

LEAD STORIES

CHAIR OF WTO AG TALKS SAYS NEW DRAFT TEXT WILL SIMPLIFY OPTIONS FOR MINISTERS	1
SLOW PROGRESS ON INDUSTRIAL GOODS TALKS IN FINAL PUSH TO MINISTERIAL	3

OTHER NEWS

G8 ADDRESSES DOHA, CLIMATE, GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS	5
---	---

IN BRIEF

INDONESIA-JAPAN FREE TRADE DEAL TAKES EFFECT	7
---	---

WTO IN BRIEF

SERVICES 'SIGNALLING CONFERENCE' SET FOR MINISTERIAL WEEK	8
LAOS PROGRESSES TOWARD WTO MEMBERSHIP	8

EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS	9
RESOURCES	12

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest is [also available online](http://www.ictsd.org/subscribe) and is updated every week. To subscribe to BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, please visit the ICTSD website at <http://www.ictsd.org/subscribe>. If you require any assistance setting up your BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest subscription, please contact Paige McClanahan, Editor, by email at: bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch, or by telephone at: (41-22) 917-8498

The draft accord, now due out on 10 July, will update previous versions released in February and May, and is not expected to contain major changes in the most controversial areas - such as the 'headline' cuts to subsidies and tariffs. However, it will set out clearer options on the 'special' products that developing countries will be able to shield from tariff cuts on the basis of food security, livelihood security and rural development concerns, for example.

The chair, Ambassador Crawford Falconer (New Zealand), told a 7 July meeting open to all Members that his informal consultations (dubbed 'walks in the woods') had been constructive. In addition to greater clarity on special products, he would streamline text on reducing in-quota tariffs, tariff 'caps' on unusually high tariffs, and on the special safeguard mechanism (SSM) that will allow developing countries to raise tariffs temporarily in the event of an import surge or price depression.

Falconer said he would also propose new language that could allow Members, under exceptional circumstances, to update the base periods used to determine the amount of decoupled income support payments they make to producers. Such payments fall into the WTO's 'green box' of farm subsidies that ostensibly cause not more than minimal trade distortion.

Tariff caps: chair sets out possible new approach

Currently, Members are divided over whether high tariffs should be subject to an overall cap, with agricultural exporters in the Cairns Group and the G-20 favouring such a limit, and importing countries in the G-10 opposed. The chair's May text set out a possible compromise: if more than 4 percent of a developed countries' tariff lines were still above 100 percent after the tariff reduction formula has been applied, these countries would have to expand quotas for their 'sensitive' products by more than the usual amount. Falconer told Members he is now exploring the possibility of removing the ceiling for countries' 'sensitive' products, and instead allowing "a very small number" of non-sensitive products to exceed the cap. Trade sources suggested that compensatory access for these products might still have to be provided in the form of larger quotas or steeper cuts.

LEAD STORIES

CHAIR OF WTO AG TALKS SAYS NEW DRAFT TEXT WILL SIMPLIFY OPTIONS FOR MINISTERS

A new draft text due later this week will simplify options in key areas in order to help ministers take decisions when they meet in Geneva later this month, the chair of the WTO agriculture talks has told Members.

Falconer indicated that no more than "three or four" Members would probably want to use this option: trade delegates familiar with the debate suggested that Japan, Switzerland and Norway might be particularly concerned.

In-quota tariffs

Cairns Group and G-20 countries also continue to oppose the G-10 over the amount by which in-quota tariffs should be reduced: while the former favour reducing these to zero, the latter want no cuts at all. The EU reportedly floated a possible compromise in which in-quota tariffs would be brought down to 15 percent, while those below 15 percent would go down to zero. Falconer told delegates that he intended to restructure the text so as to provide ministers with a clear set of choices over figures. Under his preferred approach, in quota-tariffs would be reduced by at least 50 percent, and then by more if these failed to reach a target threshold - likely to be between 0 and 15 percent. The exact cut and threshold would be determined by ministers.

Special products: signs of convergence

Falconer indicated that the most progress had been achieved in the controversial area of special products, an issue which has seen proponents of greater flexibility in the G-33 developing country group strongly oppose positions advocated by developed and developing country exporters. Falconer suggested that one option would be directly to present ministers with the thorny question of whether some products would be exempt from tariff cuts altogether or instead face low cuts, with a second tier of products receiving moderate cuts that were still gentler than those for non-'special' products. Another option would be present ministers with a one-tier approach in which all products would have to undertake an average and potentially also a minimum cut.

In a significant sign of flexibility, the G-33 indicated in a statement that, while they would still prefer a three-tier approach, they would be willing to contemplate a two-tier structure as well.

The chair told Members that ministers would probably have to decide whether tier 1 products would be cut either by zero or five percent: they would also have to decide on the average cut for tier 2 products, which could perhaps be somewhere between twelve and fifteen percent. Tier 1 products would represent between two and six percent of all agricultural tariff lines, and those in tier 2 would represent between eight and twelve percent.

Special safeguard mechanism: when can countries exceed bound rates?

Still controversial was the question of when, and under what conditions, developing countries would be allowed to impose temporary safeguard duties that exceed their pre-Doha bound rates - ceilings which currently constrain maximum permitted tariff levels. Several exporting countries argue that, if bound rates can be exceeded, the liberalisation goals of the Doha Round would be undermined; the G-33, however, argues that this is central to a functioning safeguard, something they say is necessary if the Round's development objectives are to be met. Falconer indicated that his new text would incorporate a simplified structure that would enable ministers to take decisions on this issue.

The chair told Members that the revised text would contain relatively few restrictions on safeguard duties that fall below pre-Doha bound rates. However, much more stringent requirements would limit countries' ability to impose safeguards that exceed these levels: for example, in any given year the safeguard could not be imposed on more than a fixed number of products, perhaps three to six. More flexibility could be provided for small, vulnerable economies, he suggested, with the fewest restrictions being imposed on least-developed countries.

