



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

**Issue: 14 July 2006**

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many developing countries in particular are sceptical of this approach, since they fear that products of export interest to them may fail to figure in the list.

Nevertheless, negotiators have spent recent meetings examining the 480-odd products in the potential environmental goods lists put forward by nine Members. These technical discussions have been marked by disagreement between developing and developed countries -- the former argue that a single non-environmental end use should suffice to disqualify a product from consideration for being an 'environmental good'; the latter counter that this would exclude all but a handful of items (see *Bridges Trade BioRes*, 16 June 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-06-16/story1.htm>).

In response to earlier criticisms regarding the issue of dual or multiple-use products, list approach proponents New Zealand (TN/TE/W/49/Rev.2) and Canada (TN/TE/W/50/Rev.1) submitted revised versions of their lists of environmental goods. Both reiterated their view that it would be impractical to exclude all but single end-use products, and instead spoke of the need to consider the 'environmental benefits' of the goods in question. Thus, their revised lists excluded items with no 'direct environmental benefits' such as some chemicals and recyclable material. Each suggested that the move could facilitate progress in the negotiations. Japan, too, submitted a modified informal version of its environmental goods list.

In spite of the revisions, developing countries including Egypt, India, Brazil, and South Africa expressed doubts regarding the environmental use of some of the remaining products, such as lasers, electromagnets, and electricity meters. They also repeated their opposition to the practice of identifying specific products for liberalisation solely by name rather than by HS code, arguing that this so-called 'ex-out' approach would be too complex for their national authorities to implement.

## **Environment at the WTO**

### **MEMBERS CONTINUE TO DEBATE HOW TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS**

WTO Members continue to search for an acceptable approach for identifying 'environmental goods' to slate them for expedited trade liberalisation. At the Committee on Trade and Environment Special Session (CTE-SS) meeting on 6-7 July, familiar divisions reappeared as delegates debated how best to fulfil the Paragraph 31(iii) mandate of the Doha Declaration to negotiate on the "reduction or, as appropriate, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services."

Some (primarily developed) countries want the WTO Membership to agree to a 'list' of specific environmental goods for liberalisation. However,

## India responds to criticisms of project approach

Developing countries have proposed some alternative methods to liberalising trade in environmental goods. India, for instance, has proposed a 'project approach' that would temporarily liberalise trade in environmental goods and services being used in approved environmental projects (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 24 June 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-06-24/story1.htm>).

At the recent meeting, India attempted once again to respond to sceptics' claims that the methodology would not lead to liberalisation that was predictable and transparent. Several countries, including the US, argued that it would be incompatible with WTO rules to enable a 'designated national authority' to decide, on the basis of multilaterally agreed criteria and parameters, whether an environmental project should be eligible for market access concessions on goods and services.

As during the previous informal CTE session, India argued that the multilaterally-agreed definitions and criteria for environmental projects would be subject to WTO dispute settlement, and that market access concessions would be bound and extended to all Members for the duration of the project (see Bridges Weekly, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-06-21/story6.htm>).

The US questioned how dispute settlement would offer additional certainty to importers and exporters, pointing out that bringing a dispute to the WTO takes time and thus would not be compatible with the limited timeframe available to implement a project.

## Uruguay floats potential compromise based on MEAs

Uruguay presented an informal 'non-paper' (JOB(06)/144) proposing new parameters for the identification of environmental goods and services. It suggested that they should be based on the broader concept of "environmental activities" -- such as those "activities covered by a multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) and recognised by that MEA through the recognition of the methodologies or the approval of related projects."

In addition, the country suggested that the production of environmental goods should contribute to improving in an equitable manner the

environment and the social and economic development of developing countries. To this end, "environmental activities" could include health, sustainable development, and poverty reduction programmes that aim to mitigate the major causes of environmental degradation, such as poverty.

According to the proposal, all exported goods used in environmental activities would be identified by the CTE as environmental goods for the purpose of expedited trade liberalisation. The WTO and the MEAs would develop agreed international criteria and methodologies to certify that a national project is environmental. A simple declaration by the national authority, as suggested by the 'project approach' would be insufficient. Uruguay stressed that this approach would strengthen cooperation and synergy between the multilateral trading system and the MEAs, and would afford Members the opportunity to export goods and services determined by their own interests, needs and national capabilities.

