



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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## **Climate & Sustainable Energy**

### **ALL EYES ON BALI**

The first two weeks of December are critical for the global climate, as negotiators meet in Bali, Indonesia, to flesh out a blueprint for a new legal instrument to protect the global climate. Getting all major players - and especially the largest emitters of carbon dioxide - onboard, will be key to a successful outcome.

For the first time, trade ministers will also be present, hosted by the Indonesian government at a separate event. Their task will be to look creatively at what the trade regime can do to support the effort to mitigate climate change, and to consider to what extent trade measures could be justified to achieve climate change goals.

### **Bali meeting to agree a roadmap for negotiations**

Thousands of policymakers will be meeting under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) during the first two weeks of December - not to flesh out a detailed global plan for dealing with climate change - but to create a roadmap for how to get to the plan.

Global public opinion favours a deal, not least following the release of three comprehensive reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) detailing the role humans have played and continue to play in creating climate change, and the effects it will have on humans and the environment (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 11 May 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-05-11/story5.htm>). The latest IPCC report, a synthesis of the three previous ones, represents the culmination of IPCC Fourth Assessment Report process. It was released on 17 November, and will serve as a direct input at Bali. The report notes that the "warming of the climate system is

unequivocal" and that "concentrations of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, far exceed the natural range over the last 650,000 years." Under a business as usual scenario, global temperatures are set to rise sharply, hitting the poor and vulnerable disproportionately. This would also threaten the survival of unique ecosystems around the poles and at high altitude, and increase the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events.

The report stresses the need for rapid action: Emissions of greenhouse gases would have to peak by 2015 to limit global temperature rises to 2.0 to 2.4 Celsius over pre-industrial times, a strict goal adopted by the EU in order to avoid "dangerous" climate change.

A few days later, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) released its Human Development Report for 2007/2008, entitled "Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world." It detailed the enormous adaptations needs, spread out globally, to deal with climate change. In this fight, the disadvantaged were in a much weaker position, lacking the resources to deal with rising sea levels, floods, droughts, and storms. "Ultimately, climate change is a threat to humanity as a whole. But it is the poor, a constituency with no responsibility for the ecological debt we are running up, who face the immediate and most severe human costs," commented UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş. Country positions

Currently, countries have taken different approaches to dealing with climate change. The Kyoto Protocol, which most countries have signed on to, requires emissions cuts only of developed countries, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Only two developed countries have opted out of the Kyoto Protocol - the US and Australia. For a deal to be meaningful in the future, these countries need to get back into the process again.

Elections in Australia little more than a week before the Bali meeting ushered in the Labour Party, which has promised serious action on climate change - including ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. The Labour Prime Minister-elect Kevin Rudd has said he is planning to go to Bali

for the UNFCCC meetings, and the country will be back in the Kyoto Process.

Meanwhile, emissions from emerging economies in particular are on the rise, and there have been calls for them to take on at least some form of targets. China, India and Brazil - some of the key emerging economies - have stressed that developed countries must lead the way. "China will play its due role and take its due part in the process of emission reduction, but we will absolutely not take on the commitment of taking on the same responsibilities and making the same commitments as the developed countries," Xie Zhenhua, who will head the Chinese delegation to Bali, told reporters.

The poorest and most vulnerable countries, which have done nothing to create the problem of climate change, will need to be helped to adapt to the effects of it. Therefore, an Adaptation Fund is set to be launched at Bali.

A key challenge for the negotiations in Bali will be to ensure that the current multiple tracks, focusing on mandatory cuts versus targets based on energy efficiency and voluntary efforts, are successfully merged into one comprehensive process.

### Key issues on the table

Dealing with climate change is extremely complex, as it entails, in effect, dealing with the energy use that underpins most functions of society. Carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, is essentially a by-product of energy use and there are no easy fixes in sight. Energy efficiency and new and renewable energies will be important components on the plate of solutions. Increasingly, attention is also turning to land use practices - and ways to stop deforestation in particular - with expectations for Bali including a deal to account for this.

The global plan to address climate change will be composed of country and regional plans, which will be linked together, among other, through an international market for emissions reduction - a carbon market. The Kyoto Protocol, which was a first step in setting mandatory limits for carbon emissions, will expire in 2012, and a follow-up instrument is needed, not least to provide private sector actors with continuity and a clear operating

environment on the way to a low-carbon future. Development of energy technology is expensive and time consuming, so the right investments need to be made immediately, without any lag time.

### **Trade ministers to do their share for the climate**

In parallel with the UNFCCC meetings, Indonesia, the host country, has called for a meeting of selected trade ministers to think creatively about what cards they may hold to help forge an effective climate deal. Although some are reluctant to link the highly complex processes to each other - especially seeing the lack of momentum in the Doha Round - the trade world does contain some potential carrots and sticks for the climate talks.