The chair indicated that he currently favoured incorporating language that would make the safeguard relatively easy to 'trigger' in the event of import surges or price depressions, as proposed by the G-33, but also including more restrictive conditions on the additional safeguard duties or 'remedies' that countries would be allowed to impose, as proposed by exporting countries.

Green box: language emerging on base period updates

Falconer told Members that he "now had a form of words" that could be presented to ministers that would permit exceptional updates to the base periods that determine countries' decoupled income support payments to farmers, and potentially also other kinds of green box payments. The new language permits 'fixed and unchanging' base periods to be updated only if certain conditions are met: the base period itself is a significant number of years in the past, and cannot be reasonably anticipated by producers; the update does not occur in conjunction with an increase in the rate of expenditure per crop; the requirement not to cause more than minimal trade distortion is not circumvented or undermined; and developing country producers are not inadvertently trapped into maintaining pilot programmes that they may have established at some point in the past.

Sensitive and tropical products still to be finalised

The draft is not expected to include substantial new language on sensitive products, despite continued disagreement among Members on this complex and highly technical issue. One delegate also pointed out that some countries have yet to provide detailed domestic consumption data for all tariff lines - something which, because it will serve as the basis for quota expansion for these products, has previously been described as a prerequisite for agreement on an outline Doha 'modalities' deal by exporting countries such as Argentina.

Also still unresolved are the parallel questions of faster liberalisation for countries' tropical products, favoured by several Latin American countries, and slower liberalisation for products that are affected by the erosion of preferences, a concern of many countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific group. For a few important products, such as bananas and sugar, the two groups have opposing interests. While intensive consultations at a detailed tariff line level have been ongoing between the parties concerned and the EU since March, no final agreement has been reached.

If no tropical products deal is struck until after his text is released, it could still be presented to ministers when they meet in the third week of July in the form of a postscript or addendum, said Falconer. However he warned that, if no agreement is reached, Members risked going "to a Ministerial meeting with what can be a very, very detailed, line-specific issue unresolved."

Mini-Ministerial: Lamy emphasises end-July deadline; delegates murmur doubts

Falconer told Members that they would have about a week or ten days to analyse the revised text once it came out, and that, although he did not expect to convene the agriculture negotiations committee again before the ministerial, he could do so if required.

Trade sources said that countries' senior negotiators would probably be in Geneva from around Monday 14 July onwards, in preparation for ministers' arrivals beginning the 18th or 19th. They suggested that meetings of negotiating coalitions could take place during the weekend, with invitation-only 'green room' meetings taking place from the 21st onwards at the invitation of WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy. 'Horizontal negotiations', across different issue areas such as agriculture and industrial goods, could take place once senior negotiators arrived, delegates indicated.

While the duration of ministers' stays remained unclear, one negotiator suggested that it would be unlikely to be more than five to seven days.

While Lamy told the WTO's Trade Negotiations Committee that an end-July blueprint deal on 'modalities' was necessary in order "to conclude the Round by the end of 2008," privately delegates are voicing their doubts about the feasibility of this goal. Some pointed to the large number of unresolved issues, while others expressed concern that the 'trade promotion authority' previously granted to the US trade representative had expired and not been renewed. Normally, this would allow the US administration to send trade agreements to Congress for a yes-or-no vote, without the possibility of amendments.

"What happens if the US delegation agrees to something in Geneva, and Congress then rejects it?" asked one negotiator. Others pointed to past attempts to reach agreement before the WTO's traditional August break, which in the last three years have all ended in failure.

ICTSD reporting.

SLOW PROGRESS ON INDUSTRIAL GOODS TALKS IN FINAL PUSH TO MINISTERIAL

Despite the glacial rate of progress in the troubled Doha Round talks on liberalising trade in manufactured goods, the chair of the WTO negotiating committee told Members on Tuesday that he would issue an updated draft deal later this week, most likely late in the day on 10 July.

The new non-agricultural market access (NAMA) draft, outlining formulae and ranges of figures that would determine the depth of tariff cuts as well as hotly contested exceptions to liberalisation for developing countries, will be accompanied by a new agriculture text.

The two texts are to serve as the basis for discussions when ministers meet in Geneva later this month in a high-stakes attempt to strike 'modalities' deals on agriculture and NAMA. Some negotiators warn that the Doha Round negotiations, already in their seventh year, could be delayed indefinitely if governments do not reach an accord before the WTO takes breaks for its annual August holiday.

Even though ministers alone might be empowered to make concessions on the 'headline' figures that will determine future tariff and subsidy levels, their

prospects for reaching a deal will be much improved if senior officials can narrow differences on the wide array of underlying issues between now and 21 July, when talks are set to start. The more issues ministers have to resolve, the harder it will be for them to reach an agreement, trade diplomats generally believe.

Differences in the NAMA talks have proved especially stubborn. Canadian Ambassador Don Stephenson, who chairs the negotiations, suspended the industrial goods talks early last month, after delegates failed to make progress on any of the contentious issues after the release of his previous text in mid-May (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 June 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/08-06-04/story1.htm>).

Since then, however, negotiators have managed to narrow some gaps, albeit modestly. Stephenson reported that delegates have made progress on a number of issues, including implementation periods, the structure and flexibilities of formula cuts, unbound tariff levels, non-tariff barriers, and special treatment for South Africa. But even some issues in which the gaps are "absurdly small" remained unresolved, even though the chair said it would not make sense to leave these pending issues to ministers.

Furthermore, critical differences persist. Delegates met over the weekend to try to search for compromise on what one diplomat called "two very ticklish issues," namely a proposal to include a so-called 'anti-concentration' clause in the text, and a proposal regarding commitments on sectoral agreements.

Disagreement over anti-concentration, sectoral agreements

The two primary sticking points both concern, broadly speaking, the use of the flexibilities and exceptions to be accorded to developing countries in their implementation of market-opening commitments. This issue is of special significance in the Doha round, which was officially dubbed "the development round" when it was launched in 2001, meaning that the trade talks would focus on finding solutions to the economic challenges facing the WTO's poorer Members.