Several countries welcomed this attempt at compromise between the proponents of the 'list approach' and the supporters of the 'environmental project approach.' Some cautioned that products linked to national environmental activities may not qualify for a list based on globally-applicable MEAs, adding that a number of developing countries are not party to many MEAs. Delegates also questioned how exactly the WTO and the MEAs would develop the 'international certification' of environmental projects that Uruguay was proposing.

## Cuba reiterates importance of S&D

Cuba tabled a submission (TN/TE/W/69) stressing the need to address special and differential treatment (S&D) in the negotiations. It called on the CTE to undertake an in-depth analysis of the development dimension of the talks and of potential forms that S&D could take.

The paper also expressed support for the project approach, arguing that it was "best suited to making S&D viable" because it required the environmental objective to be clearly defined. On the contrary, the development dimension would not be guaranteed by the list approach, Cuba argued.

## Market access modalities premature?

The US, Canada, the EU, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore and Switzerland reiterated their call for

developed countries and developing countries "declaring themselves in a position to do so" to eliminate tariffs on environmental goods by 2008 (TN/MA/W/70; TN/TE/W/65), with other developing countries to subsequently follow suit (see Bridges Weekly, 17 May 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-05-17/story3.htm>). That paper had suggested that the market access concessions would be based on the environmental goods identified in the CTE-SS.

As before, this prompted protests from a number of developing countries, including Egypt. They described the proposal's consideration of modalities for liberalising trade in environmental goods as premature, since Members had not even agreed on the best way to approach the negotiations, let alone a final list of goods. They also argued that the CTE was not a forum for market access negotiations.

Chair Ambassador Toufiq Ali (Bangladesh) concluded the discussions by saying that there was still "no convergence" on how to achieve the mandate. He added that the technical sessions had helped begin to clarify what might be acceptable to different Members, but that they "still have a long way to go."

The next formal CTE meeting will likely be held in September.

#### Additional Resources

Submissions to the CTE are available at <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/theme/tewto/wtosubmissions.htm>.

ICTSD reporting.

### EC RELEASES FIRST SUBMISSION IN TYRES DISPUTE, CIVIL SOCIETY WEIGHS IN

In the dispute over Brazil's import ban and other restrictions on the sale of retreaded tyres, the EU in its first submission -- dated 27 April but only made public after the first panel hearing on 5-7 July -- presented its arguments to counter Brazil's public health and environmental defence. Brazil's response to the EU's first submission had already been made public earlier in June (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 16 June 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-06-16/story2.htm>).

Meanwhile, Brazil's cause received strong backing from a number of environmental and human and

animal rights groups that have submitted two 'amicus curiae' ('friends of the court') briefs.

### EU refutes environment and health arguments

In its submission, the EU argued that Brazil's import restrictions on retreaded tyres constitute an illegal barrier to trade, as they are incompatible with the WTO prohibition against the use of most quantitative restrictions on imports, as well as the requirement that Member countries treat imports from trading partners no less favourably than domestically produced goods. Furthermore, the EU contested the exemption of other Mercosur countries (Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay) from the restrictions, allowing them to sell retreaded tyres in Brazil (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 16 June, 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-06-16/story2.htm>).

Brazil has accused the EU of dumping its tyres in the South American country. It argues that since retreaded tyres cannot be reprocessed for subsequent use, they have a shorter lifespan than new ones and therefore become waste more quickly.

In response, the EU argued that Brazil's association between the risks to public health and the environment and the importation of retreaded tyres was misplaced, suggesting that these risks were rather a result of mismanagement of end-of-life tyres, and that all tyres have the same externalities on the environment. It further emphasised the difference between used and retreaded tyres, underlined by the difference in tariff classifications.

Contesting Brazil's defence under Article XX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) -- which provides for exemptions to Members' trade obligations in specific situations --, the EU also argued that reasonable alternatives were available. In Brazil, legislation is already in place making it mandatory for domestic producers of new tyres and tyre importers to provide for safe disposal of waste tyres. Also, a disposal scheme which builds on voluntary discarding of used tyres has been implemented at the state level. This programme has been very successful in eliminating the waste tyre problem, the EU noted. The EU further contested the effect of the measures, arguing that they did not protect the environment since the rate of accumulation of waste tyres had not been reduced. They added that most new tyres in Brazil are not suitable for retreading after the first life cycle and therefore equally contribute to the number of waste tyres.

