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Climate and Sustainable Energy

G8 LEADERS STRIKE COMPROMISE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Heads of state from the Group of Eight major industrialised nations on 7 June managed to strike a compromise on climate change, though they stopped short of adopting specific targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The governments did, however, pledge to cooperate on developing a successor to the Kyoto Protocol.

Political leaders have hailed the decision as an important breakthrough, but environmental groups have expressed scepticism about its true worth.

The deal averted a diplomatic impasse, following weeks of transatlantic discord over a German proposal to cut emissions to half of 1990 levels by 2050. The US, which had threatened to veto large sections of the G8 leaders' traditional joint declarations, was able to avoid mandatory reduction targets, as was Russia.

In return, the Bush administration agreed to take part in the negotiation, under UN auspices, of a new climate treaty to replace the Kyoto accord after its binding reduction commitments expire in 2012. This would represent a substantial departure from Washington's recent stance in UN climate talks, where US delegates have questioned the need for a new agreement. Indeed, the administration has been openly sceptical about the well-established links between greenhouse gases and global warming.

According to a report in the Financial Times, President George W. Bush told his G8 counterparts that the US would be "actively involved, if not taking the lead, in a post-Kyoto framework."



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development



As recently as last week, the Bush administration's call for the world's 15 biggest polluters to discuss climate change did not mention the UN forum for addressing greenhouse gas emissions. This sparked fears that Washington was trying to bypass the ongoing multilateral process.

The US also agreed to at least "consider seriously" the 50 percent reduction target by 2050, which is what scientists say will be necessary to limit global temperature increases to no more than two degrees Celsius.

"In setting a global goal for emissions reductions in the process we have agreed today involving all major emitters, we will consider seriously the decisions made by the European Union, Canada and Japan which include at least a halving of global emissions by 2050," said the G8's declaration outlining the compromise. The declaration called for concluding a post-Kyoto pact by 2009, with negotiations to kick off in earnest at the next conference of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bali this December.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who hosted the 6-8 June summit in the Baltic Sea resort of Heiligendamm, hailed the decision as a "huge success." "No one can escape this political declaration. It is an enormous step forward," she said, reports the Associated Press.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon "wholeheartedly" welcomed G8 leaders' agreement "on a strong and early action to combat climate change." In a statement, Ban said that he was "greatly encouraged by their commitment to a multilateral process within the United Nations framework." "It's a very positive outcome," added Yvo de Boer, the UN's climate change chief, saying that it augured well for the Bali conference.

Environmental groups unimpressed

Environmental groups were cooler in their response. The deal is "clearly not enough to prevent dangerous climate change" said Daniel Mittler, Greenpeace International's climate policy advisor. "The Bush administration has agreed to 'seriously consider' that the rest of the world is setting reduction targets, but is as far away as from agreeing to such targets themselves as ever," he added. "Governments failed to commit to what science tells us is necessary here. They must now urgently do so at the United Nations."

WWF was more positive, saying that the accord brought "the world closer to long-term binding targets for emission reductions." Hans Verolme, director of WWF's climate change programme, praised the EU, Japan, and Canada for aiming to halve emissions by 2050, but said that it was not enough. "Real emission cuts still have to be negotiated and countries must recognise the need for staying below 2°C. The fact that the US has signed up to this agreement is significant, now is the time for concrete actions."

Developing country role highlighted

The G8 said that developing countries would have to play a part in reducing emissions. Their declaration urged emerging economies "to address the increase in their emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of their economic development." The industrialised powers suggested that developing countries could pursue sustainability and sector-specific plans "so as to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions compared with a business as usual scenario." However, they reiterated their commitment to the UNFCCC principle of "common but differentiated responsibility" in line with countries' capability to act. Merkel emphasised that "the industrialised countries must take the first step."

G8 countries currently account for 13 percent of the world's population but 43 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. The extent to which developing nations like China and India should be required to reduce their carbon emissions - though they are major and growing polluters, their historical and per capita emissions remain far lower than those in the industrialised world - has been a major sticking point in climate negotiations. The US says that it will not be part of any emissions reduction plan that does not include these countries. Critics say it is using China and India as a pretext for avoiding reductions.

