



International Centre for Trade  
and Sustainable Development

# Bridges

## Weekly Trade News Digest

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### LEAD STORIES

#### LAMY: 'MOMENT OF TRUTH' FOR THE DOHA ROUND

Disagreement persists in global trade talks despite a growing resolve among some WTO delegations to bring a hasty conclusion to the negotiations. While most countries stress the importance of pressing forward in the talks, others argue that urgency should not prevent satisfactory compromise on complex issues.

Trade ministers from the world's major economies met on the sidelines of the annual ministerial meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), held in Paris last week, to discuss prospects for the struggling Doha round of trade talks at the WTO. Ongoing negotiations over a deal to lower barriers to world trade have reached a critical juncture, with some saying that a successful conclusion of the round hinges on a breakthrough in the talks within the next few weeks.

Speaking at a side event to the OECD meeting, WTO Director General Pascal Lamy identified three "fundamental elements" - a worsening economic climate, high commodity prices, and the "technical maturity" of the Doha negotiations - that have brought the round, now in its seventh year, to a "moment of truth."

"After innumerable meetings and several revised compromise papers on agriculture and industrial products, the negotiations are reaching a point where ministers could soon meet to agree on what we call the modalities in these two areas," he said.

Lamy has urged negotiators to work towards a ministerial meeting in Geneva at the end of June. However, the Director General noted that delegates must keep working to overcome persistent differences in the industrial products negotiations, as well as in the talks on agriculture, services, trade facilitation, anti-dumping, and fisheries subsidies.

"All these boats will need to reach the shore at the same time, and nothing is agreed until everything is agreed," Lamy said. "We have a lot to do and little time to do it. But I remain convinced this is doable."

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Australia's trade minister, Simon Crean, made a similar call for rapid progress. "I think it is critical to conclude the round by end of the year," he told an OECD discussion panel. "If we don't, I think at best the round goes into a freeze, worse a deep freeze or and even worse it is a breakdown of the multilateral system and will see us revert to the protectionist tendencies."

Mexican trade official Beatriz Leycegui Gardoqui echoed the Australian minister's remarks, stressing that immediate action is necessary to ensure a successful outcome to the foundering negotiations.

"Our first and our most immediate challenge is to conclude the Doha Round this year," she told the forum. "If we are not able to deliver in the next few weeks, it will amount to a failure of the round. Time has come for our Members to make difficult decisions," she said.

New Zealand's trade minister, Phil Goff, said that, while bilateral and regional trade agreements can help reduce some trade barriers, "ultimately we need the security of global trade rules and we need a multilateral agreement which can encompass issues such as elimination of subsidies."

"The key question is what we can do to get a deal in the WTO," he said.

But the calls for a swift conclusion to the Doha round fell on some deaf ears.

France, historically a strong advocate of farmer support and protections, says that European negotiators have made too many concessions to the developing world in the trade talks and that the EU should not rush into a deal that could harm European producers. Reacting to her colleagues' calls for swift action to secure agreement in time for a late-June ministerial meeting, French trade minister Anne-Marie Idrac protested that, "given the size of the challenges, to reduce the matter to 'June or never' is a bit simplistic."

Irish leaders have expressed similar scepticism. In a further blow to European solidarity, Brian Cowen, Ireland's new prime minister, promised the 80,000-member Irish Farmers Association (IFA) last week that he would use Ireland's veto in the European Council to block the finalisation of a Doha deal.

The farmers' group fears that an agreement to lower trade barriers would cause an influx of cheap agricultural goods from developing countries, and could potentially cost them their jobs.

Cowen's promise is widely seen as an effort to guarantee that the powerful IFA will throw its support behind the Treaty of Lisbon, an agreement to reform the EU that replaces the ill-fated EU Constitution that was rejected by Dutch and French voters in 2005. The passage of the treaty, which will be the subject of a referendum in Ireland later this week, is seen as a critical test of the recently installed Cowen government.

Despite the reluctance of French and Irish leaders, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, speaking at the OECD side event last week, cautioned that any delay in negotiations to liberalise world trade "will make things harder."

"Everyone knows that those who are playing it long are playing for failure," he said.

But even if the Europeans overcome their differences, politics across the Atlantic could interfere with any progress in the Doha round.

Indeed, many trade officials consider the upcoming US presidential election a *de facto* deadline for the finalisation of an agreement. While President George W. Bush is considered to be relatively supportive of striking a Doha deal, the same backing cannot be guaranteed in the next administration.

The AFL-CIO, the largest federation of unions in the US and a crucial source of support for the Democratic Party, is heavily lobbying Senator Barack Obama, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, to require the inclusion of labour standards in all US trade deals.

"We are implacably opposed to a trade deal that does not include a clause that ensures workers have to be given basic labour rights, including the right to form trade unions," said AFL-CIO president John Sweeney. "If this is protectionism, then so be it."

A Doha agreement with such a clause would be even less likely to achieve consensus among WTO Members, as developing countries such as China and India would strongly oppose it.

On the legislative side, two members of the US Congress introduced a bill last week that would require the government to review - and potentially renegotiate - all existing US trade pacts, including both the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Marrakech Agreement, the 1994 deal that created the WTO. The new legislation, which was sponsored by Senator Sherrod Brown and Congressman Michael Michaud - both Democrats, sets out standards on a range of

issues affected by trade, including labour, the environment, food safety, and intellectual property.

Brown and Michaud do not expect the bill to be passed this year. Rather, they view the legislation as a way to call attention to trade issues as the presidential campaign moves into high gear. They also hope to use it to influence trade policy in the next administration.

Nevertheless, US Trade Representative Susan Schwab, speaking to the press in Paris last week, underscored the US' commitment to working toward a swift conclusion of the Doha round.

"We really do feel a sense of urgency," she said. "We are prepared to press ahead."

