



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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Biotechnology

US RICE EXPORTS STALLED AT JAPANESE AND EUROPEAN BORDERS

Japan and the European Union imposed restrictions on long-grain rice imports from the United States after Washington announced on 18 August that its commercial rice supplies had been contaminated by trace amounts of a genetically-engineered (GE) variety of rice not approved for human consumption. Bayer CropScience, the producer of the GE rice – LLRICE601– informed the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that traces of the rice had been detected among its traditional rice crops on 31 July.

The rice contains a protein that makes it resistant to weed killer. According to a statement by the company "the protein is well known to regulators and has been confirmed safe for food and feed use ... in many countries, including the EU, Japan,

Mexico, the US and Canada." Bayer reportedly discovered the contamination in January 2006, six months before informing the government.

The USDA and FDA have stated that there are no human health, food safety, or environmental concerns associated with the rice. They have also acknowledged that they have no idea which state the rice came from or how widespread the contamination might be.

In a radio interview, USDA Secretary Mike Johanns indicated that the US delayed its announcement of the rice contamination for two reasons -- to have "a couple of tests validated or in the process of validation" for its trading partners and others, and "to offer, based upon the information that was provided to us by Bayer, an indication as to food safety, public health, environment."

Japan acts swiftly and the EC follows suit

Japan, which has a zero-tolerance policy on GE rice, imposed a ban on the rice almost immediately. However, Japanese officials said that the country's imports were concentrated in short- and medium-grained rice, which were not included in the ban.

According to one source, a spokesperson for the Japanese embassy said that the restriction would likely remain "until the US can say the rice no longer contains the genetically- engineered variety."

On 23 August, the European Commission decided to require that imports of long-grain rice from the US be certified as LLRICE601-free, following testing by an accredited laboratory using validated testing.

"There is no flexibility for unauthorised [genetically modified organisms] -- these cannot enter the EU food and feed chain under any circumstances," said Markos Kyprianou, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection.

In 2005, Japan and the EC banned maize imports as a result of another GE contamination. The ban is still in place.

Angry Reactions

Bayer is now facing three lawsuits filed by rice farmers in the US, two of which are seeking class action status. The USD 1.9 billion per year industry, on the verge of harvest, is facing falling prices and uncertainty about the marketability of future crops.

"This is real money that farmers are losing," said Greg Yielding of the Arkansas Rice Growers Association.

Greenpeace International has called for a ban on all GE rice. "Rice is the world's most important staple food and contamination of rice supplies by Bayer, a company pushing its GE rice around the world, must be stopped," said Jeremy Tager, Greenpeace International campaigner.

On 5 September, Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth announced that GE rice grown in China was discovered in Britain, France and Germany. "Once illegal GE crops are in the food chain, removing them takes enormous effort and cost. It is easier to prevent contamination in the first place," said Tager.

Regulatory Concerns

Earlier this year, the WTO ruled that the EC's approval processes for the marketing of biotech products violated the requirement to "complete individual procedures without undue delay" between 1996 and 2004, when no new products were cleared. It also sided with the complainants -- the US, Canada, and Argentina -- in condemning several EC member countries' national-level bans on GE products ruled safe by European scientific experts (See BRIDGES Trade Biores, 17 February 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-02-17/story1.htm> and BRIDGES Trade Biores 19 May 2006 <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-05-19/inbrief.htm#2>).

Following the rice contamination, however, several observers have raised questions about the strength of US regulation of biotechnology. The USDA has reportedly approved applications for some 49,000 field site tests for GE crops. At the same time, an audit released by the USDA Inspector General in December 2005 stated that the department "lacks basic information about the field test sites it approves and is responsible for monitoring, including where

and how the crops are being grown and what becomes of them at the end of the field test."

"You absolutely should be in compliance with regulations," said Martina Newell-McGloughlin, who directs the University of California's system-wide biotechnology programme. "It's incumbent on the companies, on the USDA... to ensure that everybody complies with these regulations."

European Member of Parliament Jill Evans stated "the fact that Bayer knew about it months before disclosing this means we can't rely on the information and tests they give us." She called the contamination "very serious," adding that it undermined the EC's confidence in the US regulatory system.

