



Bridges Trade BioRes

Biweekly news, events and resources at the intersection of trade and biodiversity

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Trade Issues Step to the Forefront of Climate Negotiations

Recent discussions during informal UN negotiations toward a new climate deal, set to conclude in Copenhagen this December, highlighted the importance of economic and trade issues for resolving the climate crisis.

Countries met from 10-14 August in Bonn, Germany to advance negotiation discussions in both the Kyoto Protocol (KP) and the Long-term Cooperative Action (LCA) working groups.

Discussions were parcelled out according to the sections and subsections of the Bali Action Plan – a decision taken by Parties in 2007 that kicked off these negotiations and which provides the framework for the text – into smaller meetings led by an appointed facilitator, whose role was to manage, but not guide, discussions.

Trade issues came to the forefront of discussions related to mitigation, technology transfer, and even on the shared vision. In a number of groups, trade implications arose explicitly and in others implicitly.

Developed-developing country divide apparent in mitigation discussions

While the *economic and social consequences of response measures* discussion is usually heavily dominated by the OPEC concerns, India proposed the following language be inserted in the text:

“Developed country Parties shall not resort to any form of unilateral measures including countervailing border measures, against goods and services imported from developing countries on grounds of protection and stabilization of the climate. Such measures would violate the

principles and provisions of the Convention, including, in particular, those related to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (Article 3, paragraph 1), to trade and climate change (Article 3, paragraph 5), and to the relationship between mitigation actions of developing countries and the provision of financial resources and technology by developed country Parties (Article 4, paragraphs 3 and 7).”

The suggestion received support from dozens of developing countries and was opposed by the US, Japan, and EU. Notably, the language referencing the UNFCCC agreement is clearly included to cover Border Tax Adjustments – as laid out in the US Waxman Markey bill that is now approaching the stage of Senate approval – even if they are WTO compatible.

The discussion of *sectoral approaches* is a continuation of a debate to consider sectoral targets applicable to all countries. This position is opposed by developing countries on the basis that it would generate significant trade conflicts and consequences, especially as it relates to competitiveness.

The solution of developing countries has been to focus the issue on voluntary sectoral approaches for implementation of Article 4 (relating to financing and technology development and transfer), whereby funding and tech would be channelled through sectors, instead of to a general pool. Sectoral efforts by developing countries are being considered as one option for nationally appropriate mitigation actions, or NAMAs.

On guiding principles, the current text already contains the following noteworthy statement:

“The implementation of cooperative sectoral approaches should not replace the national targets of developed country Parties [or lead to [new commitments for developing country Parties, [trans-national or national emissions reduction targets,]] arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or disguised restriction on international trade [, or the application of global uniform and equal standards for Parties]].”

A lively discussion in the subgroup covering *approaches, including opportunities for using markets, to*

enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote, mitigation actions emphasised the keen hunger that developed countries – especially Europe – have for a global carbon market. The relevance to trade is the many ways that the creation of an enormous market would have on the commodities and activities that it is based upon. Some observers say the carbon market could generate trillions of dollars and possibly surpass the global real estate market.

Technology development and transfer – much ado about IPRs

The current negotiation text has nearly two full pages on issues relating to intellectual property rights (IPRs). This tiny two-page fact has led many countries to underline in their interventions the importance of having a focused discussion on this issue in particular. The US initially stated in plenary that they considered IPRs to be a critical part of the discussions and wished to explore the issue further. Then, when intervening in the technology discussion group, they said they would not accept a decision within this process that in any way hindered or otherwise affected other IPR agreements.

Nevertheless, a number of developing countries continue bringing up the issue, in particular as relates to compulsory licensing and patenting, and the question of IPRs will certainly stay in the debate. It is an area where more information and analysis is needed within the negotiations.

Moving the shared vision forward

In addition to a request by India to insert the paragraph on unilateral measures here, there was also reference to development rights and respect for the international economic system. A number of developing countries assert that the respect for countries’ sustainable development, their right to development, and an acceptance of an open economic system are critical to the shared vision.

