



# Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

*Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective*

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Contributors to this issue of Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest© are Ahmed Abdel Latif, Jonathan Hepburn, Paige McClanahan and Allison Whiteman. Editor: Paige McClanahan. Director: Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz.

## LEAD STORIES

### US Export Subsidies Condemned by Developing Countries, Exporters

The recent reintroduction of export subsidies on US dairy products has prompted a stinging response from developing countries and exporting countries at the WTO. The Cairns Group of agricultural exporters and the G-20 developing country group both issued statements last week condemning the move, which they said could harm producers and traders at a time of economic crisis.

The subsidies send a “wrong message to the world,” the Cairns Group declared, denouncing what they described as a “backwards step” on the part of the US. The G-20 said the move was “a worrisome sign” that could hurt “unsubsidised farmers in the developing world.”

In a 22 May statement, US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack singled out “the reintroduction of direct export subsidies by the European Union earlier this year” as a justification for the support payments, which will be made under the Dairy Export Incentive Programme (DEIP) of the US Department of Agriculture. The EU introduced support for some dairy products, as well as frozen poultry and eggs, at the start of the year (see Bridges Weekly, 28 January 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/38827/>).

“Protectionism spreads quickly,” cautioned the G-20, which warned against the rise of ‘tit-for-tat’ measures across the world. If replicated by other countries, the US move could “aggravate significantly the world economic situation” and the hardship experienced in the developing world, the group said.

While Vilsack emphasised that the subsidies were “fully consistent with our WTO commitments,”

the G-20 also warned against the rise of what they described as 'murky protectionism' - "not directly violating WTO obligations and yet potentially weakening the WTO system at a time of economic crisis." The Cairns Group bluntly declared that whether the subsidies complied with WTO rules was "not the point": raising tariffs, domestic support and export subsidies towards their maximum levels "would undermine the effectiveness and credibility of the WTO system," the group said.

According to the US statement, the DEIP allocations will include 68,201 metric tons of nonfat dry milk, 21,097 metric tons of butterfat, 3,030 metric tons of various cheeses and 34 metric tons of other dairy products.

Vilsack also affirmed that "the Obama Administration remains strongly committed to the pledge by the Leaders of the Group of Twenty to refrain from protectionist measures" - a reference to commitments to tackle the global economic downturn that were made last November and again in April by 20 major trading powers (see Bridges Weekly, 8 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/44813/>). The Cairns Group nonetheless called for the US and EU to "show better leadership, particularly during this time of global financial and economic crises."

### New blow for the Doha Round

The export subsidy announcement was seen by Geneva-based negotiators as another blow for the faltering Doha Round of trade talks, which have been battered by repeated setbacks since its launch in the Qatari capital in 2001. Confidence in the negotiations is once again at a low after discussions broke down last July, despite consensus apparently emerging on a raft of controversial questions.

The Cairns Group emphasised that the US and EU, along with other Members, have agreed "to completely eliminate export subsidies by 2013 as part of an overall trade deal." However, some observers warn that this commitment might only be respected if an accord can be drawn up across all areas in the talks.

A new proposal from Uruguay seems aimed at jump-starting the agriculture negotiations, which some delegates indicate have slowed down since the departure of the previous chair of the farm trade talks, Ambassador Crawford Falconer (see Bridges Weekly, 22 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/45440/>).

The document seeks to highlight areas where "technical engagement" could move forward work on the draft 'modalities' text which is meant to serve as the blueprint for an eventual Doha deal – such as on the notification of domestic support commitments, or the number of 'sensitive products' that developed countries would be allowed to shield from tariff cuts in exchange for enhanced market access through larger tariff quotas.

The Uruguay submission also seems aimed at refocusing delegates' attention on the modalities framework that would provide guidance on the concessions to be made, implicitly rebutting an informal US-Canadian suggestion that countries move directly to detailed negotiations on a tariff line basis. Developing countries, as well as some of the smaller developed countries, have expressed concern that this approach could allow large trading powers to wring extra concessions from weaker WTO Members, without giving much in return.