Representatives from China, Brazil, India, Mexico, and South Africa - the so-called 'outreach five' - met with G8 members on 8 June. Climate change featured prominently in their discussions.

John Kirton, director of the G8 research group at the University of Toronto, said that the Heiligendamm meeting marked a "fundamentally important breakthrough." For the first time, he said, the US had committed to constrain its own carbon output, and there was a clearer process for bringing countries like China and India into the heart of the

emissions reduction framework. The talks with the five developing countries at the summit signaled that they too wanted to move forward on climate control, with "real action right now." The US had emerged as "the bridge between 'team G8' and the developing world," he added.

Kirton noted that even if the G8 had agreed to specific emissions reduction targets, it is unlikely that there would have been strict mechanisms to enforce them - at least based on the EU's spotty record on ensuring that its own member states fulfill their Kyoto commitments.

Bush, who earned widespread international criticism when he pulled out of the Kyoto Protocol in 2001, insisted that the US is "deadly earnest in getting something done." He stressed that "nothing is going to happen in terms of reductions" without India and China. Any emissions reduction commitments from a Kyoto successor would only kick in well after Bush leaves office in 2009.

Beijing, for its part, this month released its first comprehensive report on climate change, in which it declared that conserving energy and managing emissions will now figure prominently in the country's economic and energy policies. It did not, however, include specific targets, and emphasised that Chinese plans for emissions reductions could not take precedence over economic development.

At time of writing, press reports indicate that the UN secretary-general has called for a global leaders meeting on climate change on 24 September, a day before the General Assembly convenes. That gathering would help set the stage for the conference in Bali. The G8 final communiqué, which is expected to also address development aid and the struggling Doha Round trade talks, will be released soon after the summit closes.

Additional Resources

G8 Heiligendamm Summit homepage:
<http://www.g8.de/Webs/G8/EN/Homepage/home.html>

ICTSD reporting; "Germany: G-8 Agreement on Climate Change," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 8 June 2007; "Merkel hails G8 climate pledge," FINANCIAL TIMES, 8 June 2007; "U.N. chief plans September meeting to focus on climate change initiatives," REUTERS, 8 June 2007; "NGOs query Merkel's G8 climate success," 8 June 2007; "US Compromise on Global Warming

Plan Averts Impasse at Group of 8 Meeting; NEW YORK TIMES, 8 June 2007; "G-8 vows greenhouse gas curbs; US escapes targets," BLOOMBERG, 7 June 2007; "G8 leaders agree climate goals," 7 June 2007; "UN hails G8 as step towards global climate deal," REUTERS, 7 June 2007; "Environmentalists dismiss G8 climate deal," THE GUARDIAN, 7 June 2007.

Marine Conservation

INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION REAFFIRMS ANTI-WHALING STANCE, JAPAN THREATENS TO WITHDRAW

Delegates at a gathering of the world's only international whaling forum overturned a resolution in favour of commercial whaling, thus upholding a two-decade moratorium on the practice and angering Japan, which has long sought permission to hunt the marine mammals. Tokyo has threatened to withdraw from the organisation.

The 59th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), held in Anchorage, Alaska from 28-31 May also extended quotas for aboriginal subsistence whaling and reaffirmed the commission's support of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Pro-whaling resolution overturned

The commission's vote to reverse a Japan-backed pro-whaling resolution passed last year was largely symbolic: the earlier resolution never received the 75-percent majority that would have been necessary in order to overturn the IWC's moratorium on commercial whaling, which has been in effect since 1986. The vote to overturn the resolution was 37 in favour to four opposed; Japan, Iceland and other pro-whaling nations boycotted the motion. It too is not binding, since it did not win the support of three-quarters of the 77 members of the IWC.

Japan, which has been campaigning against the whaling ban since its inception, argues that the moratorium is no longer necessary because whale populations have rebounded to stable levels. Supported by other pro-whaling nations such as Brazil, Iceland, Norway, and South Korea, Japan has repeatedly tried to overturn the ban but has never succeeded in gathering the necessary three-quarters majority.