"US Under Pressure over Genetically Modified Rice," FINANCIAL TIMES (22 August 2006); "US Rice Supply Contaminated," Rick Weis, WASHINGTON POST (19 August 2006); "Japan Halts Import of US Long-Grain Rice," ASSOCIATED PRESS (21 August 2006); "Japan Bans 'Contaminated' US Rice," BBC NEWS (21 August 2006); "Bayer Faces More Lawsuits over GMO Rice," REUTERS (29 August 2006); "Analysis -- US Oversight of Biotech Crops Seen Lacking," Carey Gillam, Reuters (30 August 2006); "Gene-altered Rice from China Found in EU," REUTERS (5 September 2006); "When Genetically Modified Plants go Wild," Gregory M. Lamb, THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (31 August 2006); "Bayer Kept Rice Problem a Secret," WESTERN MAIL (29 August 2006)

Chemicals

ABIDJAN TOXIC WASTE POISONING RAISES QUESTIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

At least three people have died and an estimated 3000 have been affected by dumped toxic waste in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, where the government has resigned over the incident.

The dumping occurred during the night of 19 August, when more than 500 cubic metres of hazardous wastes from 'Probo Koala' -- a Panamanian-registered vessel contracted by a Dutch company called Trafigura Beheer BV -- were released in several sites, including near water sources, around Abidjan. Large numbers of residents were soon seeking medical help for intestinal and respiratory troubles, vomiting and nose bleeds.

Initial analyses of the waste showed the presence of organochlorines, which belong to the group of persistent organic pollutants that last a long time in the environment, accumulate in the food chain and

can reach people through multiple pathways (e.g. through drinking water, seafood, etc.). These compounds may also be acutely toxic.

According the Reuters news agency, Trafigura described the wastes as “mixture of gasoline, water and caustic washings’ following the unloading of a cargo of gasoline in Nigeria.” Reuters also quoted an e-mail from Trafigura affirming that the slops from the ship were “handed over to a certified local waste disposal company, Tommy, following Trafigura’s communication to the authorities of the nature of the slops and a written request that the material should be safely disposed of.” In a statement, the company also acknowledged that there had been “carelessness in the handling of the waste, despite the [Trafigura’s] disclosure to the authorities about its contents and a written request ... that the waste would be processed according to the laws of the land.”

Local and international regulations may have been infringed

At the time of writing the legal responsibilities in the case were unclear. Trafigura Beheer BV is registered in the Netherlands, while the Greek-owned vessel chartered by the company sailed under a Panamanian convenience flag. Ivory Coast’s State Prosecutor Raymond Tchimou said three employees of the local waste disposal company had already been detained in connection with the incident.

Cross-border trade in toxic waste is regulated by the Basel Convention (see background below). The Convention’s Secretariat is still investigating whether the dumped material was linked to illegal exports from Europe. EU legislation implementing the Basel Convention forbids hazardous waste shipments from EU members to developing countries. Should legal responsibility of the Probo Koala’s toxic load be found to reside with the Dutch broker, the company would thus be in clear violation of EU law.

Africa vulnerable to abuses

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, called the Abidjan disaster “a particularly painful illustration of the human suffering caused by the illegal dumping of wastes.” Greenpeace anti-toxics campaigner Helen Perivier noted that “anywhere where a country is suffering from political or economic instability there is always room for it to be treated as a dumping ground. Unfortunately Africa, the poorest continent

in the world, has many regions affected by instability.”

Background

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal is one of the multilateral environmental agreements that contain specific trade obligations, whose relationship with WTO rules is formally part of the Doha Round negotiations.

The Convention requires, inter alia, the exporter of hazardous waste to obtain a certificate of prior informed consent from the competent authorities in the importing country before the shipment can proceed. The so-called Ban Amendment goes further: it prohibits the movement of any hazardous wastes from the EU and OECD countries, as well as Liechtenstein, to all other parties. The amendment was championed by African countries, as well as civil society organisations, due to concerns over weak monitoring, enforcement and/or disposal capabilities. Eleven years after its conclusion, however, the Ban Amendment has not yet entered into force due to an insufficient number of signatories.

ICTSD reporting; “Ivory Coast in Political Limbo after Toxic Scandal,” REUTERS, 7 September 2006; “The Global Path of Pollution,” BBC, 8 September 2006; “Cote d’Ivoire Seeks Assistance to Mitigate Toxic Waste Crises,” UNEP 8 September 2006; “Toxic Waste Firm ‘Acted Lawfully,’” NEWS 24, 8 September

In Brief

SWITZERLAND TO BAN HORMONE-TREATED BEEF, TO COMPLY WITH EC BILATERAL AGREEMENT

Switzerland is planning to implement an import ban on hormone-treated beef similar to that already enforced by the EC, according to government veterinary officials. The measure, which is set to enter into force no later than spring 2007, harmonizes Swiss legislation with the EC’s sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) rules as per a bilateral agreement.

