

### LEAD STORIES

MEMBERS SEARCHING FOR PROGRESS ON AG, NAMA	1
DIVISIONS OVER DISCLOSURE AND PARALLELISM REMAIN UNRESOLVED AT TRIPS COUNCIL MEETING	3

### OTHER NEWS

ACP, EU ADDRESS REGIONAL INTEGRATION, SUGAR, BANANAS	4
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### IN BRIEF

G77 MEETING STRESSES SOUTH-SOUTH SOLIDARITY	6
--	---

EFTA STATES AND COLOMBIA WRAP UP FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS	7
---	---

### WTO IN BRIEF

US AND CANADA APPEAL WTO BEEF HORMONE DISPUTE RULING	7
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### EVENTS & RESOURCES

VACANCY	8
EVENTS	8
RESOURCES	12

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'first approximations' of a Doha accord ahead of the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference later that year. In July 2006, an acrimonious breakdown of discussions among ministers from six key Members led Director-General Pascal Lamy to suspend the negotiations. In 2007 there was another high-profile collapse when the EU, the US, Brazil, and India met in Germany to search for compromise, but ended up finger-pointing.

Since then, the talks have largely steered clear of headline-grabbing summitry, proceeding instead at WTO headquarters in Geneva on the basis of draft deals put together (and subsequently revised) by the chairs of the agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA) negotiating committees.

Nevertheless, ministers will have to be convened at some point if there is to be an agreement, since only they can sign off on concessions on crucial figures determining future tariff and subsidy levels. As recently as a few weeks ago, countries such as the EU had been looking to hold a ministerial meeting in the second half of June. These hopes have faded, as persistent differences lower ministers' chances of successfully reaching an agreement at such a gathering. With US elections looming in November and growing doubts about the relevance of the issues on the table in the multilateral negotiations, now well into their seventh year, Doha's fate is increasingly uncertain.

Near-continuous discussions on agriculture since last fall have yielded slow but necessary progress on a wide range of lower-profile technical issues; the greater clarity about how Members would stand to be affected by a deal leaves them better equipped to actually agree on anything. However, real differences still need to be bridged. NAMA has proved even more intractable, confounding a long-held view that the issue would be relatively easy once countries saw what they were getting on agriculture.

The most recent agriculture and NAMA draft texts were issued on 19 May, the latter to a substantially frostier reception.

Agriculture negotiations chair Ambassador Crawford Falconer has since convened several meetings aimed at identifying potential grounds for consensus that could be reflected in a further revision of his draft. Sources

## LEAD STORIES

### MEMBERS SEARCHING FOR PROGRESS ON AG, NAMA

For the fourth summer in a row, WTO Members are in a push for progress in the Doha Round of trade talks in the run-up to the institution's August holiday.

The previous attempts were unsuccessful: In 2005, governments proved unable to agree on preliminary

say that he might release an updated draft by the last week of this month.

Over the last week, Falconer, in an attempt to generate ideas that could lead to convergence, has been meeting privately with small groups of countries on contentious issues including special products, the special safeguard mechanism (SSM), sensitive products, tropical products, preference erosion, and subsidy cuts.

The notion underlying these informal, non-committal discussions, dubbed a "walk in the woods" (a summertime successor to last winter's "fireside chats"), is that countries may feel freer to consider new ideas than they would in a more formal meeting.

Two specific options have been mentioned on the SSM, a device that allows developing countries to temporarily raise duties beyond formally bound levels in the event of import surges or price depressions. If countries choose to retain the freedom to impose additional duties on an unlimited range of products, then they would have to use Uruguay Round (i.e., pre-Doha tariff cuts) bound rates as a ceiling for tariff-based SSM remedies. Alternatively, countries opting for limited product coverage would be allowed to exceed Uruguay Round bound rates.

On special products, which developing countries alone will be allowed to slate for gentler tariff cuts on the basis of food security, livelihood security and rural development criteria, one option being discussed would split tariff treatment for a country's special product entitlement into two: a certain percentage of special products would be exempt from tariff reduction; the rest would have to be cut by a to-be-negotiated average amount (with each product subject to a minimum reduction).

The group of mostly Latin American countries seeking faster trade liberalisation for 'tropical' products has been meeting in intensive consultations with developed country importers, even during weekends, sources say. The countries are expected to present a list of tropical products in the next two weeks.

Falconer is expected to hold an informal meeting of the entire WTO Membership on 20 June to review progress in these discussions.

Meanwhile, informal talks among a dozen influential WTO Members have made little real headway towards finding a way out of the deadlock on industrial goods trade, sources say (see BRIDGES Weekly, 11 June 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/08-06-11/story3.htm>).

One delegate familiar with the so-called 'G-12' discussions, hosted by the US mission in Geneva, said that although officials were "talking and engaging," they had not really started exploring potential compromises on the most divisive issues.

But the mood music in the polarised negotiations appears to have improved somewhat in the two and a half weeks since NAMA chair Ambassador Don Stephenson (Canada) suspended the talks, saying that countries were not seriously negotiating. Reuters reports that Lamy on 18 June told a 'green room' meeting of delegates from about 30 countries that there had been "some movement forward" on manufacturing trade. Both Stephenson and US Ambassador Peter Algeier briefed the meeting on the talks.

Sources indicate that Stephenson reported better engagement and a heightened sense of urgency. Reuters cited the NAMA chair as pointing to increasing agreement on lesser matters such as the length of the implementation period for tariff cuts: five years for industrialised countries, ten for developing nations.

Still unresolved, however, are the core issues such as the depth of tariff cuts and the extent to which developing countries will be able to shield some products from liberalisation.

The G-12 discussions thus far aimed at trying to understand how countries' imports and exports stood to be affected by various controversial proposals for special tariff treatment, especially those from customs unions such as South America's Mercosur bloc. Officials also looked at the potential effects of an 'anti-concentration' measure that would prevent developing countries from shielding nearly every product in sectors such as automobiles from the full force of tariff reduction.