Energy efficient goods, renewable energy technologies, biofuels and technologies such as carbon capture and storage need to be available globally at vastly increased quantities. One way to facilitate this global spread of new technologies is through the Doha Round negotiations on lowering tariffs on environmental goods and services. This could be a crosslink and potential deliverable from the trade system discussed at Bali. Additionally, some have called for flexibility in the global intellectual property system, allowing for more rapid engineering in all parts of the world of climate friendly technology - also something that potentially could be discussed within the trade system.

Meanwhile, as developed countries are preparing to implement tougher climate measures, which will affect their domestic energy prices and potentially the competitiveness of their traded products, some have called for price adjustments at the border when trading with countries that have not implemented climate measures. This would, they say, both level the playing field for their goods and encourage countries with a laxer approach to climate mitigation to get onboard.

US Trade Representative Susan Schwab, as well as trade ministers from Argentina, China, France, India, South Africa, and the UK are reportedly going to attend the Bali meeting. Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim is also slated to go, as is

David O'Sullivan, the European Commission's Director-General for trade. According to some sources, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy will also attend the discussion.

### **The carbon footprint of trade**

More attention is also focusing on the nuts and bolts of the trading system, i.e. greenhouse gas emissions related to the physical transport of goods through marine shipping and aviation. This discussion opens up complex questions about the lifecycles of traded goods, international carbon footprints, 'food miles' vs 'fair miles' and the concept of embodied carbon, challenging global carbon accounting systems currently based on the nation state. According to a recent study, as much as a quarter of China's carbon emissions can be directly linked to goods that are consumed in other countries. If some regions have become the factories of the world, who and how should responsibility for carbon emissions be shared?

### **Additional resources**

To access the IPCC Fourth Assessment Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers, visit [http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4\\_syr\\_spm.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr_spm.pdf)

To access the UNDP Human Development Report 2007/2008, visit <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/>

For daily updates from the UNFCCC meeting in Bali, see IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin at <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop13/>

ICTSD reporting; "UN Panel Lays Out Risks, Solutions to Warming," REUTERS, 28 November 2007; "Rich Nations Should Do More on Climate Change - China," REUTERS, 28 November 2007; "Climate Change Traps World's Poorest," ENS, 27 November 2007; "Ahead of climate meeting, China says developed world bears emission reduction burden," AP, 29 November 2007.

## **WORLD BANK: TRADE LIBERALISATION COULD BOLSTER EFFORTS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE**

Trade policies, especially trade liberalisation in low-carbon goods and technologies, can contribute to efforts to combat climate change, according to a new book from the World Bank.

Entitled "International Trade and Climate Change: Economic, Legal and Institutional Perspectives," the newly-released study found that carbon taxes do not hurt countries' international industrial competitiveness, while energy efficiency standards are associated with a more detrimental effect.

The study used econometric analysis to examine two of the main policy prescriptions employed by industrialised countries to reduce emissions - carbon taxes and energy efficiency standards - and how they affect the competitiveness of energy-intensive industries.

It found that when carbon taxes have been applied, they have not hurt industrial competitiveness. However, these policies have often been accompanied by increased exports by energy-intensive industries, lending credence to the notion that the various subsidies and exemptions that most countries have granted to affected industries are overcompensating. Of specific energy-intensive industries in OECD countries, only the cement sector has seen trade reduced by the imposition of a carbon tax.

On the other hand, the report found efficiency standards - which have been implemented in many industrialised and developing countries - to be more likely to hurt industrial competitiveness. The metal and transport equipment industries were found to be particularly affected by efficiency requirements.

The report noted that border tax measures on products from countries that do not have carbon restrictions would potentially risk violating WTO rules, and raise issues related to process and production methods (PPMs). Simulation analysis suggested that the "Kyoto tariff" on US imports that some European leaders have called for could reduce US exports to the EU by about seven

percent, or even more as trade is diverted to countries that do not face the additional duties.

In addition, the report examined whether energy-intensive industries are relocating to developing countries as a result of the implementation of climate change policies in OECD countries. This phenomenon, under which emissions may decrease in certain world regions but increase in others, is termed 'carbon leakage'. The study points to a gradual increase in the import-export ratio of energy-intensive industries in developed countries, and a gradual decline in the ratio in some developing regions, indicating that energy-intensive production is gradually shifting to the latter. This shift, the report says, is the result of many different factors, including climate change measures in developed countries. The report notes, however, that the trend is not pronounced, an indication that climate change policies in industrialised countries have been designed so as to minimise negative effects on competitive sectors.

