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LEAD STORIES

TNC: SUPACHAI DOWNPLAYS EXPECTATIONS FOR JULY; FOCUS NOW ON HONG KONG

The WTO Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), chaired by Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, convened for a half-day meeting on 19 May to take stock of progress in the Doha Round. Although he welcomed a preliminary deal at a recent mini-ministerial allowing forward movement on agriculture, Supachai urged delegates to speed up their talks, saying that the overall negotiations are progressing too slowly. He toned down the significance of coming up with 'first approximations' of a Doha Round deal in July, and said Members should focus on what is needed for a successful outcome at the December WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong.

Supachai stresses importance of the Geneva process

In his statement to the TNC, Supachai welcomed progress at the 4 May Paris mini-ministerial, where ministers from thirty key WTO Member countries agreed on how to convert 'specific' agricultural tariffs based on quantities imported into 'ad valorem' equivalents (AVEs), i.e., tariffs based on the price of the product, a prerequisite for market access negotiations to proceed (see BRIDGES Weekly, 11 May 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-05-11/story1.htm>). He expressed hope the momentum generated by the agreement would continue and spill over into other areas, such as the industrial market access negotiations. He also took note of upcoming ministerial-level meetings, stressing, however, that the Geneva process -- which includes all Members -- remains the primary negotiating forum.

Supachai also told Members that the 'first approximations' of modalities delegates are striving to agree on in July, will not be a substantive package deal of the kind Members agreed on at the same time last year (WT/L/579, available online at http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/draft_text_gc_dg_31july04_e.htm) He cautioned that Members need

to be realistic in their expectations, and keep their focus on the greater goal of the WTO Hong Kong ministerial in December.

Overall he stressed that the "picture is probably better than last time we met, but not good enough," and called for a greater sense of urgency in the talks.

Members react

Some Members said what while the mini-ministerial process could help generate some momentum, such meetings should not be institutionalised. Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia all called for transparency and inclusiveness in this regard.

Mexico noted that negotiations are far behind schedule, and said Members should focus on the post-July phase rather than try to achieve a cosmetic result in July. Rwanda, speaking for the African Group, also said that negotiators should focus on Hong Kong, and that they should work their way backwards to understand what would be necessary in July to support a successful Hong Kong outcome. Rwanda, supported by Zambia (for the least developed countries) and Uganda, further called for a development-friendly outcome. India also expressed concern with regard to progress on development issues, and called for some form of "development audit" of the Round. Barbados supported this idea.

Korea, speaking for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries, expressed concern over the lack of progress in services negotiations. Canada noted that it had submitted its revised services offer. The revised offers are officially due by the end of May, but a large number of countries have not yet submitted even their initial offers.

Scant progress on implementation issues

Also at the TNC, Supachai reported on how consultations are progressing with regard to outstanding "implementation issues," or obligations under the existing agreements that developing countries would like to see enforced and carried out in a way that would better reflect the original intent and balance of the multilateral trading system. Supachai has been carrying out consultations on the implementation issues with the assistance of the chairs of the various bodies the implementation issues fall under. He said he could report no breakthroughs in terms of substance. He did, however, suggest there had been some forward movement in certain areas, such as discussions on the relationship between TRIPS and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). On the question of the extension of Geographic Indications (GIs) beyond wines and spirits, he said the WTO

Secretariat had prepared a factual compilation of the different views on the table. Differences remain, he said, on the fundamental issue of whether or not GIs should be extended.

The WTO General Council will meet from 26-27 May. The next TNC has not yet been scheduled, although the Director General has indicated he may convene another TNC in a month.

ICTSD reporting.

TEXTILES DEBATE HEATS UP; CHINA IMPOSES NEW EXPORT DUTIES

The Chinese government on 20 May attempted to ease trade tensions with the US and the EU by raising export tariffs on textiles to up to five times their previous levels, although it said that these restrictions would not apply to categories subject to import restrictions. Nonetheless, on 23 May the US government imposed safeguard import quotas on three categories of imports from China, as it had announced it would ten days before (see BRIDGES Weekly, 18 May 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-05-18/story3.htm>). The EU decided on 25 May to request formal consultations with China at the WTO on 31 May unless a settlement was reached by that time, a process that could culminate in further import restrictions on Chinese textile exports.