Senior officials are among those attending the G-12 meetings. Unlike agriculture, the NAMA talks have not seen regular participation by capital-based negotiators - to the detriment of progress, some believe.

It remains unclear when - or indeed if - ministers will be convened in July. A trade meeting prior to the upcoming summit of the Group of Eight industrialised nations from 7-9 July seems improbable.

One of India's top trade officials, Commerce Secretary G K Pillai, this week suggested that the middle of the month was more likely. "All indications are that there will be a ministerial in mid July," he said, according to a report in The Statesman newspaper. "We are looking forward to it."

ICTSD reporting; "Trade officials get to grips with industrial goods," REUTERS, 18 June 2008; "WTO text on agriculture soon," STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE, 17 June 2008.

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## DIVISIONS OVER DISCLOSURE AND PARALLELISM REMAIN UNRESOLVED AT TRIPS COUNCIL MEETING

The first - and ultimately only - day of the meeting of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement Council, originally scheduled for both Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, was characterised by traditional divisions on a handful of issues.

Members' disagreements centred on a proposed amendment to the TRIPS Agreement that would incorporate a disclosure of origin requirement for biological resources (IP/C/W/474), as well as on whether intellectual property (IP) issues should be included in the upcoming horizontal negotiations on modalities in agricultural and non-agricultural market access.

### Key discussions

As has been the practice in previous Council meetings, the agenda items on patenting, biodiversity and the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore were scheduled to be discussed together. However, the debate focused on three subjects, only one of which was included in this framework. Continuing the dialogue on the reports and non-papers circulated over the past weeks (see BRIDGES Weekly, 11 June 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/08-06-11/story5.htm>), delegates discussed the development of a register for geographical indications (GI), the extension of high-level protection to GIs other than wines and spirits, and the possibility of amending the TRIPS Agreement to include a disclosure of origin requirement in patent applications.

In the special negotiating sessions of the TRIPS Council, delegates discussed the possibility of creating a 'GI register' - a multilateral system for registering product names associated with places and characteristics - for wines and spirits. Discussed in consultations chaired by WTO Deputy Director-General Rufus Yerxa, GI extension would provide the higher protection given to wine and spirits GIs to other geographically specific products, such as Brie cheese.

The issue that proved most contentious was the topic of disclosure, which was also discussed in the consultations chaired by Yerxa. Disagreement centred

on the possibility of amending the TRIPS Agreement to bring it in line with commitments regarding the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Specifically, the proposed amendment would require that patent applications disclose the origin of genetic material or traditional knowledge used in their inventions. The current debate is over whether this amendment is the most effective way to stop the misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Consequently, the issue of 'parallelism' was raised, which refers to the question of whether all three of the IP issues in question - the GI register, extension and disclosure - should be included in forthcoming horizontal negotiations on market opening in the agricultural and industrial sectors. Those in favour of parallelism want the negotiations to include all three IP issues, while those against argue that more technical discussion and empirical evidence is required before moving to text-based negotiations. Those opposed further maintain that parallelism would substantially delay progress in Doha negotiations.

### Overall, Members' positions remain unchanged

Proponents of disclosure and parallelism, which include Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Peru and Thailand, were among those who re-emphasised that the support extended to the disclosure proposal amounts to over two-thirds of the WTO Membership. They thus urged the Council to push forward and proceed with text-based negotiations.

Philippines and South Africa spoke against parallelism but in favour of disclosure; Taiwan, while undecided on disclosure, opposed parallelism.

Sources report that critics of both parallelism and disclosure, which include Argentina, Australia, Canada, Korea, Japan, Singapore, and the US, argued that disclosure is not the most effective way of dealing with misappropriation. Those delegations further maintained that including the three controversial IP issues with the other subjects would jeopardise the negotiations on agriculture and industrial products.

Korea, Singapore and the US reiterated that they did not believe that an amendment of the TRIPS Agreement constituted the most effective way to address Members' concerns related to bio-piracy, referring to alternatives such as the database system proposed by Japan (IP/C/W/504 and IP/C/W/472). They maintained that further facts-oriented discussions in the Council were necessary on the issue.

Bolivia, on behalf of its indigenous peoples, declared that it was strongly opposed to the concept that natural resources could pertain to the domain of private property rights, and that patents thus did not constitute the appropriate means of protection.

With respect to enforcement, the EU repeated its view that sanctions for a violation of the disclosure of origin requirement should be sought outside of patent law, as a revocation of patents would endanger the viability of the patent system.

The above discussions took place against the backdrop of the recent circulation of two reports and two non-papers. Of the two reports released 9 June, one was authored by WTO Director General, Pascal Lamy, and considered extension and the relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the CBD (WT/GC/W/591, TN/C/W/50). The other report - compiled by the chairman of the TRIPS special session on the issue, Manzoor Ahmad (Pakistan) - looked at the creation of a GI register.(TN/IP/18). The two non-papers took opposing views on the merits of including IP issues in the horizontal process of Doha negotiations (see BRIDGES Weekly, 11 June 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/08-06-11/story5.htm>).

### Also on the agenda

Moving beyond the traditional contentious issues, Members commended Sierra Leone and Uganda for submitting assessments (IP/C/W/499; IP/C/W/500) of their priority needs for technical assistance and financial cooperation, claiming that the reports should encourage other LDCs to submit their own priority needs assessments. The reports are part of a strategy to help the LDCs meet the obligations that they will be required to implement when the bulk of their obligations under the TRIPS Agreement come into effect in July 2013.

Brazil emphasised that the clarity and comprehensiveness of the two assessments should also serve as a model for developed countries' reports on technical assistance under Article 66.2 and Article 67 of TRIPS, and that there was an evident need for greater coherence with respect to those reports.

Additionally, Brazil introduced a communication, adopted by the World Intellectual Property Organisation's Committee on Development and Intellectual Property, that lays out 14 recommendations for technical assistance that should be taken into account in the implementation of Article 67 of TRIPS. Australia supported this appeal for more collaboration between the two organisations.

