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LEAD STORIES

G-4 SAY TALKS 'PRODUCTIVE', BUT NO SIGNS OF CONVERGENCE YET

The world's leading trading powers say that they made progress towards a compromise in the Doha Round trade talks during meetings in Paris and Brussels last week. Nevertheless, it remains far from clear whether WTO Members will be able to hammer out a framework deal on cutting subsidies and tariffs by the end of July, so that the faltering negotiations can be concluded by the end of the year.

Trade ministers from close to 30 countries met in Paris from 14-16 May during the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's annual summit. At the gathering, officials took a broad look at policies that could contribute to a more equitable distribution of the economic gains from globalisation. Specifically with regard to trade, they referred to the urgent need for results in the Doha Round talks.

According to the summary prepared by the Spanish chair of the meeting, members of the club of industrialised countries agreed that a successful conclusion to the negotiations would "endorse the multilateral trading system, and contribute to global economic governance and sustainable growth based on mutually agreed rules and concerted action," thus minimising trade conflict.

This is hardly the first such assessment that governments have made since the global trade talks were launched in late 2001. The numerous expressions of urgency have done little to help WTO Members bridge their differences on the extent of tariff and subsidy cuts. In Paris, however, representatives from India and the US suggested that these gaps had finally started to narrow, albeit slowly.

Indian Commerce Minister Kamal Nath said that US officials had given some signs of flexibility. "We are now looking forward for these positive signals to be converted into numbers," he added, reported Reuters. Nath said that although the talks were no longer a standstill, they were moving forward in "steps" rather than "leaps." US Trade Representative Susan Schwab

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said that there had been "some real progress," although "significant gaps" remained between countries' objectives.

The two countries, together with Brazil and the EU, make up the 'G-4' group that has been at the centre of the Doha Round negotiations. G-4 governments promised in April to come up with a joint contribution to the multilateral talks by mid-June, presumably indicating some sort of convergence (see BRIDGES Weekly, 25 April 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-04-25/story1.htm>).

The principal fault lines in the negotiations remain broadly unchanged: while many Members want the US to agree to deeper cuts to its farm subsidies, Washington insists that it will not do so unless the EU and developing countries such as India and China agree to greater agricultural market access. The latter counter that concessions are unthinkable until rich countries agree to deeper subsidy cuts. The EU and the US both want developing countries like Brazil and India to slash their industrial tariffs by more than they have offered to thus far.

Although ministers from the G-4 met in Brussels for two days of meetings immediately after the talks in Paris, they provided no hints of whether they were on pace to meet the mid-June target. Their joint communiqué, dated 18 May, simply indicated that they and senior officials would continue to hold talks over the coming weeks, with another formal meeting from 19-22 June. The statement said that the four ministers "remain committed" to the round and hoped to bring it to a close by year's end. However, they provided little in the way of details about their discussions apart from describing them as "productive," saying only that they looked at "all the core negotiating areas with a particular focus on agriculture, NAMA [non-agricultural market access], and services." The ministers also met with the chairs of the WTO negotiating groups on agriculture and NAMA, who are both seeking input from governments as they work to prepare draft papers that could serve as the basis for finalising agreements. Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said that at the June meeting, he and his G-4 colleagues would do "everything we can" to bridge their differences. Of the talks in Brussels, he said that "people are starting to circle a landing zone."

At the OECD gathering, Australian Trade Minister Warren Truss sounded a rare note of optimism about prospects for the Doha Round. "After the last couple of days in Paris I get the perception that there is now a view that an agreement is inevitable and that we will get an outcome," he told reporters after a meeting with his fellow ministers. WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, who also attended the meeting, was far more

cautious. The negotiations were "advancing, but a bit too slowly," he said, according to Australian newspaper *The Age*. "Positions are closer than they were three months, six months, a year ago. We are not completely at a stage where all that converges."

Another somber message came from EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson in his first public remarks following the G-4 talks in Brussels. "The gaps are still wide both inside agriculture, and between agriculture and industry and services," he told the European Parliament on 22 May. Reuters reports that he promised to withhold support from an agreement that did not achieve the EU's objectives.