China's terms of accession to the WTO include a 'textile specific safeguard clause' that allow WTO Members to impose quantitative restrictions on imports of Chinese textiles and clothing products if they are found to disrupt markets. Under the safeguard, Members can limit specific products to an increase of 7.5 percent above the preceding year's import levels.

The Chinese decision to raise export tariffs on 74 types of textile and apparel products to Rmb 1 (USD 0.48) per item of clothing as of 1 June comes in response to widespread criticism that the export duties it introduced in December 2004 have been ineffective in curtailing substantial increases in exports of Chinese textiles and clothing products. The maximum level for the taxes had previously been Rmb 0.3 per unit. "China made the concession in a bid to establish a stable trade order and to ease current trade frictions," Sun Huaibin, spokesperson for the China Textile Industry Council, said. However, on 21 May a Commerce Ministry spokesperson warned that "textiles items that are under de facto export restrictions will be removed from the categories that are subject to export tariffs."

In addition to the three import categories for which it has now implemented import restrictions, the US

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA), an interagency US government group chaired by the Department of Commerce, has approved the imposition of safeguards on four additional products based solely on the 'threat' that they might lead to market disruption. Trade sources suggest that formal consultations will be announced, and the safeguard quotas actually imposed, by the end of 27 May.

In spite of "constructive" talks between EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and China Chief Trade Negotiator Gao Hucheng in Brussels on 24 May, the EU decided the following day that it will allow for informal talks to continue until 31 May. If talks fail to produce a solution by that time, the EU will formally request consultations with China on trade in t-shirts and flax yarn. Under the EU process, the Chinese would then have 15 days to impose export quotas restraining exports to the EU in the two categories. Should they fail to do so, and the consultations fail to bear fruit, the EU will then be able to impose safeguards. In a recent meeting of the EU textiles committee, EU Members overwhelmingly backed the move to hold consultations to contain Chinese export surges.

Brazil is also considering restrictions on Chinese imports based upon data showing that imports increased by 58 percent in the first quarter compared to a year earlier. The Brazilian trade ministry reports that the government will issue two sets of rules, one for Chinese textiles and another for all other Chinese goods.

At the same time, WTO Deputy Director-General Kipkorir Aly Azad Rana has spoken out against bilateral import restrictions. He said in Beijing on 24 May that it is "still too early, too premature" to assess the impact of the growth in Chinese textile exports since the global quota system was dismantled on January 1 this year. He urged WTO Members to wait for the publication of a WTO study based upon six months of data before acting to restrict imports (see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 January 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-01-26/story4.htm>). "The US and the EU are important, big members and when they take action, others will follow and this can create the notion of bringing back quotas," he warned.

Similarly, in a new report released 23 May, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) exhorted governments to resist protectionist pressures. The study says that China's total textile export growth in the first quarter of 2005 was roughly equal to that for the same period last year, while India's exports have also grown rapidly. In addition, the IMF said China's increased market share had mainly affected middle-income countries as opposed to poorer countries, partly

because some importers are staying with low-cost suppliers to guard against the possibility of the US or the EU imposing bilateral quotas on China. The report further indicated that textile exports to the US from developing countries in Asia including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam had increased by 17 percent on average in the first quarter. It also warned, however, that textile and clothing prices were falling and the 12 percent drop in prices of all apparel imports from China to the US would eventually hurt poorer Asian nations.

The IMF report, "Asia's economic outlook is bright, but risks loom," is available at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/2005/052305.pdf>.

"Committee For The Implementation Of Textile Agreements (CITA) Announces That It Will Invoke Safeguards On Textile Imports From China," US COMMERCE DEPT PRESS RELEASE, 18 May 2005; "Announcement of Request for Bilateral Textile Consultations with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Establishment of Import Limits," US FEDERAL REGISTER, VOL 70 NO 99, 24 May 2005; "Beijing raises taxes on textile exports to head off import curbs," FINANCIAL TIMES, 21 May 2005; "China May Drop Export Taxes on Textiles With Quotas," BLOOMBERG, 21 May 2005; "EU states back China textile move," EU OBSERVER, 24 May 2005; "EU Trade Chief Addresses China Textile Row," AP, 24 May 2005; "IMF warns against textile protectionist pressures," REUTERS, 23 May 2005; "US Initiates Apparel Import Restrictions, Requests Talks with China," WTO REPORTER, 24 May 2005; "US, EU moves to curb Chinese textiles premature, counterproductive - WTO," AFX, 24 May 2005; "EU Gives China Until May 31 to Resolve Spat on Textile Exports," BLOOMBERG, 25 May 2005.