In remarks to Bridges, one developed country delegate also acknowledged that developing countries might see the modalities draft as allowing them to "discipline the law of the jungle."

However, at last week's General Council meeting, WTO Director General Pascal Lamy appeared to endorse an approach that built on the US-Canadian idea, by outlining a twin-track approach to concluding the talks (see Bridges Weekly, 27 May 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/47407/>).

This would have Members continue work on the modalities framework whilst simultaneously exploring concessions on a bilateral or plurilateral basis.

While delegates remained largely pessimistic about the chances of an early breakthrough on a Doha Round deal, some hoped that the upcoming

meeting of trade ministers from the Cairns Group in Bali, Indonesia, could help spark progress in the troubled talks. In addition to ministers from the grouping, US Trade Representative Ron Kirk is also expected to attend.

ICTSD reporting.

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## **WIPO Copyright Body Takes up Limitations and Exceptions, with a Focus on the Visually Impaired**

The recently concluded meeting of WIPO's Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), 25-29 May, took up important issues such as a new treaty for blind and visually impaired persons, in addition to its ongoing work on limitations and exceptions as well as on the protection of audio-visual performances and of broadcasting organizations.

Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay tabled a draft treaty on limitations and exceptions for the blind and visually impaired. It is the first time, in recent years, that a group of countries has proposed a treaty at WIPO that, rather than expanding the scope of intellectual property protection, seeks to strengthen the rights of users and consumers—in this case, the blind and visually impaired. After intense discussions, it was agreed that the proposal from Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay, together with proposals made by other countries, will be discussed at the next session of the Committee.

The proposed treaty was elaborated and first presented by the World Blind Union (WBU) at the session of the WIPO Copyright committee held last November. The WBU is a non-governmental organisation established in 1984 representing over 160 million blind and partially sighted persons in 177 countries.

Access by the blind and the visually impaired to works protected by copyright has been a long-standing issue on the international copyright agenda. As early as 1982, WIPO and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation set up a working group to examine the matter.

According to its proponents, the treaty is urgently needed to provide a minimum standard for limitations and exceptions for the blind and the visually impaired as well as to allow and encourage the export and import of works published in accessible formats. They pointed out that in developed countries less than 5 percent of published books are accessible to persons who are blind or visually impaired, and access in developing countries is often even more limited.

The proponents also highlighted that by undertaking such an initiative, WIPO would act in accordance with the efforts of the United Nations to address the needs for enhancing access to knowledge for the most vulnerable or socially prioritised sectors. In particular, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force in 2008, states in Article 9 that “..States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications...”

Developing countries and non-governmental organisations widely supported the discussion of the proposed treaty. Brazil, in introducing it, emphasised that it represented an example of norm-setting in the field of limitations and exceptions to copyrights for persons with disabilities, for libraries and archives, for educational activities and for fostering technological innovations.

According to a Brazilian delegate the “objective is to set a precedent in intellectual property norm-setting, through an instrument on limitations and exceptions relating to the rights of users and addressing, in this case, the needs of blind and visually impaired persons for access to copyrighted works.”

African countries emphasised during the discussions that the proposed treaty should be considered as just one part of a more global and inclusive framework that would also include limitations and exceptions for education, research and libraries. Ultimately, the Committee reaffirmed its commitment to work “without delay” on the basis of “a global and inclusive approach.”

Developed countries, including the United States, European countries, Canada and Australia, recognised the problems faced by the blind and the visually impaired in accessing copyrighted works and indicated their readiness to find effective and practical solutions to complex problems. However, they were more circumspect about the proposed treaty. They indicated that deliberations on such an instrument would be premature. Some of them argued for the need to examine other measures at the national and regional levels to address the access problems raised.

Publishers' organisations were concerned about treaty provisions relating to the cross-border distribution of accessible works that would be created under copyright limitations and exceptions.