The number of tariff lines and share of manufacturing imports that developing countries will be allowed to shelter, either partially or wholly, from standard tariff reduction obligations has been one of the most contentious issues in the negotiations. Another wrinkle was added to the issue late last year, when the EU and the US proposed an 'anti-concentration clause' that would prevent developing nations from concentrating these 'flexibilities' on single categories of products such as automobiles (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 December 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-12-12/story3.htm>).

Like a range of other proposals, some of them seeking expanded rather than restricted flexibilities, the 'anti-concentration clause' was included in the chair's May draft, placed within brackets signifying disagreement.

Prior drafts texts dating back to the July 2004 Framework agreement had simply stated that developing countries must not use their flexibilities to cover 'entire HS chapters', or complete product categories, such as garments. In theory, this a developing country could meet this stipulation by shielding from full formula cuts all but one specific tariff line in a given HS chapter, so long as the overall restrictions on tariff lines and import values are not exceeded.

The new 'anti-concentration' provision would introduce tariff line and import volume ceilings on and within individual HS chapters. Developing countries would find themselves prohibited from shielding everything classified within the relatively broad product '4-digit' categories into which HS chapters are divided, such as passenger cars designed for transportation of fewer than 10 people.

Opponents of the anti-concentration clause, including Brazil, China, India, Malaysia, and South Africa, argue that such a provision would amount to an unfair constraint on the flexibilities accorded to developing countries. Some delegates privately observe that there are no comparable limitations on the flexibilities available for rich countries to shield some agricultural products from standard tariff cuts.

The second principal issue of contention concerns sector-specific liberalisation initiatives. These propose to eliminate or sharply reduce import tariffs on products in a given sector. Fourteen such agreements have been proposed to date, covering automotive parts; bicycles; chemicals; electronics/electrical products; fish and fish products; forestry products; gems and jewelry; raw materials; sports equipment; pharmaceuticals/medical devices; hand tools; toys; textiles, clothing, and footwear; and industrial machinery.

The US, a lead supporter of 'sectorals', maintains that developing countries - especially major emerging economies such as Brazil and China - should be given incentives to participate in the agreements. Before Washington commits to any tariff reduction coefficients, it wants specific assurances that such countries will participate in sectorals.

The chair's May draft text left open the possibility of granting higher formula 'coefficients' -- and consequently, higher future tariff ceilings -- to developing countries that participate in sectoral

agreements, a provision that had been strongly pushed by the US delegation.

But developing countries have denounced that linkage, arguing that according to the Doha mandate, participation in sectoral agreements is voluntary.

Progress on Mercosur question

One issue that has seen more progress - though some differences remain - is the treatment of the South American trade bloc Mercosur.

Mercosur's members -- Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay -- have long demanded extra room to shield products from tariff reduction, so that each could protect its respective sensitive industrial sectors without compromising their identical external tariff structures.

Mercosur had proposed excluding trade among the members of developing country customs unions from import value limitations on their use of flexibilities for protecting infant industries. This proposal, which was included within brackets in the chair's May text, met opposition from the US and other countries, which feared that it would allow Mercosur members to shield an unacceptably high proportion of manufacturing trade from standard duty cuts, since the substantial bilateral trade in autos between Brazil and Argentina would be excluded from import volume calculations.

Since then, a potential compromise proposal has emerged, under which all four Mercosur nations would be allowed to use the import volume of Brazil, the bloc's biggest trader, as the basis for limits on their use of flexibilities. This would effectively leave Brazil treated almost as though it did not belong to a customs union, with its use of flexibilities subject to the same restrictions as Thailand, India, and the other developing countries receiving standard tariff treatment. Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay, in contrast, would be allowed to shield higher proportions of their own imports from standard liberalisation requirements, since their import volume calculation would be linked to Brazil's higher import levels.

Speaking off the record, delegates indicated that the Mercosur issue would most likely be tractable, and would not end up stalling the negotiations.

With many matters still to be resolved, however, it is anyone's guess as to whether ministers will be able to strike a deal before the end of the month.

"It's not getting any easier," one diplomat noted, referring to the slow progress of talks in recent weeks. Persistent disagreement on anti-concentration and sectorals, he said, would be difficult to overcome.

Stephenson himself expressed discomfort with the slow pace of progress.

But others were more optimistic about the prospects for the negotiations. One NAMA negotiator said that he anticipates that the revised texts due out on 10 July will provide "good ground for ministers to resolve issues," and that the remaining differences are "bridgeable."

ICTSD reporting; "WTO Members still apart on industrial goods trade," REUTERS, 8 June 2008.

OTHER NEWS

G8 ADDRESSES DOHA, CLIMATE, GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS

Leaders from the world's eight strongest economies met this week to forge solutions on rising oil prices, the global food crisis, the environment and global warming, Africa and development, and political issues including non-proliferation and counterterrorism, as well as the ongoing negotiations at the Doha round of trade talks.

The annual meeting of the Group of Eight - or so-called G8 comprising Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the US - met from 7-9 July at the resort island of Hokkaido Toyako, Japan. Leaders from seven African states and other major emerging economies, including China and India, also participated in this week's talks with the G8 leaders, making it, with 22 countries, the largest gathering in the event's 33 year history.

In a statement on the status of the world economy, the G8 leaders called for the completion of the Doha Round of trade talks. Continuing to advance the stalled Doha Round in the WTO is critical, the statement said - both in terms of economic growth and as an important part of the development equation.

While the leaders were positive about long-term resilience of their economies to cope with the high energy and food prices and widespread economic problems, they noted with concern that elevated commodity prices can slow growth worldwide, especially in the most vulnerable economies. Therefore, the G8 leaders acknowledged that a successful and swift conclusion of an "ambitious, balanced, and comprehensive WTO Doha agreement" is vital.

As such, the G8 reiterated its determination to work urgently toward the conclusion of negotiations and further called on all WTO Members, including major emerging economies, to work towards establishing

modalities on agriculture and non-agricultural market access and achieving results in services. The G8 welcomed the forthcoming ministerial meeting, which is set to begin on 21 July, and gave their support to a possible signalling conference on trade in services at the ministerial.