GROSER FORCED TO RESIGN AS WTO AMBASSADOR, MAY STAY ON AS AG CHAIR

The New Zealand government has relieved Tim Groser, Chair of the WTO Committee on Agriculture and its Cotton Sub-Committee, of his post as the country's WTO Ambassador following his announcement that he would stand as a candidate for the opposition centre-right National Party in upcoming national elections. The 23 May decision was in accordance with national legislation requiring public servants to step aside from their official duties if they are running for election. Groser looks likely, however, to continue at least temporarily in his capacity as Chair of the Doha Round

agricultural negotiations, and possibly continue through the end of July.

Trade negotiators have expressed mixed views on the potential effects of removing the influential Groser from his Committee post, where his management of the delicate farm trade talks has won praise from many Members. Steve Verheul, Canada's senior WTO agriculture negotiator, told New Zealand radio that Groser's stewardship of the Committee had been "exceptionally good," and that "I think if we didn't have Tim in the chair, our chances of success will be significantly diminished." On the other hand, some Geneva-based trade diplomats, though surprised by the news of Groser's forced resignation, said that it would not necessarily mean serious disruption for the negotiations, and that everything would depend on who succeeds him.

Groser wants to stay on as Chair, likely to do so at least temporarily

Groser, for his part, has returned to Geneva and indicated that though he would soon retire as a government official, he would like to remain agriculture Chair until the end of his term in December if Members agree to let him do so. In the WTO, Members appoint committee Chairs as individuals -- Chairships are not allotted to particular governments. Moreover, there is precedent for naming non-diplomats to chair committees. Groser told the press he would be willing to do the job in his private capacity and without pay, since he would draw a salary from neither his government nor the WTO. "I will ask my mate the Australian Ambassador to send me food parcels," he joked. He also said that it was crucial that he continue shepherding the farm trade talks at least until the Committee's key July meeting, at which Members are aiming to come up with 'first approximations' of a deal that could be adopted at the WTO's December Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong.

According to the rules governing such appointments, the Chairs of the WTO's different negotiating groups can be removed by consensus -- i.e., if all Members agree that they should step down. They could also choose to resign before the end of their term. A Geneva-based trade source said that in practice, however, Groser's fate is going to be up to Members -- they could make him quit after May or July, or simply let him continue in the post until December. WTO spokesperson Keith Rockwell told Reuters that Groser would continue to steer the talks "through July."

New Zealand govt alternately conciliatory and hostile

Representatives of New Zealand's government have been making seemingly contradictory noises about Groser's staying on as Chair. In a 23 May letter to General Council Chair Amina Mohamed (WT/GC/91, available online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), Groser's former deputy Tony Lynch -- now the country's Acting Permanent Representative to the WTO -- indicated that his government "would wish to be as helpful as possible" if the General Council chose to retain Groser's Chairship. He said that the New Zealand government "would be prepared to consider facilitating Tim [Groser]'s availability to continue a Chairing role... by resourcing him separately" until one month before election day. Lynch said that though a polling date has not yet been set, and must come no later than 24 September, this support would be "reasonably likely" to see Groser funded through the end-July target date for 'first approximations.'

In stark contrast, however, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, who belongs to the ruling Labour Party, told a 24 May press conference that her government did not want Groser to stay on as agriculture Chair. "It's up to the WTO who it appoints..." she said, "but whether the WTO would want to go down the track of employing someone who can't enjoy the confidence of a member state and has resigned as ambassador is something the WTO would want to consider." Trade Negotiations Minister Jim Sutton expressed "a strong sense of betrayal" at Groser's decision, and accused him of compromising the nation's interests by putting the delicate agriculture negotiations at risk. New Zealand, a member of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters, would stand to benefit from further liberalisation in global farm trade.

Groser's National Party has urged the government to allow him to continue as agriculture Chair, arguing that removing him from the position would unnecessarily jeopardise the national interest, since the two parties' positions on international trade were largely similar.