ICTSD reporting. "Ireland wins over farmers on EU treaty," THE FINANCIAL TIMES, 4 June 2008; "Lawmakers, citing Obama, urge US redo trade deals," REUTERS, 4 June 2008; "Trade critics on the offensive," CBS NEWS, 4 June 2008; "Australia fears WTO freeze, France wants no rush," REUTERS, 4 June 2008; "OECD MEETING U.S. trade envoy says ready to speed up Doha trade talks," 5 June 2008; "EU's Mandelson says trade must play role in easing food crisis," THOMSON FINANCIAL, 5 June 2008; "Crisis trade talks in Paris as protectionism looms," THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, 6 June 2008; "US ready to speed up WTO negotiations: Schwab," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 5 June 2008.

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### FAO SUMMIT ATTENDEES COMMIT TO ELIMINATING HUNGER, SECURING FOOD FOR ALL

A major international conference recently concluded with a call to address the complex issues underlying the current food crisis, focusing both on short-term action, such as increasing food aid, and long-term action, such as investing in the agriculture sector in developing countries.

Heads of state, ministers, and other high-level officials from 181 countries attended a summit on climate change, energy and food in Rome on 3-5 June. The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) 'High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy' was a culmination of months of expert-level meetings that assessed the complex causes and effects of the recent rise in food prices. The Declaration on World Food Security that was issued at the conclusion of the meeting committed

the attendees to "eliminating hunger and securing food for all." It included provisions on short and long term measures to address the causes and effects of the recent spike in food prices.

The Director-General of the FAO, Jaques Diouf, appealed to the international community to commit "US\$30 billion a year to enable 862 million hungry people to enjoy the most fundamental of human rights: the right to food and thus the right to life." To date, participants have pledged US\$6.8 billion towards a fund to address hunger and poverty.

The first line of action: getting food to the hungry

In the immediate term, the declaration of the food summit called for increased resources for UN agencies, cooperation between international and national food security actors, and food assistance that is cognisant of a "continuum from urgent to longer term assistance."

UN agencies were encouraged to purchase food locally and regionally "when appropriate." Regional organisations with emergency food security arrangements were called on to coordinate their efforts to cope with the surge in food prices. The declaration called for countries to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of food aid.

Summit participants also commented on the financial distress of low-income countries that are net importers of food. Some of these countries suffer from balance-of-payment and budgetary difficulties because of the surge in import prices. According to the declaration, and in acknowledgement of a likely sustained increase in food prices, international financial institutions were asked to facilitate an adjustment by providing necessary support, as well as to review debt servicing requirements. The document also mentioned the need for existing financial mechanisms to begin supporting agriculture and environment.

The second line of action: channel support back to the agriculture sector

After addressing the urgent need for food assistance and humanitarian relief, the declaration emphasised the need for an appropriate set of policies that support agricultural trade and production. Global market integration, reduced barriers to trade, and capacity building through improved agricultural inputs were particular areas of emphasis.

In recognition of the urgency to increase production, development partners of the FAO were invited to participate in technical assistance initiatives involving

improved, locally adapted seed varieties, fertilisers, and other agricultural inputs. Many small farmers lack access to the resources that can improve production; improved access, coupled with a broad range of policy changes, could help farmers scale up production to keep pace with demand. Also, the declaration called on international institutions to assist countries in developing their food stocks -- a financially challenging proposition for many -- to help dampen the potential swings in prices faced by both producers and consumers.

The Doha round of trade negotiations was explicitly mentioned by Members of the WTO. They reiterated "their willingness to reach comprehensive and ambitious results conducive to improving food security in developing countries." The declaration went further in reaffirming the "need to minimise the use of restrictive measures that could increase the volatility" of food prices. Negotiations at the WTO have focused on reducing developed country subsidies and improving access to developed country markets for developing country exports. Some argue that lowered barriers to trade and subsidies would spur agricultural production in developing countries.

### Looking to the future

The summit declaration set out a series of longer term measures and objectives to reduce hunger, decrease the vulnerability to shocks of the food system, and address the challenges and opportunities that climate change and biofuels present.

In language less pressing than that on short-term measures, the declaration urged governments to prioritise agriculture, fisheries, and forest management so as to protect the needs of small farmers, indigenous people, and vulnerable areas. Preservation of biodiversity and mitigation of climate change through investment and the transfer of technology were suggested as a means help governments achieve their policy objectives.

The summit also called for liberalisation of agricultural trade; investment in research and development was also given a high priority. Member states were encouraged to develop a set of policies to promote investment in agricultural technologies. The private sector in particular was recognised as a source of potential research, application, transfer and dissemination of improved technologies and approaches to agriculture.

On biofuels, the declaration proposed that an additional international forum be organised to present the findings of in-depth research that international bodies need to

conduct. According to the declaration, there is need for clarity on the sustainability of biofuels, especially in relation to food security.

### Countries react

Countries neither arrived at nor departed from the conference with a unified stance on the issues discussed. The declaration proved controversial for some. Argentina, Cuba and Venezuela opposed language in the draft declaration that did not clarify the causes of the food crisis. Identifying agricultural trade policies and subsidies as the main culprits, Argentina stated that on "the basis of mistaken diagnosis... no appropriate remedy can be found." Venezuela lamented that "an opportunity was lost" to address the "structural problem" of hunger. The reference to "restrictive measures" in trade policies drew the ire of some attendees, causing some to call for its deletion. Also, the absence of initiatives under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and language against the violations of international laws threatening food security from the declaration caused some consternation. Though some countries remained unsatisfied with the declaration, they did not block its adoption.

### Protests in parallel

Civil society representatives, including farmer activists and representatives of indigenous groups gathered in 'Forum Terra Preta', which was held in parallel to the FAO summit in Rome. The groups issued a platform for collective action, calling for food sovereignty, the national capacity for food self-sufficiency, and the right to food. They were critical of futures trading and speculation of agricultural commodities and provided a variety of proposals for an ecologically considerate approach to agriculture. They called for immediate criminal proceedings against corporations or governments that have denied others the right to food and the creation of a UN Commission on Food Security. The organisations also committed themselves to monitoring the outcomes and goals of the FAO summit.