India calls for progress on services

Many developed countries share the EU's view that services trade liberalisation has been unduly neglected because of the focus on agriculture. Last week, however, it was India that made headlines with complaints about the lack of progress on its key objectives of securing new legally binding commitments for outsourcing and temporary work permits.

"We are not only looking for just a breakthrough in WTO talks regarding agriculture and industrial goods, but also a breakthrough in services negotiations," Indian minister Nath said in New Delhi on 21 May. "For this there has to be specific and clear terms regarding Mode 1 (the cross-border provision of services) and Mode 4 (temporary labour movement)," he explained, according to a report in the *Financial Express*. Both are crucial for the country's information technology sector, and potentially offer substantial commercial gains. However, India has been disappointed by its trading partners' offers in the way of new binding commitments. Nath singled the US out for attention in this regard.

Washington has been cool to the Indian government's requests that it expand the number of temporary 'H1-B' work visas open to IT workers. Many US lawmakers see temporary work visas as a matter of immigration rather than trade policy, and are opposed to any such expansion through WTO negotiations. The issue hit another bump last week, when two US senators wrote directly to Indian IT companies to complain about the use of the H1-B visa programme instead of discussing it government-to-government, raising New Delhi's ire.

There is a widespread sense that if governments cannot reach a framework agreement by the end of July, the Doha Round negotiations will either disintegrate completely or be frozen for several years. US leaders will be loath to make controversial concessions ahead of next year's presidential elections. India will likely hold general elections in 2009.

ICTSD reporting; "Coming weeks are make-or-break for WTO: UK's Blair," REUTERS, 21 May 2007; "Services can't be left out of WTO talks," FINANCIAL EXPRESS, 21 May 2007; "EU trade chief sees big gaps still in WTO push," REUTERS, 22 May 2007; "Major trading powers press on with WTO talks in Brussels," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 17 May 2007; "Key players see movement in world trade talks," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 16 May 2007; "Truss upbeat about Doha but WTO director douses flames," THE AGE, 18 May 2007; "India, US see progress in delayed trade talks," REUTERS, 16 May 2007; "Main WTO players hope for Doha agreement by end of year," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 18 May 2007; "US-India visa row overshadows Doha talks," FINANCIAL TIMES, 18 May 2007; "Trade powers call WTO talks 'productive,'" REUTERS, 18 May 2007.

WHO MEMBERS ADOPT RESOLUTION ON PHARMACEUTICAL INNOVATION

Intellectual property issues were prominent at the World Health Organization's annual summit in Geneva from 14-23 May. After extensive negotiations, member states adopted a last-minute resolution based on a Brazilian proposal calling for the global health body to take on an expanded role in encouraging health research and access.

The resolution on "Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property" was adopted at the closing plenary of the 60th World Health Assembly, which is the supreme decision-making body of the WHO's 193 member states. However, the US made a statement to disassociate itself from the decision.

The resolution largely refers to the role of the WHO secretariat in supporting the work of a working group charged with developing a framework for supporting sustainable, needs-driven, essential medical research and development (R&D). Brazil said its proposal was designed to give better "stewardship" to the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property (IGWG) process, which some see as an opportunity to explore alternatives to drug patents as a means of encouraging innovation and the development of new and affordable drugs for diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries. The IGWG was set up last year to negotiate a global strategy on essential health research based on the recommendations of the WHO Commission on Intellectual Property, Innovation, and Public Health (CIPIH) (see BRIDGES Weekly, 31 May 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-05-31/story4.htm>).

Chilean delegate Maximiliano Santa Cruz said the resolution will "provide new impetus to push the

process forward." It was valuable to reiterate prior commitments, and "to have the secretariat on board," he said.