Additionally, the EU challenged the exemption of the Mercosur countries from the restrictions by suggesting that Brazil was applying the measures in an arbitrary and discriminatory manner by permitting the importation of retreaded tyres from the Mercosur countries. The EU argued that Brazil, by exempting certain but not all countries, was violating the principle of Most Favoured Nation, prohibiting the discrimination between trading partners.

### Civil society speaks up for Brazil

The two amicus curiae briefs submitted to the WTO panel by civil society groups lay out a number of legal arguments claiming that the measures were indeed necessary, and therefore justifiable. One of the documents, submitted on 3 July, came from the Center for International Environmental Law and several Brazilian human rights and pollution control groups, including the Centre for Human Rights and the Environment (CEDHA). The other, dated 16 June, was sponsored by US-based animal rights organisation Humane Society International. Additionally, over 75 Brazilian and international organisations and networks released a statement on 5 July defending Brazil's measures and pointing out the serious risks attached to removing the measures. In case of a favourable ruling for the EU, the groups warn that Brazil would become "a large garbage dump for the developed world, as it will be obligated to accept the entry of other used commodities". They call on the EU to "assume its responsibilities and dedicate the appropriate resources and technologies towards the treatment and disposal of its waste products".

Whether the panel will take the briefs into consideration is uncertain. To date, WTO dispute authorities have maintained that they have the right to accept and consider amicus briefs, but no obligation to do so. Brazil is currently considering making the two briefs part of its submission in the case.

Meanwhile, Brazilian Environment Minister Marina Silva met with civil society representatives in Geneva on 7 July, following the first panel hearing. She suggested that an adverse ruling in the case could open the door for poor countries to become waste dumping spaces for rich ones. To avoid such a scenario, she said, the principle that waste should be managed in proximity to where it is used should be applied to retreaded tyres, even if they are not yet 'waste' per se.

The next hearing in the case is scheduled for early September.

### Additional Resources

Background documents for the dispute, including Members' submissions and amicus curiae briefs, are available at <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/theme/tewto/tyrescase.htm>

ICTSD reporting.

### Standard-Setting

#### **CODEX ADOPTS STANDARDS ON TRACEABILITY AND IMPORTED FOOD INSPECTION**

The Codex Alimentarius Commission -- the UN body charged with setting international standards related to food safety -- at its meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, on 3-7 July, approved principles for tracing food through production and distribution processes, as well as guidelines for ensuring that imported food is safe for human health and in compliance with importing countries' food safety requirements. The Codex Commission also approved two proposals for the elaboration of new standards on animal and plant biotechnology.

The new standards were developed by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS). The Committee is charged with developing benchmarks for food imports and exports aimed at protecting the health of consumers while ensuring fair trading practices and trade facilitation through international harmonisation.

#### **Traceability text addresses many developing country concerns**

Traceability is a tool that can help protect consumers against food-borne hazards and deceptive marketing practices and facilitate trade through precise product descriptions. It may be applied to all or specified stages of the food chain (from production to distribution) allowing competent authorities to identify at any specified stage of the food chain from where the food came and to where the food went.

The adopted principles are particularly designed to address developing countries' concerns. For example, they allow exporting developing countries to use a number of different tools within its food

inspection and certification systems to meet the same objectives and produce the same outcomes (e.g. regarding food safety, provide the same level of protection) as those systems using a traceability tool. Hence, developing countries may build on food inspection and certification systems that already exist at the domestic level, rather than having to garner new technical capacities and financial resources to meet the standard requirements.

The standards also specified that the traceability tool "should not be more trade restrictive than necessary" and should be practical, technically feasible and economically viable. It notes that the provision of assistance to the exporting country (i.e. longer time frames for implementation, flexibility of design and technical assistance) should be considered by the importing country.

### **Adoption of Standard for Food Inspection based on risk**

Codex Member countries agreed to adopt a standard to help guide the design and implementation of inspection programmes for imported food, based on the food safety risks to human health. Discussions, such as those on the definitions of 'risk-based' and 'science-based', are scheduled to take place in a working group chaired by UK and New Zealand in Brussels in September 2006. These are expected to further clarify the standard and ensure that it is in compliance with WTO requirements. Moreover, since several international bodies focus on risk analysis and individual countries have the sovereign right to choose between different protections against risk,, Codex could help individual countries navigate their options, as well as analyse what is achievable at the international level.