Under current rules, beef is eligible for import into Switzerland so long as products are declared as stemming from hormone-treated animals and that hormone residues are no longer traceable. With the ban, hormone-treated beef will be denied access

into the Swiss market. This will primarily affect US and Canadian exporters who, however, account for a relatively small share (three and four percent, respectively) of Swiss beef imports.

Although the ban has not been officially confirmed, US officials have expressed strong concerns with the prospects of an 'expansion' of the EC ban which was deemed incompatible with WTO law by the Appellate Body in 1998. The ban was never removed and the US and Canada have since applied sanctions amounting to \$125 million every year.

The EC has continued to defend the legality of the ban, presenting additional scientific evidence arguing that hormone-treated beef does indeed pose a risk to human health. Based on this, it wants the US and Canada to remove the sanctions, something they so far have refused to do. The rebuff led the EC to file a complaint with the WTO in 2004. Hearings in that case started in September 2005; the second panel hearing is scheduled for 27-28 September (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 2 September 2005 <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-09-02/story3.htm>).

ICTSD Reporting; "Switzerland May Block US Beef Exports" Business Week Online, 27 August 2006

APPELLATE BODY SUPPORTS CANADA IN LUMBER DISPUTE – 'ZEROING' CONDEMNED AGAIN

In a report issued on 15 August, the WTO Appellate Body supported Canada's claim that the US has not implemented a 2004 ruling in the longstanding softwood lumber dispute.

The original case pertains to Canadian softwood lumber exports to the US. Washington argues that the Canadian lumber is being 'dumped' on the US market -- that is, sold below its market price in Canada -- and has placed additional import duties on it since 2002. WTO rules allow Members to impose anti-dumping duties on imports found to be 'dumped,' in order to offset the difference between the two prices.

In making these price comparison calculations, the US has employed a methodology that effectively ignores instances where the prices of the imported goods are actually higher in the home market -- 'zeroing' them out, in the jargon. Critics argue that taking only positive dumping margins into account distorts the calculation of the dumping margin.

In 2004, the Appellate Body deemed an earlier 'zeroing' methodology (the 'weighted average' method) incompatible with the Anti-dumping agreement, upon which the US switched to a 'transaction-to-transaction' calculation. Here, trade officials compare specific transaction prices as opposed to a monthly average (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 25 November 2006 <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-11-25/story1.htm>). This was the first time the Appellate Body ruled on the 'transaction-to-transaction' methodology.

Canada argued that the US had not complied with that ruling, since the 'transaction-to-transaction' methodology also failed to meet the Anti-dumping agreement's requirement for a 'fair comparison' between the export and home market prices. The Appellate Body confirmed this.

The ruling may have no direct impact: in July, the US and Canada signed an agreement 'in principle' to manage lumber trade through a series of varying export taxes. Under it, the US is to return approximately \$4 billion of the almost \$5.3 billion it has collected from Canadian companies since 2002. In spite of some industry opposition, the agreement now looks likely to receive parliamentary support in Canada this month. (See Bridges Trade BioRes 14 July, 2006 <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-07-14/inbrief.htm#3>).

The Appellate Body report is available at: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/264abr_w_e.doc

ICTSD Reporting: "Canada wins softwood case at WTO", CBC NEWS, 15 August 2006, "Canada wins WTO softwood ruling", the GLOBE AND MAIL, 16 August 2006

BUSH TO SIGN COLOMBIA FTA AFTER BOGOTA DROPS BAN ON US BEEF IMPORTS

Days after Colombia agreed to drop all mad cow disease-related restrictions on US beef imports, US President George W. Bush notified Congress on 24 August that he would formally sign a free trade agreement (FTA) with the Andean country. The FTA negotiations were largely wrapped up earlier in the year, save for some sticking points primarily related to agriculture trade. Bush is required to notify Congress 90 days before signing trade agreements.

Some 20-odd countries around the world have maintained bans on importing beef from the US since December 2003, when a cow there was found

to have bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Many other governments impose various restrictions on US beef, only opening their markets to specific types of meat from cows under 30 months of age.

