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Note to Subscribers

Bridges Trade BioRes will not be published during the summer break. The next issue will be published on 8 September. The Bridges Trade BioRes team would like to thank our readers for their interest and feedback and our funders for their assistance.

WTO

WTO DOHA ROUND PUT ON HOLD INDEFINITELY

The Doha Round of trade negotiations was put into deep freeze on 24 July, after a meeting of ministers from six key trading nations collapsed over divisions on how to cut farm subsidies and tariffs. It is not clear when -- or if -- the talks, which started nearly five years ago, will resume. Kamal Nath, India's Commerce Minister, said that the round, though not dead, "is between intensive care and the crematorium". While some civil society groups lamented the breakdown as a missed opportunity for balancing the multilateral trade system, others welcomed the suspension as a chance to completely revise countries' approach to multilateral trade.

"It will not be possible to finish the round by the end of 2006," WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy told an informal meeting of all Member delegations the day after ministers from the EU, the US, Australia, Brazil, India and Japan -- the so-called G-6 -- failed once again to bridge their differences. Saying that "the gaps remain too wide", he recommended suspending all negotiations currently underway at the WTO indefinitely. This "time-out", Lamy suggested, would be an opportunity for Members to examine what was at stake, and reconsider their positions. In his report on the state of the negotiations to the General Council on 27 July, Lamy told Members that

ambassadors had accepted his recommendation to indefinitely suspend the talks, albeit with regret. The General Council did not take a formal decision to suspend the talks. This means that another formal decision will not be necessary to restart the negotiations.

What many are calling the most serious crisis in the WTO's decade-long history comes little over a week after heads of state from leading industrialised and developing countries vowed at the G8 summit in St. Petersburg to show greater flexibility in the trade talks (see Bridges Weekly, 19 July 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-07-19/story1.htm>). Lamy has long held that unblocking the negotiations would require parallel progress on a 'triangle' of issues: the US would have to agree to deeper cuts to domestic farm support; the EU to increased agricultural market access, and developing countries such as Brazil and India to lower industrial tariffs. Each group has been urging the others to budge first.

Furious recriminations have followed the breakdown, particularly between the EU and the US. Brussels blames Washington for refusing to offer any new cuts to farm subsidies; the latter counters that the EU gave too little on market access to make any such movement possible. Many of the ministers maintained that the divisions were not insurmountable. Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim attributed the collapse to a lack of "political will". Nath said that the notion that subsidy cuts should be paid for in market access represented a "gap in mindset" that would need to be transcended for the round to succeed

Civil society groups' reactions to the breakdown have been mixed. Some development groups pointed to the missed opportunity to address unfair trade rules. Oxfam warned that the suspension would continue to allow rich countries to dominate multilateral trade, deny better market access to developing countries and open other countries' markets for their exports through bilateral trade arrangements. "The cost of delay is too big and the potential for development too great for these talks to be left to wither on the vine," said Celine Charveriat of Oxfam's Make Trade Fair campaign.

Some environmental groups, however, were more upbeat about the collapse, hailing it as an opportune moment for a complete overhaul of the multilateral trade system. Friends of the Earth urged WTO Members to shift to a system of multilateral governance "that actively promotes human rights and environmentally sustainable development". Greenpeace called for a social and environmental assessment of the global trade system. The Southeast Asian Fish for Justice Network (SEAFish) welcomed the suspension as a "blessing in disguise", pointing in particular to potentially negative impacts of further liberalisation in natural resource products on the sustainability of fish stocks and forests.

Some trade analysts believe that the negotiations might be able to resume after the US elections this fall. Others think that the round may be frozen until 2009, when a new presidential administration takes over in Washington with a better chance of receiving trade promotion authority (i.e. the authority to negotiate trade deals which can simply be rejected or adopted but not amended by Congress). Without it, the US is not considered to be a credible negotiating partner -- multilaterally or bilaterally -- since Congress would then be able to pick apart carefully-assembled deals provision-by-provision, instead of having to give each package a straight up or down vote.

Breakdowns are not new to global trade negotiations. The Uruguay Round talks fell apart in December 1990 and only resumed a year later when the then-Director-General of the GATT took the controversial step of coming up with a potential compromise agreement, better known as the 'Dunkel draft'. Following the collapse of the Cancun Ministerial Conference in September 2003,

the Doha Round itself saw negotiating work frozen for about four months, before the US helped revive the talks in early 2004.