The existence of the whaling moratorium does not mean that no whales are currently being hunted. Iceland and Norway openly defy the ban and practice commercial whaling in the North Atlantic, while Japan hunts whales as part of a scientific research program that has been approved by the IWC. The program, which is strongly criticised by conservation groups, will allow Japan to kill over a thousand whales this year, including 50 humpbacks and 220 minke whales, both of which are listed as endangered under CITES. The meat from those kills will be sold throughout Japan.

For its part, Tokyo contends that commercial whaling and conservation interests are not mutually exclusive. According to Joji Morishita, the alternate IWC commissioner for Japan, the forum should concentrate on regulating the hunting of the mammals, rather than trying to ban a practice that has existed for millennia. "There's a misunderstanding that Japan wants free, uncontrolled whaling," he said. "It's not true. We would like to have managed, controlled whaling, with quotas and enforcement."

Aboriginal whaling quotas extended

While commercial whaling is forbidden under the international moratorium, the IWC has traditionally granted certain aboriginal groups permission to hunt a limited number of whales. Such "community whaling" waivers are intended to allow the groups to continue the subsistence whaling that they have practiced for generations.

Voting by consensus, member nations agreed to extensions of whaling quotas for Alaskan and Russian Eskimos, several Caribbean communities, and the Makah Indian Tribe in the US state of Washington. The commission also approved Greenland's request to allow aboriginal hunting of fin and bowhead whales and to increase its quota of minke whales. Greenland's request for permission to hunt humpbacks was denied.

Japan has long sought similar community-whaling status for a handful of its coastal communities, but to no avail. At this year's meeting, Japanese delegates withdrew a request to allow four coastal towns to hunt whales when it became clear that they would not be able to gather enough support to pass the proposal.

The Japanese delegation argued that its community-whaling proposal was no different from the requests for subsistence hunting made by other groups, all of

which received the unanimous support of IWC members. "This clearly revealed the dysfunction of the IWC," said Akira Nakamae, an official from Japan's fisheries agency. "There is a double standard at play."

Japan threatens to leave

Frustrated by both the reversal of its pro-whaling resolution and the rejection of its community-whaling request, Japan threatened to quit the IWC and establish a separate international forum on whales.

"Japan may fundamentally review its stance toward the IWC," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki said. "Anti-whaling countries have not shown sincerity."

William Hogarth, chairman of the IWC and director of the US National Marine Fisheries Service, expressed his reservations over the Japanese threat to pull out. "I really hope Japan doesn't pursue that," he said. "We, all countries, need to put all the issues on the table and discuss them thoroughly in the spirit of compromise."

In another snub to the commission, Japan retracted its offer to host the 2009 IWC meeting in Yokohama, in protest against the body's continued opposition to its "sustainable" whaling concept.

Collaboration with CITES

In addition to declaring opposition to commercial whaling, this year's resolution also affirmed the IWC's support of CITES, with which it works closely on regulating trade in whale meat.

The two organisations have collaborated since 1979, when a CITES conference agreed that open discussions were necessary in order to guarantee "that there was no mutual conflict between the decisions made under the two conventions." Since then, CITES has followed the IWC's pro-conservation approach, forbidding international trade in whale meat.

After its repeated setbacks at the IWC, however, Japan brought its case to CITES, which is currently holding its 14th Conference of the Parties in the Netherlands. In a controversial move, Tokyo submitted a proposal to review the listing of all whale species, which are currently afforded strong protections under CITES. The proposal argued that the measures restricting trade in whale meat were

adopted before adequate research had been done to justify them.

The Japanese request was denied, however. CITES delegates passed an amendment stating that the whale species listings would not be reviewed while the international whaling moratorium remains in effect.

Background

The IWC, which was founded under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling in 1946, is the only international forum that deals exclusively with whales. The commission was established with the express purpose of regulating and protecting the giant marine mammals, which had been driven to the brink of extinction. Membership in the commission has grown steadily over the years and now stands at 77 countries. Both pro- and anti-whaling factions accuse the opposing side of using underhanded tactics - namely, generous offers of foreign aid - to recruit new members to their camp.

As a result of such manoeuvring, the balance of power at the IWC shifts on a regular basis. In 2006, pro-whaling nations held a slight majority, but this year - after the addition of pro-conservation member nations Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Greece, and Slovenia - the anti-whaling faction regained the upper hand.