Notably, the resolution requests the WHO secretariat to help develop proposals on "a range of incentive mechanisms for addressing the linkage between paying for the cost of R&D and the prices of medicines, vaccines, diagnostic kits, and other health care products." Sources report that Brazil and others had originally put forward language referring to the explicit separation of R&D costs from drug prices, which was supported by Canada, Chile, and Norway. But objections from the US, Japan, and the EU eventually led to this compromise, suggested by Switzerland. Chile's Santa Cruz said it was a "good resolution" because initial negotiating positions had been "worlds apart."

In addition, the resolution requests the WHO secretariat to provide "technical and policy support to countries that intend to make use of the flexibilities contained in the [WTO] Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights [TRIPS] and other international agreements." In theory, this would see the WHO taking a greater role in the interpretation of TRIPS flexibilities, such as compulsory licenses to temporarily override drug patents, to promote health.

The resolution also asks for further WHO support for "regional consultative meetings in order to set regional priorities that will inform the work of the IGWG." At a technical briefing on the IGWG at the Assembly on 17 May, concerns were raised about the level of participation of African and Latin American countries in these consultations, which IGWG Chair Peter Oldham of Canada described as "absolutely critical". IGWG Vice-Chair Ahmed Ogwel, head of international health relations at the Kenyan health ministry, said "the process is not running well in our part of the world," and appealed for support for consultations in Africa.

At the briefing, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said she had been struck by the complexities involved in the IGWG but that she was increasingly aware of the importance of intellectual property rights to member states. Sources said her comments were greeted by delegates following doubts about the WHO secretariat's commitment to the IGWG process.

Assistant Director-General Howard Zucker also clarified that the IGWG could be extended beyond its current timeframe, which calls for the group to prepare a strategy and plan of action in time for next year's World Health Assembly in May 2008 following a final meeting this November. "We take our cues from member states on these items," he said, in response to members' concern that divergence among their submissions

made agreement unrealistic by then (see BRIDGES Weekly, 25 April 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-04-25/story3.htm>).

At the summit's closing session, Chan added, "I am fully committed to [the IGWG] process and have noted your desire to move forward faster ... We must make a tremendous effort. We know our incentive: the prevention of large numbers of needless deaths and suffering."

Resolutions on Malaria, Avian Flu and Children's Medicines

The World Health Assembly also dealt with the relationship between intellectual property and public health in resolutions negotiated on avian flu, malaria, and medicines for children.

A last-minute resolution was agreed on the 'Sharing of Influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits', proposed by Indonesia for a "transparent, fair and equitable sharing of benefits" from vaccines developed from virus samples. The country's Health Minister, Siti Fadillah Supari, explained its decision to suspend sample-sharing of the H5N1 bird flu virus with the WHO last December, saying that the government had been concerned that the WHO had passed some samples on without consent, which could have in turn resulted in intellectual property rights that denied developing countries "equitable access" to future vaccines.

A draft resolution on malaria was agreed after small group consultations mainly between Kenya and the US. Each had submitted a proposal in January, differing primarily in terms of their references to TRIPS flexibilities. Kenya and other developing countries wanted to urge members to provide for full use of flexibilities in their legislation "to increase access to anti-malarial medicines, diagnostics and preventive technologies." In contrast, the US, along with Switzerland and Japan among others, did not want TRIPS flexibilities to be mentioned in connection with access to the products. The compromise, reached on 21 May, inserted a definition of "pharmaceutical products" into an explanatory footnote that referenced the 2001 WTO Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health. A similar footnote had been part of the compromise on the Brazil IGWG resolution as well, sources said.

Brazil and Thailand were active in inserting language on TRIPS flexibilities, the IGWG and access to essential medicines in a resolution on "Better Medicines for Children".

On a related note, a source told Bridges that Brazil and Thailand's recent decisions to issue compulsory licences for patented AIDS drugs were not discussed in any detail during the World Health Assembly, contrary to some expectations (see BRIDGES Weekly, 9 May 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-05-09/story4.htm>). Meanwhile, Thai Minister of Public Health Mongkol Na Songkhla announced that Brazil and Thailand would sign a "cooperation agreement" on health development, including research into flu vaccines, in August.