ICTSD reporting; "Doha Round Suspended Indefinitely After G-6 Talks Collapse," BRIDGES WEEKLY, 26 July 2006; "Rich countries not off the hook after breakdown of WTO talks," OXFAM, 25 July 2006; "'Face it, Doha is dead': time to look at alternatives to WTO," GREENPEACE, 24 July 2006; "WTO Deadlock: Good news for the poor and the environment," FOE, 24 July 2006; "Regional fisheries group hails WTO talks collapse as blessing in disguise," SEAFISH, 26 July 2006.

Climate Change

G8 AGREE TO PROMOTE ENERGY SECURITY

Amid oil prices soaring above US\$75 a barrel, global energy security was a central theme at the 15-17 July summit in St. Petersburg of heads of state from the Group of Eight (G8) industrialised nations. Leaders from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and the US focused mostly on how to increase oil field investment in order to raise production. To make that possible, the summit adopted the St. Petersburg Plan of Action on Global Energy Security which highlighted a number of approaches to deal with the interrelated challenges of energy security, air pollution control and reducing greenhouse gas associated with long-term global climate change.

G8 leaders noted that global demand for oil, natural gas and coal would rise more than 50 percent above current levels by 2030, and that these fossil fuels would still constitute 80 percent of the world's energy supply at that point. This comes in the context of increasing import dependence in many countries; enormous investment requirements along the entire energy chain; the need to protect the environment and to tackle climate change; the vulnerability of the critical energy infrastructure; political instability, natural disasters and other threats. Given the global nature of these challenges along with a growing interdependence between producing, consuming and transiting countries, the G8 leaders stressed the need for strengthened partnerships for between all stakeholders to enhance global energy security.

The Summit's focus on predictability and stability of supply comes after a moment of disruptions in gas supply as a result of Russia's decision to suspend the supply of gas to Ukraine early this year, following disagreement on pricing. The decision prompted concerns in Europe over Russia's monopoly in gas exports to Western Europe from Central Asia and of the country's attempts to buy downstream gas distribution assets in Europe.

While not all G8 members have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, those that are Parties to the Protocol reiterated their commitment to meet the objectives of reducing greenhouse gases and dealing with climate change, with an emphasis on the flexibility mechanisms and the role of the private sector. Leaders referred to the importance of enhancing energy efficiency and energy saving, noting that since two thirds of world's oil is consumed by the transport sector and its fuel consumption is outpacing general energy consumption, special attention should be paid to this sector.

The diversification of the energy mix, including by developing cleaner low-carbon energy, nuclear energy, renewable energies and alternative energy technologies, was another component

of the Plan of Action. In that regard, the Summit welcomed the work being undertaken by organisations such as the World Bank and the International Energy Agency on developing a framework for clean energy and sustainable development and on identifying alternative energy scenarios and strategies to support and implement elements of the Gleneagles Plan of Action which adopted at the G8 Summit last year. The Plan, however, did not outline how alternative energy sources would be developed within a global agenda.

Russia is the world's largest gas producer and exporter, and its role in the emerging global gas market is expected to further gain in importance. However, as Russia's key producing fields decline, the ability of Gazprom, Russia's state-controlled energy company, to increase gas production is critical to maintaining international energy security. Increased investment in Russia's energy infrastructure would not only contribute to increasing world supplies, but also contribute to energy saving and reduction of CO₂ emissions. The International Energy Agency estimates that at least 30 billion cubic meters -- a fifth of the country's exports to European OECD countries -- could be saved annually by the introduction of more advanced technology and the implementation of energy efficiency, which would also generate reductions equivalent to 150 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

While oil and gas importing countries are concerned with issues of security of supply, Russia has expressed concerns over stability of demand for its oil and gas. Against this backdrop, the Summit's emphasis on the creation of a transparent and predictable global regulatory framework that would govern investment and trade in energy puts the spotlight on Russia's demand for accession to the WTO. A series of bilateral negotiations has already taken place with almost all concerned countries. The US remains the only country with which Russia has not yet concluded bilateral accession negotiations. Among the outstanding issues are access to the financial services market, phytosanitary controls, intellectual property protection and access to the aircraft market. As a major oil and gas exporting country, Russian accession is likely to generate greater focus on how WTO rules, including rules on competition and subsidies, could be applied more generally to the energy sector.