The next IWC meeting will be held in Santiago, Chile in June 2008.

ICTSD reporting; "Japan fails to lift whaling ban, threatens to quit commission," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 2 June 2007; "Whaling commission votes to uphold ban," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 1 June 2007; "Japan Fails to Get Support for Whaling, May Quit IWC" BLOOMBERG, 1 June 2007; "HSI CITES Press briefing," HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, 1 June 2007; "Whaling Extended for Alaska Eskimos," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 29 May 2007; "Five facts about International Whaling Commission," REUTERS, 30 May 2007; "Japanese whale request rejected," BBC NEWS, 6 June 2007.

FISH SUBSIDIES: JAPAN CALLS FOR 'BOTTOM-UP' APPROACH; ACP SEEKS TO PROTECT ACCESS FEES

Japan and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) group of states on 1 June moved to try to protect their interests in the Doha Round fisheries subsidies negotiations, tabling separate proposals ahead of next week's meeting of the Negotiating Group on Rules.

Just in time for a 1 June deadline for submitting new proposals in the talks, Japan's text (TN/RL/GEN/114/Rev.2) - now co-sponsored by Korea and Taiwan - calls for a 'bottom-up' approach to fisheries subsidies disciplines. Unlike the blanket bans on most types of fisheries subsidies offered by the US and Brazil, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan want a ban on only specific types of payments, leaving the rest permissible. The ACP paper sought to ensure that access fees - payments in return for rights to fish in a country's territorial waters - remained shielded from new subsidy disciplines. Such fees make up an important part of government revenue in several ACP countries.

Specific Prohibitions Rather than Blanket Ban

The Japanese-led proposal sets out draft treaty language that would ban a range of subsidies. These would include payments supporting the acquisition, modification, or construction of fishing vessels, except in cases where expenditures lead to a reduction in fishing capacity, or are intended to improve safety or replace a vessel following a natural disaster. Subsidies for shipyards are also prohibited, as is the permanent transfer of vessels to countries that do not belong to regional fisheries management organisations. The proposal also stresses that payments to vessels engaging in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing would be banned.

The push for prohibitions on specific forms of financial assistance, rather than a sweeping ban, has been consistently backed by large fishing Member states such as Japan's co-sponsors and Norway. The EU, too, has expressed support for such an approach. The 'bottom-up' method, they claim, will make the fisheries regulations clearer, workable, and more effective.

As for subsidies that would be protected from challenge, Japan would include government-to-government payments for allowing one country's

fishing fleet to access another state's waters, so long as the payments are published and the fisheries are adequately managed. It would also exempt assistance for vessel decommissioning programmes. The proposal includes an additional carve-out for support for small-scale fisheries, provided that they are authorised, managed, and do not exceed a to-be-determined size. The paper also puts forward regulations intended to increase transparency and more effectively monitor global fish stocks.

In its text, Japan also defines possible disciplines for special and differential treatment, stating that its main objective is to strike a balance between prohibiting overcapacity while still accounting for the significance of the sector for developing economies.

ACP Formally Dives into the Debate

The ACP proposal called for all transactions related to fisheries access fees to be exempt from new disciplines on fisheries subsidies. The issue of access fees has featured prominently in fisheries discussions. While the ACP has made similar demands in statements on access fees, the recent communication aimed to crystallise their view into a formal written document to encourage further dialogue.

Access fees are payments made by distant-water fishing nations (DWFN) in exchange for the right of entry to smaller coastal states' exclusive economic zones. These arrangements are bilateral, contractual agreements, often between developed countries and coastal developing nations that lack the capacity to capitalise on their fisheries resources. For coastal nations, these payments are critical sources of income; they are estimated to constitute more than a quarter of total government revenue of Pacific island countries.

Fisheries access agreements are either government-to-government or government-to-industry. In the latter, the remote governments transfer their access rights to a private fishing fleet, often for less than the full amount of access fees paid to the coastal nation. This is where the current debate lies. While government-to-government fees are generally not considered to be subsidies and are thus exempt from any new disciplines, there is no consensus on whether government-to-industry fees should be similarly protected.