US President George W. Bush and the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown were among those who, in advance of the G8 meeting, encouraged leaders to come to an agreement in global trade talks over the coming weeks. Brown has said that failure to conclude Doha could deprive millions of the opportunity to overcome poverty. Bush earlier noted at a press conference on 1 July that "it will be a good opportunity in Japan to discuss what we need to do together to open up market access and to reduce agricultural subsidies."

In response to the rise in oil prices - which hit a record high of US\$ 145.85 last week - the G8 leaders agreed to a short-term increase on the supply side of production and refining capacities, and, on the demand side, to improve energy efficiency and energy diversification. To further these efforts, the leaders proposed establishing an annual energy forum focused on energy efficiency and new technology, to commence later this year in Japan.

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, the host of this year's talks, set the G8 agenda with a strong emphasis on energy security and climate change, stating that he would like to see the meeting conclude with an agreement on targets to halve greenhouse gases by the year 2050. At their meeting in Germany last year, the G8 leaders indicated their desire to consider cutting carbon emissions by 2050, but the US resisted any firm pledge.

Whilst no specific targets were announced at this year's meeting, the leaders agreed to a 'shared vision' on climate change. This vision included committing their economies to cut their carbon emissions in half by the year 2050. Significantly, this marks the first time that the US and Russia have agreed to a specific long-term goal for greenhouse gas emission reductions.

However, the ambition and imprecise aspects of the statement have been criticised. The goal of a global 50-percent reduction of carbon emissions is not indexed to a specific base year, and the agreement leaves out any specific mention of targets for medium- or short-term carbon emission reductions, instead urging each nation to formulate its own such goals.

Furthermore, Ambassador Koji Tsuruoka (Japan) - who briefed reporters on the decision - stated that the motivation for the broad and legally non-binding

agreement was designed as such in order "to engage the rest of the world" - namely majoring emerging economies like China and India.

The G8 leaders also stressed that progress towards ambitious reduction goals is closely interlinked to accelerated technology development and diffusion. To this end, the leaders committed to dedicate annually US\$ 10 billion to technology and research.

Notably, the G8 met on Wednesday with the so-called 'major emitters', including Australia, Indonesia, South Korea and the Group of Five, made up of the largest emerging economies: India, China, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa. Together these nations, which account for 80 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, attempted to forge an international consensus for a way forward on global warming.

President Bush had long vowed not to adopt mandatory objectives unless developing countries like China sign on to similar targets. The desire to include major developing countries was reflected in the G8 climate change communiqué released Tuesday: "achieving this objective will only be possible through common determination of all major economies," the statement said.

In the statement released from the joint meeting with major climate change emitters, all the economies were in agreement that "deep cuts in global emissions will be necessary to achieve the Convention's ultimate objective" and that cooperative action is required to promote the success of the Copenhagen 2009 climate change conference.

Moreover, the nations agreed, among other goals, to "direct our trade officials responsible for WTO issues to advance with a sense of urgency their discussions on issues relevant to promoting our cooperation on climate change" in order to fully promote the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Yet, many leaders and advocates questioned whether any real progress on climate change could be achieved from the meeting. As Bush nears his final 200 days in office, there is concern that decisive action on climate change will not be taken by the US until a new president is inaugurated in early 2009.

Food security and its link to poverty via food availability was also on the agenda. To this end, the G8 outlined a range of mid- to long-term measures to encourage world food production and increase investment in agriculture.

Food security is also interconnected with development, and the global food crisis has major implications for the

world's poorest, most notably those in Africa. On Tuesday, the G8 participants met with representatives of African nations, including Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania, the current chair of the African Union. Discussion focused on an array of global issues confronting Africa, including health, food, trade and investment, as well as possible action to be taken against Zimbabwe.

Noting the mid-point to the Millennium Development Goals, the African leaders expressed consensus on the need for G8 countries to honour their past commitments with respect to health and development assistance. In 2005 at Gleneagles, Scotland, the leaders pledged to increase foreign aid by US\$ 50 billion by 2010, with half of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds going to Africa, and to cancel the debt of the most heavily indebted poor countries. But critics have accused leaders of falling short of that commitment - collectively the G8 has delivered just US\$ 3 billion of the US\$ 25 billion additional aid pledged to Africa in 2005.

Nevertheless, in a statement the G8 leaders reiterated their prior ODA commitments and restated their pledge to fight infectious diseases and to work toward universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care by 2010. To fight infectious diseases, strengthen health initiatives and ensure all children have access to basic health care by 2015 the leaders agreed to provide US\$60 billion over the next five years.

The group also released a statement Tuesday expressing their grave concern about the situation in Zimbabwe. In light of a violent and intimidating presidential election that was criticised around the world as illegal, the G8 leaders stated they "do not accept the legitimacy of any government that does not reflect the will of the Zimbabwean people." President Robert Mugabe was the only candidate in the 27 June election after opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai withdrew, citing state-sponsored violence against candidates and supporters.

While avoiding the word 'sanctions' the leaders pledged to "take further steps, inter alia introducing financial and other measures against those individuals responsible for violence." President Bush, a proponent of an international arms embargo against Zimbabwe, and other Western leaders at the meeting sought strong condemnation and action against Mugabe, but the leaders of the African nations in attendance resisted pressure to adopt a tough stance. The UN Security Council is expected to vote this week on sanctions against Mugabe and his aides.

The 2009 G8 Summit will be hosted by Italy.

ICTSD reporting; "UN Chief to G8: Climate Change, Food Crisis linked," THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 4 July 2008; "Africa Takes Centre Stage as G8 Summit Kicks Off," REUTERS, 6 July 2008; "Ban Ki-moon: Paying the Price for Global Growth," THE GUARDIAN, 3 July 2008; "G-8 leaders struggle to reach deal on Africa," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 7 July 2008; G-8 summit opens with spotlight on aid for Africa," THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7 July 2008; G8 countries reaffirm pledges to Africa," UPI, 8 July 2008; "Financial measures sought against Zimbabwe," REUTERS, 8 July 2008; "G8 climate deal falls short, critics say," REUTERS, 8 July 2008.