The report identifies a number of tariffs and non-tariff barriers in developing countries as huge impediments to the transfer of climate-friendly technologies. It also encourages developing countries to strengthen intellectual property protection in order to stimulate the diffusion of clean technologies.

Liberalising trade in low-carbon goods, including via the WTO, could be beneficial, the report suggests, proposing a focus on specific sectors that could yield quick benefits, such as renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

For the climate regime, the report identifies efforts to develop a uniform approach to the pricing of greenhouse gas emissions as the most important priority.

ICTSD reporting; "Overview: International Trade and Climate Change: Economic, Legal, and Institutional Perspectives," WORLD BANK, October 2007; "Global Trade Liberalization Crucial as Developing Countries Address Climate Change," WORLD BANK PRESS RELEASE, 14 November 2007.

## Fisheries Subsidies

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### WTO: NEGOTIATING CHAIR RELEASES DRAFT TEXT ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

A new draft text on fisheries subsidies has been released within the WTO Doha Round. Members are now aiming to wrap up talks at the end of 2008, pushing forward the deadline once again.

On 30 November, Guillermo Valles Galmes (Uruguay) — the Chair of the WTO negotiations on rules, covering anti-dumping and subsidies, including fishery subsidies — released a draft consolidated text. So far, negotiators in the faltering Doha Round have been considering actual drafts only in the areas of agriculture and industrial goods, and having the rules text represents a clear step forward. However, any agreement on fishery subsidies is contingent on the overall round, with agriculture and industrial goods being the major areas of contention (see Bridges Weekly, 21 November 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-11-21/story1.htm>). Negotiators at the WTO had been expecting the new text (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 2 November 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-11-02/story3.htm>).

Upon their release, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy commented that the next texts "are ambitious and balanced in all three areas they cover and they will enable negotiators to work in a more intensive manner in the coming weeks."

In terms of fisheries subsidies, the text lists a large number of subsidies that would be banned, rather than imposing a blanket ban on all subsidies. Subsidies covering the construction, operating and fuel costs of fisheries vessels are among those slated to be banned. Developing countries would be allowed some exemptions, but only in case they have functional fishery management systems to conserve fish stocks in place.

Marine conservation group Oceana welcomed the new text. Courtney Sakai, campaign director at Oceana, said "We are pleased to see that the Chair's text on fisheries subsidies contains a strong prohibition on subsidies that increase

overcapacity and overfishing, including subsidies for vessel construction, operating costs such as fuel, and fishing port facilities. Furthermore, the text reflects the importance of sustainability and fisheries management criteria for any exceptions to the broad prohibition."

"Now Oceana calls upon the WTO member nations to work together to move the agreement forward. If the WTO adopts this draft text, it would be one of the most significant actions that can be taken towards protecting and restoring global fish populations," Sakai added.

A first discussion of the text is expected to take place from 12-14 December. "These texts are not the end of our negotiating process but only the first step in a new phase involving further intensive discussions within the group," noted Chair Valles Galmes. After Members take a few months to consider the texts, he is likely to produce a revised version.

#### Additional resources

The draft text is available for download at [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news07\\_e/rules\\_draft\\_text\\_nov07\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news07_e/rules_draft_text_nov07_e.htm)

ICTSD reporting; "WTO proposal limits fisheries subsidies," REUTERS, 30 November 2007.

## Biotechnology

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### EU BIOTECH APPROVAL PROCEDURES UNDER SCRUTINY

The EU has been granted more time to come into compliance with a WTO ruling related to approvals and national bans on genetically-modified organisms (GMOs). Meanwhile, some EU countries are looking to modify the approval system and the European Commission remains divided in its approach to GMOs, with Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas calling for the withdrawal of the authorisations for two maize varieties.

## EU gets more time to implement WTO ruling

On 21 November, the EU was given more time to come into compliance with a WTO ruling against the application of its approval system for genetically modified products. The panel ruled in September 2006 that several aspects of the EU's approval process for GMOs violated the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). Specifically, it ruled against the EU's failure to approve a number of biotech products (referred to as 'product-specific measures'), and against national-level bans in several EU member states on the marketing and import of specific biotech products which had already been approved at the EU-wide level. The ruling was based on a complaint brought in 2003 by the US, Argentina and Canada (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 6 October 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-10-06/story1.htm>).

The EU has since approved a number of specific biotech products, but the national-level moratoria are still in place (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 5 October 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-10-05/inbrief.htm#4>).

Given that the parties to the dispute are engaged in discussions on how to move forward - also considering issues of economic interest - they decided to extend the deadline from 21 November this year to 11 January 2007.