The US, Brazil, and Argentina all consider government-to-industry payments to be subsidies,

based on the discrepancy between the fees paid to the coastal nation and the price paid by the private enterprises for the acquisition of fishing rights. Because this is not a 'fair trade price', in the words of Argentina's proposal, it can thus be considered a subsidy.

In contrast, the ACP proposal argued for all transactions related to access fees paid by DWFNs to be exempt from any new disciplines. They are concerned that a classification of government-to-industry payments as subsidies would lead to decreases in government revenue.

Delegates are studying both the Japanese proposal and the ACP paper, but said that they would prefer to comment only after the next meeting of the Negotiating Group on Rules, which is scheduled for 14-15 June.

ICTSD reporting.

In Brief

CITES APPROVES ONE-TIME IVORY SALE

Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) have given permission for Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa to export 60 tonnes of stockpiled ivory to Japan. Other African nations are displeased by the decision, saying that it will encourage poaching.

The stockpiled ivory comes from elephants that died of natural causes. All three countries have agreed to deposit the revenue from the sales into trust funds for elephant conservation. On Sunday, the CITES Standing Committee, meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, gave Botswana permission to sell 20 tonnes of stockpiled ivory, Namibia 10 tonnes, and South Africa 30 tonnes. CITES bans trade in some endangered species and regulates trade in others.

The three countries were among several that wanted the trade ban lifted so that they might sell their stockpiled ivory. Both Botswana and Namibia have large African elephant populations, and are pushing for limited sales of ivory in the future as well. These countries argue that elephant populations have grown since the ivory ban came into effect, and that revenue from the sales could fund elephant conservation and protection measures. In addition, they believe that an official ivory trade would be

much less dangerous than the already-flourishing illegal trade in the elephant product.

Other African countries argued that resuming ivory trade would spur increased poaching and could severely endanger the African elephant species. Several international conservation outfits have also opposed moves to reconsider the ban.

CITES banned commercial trade in African ivory in 1989. Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe were permitted to make a one-time sale of 50 tonnes of ivory to Japan in 1997 after proving that elephant populations were adequately managed.

Parties to the treaty have been debating the recently authorised sale of the 60 tonnes of stockpiled ivory for years. The sale was approved in principle in 2002, but was tied to conditions related to elephant poaching in the exporting countries and Japan's ability to prove that it could prevent the re-exportation of ivory. The Standing Committee has now decided that these conditions have been met, allowing the transaction to proceed.

China's request to become a trading partner for the registered stockpiles of African elephant ivory was denied.

The Conference of the Parties to CITES will continue through 15 June.

ICTSD reporting; "CITES allows ivory sale," BOTSWANA PRESS AGENCY, 5 June 2007; "Conference on protection of world species in The Hague," THE EUROPEAN WEEKLY, 7 June 2007; "Ivory takes centre stage at species meeting," NZZ ONLINE, 4 June 2007; "CITES agrees to ivory sale," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 2 June 2007; "CITES permits 60 tons of elephant ivory to be sold," ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SERVICE, 4 June 2007.

MALAYSIA, INDONESIA LAUNCH PR CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND PALM OIL

Malaysia and Indonesia have launched a major publicity campaign to counter accusations that their palm oil industries are causing major environmental damage.

The world's two largest palm-oil producers are reaching out to European lawmakers in an effort to spur demand for the edible oil and biofuel, which

has recently languished thanks in part to sharp criticism from green groups.

Environmentalists claim that the countries' mammoth palm plantations wipe out millions of acres of tropical forests, destroying the habitats of endangered species such as the orangutan.

Malaysia planned to hold a seminar aimed at both EU parliamentarians and activist groups in Brussels on 6 June; Indonesia is organizing a similar event in London in July.

The environment-related criticisms have had a significant impact on the palm oil market. The Malaysian Palm Oil Council estimates that they caused a nearly 50 percent drop in the demand for palm oil for electricity generation in Europe last year. The continent is the world's second-largest consumer of the biofuel.

"We don't like our oil to be damaged in terms of reputation or image for no good reason," said Yusof Basiron, chief executive of the Council.