ICTSD reporting; "Indonesia Lifts Bird Flu Sample Ban", FINANCIAL TIMES, 15 May 2007; "WHO Head Expresses Commitment to Strengthen IP Working Group", INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WATCH, 20 May 2007; "Thailand, Brazil to Sign Health Cooperation Agreement," THAI NEW AGENCY, 20 May 2007; "WHO Members Reach Preliminary Agreement on Malaria", IP-Watch, 21 May 2007; "World Health Assembly Closes," WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, 23 May 2007.

OTHER STORIES

CHINA, G-20 REACT TO AG CHAIR'S ASSESSMENT OF PLAUSIBLE DEAL

Developing countries continue to react to a paper by the chair of the WTO agriculture negotiations identifying some parameters of what he deemed to be a plausible agreement on cutting farm tariffs and subsidies (see BRIDGES Weekly, 9 May 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-05-09/story1.htm>). The paper, the first in a series of two, aimed to 'challenge' Members to depart from long-held bargaining positions in order to find consensus in the troubled talks. It has already provoked a range of responses from Members.

The Chinese government on 18 May detailed its reactions to the text in a letter to agriculture negotiations Chair Ambassador Crawford Falconer (New Zealand), WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, and General Council Chair Ambassador Muhamad Noor Yacob (Malaysia). In it, Commerce Minister Bo Xilai and Agriculture Minister Sun Zhengcai expressed appreciation for Falconer's efforts, but pointed to a "fundamental problem" that the concerns of developed and developing country Members were not treated "in a balanced way."

They emphasised the need for "effective cuts" in trade-distorting support, arguing that these must ensure that the ceiling for US and other developed country subsidies is set at a level that is lower than current spending. Washington's current offer would cap its

trade-distorting subsidies at over USD 22 billion, well above existing expenditure levels.

With regard to tariff cuts, the letter welcomed Falconer's use of the G-20 bloc's proposal for a tiered reduction formula as a 'working hypothesis'. China is a member of the influential group of developing countries. However, it said that his suggestions for the thresholds for the bands for developing countries, as well as the depth of tariff cuts for products that fall within them, were 'worth debating'. Although Falconer had indicated that the thresholds proposed by the G-20 for developed countries could ultimately work, he had implied that those put forward for developing countries might require changing.

China also expressed concern about the chair's interpretation of the mandate for more "flexible treatment" for agricultural 'special products', which developing countries would be able to shield from tariff cuts on the basis of food security, livelihood security, and rural development criteria. While the chair had suggested that all special products should be subject to at least a minimal tariff cut, China argued that some should be exempt from reduction commitments. China is part of the G-33 group that has championed special product flexibilities, including the ability to exclude some products from tariff cuts altogether. The group has argued that the chair's 'challenges' paper is biased towards developed countries in its treatment of market access.

As a result of extensive tariff liberalisation that it carried out to join the WTO, China has fairly low farm tariffs - and crucially, almost no margins between the duties it applies and the bound ceiling limits. Thus, most tariff cuts will force reductions in its applied rates, with the potential to displace farmers.

The ministers also questioned the wisdom of the chair's 'radical' suggestion for overcoming the ongoing disagreement about agricultural market access for developing countries: replace the tiered formula and assorted flexibilities with a "straight overall average cut" with a minimum specified cut for each tariff line. This would allow developing countries to make the minimal reduction for their most sensitive products, while making higher cuts to other ones in order to meet the average target. China warned that this represented a complete reversal of the negotiated approach, and cautioned that reopening this issue could lead to a 'spillover effect' where Members would seek to alter other already-agreed issues.

G-20 reacts on domestic support

The G-20 bloc as a whole also circulated two documents in response to Falconer's observations on

domestic support and export competition, as the chair this week started a series of intensive small-group consultations on different issues in the talks.

A balanced agreement "will not be found by averaging negotiating positions," warned the group, emphasising that the mandates that Members have agreed on would have to be reflected in the outcome.