Regarding the follow-up of the fifth annual review, Uganda, speaking on behalf of the LDC Group, stressed the need for the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to review and evaluate the efforts of developed country WTO Members to provide incentives to domestic enterprises and institutions to engage in technology transfer to LDCs.

Uganda further stressed the importance of a clear definition of relevant terms such as 'technology transfer' and advocated the development of a toolkit that could help facilitate a better understanding of the reports. The chair of the TRIPS Council, Ambassador Gail Marie Mathurin (Jamaica), declared that in response to the specific request of LDC countries, the WTO Secretariat had arranged a workshop on the issue.

As to the question of whether observer status should be granted to the CBD Secretariat, strong support was expressed by Brazil, China, Ecuador and India; the chair announced that immediate consultations on this matter would be held with the CBD Secretariat.

In other business, Canada briefly referred to the compulsory licence issued by the Canadian government to permit the manufacture and export of a low-cost HIV/AIDS drug by a Toronto-based generic manufacturer to Rwanda in accordance with the 2003 Ministerial Decision on TRIPS and Public Health.

Finally, Vietnam, which became a WTO Member in January 2007, answered questions on its intellectual property laws under the standard 'review of legislation'.

The meeting concluded with the announcement that a new chairperson will be sought due to the reassignment and return to Jamaica of the current chair, Ambassador Gail Marie Mathurin.

ICTSD reporting.

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## OTHER NEWS

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### ACP, EU ADDRESS REGIONAL INTEGRATION, SUGAR, BANANAS

Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the 87th summit of the ACP Council of Ministers from 9-11 June, officials from 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states laid out their stances on several controversial issues, including economic integration with the EU and their preconditions for approving a trade deal at the WTO.

That summit was immediately followed by a gathering of ministers from both the ACP and the EU, which met



from 12-13 June, also in the Ethiopian capital. The meeting resulted in the passage of a joint resolution on food prices, Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), and regional integration, among other issues.

### **Disagreement continues on EPAs**

Regional integration was a major topic of discussion at both of the week's meetings.

Specifically, officials discussed controversies over the terms of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) currently being negotiated between the EU and several former colonies. The EPAs are intended to replace longstanding unilateral preferences that became illegal at the WTO at the end of last year. Although EPA negotiations have been ongoing for more than four years, only one full agreement - between the EU and a coalition of Caribbean nations - has been signed to date. However, a number of African countries, as well as two Pacific nations, have successfully concluded interim agreements with the EU.

Opening the joint council session on Thursday, Ethiopian Prime Minister Ato Meles Zenawi underlined the importance of ACP-EU collaboration. "Europe is our most important trading partner, our key source of private sector in investment and by far the biggest source of grant assistance for our development," he said.

"It is with this in mind that we have to seriously evaluate the progress we have made so far with regard to EPA negotiations."

But many ACP countries are dissatisfied with both the process and substance of the negotiations to date, claiming that last year's push to meet an end-year WTO deadline pressured ACP states into prematurely signing unsatisfactory agreements (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 November 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-11-28/story1.htm>).

Indeed, in his opening remarks at the ACP meeting, Mohamed Ahmed Aweleh of Djibouti, the current President of the ACP Council, warned that the EPAs in their current form risk distorting regional integration.

In terms of substance, Aweleh identified certain clauses in existing EPAs and interim agreements that "need to be reviewed." Among his concerns was the level of flexibility that least developed countries (LDCs) would be granted in implementing the market-opening conditions of the EPAs.

Aweleh also expressed concern over the inclusion of a most-favoured nation (MFN) clause in the EPAs. Some have claimed that such a provision would stifle trade

among developing countries. The clause, which was included in the Caribbean EPA, requires that developing country signatories extend to the EU any trade preferences that they grant to a third-party "major trading economy."

A "major trading economy" is defined as any developed country, or "any country or territory accounting for a share of world merchandise exports above one percent in the year before the entry into force of the free trade agreement."

Some developing country officials maintain that the MFN clause would discourage the development of new trade agreements and thus inhibit the integration of poorer countries into the global trading system.

Also in the context of the EPA negotiations, the ACP officials faulted Brussels for failing to follow through on its financial commitments. They pointed out that, although the EU had promised to support the development of the cotton sector - through either the European Development Fund or bilateral deals - most of the promised funds had not been disbursed.

To drive home the importance of this issue, ACP officials adopted a resolution calling on the EU to give special attention in the EPA negotiations to measures that could support the development of the cotton sector. Specific measures include developing a strategic vision for investment in cotton processing, building markets for products derived from cotton, committing to reduce fraud and smuggling, and adopting policies that support the textile sector.

In addition, ACP ministers stressed the need for continued cooperation among LDC sugar producers, especially in light of the new trading environment provided for under the EPAs. According to sources within the ACP, liberalisation measures on sugar that are set to take effect in October 2009 could further widen the gap between competitive and less competitive sugar producers. Thus, the lowering of those trade barriers will require closer collaboration within the group.

### **Resolutions on sugar, bananas**

ACP officials also expressed strong opinions on trade talks at the WTO and made specific demands on the treatment of sugar and bananas.

On WTO negotiations as a whole, the ministers stressed that any deal emerging from the ongoing Doha round of negotiations would need to be "balanced," and that the special treatment that some of their exports have benefited from in the past should be continued.

"If this was not the case, ACP countries will find it extremely difficult to associate themselves with any consensus," they said in a resolution.

To outline their specific demands, ACP ministers adopted resolutions on bananas and sugar, two exports that are critical for many of the group's members.

In the bananas resolution, ACP ministers called on European trade negotiators to insist that ACP countries be involved in discussions on bananas at the WTO, and that ACP negotiators be invited to so-called 'Green Room' meetings - consultations among a select group of delegates that are traditionally held in the Director-General's conference room.