Additionally, humanitarian group Oxfam International protested the use of biofuels, but did not participate in the Forum Terra Preta.

Background report on food prices, trade and agricultural production

In a report entitled "Soaring Food Prices: Facts, Perspectives, Impacts and Actions Required" -- issued before the summit in Rome -- the FAO outlined recent developments in agricultural markets and production, and predicted the impact of rising food prices. The

report identified 22 vulnerable countries and recommended a two-pronged approach of addressing immediate food security needs and increasing agricultural production.

The report listed weather-related shortfalls, declining stock levels, and increasing fuel costs as important causes of a decrease in the supply of commodities. Currently, world food stocks are at historic lows and cannot withstand shocks in either supply or demand. Rising fuel prices have increased the price of not just agricultural inputs, but transportation as well. The increase in oil prices has effectively rendered cereals, such as maize, viable for the production of ethanol. Moreover, OECD subsidies of US\$11-12 billion have only encouraged the use of cereals for energy.

Emerging markets have long been cited as sources of demand-led increases in food prices. However, the report challenged these assertions by pointing out that China has been a net cereal exporter on average. Although India is a net importer, its cereal imports have consistently declined since the 1990s. Shifting patterns of consumption away from starchy cereals and towards meat and dairy may be strengthening the linkages between commodities, but do not fully explain the rise in food prices. Additionally, financial markets have recently come under scrutiny to help explain the change in prices. According to the report, the ability to spread financial risk, along with liquidity in the financial markets, allowed investors to enter the commodity spot markets in a way that influenced the decisions of farmers, traders, and processors of agricultural commodities. Studies conducted by the IMF and OECD do not draw a wholly causal relationship between commodity prices and speculation. The report considers speculation a contributory factor.

The trend in declining food prices was long blamed for a stagnation and decline in income for many poor farmers. Therefore, the report views the recent rise in food prices as a potential opportunity. An increase in food prices can potentially raise the incomes of small farmers while bolstering international food security. However, an appropriate set of flanking policies is necessary. Both the FAO report and the Declaration on World Food Security suggest that high food prices are here to stay. Drawing a constructive set of solutions from the current crisis will continue to be an important concern for officials in Geneva, Rome, and in national capitals.

Additional resources:

World Declaration on Food Security is available at [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/foodclimate/HLCdocs/declaration-E.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/foodclimate/HLCdocs/declaration-E.pdf)

The report "Soaring Food Prices: Facts, Perspectives, Impacts and Actions Required" is available at [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/foodclimate/HLCdocs/HLC08-inf-1-E.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/foodclimate/HLCdocs/HLC08-inf-1-E.pdf)

For daily reports and a summary of the World Food Summit by IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin, visit <http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/wfs/>

ICTSD Reporting.

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## WITH THE CLOCK TICKING, COUNTRIES PUSH FOR NAMA CONSENSUS

Negotiators from several developed and developing countries kicked off talks in Geneva on Monday in a concerted push to revive struggling negotiations to reduce barriers to trade in industrial goods.

The talks, which are expected to last one to two weeks, involve a mix of rich and poor countries, including the US - the host of the talks - Canada, Japan, and the EU, as well as Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and Malaysia.

The chair of the industrial goods committee at the WTO, Canadian Ambassador Don Stephenson, called off the deadlocked negotiations last week, telling Members that further gatherings would be futile unless delegations showed some willingness to compromise (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 June 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/08-06-04/story1.htm>).

The renewed push for consensus follows calls from WTO Director General Pascal Lamy for delegates to prepare for a meeting of ministers in Geneva at some point this summer, potentially as early as the end of June. Major differences in the draft texts on industrial goods, as well as agriculture and other areas, will have to be overcome before high-level officials can engage in the sort of cross-sector trade-offs that will be necessary to bring about a successful conclusion to the Doha round of trade talks. The liberalisation of trade in industrial goods, or non-agricultural market access (NAMA), is considered one of the pillars of the round, which is now in its seventh year.

Of all of the ongoing negotiations at the WTO, the NAMA talks have proven most contentious. Whether progress is made in that area will most likely determine whether and when a ministerial meeting could take place.



Sources indicated that participants in this week's informal industrial goods meeting expect to discuss a wide range of NAMA issues, including tariff reduction formulas, sectoral initiatives, customs union flexibilities, and special concessions for new WTO Members.

One area of contention is the EU and US opposition to a provision in the chair's draft text that would allow developing countries that are also members of customs unions to exclude trade that occurs within the union when they calculate the value of the trade that they can exempt from negotiated tariff cuts. The provision is widely considered to be in the interest of members of Mercosur, the South American trade bloc that includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

The EU and the US maintain that this provision, which Brazil has strongly backed in the meetings this week, would allow the qualifying countries to exempt an inordinately high percentage of their industrial goods trade from agreed tariff reductions.

No schedule has been set for the informal meetings, but sources indicate that delegates will continue to meet until either significant progress is made or they reach a stalemate. While delegates are trying to remain optimistic, sources suggest that, in some cases, countries' stances in the official negotiations seem to be hardening and becoming more extreme. Given the tone, one delegate expressed scepticism over the potential for any real progress.

### **India, US, EU to meet**

Meanwhile, trade ministers from India, the US, and the EU are to meet in Washington later this week to attempt to hammer out differences on market access for agricultural and industrial goods. The high-level meeting comes on the heels of an accusation by the US that India has been trying to prevent a successful conclusion to the Doha talks. "It is disappointing that India has been a roadblock to success in the Doha negotiations," said US Under Secretary of Commerce Christopher Padilla at a forum in Washington last week.

"The time is fast approaching when India's stance on Doha may result in the failure of the Doha round," he said.