IN BRIEF

INDONESIA-JAPAN FREE TRADE DEAL TAKES EFFECT

A free trade agreement between Indonesia and Japan took effect on 1 July. The deal slashes tariffs on most goods traded between the two nations and allows Indonesian nurses to work full-time in Asia's largest economy.

The trade deal, for which negotiations began in July 2005 and concluded in August last year, eliminates tariffs on approximately 92 percent of trade between the two nations. In the first phase of the agreement, Tokyo will remove 80 percent of its tariffs, while Jakarta will remove 58 percent. Over the next 10 years the two countries will make further reductions of 10 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

Abolishing tariffs is expected to boost Japanese exports of steel, cars, automotive components and electronic goods to Indonesia. Meanwhile, Tokyo is reducing tariffs on many Indonesian agricultural products and removing all duties on most clothing, footwear and timber products.

Moreover, the deal marks the first time that Tokyo has allowed foreign nurses and health care specialists to work in Japan on a full-time basis. Under the terms of the accord, Jakarta will provide workers over the next two years to help ease a staff shortage in Japan.

Perhaps the most prominent feature of the economic accord is a provision that ensures the stable supply of energy - crude oil and natural gas - from Indonesia to Japan. Indonesia is the chief supplier of natural gas to Japan, accounting for about one-third of its natural gas supply, and its sixth-largest exporter of crude oil. Altogether, natural gas, crude oil and coal account for about half of Japanese imports from Indonesia.

Thus, the trade pact will build on an already substantial economic relationship between the countries. Japan comprised 22 percent of Indonesia's export revenue in 2006 and is the Southeast Asian nation's largest trading partner. However, the effect of the trade deal may be diluted by the exclusion of certain items, particularly rice, and Indonesia's uncertain business environment, which may deter Japanese investors.

To date Japan has negotiated free trade deals with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand as well as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

ICTSD reporting; "Japan and Indonesia trade deal takes effect," ANTARA NEWS, 7 July, 2008; "Japan-Indonesia FTA takes effect," KYODO, 2 July, 2008; "Indonesia and Japan sign a comprehensive free-trade pact," THE ECONOMIST, 23 August, 2007; "Japan, Indonesia wrap up free trade negotiations," THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 13 October, 2006.

WTO IN BRIEF

SERVICES 'SIGNALLING CONFERENCE' SET FOR MINISTERIAL WEEK

Services negotiators will meet in the middle of the WTO's upcoming ministerial conference to 'signal' the improvements they plan to make in their offers on market opening in services, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy told delegates from two dozen Member states at a 'green room' meeting last week.

In preparation for that signalling conference, which is set for the middle of the week beginning 21 July, Lamy urged delegates to begin meeting on a bilateral basis. Indeed, the Director-General stressed that such two-way meetings would be essential to achieving a successful outcome at the ministerial conference, which is scheduled for 21 to 25 July.

In an attempt to narrow persistent gaps in the negotiations ahead of the signalling conference, a meeting of high-level officials - to be chaired by Lamy himself - will be held on 14 July.

The idea of the signalling conference the following week is to assure services 'demandeurs', such as the US and the EU, which might make sacrifices on agricultural and industrial trade, that some improvements on the existing offers on market opening in services sectors will be offered, in particular by developing countries such as Brazil, China and India.

Until now, standing commitment offers on market access in services have been in general considered rather weak, in both quantity and quality, as most offers entail little more than the establishment of commitments at existing levels, or even below such levels.

While the signalling conference is intended only for Members that have been active in earlier rounds of the services negotiations, sources reveal that some developing countries that have not been involved in the talks in the past have suggested they might want to participate as observers at next week's meeting.

While negotiations on agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA) will prove critical for the success of the Doha round (see related stories, this issue), there are significant links between those talks and the ongoing services negotiations. Indeed, it seems that some consider the opening of services markets a necessary trade-off for tariff cuts in agriculture and industrial trade (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 June 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/08-06-04/story3.htm>).

ICTSD reporting.

LAOS PROGRESSES TOWARD WTO MEMBERSHIP

Laos has made steady progress toward becoming a full-fledged Member of the WTO, but further work is required before the country's accession package can be finalised, a working party on the country's accession process announced at a meeting late last week.

Laos first applied to join the WTO in July 1997. Discussions are currently focused on a 'factual summary of points raised' - a preliminary document before a future draft working party report that will also include commitments.

Since the previous meeting of the working party, held in November last year, Laos has adopted a range of new laws and regulations intended to help it meet WTO requirements. Specific changes include new legislation on banking and intellectual property, as well as new policies aimed at centralising treasury, customs and tax administration.

Additionally, Laos has improved its market opening offers on goods and services. The average tariff for agricultural products has been reduced to 39 percent, while the average tariff for industrial goods has dropped to 26 percent. Laos highlighted these tariff levels at the meeting, noting that they were comparable with those of some least developed countries that have recently joined the WTO. Laos also doubled the number of services sub-sectors contained in the offer to a total of

56. Countries interested in bilateral agreements with Laos, which include Australia, Canada, the EU, India, Japan, Taiwan and the US, have said this advancement will aid future negotiations.

Further revisions Laos has underway include reducing the range of goods that are subject to price controls, licensing requirements, and import and export prohibitions.

However, issues such as trading rights, customs valuation, rules of origin, subsidies, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, investment measures and intellectual property have been earmarked as requiring further work.

Laos has requested transition periods so that it has longer to implement WTO agreements in specific areas - namely customs valuation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, investment and intellectual property.

As a least developed country with a narrow export base and human resource and capacity constraints, Laos is receiving technical assistance from other WTO Members in its accession bid.

The country's Minister of Industry and Commerce, H. E. Dr Nam Viyaketh, stated at the meeting that Laos "seeks to use its WTO accession as a way to hasten economic integration while fostering real social development."