On the controversial subject of sugar, ACP ministers called on the EU to ensure that sugar stays off the list of tropical products in ongoing negotiations on reductions on agricultural tariffs at the WTO. A 'tropical product' designation would mean that tariffs on sugar would be subject to rapid cuts, a development that has been pushed by several Latin American nations. However, this position is opposed by many ACP countries, which have long benefited from preferential access to developed country markets for tropical products, and thus stand to lose from such across-the-board liberalisation.

The ACP ministers also urged Brussels to fight to maintain special safeguards for sugar products that have a high sugar content; such a designation would allow for the imposition of higher tariffs in the event of a significant fall in prices or rise in import volumes.

"Unless there is suitable treatment for products that are benefiting from longstanding preferences, ACP Sugar Supplying States will find it extremely difficult to associate themselves with any consensus," the ministers said in the resolution.

Officials at the meetings also addressed the pressing issue of high food prices, which have had a particularly harsh impact on many ACP countries.

Zenawi, the Ethiopian Prime Minister, said the dramatic increase in agricultural commodity prices threatens to both undermine ACP macro-economic stability and curtail progress in fighting poverty, especially among the urban poor.

Echoing that sentiment, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, underscored the importance of collaboration in addressing high food prices: "This is a perfect example of a problem 'here and now' that can only be solved by all of us working together effectively and efficiently on the underlying causes with mid- and long-term

solutions," he said. "I can reassure all our ACP partners that the EU stands ready to help in any way it can."

ICTSD reporting. "Sugar and banana push get ACP ministers' support," AFRICAN PRESS ORGANIZATION, 12 June 2008; "ACP seeks profitable cotton, sugar deals with EU," AFRIQUENLIGNE, 8 June 2008.

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## IN BRIEF

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### G77 MEETING STRESSES SOUTH-SOUTH SOLIDARITY

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Officials from more than 70 developing countries met in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire last week at the 12th session of the intergovernmental follow-up and coordination committee on economic cooperation among developing countries.

The meeting brought together the members of the G77 plus China, a coalition of developing countries that now includes 130 nations.

In one of the meeting's most noted pronouncements, President Laurent Gbagbo of Côte d'Ivoire called on the group's members to create a 'Bank of the South' to fight poverty in developing nations. Gbagbo said that he envisions that the bank, which would be funded by a tax on certain developing country exports, would be similar in spirit to the institution of the same name established by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez last year. That bank was meant to serve as an alternative to developed country-dominated finance institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"This is the idea that Chavez has already had, but he has done this for Latin America. We need to extend this across the whole South, with one in Latin America, one in Africa and one in Southeast Asia," Gbagbo said in an interview broadcast by Radio France International.

"We must tax raw materials...per barrel of crude oil or tonne of cocoa for example, and create a Bank of the South," he said.

Those present at last week's meeting also adopted an official 'platform for development' of the group's member nations. According to Ambassador John Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, the platform is intended to serve as "a strategic tool for political guidance, a compass for the South," especially in regards to building coalitions with nations of the developed world.

Gbagbo further called on the United Nations to establish a global food stabilisation fund to protect against dramatic fluctuations in food prices.

ICTSD reporting. "Commodity tax proposed to fund 'Bank of the South'," REUTERS, 11 June 2008; "Gbagbo urges stronger relations between Southern countries," XINHUA, 11 June 2008; "Southern countries agree to create development fund," XINHUA, 13 June 2008.

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## EFTA STATES AND COLOMBIA WRAP UP FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The member states of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) - Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland - concluded negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) with Colombia on 12 June in Crans-Montana, Switzerland.

According to the EFTA Secretariat, the trade deal, which has been under negotiation for roughly one year, will "improve market access for industrial goods, agricultural products and fish as well as for service providers and investors." The Secretariat also claims that the deal will "give enhanced access to government procurement contracts and will include provisions on intellectual property rights, competition, transparency, dispute settlement, and cooperation."

EFTA had conducted negotiations jointly with Colombia and Peru through April of this year, at which point the discussions were into separate negotiating courses so as to bring both deals to a close. The finalisation of the EFTA pact with Peru is expected in the latter half of the year.

Merchandise trade between Colombia and the EFTA nations amounted to over US\$700 million in 2007. EFTA exports to Colombia were valued at US\$270 million last year, and consist mainly of pharmaceuticals, chemicals and machinery. The major goods imported to the EFTA nations from Colombia include precious stones, metals, coffee and fruit.

Aside from agreements with the EU, EFTA has concluded 16 FTAs worldwide. Pending legal review of the English and Spanish texts, the FTA with Colombia will be the trade bloc's third such agreement with a Latin American country.

ICTSD reporting; "EFTA and Colombia conclude free trade negotiations," EFTA, 12 June 2008; "EFTA and Colombia conclude free trade negotiations," BILATERALS, 16 June 2008.

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## WTO IN BRIEF

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### US AND CANADA APPEAL WTO BEEF HORMONE DISPUTE RULING

In the most recent development of an ongoing transatlantic dispute, the US and Canada have filed appeals to a WTO panel ruling that found fault with the two countries' method of implementing trade sanctions.

The US and Canadian claims, both submitted on 9 June (WT/DS320/13; WT/DS321/13), follow an appeal filed by the EU late last month. In that claim, Brussels protested the panel's finding that its ban on imports of hormone-treated beef was illegal. The EU also faulted the panel for stopping short of explicitly ordering Washington and Ottawa to remove the extra duties they had imposed in retaliation to the ban (WT/DS320/12 and WT/DS321/12).

In a ruling circulated in March, the panel found fault with all three parties involved in the dispute (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 April 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/08-04-02/story1.htm>).