Referring to Falconer's suggestion that an accord on farm subsidy cuts would eventually cap US overall trade-distorting support (OTDS) "certainly below 19 [billion USD] and somewhere above the very low teens," the G-20 argued that the "high teens" should be discarded. The 'centre of gravity' the bloc said, should instead be sought amongst the "low teens." While some observers have interpreted this as a hint at flexibility, since the G-20's formal proposal would slash US OTDS to a maximum of USD 12 billion, the paper went on to reiterate that the USD 12 billion figure "remains broadly consistent with the Mandate."

The group also repeated its concern that cuts in OTDS be accompanied by product-specific restrictions on spending, though it warned that such disciplines would be useless if the overall ceiling level were too high.

On cuts to the most trade-distorting subsidies in the WTO's amber box, the principal component of OTDS, the G-20 reiterated their call for "a more ambitious contribution from the EU." The group argues that blue box programmes, another component of OTDS, should meet three new conditions: their distorting effects should be less significant than those in the amber box; they should be notified, monitored, and subject to surveillance; and direct payments should not increase the overall availability of subsidies per product, except for new users. The G-20 also wants anti-concentration disciplines and additional rules to prevent support for commodities from rising.

The G-20 did indicate a willingness to be flexible in response to US concerns about the implementation of product-specific caps for amber box support, provided that Washington "shows requisite flexibility and is ready to reciprocate." For instance, the US could be allowed to phase in the implementation of product-specific caps to match the staging of cuts to amber box support in general, the group suggested.

In terms of the base reference period for calculating these caps, the group reiterated its support for using spending in 1995-2000, a position shared by all WTO Members except the US, which prefers opting for 1999-2001 instead. The G-20 emphasised that the latter period would make the caps so high that they would "defeat the purpose of the discipline."

The group proposed allowing developing countries a choice of three different methods in order to calculate their own product-specific amber box caps: the average applied levels during the implementation period, twice the Member's product-specific de minimis level, or 20 percent of the total bound AMS in any year.

Throughout their paper, the group also emphasised the importance of special and differential treatment for developing countries.

Second instalment of paper expected soon

Falconer has indicated a 'second instalment' of his 'challenges paper' is forthcoming; it will address issues not covered in the first document, such as tropical products, preference erosion, 'green box' farm subsidies, and special treatment for small and vulnerable economies. While the chair was originally set to issue the second paper issued last week, it is now expected sometime this week.

On 18 May, Falconer met with ministers from the EU, Brazil, India, and the US to discuss the negotiations. He is now holding a series of consultations with small groups of Members as he works towards preparing a new draft text that could serve as a basis for finalising an agreement. Discussions on export competition issues took place on 22-23 May, with further meetings on domestic support and market access planned for 24-25 May and 29-30 May respectively.

An informal meeting open to all Members is scheduled for the afternoon of 30 May, in order to review the results of the discussions and to promote transparency, to be followed by further consultations afterwards.

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

SOUTH KOREA BALKS AT POSSIBLE RENEGOTIATION OF US FTA

South Korea reacted strongly to suggestions that its pending free trade agreement (FTA) with the US might require renegotiation following a recent deal between the Bush administration and Democrats promising new environmental, labour, and intellectual property standards in all such accords.

"If the US demands renegotiation it would lead to a failure of the agreement," Ambassador Kim Jong-hoon,

South Korea's chief negotiator, told the Yonhap News Agency. "We couldn't one-sidedly accept a request to renegotiate the agreement that already reflects the balance of interests," he said.

Under the terms of their pact with the White House, senior Democratic lawmakers established a new template for FTAs, which would have them include some core International Labour Organization worker protection standards as well as seven multilateral environmental agreements. They promised to seek Congressional approval of the already-negotiated FTAs with Peru and Panama if they were modified to comply with the new policy. South Korea was specifically excluded from the bargain, with Democrats urging the Bush administration to seek greater access to the Korean market, particularly with regard to automotive, agricultural, and services trade (see BRIDGES Weekly, 16 May 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-05-16/story2.htm>).

