sergio Lence, Dermot Hayes, A. McCunn, S. Smith and B. Niebur (American Journal of Agricultural Economics, 87(4), November 2005) pp. 951-968. This study examines the effect of intellectual property protection on agricultural seed companies, producers and consumers. It concludes that effective intellectual property protection is needed to encourage private agricultural seed companies to invest in research and development that will bring new technologies to farmers around the world. Yet protection standards that are too high would restrict benefits to society.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF BIODIVERSITY EXCEED COSTS OF CONSERVATION AT AN AFRICAN RAINFOREST RESERVE. By Robin Naidoo and Wiktor L. Adamowicz (Proceedings of the National Academy of Science US, 2 November 2005). This study quantifies the costs and benefits of avian biodiversity at a rainforest reserve in Uganda through a combination of economic surveys of tourists, spatial land-use analyses, and species-area relationships. Our results show that revising entrance fees and redistributing

ecotourism revenues would protect 114 of 143 forest bird species (80 percent) under current market conditions. This total would increase to 131 species (approximately 90 percent) if entrance fees were optimized to capture the tourist's willingness to pay for forest visits and the chance of seeing increased numbers of bird species. In contrast, the cost of purchasing agricultural land for ecological rehabilitation of the avian habitat would be economically prohibitive. These results suggest that local biodiversity markets could play a positive role in tropical conservation strategies if the appropriate institutions for redistribution can be developed.

RENEWABLES 2005: GLOBAL STATUS REPORT. By Eric Martinot (WorldWatch Institute, November 2005). This report, prepared for the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), says that global investment in renewable energy set a new record of \$30 billion in 2004. Technologies such as wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and small hydro now provide 160 gigawatts of electricity generating capacity, about 4 percent of the world total. In its review of the status of renewable energy worldwide in 2005, the report covers markets, investment, industries, policies and rural (off-grid) renewable energy in developing countries. To access this report visit <http://www.worldwatch.org/brain/media/pdf/pubs/ren21/ren21-2.pdf>

THE ROLE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR THE CHARACTERISATION AND CONSERVATION OF CROP, FOREST, ANIMAL AND FISHERY GENETIC RESOURCES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. By the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), November 2005. This 12-page document provides a summary of the main issues discussed during a moderated e-mail conference, hosted by the FAO Biotechnology Forum from 6 June and 4 July 2005, based on the messages posted by the participants. During the 4-week long conference, around 650 people subscribed to the conference and 127 messages were posted from 38 different countries, with over 60 percent of the messages coming from people in developing countries. To access this document visit <http://www.fao.org/biotech/logs/C13/summary.htm>

BUILDING ON GENDER, AGROBIODIVERSITY AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE: A TRAINING MANUAL. By the FAO, 2005. This FAO training manual focuses specifically on the linkages between local knowledge systems, gender roles and relationships, the conservation and management of agrobiodiversity, plant and animal genetic resources, and food security. Its aim is to promote a holistic understanding of these components. The training objective is to strengthen the institutional capacity in the agricultural sector and to recognise and foster these linkages in the relevant programmes and policies. To access this manual visit http://www.fao.org/sd/links/documents_download/M anual.pdf

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