For the EU, the panel ruled that a lack of adequate scientific risk assessment meant that the import ban on hormone-treated beef, which Brussels modified in response to an earlier panel ruling, still failed to comply with the requirements of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

The panel further ruled that the US and Canada had not followed proper procedures in continuing their trade retaliation against the ban. Washington and Ottawa have retained over US\$125 million in annual sanctions on EU exports, such as Dijon mustard and Roquefort cheese, based on their unilateral determination that the EU's modifications to its ban were not sufficient to bring it into compliance with a 1998 WTO ruling. The panel maintained that the US and Canada should have initiated legal proceedings to determine whether the import ban still violated WTO rules in order to maintain the sanctions.

In its appeal filed last week, the US stated that the panel's finding on that topic "is in error and is based on erroneous findings on issues of law and legal interpretations."

For its part, Brussels welcomed the panel's ruling that US and Canadian retaliatory tariffs breached WTO rules, but disagreed with the panel's determination that its ban was illegal, calling the assessment "flawed."

"The panel made legal errors when it found that the new EU hormones directive does not comply with the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures," the EU appeal stated.

The dispute began more than a decade ago, when a WTO panel first ruled that the US and Canada could impose punitive tariffs on European products to retaliate against Brussels' ban on imports of beef produced with six growth-promoting hormones that are common in the US and Canada.

ICTSD reporting; "EU appeals WTO ruling over US beef hormone ban," EU BUSINESS, 2 June 2008.

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## EVENTS & RESOURCES

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### VACANCY

WTO Position Available in Diplomatic Mission.

A diplomatic mission in Geneva seeks an Assistant to work on international trade matters as part of its delegation to the WTO. Key qualifications and requirements:

- Good knowledge of the World Trade Organisation, its mission and functions;
- Degree in International Law/ International Relations/ Political Science. Postgraduate qualifications and/or relevant experience, a plus;
- Excellent command of English, both written and spoken, knowledge of French or Spanish, an advantage;
- Ability to work independently, while reporting regularly to supervisors;
- Good social and representation skills; Experience related to WTO or other international organisations, an advantage.

Please send your CV by e-mail to [wtoposition@gmail.com](mailto:wtoposition@gmail.com). In the subject field please indicate: "WTO Position in Diplomatic Mission." Only suitable candidates will be contacted.

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### 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: 19 - 25 June

19 June, London, UK. CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE MARCH TOWARDS MODERNITY. Presented by Chatham House, Tung Chee Hwa, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference will analyse the process of reform and development which China has undergone in the past 30 years and the direction in which it is heading. He will look specifically at China's relationships with the international community and how these are likely to progress in the future. For further information, please refer to <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/871/>.

19 June, Copenhagen, Denmark. INNOVATION IN CLIMATE AND ENERGY: A GLOBAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE. Sustainable solutions to the climate crisis require the development of new technologies, appropriate policy approaches and innovative business models. Innovation in Climate and Energy - convened by the Copenhagen Climate Council and the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS) - brings together some of the world's foremost scientists with industry and government leaders to explore which research and technology development objectives must be met in order to successfully make the transition to a low carbon economy. The outcome of the meeting will serve as an innovation agenda for the World Business Summit on Climate Change to be held in Copenhagen in May 2009. For further information, please contact Johannah Christensen: tel +45 33 93 93 23; email [jc@mm.dk](mailto:jc@mm.dk); and refer to the website <http://copenhagenclimatecouncil.com/index.php/global-research-conference-on-innovation-in-climate-and-energy>.

19 June, Washington DC, US. FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM THE AMERICAS. This panel will take place at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and is also hosted by the Heinrich Boll Foundation. It features economists from across Latin America who have conducted a comprehensive assessment of the economic and environmental impacts of foreign investment in Latin America. While the region has attracted unprecedented amounts of investment, its performance in terms of sustainable development has been more limited. For more information, please contact Evelina Yeghiyan at [EYeghiyan@CarnegieEndowment.org](mailto:EYeghiyan@CarnegieEndowment.org).

20-23 June, Iqaluit, Canada. PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: WEATHERING UNCERTAINTY SYMPOSIUM. The City of Iqaluit invites you to join a group of thinkers, researchers and practitioners on an interdisciplinary journey of discovery and mutual learning. What planning strategies are communities implementing to mitigate climate change and deal with its impacts? What can planners learn from scientists to help them prepare for changes to our land, air, and sea? How do communities plan for the next 100 years? Focused debates, workshops and spontaneous discussions on these and other issues will create a legacy for northern and southern communities alike. For further information, please contact Debbie Nielsen: tel 867-979-5605; email [d.nielsen@city.iqaluit.nu.ca](mailto:d.nielsen@city.iqaluit.nu.ca); and refer to the website [www.planningforclimatechange.ca](http://www.planningforclimatechange.ca).



22-25 June, Hanoi, Vietnam. **ASIAN WETLAND SYMPOSIUM 2008.** The Asian Wetland Symposium will be organised around the theme "Wetlands- The heart of Asia" and will feature presentations on the status of wetlands in the Asian Region; discussion panels on key issues in relation to wetland management; preparation of "declaration" of key issues in wetland management in the region; identification of priority issues to be included in the meeting of parties to the Ramsar Convention to be held in Korea in late 2008; and opportunities for regional programmes and agencies to lead specific and focused discussions on specialised topics. For more information contact: e-mail: [aws2008@iucn.org.vn](mailto:aws2008@iucn.org.vn); internet: <http://www.aws2008.net>.

23 June, New Delhi, India. **INDIA-EU FTA TRADE SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP.** The workshop is part of the ongoing investigation, "Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment of an FTA between the European Union and the Republic of India," to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of a free trade agreement between the EU and India. The investigation was launched following the recommendation of the High Level Trade Group in 2006. The EU is the world's biggest economic bloc and India the world's second-most populous nation. The EU is India's top foreign investor and biggest trading partner. The two share many economic philosophies and objectives. Forging an economic alliance is therefore vital to both. The EU-India action plan recognises this important facet of their relationship and, to that end, India and the EU are successfully pursuing joint initiatives to promote cooperation in a number of important areas that include trade and investment. For further information, please refer to <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events.htm>.