Early May opinion polls suggested that public support for the Labour Party had slipped, leaving it only four to seven percentage points ahead of the National Party. By all accounts, Groser will receive a high place on his party's electoral list, virtually guaranteeing him a seat in parliament regardless of who wins the election. As a member of parliament, he would be allowed to take a leave of absence to see out his term as agriculture Chair. However, Groser is widely seen as a strong candidate for trade minister in a potential National Party government. If his party wins, it is highly unlikely that other Member delegations would agree to let him stay on in the position.

Barring any unforeseen developments, Groser will chair the upcoming meeting of the Committee on Agriculture, which is slated to start with informal discussions on 30 May.

ICTSD reporting; "Government wants diplomat out of job," NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 24 May 2005; "PM wants Nats' new man out of WTO role," THE DOMINION POST, 24 May 2005; "Government backs down over Groser role," NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 25 May 2005; "Withdrawn NZ WTO envoy remains farm talks mediator," REUTERS, 23 May 2005; "Groser Resignation Stuns WTO Ag Negotiators; Officials Warn of Consequences for Farm Trade Talks," WTO REPORTER, 24 May 2005; "Groser seeking a stage much closer to home," NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 23 May 2005; "Labour's tribalism far from rational," NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 25 May 2005; "PM signals complete exit for Groser," NATIONAL BUSINESS REVIEW, 24 May 2005.

IN MEMORIAM

On May 20, 2005, Konrad von Moltke, PhD, passed away in Vermont after a courageous battle with cancer. Dr. von Moltke, a Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), was one of the world's leading thinkers on the relationship between sustainable development and international trade and investment.

IN BRIEF

JAPAN AND MALAYSIA SIGN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi met on 25 May to sign a free trade pact designed to eliminate tariffs on USD 27 billion in goods, as well as some liberalisation of trade in services. The deal constitutes an agreement in principle on the major elements of a broader Japan-Malaysia Economic Partnership Agreement, which will eventually include rules on investment and intellectual property rights. The most recent accord, which is expected to take effect in December, was reached after negotiators were able to overcoming differences surrounding Malaysia's automotive policy.

Malaysia, the largest passenger car market in Southeast Asia, maintains high import and excise

duties to protect its domestic automobile makers. With this agreement, however, the Malaysian government will immediately remove tariffs on unassembled automobile parts imported and assembled in the local market by Japanese automakers. It will also remove tariffs on vehicles that do not compete with Malaysian models. The news was welcomed by Japanese automakers.

In return, the Japanese government has agreed to open its tightly controlled agriculture sector. Japan will immediately remove tariffs on tropical fruits including mangoes, durians, and papayas, and create a duty-free import quota for bananas.

"Japan and Malaysia agree to free trade agreement," BLOOMBERG, 25 May 2000; "Japan and Malaysia reach free trade deal," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 25 May 2005; "Japan, Malaysia confirm basic pact on free trade," REUTERS INDIA, 25 May 2005. "Japan Malaysia Economic Partnership Agreement," JAPAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESS RELEASE, 25 May 2005.

EU STUDY HIGHLIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF DOHA ROUND

A study released by the EU has found that negotiations currently underway at the WTO are likely to have significantly damaging environmental effects, particularly for developing countries. The Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA), carried out by an independent research team at the University of Manchester in the UK, concludes that the Doha Round of trade liberalisation will result in increased climate change and loss of biodiversity due to increased emissions of greenhouse gases and the conversion of forest land to agricultural uses.

The assessment looks at liberalisation in the agriculture, forests and distribution services sectors. It found that the economic, social and environmental implications for developed and developing countries differ widely. While developed countries can expect overall effects to be beneficial across sectors and in all three sustainability aspects, developing countries will face mixed economic and social effects, and overall negative environmental effects. The study highlights problems likely to result from increased transport, production and packaging, increased agricultural production in biologically sensitive areas, and increased use of agro-chemicals. According to the SIA, trade liberalisation will result in significant negative impacts on the environment at both the local and global levels, though it also notes that some of the economic gains

from liberalisation could in principle be directed towards offsetting these impacts.

The EU has so far not made any moves to incorporate SIAs into the negotiations process. Both trading partner countries and civil society organisations have expressed reservations about the EU's assessment methodology.

The latest SIA reports are available at <http://www.sia-trade.org/wto/index.htm>

ICTSD reporting; "EU/WTO: Negotiations to impact badly on the environment," FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE BULLETIN, May 2005.