While no date has been set, Ambassador Bruce Gosper (Australia), who chairs the working party, has indicated the group's next meeting will likely take place in early 2009.

ICTSD reporting.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/cal/index.htm>. If you would like to submit an event, please email events@ictsd.ch.

Upcoming Events: 10 – 16 July

10 July, London, UK. PAKISTAN: THE (VERY) LONG MARCH TO DEMOCRACY. Hosted by Chatham House, this meeting will explore recent events in Pakistan. Six months after the parliamentary election, Pakistan remains in the grip of political uncertainty, convulsed by a severe economic crisis and on-going militant violence. Differences within the ruling

coalition over the reinstatement of the judges dismissed last year and the future of President Musharraf have aggravated the sense of drift. Were the expectations of a 'return' to democracy misplaced, and if so, what now for a state whose stability is widely judged to be vital to global security? For further information, please refer to <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/881/>.

11 July, London, UK. THE OUTCOMES FROM THE TOYAKO G8 SUMMIT ON 7-9 JULY. Hosted by Chatham House, Jon Cunliffe will review the outcomes from the Toyako G8 Summit 7-9 July and provide an overview of the Japanese Presidency of the G8 in 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.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/877/>.

11 July, Santiago, Chile. SOUTHERN CONE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY. The Department of Sustainable Development of the Organisation of American States (OAS), in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), is organizing a Southern Cone Regional Workshop on Sustainable Energy. This workshop is a follow-up of the results obtained during the Inter-American Meeting of National Authorities and Experts on Energy for Sustainable Development in the Americas which was held at the OAS headquarters on the 3rd of March 2008. During this meeting, it was decided that four workshops would be organized in order to discuss the themes of the 37th General Assembly. These workshops would adopt a specific regional perspective. The objective of the Santiago Workshop is to increase the sustainability of the energy sector by increasing the cooperation in between the countries of the region. This workshop will focus on regional energy integration and cooperation as well as diversification of the energy resources and energy efficiency. For further information, please refer to <http://www.oas.org/dsd/>.

14-18 July, Geneva, Switzerland. 57TH MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE. This meeting is organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. For more information contact: tel: +41-(0)22-917-8139/40; fax: +41-(0)22-797-3417; e-mail: info@cites.org; and refer to the website: <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/calendar.shtml>.

14-19 July, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. SECOND AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING ON SAICM AND ASSOCIATED UNEP WORKSHOPS. The Second African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) will be hosted by the Government of Tanzania and will convene from 16-17 July 2008, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The meeting will be immediately preceded by the UNEP Workshop on Strengthening Chemicals Management Infrastructures, from 14-15 July 2008. It will be followed by the UNEP African Regional Consultation on Mercury, which will convene from 18-19 July 2008. For more information contact: tel: +41 22-917-8111; fax: +41 22 797 34 60; e-mail: SAICM@chemicals.unep.ch; and refer to the website: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/meeting/afreg/Dar%20es%20Salaam/Default.htm>.

15-17 July, Accra, Ghana. REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING FOREST LAW COMPLIANCE AND GOVERNANCE IN TROPICAL WEST AFRICA. Organised by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the International Tropical Timber Organisation, this regional workshop will showcase possible approaches to improving forest law compliance at the country level. For more information contact: Steve Johnson, ITTO; tel: +81-45-223-1110; fax: +81-45-223-1111; e-mail: Johnson@itto.or.jp; and refer to the website: <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagelId=223&id=3970>.

14 July, Geneva, Switzerland. THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF TRADE IN SERVICES AGREEMENTS. Services are now very much on the trade negotiating agenda, both in the context of Doha and also in the various free trade agreement negotiations. The implications of these negotiations go beyond market access, but also impinge on countries' path to development and issues around ownership of resources within countries. South Centre, together with Routledge, is organising this event, featuring our guest speaker Professor Jane Kelsey. According to Professor Kelsey, "there is a fundamental contradiction between the global market model and the intrinsically social nature of services, whether they are social services like education and media, or finance, transport, energy and telecommunications." These contradictions help explain the controversy surrounding trade in services and the stalemate in the GATS negotiations. For further information, please refer to http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=657&Itemid=119.

10-11 July, Bismark, North Dakota, US. PRAIRIE CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE - ENERGY AND AGRICULTURAL SOLUTIONS FOR NORTH DAKOTA. The aim of the conference is to understand the responsibility as people of faith to respond to the challenge of climate change and communicate to our leaders, religious and secular, our concerns about climate change, calling for action. On the first day of the conference, attendees will hear from a range of speakers on topics such as climate change stewardship, ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and energy security. The second day will be their turn to participate and offer input. Individual attendees will choose from a selection of breakout topics and hear from an expert presenter who will share examples of practical actions and initiatives that can be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These presentations and follow-up question and answer session will serve as a foundation for facilitated strategy discussions to follow. For further information, please refer to <http://www.prairiestewardship.org/conferenceagenda.html>.

10-11 July, Lima, Peru. ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR INCREASING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. The Office of the Chief Economist of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the World Bank, jointly with ProInversion, is organising the international conference on Alternative Approaches for Increasing Infrastructure Investments in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event aims to gather policy makers together with representatives from investment banks, public development banks, infrastructure operators, risk rating agencies, international consulting firms, international financial

institutions and policy makers, with the objective of exploring new mechanisms to foster significant increases in infrastructure investments in Latin America. The program will include eight plenary sessions, as well as three parallel 'challenges and opportunities' sessions on energy, transport, and water and sanitation. Main topics to be addressed range from ways to increase investments in infrastructure in Latin America and lessons from successful international experiences to new financial mechanisms to accounting for social and environmental issues in the provision of infrastructure services. For further information, please refer to <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contEntMDK:21795484~menuPK:34482~pagePK:2524753~piPK:51421526~theSitePK:4607,00.html>.