Nevertheless, South Korea's minister for foreign affairs and trade, Song Min-soon, told reporters last week that Seoul would "maintain a firm stance that this is not something that needs to be renegotiated." It is not clear whether the FTA will win US Congressional approval without modifications.

South Korea and the US concluded FTA talks on 1 April, following 10 months of intense negotiations that were marked by civil society opposition in both countries (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 April 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-04-04/story1.htm>). An FTA with Korea, the world's tenth-largest economy, would represent the US's biggest trade agreement since the establishment of the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico in 1994.

ICTSD reporting; "S. Korea warns against possible U.S. demand for trade deal renegotiation," THE HANKYOREH, 16 May 2007; "South Korea warns U.S. free trade deal could collapse if Washington demands renegotiation," YONHAP NEWS, 16 May 2007.

WTO IN BRIEF

AIRCRAFT SUBSIDIES RULING DELAYED UNTIL JULY 2008

The WTO dispute panel reviewing part of the EU-US spat over billions of dollars of aircraft subsidies has announced that it will issue its decision in July 2008,

over a year later than would be expected under the standard timetable.

The chair of the panel examining Brussels' complaint about US aid to aircraft manufacturer Boeing, circulated a written communication on 18 May stating that "the substantive and procedural complexities" of the dispute made it impossible to conform with the standard six-month timeframe that started when the panel was created in November 2006.

Indeed, the fight over aircraft subsidies, which also involves a US claim against EU payments to Airbus, is in financial terms the biggest dispute ever brought before the WTO. Brussels claims that the Boeing has benefited from USD 23.7 billion in illegal subsidies from the US government, including USD 4 billion in tax breaks and more than USD 16 billion in research and development support funneled through NASA and the Defense Department. For its part, Washington has filed complaints against Brussels, alleging that EU member states have collectively provided Airbus with more than USD 100 billion in illegal aid. A ruling on the latter dispute is expected no earlier than September.

According to WTO rules, if the members of a dispute panel feel that they will be unable to meet the six-month deadline, they must both inform Members of the reasons for the delay and indicate when they expect to issue the final ruling.

Long delays in contentious WTO disputes are not unusual: last year's high profile ruling on the EU's procedures for approving genetically modified organisms came nearly three years after the US, Canada, and Argentina filed their complaint.

ICTSD reporting; "EU says U.S. gave Boeing \$23.7 bln in illegal aid," REUTERS, 23 March 2007; "Airbus got \$100 bln in illegal subsidies says US," REUTERS, 21 March 2007.

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/index.htm>. If you would like to submit an event, please email events@ictsd.ch.

Coming Up: 24-30 May

24 May, Brussels, Belgium. ENERGY SECURITY, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT: THREE

ISSUES FOR THE G8. Hosted by the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI), this half-day conference will consider key energy issues to be discussed by heads of state at the upcoming Group of 8 (G8) Summit, set to take place 6-8 June in Germany. The event will also feature a public discussion with José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, and Thierry de Montbrial, the Director of IFRI. For more information, contact Nadia Fraioli at fraioli@ifri.org. internet: http://www.ifri.org/frontDispatcher/ifri/manifestations/s_minaire_1033636016876/publi_P_energie_mjn_taskforce_____1178719368838

24-25 May, Paris, France. WORLD CONFERENCE ON INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL FOR COMMUNITIES. Organised by the World Bank, this event will explore the challenges and opportunities stemming from today's increasingly knowledge-based economy. It will look, in particular, on how to measure intellectual capital, and how countries can benefit from their intellectual capital abroad (diasporas). Presentations at this year's conference will place a particular focus on developing countries. For more information, contact Michelle J. Lemarie (mlemarie@worldbank.org). internet: <http://go.worldbank.org/MMESDKX5W0>

25 May, Geneva, Switzerland. AFRICAN CELEBRATION DAY 2006-2007. Co-organised by the African Union and the Director of the OECD Development Centre, the event will provide the backdrop for the launch of a joint OECD/ADB publication, entitled "African Economic Outlook 2006-2007." For more information on this publication, or for an invitation to the presentation, contact the African Union delegation in Geneva at mission-observer.au@africanunion.ch.