In addition, they pointed to the importance of the work carried out in the context of WIPO's Stakeholders Platform which has met twice in January and April 2009. These meetings brought together major stakeholders, including representatives of copyright holders and reading impaired persons, to explore the specific needs, concerns, and possible approaches to facilitating access to works in formats suitable for people with reading impairment.

The Committee welcomed the Platform Interim Report and encouraged the WIPO Secretariat to continue the work of the Platform. The WBU and other treaty proponents consider the work the Platform is doing on technological tools and standards important and necessary but complementary to efforts to conclude a treaty and not a substitute for it. The Committee requested the Secretariat to make its best efforts to organise a meeting of the platform in developing countries.

### **Exceptions and limitations in general**

Apart from the proposed treaty for the blind and visually impaired, it is expected that the Committee's next session will examine a study on limitations and exceptions for the benefit of educational activities, including distance education and the trans-border aspect thereof, in particular for developing and least developed countries. Countries were also invited to comment on a draft

questionnaire on limitations and exceptions which would be addressed to all WIPO member states with a view of its final approval at the Committee's next session.

Many of these activities result from a March 2008 proposal made by a number of developing countries - Brazil, Chile, Nicaragua and Uruguay – that advanced the need to undertake further work on limitations and exceptions in the context of the Copyright Committee.

### **Audiovisual performances and broadcasting organisations**

Despite the little progress that was made in overcoming differences on the protection of audio-visual performances and of broadcasting organisations, these issues will remain on the Committee's agenda for its next session.

In relation to audiovisual performances, Member States requested the Secretariat to prepare a background document on the main questions and positions as well as to organise in Geneva, informal, open-ended consultations on possible solutions to the current deadlock.

In relation to broadcasting organisations, the Secretariat will commission a study on the socio-economic dimension of the unauthorised use of signals, including the impact of the lack of access on the one hand and the need for an effective protection of broadcasters on the other hand. Upon the request of member states or regional groups, the Secretariat will organise regional and national seminars on the objectives, specific scope and object of protection of a possible draft treaty.

ICTSD reporting. "WIPO Limitations & Exceptions Treaty Advances; Audiovisual Treaty Gets New Life," IP-WATCH, 30 May 2009.

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**IN BRIEF**

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**India Appoints New Trade Minister; Meeting with USTR Set for the Weekend**

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Anand Sharma has been appointed India's new trade minister, New Delhi announced last week, making him the country's point person in the Doha Round of trade talks at the WTO. Kamal Nath, who served as India's trade minister from May 2004 until last month, will now serve as minister of road transport and highways.

The 56-year-old Sharma is known as an articulate speaker and a loyal member of India's ruling Congress Party. A lawyer by training, he has also served as a spokesman for the Congress Party, as minister of state for external affairs, and as minister of state for information and broadcasting.

Sharma is reportedly a close associate of India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, whose Congress Party retained its control of the government in national elections held in April and May. The new Minister of Commerce and Industry is expected to follow his Prime Minister's lead, especially given that he has little experience on trade matters.

The world trade community has awaited this announcement for some time. The collapse of the most recent high-level talks at the WTO was largely attributed to a clash between India and the United States over the details of an agricultural safeguard mechanism. Since that stand-off, which took place in Geneva in July of last year, both countries have appointed new trade ministers. The two men are set to meet in person for the first time over the weekend.

"I just had a telephone conversation with the US Trade Representative Ron Kirk. We had the preliminary exchange of views on the present economic crisis, how adversely it is impacting different regions," Sharma told the Press Trust of India in an interview.

"The issues which came in the way of the World Trade Organization discussions last year also need

to be discussed and sorted out," Sharma told India's Economic Times. "We remain committed to that."

Sharma and Kirk will meet in person on the sidelines of a summit of the Cairns group of agricultural-exporting countries that is set to take place in Bali on 6-7 June. Neither India nor the United States is a member of the 19-nation group, but the two countries, along with the EU, China and Japan, are expected to send trade delegations to the meeting. WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy will also be in Bali for the summit.

