



Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective

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LEAD STORIES

Doha Talks Get New Energy at Cairns Group Meeting

Trade ministers meeting on the sidelines of a summit of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters have breathed new life into the Doha Round of trade talks, which many had declared dead after a collapse in high-level negotiations in Geneva last summer. But officials emerging from this week's meetings, which brought together the top trade representatives from India and the US, as well as WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, appear to have set themselves a new deadline for bringing the negotiations to a successful close: the end of 2010.

"What I saw is Ron Kirk and Anand Sharma clearly engaging in a process that should lead to the conclusion of the round sometime next year," Lamy told journalists on Tuesday, referring to the US Trade Representative and the Indian trade minister, Agence-France Presse reported. The Director-General met with trade ministers on Monday to brief them on the latest developments in the talks back at WTO headquarters in Geneva. David Walker of New Zealand, who chairs the Doha negotiations on agriculture, was also in Bali for the meetings, as were high-level trade officials from China, Japan and the EU, which, like the US and India, are not official members of the Cairns Group.

The discussions between Kirk and Sharma, which marked the first face-to-face meeting between the two officials, sparked particular interest within the trade community. The US and India were central players in the stalemate that brought down the talks last July (see Bridges Daily Updates, 30 July 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/wto/englishupdates/15315/>); both countries have since appointed new trade

ministers and one has undergone a change in administration.

With the new cast set, this week's meetings, which were held at the Nusa Dua beach resort on the island of Bali, Indonesia, seemed to offer a new start for the two countries' Doha talks.

"I had a very good meeting with Ron Kirk. We did not discuss specifics, only the broader aim to take the process forward. We didn't discuss positions, we discussed the principles," Sharma, who just took up his post last month, told Reuters on Monday.

Sharma added that it was time to "pick up the pieces from where they are and move forward."

"There are no obstacles which are insurmountable," he said. "We have to create an understanding and trust. There have to be adaptations and adjustments, that is what negotiations are meant for."

But Kirk, in a statement released after the close of the meeting, stressed that the work already completed should not be discarded, but negotiators will need to think creatively about how the talks should proceed. The US has previously indicated that what is now on the table in the talks is unacceptable; it wants to gain more market access for its exports.

The Indian minister will visit Washington later this month to follow up on his consultations with Kirk.

"We are not looking at the difficulties, we are looking at the possibilities, to do our best and take this process to its culmination," Sharma told AFP.

Cairns Group backs Doha, slams export subsidies

The Cairns Group ministers also threw their support behind Doha, calling a successful outcome to the talks "within our grasp."

The group roundly condemned the export subsidies that the US and the EU have recently re-introduced to protect their domestic agriculture producers, saying that they were "deeply disappointed" by the protectionist shifts (see

Bridges Weekly, 3 June 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/47866/>). But the EU's ambassador to the WTO, Eckart Guth, defended the European subsidies in an interview over the weekend.

"The export subsidies are considered as a tool which should be eliminated under the Doha Round and we have taken a commitment to eliminate these export subsidies in 2013 and not before," Guth told Reuters.

The Cairns Group consists of Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, and Uruguay.

Where to go from here?

Although no official Doha-centred ministerial summit is in the works, further progress in the Round could come soon. Indeed, Lamy has indicated that the Doha Round will be on the agenda at several major upcoming meetings. OECD ministers will gather in Paris later this month, the G8 is slated to meet in Italy in early July, and trade ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation group will convene in Singapore two weeks later. Each of those gatherings could add to the Round's momentum, Lamy has said.

The next meeting of the G20 group of major economic powers, which is set to take place in the industrial US city of Pittsburgh in September, will also be a major focus for negotiators.

A full WTO ministerial has been scheduled to take place in Geneva in late autumn (see Bridges Weekly, 3 June 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/47831/>). Although Doha is not officially on the agenda there, ministers would no doubt have the opportunity to discuss the Round on the sidelines of the summit.

ICTSD reporting; "INTERVIEW-EU defends dairy export subsidies in trade row," REUTERS, 8 June 2009; "India, US hold 'positive' trade talks," REUTERS, 8 June 2009; "WTO chief: Doha

Round should conclude by 2010,” AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE, 9 June 2009.

Trade Leaders Call for Fisheries Subsidies Reform on World Oceans Day

Key trade officials marked the occasion of the first World Oceans day by calling for reform of global fisheries subsidies. Pascal Lamy, director-general of the WTO, and US Trade Representative Ron Kirk released separate statements recognising both the threat of overfishing and the role that subsidies play in contributing to the problem.

Lamy stressed that the US\$16 billion in worldwide fisheries subsidies are having a harmful effect on the world's oceans. But he insisted that sustainability can be achieved through negotiations at the WTO.

“WTO members are now negotiating to reform these subsidies programmes so that the fishing becomes a sustainable industry and so that we can fully appreciate our oceans' bounty for generations to come,” the director-general said. “A deal in the WTO now, would mean richer oceans for the future generations.”

Lamy cautioned that mismanagement of the world's fish stocks would not only have environmental impacts, but social ones as well. “Today, we run the risk that over fishing will so deplete fish stocks in our oceans that many species will disappear forever,” he warned. “This is not only bad news for the oceans it is bad news for the world's 43.5 million full time fishers.”