Some civil society groups voiced concerns that the summit put too much emphasis on increasing supply of fossil fuel-based energy sources, a factor that might further undermine the ability to effectively address global climate change and to strengthen global efforts to develop alternative and renewable energy technologies. Protestors also attacked the endorsement of nuclear energy as a means to "contribute to global energy security, while simultaneously reducing harmful air pollution and addressing the climate change challenge", pointing to the risks of the technology. "Nuclear reactors are dangerous, extremely expensive, take many years to build, and require massive government subsidies," the demonstrators said in a statement.

Additional Resources

Official Website of the G8 Presidency of the Russian Federation: <http://en.g8russia.ru/>

"The last push for Russia's WTO membership?", Bridges Monthly, June-July 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/bridges/BRIDGES10-4.pdf>

"Protesters Condemn G8 Support of Nuclear, Coal, Oil," ENS, 17 July 2006; "From Group of 8, Energy Focus Is on Oil," New York Times, 17 July 2006; "IEA supports G8 energy security focus and calls for optimising Russian natural gas to enhance energy security and environmental benefits", IEA, 18 July 2006.

In Brief

WTO PANEL TO EXAMINE ECUADOR'S CHALLENGE OF US SHRIMP DUTIES

Following Ecuador's second request for a panel submitted to the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) at its 19 July meeting, the WTO will set up a panel to examine Ecuador's challenge of the US safeguard measures on shrimp imports imposed in January 2005 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 11 November 2005 <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-11-11/story1.htm>; WT/DS335/*). Shrimp constitute Ecuador's largest private sector export to the US and the second largest export industry, representing 10 percent of total exports in 2005 with a value of over US\$450 million. Specifically, Ecuador is taking issue with the US Commerce Department's use of "zeroing" to calculate the anti-dumping duties imposed on certain frozen warmwater shrimp from Ecuador and other countries. Under this methodology, investigators treat transactions with negative dumping margins as having margins equal to zero in determining weighted average antidumping margins, allegedly resulting in artificial and inflated anti-dumping margins. A number of cases have already been brought against the US over its use of zeroing in which the DSB has consistently ruled against the US (see e.g. WT/DS294/*). Under dispute settlement rules, a panel will be established within ca. 45 days with the panel report expected by mid-2007. Thailand, India, Brazil, China, Japan, the EU and Korea have reserved their rights as third parties.

Other countries have also requested consultations with the US over its shrimp duties. India has focused its challenge on the bonds that importers of Indian shrimp have to deposit with US customs authorities (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 16 June 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-06-16/inbrief.htm#3>; WF/DS345/*). Thailand has challenged both the use of zeroing and the bonds (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 28 April 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-04-28/inbrief.htm#2>; WT/DS343/*).

WTO documents are available at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>.

ICTSD reporting; "DSB establishes panels in reference to shrimp and gambling services disputes," WTO, 19 July 2006.

WORLD TRADE REPORT: USING SUBSIDIES TO ACHIEVE POLICY OBJECTIVES

The 2006 World Trade Report, published annually by the WTO, notes that subsidies can often be the most efficient way of pursuing public policy objectives and correcting market failures. The reports cites environmental subsidies among examples of such measures, including subsidies to mitigate negative environmental externalities or to support compliance with environmental regulation. At the same time, however, the report cautions that government grants can distort trade flows if they are used to give an artificial leg up to exporters or import-competing industries. The right mix, the report concludes, will depend on the specific cause of the market failure, a country's socio-economic level development and the likelihood of government failure.

The report stresses that the impacts of subsidies remain "seriously under-researched" and many WTO Members are yet to fully meet their notification obligations, which is further contributing to

the lack of data and transparency. WTO economists estimate that worldwide subsidy grants totalled US\$300 billion in 2003. Of this, around US\$250 billion was spent in 21 developed countries. The bulk of agricultural domestic support is provided by three Members, the EU (US\$96.1 billion between 1995 and 2001), the US (US\$ 66.2 billion) and Japan (US\$41.8 billion). Fisheries subsidies paid by OECD countries have been estimated at US\$6 billion annually, representing 20 percent of the landed value of fish. While rich country farm subsidies have somewhat declined, the level of fisheries subsidies seems to have remained largely unchanged. However, there appears to be a recent shift in the provision of fisheries subsidies towards a greater emphasis on environmental protection, the report concluded.

The 2006 World Trade Report is available online at:
http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres06_e/pr447_e.htm.

ICTSD reporting; "WTO World Trade Report focuses on subsidies," WTO, 24 July 2006.

EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN OVERRULES COMMISSION ON RELEASE OF BIOTECH SUBMISSION

The European Ombudsman on 11 July announced that the European Commission's refusal to disclose a submission in a WTO dispute on biotech products to Friends of the Earth Europe (FOEE) on the ground that "the WTO dispute settlement procedure has to be assimilated to court proceedings" amounted to an instance of "maladministration". The Ombudsman overruled the Commission's claim that WTO disputes should involve similar secrecy levels to court cases in order to defend parties' interests from external influences. The Ombudsman stressed, however, that his decision should not be seen to imply that the Commission would be obliged, in general, to publish or otherwise disclose to third parties its submissions in WTO disputes when they are filed with the WTO panel.

On February 2005, FOEE had made a complaint to the European Ombudsman concerning the European Commission's refusal to give them access to its second submission in the WTO dispute over the EU's de facto moratorium on the approval of new biotech products brought by the US, Argentina and Canada (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 19 May 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-05-19/inbrief.htm#2>). According to FOEE, the document should have been made available to the public on the grounds that the case dealt with issues related to human and environmental safety. The Commission had eventually disclosed the document in question last year. The submission pointed to scientific uncertainties about the safety of GM food and crops. "What we now know is that whilst the EC has been telling us for years that biotech foods are safe, they were arguing behind closed doors that there are legitimate scientific concerns that warrant a more precautionary approach," said Adrian Bebb, GMO foods campaigner for FOEE.

Over the past years, the Commission has typically disclosed its submissions to WTO panels immediately after the hearing has taken place. However, applications for access are assessed on a case-by-case basis with a view to deciding whether it is possible to publish papers prior to the hearings. More generally, the EU believes greater transparency is essential to make dispute settlement rulings more acceptable to the general public.

Decision of the European Ombudsman on complaint 582/2005/PB against the European Commission: <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/decision/en/050582.htm>

Submissions and other documents related to US-EC biotech dispute are available at http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/environment/biotech_case.htm.

"EU Guilty of Withholding Genetically-Modified Food Data", DOW JONES, 19 July 2006; "European Commission Guilty of Wrongly Concealing GMO Documents Says Ombudsman", FOEE, 18 July 2006; "EU Approves Genetically Modified Foods Despite Serious Concerns: New Documents Reveal EU Commission's Double Standards", FOEE, GREENPEACE, 18 April 2006.

SCIENTISTS WARN OF IRREVERSIBLE BIODIVERSITY LOSS

In a joint declaration published in the journal *Nature*, a group of 19 leading scientists and policy experts from 13 countries warn of a "catastrophic loss of species", with a great number of species expected to become extinct in the next century. "Biodiversity loss is essentially irreversible, it poses serious threats to sustainable development and the quality of life of future generations", they noted. According to Charles Perrings of the Arizona State University and Vice-Chair of DIVERSITAS, biodiversity "provides ecosystem services such as disease and climate regulation, storm protection and habitat for useful species. The loss of biodiversity imposes real economic costs on society, and we need to develop clear science guidance for policy options."

The biodiversity specialists call for the establishment of a UN-led advisory panel on biodiversity protection similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). "For the sake of the planet, the biodiversity science community has to create a way to get organised, to co-ordinate its work across disciplines, a together with one clear voice advise governments on steps to halt the potentially catastrophic loss of species already occurring," said Robert Watson, chief scientist of the World Bank and former chair of the IPCC. He also stressed that it is "critical to get the world economic system right because subsidies in agriculture and energy undermine the sustainability of ecosystems."

The current rate of species loss is around 1,000 times faster than at any time since 65 million years ago, when the earth was hit by an asteroid that led to mass extinction. The four-year Millennium Ecosystem Assessment carried out by more than 1,300 researchers from 95 countries found that with the added pressures of climate change, up to 30 percent of all mammal, bird and amphibian species are in danger of becoming extinct by 2050. The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) had set a target of reducing the rate of loss, but the rate of decline continues to escalate. The group highlights that the CBD does not have "the structural means to mobilise the expertise of a large scientific community".

"Biodiversity Experts to Create Global Intergovernmental Advisory Panel," ENS, 19 July 2006; "Biodiversity: Warn of Species Holocaust," TERRAVIVA EUROPE, 20 July 2006; "Earth Faces Catastrophic Loss of Species," THE INDEPENDENT, 21 July 2006.