While the issue of agriculture did not get special treatment at this session, there were many reports that a small group of ‘like-minded’ countries, may be planning a side meeting – possibly in Bangkok – on the issue.

On financing, discussions went more swiftly than

in other groups – which was likely due to the agile facilitation of Luiz Figueredo, who headed this group. The details are coming together. Notably, outside the negotiation forum the G20 members present met to discuss the upcoming heads of state meetings and its focus on climate financing. A number of countries were taken by surprise and are concerned about what this grouping dynamic might mean for the negotiations.

In an interview following the negotiations Executive Secretary, Yvo de Boer laid out “four essential” questions he hoped Copenhagen would be able to answer including the emissions cuts industrialised countries would be willing to take, the actions major developed countries would be willing to do, the sources of financing to support necessary financing and technology transfer in developing countries, and the means for managing that financing.

These questions will certainly receive attention in Copenhagen, but striking a balance of positions among the widely varying national circumstances and interests so as to arrive at a consensual outcome will require more insight than answers than these can provide. It is not simply so much *what* developed countries will do, but *how* they will do it. The financing sources and management questions are political ones that are not limited to where and how, but – to catalyze a negotiated decision – need to be accompanied by a “how much”. The financing issues will only find resolve in conjunction with demonstrated actions by developed countries on their own mitigation and delivery of past commitments on technology and financial support.

ICTSD Reporting

Australian Senate Blocks Cap-and-Trade, Approves Renewable Energy

A majority of Australian senators have voted down a plan to implement a landmark emissions trading scheme that would have issued permits to the country's 1,000 top polluters producing three-quarters of national emissions.

The 13 August vote on the Labor Party's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, or CPRS, was rejected by a vote of 42 to 30. Votes were divided on party lines with conservative senators saying the plan would be a threat to jobs and the economy as a whole.

"This legislation will cost Australian jobs," said Liberal senator Scott Ryan. "It will not achieve its stated goals and it represents a massive power grab and a massive tax grab by a government obsessed with its own spin and with increasing its role in our national life rather than listening to the genuine concerns of the Australian people."

Meanwhile, the Australia Greens panned the plan for not being aggressive enough on cutting emissions and offering too much to big polluters. But the Greens, who hold five important senate votes, said they were open to negotiating a deal with Labor.

In an open letter to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Environment Minister Penny Wong, Greens leader Bob Brown offered his party's support if the government called for harder reduction targets and bolstered support for renewable energy. "We invite the government to immediately engage in constructive discussions with the Greens on this proposal, so we can together create meaningful action on the climate crisis," the letter read.

On 20 August, parliament approved a new renewable energy bill that will require 20 percent of the country's electricity to be generated by renewable sources by 2020.

Reaction from the environmental community in Australia was mixed. The Australian Conservation Foundation, a leading environmental group, praised the move as bold, but the Greens said the legislation provided too much assistance to big polluters.

It is not yet clear if the new initiative will win new support from other parties on the CPRS. In order to approve the proposed emissions trading, or cap-and-trade, scheme, Labor will need to sway at least seven more senators.

Canberra hopes to lead in Copenhagen

Polls show that a majority of Australians believe their government should be making moves to combat climate change, and many believe they are not moving fast enough. A recent Auspoll survey found that almost half of Australian voters said Canberra was moving "too slowly" on climate change. This number jumped to 60 percent in the 18-24 year old demographic.

"Australians are losing patience with their politicians on climate change and the support for Liberals backing the CPRS legislation remains very solid at 78 percent, up one point from May," said John Connor, CEO of The Climate Institute, a Sydney-based think tank.

Labor's current plan calls for emissions cuts in the range of 5-25 percent on 2000 levels by 2020. The wide margin, they say, is dependent upon the commitment of major players such as the US and China before and during the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties taking place in Copenhagen this December.

In 2007, Rudd was voted in on a promise to implement an emissions trading scheme and his government says it remains committed to showing up in Copenhagen with an approved plan as proof of Australia's commitment to combating climate change.