23-24 June, Jaipur, India. **NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ECO-LABELLING.** Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) and the Confederation of Indian Textiles Industries (CITI), in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is organising this workshop. The event is the first occasion to introduce to national stakeholders the 'Enabling developing countries to seize eco-label opportunities' project. This four-year project, funded by the EU and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, is aimed at promoting eco-labelling in Brazil, China, India, Kenya, Mexico and South Africa. The national eco-labelling workshop will bring together relevant government decision makers, textiles industry's and industrial designers' representatives, as well as representatives from textile associations, national laboratories associated with the manufacturing of textiles, national representatives of the Ecomark scheme and standardisation bodies, non-governmental organisations and consumer organisations, representatives of the EU eco-label scheme, international eco-label and sustainable consumption experts, industry representatives that got their textiles successfully eco-labelled, as well as UNEP and the European Commission representatives. For further information, please refer to <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events.htm>.

23-25 June, Norway. **BERN CONVENTION GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE CONSERVATION OF INVERTEBRATES.** This meeting is organised by the Secretariat of Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). For more

information contact Carolina Lasen Diaz, Secretary of the Bern Convention; tel: +33(0)3-9021-5679; fax: +33(0)3-8841-3751; e-mail: [carolina.lasen-diaz@coe.int](mailto:carolina.lasen-diaz@coe.int); internet: [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/conventions/Bern/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/conventions/Bern/default_en.asp).

23-25 June, Singapore. **WORLD CITIES SUMMIT.** World Cities Summit is a premier international conference series on effective public governance and sustainable development of cities. The inaugural event in 2008 will focus on urban development and environmental sustainability; discussion topics will address the challenges of developing cities that are both liveable and vibrant. It will cover issues related to urban infrastructure development, clean environment, good quality of life and economic competitiveness. The conference will feature thinkers and practitioners who will share their insights and practical experiences. It will address issues from practitioners' perspectives and showcase global best practices. Apart from plenary discussions, there will be breakout sessions on specific areas of interest and special site visits. The conference will be held at the same time as the Singapore International Water Week 2008. For further information, please refer to <http://www.worldcities.com.sg/>.

23-25 June, Singapore. **CARBON MARKETS ASIA.** Building on its past success and supported by Green Power Conference's unrivalled database of industry contacts, this year's meeting will provide a forum in which new project hosts can learn about the latest market developments and do business with CER buyers from Asia and beyond. For more information, please contact Victoria Adair: tel +44 207 801 6333; email [victoria.adair@greenpowerconferences.com](mailto:victoria.adair@greenpowerconferences.com); and refer to the website [www.greenpowerconferences.com](http://www.greenpowerconferences.com).

23-27 June, Geneva, Switzerland. **STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS: TWELFTH SESSION.** For further information, please refer to [http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=15486](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=15486).

23-27 June, New York, US. **NINTH MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA.** UN headquarters, New York, US. The Secretary-General of the UN will convene the ninth meeting of the Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea to provide it with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work and to arrange for support to be provided in cooperation with other relevant parts of the Secretariat, as appropriate. For more information contact: UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea; tel: +1-212-963-3962; fax: +1-212-963-5847; e-mail: [doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org); internet: [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative\\_process/consultative\\_process.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm).

23-27 June, Santiago, Chile. **60TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC-60).** The meeting will be preceded by meetings of the Scientific Committee and other committees and sub-committees, and by a workshop on welfare issues associated with entangled cetaceans. For further information, please contact: IWC Secretariat; tel: +44-1223-233-971; fax: +44-1223-232-876; e-

mail: secretariat@iwcoffice.org; internet:  
http://www.iwcoffice.org.

23 - 25 June, Kongsvoll Alpine Garden, Norway. BERN CONVENTION GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE CONSERVATION OF INVERTEBRATES. This meeting is organised by the Secretariat of Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). For more information contact: Carolina Lasen Diaz, Secretary of the Bern Convention; tel: +33(0)3-9021-5679; fax: +33(0)3-8841-3751; e-mail: carolina.lasen-diaz@coe.int; internet:  
http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/conventions/Bern/default\_en.asp.

23-27 June, Rome, Italy. FAO TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON IUU. This Technical Consultation is aimed at drafting a legally binding instrument on port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. For more information contact: David Doulman, FAO; tel: +39-6-570-56752; fax: +39-6-570-56500; e-mail: david.doulman@fao.org; internet:  
http://www.fao.org/fi/NEMS/events/detail\_event.asp?event\_id=36383.

23-27 June, Singapore. SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL WATER WEEK. The inaugural Singapore International Water Week is designed to be a platform for government officials, industry leaders and water specialists to meet and discuss policies, business solutions and water technologies. Comprising the Water Leaders Summit, Water Convention and Water Expo, it culminates in the presentation of the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize, a prestigious international award to recognise outstanding contributions in solving water issues. The Asian Development Bank has agreed to support Singapore International Water Week to stimulate water investments, reforms, capacity development and knowledge sharing under its Water Financing Programme 2006-2010. This event promises to offer an exciting week of activities to a congregation of 6,000 water professionals and government officials from all over the world in Singapore. For further information, please refer to  
http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2008/SIWW/default.asp.

23-27 June, Bali, Indonesia. NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP) 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; internet:  
http://www.basel.int/meetings/meetings.html.

23-27 June, Panama City, Panama. 78TH MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION. For more information contact Dr. Guillermo Compean; tel: +1-858-

546-7100; fax: +1-858-546-7133; e-mail:  
gcompean@iattc.org; internet:  
http://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/IATTC-78-Provisional-agenda-Jun-2008.pdf.

23 June - 11 July, Minsk, Belarus. TRAINING COURSE ON KEY ISSUES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA. The course will focus on the links between trade, investment, finance and development, including in the context of international trade negotiations. The course syllabus will draw on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) analytical work and the lessons learned from its technical cooperation activities, with input from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, as well as regional and national experts. The course is mainly aimed at government officials in ministries, academics and institutions dealing with trade, investment, finance and development issues, and involved in formulating and implementing national trade and development policies. For further information, please refer to  
http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intItemID=2068&lang=1&m=15210&year=2008&month=6.