SHARKS, STURGEON, WHALES DISCUSSED AT CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE

At its 22nd Meeting, from 7-13 July 2006 in Lima, Peru, the Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) adopted six recommendations concerning, *among other issues*: the review of significant trade (RST) in Appendix II species; transport of live specimens; sea cucumbers; conservation and management of sharks; and the periodic review of animal species included in the Convention's appendices.

On agenda items concerning the conservation and management of sharks, as well as the biological and trade status of sea cucumbers, the discussions were focused on the sustainability of commercially-traded marine species and fisheries management. For both sharks and sea cucumbers, better and more harmonised collection and reporting of international trade data is needed and more cooperation with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation was recommended, particularly in the area of capacity-building. It was decided that a joint work programme for law enforcement, fisheries management, research and capacity building would be established regarding the conservation and management of sharks.

It was reported to the meeting that large quantities of illegal caviar continue to be confiscated in Europe (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 20 January 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-01-20/inbrief.htm#2>). The Secretariat will provide information to the next Steering Committee meeting on sturgeon and paddlefish for Caspian Sea stocks so that the Steering Committee can decide on the pending recommendation to suspend trade. On Queen conch, the Steering Committee has already decided to recommend a suspension of trade from range States where the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals Committee Chair, had not been able to verify implementation of recommendations.

The Central and South America and the Caribbean representative, Canada and Japan supported Finland's proposal to include the central stock of North Atlantic fin whales in the periodic review. Spain pointed out that this was a precedent for arbitrary inclusion of species in the periodic review upon Parties' requests and contrary to the scientific criteria developed over the years in the Animals Committee. In spite of this warning, a vote was taken and the majority voted to include the fin whales in the periodic review.

Documents of the meeting are available at <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/AC/index.shtml>.

A summary report is available from IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/ac22pc16/>.

ICTSD reporting; ENB Vol. 21 No. 49, 15 July 2006.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar, <http://www.ictsd.org/cal/2006calendar.htm>.

Coming up

1-3 August, Tifton, Georgia, USA: GEORGIA BIOENERGY CONFERENCE. This conference will highlight the many opportunities the state, nation and world have related to Bio-Energy. Topics will cover research and commercialisation initiatives on alternative fuels. Special features of the conference include a roundtable discussion with state/federal legislators on energy policies and proposed legislation; the scientific and business aspects of the many different ways bio-energy can be extracted and stored. The conference examines regulatory issues and incentives,

transportation and marketing of raw and finished products and waste management issues. For further information visit: <http://www.gabioenergy.org/>

5-12 August, Bangalore, India: THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL ECOCITY CONFERENCE "FROM THEORY AND PLANNING TO DEVELOPMENT: TRANSFORMING A CITY INTO AN ECOCITY". Topics to be addressed include: whole systems ecological city planning and implementation, sustainable transportation, global warming abatement through ecocity development, energy issues including peak oil and gas, re-localisation of economies, ecological design of buildings, urban villages and eco-villages, bioregional planning, delivery of goods and services, healthy watersheds, waste water, rainwater, solid waste, zero waste, flood and disaster prevention through ecological design, reclaiming agricultural land and open space from sprawl, equity and fair trade, quality of life for both people and nature. For more information contact Kirstin Miller, tel: +1-510-419-0850; email: kirstin@ecocitybuilders.org; Internet: <http://www.tciconferences.com/ecocity2006/ecocity2006.htm>

6-11 August, Madison, Wisconsin, USA: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MERCURY AS A GLOBAL POLLUTANT. The conference has become the pre-eminent international forum for formal presentation and discussion of scientific advantages concerning environmental mercury pollution. It will provide the groundwork for development of four policy-relevant synthesis manuscripts and associated plenary sessions, which will serve as the daily keynotes for the conference. For more information, tel: +1 608 265 5085; e-mail: info@mercury2006.org; Internet: <http://www.mercury2006.org/>.

13-18 August, Beijing, China: INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PLANT TISSUE CULTURE AND BIOTECHNOLOGY (ICPTC&B). More than 2,000 foreign and Chinese plant biologists, including four Nobel Prize winners, are expected to attend the meeting to discuss topics like the industrial uses of genetically modified (GM) plants, intellectual property in biotechnology, biosafety, and GM plants. For further information, contact: Ms. Cuiling Lan; Tel: +86-10-68597751; Email: clan@cashq.ac.cn; Internet: <http://www.genetics.ac.cn/IAPTCS1/information.htm>

16-19 August 2006, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: APFIC CONSULTATIVE FORUM: REFORMING FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN ASIA-PACIFIC. The RCFM will provide a forum to synthesise, analyse and agree on actions needed to reshape fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region for future generations. For more information, contact: Derek Staples; email: FAO-AP@field.fao.org, Internet: http://www.apfic.org/RCFM_website/RCFM.htm.