14 July, Chicago, US. CARBON COUNTING 2008. Carbon Counting 2008 provides concrete, practical takeaways including a clear understanding of current and future emissions requirements, how to meet those requirements and the information necessary for your company's successful future in an increasingly regulated and environmentally aware marketplace. For further information, please refer to <http://www.alston.com/files/FirmEvent/8151f0f8-35d3-4f4c-a16f-ef3c5a2addf9/Presentation/celInvitation/Carbon%20Counting%202008.pdf>.

14-19 July, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. SECOND AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING ON SAICM AND ASSOCIATED UNEP WORKSHOPS. The Second African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) will be hosted by the Government of Tanzania. The meeting will be immediately preceded by the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Workshop on Strengthening Chemicals Management Infrastructures, from 14-15 July 2008. It will be followed by the UNEP African Regional Consultation on Mercury, which will convene from 18-19 July 2008. For further information, please refer to <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/meeting/afreg/Dar%20es%20Salaam/Default.htm>.

15-18 July, Geneva, Switzerland. INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY DATE. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Competition Law and Policy is a standing body established under the United Nations Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices (UN Set) to monitor the application and implementation of the Set. The UN Set is a multilateral agreement on competition policy, which was negotiated and adopted by General Assembly in December 1980. The ninth session of the IGE on Competition Law and Policy will focus on the following issues: the attribution of competence between community and national competition authorities and the application of competition rules; independence and accountability of competition authorities; and voluntary peer review of competition law and policy of Costa Rica Review of capacity-building activities and technical assistance. The session will also provide an opportunity for delegates to discuss the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development XII. For further information, please refer to <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intItemID=1942&lang=1&m=15324&year=2008&month=7>.

15 July, Jakarta, Indonesia. SEMINAR ON WORLD TRADE INDICATOR (WTI) 2008. A new database and ranking tool by the World Bank shows that in 2007 most countries have continued to improve policies and institutions supporting trade integration in the global economy. Countries that have the best policies and institutions also tend to have stronger and more consistent trade and export performance. The World Trade Indicators (WTI) 2008 database and ranking tool allows benchmarking and comparisons of countries and customs territories across trade-related indicators and will help policymakers and researchers analyse the key at-the-border and behind-the-border factors affecting the trade performance of countries and regions. Drawing from international databases and including some new measures of trade policy and performance, the user-friendly WTI database makes it possible - for the first time - to rank countries and compare their performance on all policy and institutional dimensions, namely trade policy, the external environment, institutions and business climate, and trade facilitation, that economists believe affect trade and export performance. For further information, please refer to <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,contentMDK:21817819~menuPK:34482~pagePK:2524753~piPK:51421526~theSitePK:4607,00.html>.

15 July, Geneva, Switzerland. WIPO INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON DIGITAL PRESERVATION AND COPYRIGHT. Increasing amounts of digital content are being produced and publicly disseminated due to the growth of the digital economy. There is also a marked trend towards transfer and migration of analogue material to digital form ("digitisation"), so that content can be easily and efficiently preserved, transmitted, and accessed. And yet, from an intellectual property perspective, the preservation of digital materials raises copyright issues in ways that analogue preservation does not. WIPO, in cooperation with the International Digital Preservation and Copyright initiative (IDPC), will organise this one-day workshop to survey recent developments and trends at the intersection of digital preservation and copyright. The workshop aims at contributing to the debate among stakeholders and policy makers on how to develop and improve policies and practices that support digital preservation of copyrighted content. For further information, please refer to http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/2008/cr_wk_ge/.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: 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.

10 July: WORKING GROUP ON TRADE, DEBT AND FINANCE

14-18 July: NEGOTIATING GROUP ON TRADE FACILITATION WEEK

14+16 July: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY – SINGAPORE

14 July: WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

15 July: COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

15 July: LAUNCH OF THE WORLD TRADE REPORT 2008

Other Upcoming Events

18 July, London, UK. POLITICAL ORIGINS AND RESULTS OF ECONOMIC BOOMS: TAIWAN, EAST CHINA, THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES. This meeting, hosted by Chatham House in association with the China Policy Institute, will examine important causes and effects of booms, or non-growth, in the four countries and the political as well as the economic factors. In recent decades Taiwan, parts of China, and Thailand have boomed famously. However, economically and politically the Philippines have remained relatively stagnant. Booms in the tiger economies came after agrarian reform and was predominantly driven by small and medium-size enterprises. Business politics now dominates all four countries. For further information, please refer to <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/873/>.

24-25 July, New Delhi, India. TOWARDS A COHERENT TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF INDIA. This National Conference aims to provide a forum for discussion on the dynamic relationship between international trade and poverty reduction, at the national as well as international levels. It will address the need for mainstreaming India's national development strategy to make use of the beneficial role that international trade can play in enhancing development and reducing poverty. The main conference themes cover regional trade openness index, income disparity and poverty; the need for mainstreaming international trade into the national development strategy of India; responding to the challenges of international trade and securing an inclusive path to development. Participants will include civil society organisations, farmer associations, business associations, media, academics, government officials, representatives from international and inter-governmental organisations, the donor community and media persons. For further information, please refer to <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events.htm>.

15-16 August, Dhaka, Bangladesh. FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE: CLIMATE FINANCING- CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD. Realising the importance of 'Carbon Financing' for mitigation and adaptation with the climate change Unnayan Onneshan - the Centre for research and Action on Development is organising a two day long First International Conference on Environment and Climate Change focusing 'Climate Financing- Challenges and Way Forward'. The major discussing issues will be the climate change and impacts, assessment and management of climate change adaptation and mitigation and climate action financing. For further information, please refer to <http://unnayan.org/env.conf/index.htm>.

RESOURCES

As ministers prepare to gather in Geneva on 21st July in an effort to finalise a draft WTO agricultural trade deal, it becomes increasingly important to understand the trade and development implications of the blueprint 'modalities' accord that is on the table. ICTSD, IPC and IFPRI have therefore commissioned a series of studies that aim to clarify what the draft accord will mean, in terms of increased trade flows for particular commodities, in particular markets and for particular exporters. The studies examine the implications of the proposed deal for EU, US and India, looking at both offensive and defensive interests in market access, domestic support and export competition. An overview paper also assesses the extent to which WTO Members are likely to achieve the trade and development objectives to which they initially agreed at Doha, by comparing the likely outcomes with those that emerged from the Uruguay Round.