### **New Standards on animal and plant biotechnology to be elaborated**

The Codex Commission directed the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology to elaborate guidelines to help individual countries create their own safety standards and regulatory framework regarding genetically modified (GM) animals. The guideline would take as a model the Codex guideline for food safety assessment of biotech foods derived from GM plant, taking into account the differences between plants and animals.

Moreover, countries agreed to further elaborate standards for plants used in factories that produce industrial or pharmaceuticals compounds. The Task Force will undertake this work to provide further guidance relating to bioavailability and physiological functions of the intended plant modification. It will focus on staple crops of interest to developing countries.

These standards would complement existing risk analysis standards for biotech foods developed by the Task Force and adopted by the Commission in 2003 (Bridges Trade BioRes, 11 July 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-07-11/inbrief.htm>).

### **Additional Resources**

Report of the Commission meeting:  
<http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/662/al2901Ae-rev1.pdf>

ICTSD reporting.

### **In Brief**

#### **EU ANGLES FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHING**

The European Commission adopted a new strategy on sustainable fishing on 4 July, which aims to end overfishing and bring the catch rates of major fish stocks to levels that do not compromise their productive potential. With the proposed policy, the Commission aims to implement the EU's commitment to restore stocks to levels that can produce at maximum sustainable yield by 2015, made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The new approach "will be a central element of the Union's strategy to restore the sustainability of our fisheries and the competitiveness of our fleets. It will also help us meet the commitment taken along with our international partners to achieve sustainability wherever our fleets are involved," said EU Fisheries Commissioner Joe Borg. In a communication to the Council and European Parliament, the Commission recognised that overfishing has contributed to the depletion of fish stocks, leading to fewer catches, less income for fishing communities, and lower levels of profitability. In the short-term, the Commission is calling for less fishing to allow stocks to rebound. In the longer-term, under the framework of the Common Fisheries Policy, the Commission intends to establish target rates of fishing appropriate to each stock. While the new policy calls for a gradual change, EU members plan to mitigate impacts to

fishing communities through financial assistance from the European Fisheries Fund (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 30 June 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-06-30/story1.htm>).

In related news, the environmental group WWF on 5 July announced that the Mediterranean and East Atlantic bluefin tuna is "on the verge of collapse." In a report, WWF shows that fishing far exceeds the quota, catch figures have been underreported and industrial fleets are plundering bluefin tuna breeding grounds. The report identifies the EU, Libya and Turkey as the main culprits of most of the illegal, unregulated, and unreported catches.

The European Commissions' communication is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/comm/fisheries/doc\\_et\\_publ/factsheets/1egal\\_texts/docscom/en/com\\_06\\_360\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/fisheries/doc_et_publ/factsheets/1egal_texts/docscom/en/com_06_360_en.pdf).

To access the WWF's report "The plunder of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean and East Atlantic in 2004 and 2005 - Uncovering the real story" visit [http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/marine/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=75040](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/marine/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=75040).

## CITES COMMITTEE DISCUSSES TIMBER SPECIES AND MEDICINAL PLANTS

Among an extensive range of agenda items, the Plant Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) addressed trade in timber species and medicinal plants at its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting on 3-8 July 2006 in Lima, Peru. Committee members specifically discussed how to protect bigleaf mahogany, one of the most valuable species in the international timber trade due to its hard wood (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 27 May 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-05-27/story3.htm>). The tree is a major target of illegal harvesting, particularly in places such as the Peruvian Amazon. Members adopted a recommendation from the report of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, agreeing not to subject the species at this time to the so-called Review of Significant Trade (RST), a mechanism for reviewing biological, trade and other information pertaining to endangered species. Instead, the Committee agreed to investigate the high volume of bigleaf mahogany imports to the Dominican Republic. Furthermore, mahogany exports would only be allowed after determining that trade will not threaten the survival of the species and after verifying the legal origin of the timber.

Despite the inclusion of Asian medicinal plant species among those subject to CITES international trade controls, the species has not been adequately protected by the regulations. Medicinal plants were removed from the RST process because the majority of the problems faced by these species stem from illegal trade and the RST process only addresses legal trade. Instead, the Committee decided to endorse recommendations to study seven Appendix-II Asian medicinal species and cover illegal trade. Among these medicinal species are the African cherry (*Prunus africana*), which is exported to Europe to manufacture medication for diseases related to the prostrate.

At the request of South Africa and Namibia, the Committee also clarified regulations regarding hoodia exports, stressing that all exports had to be accompanied by a CITES permit. Hoodia is a rare cactus that has long been used by African's San Bushmen for its appetite-suppressing qualities and whose commercial potential is being developed (See BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 23 July 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-07-23/inbrief.htm#5>).