24 June, London, UK. JAPAN-AFRICAN ENGAGEMENT: THE OUTCOMES OF TICAD IV AND THE G8 HOKKAIDO TOYAKO SUMMIT AGENDA. Japan holds the Chair of the G8 in 2008, and African development remains a key focus. The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) forms an integral part of Japan's current relationship with African countries. The 4th TICAD conference has just concluded in Yokohama and the summit declaration had a strong emphasis on supporting economic growth. This international conference at Chatham House will bring policy makers from Japan and around the world to examine the declaration and debate the context of Japan's development agenda and how it may best relate to recent G8 agendas on Africa. The aim is to maximise African input into the Hokkaido Toyako G8 Summit in July 2008. For further information, please refer to <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/865/>.

24 June, Washington DC, US. OECD BREAKFAST SERIES: ENERGY TECHNOLOGY PATHWAYS TO ACHIEVING CLIMATE CHANGE GOALS. The world needs ever-increasing energy supplies to sustain economic growth and development. But energy resources are under pressure and CO2 emissions from today's energy use already threaten our climate. What options do we have for switching to a cleaner and more efficient energy future? How much will it cost? And what policies do we need? The International Energy Agency's (IEA) Director of Energy Technology and Research and Development, Neil Hirst, will address these questions and more while drawing on analyses from the second edition of Energy Technology Perspectives. The IEA analysis demonstrates that a more sustainable energy future is within our reach, and that technology is the key. Increased energy efficiency, CO2 capture and storage, renewables, and nuclear power will all be important. For further information, please refer to  
http://www.oecdwash.org/NEWS/EVENTS/EVENTS2008/jun24-2008.htm.

24 June, Brussels, Belgium. **SUSTAINABLE FINANCE SUMMIT.** Ignoring environmental and social concerns is no longer an option, and just as we're all coming to terms with Kyoto, the recent meeting in Bali - and other preparations for 2012 - will further blur the goal posts and put new demands on the financiers holding the purse strings - and considered to be in a position to make a difference. The race to be the keenest green is well on the way and no financial institution can afford to be left behind. Feedback from a wide panel of experts has shown that there is an increasing demand for clear, pragmatic answers to all the questions posed by 'sustainable' finance. This conference agenda has been designed accordingly and will help businesses address immediate challenges as well as some of the longer term issues. For further information, please refer to [http://www.sustdev.org/index.php?option=com\\_events&task=view\\_detail&agid=549&year=2008&month=06&day=23&Itemid=26](http://www.sustdev.org/index.php?option=com_events&task=view_detail&agid=549&year=2008&month=06&day=23&Itemid=26).

24-26 June, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. **SEVENTH WORLD WIND ENERGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION:** This conference will focus on renewable energy technologies for electricity generation. The theme of the conference will be 'Community Power', reflecting issues relating to ownership and development of renewable energies. As well as the conference, an exhibition and training sessions on project management, financing, governance and community engagement will be held. For more information, please contact: e-mail: [wwwec@ontario-sea.org](mailto:wwwec@ontario-sea.org); internet: <http://wwwec2008.com>.

24-27 June, Como, Italy. **FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON GMO ANALYSIS.** This Conference is organised by the European Commission Joint Research Centre. It aims to address the science and technology underpinning control and analysis of genetically modified organisms by bringing together international experts willing to share knowledge and participate in promoting international scientific dialogue across diverse yet interdependent areas. For more information contact Rossella Speroni, event manager; tel: +39-0332-789315 / 785959; fax: +39-0332-786159; e-mail: [gmo-global-conference@jrc.it](mailto:gmo-global-conference@jrc.it); internet: <http://gmoglobalconference.jrc.it>.

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 comprise 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>.

25 June, London, UK. **THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK.** Chatham House hosts this dialogue on the OECD's African Economic Outlook, released 11 May this year. Africa achieved its fourth year of strong growth in 2007 and prospects are promising for 2008 and 2009. Strong commodity prices are underpinning this performance. Oil-exporting countries are outpacing the rest of the continent. They face the challenge of capitalising on these windfall gains to build endogenous sources of long-term growth. Oil-

importing countries face increasing inflationary pressures and potentially deteriorating current account deficits. This session will present the report and its findings and debate the main conclusions. For further information, please refer to <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/866/>.

25-26 June, Paris, France. **OECD GLOBAL FORUM ON TRADE: GLOBALISATION AND EMERGING ECONOMIES.** Political, technological and commercial forces are driving growth in the international exchange of goods, services, jobs and people. These changes have resulted in very significant growth in economic prosperity and some major reductions in global poverty. The BRIICS (Brazil, Russia, India, Indonesia, China and South Africa) and other emerging economies are playing a major part in these efforts. The opening up of the BRIICS countries, for example, is drawing nearly half of the world's workforce into the international arena. The 2008 OECD Global Forum on Trade will bring together trade policy makers from OECD countries and a number of emerging economies to discuss these global policy challenges. Specifically, the Global Forum on Trade will examine two important issues: the BRIICS' impact on recent international market developments, and the political economy of trade. Representatives from manufacturers' associations, academia, non governmental organisations (TUAC, BIAC and others) and key multilateral organisations will also be invited to participate in the discussion. For further information, please refer to [http://www.oecd.org/document/42/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34487\\_40372074\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/42/0,3343,en_2649_34487_40372074_1_1_1_1,00.html).

25-26 June, Ottawa, Canada. **FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE CEC COUNCIL.** During this session, the CEC Council-composed of the environment ministers or equivalent officials of NAFTA partners Canada, Mexico and the United States, the Hon. John Baird, Secretary Juan Elvira Quesada, and Administrator Stephen L. Johnson-will discuss environmental issues of common interest to the three countries and the CEC's operational programme. For further information, please refer to <http://www.cec.org>.