The country studies have been conducted by a team of experts from around the world. The US analysis was conducted by Professor David Blandford (Pennsylvania State University), David Laborde (IFPRI) and Will Martin (World Bank); that on the EU by Professor Tim Josling (Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford University; IPC member), David Laborde (IFPRI) and Sébastien Jean (UMR INRA-AgroParisTech and CEPII); and that on India by Professor Munisamy Gopinath (Oregon State University) and David Laborde (IFPRI). The overview paper was drafted by IPC members Mike Gifford (former Canadian chief agricultural trade negotiator) and Raul Montemayor (Federation of Free Farmers, the Philippines).

Additionally, the ICTSD Agriculture Programme, with authors Riza Bernabe and Raul Montemayor, conducted two studies on the provisions for special products and the special safeguard mechanism in the Draft Agriculture Modalities for the Doha round. The studies and the related Information Note outline the implications of the Doha Deal for special products and the special safeguard mechanism.

OVERVIEW ASSESSMENT OF THE REVISED DRAFT WTO MODALITIES FOR AGRICULTURE. By Michael Gifford and Raul Montemayor, June 2008 (12 pages). To access the paper, please refer to <http://www.agtradepolicy.org/output/resource/Overview%20paper%20final.pdf>.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF THE MAY 2008 DRAFT AGRICULTURAL MODALITIES. By David Blandford, David Laborde and Will Martin, June 2008 (52 pages). To access the paper, please refer to <http://www.agtradepolicy.org/output/resource/US%20paper%20final.pdf>.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION OF THE MAY 2008 DRAFT AGRICULTURAL MODALITIES. By Sébastien Jean, Tim Josling and David Laborde, June 2008 (34 pages). To access the paper, please refer to <http://www.agtradepolicy.org/output/resource/EU%20paper%20final.pdf>.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA OF THE MAY 2008 DRAFT AGRICULTURAL MODALITIES. By Gopinath Munisamy and David Laborde, June 2008 (39 pages). To access the paper, please refer to <http://www.agtradepolicy.org/output/resource/India%20paper%20final.pdf>.

HOW WILL THE MAY 2008 "MODALITIES" TEXT AFFECT ACCESS TO THE SPECIAL SAFEGUARD MECHANISM, AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARD DUTIES? By Raul Montemayor, June 2008 (30 pages). To access the report, please refer to <http://www.agtradepolicy.org/output/resource/ICTSD%20Issue%20Paper%20No%2015%20-%20Special%20Safeguard%20Mechanism.pdf>.

TREATMENT OF SPECIAL PRODUCTS: IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHAIR'S MAY 2008 DRAFT MODALITIES TEXT. By Riza Bernabe, June 2008 (29 pages). To access the paper, please refer to <http://www.agtradepolicy.org/output/resource/ICTSD%20Issue%20Paper%20No%2014%20-%20Special%20Products.pdf>.

TREATMENT OF SPECIAL PRODUCTS: IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHAIR'S MAY 2008 DRAFT MODALITIES TEXT. ICTSD, June 2008. This paper summarises some of the key findings of the paper by Riza Bernabe (8 pages). To access the paper, please refer to <http://www.agtradepolicy.org/output/resource/ICTSD%20Information%20Note%20No%207%20-%20Special%20Products.pdf>.

CHRONIC POVERTY REPORT 2008-09 'ESCAPING POVERTY TRAPS.' The Chronic Poverty Research Centre, 8 July 2008. The first Chronic Poverty Report published in 2004 highlighted the key processes by which many millions of people are trapped in chronic poverty. Speaking at the launch Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown MP, then Chancellor of the Exchequer said, "I want to congratulate the Chronic Poverty Research Centre. This report is a landmark report. It is a challenge to any complacency, it is a call for change and it is a demand for urgent action." This, the second Chronic Poverty Report 2008-09 - Escaping Poverty Traps, provides a policy response to the first and for the 320 to 443 million people trapped in chronic poverty, it presents a set of policy solutions, with an emphasis on tackling exclusion, extending social protection and building assets. For further information and to access the report, please refer to http://www.odi.org.uk/events/2008/07/cprc_launch/index.html.

PROMOTION OF WIND ENERGY: LESSONS LEARNED FROM INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND UNDP-GEF PROJECTS. UNDP, 2008. This report provides a review of the active United Nations Development Project (UNDP) - Global Environment Facility (GEF) wind energy portfolio. It looks at the design, costs and efficiency of existing projects, drawing on the experience of 14 wind energy projects that have been financed through UNDP to help national governments implement wind energy public policies. It includes a detailed analysis and recommendations for future projects on prioritising countries, choosing types of policies and designing mechanisms. The Clean Development Mechanism, for example, emerges as a possible way of increasing revenues of wind energy projects. To access the

report, please refer to
http://www.undp.org/gef/05/documents/publications/windpower_web.pdf.

Back issues of *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*® can be accessed at: <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/archive.htm>.

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest® is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), <http://www.ictsd.org/>.

To subscribe to *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, send an email to: bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch and type the words subscribe bridges in the message header.

To unsubscribe from *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, send an email to: bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch and type the words unsubscribe bridges in the message header.

Contributors to this issue of *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*® are Trineesh Biswas, Jonathan Hepburn, Simon Jos Tans, Paige McClanahan, and Jessica Thorn. Editor: Paige McClanahan. Director: Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz. ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 7, ch. de Balexert, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (+41-22) 917-8492; fax: 917-8093. Excerpts from *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*® may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editor or the Director.

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest is made possible through the generous support of the Government of the United Kingdom (DFID) and ICTSD's core donors including the Governments of Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden; Christian Aid (UK) and NOVIB (NL). *BRIDGES Weekly* also benefits from support for the *BRIDGES* series of publications from donors including the Rockefeller Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