"This bill may be going down today, but this is not the end," Wong said. "We will bring these bills back before the end of the year because we on this side understand we have to start the economic transformation we need. We will bring these bills back before the end of the year because, if we do not, this nation goes to Copenhagen with no means to deliver our targets."

Following the vote, which many observers thought would pass, several environmental groups said achieving success in Copenhagen has been further jeopardised.

Because Labor must wait three months before reintroducing the bill, a vote on the CPRS could come mere weeks before the Copenhagen meeting gets underway on 7 December.

Conservative senators who voted against the bill say they would prefer to await the outcome of Copenhagen and the current US climate bill – which also proposes implementing a carbon trading scheme – before making a decision on the scheme.

Moving forward with renewable energy plan

The approval of the renewable energy plan on 20 August now has many observers speculating on the likelihood of Rudd getting Liberal support when the emissions trading bill is reintroduced.

Rudd has some leverage due to his high opinion ratings and the fact that if the CPRS bill is voted down for a second time, he would be in a position to call a snap election.

Having earned Liberal support on the renewable energy plan, Greg Hunt, the Liberal's environment critic, said there was now proof that the opposition could work with the ruling Labor Party on environment issues. Hunt said his party is ready to work on a negotiated outcome on the carbon trading issue and there will be no need for an election.

"We have already put forward very clear propositions," Hunt said. "We'll talk, but we're ready to talk now without preconditions."

But Labor officials have said they are not satisfied with the opposition's proposal and have to see amendments to their current plan.

The environment community is watching Australia's negotiations closely. Observers say the outcome of the second vote on the ambitious trading scheme in the lead-up to Copenhagen will likely influence the tone for negotiations.

If approved, the ambitious carbon trading scheme will be implemented in July 2011.

ICTSD Reporting; "Australian Parliament Rejects Carbon Trade Plan," REUTERS, 13 August 2009; "Australian Parliament sets renewable energy target," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 20 August 2009; "Australia Government Seeks Talks On Emissions Scheme," 21 August 2009; "Australian Senate Kills Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme,"

ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 14 August 2009.

IN BRIEF

Asia Faces Increased Reliance on Food Imports without Water Reform: Report

Developing countries in Asia could have to import more than a quarter of the rice, wheat and maize needed to feed their populations by 2050, a new report by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the Food and Agricultural Organization says.

According to the report, entitled 'Revitalizing Asia's Irrigation: To sustainably meet tomorrow's food needs', Asian food and feed demand will double by the year 2050. This increase, the authors say, will be driven by continued population growth, rising demand for dairy and meat products in urban centres, and diversification of agriculture into more lucrative 'niche' markets. With limited capacity to expand arable land in most parts of Asia, meeting the additional demand will require a combination of improved land and water management practices and an increasing reliance on trade.

Colin Chartres, director-general of the warned that choosing to rely on trade to meet a significant portion of this demand would place a massive burden on the economics of many developing countries where a large number of people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Compounding the risk of this strategy are increasingly volatile international markets, which could cause cereal prices to continue to rise.

The degree to which Asia turns to trade to meet their growing food demands will depend on their ability to refine current agricultural production strategies. "The best bet for Asia lies in revitalising its vast irrigation systems, which account for 70 percent of the world's total irrigated land," Chartres says.

Large, outdated irrigation schemes have failed to meet the needs of modern farming methods, which require reliable, flexible year round service, the report says. As a result, millions of farmers have taken it upon themselves to irrigate their land, in many cases employing antiquated and inefficient pump technology. "Governments' inability to regulate this practice is giving rise to scary scenarios of groundwater over-exploitation, which could lead to regional food crises and widespread social unrest," said IWMI's Tushaar Shah.

Under the status quo, the report found that South Asia would need to see a 57 percent increase in water available for irrigation, while East Asia would require a 70 percent increase. Additionally, the scenarios forecasted in the report do not include the impact of global warming, which is expected to make rainfall more erratic and less plentiful in some agricultural regions over the coming decades.