28-31 May, Anchorage, Alaska. 59TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC-59). This gathering of representatives from IWC member states will consider administrative and budgetary issues, as well as questions regarding the environment and indigenous groups. IWC-59 will be preceded by meetings of the Scientific Committee and other committees and sub-committees. For more information, contact the IWC Secretariat at tel: +44-1223-233-97 or email secretariat@iwcoffice.org. internet: <http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/meeting2007.htm>.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/meets_public/meets_e.pdf. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings

of the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, and are open to WTO Members and accredited observers only.

25 May. COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

25 May. WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF IRAQ

Other Upcoming Events

3-5 June, Lusaka, Zambia. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING AND WIDENING MARKETS AND OVERCOMING SUPPLY SIDE CONSTRAINTS FOR AFRICAN AGRICULTURE. This seminar, hosted by the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council, will convene farm policy and private sector leaders, trade experts, academics, and the donor community to address improving the competitiveness of African agricultural markets, and the continent's ability to engage in local, regional, and global markets. For more information, email agritrade@agritrade.org. internet: http://www.agritrade.org/events/strengthening_african_markets.html.

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 more information, email cites@unep.ch. internet: <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/index.shtml>

4-6 June, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. WORKSHOP ON WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES: SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES, TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE AND AGRICULTURE. This workshop, sponsored by the UN Conference on Trade and Development, offers a general and up-to-date review of WTO rules of on dispute settlement procedures related to the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The workshop is intended for government officials, academics, practicing lawyers, and industry advisers and will include a combination of lectures, exercises, and case studies. For more information, email dispute@unctad.org. internet: <http://r0.unctad.org/disputesettlement/index.htm>

5 June, International. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY. Organised by the UN Environment Programme, this day of international celebration of the environment will feature street rallies, bicycle parades, green concerts, tree planting, as well as recycling and clean-up campaigns. The theme for this year's World Environment Day is "Melting Ice-A Hot Topic?" internet: <http://www.unep.org/wed/2007/english/>

6-8 June, Heiligendamm, Germany. G8 SUMMIT 2007. Heads of state and government from the Group of 8 (G8) leading industrialized 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. internet: <http://www.g-8.de/Webs/G8/EN/Homepage/home.html>

RESOURCES

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2007. This report was launched at the 15th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, which is focusing on energy, climate change, air pollution and industrial development. The 432-page volume points to new challenges and opportunities facing industrializing countries as a result of globalization, technological change and international trade rules. It also discusses social and environmental aspects of industrial development. To download a copy of the report, visit http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/industrial_development/full_report.pdf.

PATENTS, COMPULSORY LICENSE AND ACCESS TO MEDICINES: SOME RECENT EXPERIENCES. By Martin Khor. Third World Network, 2007. Access to medicines has emerged as a major public health issue, especially as intellectual property protections have caused an increase in the prices of many life-saving drugs. Focusing on the experiences of seven Asian and African nations, this report examines recent uses of TRIPS flexibilities and considers how bilateral FTAs affect the implementation of those flexibilities from a public health perspective. To download the report, visit <http://www.twinside.org.sg/title2/par/TRIPS.flexibilities.30jan07.with.cover.doc>.

FLAT WORLD, BIG GAPS: ECONOMIC LIBERALISATION, GLOBALISATION, POVERTY AND INEQUALITY. Edited by Jomo K.S. with Jacques Baudot. Third World Network, 2007. Many economists claim that globalisation creates worldwide growth and

that economic liberalisation leads to economic convergence and lower inequality. This book offers a collection of empirical analyses of how economic liberalisation has actually affected inequality, poverty, and development in recent decades. Avoiding polemics and rhetoric, the book provides a balanced account of the effects of liberalisation and considers the comparative experiences of countries that have pursued different economic policies. To order a copy of the book, visit <http://www.twinside.org.sg/bookstore.htm>.

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