For a summary report of the meeting, see IISD Linkages at <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/ac22pc16/>.

ICTSD Reporting; ENB, Vol. 21 No. 48, 10 July 2006.

## US AND CANADA FINALISE SOFTWOOD LUMBER DEAL

The US and Canada on 1 July signed an agreement regulating trade in softwood lumber, marking a new truce in their two decade-long dispute (Bridges Trade BioRes, 2 September 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-09-02/index.htm>). Based on a tentative deal struck in April, the formal accord halts all legal battles and retaliatory duties on softwood lumber. Of the USD 5 billion the US has collected since 2002 from antidumping and countervailing duties on Canadian lumber, it will return USD 4 billion to Canada. The remaining USD 1 billion will be split between the US government and forestry industry. The agreement effectively manages trade in softwood lumber by requiring Canadian regions to levy export taxes that will rise from 0 to 15 percent based on export price triggers and US market share. It also contains safeguard measures in the event that a region exceeds its allocated share.

The accord is meant to last for seven years, although each country will be able to terminate it after three.

The crux of the disagreement was over Washington's allegation that the 'stumpage fees' Canada charges for harvesting timber on state-owned land were so low that they constituted a subsidy. Washington has maintained retaliatory duties on Canadian lumber imports since 2002, throughout extensive legal battles in the both the WTO and NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) dispute settlement systems.

Some critics of the deal have argued that it allows the US government to retain too much of the money collected in extra duties. Other commentators have countered that a better deal was unlikely, since the US had not shown any indication that it would comply with various NAFTA rulings in favour of Canada. Canadian government officials insist that the deal will make softwood lumber trade stable and predictable. The agreement requires approval by Canadian industry and provinces, as well as the parliament. It does not require legislation in the US.

The text of the agreement is available at <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/eicb/softwood/menu-en.asp>.

ICTSD reporting; "US, Canada Ink Deal To End Timber Row," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 1 July 2006; "Canada, U.S. Reach Deal in Softwood Lumber Dispute," BLOOMBERG, 1 July 2006; "Emerson unwilling to revisit softwood lumber deal," CTV.CA, 10 July 2006; "Better than nothing: That's the real dirt on the softwood deal," GLOBE AND MAIL, 6 July 2006.

## **LAMY TAKES UP 'SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY' IN WAKE OF WTO COLLAPSE**

After the WTO had failed to reach a framework deal on agriculture and industrial tariffs at a high-profile ministerial-level meeting in Geneva at the end of June, Members have asked Lamy to step up consultations with governments in an attempt to facilitate an agreement as soon as possible (see Bridges Weekly, 3 July 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-07-03/story1.htm>). Lamy believes that a 'modalities' agreement -- formulae and figures to determine the extent of reductions and exceptions to them -- would require parallel concessions on a 'triangle' of issues: the US would have to agree to make

deeper cuts to domestic farm support, the EU to increased agricultural market access, and developing countries such as Brazil and India to offer more on industrial tariffs. Following the start of his 'shuttle diplomacy' in Tokyo, Lamy said on 6 July that he was "encouraged by the commitment to the round" that he had seen from top Japanese officials, though his new role as "confidante to Member governments" prevented him from responding to questions about the evolution of any country's positions. He said that he would continue his consultations with other major trading nations, during which he would "try to test with them different hypotheses and different numbers" in an attempt to discern their "red lines".

At the same time, several trade diplomats are looking to the 15-17 July G8 summit in St. Petersburg for major trading nations to come up with a way out of the deadlock. The leaders of Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa -- all members of the G-20 group of developing countries at the WTO which has been pushing for further liberalisation in agriculture trade -- will also be in St. Petersburg, thus bringing together several of the key players in the Doha Round talks. Sources report that Lamy, too, will be present.

ICTSD reporting; "Lamy says WTO in 'red zone,' seeks urgent action to save process," KYODO NEWS, 6 July 2006; "Developed countries must take initiative to push WTO talks," TIMES OF INDIA, 12 July 2006; "Brazil's Lula to promote Doha trade talks during G8 summit," FT, 12 July 2006; "Doha round: It's not only what we trade, but how," IHT, 5 July 2006; "G8 may hold key to WTO deal," REUTERS, 7 July 2006.