"We are positively inclined towards carrying forward talks," Sharma said. "Right now, the Bali meeting of the Cairns group will provide a useful platform for further discussions."

ICTSD reporting; "India names Anand Sharma new trade minister," REUTERS, 28 May 2009; "New ministers resume India-US talks on WTO at Bali weekend," PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, 1 June 2009; "Budgets set to pack in sops for manufacturing," THE ECONOMIC TIMES (INDIA), 2 June 2009; "It is 'Jai Ho' for Anand Sharma," TIMES OF INDIA, 22 May 2009.

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**EU Looks to Extend Import Duties on US Biodiesel**

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The European Commission submitted a proposal on Thursday to extend for up to five years the temporary tariffs that it imposed on imports of US biodiesel in March. A decision on the matter should come next month.

The anti-dumping and anti-subsidy tariffs are meant to counteract the effects of the payments and other forms of support that Washington offers its domestic biodiesel producers. European makers of the biofuel argue that the US subsidies have triggered an influx of under-priced American imports that has pushed them out of their own market.

After a formal request from the European Biodiesel Board in 2008, the Commission launched an investigation into the US subsidies.

The results of that study prompted the imposition of the temporary duties in March, a move that drew broad support from European governments (see Bridges Weekly, 4 March 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/42270/>).

Since then, the Commission has conducted a second probe into Washington's biodiesel subsidies. Those findings resulted in an increase in tariffs against some firms, but a decrease for the companies that cooperated with the investigation.

If European ministers endorse the extension of the duties next month, the measures would take effect as soon as they have been translated and published in the Official Journal of the EU. That process usually takes between four and six weeks.

The move was warmly welcomed by the European biodiesel producers, who have been struggling to cover their costs in an increasingly tough market.

"Without this, the situation for the sector would have been intolerable," said Bernard Nicol, the director general of France's Diester Industrie, in an interview with Reuters. "Still, very significant problems remain because biodiesel margins are very poor everywhere in the world."

Under the proposed duties, biodiesel produced by US agricultural conglomerate Archer Daniels Midland would be slapped with a duty of €359 per metric ton, a jump from the €261 tariff that was imposed in March. Cargill products, on the other hand, would get a slight reprieve with tariffs on its biodiesel sliding to €214 per metric ton, €61 lower than the duty now in place. The 50-odd firms that cooperated with EU's inquiry will face tariffs of €335 per metric ton, slightly less than the €409 duty that all other companies will encounter.

Whether Washington will respond with subsidy reforms remains to be seen. Earlier this month, US President Barack Obama, a former senator from the farm-heavy state of Illinois, introduced a Presidential Biofuels Directive that aims to "aggressively accelerate the investment in and production of biofuels," according to a government statement. But Obama has also vowed to "end direct payments to large agribusinesses that don't need them," although at

the time he made no specific reference to producers of biofuels.

### Additional information

To learn more about Obama's Biofuels Directive, please see <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/05/0145.xml>

ICTSD reporting; "EU move on US biodiesel vital but not enough-Diester," REUTERS, 28 May 2009; "EU states seen backing duties on US biodiesel," REUTERS, 29 May 2009.

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## EU-South Korea Trade Talks Stumble on 'Duty Drawback'

Leaders of the European Union and South Korea fell short of finalising a free trade agreement at the parties' Fourth Summit Meeting on 23 May in Seoul, primarily due to concern among EU member states about the deal's ramifications for its stressed auto industry.

Discussion on that front has centred on a 'duty drawback' provision that would grant Korean manufacturers reimbursement for duties they pay on cheap imported auto components when the cars produced from those products are exported to the EU. The EU has not allowed duty drawback provisions in its past free trade agreements.

Highly influential European auto manufacturers have expressed concern about the provision. The EU auto industry directly employs 2.3 million workers and generates jobs for 10 million workers in related sectors.