In this light, the study concludes that improving the water productivity of irrigated agriculture not only offers huge opportunities to increase food production and enhance livelihoods, but will also help the region respond to climate change impacts and water scarcity. Realising this potential will require new approaches to investing in infrastructure, reforming institutions and building capacity, the authors say.

Strategies put forward by the report range from modernising outdated irrigation infrastructure to encouraging public-private partnerships in order to increase investment in modern, more efficient methods, among others.

The report's findings were presented at the start of the Stockholm World Water Week, a conference that brings together 2,500 scientists, politicians and other officials to discuss the converging challenges that characterise the world's growing water crisis.

More information

A copy of the full report can be accessed here: http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/SWW2009/PDF/Revitalizing%20Asia%27s%20Irrigation_Low.pdf

ICTSD Reporting; "Asia faces food shortage without water reform: UN," AFP, 17 August 2009.

EU-Malaysia VPA Could be Ratified by Year's End

The European Commission's representative in Malaysia says a Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the two trading partners is in its final stage of negotiation and that the Agreement could be signed in the next four months.

"The plan aims to eliminate imports of illegally-harvested timber and timber products into the EU and support progress towards sustainable forest management," said Vincent Piket, the European Commission's Ambassador and Head of Delegation in Malaysia. "Both the EU and Malaysian negotiators are in the midst of finalising the agreement and we hope to sign the agreement by year-end."

Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) lie at the core of the European Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan – the EU's response to a call for action at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Beyond VPAs, Brussels promised to require EU member states to purchase sustainable forest products, and to introduce a legislative measure discouraging the importation of wood from unknown - and thus, potentially illegal - sources.

There is currently no EU law preventing illegally harvested wood from entering the European market. But Piket said the EU plans to implement safeguards aimed at blocking the import of illegally harvested timber as consumers rejected it.

If signed, the Malaysia deal would be the EU's first VPA in Asia and the third globally. The EU has only inked two others: one with Ghana in September 2008 and another with the Republic of Congo in May 2009 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 19 September 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/29586/> and 15

May 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/46666/>).

Malaysia says it hopes the bilateral agreement will improve checks and balances in the sector and help bolster the image of tropical timber, which some environmental groups criticise as an unsustainable industry.

But Piket cautions that the proper framework must be in place before the VPA can be ratified. "A lot of technical work, involving detailed assessment of the legal system in Malaysia, will have to be done," he told Bernama, the Malaysian government's press agency. "If we can resolve outstanding issues, then the agreement should be ready by end 2009."

Malaysia exports more than half a billion Euros worth of timber annually to the EU, making it the industry's third most important destination.

Piket said the VPA would offer Malaysian exporters an "important advantage" as they will not need to prove the sustainability and legality of their wood. In addition to the economic advantages, the Ambassador said the deal would help combat deforestation and help mitigate climate change.

VPAs do not violate world trade rules because the deals are both voluntary and bilateral.

ICTSD Reporting; "EU Hopes To Sign Timber Trade Agreement With Malaysia By Year End," BERNAMA; 18 August 2009.

Sustainable Palm Producers Fear Plummeting Demand

Less demand for premium products, resulting from the economic crisis, is having a devastating effect on the sustainable palm oil industry. Vengeta Rao, secretary general of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), says that recent estimates show the premium paid for sustainable certified palm oil has fallen to \$10-15 a metric tonne – down from \$50 in November when certified oil was first made available to markets.

While Rao says the global economic crisis is partly to blame for the downturn, he urged buyers to show more commitment to sustainability. If consumers don't distinguish the sustainable palm oil as being 'green', certification efforts may slow, Rao said.

"We have been led down the path of false hope in selling environmentally-certified palm oil," said Tan Sri Dr Yusof Basiron, CEO of the Malaysian Palm Oil Council, which aims to improve the image of palm oil throughout the world. The council argues that they now believe buyers are not willing to pay a premium for the sustainable product.

This point was illustrated recently in New Zealand when a consumer protest strong-armed chocolate maker Cadbury into pulling new products containing palm oil from shelves, promising consumers it would return to its original cocoa butter recipe. Cadbury is a member of the RSPO and uses only sustainable certified palm oil.