20-26 August, Stockholm, Sweden: 2006 WORLD WATER WEEK IN STOCKHOLM. The annual World Water Week in Stockholm seeks to provide a meeting place for capacity-building, partnership-building and follow-up on the implementation of international processes and programmes in water and development. It includes plenary sessions and panel debates, scientific workshops, independently organised seminars and side events, exhibitions and prize ceremonies in the water field. This year's theme is: "Beyond the River - Sharing Benefits and Responsibilities." For more information contact David Trouba, tel: +46 8 522 13989; fax: +46 8 522 13961; email: dave.trouba@siwi.org; Internet: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org>

21-22 August, Singapore, Singapore: GLOBAL FORUM ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY 2006. This event is organised by the IP Academy Singapore and will bring together some of the world's most influential IP figures to explore and discuss new IP trends and to harness business

opportunities in a setting conducive to creative thinking. For further information, email: info@globalforumip.com; fax: +65 653 693 34; Internet: <http://www.globalforumip.com/>.

21 - 23 August, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: APFIC ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION - 29TH SESSION. For more information, please contact: Dr. Derek Staples; e-mail: FAO-RAP@field.fao.org

26 August-10 September, Geneva, Switzerland: TRAINING COURSE IN ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY. This programme, which is organised by the University of Geneva, UNITAR and UNEP, aims to teach the skills necessary to participate in international negotiations in environment, sustainable development and related fields. The intended audience includes current and future diplomats, negotiators, policy and decision makers in governments, regional intergovernmental bodies, local authorities, the private sector, NGOs, trade unions and UN bodies. For further information contact Céline Germond-Duret, tel: +41-22-379-8942; fax: +41-22-379-8173; email: celine.duret@cueh.unige.ch; Internet: <http://www.envsec.org/docs/Environ.diplom.pdf>.

26-30 August, Eger, Hungary: LIMNOLOGY AND WATERBIRDS CONFERENCE. This meeting is organised by the Working Group on Aquatic Birds of the International Society of Limnology. For more information contact Joseph Kerekes, tel: +1 902 426 6356; fax: +1 902 426 6434; email: joe.kerekes@ec.gc.ca; Internet: <http://aquabird.ektf.hu/>.

28 August-1 September, Mexico D.F., México: WATER MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY COURSE. This course offers a general overview of the situation of water in the world, along with the main technological options for sustainable management. The topics addressed will be: water classification - official regulations; sample and analysis techniques; ecological indicators in lakes and rivers; filtration and water treatment methods; rainwater harvesting systems; and ecological "dry" sanitation. For more information contact Myriam Gómez Rosas, tel: +52 55 5264 2187; email: mgomez@alliantmexico.edu; Internet: <http://www.irrimexico.org>

29-30 August, Cambridge, UK: EIGHTH ANNUAL BIOECON CONFERENCE ON "ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY". This Conference is organised by the University of Cambridge and the International Food Policy Research Institute, in association with Diversitas and the UK Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). For more information contact Andreas Kontoleon, tel: +44 1223 339773; fax: +44 1223 337130; email: ak219@cam.ac.uk, Internet: http://www.bioecon.ucl.ac.uk/04_8_ann-conf.html.

29-30 August, Cape Town, South Africa: THIRD GEF ASSEMBLY. As the principal governing body of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the third GEF Assembly will chart the forthcoming years' agenda and work program for the GEF. For more information, email: jwaller@thegef.org; Internet: http://www.gefweb.org/participants/Assembly/3rd_Assembly/3rd_assembly.html.

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: review of the implementation of the Convention and its institutional arrangements; consideration of necessary adjustments to the elaboration process and implementation of action programmes, review of available information regarding mobilisation and use of financial resources, consideration of ways and means to promote know-

how and technology-transfer, and improvement of procedures for communication and information. For more information, tel: +49 228 815 2800; e-mail: secretariat@unccd.int.

4-6 September, Geneva, Switzerland: **EXPERT MEETING ON BUILDING PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES**. The Expert Meeting will identify successful policies and approaches to building productive capacity and international competitiveness in developing countries. These include policies aiming to: attract foreign direct investment (FDI), support technology transfer, enhance enterprise development and maximise the benefits of FDI. The Meeting will also emphasise the need for integrated treatment of policy areas and policy coherence, contributing to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The meeting will bring together donor institutions and country recipients of technical assistance for building productive capacity. For more information visit:

<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intItemID=1942&lang=1&m=11897&year=2006&month=7>.