Palm plantations currently cover 4 million hectares of land in Malaysia and 6 million hectares in Indonesia -- an area roughly the size of Costa Rica. Indonesia plans to expand its palm plantations by another 2 million hectares in the next few years.

Government officials counter that logging -- legal and illegal -- is the primary source of deforestation in their countries. They maintain that they are committed to ensuring that their palm plantations are sustainable.

ICTSD reporting; "Malaysia, Indonesia Reaffirm Palm Oil Plan," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 25 May 2007; "Malaysia, Indonesia take to Europe to defend palm oil," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 25 May 2007; "Malaysia, Indonesia Counter Green Concerns Over Palm," REUTERS, 28 May 2007; "Indonesia's Forests Threatened by Logging, Palm Oil," REUTERS, 5 June 2007; "Malaysia, Indonesia agree to jointly defend palm oil industry," INDONESIA.COM, 26 May 2007.

TRADE INCLUDED IN UN DESERTIFICATION CONVENTION'S TEN-YEAR PLAN

A working group of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has decided to include trade within the strategic plan to enhance the

implementation of the convention over the next ten years (2008-2018).

At a 29-31 May gathering in Geneva, participants at the fourth meeting of the UNCCD's Intersessional Intergovernmental Working Group (IIWG) specifically mandated the convention's Global Mechanism to explore trade-related opportunities as part of its mission to help raise funds to aid developing countries affected by land degradation.

The main purpose of the meeting was to approve and adopt the final version of the draft "Ten-year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the UNCCD (2008-2018)." The draft, which was prepared by a team of consultants, is based on the framework developed by the IIWG at its first two meetings. It was first made available to UNCCD Parties in March, during the fifth Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 5) in Buenos Aires.

The purpose of the document is to help establish the convention as "the global authority on policies and measures to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought through scientific and technological excellence, standard setting and advocacy to drive resource mobilization." Some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) expressed concern before the IIWG meeting about the lack of information regarding the development of the document and the lack of participation of civil society groups in the process. However, they were able to submit recommendations on the draft document to the chair of the IIWG prior to the meeting.

Additional Resources

Draft "Ten-Year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance Implementation of the UNCCD (2008-2018)" can be accessed at <http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cric5/pdf/inf6eng.pdf>.

ICTSD reporting.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF TRANSNATIONAL AQUACULTURE

With close to half the world's population consuming farm-raised fish, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recently convened a conference on aquaculture to address

sustainability, safety concerns, and market trends in the rapidly growing sector.

Organised in conjunction with the Chinese agriculture ministry, the conference took place 29-31 May in Qingdao, China.

Aquaculture is the most rapidly increasing food production sector. In 1980, farmed fish accounted for only 9 percent of all fish consumed by humans. Today, that proportion has surged to 44 percent and international trade has boomed.

"With nearly half of all fish eaten today coming from farms, and some 12 million people dependent on fish farming for their daily income, ensuring that farmed fish products are safe to eat and of the highest possible quality is crucial," said Lahsen Ababouch, the FAO's fish safety expert.

Food safety concerns have been dominant in the aquaculture sector after recent discoveries that some US fish farms were feeding the toxin melamine to fish intended for human consumption. US health officials also discovered that certain foreign fish imports contained prohibited antibiotics, prompting a nationwide ban on the products in question. FAO officials pointed to these incidents as indicative of the challenges of ensuring safety in international fish production and trade.

Ninety-eight percent of the world's fish farmers are based in developing countries. The conference addressed how small-scale, low-income farmers can cope with the increasingly strict regulations on aquaculture imports and exports "The challenge is making sure that benchmarks used to judge safety are grounded in sound science and that fish farmers, whether they be from a developed or developing country, are not unfairly disadvantaged," said Ababouch.

ICTSD reporting; "Fishfeed scare highlights challenges of aquaculture boom," FAO NEWSROOM, 28 May 2007.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

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

Coming up in the next two weeks

3-15 June, The Hague, Netherlands: FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CITES. Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) will consider 40 new proposals for rules changes regarding the protection of specific species. Participants will also discuss enforcement of CITES regulations, the control of illicit trafficking, and the effects of CITES rules on the rural poor. The meeting's agenda also includes the establishment of a new strategic vision for 2008 to 2013. For further information visit

<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/index.shtml>.