In August, Colombia and the US signed side letters to the FTA addressing the issue. A US agriculture spokesperson said that Colombia agreed to accept all beef products from the US, regardless of the age of the animal, so long as they receive formal approval from US food and safety authorities.

Removing barriers to US beef has emerged as a major priority in the US' trade strategy. Nevertheless, US beef exports remain at little over half their 2003 levels, according to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Washington has urged countries to open their markets to all US-approved beef that meets World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) standards. US officials expect the OIE to okay their beef products for export. In an April side letter to its own FTA with the US, Peru agreed to import US beef products in accordance with OIE rules.

In bilateral FTA negotiations with Korea, Washington has pushed heavily for a removal of their import ban. Japan, which along with Korea used to be a major market for US beef, has only opened its markets to some kinds of beef from cattle younger than 21 months old. The US has also been urging China to relax its beef import ban, although trade is yet to resume.

The US' unilateral trade preferences for Andean countries will expire at the end of the year. Exporters from Colombia and Peru risk seeing their access to the US market reduced unless the FTAs enter into force at that time.

ICTSD reporting; "Bush tells Congress will sign Colombia trade pact," REUTERS, 24 August 2006.

OZONE LAYER RECOVERY LIKELY TO BE DELAYED

A major new report predicts that recovery of the depleted atmospheric ozone layer will probably take longer than previously expected.

The document, produced by a panel of 250 experts on ozone depletion, states that the ozone layer over Antarctica will not be fully restored until between

2060 and 2075 – as much as 10 to 25 years later than earlier research had suggested.

Ozone recovery in other global regions will also be slower than previously believed. In 2049, chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) concentrations could return to pre-1980 levels over Europe, North America, Asia, Australia, Latin America and Africa – five years later than a 2002 report had predicted.

The findings have been produced by the Scientific Assessment Panel to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer – the treaty intended to phase out production of ozone-depleting substances.

The report, entitled "Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2006," suggests that two major factors are behind the delayed recovery. Firstly, there are signs that some kinds of CFCs not previously banned by the Protocol are still being used. Secondly, scientists now predict increased production of HFCF-22, a CFC substitute that still causes some ozone depletion.

"The delayed recovery is a warning that we cannot take the ozone layer for granted and must maintain and accelerate our efforts to phase out harmful chemicals," said Achim Steiner, executive director of UNEP.

The Protocol does however appear to be having some effect in decreasing the concentration of ozone-depleting substances – such as CFCs and methyl bromide. Compared to peak levels in 1992-1994, there are now lower concentrations of these substances in the troposphere (the lowermost portion of the Earth's atmosphere), and compared to 1990 levels, also lower concentrations in the stratosphere (which sits directly above the troposphere and contains the ozone layer).

The full report will be released next year.

To access the executive summary of the "Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2006," visit: http://ozone.unep.org/Publications/Assessment_Reports/2006/Scientific_Assessment_2006_Exec_Summary.pdf

ICTSD Reporting

WORLD WATER MANAGEMENT- COMING UP SHORT

One-third of the world population is already living with a water shortage, a level of scarcity previously

predicted to occur two decades from now, according to a report released at the World Water Week on 20-26 August in Stockholm. Unlike previous research based on country-by-country analysis, the report analyses individual river basins and argues that changing agricultural practices now would slow the growth of demand for water by 50 percent by 2050.

The report, the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, calls for more rain-watered agriculture as opposed to irrigated farms. It also calls for improving access to water for poor people and increasing water's productivity. This would involve investing in areas where poverty is high and water productivity is low, such as sub-Saharan Africa and certain regions of South Asia and Latin America.

"We must grow more crop per drop, more meat and milk per drop and more fish per drop," said David Molden who led the assessment.

The report underscores the need "to change business as usual in order to deal with growing scarcity water crises we see in some countries like India, China and the Colorado River basin of USA and Mexico," said Director General of the International Water Management Institute, Frank Risjberman.

The report also addresses the relationship between global food trade and water, noting that "one way to alleviate water scarcity is to grow food where water is abundant and trade it with water short areas." It also recognises that many countries are reluctant to rely on imports to meet basic food needs.

More than 1,500 experts from 140 countries and over 100 organisations attended the World Water Week.

ICTSD Reporting: "Water, water not quite everywhere," TORONTO STAR (24 August 2006); "Fixing leaks can avert world water woes- expert," Alister Doyle, REUTERS, 22 August 2006.

Events & Resources

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/2006calendar.htm>.