BRUSSELS MAY PUSH UK TO SOFTEN STANCE ON EPAs

Top EU trade bureaucrat Peter Carl has reportedly criticised the UK government's March 2005 policy brief that said that the EU should not demand market-opening commitments from some of the world's poorest countries in ongoing Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations (see BRIDGES Weekly, 23 March 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-03-23/inbrief.htm#2>).

The UK-based daily The Guardian reported on 19 May that in the leaked documents, Carl told EU delegation chiefs in African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries that the UK statement was "contrary to the agreed EU position and harmful for our common objective of promoting development through trade." He added that EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson was going to "press for a revised UK line." A briefing note attached to the letter said that the UK policy had been motivated by "celebrities and NGOs [non-governmental organisations]."

Carl also said that the EPAs would come into conflict with WTO rules if they did contained no commitments by ACP countries to liberalise market access. Writing in the Caribbean Net News, Sir Ronald Sanders, a former diplomat from the region, pointed out that this was only the case because WTO rules had failed to extend adequate special and differential treatment to developing countries.

British government representatives disagreed with Carl's analysis, and defended their March policy statement. International charity Oxfam was more vocal, declaring it a "scandal that [European] Commission officials are pressuring the UK to revise its line." In a 23 March speech to the EU Parliament's trade committee, Mandelson defended the EPA negotiations, and said

that NGOs would hurt developing countries if they succeeded at obstructing the process.

"Europe's self-interested trade policies will devastate poor countries," OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN, 19 May 2005; "The dangers of EU trade policy: A chance to remedy it," CARIBBEAN NET NEWS, 24 May 2005; "Mandelson warns on lobbyists' zeal," GUARDIAN, 24 May 2005; "EU move to block trade aid for poor," GUARDIAN, 19 May 2005.

EXPERTS IDENTIFY GAPS IN INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

In a 16-20 May meeting organised by the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in New Zealand, leading experts on invasive alien species (IAS) identified gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework relating to animal species that do not qualify as pests under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The Paris-based World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) deals with trade-related risks associated with animal diseases but fails to address animals that may themselves be invasive alien species. To address this, experts explored the option of including guidelines under existing international conventions such as the CBD. Alternatively, it could be possible to expand the scope of the OIE.

The experts called for better coordination at both the national and international levels in order to create coherent standards or guidelines for such species. They also stressed that capacity enhancement in developing member states was just as important as achieving standard coherence to prevent the introduction of IAS.

International trade in goods is one of the main gateways for the introduction of IAS into ecosystems. In the WTO, measures to control the spread of alien species are generally covered by the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). The SPS Agreement encourages Members to use standards and guidelines identified by international standard setting bodies.

Documents from the meeting can be found at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=AITEGGI-01>

ICTSD reporting.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

VACANCIES

The Global Development and Environment Institute at Tufts University seeks a research associate who specializes in analyses of the effects of trade and investment liberalization on development in Latin America. The associate will conduct such work as part of a larger project that draws lessons from the Latin American experience for ongoing trade negotiations in the Western Hemisphere and at the WTO. Successful candidates will have a PhD in economics or a related field (or be close to completion), be able to write and speak well in English, and have a demonstrable record in conducting policy oriented research. This is a one-year position that could be renewed indefinitely. Interested applicants should write a short e-coverletter and send a c.v. and short writing sample to kevin.gallagher@tufts.edu.

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/cal/index.htm>. If you would like to submit an event, please email events@ictsd.ch.

Coming Up: 26 May - 1 June

27-28 May, Edinburgh, United Kingdom: REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS AND THE WTO LEGAL SYSTEM. ILA British Branch 2005 Spring Conference. This conference aims to analyse and compare different regional trade agreements (RTAs), and investigating the areas of potential legal conflict between RTAs and the WTO system. For further information contact Lorand Bartels; e-mail: lorand.bartels@ed.ac.uk; Internet: <http://www.hss.ed.ac.uk/ila/index.htm>.

30 May - 3 June, Montreal, Canada: SECOND MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY (COP/MOP-2). Organised by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). For further information contact the CBD Secretariat, tel: (+1-514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org.

31 May - 16 June, Geneva, Switzerland: 93RD SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE. This is the general conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO). For further information, contact the Official Relations Branch, tel:

(+41 22) 799-7732; fax: 799-8944; email: RELOFF@ilo.org; Internet: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc93/index.htm>.