The RSPO is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder forum that was spearheaded by WWF in 2001. The organisation's standards include eight principles, 39 criteria and 144 indicators, which stipulate legal, economic, social and environmental requirements for appropriate management and operations. However, several NGOs have criticised the standard for not being stringent enough (See Bridges Trade BioRes, 17 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/45209/>).

In an effort to boost accountability within the RSPO and increase consumer confidence in the certification, the WWF has made plans to publish a 'buyer's scorecard' that would list companies that support sustainable palm oil, as well as those that have not fulfilled their commitments to buy (See Bridges Trade BioRes, 15 May 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/46654/>).

Moving forward, Rao was optimistic that global demand for sustainable palm oil would increase. In July, major China-based producers and users of palm oil announced their intention to support the use of sustainable palm oil. Given recent challenges, a WWF representative welcomed the news saying that, "any move China makes towards using sustainable palm oil will have a big influence

on protecting tropical forest resources in South East Asia and other areas."

China, along with India, is one of the world's top buyers of vegetable oils; together they import some 40 percent of global palm oil output, which stands at over 28 million tonnes annually.

Over the past two decades, areas under palm cultivation have grown by about 43 percent, according to RSPO - mostly in Malaysia and Indonesia, where deforestation pressures are high.

ICTSD Reporting; "Cadbury dumps palm oil after consumer protests," MONGABAY.COM, August 17, 2009; "Smaller premiums to slow green palm oil certification," REUTERS, August 11, 2009; "Consumers shun 'green' palm oil," BUSINESS TIMES, August 7, 2009; "Palm oil gets boost in China," WWF, July 14, 2009

Chinese Fish Traceability Not Thorough Enough for New EU Rules: WWF

China must further improve the traceability of its fisheries and fish processing industry if it wants to meet the forthcoming EU regulations aimed at combating illegal fishing, according to new a study by TRAFFIC, the WWF's wildlife trade-monitoring network.

The report – funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) – examined China's headway in its existing fish traceability systems and its ability to meet planned EU regulations that will require all imported marine products to be accompanied by catch certificates. In addition to issuing certificates for all catches by its vessels, China will have to acquire certificates from other countries when fish is imported into China for processing. The law, which is set to come into effect in January 2010, aims to combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing.

"By illuminating the role China plays in fish reprocessing, the report highlights the extent to which China must be involved in solutions to the

problems of overfishing and IUU catches,” said the report’s author Shelley Clarke.

China, the world’s leading exporter of marine fish products, accounts for much of the fish destined for the European market, according to Sally Bailey, WWF-UK’s marine manager. Its 9,000 re-processing plants, mostly located in the coastal provinces of Shandong and Liaoning, serve as a transition point for fish sourced from countries such as Russia and the US on their way to the final markets.

Citing a recent US government study, the report reveals that “more than 90 percent of US seafood exports to China are re-exported by China for consumption elsewhere, often back to the US.”

The report indicates that customs both in China and in some importing countries fail to classify fish imports appropriately, partly due to the incomprehensive commodity codes. Furthermore, the tracing of fisheries in China is complicated by the fact that fish may legally change hands several times whilst in the country.

“The welcome initiative by the EU to tackle IUU fishing, along with measures being introduced in the US, mean that the days are rapidly disappearing for those who trade in seafood products without adequate documentation to prove the legitimacy of their operations,” said Glenn Sant, TRAFFIC’s Global Marine Programme Leader.

The report proposed recommendations that include integrating and streamlining existing monitoring systems used by Chinese authorities, development of formal mechanisms and requirements for catch certification or similar documentation accompanying incoming shipments of fish for re-processing, and more assistance from the EU to aid China in complying with the new regulations to curb IUU fishing.