## Germany calls for an overhaul of the system

Prior to a meeting of European agriculture ministers on 26 November, Horst Seehofer, German agriculture minister, said the whole approval process for GMOs should be re-evaluated. According to Seehofer, "One commissioner says it's okay and another says it's not. (It's not acceptable) that we politicians decide according to a majority and current mood. This is not how we can deal with it." French Agriculture Minister Michel Barnier added that "There is a very high public sensitivity (over GMOs), a lot of fears. We have to take time to put procedures into place that can't be challenged."

As grain prices have increased, the EU livestock industry has been feeling the crunch, and EU

Agriculture Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel sounded a warning against any temporary halt to the system. She told ministers that postponing any new approvals "will have dramatic consequences. The production of meat will move out of Europe and then we will have to import meat (from animals that are) fed with GMO products. So we will be eating it anyway."

A number of grain and feedstuffs traders and feed manufacturers sounded a similar warning, and complained about the EU zero tolerance policy for low-level presence of GM material in imports, saying it "will lead to crises in the feed, food and livestock industries and to a complete breakdown of the supply chain." They called on the EU Agriculture Council to "take rapid action to prevent irreversible damage to the EU livestock and feed industry leading to a major disruption in the feed and food chain."

An EU ministerial meeting in December is set to further discuss the approval system.

## Rifts within the European Commission

Meanwhile, European Environment Commissioner Dimas has voiced scepticism over two genetically modified maize varieties that already gained approval under the European Food Safety Authority. While environmental group Greenpeace supported his position, industry groups raised concerns.

According to new research, the two maize varieties - which are produced by Pioneer Hi-Bred, Dow Agrosiences and Syngenta - could harm butterflies, modify food chains and disturb life in rivers and streams.

Jorgo Riss of Greenpeace stressed that "The vast majority of European citizens and consumers are opposed to genetically engineered plants in agriculture and for food." During a Greenpeace event in Brussels, staged to draw attention to the issue, Marco Contiero said "We call on the European Commission to stop listening to the powerful biotech lobby and support Commissioner Dimas' call to refuse authorisation for the two pesticide-producing GM maize."

Nathalie Moll, representing European biotechnology companies, warned the Commission against "setting a precedent for EU officials to reject products based on nonverified scientific data." On 29 November, the European Federation of Biotechnology sent Commissioner Dimas a letter, saying that "The draft Commission decisions are totally unacceptable, not only for European farmers and consumers, but also set a terrible example for other parts of the world that presently draft guidelines for the cultivation of GM crops, since they look to Europe as an example."

Stephen Norton, a spokesperson for the US Trade Representative commented that "These products have been grown in the U.S. and other countries for years. We are not aware of any other case when a product has been rejected after having been reviewed and determined safe by European food safety authorities."

ICTSD reporting; "EU wins WTO extension to end GMO bans," REUTERS, 22 November 2007; "EU officials propose ban on genetically modified corn seeds," IHT, 21 November 2007; "France, Germany Seek to Break Deadlock on GMO Foods," REUTERS, 27 November 2007; "Germany calls for review of how EU approves new biotech crops," IHT, 26 November 2007; "European biotech industry criticises Dimas' position on new GM maize types," CORDIS NEWS, 29 November 2007.

## In Brief

### **PALM OIL CERTIFICATION LAUNCHED; GREEN GROUPS WEARY**

Meeting at the Fifth Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), the palm oil industry launched a certification process to guarantee the sustainability of its production. This step follows weeks of intense criticism by environmental groups that worry about the palm oil industry's practices.

The RSPO is a multi-stakeholder process that aims to advance the production, procurement and use of sustainable oil palm products. Member governments, industry representatives and

environmental groups gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Indonesia, for the roundtable on 20-22 November. The most important achievement of the meeting was the agreement on a certification process that will allow the industry to track where the palm oil originates. Up until now, manufacturers were unable to track the plantation-to-processor stage of production. The first certified palm oil will be available in the first quarter of 2008.

Efforts to protect rainforests and wildlife, avoid conflicts with indigenous people and improve palm oil yields were among the commitments required under the new certification scheme. The majority of the world's palm oil is produced in Malaysia and Indonesia, and environmental groups have cautioned that plantations are causing havoc in the area. New developments are spurring deforestation and conversion of peatland - eventually leading to significant releases to global greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenpeace released a report in early November that drew attention to problems in Indonesia (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 16 November 2007, <http://www.ictsd.com/biores/07-11-16/inbrief.htm#2>). Friends of the Earth recently withdrew its support for the palm oil industry, arguing that biofuels, and especially palm oil, production is destroying natural habitats for wild life and indigenous peoples, as well as contributing to global warming. The group also argues that biofuel production drives up the global price of staple foods, as palm oil is being diverted from food manufacture to supply the growing demand for biofuels. Furthermore, Friends of the Earth favours action to reduce energy consumption and cut emissions at the source. They called on the UN climate change meeting in Bali, Indonesia in December to "say no to agrofuels."