EU negotiators worry that the duty drawback question will prompt Korean officials to put the European agreement on hold while they discuss a separate bilateral free trade deal with the US this month. Seoul had hoped to finalise its EU deal before the end of the Czech EU Presidency on 30 June. But in light of the auto industry conflict, the



free trade agreement will likely not be signed before the end of the year.

Despite failing to complete the free trade agreement, the EU and South Korea made progress discussing their shared vision for climate change policy. The two countries have agreed in principle to long-term cooperation to stabilise greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050 at a level considered safe by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

At Saturday's meeting, the major trading partners agreed that the successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012, should include binding commitments from all Annex I countries, which include the EU and many of its 27 member states, but not South Korea. The parties also agreed that developing countries should mitigate carbon emissions as feasible in light of local circumstances.

The EU and South Korea also agreed that the 30 rich countries that are members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD, should reduce emissions insofar as their national circumstances allow them to. South Korea and a majority of EU member states are OECD countries.

These discussions come in the run-up to 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will be meeting in Copenhagen at the end of the year. At that summit, the parties will attempt to negotiate a climate policy agreement to enter into force when the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012.

But analysts expect that the EU and South Korea will butt heads in Copenhagen over how to implement the climate change goals. Seoul will likely seek more commitments from developed countries, while Brussels is expected to seek more binding commitments from developing countries like Korea.

This discussion is only one of a number of recent climate change initiatives led by Seoul. "Korea is now making bold investments in developing new sources of clean energy in order to remain globally competitive," South Korean President Lee

Myung-bak said on 1 June. South Korea unveiled its 'Green New Deal' in mid-May, pledging to invest several trillion won in green technology projects over the next three to four years.

ICTSD reporting; "A green partnership for the future," KOREAN CULTURE AND INFORMATION SERVICE, 1 June 2009; "South Korea's Lee calls for green, free-trade Asia," REUTERS, 31 May 2009. "S.Korea To Tackle EU On Trade Pact, Climate Talks," REUTERS, 25 May 2009; "SKorea, EU call for early conclusion of trade pact," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 24 May 2009; "EU and South Korea trade agreement delayed," DEUTSCHE WELLE, 23 May 2009; "Joint press statement on the EU-Korea summit in Seoul," 23 May 2009; "South Korea-EU trade deal eyed for 2nd half of '09," REUTERS, 23 May 2009.

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## US, SACU Anticipate Future Cooperation on Trade

Trade negotiations between the United States and the members of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) have picked up speed in the past few months, contrary to some recent news reports, a USTR source confirmed on Wednesday. Support from the new US and South African Administrations, as well as continued collaboration from the other SACU members, has provided a "new opportunity to advance co-operation," the source said.

Free trade negotiations between the US and SACU – which includes South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, and Swaziland – were mutually suspended in 2006. Since that time, the trading partners have actively pursued a Trade, Investment, and Development Cooperative Agreement (TIDCA), which was signed in July 2008. "Everyone was disappointed the free trade agreement did not bear fruit, but [the US has] a positive relationship with SACU," the USTR source stated. "The TIDCA is a significant agreement." With the TIDCA in place, the trading partners expect to make further progress under the new administrations.

The TIDCA is a framework agreement that establishes a forum and guiding principles for parties to discuss trade and investment. This US-SACU agreement places special emphasis on technical barriers to trade, customs co-operation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and trade and investment promotion. Under the TIDCA framework, the parties will establish working groups to reach trade arrangements in these areas.

The United States originally proposed the TIDCA as an intermediary step toward a free trade agreement. After talks stalled between 2004 and 2006 over the FTA's scope, US negotiators hoped that this mechanism would help the trading partners find middle ground and eventually reach a more comprehensive deal. In 2006, the US and SACU mutually decided not to continue negotiations for a free trade agreement due to irreconcilable differences over intellectual property protection, government procurement, and trade in services.