## **INTERNATIONAL COURT SIDES WITH URUGUAY IN PAPER MILLS DISPUTE**

Argentina was defeated in its attempt to prevent the construction of two paper mills along the shared banks of the Rio Uruguay in a ruling by the International Court of Justice on 13 July. The court determined that the mills posed no "imminent threat" to Argentina's environment. "There is not enough ground for a provisional measure to suspend construction," said International Court of Justice President Rosalyn Higgins. Argentina contended that the construction of the mills violated an agreement between the two countries on the use of the river. In addition, it argued that the mills would damage

the environment -- particularly the fresh-water dorado and catfish -- and cost the region ecotourism jobs. The country's environmental activists have tried to obstruct the building of the mills through trade blockades and more recently by targeting international financing and bank loans (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 3 April 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-04-03/inbrief.htm#6>). Uruguay argues that the environmental impacts would be minimal. Vice-President Rodolfo Nin Novoa suggested that the two countries should jointly monitor work on the pulp mills, as "Uruguay has as much interest as Argentina in avoiding contamination to the people of both countries". The new mills are expected to generate around 8,000 jobs and increase GDP by 1.6 percent. The mills constitute the biggest industrial investment in the country's history.

ICTSD Reporting; "Montevideo Applauds Hague Ruling On Paper Mills, Urges Dialogue," IPS, 13 July 2006; "Argentina Loses Bid To Block Uruguay Building Mills," BLOOMBERG, 13 July 2006; "ICJ Rules Metsa-Botnia's Pulp Mills' Construction In Uruguay To Continue" AFX NEWS, 13 July 2006.

## Events & Resources

### EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar.

### Coming Up In the Next Two Weeks

15-17 July, St. Petersburg, Russia: G8 SUMMIT. The Group of Eight (G8) is an unofficial forum of the heads of the leading industrialised democracies (Russia, the US, Britain, France, Japan, Germany, Canada and Italy) and the European Commission. This forum was designed to harmonise attitudes to acute international problems, and will focus on issues such as global energy security, infectious diseases, education, counterterrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the settlement of regional conflicts, the development of the global economy, finance and trade, as well as protection of the environment. For further information visit: <http://en.g8russia.ru/>.

17-21 July, Espoo, Finland: LIVING WITH CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE-- UNDERSTANDING THE UNCERTAINTIES AND MANAGING THE RISKS. This conference, sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization, the Finnish

Meteorological Institute, and the International Institute for Climate and Society, will review opportunities and constraints in integrating climate risks and uncertainties into the mainstreams of decision-making, where sensitivity to climate variability and change is but one among many factors to consider. It will draw on the experiences of public and private organisations worldwide that have been engaged in managing risks including those of a climatic origin. For further information contact the Finnish Meteorological Institute, tel: +358 9 1929 2230; e-mail: [wmo2006@fmi.fi](mailto:wmo2006@fmi.fi); Internet: [www.livingwithclimate.fi](http://www.livingwithclimate.fi).

17 July-4 August, Budapest, Hungary: UNITAR'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ON INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW. Organised by the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Hundreds of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) have been negotiated to address environmental problems. Several countries, however, do not possess the required resources to deal with the national implementation of environmental obligations. Today, many states have to face the challenge of implementing numerous MEAs with limited financial, technical and particularly human resources capabilities. The international community widely agrees that education and training about environmental law play essential roles in enhancing environmental management for sustainable development. The programme will provide an intensive three-week course in environmental law and policy. For further information, contact Marcel A. Boisard, tel: +41 22 917 8474; fax: +41 22 917 8047; email: [elp@unitar.org](mailto:elp@unitar.org); Internet: <http://www.unitar.org/elp/fellowship.htm>.

18 July, Brussels, Belgium: EU MERCOSUR TRADE AGREEMENT: STATE OF PLAY OF NEGOTIATIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT. The meeting will provide an opportunity to present the inception report of the EC's Trade Sustainability Impacts Assessment (SIA) EU-Mercosur. The aim of the present Trade SIA is to assess how the current trade negotiations could affect sustainable development in Mercosur and the EU. The study will provide an update of the Overall Preliminary Trade SIA EU-Mercosur, as well as provide three sectoral Trade SIAs for agriculture, automobiles and forestry. For further information contact the Impact Assessment Research Center (IARC), tel: +44 (0) 161 275 0811; fax: +44 (0) 161 275 0424; email: [sia-trade@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:sia-trade@manchester.ac.uk); Internet: <http://www.sia-trade.org/mercotur/contact/index.shtml>.