More information

The full report can be downloaded here: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2009/8/17/chinas-fisheries-must-adapt-to-meet-new-eu-regulations.html>

ICTSD Reporting; “China’s fisheries must adapt to meet new EU regulations,” TRAFFIC, 17 August 2009; “China must adapt to EU rules on fishing: study,” AFP, 16 August 2009; “China’s fisheries must adapt to meet new EU regulations,” WWF, 17 August 2009; “Understanding China’s Fish Trade and Traceability Systems,” TRAFFIC East Asia, 2009

EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Events

For a more comprehensive list of events for the trade and environment community visit the BioRes online calendar, <http://ictsd.net/news/biores/events/>.

Coming up in the next two weeks (21 August – 4 September)

23 August, Nairobi, Kenya. SECOND WORLD CONGRESS ON AGROFORESTRY. This event – organised by ICRAF-The World Agroforestry Centre, in collaboration with UNEP and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) of the University of Florida – will be based on several major topics including the use of markets as opportunities and drivers of agroforestry land use, tree-based rehabilitation of degraded lands and watersheds, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. For further information, contact the organisers: email: wca2009@cgiar.org; internet: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/wca2009/>

31 August-4 September, Geneva, Switzerland. WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE-3. This conference, organised by the World Meteorological Organization, will focus on the creation of a global framework linking scientific advances in climate predictions with the needs of decision makers in finding better ways to cope with changing conditions. Participants will include food producers, water managers, energy developers and managers, public health workers, national planners, tourism managers and others, , as well as climate service providers and high-level policy-makers. Aiming to increase commitment to, and advancements in, climate observations and

monitoring, the event will promote better climate information and services worldwide to improve public safety and well-being. For more information, visit: <http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/>

Other Upcoming Events:

7-11 September, Yokohama, Japan. SIXTH CITYNET CONGRESS. Under the theme “Harmonious Cities for Our Future,” this event will bring together key policymakers and urban stakeholders to evaluate, define, connect, and forge new alliances in addressing current and emerging urban development issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Over a thousand mayors, urban managers, practitioners, and international organisation partners are anticipated to attend the event, which aims to help improve the sustainability of human settlements, expand their capacities to effectively meet the emerging challenges of urbanisation, and achieve sustainable cities. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +81-3-3508-1246; fax: +81-3-3508-1696; email: citynet09reg@convention.co.jp; internet: http://www.citynet2009yokohama.jp/index_en.html

9-11 September, Manila, Philippines. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREEN INDUSTRIES IN ASIA. This conference, hosted by UNIDO in partnership with UNEP, The Government of the Philippines and ESCAP, will consider the opportunities and challenges of transitioning to resource efficient industries and sustainable production and consumption patterns in Asia. The first day of Ministerial-level deliberations will culminate in the adoption of a non-binding Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action outlining the steps needed to reduce the resource intensity and carbon emissions of industries and to monitor national efforts. The final two days will focus on how knowledge, technology and finance can improve the resource efficiency of Asian firms in the areas of cleaner production, eco-friendly products and environmental services, as well as growth and competitiveness. For more information, visit: <http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=7781>

10-11 September, London, U.K. TRANSATLANTIC REGULATORY COOPERATION: SECURING THE PROMISE OF NANOTECHNOLOGIES. Understanding that nanotechnologies will impact our lives on a global scale, this event will launch a major report on the issues of transatlantic regulatory cooperation produced by experts at the London School of Economics, Environmental Law Institute, Chatham House and the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Bringing together nanotechnology and regulatory experts from the US and EU, the conference will explore recommendations while generating and considering new ideas to enable greater transatlantic cooperation and convergence on nanotechnology oversight. Participation in the conference is by invitation only. If interested in attending, please contact Carmen Gayoso: email: nanotech@lse.ac.uk; internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/1217/>

28 September-2 October, Agadir, Morocco. JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS. This event will bring together delegates to further elaborate world-wide standards for fresh, frozen (including quick frozen) or otherwise processed fish, crustaceans and mollusks with the aim of protecting consumer health and ensuring fair trade practices in the food trade. As the thirtieth session of this committee, members will promote the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organisations. For additional information, visit: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/current.jsp>.