ICTSD reporting; "US accuses India of trying to wreck WTO talks," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 10 June 2008; "WTO members launch push for industry deal," REUTERS, 9 June 2008.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **ACTA NEGOTIATIONS MOVE FORWARD AMID CONTROVERSY**

Delegations from twelve nations and the European Union (EU) met in Geneva on 3-4 June to discuss the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), an agreement that proposes to strengthen the level of intellectual property enforcement standards related to goods and services.

Participants of the first official meeting comprised developed and key developing nations, including Australia, Canada, the EU Japan, Jordan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States.

In a statement issued after the meeting, participants indicated that border measures were the focus of the discussion, particularly the matter of how to deal with large-scale intellectual property infringements, which can frequently involve criminal elements and pose a threat to public health and safety.

Participants also discussed future engagement with domestic stakeholders and agreed to proceed on that front and to identify opportunities for further engagement in the future.

Participants described the discussions as useful and indicated that they were satisfied with the progress to date.

At their next meeting, which has been tentatively scheduled for mid-July, countries expect to continue discussions on border enforcement while also exploring other areas, such as civil enforcement.

The draft text proposals discussed at the meeting have not been made available.

### **Negotiations generate concerns**

In October of last year, US Trade Representative Susan Schwab announced that the US would seek to negotiate the ACTA agreement, with the aim of establishing a stronger set of standards for the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

USTR has called ACTA a "new and dynamic effort to combat the challenges of counterfeiting and piracy today." It added that "the ACTA is envisioned as a

leadership effort among trading partners that will raise the international standard for IPR enforcement."

However, the leakage last month of a USTR discussion paper on ACTA has spurred criticism of both the agreement itself and the secrecy of the discussions surrounding it. While ACTA negotiations have been ongoing, the text under discussion has not been made available to the public and civil society. Instead, the agreement is being negotiated directly mainly among the key developed countries and will bypass existing structures such as the WTO and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

A number of non-governmental organisations such as the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) have expressed their concerns about the initiative, underlining the lack of transparency that has characterised the ACTA negotiating process to this point.

Both organisations made submissions to the USTR in February 2008 in response to a request for public comments on the proposed agreement.

EFF expressed its belief that no empirical evidence had been provided justifying the creation of a new TRIPs-plus plurilateral intellectual property enforcement treaty backed by the sanctions of international trade law.

KEI warned against a lack of clear definitions of core terms such as counterfeiting, infringement and piracy.

For their part, IP right holders and business groups, such as the International Trademark Association (INTA) and The International Chamber of Commerce's (ICC) Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP), in an April press release welcomed the news that the EU would join in the ACTA negotiations as well.

In the statement, ICC Secretary General Guy Sebban emphasised the importance of developing a robust treaty: "In order to be relevant, ACTA must deliver significant improvements over existing multilateral guidelines by establishing stronger international standards for government performance on intellectual property enforcement."

In the absence of a publicly available draft text, there has been active speculation about the measures envisaged by ACTA.

Michael Geist, a law professor at the University of Ottawa, has called on governments to lift the 'veil of secrecy' hanging over the treaty. "Trade negotiators

may prefer to remain outside of the spotlight, yet greater transparency is desperately needed," he said.

William Patry, a commentator on copyright issues underlined that "the failure to open it up now speaks loudly about its proponents' purposes and our worst fears of its substance."

A US trade official estimated that negotiations will wrap up within the year. "The United States will strive to complete the agreement before the end of 2008," the official said.

ACTA comes at a time when developed countries have persistently raised the enforcement issue at the WTO and in WIPO facing reluctance from developing countries to engage in substantive discussions and in particular ones that might lead to new standards in this area. In recent years, US bilateral free trade agreements have included a set of specific enforcement obligations beyond the internationally agreed minimum standards embodied in the TRIPs Agreement. This is also the case increasingly of bilateral trade agreement negotiated by the EU, as in its Economic Partnership Agreements with a number of developing countries

ACTA negotiations are perceived by some analysts as an example of "forum shopping" in the international intellectual property system, in the sense that developed countries pursue bilateral and plurilateral agreements to advance their interests while circumventing multilateral forums.

ICTSD reporting. "Proposed multilateral agreement to combat counterfeiting moving forward," AG IP NEWS, 16 April 2008.

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## TRIPS NEGOTIATIONS: NEW REPORTS AND NON-PAPERS ARE PRESENTED

The World Trade Organisation released two reports on Monday outlining the state of play in negotiations on a register for geographical indications (GIs), extension for GIs, and an amendment to the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) agreement. The reports present a factual account of the latest issues under discussion; they do not suggest potential compromises.

Chair of the TRIPS special sessions, Ambassador Manzoor Ahmad (Pakistan), authored a document (TN/IP/18) on negotiations regarding the creation of a multilateral system for registering GIs - product names

associated with places and characteristics - for wines and spirits. Ahmad's report declined to discuss the TRIPS biodiversity amendment or GI extension issues, calling them "beyond the mandate" of the special session he chairs, which is limited only to issues regarding the GI registry for wines and spirits.

In the report, Ahmad points out that agreement has yet to be reached on both the legal form of the eventual outcome and on institutional arrangements for the management and servicing of the register. Views vary between establishing a binding multilateral register and a voluntary system of notification. Other debateable points include which GIs to register, what information should accompany registration, generic names (names customary in general language) and translation issues.

The second report (WT/GC/W/591 - TN/C/W/50), issued by Director-General Pascal Lamy, covered whether to extend enhanced protection for GIs beyond wine and spirits (GI extension) and the possibility of a tandem amendment to the TRIPS agreement in line with commitments regarding the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

GI extension, which is discussed separately from the register, would provide the higher protection given to wine and spirits GIs to other GI products, such as Brie cheese. However, differences remain on the merits of GI extension and on whether it was agreed at Doha to include this as part of the negotiations or of the Single Undertaking.