18-21 July, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: INTERNATIONAL PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM. Organised by the African Plant Molecular Biologists Network (EAPMBNet). The theme is recent advancement in plant biotechnology research and its potential applications to plant protection in East Africa. This symposium will serve as a forum for participants from different countries to present and share the most recent advances in plant biotechnology and



molecular biology research and their applications to plant pests and diseases of importance to East African and African crops. The major objective of the network will be to bring together scientists in the field of plant molecular biology and biotechnology in the East African region, for collaborative benefits. For further information contact Joseph Ndunguru, tel: +255 748 868390; email: [jndunguru2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jndunguru2003@yahoo.co.uk); Internet: <http://www.africancrops.net/biotecnet/index.htm>.

19-20 July, Geneva, Switzerland: COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS – SPECIAL SESSION. For further information, contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: +41-22 739 5007; fax: +41-22 739 5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

20 July, London, UK: ILLEGAL LOGGING UPDATE AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION NUMBER 8. Organised by Chatham House. The agenda will cover the range of recent developments under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance & Trade Action Plan, private sector initiatives and the research agenda. The meeting is free and open to all but registration is essential. For further information contact Gemma Green, tel: +44 (0) 20 7957 5700; fax: +44 (0) 7957 5710; email: [ggreen@chathamhouse.org.uk](mailto:ggreen@chathamhouse.org.uk); Internet: <http://www.illegal-logging.info/events.php>

24-26 July, Beijing, China: INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL RATTAN SECTOR. Organised by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan, and the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, this workshop is based on an ongoing activity of the ITTO funded project “Capacity building for the development of a sustainable rattan sector in China based on plantation sources.” The purpose of the workshop is to: discuss issues in research and development of the rattan sector as well as direction and strategies; discover business and investment opportunities in the global rattan sector; and to explore, exchange and update scientific and technological findings and information. For further information contact Huang Shineng, tel: +86 20 8702 8675; fax: +86 20 8703 1622/8702 86; email: [snhuang@chinarattan.net](mailto:snhuang@chinarattan.net); Internet: <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=1144>.

27-30 July, Shanghai, China: The 2nd INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (IFAT CHINA) is the comprehensive exhibition on the Asian market for practice-oriented solutions in the key sectors for environmental protection and waste disposal including water supply, sewage, recycling, air pollution, environmental technology and environmentally sound energy sources. For further information contact Andrea Stauber, email: [andrea.stauber@messe-muenchen.de](mailto:andrea.stauber@messe-muenchen.de); Internet: <http://www.ifat-china.com/>.

### Other upcoming events

1 September, Buenos Aires, Argentina: FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (CRIC-5). The committee will consider the following items: implementation of the Convention and its institutional arrangements; necessary adjustments to the elaboration process and implementation of action programmes, information regarding mobilization and use of financial resources, ways and means to promote know-how and technology-transfer, and procedures for communication and information. For more information, tel: +49 228 815 2800; e-mail: [secretariat@unccd.int](mailto:secretariat@unccd.int); Internet: <http://www.unccd.int>.

26 September, Washington DC: NATURAL GAS AS A CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION: BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS TO METHANE'S EXPANDING ROLE. Sponsored by the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA). This one-day workshop will focus on the barriers to bringing methane to market, with attention to both increasing supply and decreasing fugitive methane emissions, on the current strategies for breaching these barriers and on case studies that highlight successful implementation of these strategies. Co-sponsored by the Methane-to-Markets Partnership, US EPA and IPIECA this day will serve as an in-depth look at the factors influencing the pace of methane development and delivery and will touch on a number of the themes addressed in the Pace of Technology workshop. For further information contact Luke Warren, tel: +44 (0)20 7633 2388; email: [luke.warren@ipieca.org](mailto:luke.warren@ipieca.org); Internet: [http://www.ipieca.org/downloads/climate\\_change/washington2006/workshop.html](http://www.ipieca.org/downloads/climate_change/washington2006/workshop.html)