28-30 September, Geneva, Switzerland. WTO PUBLIC FORUM. This event presents an opportunity for governments, non-governmental organisations, academics, businesses and students to collectively discuss issues regarding the multilateral trading system. This year's Forum, entitled “Global Problems, Global Solutions: Towards Better Global Governance,” will occur against the backdrop of a global financial crisis, a rise of protection and protectionism, uncertainties

in the outcome of the Doha negotiations, and concerns regarding the relevance of the multilateral trading system. The event aims to highlight the continuing importance of trade and a rules-based multilateral trading system in stimulating the slumping world economy. In addition, the forum will explore the WTO post-crisis agenda to better position the multilateral trading system to deal with the post-crisis environment. For more information, visit: http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum09_e/public_forum09_e.htm

18-23 October, Buenos Aires, Argentina. THIRTEENTH WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS. This meeting will present an overview of the state of forests and forestry in order to discern trends, adapt policies and raise awareness among decision and policy makers, the public and other stakeholders. As a forum for governments, universities, civil society and the private sector, this event is an opportunity to exchange views and experiences and formulate recommendations to be implemented at the national, regional and global levels. For more information, contact the organisers: email: info@cfm2009.org; internet: <http://www.cfm2009.org/en/subseccion.asp?IdSubseccion=93&IdSubseccion=43>

19-21 October, London, U.K. THE CABI GLOBAL SUMMIT. Bringing together environment and agriculture ministers and other senior government officials from around the world, this event will allow participants to: hear from world-leading experts on the challenges of food security; share these challenges with representatives from international governments, major funding organisations and international development organisations; network with colleagues from around the world; meet representatives from major donors and potential partners; and gain commitment on addressing issues relating to food security. For more information, contact the organisers: phone: 44 7881 892 656; email: admin@cabiglobalsummit.com; internet: <http://www.cfm2009.org/en/subseccion.asp?IdSubseccion=93&IdSubseccion=43>

12-14 October, Bangkok, Thailand. TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON ADVANCING THE

INTEGRATION OF APPROACHES TO ADAPTATION PLANNING. Hosted by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in collaboration with the Government of Thailand, this workshop will enable around 100 experts representing developed and developing countries, along with intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, to share information on approaches to and experiences in integrating and expanding adaptation planning and action at national, sub-national, community and local levels. Additionally, the event will explore lessons learned, good practices, gaps, needs, barriers and constraints to adaptation with the aim of increasing integrated adaptation actions and measures at various levels and sectors. For more information, visit: http://unfccc.int/adaptation/sbsta_agenda_item/adaptation/items/4915.php

23-24 November, New Delhi, India. FOURTH ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY VEHICLE (EFV) CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION. A biannual international conference, this event aims to share a broad range of experiences with regard to measures for promoting or introducing EFVs. Additionally, the conference will discuss the problems associated with introducing EFVs and related technology to markets under existing legal and economic frameworks, and will offer participants opportunities to network and explore possible solutions. A parallel exposition is also planned to showcase related technologies. For more information, visit: <http://www.4efv.in/>

24-25 November, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. In conjunction with the Indonesian Catalyst Society (MKI) Meeting and the 6th Sustainable Energy and Environment (SEE) Forum Meeting, this symposium will provide a venue to explore the latest developments and trends of technology for sustainable energy and environment protection, especially in the region of South East Asia. Participants will be able to discuss cutting-edge scientific findings with researchers, engineers and practitioners with specific emphasis on the following focus areas: clean fossil energy, waste treatment and environmental protection, rural

energy, new and renewable energy, energy and catalysis, and efficient and environmental-friendly energy conversion processes. For more information, visit: <http://www.isseep.com/>

30 November-2 December, Geneva, Switzerland. SEVENTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. Under the general theme, "The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment," this session will be a regular gathering of the Ministers to engage in a broader evaluation of the functioning of the multilateral trading system and the future of the Doha Round. Organisers say the conference is not intended to be a negotiating session. The meetings will take place during a fixed three-day period with an emphasis on transparency and open discussion rather than on small group processes and informal negotiating structures. For more information, visit: http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min09_e/min09_e.htm

7-18 December, Copenhagen, Denmark. UNFCCC COP 15 AND KYOTO PROTOCOL COP/MOP 5. These meetings, the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, are expected to finalise an agreement on a framework for combating climate change post-2012 (when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period ends). For more information, contact the UNFCCC Secretariat: tel: +49-228-815-1000; fax: 49-228-815-1999; e-mail: secretariat@unfccc.int; internet: <http://unfccc.int/>

Resources

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy for review by the Bridges staff to Andrew Aziz at aaziz@ictsd.ch.