3-8 June, Ponta Delgada, Portugal: TREE BIOTECHNOLOGY 2007. Hosted by Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica (ITQB, Universidade Nova de Lisboa), Instituto de Biologia Experimental e Tecnológica (IBET) and RAIZ (Instituto de Investigação da Floresta e Papel) this meeting aims to highlight current research on all aspects of molecular biology, genetics and biotechnology of forest trees, and includes biology, technology and value oriented sessions. For further information visit

<http://www.itqb.unl.pt/iufro2007>.

6-8 June, Heiligendamm, Germany: G8 SUMMIT 2007. Heads of state and government from the Group of Eight (G8) leading industrialised nations will meet in Germany, which holds the current G8 presidency. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has declared growth and responsibility, including transparency, freedom of investment, protection of intellectual property, and sustainable resource consumption, to be the central concerns of her G8 presidency. For further information visit <http://www.g8.de/Webs/G8/EN/Homepage/home.html>.

11-13 June, Bangkok, Thailand: PLANNING WORKSHOP ON STRATEGIES AND OPTIONS FOR INTEGRATION BIOFUELS AND RURAL RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION. This interagency planning meeting, convened by the Asian Development Bank, hopes to review the policy status of biofuel development in the Great Mekong Subregion, develop a plan of action for the national and subregional assessment of biofuels, and discuss the scope for investment cooperation and regulations. For further information visit <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2007/Integrating-Biofuels/default.asp>

11-14 June, Riksgården, Sweden: SWEDISH "MIDNIGHT SUN" DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE. Minister for the Environment Andreas Carlgren has invited some thirty environment ministers to an informal ministerial conference in Riksgården. The purpose of the meeting is to engage informally in discussions and dialogue on how a future climate regime should be designed. For further information visit

http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/8757;jsessionid=as3MuW_xOeI8.

11-15 June, Geneva, Switzerland: PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE ON PROPOSALS RELATED TO A WIPO DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, FOURTH SESSION. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) will discuss the Development Agenda, a draft Report of the Fourth Session of the PCDA, and the draft PCDA Report to the General Assembly. For further information visit http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=11927.

14-15 June, Mexico City, Mexico: GLOBAL AGRI-FOOD FORUM 2007: BIOECONOMY- FAD, MYTH OR REALITY? Speakers at this forum will discuss what bioeconomy means and how it will impact the future of agriculture, the development of biofuels, the factors driving and limiting the bioeconomy, and developing countries and their role in the bioeconomy. This dialogue is organized by the National Agricultural Council. For further information visit <http://www.cna.org.mx/events.htm>.

19-20 June, Praia, Cape Verde: REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON TRADE, FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WTO/EPA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN WEST AFRICA. The objectives of this dialogue are to build awareness on issues arising in the context of WTO/EPA negotiations on fisheries, facilitate dialogue between national and regional stakeholders, and to formulate recommendations for advancing sustainable development objectives in West African countries during WTO/EPA negotiations. This dialogue is being organized by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), in partnership with Enda Tiers Monde, Cape Verde Ministry of Fishery, the National Institute for the Development of Fisheries, and Cape Verde and Réseau sur les Politiques des Pêches en Afrique de l'Ouest (REPAO). For further information visit <http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/index.htm>.

Other upcoming events

25-26 June, London, UK: CLIMATE CHANGE: POLITICS VERSUS ECONOMICS. Climate change is global, both in cause and consequence, and the response requires international action. Decision-makers working in the fields of foreign policy, economics, and energy policy and investment are now recognizing the profound long-term socio-economic and geopolitical implications of climate change. The aim of this conference is to bring together well-respected representatives from each of these fields to discuss the connections and debate whether it is international politics or economics or a mixture of both that will deliver a step-change in the global response to climate change. For further information visit <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/index.php?id=5&cid=115>.