"After four or five rounds of negotiations it became increasingly apparent that we were approaching this through very different lenses," US Trade Representative Ron Kirk said of the earlier negotiations in an interview with Bloomberg News last month.

SACU member states already benefit under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, a Clinton initiative that allows some of the region's exports to enter the United States duty-free. During 2008, the United States and SACU traded US\$ 17.9 billion worth of goods. SACU is the United States' largest trading partner in Africa.

ICTSD reporting; "U.S., Africa Lower Trade Expectations," THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 29 May 2009; "Southern Africa: No Trade Agreement between SACU and U.S.," ALLAFRICA.com, 28 May 2009; "US Will Not Reopen SACU Trade Deal Talks," BUSINESS DAY, 12 May 2009; "U.S. to Limit Scope of Southern Africa Trade Talks, Kirk Says," BLOOMBERG, 11 May 2009.

## WTO IN BRIEF

### WTO Confirms Ministerial Meeting for 30 Nov – 2 Dec

The WTO will hold its seventh ministerial conference at the organisation's headquarters in Geneva later this year, the organisation's General Council agreed last week. The summit will focus on the organisation's regular work, not the Doha Round trade talks, WTO officials have stressed. The theme of this year's meeting will be "the WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment."

The announcement of the ministerial, which had been widely anticipated, came at last week's meeting of the WTO's General Council.

WTO rules call for a ministerial conference once every two years, but three and a half years have passed since the most recent such meeting was held in Hong Kong in December 2005. Other ministerials have been held in Cancun (2003), Doha (2001), Seattle (1999), Geneva (1998) and Singapore (1996).

But the next ministerial will have a different focus than past gatherings. Unlike previous summits, this year's ministerial will centre on the WTO's 'regular work', not the Doha Round trade negotiations, Lamy told delegates last month.

"We should de-dramatise ministerial meetings, make them a more regular exercise, where WTO activities are reviewed across the board," the director-general said. "A regular ministerial meeting is one thing; ministerial involvement in negotiations is another. We should not confuse the two."

ICTSD reporting.



## Ramírez, Van den Bossche Set to Become Next Appellate Body Judges

Ricardo Ramírez Hernández of Mexico and Peter Van den Bossche of Belgium will likely fill two vacancies on the WTO's Appellate Body, the organisation's highest court, trade sources confirmed this week. The WTO's 153 Member states are expected to finalise the selection of the two new judges at the next meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body, scheduled for 19 June.

Ricardo Ramírez Hernández, a former Mexican trade negotiator and now a lawyer at Chadbourne & Park, is slated to start his new job on 1 July. He will replace Luiz Olavo Baptista, a Brazilian lawyer, who left his post earlier this year.

Peter Van den Bossche is expected to fill a second vacancy after Italian law professor Giorgio Sacerdoti steps down at the end of this year. Now a professor of international economic law in the Netherlands, Van den Bossche has also served as a counsellor to the AB and as a consultant on WTO law to various national and international authorities. In 2001, he was named the acting director of the Appellate Body secretariat. Van den Bossche will take up his post as of 12 December.

Ramírez and Van den Bossche emerged as likely nominees from a competitive selection process that included candidates from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and the Netherlands (see Bridges Weekly, 22 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/45429/>). WTO custom dictates that one place on the high court be reserved for Latin America and one for the European Union, a norm that helps preserve a representative composition of the legal systems and geographical origins of the WTO's Members.

The WTO's Appellate Body is charged with conducting reviews of reports from WTO Dispute Settlement panels. Although Appellate Body judges do not represent individual governments, it is considered prestigious for a country to secure a nomination. Judges from China, Italy, Japan, the Philippines, South Africa and the United States

currently sit on the court. Each judge serves a four-year term that can be renewed once.

ICTSD reporting.

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### Events

If you would like to submit an event, please email [bridges\\_weekly@ictsd.ch](mailto:bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch).