### **Additional resources**

For meeting documentation from the Fifth Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil, visit [http://www.rspo.org/RSPO\\_Certification\\_Scheme\\_for\\_Sustainable\\_Palm\\_Oil\\_Launched\\_at\\_RT5.a.spx](http://www.rspo.org/RSPO_Certification_Scheme_for_Sustainable_Palm_Oil_Launched_at_RT5.a.spx)

"Green Group Wary of Plans for 'Eco-Friendly' Palm," REUTERS, 27 November 2007;

“Sustainable palm oil system soon,” by Hanim Adnan, MALAYSIA STAR, 26 November 2007; “Palm oil industry announces “eco” standards for production,” MONGOBAY.COM, 26 November 2007; “Palm oil industry moves closer to “green” labeling,” REUTERS, 26 November 2007.

### **PAY FARMERS FOR PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, SAYS FAO**

Farmers provide the world with essential ecosystem services, such as carbon storage, flood control, clean water provision and biodiversity conservation. These services are undervalued by the market, and providing targeted economic incentives to farmers could safeguard the environment as well as fight global poverty, according to the 2007 edition of the State of Food and Agriculture report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Released on 15 November, the FAO report states that if subsidy and payment regimes, currently providing incentives for food, fiber and biofuel production, were overhauled to target environmental services, this could also play a hand in maintaining jobs and food resources.

“These services generate a benefit to somebody other than the person who produces them, but no compensation takes place for their provision, so they tend to be under-provided,” explained Gerald Nelson, co-author of the report.

“Ensuring appropriate incentives for [farmers] is essential,” said FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf. He continued to say that farming has the potential to degrade the environment or to enhance it, “all depending on the decisions made by the more than two billion people whose livelihoods depend directly on crops, livestock, fisheries or forests.”

#### **Additional resources**

To access the report visit <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1200e/a1200e00.htm>

“Paying Farmers to Protect the Planet is the Future,” REUTERS, 16 November 2007; “New

United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization Report Says Targeted Payments to Farmers Could Protect Environment and Address Climate Change and Water Supply Concerns,” GRAINNET, 16 November 2007; “Paying farmers to protect the environment?” FAO RELEASE, 15 November 2007.

### **MEETING SEEKS GLOBAL ACTION ON MERCURY**

A meeting sponsored by the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) has taken the first steps to develop a global plan to address mercury pollution. While many developed countries have diminished their usage of the heavy metal, usage in developing countries has increased, in part due to the rising price of gold.

Convening in Bangkok from 12-16 November, the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Mercury to Review and Assess Measures to Address the Global Issue of Mercury hoped to lay the groundwork for “a comprehensive and decisive response to the global challenge of mercury.” While governments disagreed on the need for a legally-binding treaty, they took decisions to analyse issues such as the costs of both legally-binding and voluntary measures, sustainable technology transfer and support, and substitutes for major processes and products containing mercury.

With the price of gold on the rise, artisanal mining practices, which use mercury to extract the precious metal, have increased. UNEP’s Global Environment Outlook has also reported that the projected increase of combustible fuels, such as coal, will continue to release mercury into the atmosphere. Coal-burning and waste incineration accounts for 70 percent of total quantified emissions of mercury. Additionally, scientists are considering a theory, which claims that rising global temperatures could cause dormant underwater deposits to reactivate and emit more of the harmful metal into the oceans, thus contaminating marine food resources.

The EU, which is the world’s top mercury exporter, has taken steps to ban exports by 2011 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 3 November 2006,



<http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-11-03/inbrief.htm#2>.

The February 2008 UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum will consider the outcome of the Bangkok meeting. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for October 2008 in Nairobi.

### Additional resources

For a summary of the meeting, see IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol16/enb1662e.html>

"UNEP Wants Global Action on Mercury Threat," PLANET ARK, 13 November 2007; "Global Agreement on Mercury Pollution In the Works," ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 14 November 2007; "The first meeting of the ad hoc open-ended working group to review and assess measures to address the global issue of mercury," EARTH BULLETIN, 12-16 November; "UNEP urges global action to curb mercury use," PANAPRESS, 17 November 2007; "UN examines mercury pollution," EDIE NEWSROOM, 20 November 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>.