Included in Lamy's paper was reference to an official submission (WT/GC/W/590 - TN/C/W/49) by India last week to the highest-level negotiating body, the Trade Negotiations Committee that operates under the WTO General Council. India submitted the document, which argues in favour of the TRIPS biodiversity amendment, on behalf of a large group of developing countries, including the least developed country group and the Africa Caribbean and Pacific group. The amendment in question concerns the introduction of a mandatory requirement for the disclosure of origin of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge in patent applications.

### **Non-papers submitted**

Meanwhile, two recent 'non-papers' reflect the division in negotiations, reasoning either for or against the inclusion of these three IP issues in the agenda of the forthcoming TRIPS General Council meeting, scheduled to take place as part of the horizontal negotiations on modalities in agriculture and non-agricultural market access.

On the one hand, some WTO Members believe that these issues should be part of the horizontal process in order to have modality texts that reflect ministerial agreement on the key parameters for negotiating a final draft legal text as part of the single undertaking. Yet other Members maintain that no further guidance is necessary since the existing mandate is sufficiently clear and technical work can and should be pursued on this basis.

A non-paper circulated last week argues against including these issues from the modalities decision. The sponsors of the 6 June non-paper, comprising Australia, Canada, Chile, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Taiwan, and the US, feel that at "the current delicate stage in the [Doha] negotiations should not be unnecessarily disrupted by efforts to rush, revisit, reinterpret or change our existing negotiating mandates."

In particular, the eight countries believe that including the highly technical and controversial nature of these issues creates an 'artificial parallelism', whereby each has its own terms of reference and subject matter.

Mexican delegate Carlos Vejar Borrego has stated that "it is not the moment to include these issues on the agenda of the ministerial meeting. We can reach an agreement on Doha without these three TRIPS issues on the table. It will endanger the process, as ministers are not going to get any consensus on these issues as the views are too opposed. We are not against negotiations on these issues but we think there is still room for discussions within the TRIPS Council despite the antagonism."

The most recent non-paper was circulated as an answer to a 26 May non-paper that argued for the inclusion of these issues at the forthcoming meeting and that has reportedly garnered the support of some 110 countries.

This non-paper had been submitted by countries each a proponent of some of the IP issues at stake: the EU and Switzerland, who are pushing for GI extension, and Brazil and India, who are seeking the TRIPS biodiversity amendment. While these two issues had been linked in discussions before, this was the first time proponents of both issues have submitted a jointly written text.

These countries are anxious to begin 'negotiations on substance', rather than continuing discussions on whether there is a mandate to negotiate the issues. Guilherme Patriota from the Permanent Mission of Brazil has said, "we have been talking for years; we want decisions on these issues now."



Patriota further explains that the inclusion of these three issues on the agenda of the General Council does not commit on substance: "it is merely process based ... we want to overcome the negotiations debate and move to the next level, for that we need a decision by ministers."

Similarly, Alejandro Neyra from the Permanent Mission of Peru maintains that these three issues are too important to leave out and that "we don't want to continue discussions on whether we have a mandate to negotiation, we want to discuss content."

The May non-paper was labelled as a 'draft text for inclusion' in the two reports issued on Monday. Although the exact wording did not make it into either report, Lamy's document acknowledged that a large number of Member states proposed the inclusion of intellectual property issues in forthcoming talks.

Ultimately, it is up to the General Council to set the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

ICTSD reporting; "Reports on WTO IP Negotiations released," INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WATCH.

## IN BRIEF

### CANADA AND COLOMBIA FINALISE FTA FINE PRINT

Canada and Colombia have announced the conclusion of negotiations that will establish a free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries, pending legal and parliamentary reviews. The deal, which has drawn criticism from human rights groups, aims to improve market access for agricultural products and industrial goods and to provide a more secure environment for investment.

The finalisation of the agreement, which was announced on Saturday, came as a surprise to Canadian opposition leaders, who accused Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government of pushing the pact through simply to appease US President George W. Bush. The Bush administration, which has inked a similar pact with Colombia, is currently pressing the US Congress to enact that legislation.

If the deal wins legislative approval, Canadian companies will benefit from the elimination of Colombian tariffs on most industrial products, such as

paper, machinery, and textiles, and on the majority of agricultural products, including wheat and barley. A variety of other goods - ranging from pork to whiskey - are also among those slated to have their tariffs phased out.

Like Canada's recent trade pact with Peru (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 June 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/08-06-04/inbrief.htm#2>), the Colombian FTA was negotiated in parallel with labour and environmental agreements to "ensure that progress on labour rights and environmental protection goes hand in hand with economic progress," according to a statement released by the Canadian government. Together the FTAs are part of Canada's Global Commerce Strategy to pursue more bilateral FTAs and re-engage both socially and economically throughout the Americas.

The negotiations, which began last July, have encountered opposition from human rights groups concerned about Colombia's record of narcotics trafficking and political death squads.

However, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, David Emerson, maintains that engaging with countries like Colombia through trade and investment deals can have a positive effect.

"The free trade agreement will expand Canada-Colombia trade and investment, and will help solidify ongoing efforts by the government of Colombia to create a more prosperous, equitable and secure democracy," he said.

Merchandise trade between the two countries amounted to US\$1.14 billion in 2007.

ICTSD reporting. "Canada concludes negotiations for Free Trade, Labour Cooperation and Environment Agreements with Colombia," NEWS RELEASE, 7 June 2008; "Canada concludes Colombia free trade talks," REUTERS, 7 June 2008; "Canada reaches free-trade deal with Colombia," THE CANADIAN PRESS, 7 June 2008; "Canada, Colombia reach agreement on free trade," THE CANADIAN PRESS, 7 June 2008; "Canadian opposition slams Colombia free trade deal," REUTERS, 9 June 2008.