Coming Up In the Next Two Weeks

10-13 September, Cambridge, United Kingdom: CONFERENCE OF THE GLOBAL IMPORTANCE OF THE BOREAL FOREST: MIGRATORY BIRDS AND THE PAPER INDUSTRY. This conference will feature discussions among industry, NGOs, governments, and the scientific community on promoting cross-sectoral collaboration and communication; in-depth discussions on the world's impact on Boreal ecosystems, especially in relation to migratory birds; a release of the State of the Paper Industry and the Environment by the Environmental Paper Network; and an unveiling of new tools and information to help papermakers and major paper buyers improve environmental performance. For further information, contact Jim Ford, email: jim@taigaescue.org; internet: http://www.birdlife.org/action/change/europe/forest_ask_force/cambridge.html.

10-14 September, Beijing, China: THE WORLD WATER CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION. Organised by the International Water Association. This five-day annual conference aims to help people within the water industry share their ideas and practices and further the progress of sustainable water management in the new millennium. For further information, contact Tom Williams, tel: +44 020 76545500; fax: +44 020 76545555; email: 2006beijing@iwhg.org.uk; internet: http://www.iwa2006beijing.com/templates/ld_template_s/layout_581988.aspx?ObjectId=582462.

14-15 September, Trieste, Italy: FUTURE AQUACULTURE. Organised by EUROFISH International Organisation with the support of the European Commission, Directorate General for Fisheries, Maritime Affairs and Italy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policies. This two-day conference for industry and trade will address the opportunities and challenges of aquaculture in Europe with a regional focus on the southern and eastern areas of Europe, including EU member countries, accession countries and countries closely cooperating with the EU. For further information, contact EUROFISH International Organisation, tel: +39 040 368343; fax: +39 040 368808; email: eurofish@theoffice.it; internet: <http://www.eurofish.dk/indexSub.php?id=3222>.

15-17 September, Global: CLEAN UP THE WORLD WEEKEND. Clean Up the World is a community based environmental campaign that inspires and empowers communities from every corner of the globe to clean up, fix up and conserve their local environment. In conjunction with Primary Partner the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Clean Up the World brings together businesses, community groups, schools and governments in a range of activities and programs that positively improve local environments. Since the first campaign in 1993, Clean Up the World has inspired more than 40 million volunteers in over 100 countries each year to take action. For more information, contact

Clean Up the World, tel: +61 2 9692 0700; fax: +61 2 9692 0761; internet: <http://www.cleanuptheworld.org/en/>.

18 September, Singapore. SMALL STATES FORUM. Representatives of 45 small developing states will meet with partner institution representatives (including Commonwealth Secretariat, European Union, IMF, UNCTAD, World Bank, and World Trade Organization). The forum will be divided into three sessions: private sector development, labour mobility and remittances, and ways to enhance small states' development efforts. For more information, contact Rachel McColgan, tel: +1 202 458 5299; fax: +1 202 522 7499; e-mail: ssfsecretariat@worldbank.org; internet: http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PR_OBJECTS/0,,contentMDK:20890132~pagePK:41367~piPK:51533~theSitePK:40941,00.html.

18-22 September, Beijing, China: CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS 28TH SESSION. The Codex Alimentarius Commission develops food standards, guidelines and related texts such as codes of practice for purposes of protecting health of the consumers and ensuring fair trade practices in the food trade, and promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations. For further information, contact the Codex Secretariat, tel: +39 06 5705 2287; fax: +39 06 5705 3369; email: codex@fao.org; internet: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp.

18-22 September, Amman, Jordan: GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY APPROACHES FOR DESERT REGIONS. This conference aims to give academics, scientists, engineers, and others an opportunity to discuss recent developments, ideas and information on renewable energy approaches. It will present a range of information regarding the development of wind, solar, biomass and geothermal energy in desert regions. For further information contact the Global Conference on Renewable Energy Approaches for Desert Regions, fax: +962-6-5355588; email: gcreader@ju.edu.jo or marinka.vignali@jrc.it; internet: <http://www.ju.edu.jo/conferences/gcreader/index.htm>.