1 June, Geneva, Switzerland. SEEKING SOLUTIONS: DEVELOPING NEW TREATMENTS AND IMPROVING ACCESS FOR POOR PEOPLE. This conference is organised by the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health (CIPRH) of the World Health Organization (WHO). It is an 'open forum' for interested parties to share their views before the Commission drafts its report. Attendance is by invitation only, for further information please write as soon as possible to cipihopenforum@who.int. For further information contact CIPRH, email cipihopenforum@who.int; Internet: <http://www.who.int/intellectualproperty/events/openforum/en/>.

WTO Events

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

26-27 May: GENERAL COUNCIL

30 May: NEGOTIATING GROUP ON RULES

1 June: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY

Other Upcoming Events

16-17 June, London, UK: EMERGING CARBON MARKETS: CAN THEY DELIVER? This conference will provide a forum for policy debate on what is working and what is not; how the EU and other emerging emissions markets may develop in future; the politics and policies that will shape their evolution; and the roles of the public and private sectors. For further information contact the Chatham House, tel: (+44-20) 7957 5700; fax: 7957 5710; email: contact@chathamhouse.org.uk; Internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/index.php?id=5&cid=72>.

27 June - 1 July, Geneva, Switzerland: THIRD PART OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON THE NEGOTIATION OF A SUCCESSOR AGREEMENT TO THE

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER AGREEMENT, 1994. Parties to the ITTA will continue negotiations towards the creation of a successor agreement regarding tropical timber. For further information contact the UNCTAD Secretariat, tel: (+41-22) 917-5809; fax: 917-0056; email: correspondence@unctad.org; Internet: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intItemID=3323&lang=1%20>.

RESOURCES

A SOUTHERN AGENDA ON INVESTMENT? PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT WITH BALANCED RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS FOR INVESTORS, HOST STATES AND HOME STATES. By Howard Mann and Konrad von Moltke. International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2005. This report is one of, if not the first, deliberate effort to look at how to approach international investment negotiations based on an agenda that takes the priorities of developing countries as its starting point. This paper identifies major issues of concern for developing countries that are vital from the perspective of sustainable development but that are not being addressed in the current negotiating processes. Even though more than 2,000 international investment agreements that have been signed, they address but a small proportion of the issues that require attention if international investment is to promote sustainable development. The Southern Agenda on Investment seeks to begin a dialogue on a different approach, one focused on the needs of the vast majority of people on the planet. Available online at http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2005/investment_southern_agenda.pdf.

THE SOUTH CENTRE QUARTERLY ON TRADE DISPUTES, FIRST QUARTER, 2005. South Centre, 2005. This quarterly will provide analyses, from a developing country perspective, of the various legal, political and process-related issues arising from WTO dispute settlement in particular and international trade dispute settlement in general. The publication will offer analysis of WTO panel and Appellate reports, brief descriptions of notable recent disputes, brief descriptions of new or pending reports, and updates on WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding review negotiations. Available online at <http://www.southcentre.org/info/scquarterlytradedisputes/TradeDisputesQtrly2005q1.pdf>.

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPES OF REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS. By Jo-Ann Crawford and Roberto Fiorentino (World Trade Organization), May 2005. Regional trade agreements (RTAs) are a major part of the multilateral trading system and their activity has intensified in all regions of the world. The objective

of this paper is to characterize the evolving landscape of RTAs and to provide an update on recent developments, trends, and direction. It also examines RTAs effects on third parties and on the multilateral trading system. Available online at http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/discussion_papers8_e.pdf.

MANAGING THE TRANSITION TO A RESPONSIBLE GLOBAL TEXTILES AND GARMENT INDUSTRY. By AccountAbility, Business for Social Responsibility, and the World Bank. Multi-Fibre Arrangement Forum, 2005. The Multi Fiber Arrangement provided many countries with access to markets and sheltered them from global competition, through the imposition of country quotas. This paper considers the implications of a post-MFA era for developing countries where garment production and exports are mainstays of the economy. It reports that, in the long term, the ending of quotas may well have a positive effect on the ability of the textiles and garment industries to contribute to economic development. However, in the short term at least, there will be significant job losses and factory closures in vulnerable countries, which will have wider impacts on their national economies. http://www.bsr.org/Meta/MFAIntegrated_Final.pdf

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