25-27 June, Stanford, California: INTERNATIONAL ENERGY WORKSHOP. The International Energy Workshop (IEW) is a network of global energy experts that meet annually to discuss a wide range of topics, with particular emphasis on global as well as regional energy issues. The annual IEW meetings focus on energy assessments and try to understand the reasons for diverging views of development in the energy sector. Some of the topics that will be covered at this year's workshop include; emission trading, energy resources, hydrogen, energy security, and natural gas. For further information visit http://www.internationalenergyworkshop.org/Workshop_2007.html.

6-29 July, Ravello, Italy: 11th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGIES: NEW FRONTIERS AND PRODUCTS - ECONOMICS, POLICIES AND SCIENCE. Topics that will be discussed at this conference include; the impact of agricultural biotechnology on international trade; biofuels; public acceptance; biotechnology and developing countries; and regulation of biotechnology. This conference is being organized by the International Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology Research (ICABR), Catholic University of Leuven, CEIS- University of Rome "Tor Vergata," Rutgers University, and the Economic Growth Center, Yale University. For further information visit <http://www.economia.uniroma2.it/conferenze/icabr2007/>.

10-13 July, Medellín, Colombia: ITTO WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (SFM) THROUGH ITTO SUPPORTED PROJECTS (LATIN AMERICA): This is one of three regional workshops organised by the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) in each ITTO tropical timber producing region to exchange experiences on the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) through ITTO supported projects, and activities such as the application of criteria and indicators at the national and forest management unit levels. Up to 50 individuals will participate in each workshop, including ITTO focal points and executing agencies implementing ITTO projects focusing on SFM. For more information visit <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&cid=3240>.

27-31 August, Vienna, Austria: UNFCCC DIALOGUE AND KYOTO PROTOCOL AWG 4. This will be the fourth workshop of the 'Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention' and the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG). For further information visit <http://www.unfccc.int>.

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 Malena Sell at msell@ictsd.ch.

"Trade Integration, Neoliberal Reform, and Environmental Protection in Mexico: Lessons for the Americas." By Stephen P. Mumme in *LATIN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES* 34(3) May 2007. This article examines the extensive environmental reforms that Mexico has undertaken since entering the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The costs and benefits of deeper hemispheric trade integration is also explored. This article can be accessed at <http://www.latinamericanperspectives.com/>.

"Not in my port: The 'death ship' of sheep and crimes of agri-food globalization." By Stephen L. Muzzatti in *AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN VALUES* 24 (2, 2007). This article examines the crimes that emerge from the global restructuring of the agricultural and food systems. Specifically, the case of the Australian 'Ship of Death' is explored, which refers to the stranding of 58,000 sheep at sea for almost 3 months in 2003. This act violated the Western Australia Animal Welfare Act of 2002 and demonstrates one effect of accelerating transnational trade networks. This piece also describes how economic restructuring can exert pressure on a state causing it to fail to enforce its own regulations. This article can be accessed at <http://springerlink.metapress.com/content/102841/>.

"The energy sector in Brazil: Lessons in ingenuity and compromise." By Jean Paul Prates in *CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY* 13 (2, 2006). This article discusses the use of national oil companies by Brazil, Russia, India, and China as a tool for energy security. Brazil, for example created *Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. (Petrobras)*. Today, Petrobras is the world leader in deep offshore hydrocarbon exploration and produces enough oil to satisfy the domestic market in Brazil. The Brazilian energy sector is among the most diversified and green on the globe. This paper examines the evolution of the Brazilian energy sector through the lens of the development of Petrobras. It is an exercise in pragmatism and compromise that sees the country emerge well prepared to meet the challenges of the new century. This article can be accessed at <http://www.carleton.ca/cfpj/issue-current.html>.

"Cambodia's Family Trees." *Global Witness*, June 2007. This report makes the case for greater efforts by the Cambodian government and the international community to strengthen the governance of forests and other public assets on which Cambodia's people depend. Its conclusions are based on a three-year investigation into illegal logging and associated criminality. The authors of the report claim to have identified a multimillion dollar illegal logging syndicate, linked to the

Cambodian Prime Minister, that ships illegal timber to China and elsewhere. The report concludes with a number of recommendations, including that the Cambodian government should make its policy processes more transparent and strengthen the legal framework

governing the management of public assets. The report is available at http://www.globalwitness.org/media_library_detail.php/546/en/cambodias_family_trees.

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