#### Coming up: 4 – 10 June

5 June, Paris, France. 9TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM ON AFRICA. At this event, politicians will engage with more than 500 journalists, business people, development cooperation professionals, researchers, civil society representatives and students to debate the findings of the latest edition of the African Economic Outlook (AEO). At the 9th Forum, OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría, African Development Bank President, Donald Kaberuka and UNECA Executive Secretary, Abdoulie Jannet will welcome key African Ministers and CEOs of global companies to debate on African strategies in times of crises, as well as the successes and challenges of the information and communication technologies on the continent. For more information, please visit [http://www.oecd.org/site/0,3407,en\\_21571361\\_38469764\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/site/0,3407,en_21571361_38469764_1_1_1_1_1,00.html).

8–11 June, Montreal, Canada. THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM OF THE AMERICAS. This four-day conference will consider the major issues of economic globalisation with a focus on the relations between the Americas and other continents. Each day, the Forum will showcase speakers and events on a different theme: Economy and Governance; Sustainable Development, Health, and Energy; International Trade and the Americas; and International Finance. The Forum will foster discussion on major economic issues and facilitate exchange between government leaders, the private

sector, international organisations, workers' associations, universities, and civil society. For more information, please visit <http://www.conferencedemontreal.com/>.

7-19 June, Venice, Italy. 2009 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY WORKSHOP. This workshop, jointly sponsored by the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC) and the International Centre for Climate Governance, represents an informal network of analysts actively working on international energy issues. The IEW provides a venue for scholars and researchers to compare quantitative energy projections and to understand the reasons for diverging views of future developments. The workshop is structured with one plenary session per day, each one hosting two key-note speeches of international experts of the research field. Then, three parallel sessions will be held at each time slot with 3 or 4 presentations each. The aim is to select about 85 papers out of the applications. For more information please visit <http://www.iccgov.org/iew2009/2-0.htm>.

## WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted [http://www.wto.org/meets\\_public/meets\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/meets_public/meets_e.pdf). Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, and are open to WTO Members and accredited observers only.

- 9 June: Aid for Trade Briefing for Developing Countries
- 10 June: TRIPS Council – Special Session
- 11 June: Committee on Rules of Origin
- 12 June: Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries

## Other upcoming events

12 June, Geneva, Switzerland. LINKING ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WTO LAW: THE ROLE OF THE WTO IN THE ENERGY AND CLIMATE DEBATE. This one-day workshop, which is sponsored jointly by the World Trade Institute and the International Institute for Sustainable Development, will address the links between climate change and trade liberalisation, competitiveness & leakage, and energy. Trade regimes have the potential to significantly help or hinder progress towards climate change goals. The need to incorporate climate change considerations into the trade regime asks serious questions of what can be achieved within present agreements and structures and what changes may be required. The central role that energy plays in both climate change and trade has led to suggestions that the next WTO round should be an 'energy round'. Both WTI and IISD have been working at the cutting edge of trade and climate change linkages and are completing major programmes on those issues. Results from these programmes will inform the Copenhagen negotiations and form the basis for the 12 June workshop, which will include speakers from the WTO. If you would like to register, please send an email to Olga Nartova, [olga.nartova@wti.org](mailto:olga.nartova@wti.org). For more information, please click here: <http://ictsd.net/downloads/2009/05/wti-iisd-programme-12-june-2009.pdf>.

16-17 June, Belfast, Ireland. SUSTAINABLE OCEAN SUMMIT: REDUCING RISK, INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY: SOLUTIONS THROUGH COLLABORATION. The Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) is the only international, cross-sectoral industry conference on business leadership and sustainable development of the marine environment. The meeting will bring together participants from the shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, and maritime salvage sectors to define the global business agenda on oceans and to develop proactive policies and programmes to address the ocean sustainability challenges confronting the private sector. The conference, which is being organised by the World Ocean Council, stresses that as activity in the ocean increases more collaborative efforts will be needed to achieve sustainable management of the sea. For further information,

visit

<http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/events.php>.