### ICTSD events

3-5 December, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil: TROPICAL PRODUCTS, TRADE, NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND POVERTY. This objective of this dialogue — which is co-organised by ICTSD and the Institute for International Trade Negotiations (ICONE) — is to determine a better sense of how the WTO agricultural negotiations on tropical products can increase benefits for developing country exporters of these products and identify elements of a pro-poor, pro-sustainable development agenda for tropical commodities. It will address issues of interest to all developing country exporters of

tropical products, in Latin America, Asia and Africa. More particularly, the dialogue will address challenges ranging from tariffs, tariff escalation, preference erosion and possible trade adjustments, non-tariff barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, sensitive products and domestic support. The dialogue will also address other imperatives of a global strategy for sustainable development in agricultural trade. This will include supply chain, value chain, fuel crops and the environment.

Internet: <http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2007-12-03/2007-12-03-desc.htm>

4 December, Bali, Indonesia: TOWARDS A STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND TRADE OF BIOENERGY. Organised by ICTSD in collaboration with IEA Bioenergy Task 40 and Stockholm Environment Institute, this event will bring together a panel of experts from intergovernmental organisations, government and policy research institutions to address the vast array of economic, social and environmental questions that arise as countries formulate their policies on biofuels. It will be held from 18:00 to 19:30 at the Grand Hyatt, in Room Hydro. Internet: <http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2007-12-04/2007-12-04-desc.htm>

5 December, Bali, Indonesia: SCALING-UP ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES: OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. Rapid and global diffusion of energy efficient and renewable energy technologies will play an essential role in mitigating climate change. To what extent intellectual property regimes may be barriers for access to these technologies in developing countries? What are options for enhancing international cooperation and trade in energy efficient and clean energy technologies? What could be expected from new initiatives towards greater energy efficiency and use of clean fuels in emerging economies such as China? These are questions to be addressed by a panel of experts and stakeholders from national, intergovernmental and policy research institutions at an event organised by ICTSD in collaboration with IEA, UNEP and Danish Ministry of the Environment. It will be held from 15:30 to 17:30 at the EU

Pavilion, in Room Lisbon. Internet:  
<http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2007-12-05/2007-12-05-desc.htm>

### Other events coming up in the next two weeks

3-7 December, Rome, Italy: GLOBAL MINOR USE SUMMIT. The conference aims to: address challenges in specialist use and minor crops; discuss requirements for residue trials; discuss approaches to harmonised data; support crop classification and grouping measures; and to support countries' access to advance residues programmes. Internet:  
<http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/JMPR/MinorUseSummit.pdf>

3-14 December, Bali, Indonesia: THIRTEENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC AND THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. UNFCCC COP 13 and Kyoto Protocol COP/MOP 3 will take place from 3-14 December 2007 at the Bali International Conference Center and adjacent Nusa Dua facilities, Indonesia. These meetings will coincide with the 27th meetings of the UNFCCC's subsidiary bodies and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments from Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol. COP 13 and COP/MOP 3 are also expected to be accompanied by a UNFCCC Dialogue on Long-Term Cooperative Action on Climate Change and various other events. Internet:  
<http://www.unfccc.int>

4-5 December, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: CONFERENCE ON BIOFUELS: AN OPTION FOR A LESS CARBON-INTENSIVE ECONOMY: UNCTAD XII PRE-EVENT. The conference will attempt to address how trade can work for climate change, how trade policy can contribute to a transition to a less-carbon intensive economy, and how climate policy can be compatible with/enhance trade competitiveness. It will also discuss the size, main trends and future prospects of the biofuels market. Internet:  
<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intItemID=1942&lang=1&m=14692&year=2007&month=12>

4-6 December, Muguga/Nairobi, Kenya: IUFRO TRAINING WORKSHOP: WORKING

EFFECTIVELY AT THE INTERFACE OF FOREST SCIENCE AND FOREST POLICY. Jointly organized by the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) and the Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA), this workshop aims to provide concepts and methods to researchers on how to plan, conduct and organise research activities so that results can more quickly and easily be transformed into usable information for problem-solving and policy-making. Internet:  
<http://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/actpro/wkspmal07/trainwshpnairobi/>

8 December, Bali, Indonesia: FOREST DAY: SHAPING THE GLOBAL AGENDA FOR FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE. This "Forest Day" event, an international forum on forest and climate change policies at the global, national and local levels, will be held in parallel with the 13th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Internet:  
<http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/COP-ForestDay/Introduction.htm>

10-13 December, Vienna, Austria: SECOND MEETING OF THE AD HOC JOINT WORKING GROUP ON ENHANCED COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS. The second meeting of the ad hoc joint working group will convene from 10-13 December 2007, at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna in Vienna, Austria. The meeting will build on the work of the first meeting and consider opportunities for enhanced cooperation between the chemicals conventions. Participation is open only to the 45 members of the ad hoc joint working group. Internet:  
[http://ahjwg.chem.unep.ch/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=37&Itemid=29](http://ahjwg.chem.unep.ch/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=37&Itemid=29)