4-6 September, Bologna, Italy: **EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MODELLING, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF WATER POLLUTION**. The main aim of this meeting is to provide a forum for discussion for scientists and managers working in different aspects of water pollution. For more information contact Zoey Bluff, tel: +44 238 029 3223; fax: +44 238 029 2853; email: zbluff@wessex.ac.uk; Internet: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2006/water06/>.

4-6 September, Ljubljana, Slovenia: **FIFTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO EUROBATS**. The fifth meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, established under the Convention on Migratory Species, is organised by the UNEP/EUROBATS Secretariat. For more information contact Andreas Streit, tel: +49 228 8152420/1; fax: +49 228 8152445; email: eurobats@eurobats.org; Internet: http://www.eurobats.org/news_events/bat_events.htm.

4-8 September, New Delhi, India: **COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE - 3RD SESSION**. For more information contact: Subasinghe, Rohana; e-mail: rohana.subasinghe@fao.org

5-6 September, London, UK: **INNOGEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006: GENOMICS FOR DEVELOPMENT? THE LIFE SCIENCES AND POVERTY REDUCTION**. Held by Innogen, the ESRC Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics, this year's conference aims to address current questions around the role of science and technology in providing solutions to end hunger, disease and poverty. For more information contact Becky Hanlin, email: r.e.hanlin@sms.ed.ac.uk; Internet: <http://www.innogen.ac.uk/Events/Annual-Conference>.

6-8 September, New York, New York, USA: **59th ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR NGOS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNDPI**. NGOs associated with Department of Public Information and/or in consultative status with ECOSOC are invited to attend this conference, entitled "Unfinished Business: Effective partnerships for human security and sustainable development." Corporate, financial, religious and academic representatives will join government, UN and NGO panellists in discussing examples of partnerships for broadening the impact of all global efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. For more information contact the United Nations Department of Public Information, tel: + 1 212 963 6842; fax: + 1 212 963 6914; email: dpinfo@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/annual-conf.html>.

RESOURCES

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

ICTSD Resources

AQUACULTURE: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND TRADE, by Frank Asche and Fahmida Khatun, ICTSD, July 2006. The study assesses current and future trends in global aquaculture production. Following an evaluation of trade in and market access constraints faced by aquaculture products, the paper explores the social and economic issues arising from the increased production and trade in aquaculture and how they could be addressed. The authors conclude by identifying a number of policy implications and options for sustainable aquaculture development. Available at http://www.ictsd.org/pubs/ictsd_series/nat_res/Asche_Khatun_2006.pdf.

OPTIONS FOR LIBERALISING TRADE IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS IN THE DOHA ROUND, by Robert Howse and Petrus van Bork, ICTSD, July 2006. The study examines and further develops the different approaches that have emerged in the WTO negotiations on environmental goods, taking into account existing and expected trends in international trade in environmental goods. The authors propose ways to overcome disagreements in the negotiations and agree on liberalisation of environmental goods that can provide win-win outcomes for the environment and development for all WTO Members. Available at http://www.ictsd.org/pubs/ictsd_series/env/EGSHowse_Bork.pdf.

Other Resources

THE ROLE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN EXPLORING AND PROTECTING AGRICULTURAL GENETIC RESOURCES. Edited by J. Ruane and A. Sonnino, (FAO), 2006. This book brings together papers from an international workshop held on 5-7 March 2005 in Turin, Italy, on the role of biotechnology for the characterisation and conservation of crop, forest, animal and fishery genetic resources as well as the background and summary documents from an e-mail conference on the same subject, focusing on developing countries, that was held three months afterwards. The book contains four chapters on the status of the world's livestock, fishery, crop and forest genetic resources respectively; two chapters on the use of cryopreservation and reproductive technologies for conservation of genetic resources; eight chapters dedicated to the use of molecular markers for characterisation and conservation of genetic resources; and two chapters from the e-mail conference. To access this book visit <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/009/a0399e/a0399e00.pdf>