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## WTO IN BRIEF

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### US TPR RECOMMENDS CONTINUED OPENNESS TO COMBAT ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY

The WTO's ninth trade policy review (TPR; WT/TPR/S/200) of the world's largest economy called on the US to cut market barriers to calm economic turmoil and increase exports to narrow the country's current account deficit. The biennial review further recommended that the US reduce trade barriers and cut its subsidies to the agricultural and energy sectors.

In addressing the US current account deficit, which reached a record of US\$811.5 billion in 2006, the review cautioned the US over the dangers of establishing protective barriers to restrict imports.

US ambassador to the WTO, Peter F. Allgeier, agreed with that conclusion in a statement released on Monday, acknowledging that to reduce the current account deficit the US should expand its exports and further liberalise its trading system.

However, in an official statement released two days later, the US maintained that its current trade imbalance "can only be fully understood as part of a broader imbalance in global trade," and that successfully addressing that issue "cannot be achieved by the actions of any one country alone."

While the US has affirmed its commitment to the successful conclusion of the Doha round of trade talks, in a statement released on Monday the Chinese Ambassador to the WTO, Sun Zhenyu, questioned this ambition given the "rising sentiment of protectionism in the United States," as reflected in last month's passage of the farm bill (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 May 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/08-05-28/story5.htm>).

The Chinese ambassador further called on the US to stabilise its depreciating currency, noting that the falling dollar has shrunk many countries' national reserves and reduced social welfare.

"We hope the US will not tell us this time as they did in the early 1970s to the Europeans, that 'it is our currency, but it is your problem'," he said.

The EU, in its official response to the review, similarly warned of "worrying signs of a re-emergence of protectionism" in US trade policy, pointing to - in

addition to the farm bill - the US' mounting import requirements for security purposes.

The EU also urged the US to end its controversial use of 'zeroing' in its anti-dumping calculations, decrying "the un-willingness of the United States to accept rulings of the Dispute Settlement Body," which has ruled the practise incompatible with multilateral trade rules.

ICTSD reporting; "Trade Policy Review Report by the Secretariat: United States," 9 June, 2008; "China asks US to help stabilise dollar," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 9 June, 2008; "U.S. domestic support may affect global markets: WTO trade policy review," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 9 June, 2008; "India raps US for not following WTO norms," REDIFF, 10 June, 2008.

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### WTO PANEL REJECTS US APPEAL, UPHOLDING BRAZIL'S VICTORY IN COTTON DISPUTE

In a ruling issued last week, the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) upheld Brazil's complaint that US subsidies to its upland cotton producers violate the country's world trade obligations. Brasilia maintains that the US payments suppress global cotton prices and allow US cotton producers to control a disproportionate share of the market.

The DSB's ruling, which confirms Brazil's view after several years of disputes and appeals, marks the first time that a developed country's agricultural policy has been successfully challenged at the WTO.

In December, five years after Brazil first requested a consultation, a WTO panel issued a report, known as Article 21.5, upholding Brazil's claim that the marketing loans and countercyclical payments that the US offers its cotton farmers violate both the Agreement on Special and Countervailing Measures and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The US appealed that ruling in February, maintaining that its cotton payments fall outside the scope of Article 21.5 and that they do not significantly suppress global cotton prices.

The panel, in its report last week, again sided with Brazil, rejecting the US appeal. It was convinced by Brazil's arguments that even a small drop in prices harms Brazilian producers, given their narrow profit

margins, and that US cotton producers' 'artificially high' market share reflects the impact of these subsidies.

Furthermore, the DSB ruling allows Brazil to retaliate by imposing more than US\$1 billion worth of sanctions on US imports each year. The WTO has suggested that this could take the form of a suspension of intellectual property rights.

While the ruling will prove encouraging to developing country trade negotiators, it is far from certain that the US will terminate its cotton subsidies. Indeed, after the issuing of an interim report by the WTO last July, then-US Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said that his government would "work very, very hard" to maintain payments to domestic cotton producers. This stance was confirmed in the farm bill passed by the US Congress last month. That legislation offers cotton producers subsidies of US\$2-4 billion for over the next five years.

ICTSD reporting. "Brazil claims WTO cotton victory," BBC NEWS, 27 July 2007; "US loses in cotton dispute at WTO," BBC NEWS, 2 June 2008; "US loses WTO Brazil cotton appeal," AL JAZEERA INTERNATIONAL, 2 June 2008.

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### VACANCY

The Bretton Woods Project is seeking a new coordinator to run a key international network which monitors and advocates for reform of the IFIs. Responsibilities include managing a small team, networking with decision makers, technical experts and campaigners, facilitating research and lobbying by UK and international network members, preparing written analyses and making public presentations. The successful candidate will have a thorough knowledge of global development issues, a passion for creating change, excellent management skills and an ability to think strategically and influence diplomatically. Please send your current CV plus a cover letter. The letter should answer these questions: Give an example of a major strategic dilemma you have faced in your work (ideally one on a global policy issue), describe how you dealt with it and what lessons you learned; Why do you consider your management experience and style would enable you to run the Bretton Woods Project? Send either by post to: Job Application, Bretton Woods Project, c/o Action Aid, Hamlyn House, Macdonald Road, London N19 5PG,

UK. Or by e-mail to: [jobs@brettonwoodsproject.org](mailto:jobs@brettonwoodsproject.org), marked "Application Coordinator" in the subject line. The deadline for applications is 16 June. For full details please refer to <http://brettonwoodsproject.org/jobs>.

## 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](mailto:events@ictsd.ch).

### Upcoming events: June 12-19

12 June, Toronto, Canada. CANADA CHINA ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM 2008. The Canada China Environmental Forum is designed to stimulate ideas, encourage partnerships, and inspire Canadian and Chinese businesses to create relationships and opportunities that have significant impact for the environment in both Canada and China. This event allows participants to join the discussion and learn the significant economic, social and environmental opportunities and benefits that are possible from the collaboration of business, government and civil groups in Canada and China. Breakout sessions will focus upon the Green Building Sector in China, Risk Mitigation and Protecting Intellectual Property Rights in China, and a unique market entry strategy: the Role of CSR in China. For further information, please refer to [www.canadachinagreen.com](http://www.canadachinagreen.com).