11-13 December, Mahé, the Seychelles: CMS MEETING TO IDENTIFY AND ELABORATE AN OPTION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATORY SHARKS. This meeting is organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species. Internet:  
<http://www.cms.int/news/events.htm>

11-13 December, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: THIRD GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE. During the conference, participants will exchange and debate future realities on the theme "Emerging People, Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies" from the perspective of our knowledge today. Internet: <http://www.GKPOnTheFuture.org>

12-14 December, Berlin, Germany: AGENDA AGROFUELS: OPPORTUNITY OR DANGER? A GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON US AND EU AGROFUELS AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND THEIR IMPACTS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT ON NORTH AND SOUTH. This two and a half day seminar shall bring together farmer groups, environmental and consumer organisations, and development organisations from the US, EU and the Global South in order to continue a global dialogue on agrofueles which began in May 2007. It will assess the impacts of agrofueles and farm policies in the respective regions, and examine issues that have not yet been publicly addressed in depth. The meeting will offer a space to discuss the feasibility of agrofuel promotion and the criteria and elements on how to ensure a sustainable approach to agrofueles, that takes into account the interests of farmers, citizens and the environment both in the South and the North. Internet: <http://www.igtn.org/page/779>

### Other upcoming meetings

17-20 December, Kunming, China: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION: ROLES OF TRADITIONAL FOREST-RELATED KNOWLEDGE. Organised by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and others, this conference will provide a platform for sharing of information and exchanging experiences related to traditional forest-related knowledge (TFRK) in the Asia-Pacific region, and highlight the importance of TFRK in achieving the millennium development goals and sustainable forest management. Internet: <http://www.iufro.org/download/file/1928/3500/kunming07-tftfk-1st-announcemt-call.doc>

21-25 January, Geneva, Switzerland: SIXTH MEETING OF THE CBD ABS WORKING GROUP. Internet: <http://www.cbd.int>

30-31 January, Tokyo, Japan: A CHANGE IN CLIMATE FOR WHALES: IS THERE A COMMON WAY FORWARD? - SECOND PEW-SPONSORED WHALE SYMPOSIUM. This meeting follows the first Pew Whale Symposium held in New York in April 2007 and will precede a special meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) on the future of the whale conservation regime at the end of February, as decided at the last annual meeting of the IWC. Internet: <http://www.pewwhales.org/tokyosymposium/>

4-5 February, London, UK: THE FUTURE OF MIDDLE EAST ENERGY. The annual Chatham House conference on Middle East Energy 2008 will focus on the Middle East's continued role as the dominant global energy supplier and how the region will tackle current and emerging challenges. The conference will seek to energy security, increasing communication about reserves and investment plans and the significance of challengers to Middle East exporters from other regions or energy sources. This event will also address what the long term outlook for gas is in the region and how significant gas exports are to its energy strategies. Sessions focusing on Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq will enable speakers and delegates to gain an in-depth view of the current situation in these countries and what future developments are likely. Requires advance registration. Internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/conferences/view/-/id/109/>

25-28 February, Galway, Ireland: SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY. COHAB 2 will be convened by the Secretariat of the COHAB Initiative in collaboration with its international partners, U.N. agencies and other organisations at the forefront of policy, action and research in population health, international development, climate change, and nature conservation. The conference will focus on disaster prevention, relief and recovery, emerging infectious diseases and food resources, diets and nutrition. Conference sessions will explore how

health aspects of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals are influenced by the status of global biodiversity, and will review the impacts and implications of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. It will also look at the outputs of the recent reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Abstracts are invited for poster and oral presentations exploring the linkages between human, animal, plant and ecosystem health. Presentations highlighting lessons learned and experience gained from the design, planning or implementation of collaborative, inter-disciplinary approaches to health, nature conservation and international development issues, are particularly welcome. Contact: [conf..@cohabnet.org](mailto:conf..@cohabnet.org); Internet: <http://www.cohabnet.org/cohab2008>

27-28 February, Bonn, Germany: WORKSHOP ON MODELLING BIO-ENERGY IN AGRICULTURAL-ECONOMIC MODELS. The aim of the workshop is to bring together people active in modelling bio-energy with the help of agricultural-economic models to allow for an exchange of ideas and to support and advise the NaRoLa project team in setting up the integrated modelling system. The workshop will combine plenary sessions in which the status-quo and new advancements in modelling bio-energy will be presented with two parallel intensive workshops in which particular modelling approaches and associated problems will be discussed. Internet: <http://www.ifw-kiel.de/konfer/narola/program.htm>

19-23 May, Ca' Tron di Roncade, Italy. INTRODUCTION TO BIOSAFETY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS: EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC DATA AND RISK ASSESSMENT DOSSIERS. This is the first of two new biosafety workshops scheduled for next year by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). Applications: <http://www.icgeb.org/MEETINGS/crsform.htm>

24-28 June, Geneva, Switzerland: TWELFTH EADI GENERAL CONFERENCE: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE NEED FOR POLICY COHERENCE AND NEW PARTNERSHIPS.