18-24 September, Shanghai, China: THIRD ASIA PACIFIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME ON ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The week-long programme targets mid- to senior-level officials interested in sustainable development issues in the Asia Pacific region, and integrates the three dimensions of human, environment and sustainable development. For more information, contact Professor Dahe Jiang, tel: +86 21 65978598; fax: +86 21 65985059; e-mail: iesd_master@yahoo.com.cn; internet: <http://www.rrcap.unep.org/uneptg06/>

19-20 September, Singapore. ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK. During

this two-day plenary session, representatives of the IMF-World Bank Group member countries will discuss the course of global economic development and formulate underpinning policy. This annual meeting is preceded by the ministerial-level meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the IMF's policy-guiding body and the Development Committee, a joint IMF-World Bank forum. For further information, contact Clara Goh, tel: +65 6229 8992; fax: +65 6225 2439; email: clara_goh@mof.gov.sg; internet: <http://www.singapore2006.org/>.

19-21 September, Paris, France: MEETING ON BIODIVERSITY IN EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. Organized by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), in partnership with the European Commission and financial support of the Governments of Belgium, Finland, France and Sweden. This meeting aims to transform political commitments into concrete actions by developing recommendations for the European Commission and EU Member States on how to pro-actively address the integration of biodiversity concerns into development cooperation programmes and policies. For further information, contact the Conference Secretariat at the IUCN Regional Office for Europe, tel: +32 2 739 3004; fax: +32 2 732 94 99; e-mail: Conf2006@iucn.org; internet: <http://countdown2010.net/paris2006/index.html>.

20-22 September, Budapest, Hungary: 2006 THE INTERNATIONAL POPS ELIMINATION NETWORK (IPEN) GENERAL ASSEMBLY. The IPEN General Assembly will convene a three-day meeting to discuss topics including: activities since the 2005 IPEN International Meeting; strategic IPEN planning and projects; awareness-raising and implementation-planning. For further information, contact International POPs Elimination Network, e-mail: ipen-general-assembly@toxicfreefuture.net; internet: <http://ipen.ecn.cz/index.php?z=&l=en&k=home>.

Other Upcoming Events

POVERTY, HEALTH, AND ECOSYSTEMS: EXPERIENCE FROM ASIA. Edited by Paul Steele, Gonzalo Oviedo, and David McCauley. (IUCN and the Asian Development Bank, 2006). This book presents a series of case studies focusing on the links between poverty, health and ecosystems in poor and often resource-dependent households across Asia. Case studies illustrate the links between livelihoods and ecosystems, highlighting pressures on some agricultural systems, effects of ecosystem pollution on health, as well as the complex linkages between gender, poverty and environment. To access this resource visit: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Poverty-Health-Ecosystems/default.asp>.

THE STATE OF THE WORLDS CITIES 2006/7. (UN-HABITAT, June 2006). Over the next year, the world's population will be more urban than rural for the first time in history. This new volume discusses issues

including epidemic disease, overcrowding, malnutrition, crime and proposes practical policy reforms. To access this report visit: <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/getPage.asp?page=bookView&book=2101>

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT. (UNCTAD, 2006). Launched in 1981, the Trade and Development Report is issued every year for the annual session of the Trade and Development Board. The Report analyses current economic trends and major policy issues of international concern, and makes suggestions for addressing these issues at various levels. To access the report visit: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=2508>

SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT OF OZONE DEPLETION: 2006. (By UNEP, August 2006). This assessment, a product of a subsidiary body of the Montreal Protocol, reports that while ozone layer continues to recover, it will not be fully restored over Antarctica until 2060-2075, an extension of 10-25 years over previous estimates. To access this report visit: http://ozone.unep.org/Publications/Assessment_Reports/

THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF FRESHWATER FISH ENDEMIC TO THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN. Compiled and edited by Kevin G. Smith and William R.T. Darwall (IUCN, 2006).

This publication provides an up-to-date assessment of the status and distribution of the 253 freshwater fish species endemic to the Mediterranean basin. The freshwater resources of the Mediterranean basin are of huge economic, environmental and livelihood importance. However, they are under great pressure from many sources including the world's largest tourist industry, a growing population and agricultural intensification. In order to protect the important services provided by freshwater, it is essential that information on biodiversity be made easily accessible and included in the development and environmental planning process as part of an Integrated River Basin Management approach. To access this publication visit <http://app.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2006-005.pdf>.

THE PLAIN LANGUAGE GUIDE TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. (The World Summit on Sustainable Development, January, 2005). This guide aims to provide a quick access to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to help promote genuine public understanding of the agreement and practical action on the commitments. It is a resource book for those working in community groups, business, local government, central government departments, regional institutions, and the international community. To access this resource visit: <http://shop.earthscan.co.uk/ProductDetails/mcs/productID/338>.

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