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT LINKS. By Saleemul Huq, Hannah Reid and Laurel A. Murray, 2005. Until recently, climate change was viewed largely as an environmental concern, of little relevance to development policy-makers or practitioners. Likewise, development approaches have been given less attention within the climate change community, who instead favour natural science approaches focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This paper describes the independent evolution of climate change and development discourses, and provides some explanation as to why the two fields have operated largely independently from one another. The recent initiatives to strengthen links between the climate change and development communities are also described. These are of particular importance as climate change impacts

will significantly affect national development. To access this paper visit <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14516IIED>

DESAFIANDO PRECONCEPCIONES SOBRE EL COMERCIO DE PRODUCTOS SUSTENTABLES: HACIA UNOS MAYORES BENEFICIOS PARA LOS PAISES EN DESARROLLO. By Nicola Borregaard and Annie Dufey, May 2006. Productos sustentables (definidos como aquellos productos que generan impactos sociales, ambientales y económicos más positivos o menos negativos que aquellos generados por los productos convencionales) han sido indentificados debido a su potencial para contribuir al desarrollo sustentable de los países en desarrollo. No obstante, existen diversos factores que dificultan el crecimiento de estos mercados para los países en desarrollo. Por ejemplo, en el nivel nacional existe una falta de información de mercado, y en el nivel internacional los requerimientos de ecoetiquetado imponen complejidades y cargas financieras que son especialmente importantes para los productores más pequeños. El objetivo de este documento es brindar algunas perspectivas más nuevas al debate sobre comercio internacional, productos sustentables, ecoetiquetado y los métodos y procesos de producción (MPPs), con la visión de iniciar un diálogo constructivo y ayudar a los gobiernos de los países en desarrollo a esbozar políticas adecuadas para el apoyo de los productos sustentables. To access this article visit <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=15500SIIED>

MAKING POVERTY REDUCTION IRREVERSIBLE: DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS OF THE MILLENIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT. By Steve Bass, July 2006. Development is achieved through growing and managing the ‘portfolio of assets’ available to a household or a nation. Soils, water, plants and animals often make up the biggest chunk of poor people’s assets. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) has taken stock of these environmental assets worldwide. It reveals that fully sixty percent are being degraded – with poor people disproportionately suffering the consequences such as shortage of clean water, floods and droughts. Yet the MA also identified instances of effective asset management – proven ‘Response Options’ that deserve scaling up. This briefing note identifies the major developmental implications of the MA, and calls for action in four areas: Information, Institutional Reform, International Cooperation, and Investment Vehicles and Budgets. To access this report visit <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=11050IIED>

THE WTO AT TEN. By Giorgio Sacerdoti, Alan Yanovich and Jan Bohanes (WTO), July 2006. Bringing together articles by some of the leading policy-makers, including previous WTO Director-Generals, practitioners, scholars of international trade law, government officials, international civil servants, members of the WTO Appellate Body, and judges from a number of international tribunals, this volume assesses the first ten years of the WTO. It examines: the relationship and balance between political governance and dispute settlement; the functioning of the dispute settlement procedures and various reform proposals; the contribution of the Appellate Body to the development of international trade law; and treaty interpretation in a number of international dispute settlement for such as the WTO, the International Court of Justice, the European Court of Justice, and the Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The book has its origins in a series of events commemorating the tenth anniversary of the creation of the Appellate Body. To access this book visit http://onlinebookshop.wto.org/shop/article_details.asp?Id_Article=712&lang=E

RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN AQUACULTURE. By Pilar Hernández Serrano (FAO), 2005. Published by the FAO Fisheries Department as part of the FAO Fisheries Technical Papers series, to raise awareness of the antibiotic resistance problem in fish farming and related sectors. The document focuses on antibiotics misuse and the concomitant threat of resistance development which is seen as a public health concern affecting the population worldwide.

Aspects such as the toxicity and allergic effects of antibiotic residues, the mechanism of transmission of antimicrobial resistance and environmental impact are also taken into account. It also refers to the role of genomics and bioinformatics in the development of new antimicrobials and the use of pulsed-field gel electrophoresis to study the epidemiology of antibiotic resistance. To access this document visit <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/009/a0282e/a0282e00.pdf>

AFRICA ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK 2 – OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR WEALTH. UNEP, 2006. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has produced a report for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). The report provides a comprehensive assessment of environmental state-and-trends, and the implications of this for human well-being and development. The report is divided into five sections, namely environment for development; environmental state-and-trends: 20-year retrospective; emerging challenges; outlook; and policy opportunities. One of the four chapters in the 'emerging challenges' section is devoted to genetically modified crops. To access the report visit http://www.unep.org/dewa/africa/aeo2_launch/index.asp

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