Individuals and organisations are cordially invited to submit a paper for the 12th General Conference of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI). The conference deals with the overarching theme: "Global Governance for Sustainable Development" and will be hosted by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva. The deadline for abstract submission is 28 November 2007. We kindly ask you to use the online submission tool for submitting your abstract. For further information on the conference topic, the working group sessions and the schedule is available at the conference website <http://www.eadi.org/gc2008>

September, Cape Town, South Africa: RISKS, BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS IN THE AFRICAN REGIONS. The second workshop of two new biosafety workshops scheduled for next year by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). Applications: <http://www.icgeb.org/MEETINGS/crsform.htm>

## RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy for review by the Bridges staff to Malena Sell at [msell@ictsd.ch](mailto:msell@ictsd.ch).

INTEGRATING DEVELOPMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE. By the South Centre, November 2007. This publication is intended to provide readers, especially developing country policymakers and negotiators on development and climate change issues, with a policy paper that provides an integrated development-oriented approach to climate change issues with recommendations on the mandate and principles that should be reflected in any post-2012 global policy regime on climate change. Internet: [http://www.southcentre.org/publications/AnalyticalNotes/GlobalSocialEnvGov/2007Nov\\_Integrating\\_Development\\_and\\_Climate\\_Change.pdf](http://www.southcentre.org/publications/AnalyticalNotes/GlobalSocialEnvGov/2007Nov_Integrating_Development_and_Climate_Change.pdf)

WTO AND THE GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEM. By Martin Khor et al., Third World Network. Zed Books, 2007. The book offers a

wide-ranging overview of the current world trading system. It puts forward proposals for improving every major aspect of it and the WTO Agreements that enshrine its rules. Demanding that the developed countries live up to their own trade commitments, the work outlines the overall principles informing a world trade system that genuinely fosters human development throughout the world. Internet: <http://www.zedbooks.co.uk/book.asp?bookdetail=3809>

TECHNOLOGIES FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS-STRATEGIC OUTLOOK. World Growth, November 2007. This strategic review outlines the considerable scope that exists to accelerate the rate of technological progress in cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The review of outlook and prospects encompass the technologies involved in increasing energy efficiency, capturing and storing emissions, reducing the carbon-intensity of the energy mix, and reducing emissions from productive processes other than energy consumption. The study also explores the wide range of voluntary initiatives by both government and the private sector. These initiatives are directed at the development and commercialization of technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions world-wide. Internet: <http://www.worldgrowth.org/assets/File/WG-GreenhouseGasEmissions.pdf>

AN EXAMINATION OF US AND EU GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO BIOFUELS: EARLY LESSONS. International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council, October 2007. This study finds that in the absence of commercially viable second-generation biofuels, ambitious mandates coupled with high tariffs that serve to largely limit tax incentives to domestic producers, risk a disproportionate focus on U.S. and EU first-generation biofuels. The report also demonstrates that a lack of internationally agreed technical and sustainability standards as well as a lack of clarity about international trade obligations, can increase this tendency. The report urges the U.S. and EU to adopt policies that serve to promote those uses of biomass which are most energy efficient and show the greatest promise of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, regardless of national origin. Internet:

[http://www.agritrade.org/Publications/EU\\_US\\_Biofuels.html](http://www.agritrade.org/Publications/EU_US_Biofuels.html)

BUILDING A PRO-DEVELOPMENT GLOBAL STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE. By Alan Oxley, World Growth, August 2007. The study proposes a "Multi-Track" process that would allow countries to develop more customised strategies to reduce emissions while preserving economic development programs and progress toward eliminating poverty. The "Multi-Track" strategy would allow for each nation to develop a strategy to tackle climate change that best suits it, giving nations more flexibility to reach emission reductions through a variety of strategies. This could include Kyoto-styled mandatory cuts, adopting new technologies, improving efficient energy consumption, or any combination of approaches. Internet: [http://www.worldgrowth.org/assets/File/World\\_Growth\\_-\\_Building\\_a\\_Pro-Development\\_Global\\_Strategy\\_on\\_Climate\\_Change.pdf](http://www.worldgrowth.org/assets/File/World_Growth_-_Building_a_Pro-Development_Global_Strategy_on_Climate_Change.pdf)