27-28 September, Washington DC: INCREASING THE PACE OF TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND APPLICATION: ENABLING CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS. Organised by the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), this workshop will bring together experts from academia, business, governments, policy makers and international and non governmental organizations to improve understanding of how to increase the pace of technology innovation and application. It will focus on: energy outlooks and the pace of technological progress; technology portfolio strategies to increase the pace of innovation and application; opportunities and barriers to technology innovation and diffusion; Innovation and technology options for efficiency, transport, methane, CO2 capture and geologic storage and energy supply. For further information contact Luke Warren, tel: +44 (0) 20 7633 2388; email: [luke.warren@ipieca.org](mailto:luke.warren@ipieca.org); Internet: [http://www.ipieca.org/downloads/climate\\_change/washington2006/workshop.html](http://www.ipieca.org/downloads/climate_change/washington2006/workshop.html)

## 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 Gina Vea, [gvea@ictsd.ch](mailto:gvea@ictsd.ch).

### ICTSD Resources

**AMERICA'S FREE TRADE FOR ILLEGAL TIMBER- HOW US TRADE PACTS SPEED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS.** (Environmental Investigation Agency, June 2006) The report documents the links between FTAs and increased trade in illegal timber from Honduras and Singapore. It urges the US government to enact a law prohibiting entry of illegal timber imports into the US before signing pending free trade agreements with other timber trading nations. To access this report visit <http://www.illegal-logging.info/documents.php#368>

**WHICH ENERGY? 2006 ENERGY REPORT FROM THE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE IN SOCIETY.** The UK government's response to climate change and the impending energy crisis, as presented in its 2003 Energy White Paper, has not yielded concrete results despite many good intentions. The authors believe that is because the government's trade- and market-dominated approach has prevented it from investing sufficiently in the appropriate technologies and adopting policies that promote self-sufficiency over trade. The Energy Review released for public consultation in January 2006 is widely seen as a statement of the UK government's intention to commission new nuclear plants, an option explicitly not included in the 2003 Energy White Paper. To access this resource visit [http://www.i-sis.org.uk/ISIS\\_energy\\_review\\_exec\\_sum.pdf](http://www.i-sis.org.uk/ISIS_energy_review_exec_sum.pdf).

**TRADING PRECAUTION: THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE AND THE WTO** (United Nations University, November 2005) The intention of the paper is to explore the role of precaution in the WTO Agreement. It is part of a series of studies being undertaken to explore the differing standards for regulating biotechnology in different regimes, including the Biosafety Protocol, the FAO Agreements and in various countries that have adopted legislation on these matters. This paper examines the debate on the evolution of the precautionary principle in the context of the WTO and attempts to shed light on proposals to enhance the

incorporation of this principle in the rules of the multilateral trading system and to diminish tensions in this regard between the WTO and MEAs. The analysis in the paper looks at how the WTO is responding to the challenges posed by Member States raising the precautionary principle before dispute panels. The paper puts forward that the WTO dispute settlement system may not be the best way in which to resolve disputes in these important areas of policy making. To access this resource visit

<http://www.ias.unu.edu/binaries2/Precautionary%20Principle%20and%20WTO.pdf>.

**RESEARCH ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR SUSTAINABILITY SUMMARY REPORT.** (RSBS, 2006) The report is the culmination of a five-month project to investigate the scientific status in seven fields relating to environmental sustainability. It is based on an extensive review of global literature, interviews and questionnaires with some 170 leading experts and scholars in Japan, the US, and Europe. The objective of the project is to create a credible and easily accessible (readable) scientific document to support the decision-making of political and business leaders. The reports compiled will not contain any specific policy proposals. The aim is to focus on clarifying the view of science and urge decision-makers to base their decisions and actions on a solid scientific foundation. To access this report visit [http://www.sos2006.jp/english/rsbs\\_summary\\_e/about-rsbs.html](http://www.sos2006.jp/english/rsbs_summary_e/about-rsbs.html).

**THE FAILURE OF GE PAPAYA IN HAWAII.** By Greenpeace International, May 2006. The report critically examines the performance of genetically engineered papaya in the Hawaiian economy where it is harvested in half as much area as it was twenty years ago and farmers receive 35% less per kilogram than what they received a decade ago. Dwindling international consumer demand for genetically engineered Hawaiian papaya, the refusal of other producing nations in south East Asia to grow it and legislation blocking its import in Japan and 25 EU countries which are critical markets all are acclaimed as reasons for the failure of genetically engineered papaya in Hawaii. The report highlights the papaya experience of Hawaii and seeks to create awareness so that a repetition is not experienced in other parts of the world and may be downloaded at <http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/FailureGEPapayaInHawaii.pdf>

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