25-27 June, Tokyo, Japan. **WORKSHOP ON METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES RELATING TO REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.** This workshop is part of a programme of work on methodological issues related to a range of policy approaches and positive incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries undertaken by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). Parties will have submitted views and information on how to address outstanding methodological issues, including, inter alia, assessments of changes in forest cover and associated carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions, incremental changes due to sustainable management of the forest, demonstration of reductions in emissions from deforestation, including reference emissions levels, estimation and demonstration of reduction in emissions from forest degradation, implications of national and sub-national approaches. The workshop is expected to address the above outstanding methodological issues. The secretariat will prepare a report on the workshop for consideration of the SBSTA at its twenty-ninth session. For further information,

please refer to  
[http://unfccc.int/methods\\_and\\_science/lulucf/items/4289.php](http://unfccc.int/methods_and_science/lulucf/items/4289.php).

25-28 June, Kampala, Uganda. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GROUNDWATER AND CLIMATE IN AFRICA. This conference is organised by the University College London (UK), the Directorate of Water Development of Uganda and UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP). The conference seeks to bring together water and climate scientists from research/academic institutions, government departments, and the private sector as well as representatives from international agencies and donors in order to share knowledge and expertise, and thereby improve current understanding of the impact of climate variability and change on groundwater resources in Africa. For more information, please contact the Conference Secretariat; e-mail: [info@gwclim.org](mailto:info@gwclim.org); internet: <http://www.gwclim.org/>.

### WTO Events

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

20 June: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY

24+25 June: COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

24 June: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY

25+27 June: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - OMAN

### Other Upcoming Events

26 June, Geneva, Switzerland. US AND EU IMPORT REQUIREMENTS - THE CASE OF GREEN BEANS AND SHRIMP. Organised by the International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) and the Graduate Institute of International Development Studies. A forthcoming paper of the IPC argues that there is scope for some better "streamlining" to facilitate the imports of food from developing countries, which is after all what the SPS Agreement exhorts us to do. Facilitating trade from developing countries and ensuring safety of food imports need not to be mutually exclusive. Even if the mission of food regulators is domestic consumer protection, it should include to the extent possible the development objectives of their national governments. The information session in Geneva will present the results of this study and facilitate a discussion on its findings. For further information, please visit <http://www.agritrade.org/SPSInformationSession.html>.

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 MDGs, 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 more information 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>.

7-9 July, Tokyo, Japan. G8 SUMMIT 2008. At July's G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, world leaders will discuss the world economy, environmental concerns, African development and other pressing issues that must be tackled. For further information, please refer to <http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/index.html>.

## RESOURCES

A PRICE TOO HIGH: HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION IN SOUTHERN CHINA. Civic Exchange, 11 June, 2008. The study - conducted by leading health, science and public policy experts - reveals new regional data on the health costs of poor air quality. Annual deaths attributable to air pollution - based on 2006 data - are estimated at 10,000 in Hong Kong, Macau and the Pearl River Delta. In spite of the enormous health costs of deteriorating air quality, there is surprisingly little research in the region into the links between air pollution and poor health. The report argues the current air pollution indexes used in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta are not merely insufficient but misleading as they are not directly linked with health protection. The report can be accessed at [http://www.civic-exchange.org/eng/upload/files/200806\\_pricetoohigh.pdf](http://www.civic-exchange.org/eng/upload/files/200806_pricetoohigh.pdf).

FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM THE AMERICAS. By Kevin P. Gallagher, May 2008. This new report from the Working Group on Development and the Environment in the Americas brings together Latin American economists to analyse the economic and environmental impacts of foreign investment in Latin America during its period of economic reforms. The report finds that Latin America received unprecedented amounts of foreign investment during the reform period but such investment had a very limited impact on economic growth and often accentuated environmental degradation in the region. The report concludes with policy recommendations to increase investment in a manner more conducive to sustainable development. To download the report and background papers please refer to [http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/WorkingGroup\\_FDI.htm](http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/WorkingGroup_FDI.htm).

THE EU-CARIFORUM EPA ON SERVICES INVESTMENTS AND COMMERCE IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER ACP COUNTRIES. South Centre, May 2008. At the close of 2007, the EU completed a comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the nations of the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM). The EPA with the Cariforum is comprehensive in the sense that it extends to trade in goods, services and all the new generation issues including government procurement, competition law,



and others. This analytical note provides an overview of key provisions related to trade in services in the Cariforum EPA text and comments on the possible implications for other ACP countries in Africa and the Pacific, which may soon initiate negotiations for the reciprocal liberalisation of trade in services with Europe. To access the analytic note, please refer to [http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=cat\\_view&gid=45&Itemid=68](http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=45&Itemid=68).

**LOW-SKILLED WORKERS AND BILATERAL, REGIONAL, AND UNILATERAL INITIATIVES: LESSONS FOR THE GATS MODE 4 NEGOTIATIONS AND OTHER AGREEMENTS.** The Geneva Trade and Human Development Unit (GTHDU) of the UNDP Inclusive Globalization Cluster, May 2008. This paper addresses how bilateral and unilateral schemes manage the temporary movement of low-skilled workers by examining their various features. The aim is to draw useful lessons for the GATS negotiations on Mode 4 and for future agreements that address Mode 4. The study examines the operational, institutional, financial, welfare and human development features of several arrangements to derive their positive and negative aspects. Based on the best practices that characterise these agreements, the paper suggests how some of these features could be incorporated in the context of the GATS Mode 4 commitments and offers. Underlying this learning-based approach is the larger objective of maximising development benefits and of contributing towards a more strengthened and holistic development-friendly policy position on migration and the short-term movement of persons. The report can be found at [http://www.undp.org/poverty/docs/inclglob/pov\\_red\\_low\\_skilled\\_workers\\_report.pdf](http://www.undp.org/poverty/docs/inclglob/pov_red_low_skilled_workers_report.pdf)

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