CLIMATE AND TRADE POLICIES IN A POST 2012 WORLD. UNEP and ADAM project. June 2009. This publication is a collection of short articles by experts on the relationship between trade and climate change policies. A joint

effort by the UNEP and the EU-funded ADAM project ("Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies: Supporting European Climate Policy"), the publication builds off discussions from the September 2008 "International Workshop on Post-2012 Climate and Trade Policies". In examining the future interplay between trade and climate changes regimes, the publication underscores that while trade should not be seen as a panacea for climate change issues, it can make important contributions. However, to do so, policy-makers must provide further clarity on the relationship between climate and trade, such as identifying trade-related measures and low-carbon technologies. Presently, opportunities exist for collaboration at the multilateral, regional and national level, and these efforts should not be seen as mutually exclusive. Additionally, while technology transfer and the implications of unilateral trade measures should remain a focus of trade negotiations, additional climate linkages, such as agriculture, must also be considered. The report indicates that while more analysis will contribute to better understanding of these complex issues, action cannot be postponed. The aim of this collection of articles is to provide a larger international audience with information that will promote further discourse and progress on the design and implementation of a future climate regime. To access this paper, visit: http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/UNEP_ADAM_Climate_and_Trade_Policies/UNEP_ADAM_Climate_and_Trade_Policies.pdf

CONVENIENT SOLUTIONS TO AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH: ECO-SYSTEM BASED APPROACHES TO CLIMATE CHANGE. Environment Department, World Bank. June 2009. This report, which is targeted at both World Bank task teams and country clients, promotes the inclusion of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation in national strategies. The paper discusses opportunities where ecosystem-based strategies can offer cost-effective, proven and sustainable solutions that strengthen national and regional adaptation strategies. Further integration of ecosystem-based approaches into climate change responses and national adaptation strategies, the study finds, will require greater sources of funding, which should include capitalising on opportunities to protect natural

ecosystems as part of major energy and infrastructure projects. The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, Forest Investment program and the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience are included as examples of opportunities to better protect natural resources, provide benefits to communities and incorporate cost-effective green technology in addressing the challenges of climate change. To access this report, visit: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ENVIRONM/ENT/Resources/ESW_EcosystemBasedApp.pdf

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT: THE RISING IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE AGENDA. Pedro da Motta Veiga and Sandra Polônia Rios. International Institute for Sustainable Development. 2009. This paper summarises the findings of four national case studies from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Peru, and outlines the importance of environmental and labour issues as they relate to the performance of exports and trade negotiations of Latin American countries. The study identifies opportunities and challenges in relation to these issues and explores how sustainable development topics have been introduced to each country's trade and investment agendas. Noting that the countries have exhibited different rhythms and intensities in their approach to the liberalisation of trade and investment regimes, the paper highlights areas of common interest with respect to trade, investment and sustainable development. These four areas include: 1) concerns regarding the impacts of new standards on the export capacity of products sensitive to social, environmental and climate change issues and the need to formulate appropriate negotiating strategies for trade agreements; 2) food and energy security risks relating to continued volatility of international commodity prices; 3) a growing focus on non-trade concerns, such as environmental management, social and labour rights, in free trade agreements with Northern countries, as well as the WTO agenda; and, 4) balancing the potential growth of foreign direct investment in the form of carbon intensive industries with increased investment in environmentally-sensitive sectors. To access this report, visit http://www.tradeknowledgenetwork.net/pdf/tkn_trade_south_america.pdf