12 June, London, UK. PROSPECTS FOR KOREA'S ENERGY DIPLOMACY. Hosted by Chatham House, Dr Jae-Seung Lee, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Korea University will present on energy security and Korea's energy diplomacy. For further information, please refer to <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/864/>.

12 June, London, UK. THE CHINA PRICE. In association with Chatham House Alex Harney will present on 'the China price' - a term that for years executives used to describe ultra-cheap exports from China. Today, that price is finally starting to rise, as raw materials, wages, environmental pressures and land prices increase. Thousands of factories are closing in southern China, and executives say this is only the beginning. What does the future hold for China's export sector? How are the new labour and environmental rules and enforcements affecting business? Will we be talking about 'the Vietnam price' in a few years time?

For further information, please refer to <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/853/>.

13-14 June, Osaka, Japan. G8 FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING. The Summit has been held annually since 1975 as a meeting for heads of state regarding economic issues among the leading developed nations. The finance minister and foreign minister of each country, as well as the head of state, have participated from the outset. The finance ministers meeting is an important preliminary to the summit proper. Subjects discussed at this meeting on previous occasions have spanned a wide range of areas, including not only international financial issues such as hedge funds, but also issues having a large impact on the global economy, such as energy, climate change and other global environmental issues, and the development of and elimination of poverty in Africa. For further information, please refer to <http://www.g8finance.mof.go.jp/index.html>.

14 June - 14 September, Zaragoza, Spain. EXPO ZARAGOZA 2008: WATER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This three-month public event, which adopts 'water and sustainable development' as its theme, is expected to attract a large audience, and will feature a specially constructed 'Water Tower' that will have a capacity of 1630 visitors per hour. For more information contact: Expo Zaragoza 2008; tel: +34 976 70 20 08; fax: +34 976 20 40 09; internet: <http://www.zaragoza2008.com>.

15-16 June, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON EAST ASIA. The 17th World Economic Forum on East Asia returns to Malaysia in 2008, where 300 leaders from over 20 countries will convene to debate the challenges and priorities that will ultimately shape the region's future agenda. At a time when the Association of South East Asian Nations now has an economic blueprint and charter, Japan holds the G8 presidency, and the economic influence of China and India continues to rise, participants will examine the need for a common agenda in East Asia on key regional and global challenges. The programme for this meeting is designed to generate insight and guide action to improve the alignment of the region's industrial, political and economic agendas. For further information, please refer to <http://www.weforum.org/en/events/WorldEconomicForumEastAsia2008/index.htm>.

16 June, London, UK. ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE ENERGY SECTOR IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES. In association with Chatham House, this experts' roundtable will be addressed by Lucio de Souza, discussant Julian Cooper. For further

information, please refer to <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/868/>.

16-20 June, Nairobi, Kenya. 25TH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA. The African regional meeting of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations on food security will take place on 16-20 June. For further information, please refer to [http://www.fao.org/Unfao/Bodies/RegConferences/arc25/Index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/Unfao/Bodies/RegConferences/arc25/Index_en.htm).

16-17 June, London, England. A NEW GLOBAL CLIMATE DEAL? ACHIEVING REAL COLLABORATION FOR A LOW CARBON FUTURE. The 11th Chatham House conference on Climate Change, in association with the International Institute for Sustainable Development, will present leading thinkers and practitioners to take stock of current climate change action and adopt a real-world approach to international collaboration on key issues. Experts and leaders from governments, international organisations and multinationals will discuss topics including how to balance economic growth with the need for emissions reductions in developing countries, developing low carbon technologies, carbon markets and equity, and climate strategies that can be agreed to in Copenhagen 2009. For further information, please refer to <https://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/conferences/view/-/id/118/>.

17 June, Seoul, Korea. CHANGING LANDSCAPES: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY IN ASIA - DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCE, RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT AND CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP. This meeting is jointly hosted by Principles for Responsible Investment, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Finance Initiative and UN Global Compact. It will offer a platform for dialogue among financiers, investors and businesses on the latest issues in the field of sustainable finance, responsible investment and corporate citizenship. In addition, special joint breakout sessions will examine in greater detail environmental, social and governance factors across the business activities of financial institutions, institutional investors and corporations. For further information, please refer to <http://www.changinglandscapes.org/>.

17 June, Washington DC, US. CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRADE. Global climate change has become a "hot" issue for policy makers inside and outside the beltway. Over the past several years, a number of proposals have been floated to reduce greenhouse gases, promote sustainable manufacturing, and encourage the development of environment friendly technologies. Many of these proposals will directly or indirectly affect international trade policies of the US



and foreign governments. What are the trade implications of the global climate change debate? Which proposals create potential conflicts with international trade rules, and what is being done to resolve those conflicts? How do US proposals compare with those coming from our trading partners? How will this issue fare in the upcoming elections? To answer these and other questions, please join the Washington International Trade Association (WITA) as we hear from a distinguished panel of experts on the trade implications of the global climate change debate. For further information, please refer to [http://www.wita.org/index.php?tg=addon/4/form&idx=2&id\\_app=25&id\\_step=79&id\\_form=62&form\\_row=931&popup=0&parent\\_id\\_form=40&parent\\_id\\_step=78&form\\_menu=&trt\\_step=1&form\\_value=Climate%2BChange%2BAnd%2BTrade](http://www.wita.org/index.php?tg=addon/4/form&idx=2&id_app=25&id_step=79&id_form=62&form_row=931&popup=0&parent_id_form=40&parent_id_step=78&form_menu=&trt_step=1&form_value=Climate%2BChange%2BAnd%2BTrade).