22-24 June, Vienna, Austria. INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE 2009: TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED ENERGY AGENDA BEYOND 2020: SECURING SUSTAINABLE POLICIES AND INVESTMENTS. Now in its tenth year, this conference aims to provide a platform for policy makers and representatives from the private and public sectors to discuss energy issues in the context of the global financial crisis. Co-organised by UNIDO, IIASA, the Austrian Development Cooperation and the Austrian Energy Agency, this event will stress the need for increased international cooperation and highlight the role the UN system and development partners can play in this agenda. For more information refer to: <http://www.viennaenergyconference.org/>.

22-24 June, Seoul, South Korea. ABCDE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE. The ABCDE Development Conference will provide and opportunity for many of the world's foremost development thinkers to present their ideas. This year's conference will focus on "Lessons from East Asia and the Global Financial Crisis." Through this lens, participants will discuss industrial policy, social capital and institutions, financial regulation, competition, and a roadmap for a sustainable economic system. The conference will feature four Keynote Addresses, five Plenary Sessions, and one Plenary Roundtable. The conference is co-sponsored by the World Bank, the Government of Korea's Ministry of Strategy and Finance, and the Korea Development Institute. For more information, please visit: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTABCDESK2009/0,,menuPK:5743929~pagePK:64168427~piPK:64168435~theSitePK:5743923,00.html>

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## Resources

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS ON GLOBAL FDI FLOWS. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

April 2009. This new study from UNCTAD shows that gloomy market prospects, reduced financial resources and aversion to risk already had a negative impact on foreign direct investment (FDI) flows in 2008 and that this effect could deepen in 2009. The authors note that the fall in global FDI in 2008-2009 is the result of two major factors: first, the capability of firms to invest has been reduced by a fall in access to financial resources, and second, the propensity to invest has been affected negatively by economic prospects, especially in developed countries that are hit by a severe recession. The setback in FDI has also led to a fall in cross-border mergers and acquisitions. To illustrate uncertainties and provide a framework for further discussion and analysis, this paper presents a set of three scenarios: quick recovery of FDI as soon as 2010, slow recovery beginning in 2011, and no recovery before 2012. This study can be downloaded at: [http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/diaeia20093\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/diaeia20093_en.pdf).

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS: A GLOBAL ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE, Peterson Institute for International Economics, April 2009. This article looks at the economics of improving energy efficiency in the building sector. While improving efficiency in this sector would be more expensive than some studies have suggested, the author finds that the GHG abatement costs of improved building efficiency are less expensive than the abatement costs in other sectors. However, significant barriers to investment in energy efficient building will make it difficult to take advantage of these lower abatement costs, even if a relatively high price for carbon is established. New financing approaches, improved building standards, government investment, and enhanced awareness of the energy cost savings from increased efficiency are all needed to reduce emissions from the building sector and thus to assist in meeting the 50 percent reduction target. This article can be downloaded at: <http://www.petersoninstitute.org/publications/pb/pb09-8.pdf>.

IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS ON AFRICA. African Development Bank Group, March 2009. This working paper assesses the effects of the recent global financial and economic crisis on

drivers of Africa's growth performance. Africa's low level of financial integration meant that African economies were relatively isolated from the direct impact of the financial crisis. Thus, Africa found itself shielded from the impact of the 2007 subprime and the summer 2008 banking crises, avoiding the negative effects of a financial crisis that affected the very foundations of international financial markets. Most African financial markets experienced contagion effects, resulting in large losses in value and capital outflows. Overall, Africa is expected to move from a budgetary surplus accounting for 2.3 percent of GDP in 2008 to a budgetary deficit of 5.5 percent in 2009. The sectors most affected by the crisis will be mining, tourism, textile, and manufacturing. Enterprise failures, cancellations and postponements of projects are becoming widespread in African countries. Substantial job losses are registered, with negative effects on households' standards of living. This working paper can be downloaded at: <http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/BAD%2096%20Anglais%20%20INTERNET%20PDF.pdf>.