17 June, London, UK. **FOOD PRICES: WHERE NEXT?** The presentation, hosted by Chatham House, will be made by Alexander Evans, non-resident Fellow, Center on International Cooperation, New York University, and author of the Chatham House Briefing Paper 'Rising Food Prices: Drivers and Implications for Development'. Recent months have seen rapidly mounting concern over global food prices, which have risen 83 per cent over the last three years. This discussion will focus on the outlook over the medium to longer term, examine whether recent price increases are likely to be sustained, and explore what policy actions are under consideration in agriculture, trade and on the demand side. For further information, please refer to <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/856/>.

17 June, Geneva, Switzerland. **HIGH LEVEL NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE ON FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY.** The purpose of the event is to assess the underlying causes and policy dilemmas related to energy security, food security and livelihood security and multilateral responses required to correct the systemic issues. The dialogue is organised by the South Centre and co-sponsored with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations. For further information, please refer to [http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=630&Itemid=119](http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=630&Itemid=119).

17 June, worldwide. **WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION.** The theme for 2008 World Day to Combat Desertification, 'Combating Land Degradation for Sustainable Agriculture', corresponds with the thematic agenda items to be discussed during the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development: agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. For more information contact: tel: +49-228-815-2800; fax: +49-228-815-2898; e-mail: [secretariat@unccd.int](mailto:secretariat@unccd.int); internet: <http://www.unccd.int>.

17-18 June, Seoul, Korea. **CHANGING LANDSCAPES: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY IN ASIA - DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCE, RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT AND CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP.** This meeting is jointly hosted by Principles for Responsible Investment, the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative and the United Nations Global Compact. It will offer a platform for dialogue between financiers, investors and businesses on the latest issues in the field of sustainable finance, responsible investment and corporate citizenship. In addition, special joint breakout sessions will examine in greater detail environmental, social and governance factors across the business activities of financial institutions, institutional investors and corporations. For more information contact: Yuki Yasui; e-mail: [yuki.yasui@unep.ch](mailto:yuki.yasui@unep.ch); internet: <http://www.changinglandscapes.org/>.

## WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: [http://www.wto.org/meets\\_public/meets\\_e.pdf](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.

9-11 June: **TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

13 June: **WTO INTRODUCTION DAY**

16 June: **COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES**

17-18 June: **COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

## Other Upcoming Events

23-27 June, Bali, Indonesia. **NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL CONVENTION.** The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP-9) on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste will convene in Bali, Indonesia. COP-9 will address, inter alia, the implementation of the Strategic Plan; Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres; synergies and cooperation with other chemicals conventions; e-waste and end-of-life equipment; and



ship dismantling. For more information contact Secretariat of the Basel Convention; tel: +41 22-917-8218; fax: +41-22-797-3454; e-mail: [sbc@unep.ch](mailto:sbc@unep.ch); internet: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/meetings.html>

24 June - 1 July, Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt. 11TH AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT. This Summit will take as its theme 'Meeting the Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation'. It will involve the African Heads of States and Government, and will be comprised of three elements: the Permanent Representatives Committee (24-25 June); the Executive Council (27-28 June); and the Assembly of the African Union (30 June-1 July). For more information, please refer to <http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/2008/june/summit/summit.htm>.

30 June - 1 July, New York, US. ECOSOC DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM. The biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) is one of the principal new functions of a strengthened Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Mandated to enhance the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it, the DCF will be held every other year within the framework of the High-level Segment of the Council. For further information, please contact: Marion Barthelemy; tel: +1 (212) 963-4005; fax: +1 (212) 963-2812; e-mail: [barthelemy1@un.org](mailto:barthelemy1@un.org); internet: <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/develop.shtml>.

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## RESOURCES

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD: NO BASIS FOR CONCLUDING THE DOHA ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. By Kevin P. Gallagher and Timothy A. Wise, April 2008. Research and Information System for Developing Countries Policy Brief. Negotiators continue to work desperately to achieve a breakthrough in the World Trade Organisation's Doha Round. Their goal is to get an agreement by the end of 2008. In this policy brief published by the Indian Institute of Research and Information Systems (RIS), the authors review the economic projections, from the World Bank and other institutions, that show how limited the gains are for most developing countries and how high the hidden costs of an agreement could be. With projected gains of less than 0.2 percent of GDP, poverty reduction of just 2.5 million people (less than 1 percent), tariff losses of at least US\$63 billion, and projected declines in the relative value of exports, developing countries have

little to gain from rushing to conclude Doha. To access the policy brief, please refer to <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/RISPolicyBrief36DohaMay08.pdf>.

THE GROWTH REPORT: STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINED GROWTH AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT. Commission on Growth and Development, May 2008. This report analyses, among other issues, whether developing countries can grow as fast as the fastest growing economies without causing global greenhouse gases to spiral out of control. The answer is negative unless technology and new techniques are used to "radically" reduce the amount of energy needed to produce goods, as well as cut CO2 emissions, says the growth report. The report is the result of two years' work on the requirements for sustained and inclusive growth in developing countries led by 19 experienced policymakers and two Nobel prize-winning economists. The report is available at <http://www.growthcommission.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=96&Itemid=169>.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS: A NOTE ON ISSUES, SOME SOLUTIONS AND SOME SUGGESTIONS. By Krishna Ravi Srinivas. Asian Journal of WTO and International Health Law and Policy, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 81-120, March 2008. This article discusses the issues in intellectual property protection for traditional knowledge. After discussing the definitional issues in traditional knowledge, it examines the current global debates on this issue. It identifies some solutions and provides an analysis of the solutions. It then highlights the North-South divide in this issue and the predicament of the south in finding an acceptable solution. It ends with some suggestions for arriving at a solution and argues that there is a need to go beyond intellectual property rights to resolve this issue. This paper is available at [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1140623](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1140623).

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