US Trade Representative Ron Kirk took a similar approach, noting the alarming connection between plummeting fish stocks and the millions of people who rely on the oceans for their food and livelihood. Kirk pointed out that declining stocks are directly connected to overfishing and a bloated global fishing fleet and acknowledged the important role of the trade community in helping to solve the problem. “I am pleased that trade ministers play a constructive role in helping to

address some of these challenges,” he said in a statement.

The USTR also used the occasion to reaffirm his country's commitment to the current round of WTO negotiations, including the reeling in of fisheries subsidies. “In the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Agenda negotiations, the United States is a leader in pressing for stronger rules that prohibit harmful fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing,” the statement said. “We will continue to seek an ambitious outcome in those negotiations, as well as explore other ways that trade policy can help the oceans support healthy fish stocks for generations to come.”

Current fishing fleets unsustainable

The concept of an official day to recognise the world's oceans, as a compliment to Earth Day, was first floated in the wake of the first Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. Last year, the UN General Assembly resolved that 8 June 2009 would mark the occasion of the first World Oceans Day.

Concern over mismanagement of the world's fisheries in recent decades has brought the trade community into the environmental debate. The global fishing fleet has ballooned in the past 40 years and it is generally recognised that government subsidies worldwide have contributed to this growth.

The environmental group Oceana says that subsidies promote overcapacity and overfishing by pushing fleets to fish longer, harder and farther away than would otherwise be possible. The organisation estimates global fisheries subsidies to be somewhat higher than WTO reports - some US\$20 billion annually. This would represent about a quarter of the value of the world catch.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) now estimates that more than 80 percent of the world's fish stocks are depleted, overfished or fished to their sustainable limits, with no room for expansion. And a 2008 World Bank / FAO report estimates that overfishing has led to annual losses of some US\$50 billion in marine fisheries.

Slow road to reform

The WTO's Negotiating Group on Rules is currently engaged in a dedicated negotiation on fisheries subsidies as part of its Doha trade round. However, progress has been slow due to longstanding disagreement over core issues. A particular challenge for the group has been to balance the need to protect the world's fish stocks from overfishing and the need to afford a just amount of 'special and differential treatment' to the world's poorer countries – many of which rely heavily on the sector.

The ministerial declaration that emerged from the WTO's 2005 Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong called on the Negotiating Group on Rules to "strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and over-fishing."

The November 2007 rules text took this into account, providing a detailed legal text for a new agreement on fisheries subsidies. Some subsidies would have been permissible for all countries, provided that they maintain an international standard fisheries management system. But it soon became clear that many governments considered the proposed disciplines to be too strict.

Given the controversy that arose over some of the fisheries portions of the November 2007 text, the chair of the rules group, Ambassador Guillermo Valles Galmés of Uruguay, released a more general 'roadmap' for the fisheries discussions on 19 December 2008 (see Bridges Weekly, 14 January 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/37803/>).

The chair indicated that the purpose of the roadmap was to allow delegates to take a step back from the most recent draft text — without abandoning it — and "reflect on the fundamental issues" of its mandate to "strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector" and establish "appropriate and effective" flexibilities for poorer countries.

At the most recent meeting of the Negotiating Group on Rules, Members avoided controversial issues but continued to follow the chair's roadmap

(see Bridges Weekly, 20 May 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/46959/>).

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

Three Southern African Nations Sign Interim EPA with EU

Three members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) – Lesotho, Swaziland, and Botswana – signed an interim economic partnership agreement, or EPA, with the European Union on 4 June. The deal will give the SADC countries access to EU markets while the parties negotiate a permanent EPA. Mozambique has also expressed its intention to sign the agreement but was not present as last week's meeting in Brussels.

The EU and the SADC did not reach consensus on controversial issues – notably the EU's 'Most Favoured Nation' status and definition of the parties to the agreement – before last week's meeting. As a result, three members of the African regional group – Angola, Namibia, and South Africa – opted not to sign.

This decision is least consequential for Angola, which enjoys duty-free, quota-free EU market access under the EU's 'Everything But Arms' (EBA) initiative for Least Developed Countries. Namibia's decision will not affect its current access to the European market, according to an EU trade official. Namibia, which does not have LDC status, has an open invitation to sign the interim EPA.

South Africa negotiated the Trade, Development, and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) with the EU a decade ago, which already gives the country open access to EU markets. But South Africa took issue with the agreement's implications for its Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) drive, an initiative that supports local infant industries.

Divergence among the African parties may have wider implications. South Africa has been quick to assert that this interim deal undermines the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). By signing this deal with the EU, SACU members Swaziland and Lesotho have broken rules that prevent the bloc's members from entering into individual trade agreements with other countries. If this dispute is not resolved, it could mean the end of the century-old customs union.

Some analysts have interpreted this assertion as a veiled threat and criticised South Africa's obstructionist role in the talks. South Africa already benefits from the TDCA, while the other parties are under pressure from the WTO to reach a deal since a waiver on the Cotonou agreement – which gives former colonies preferential EU market access – expired in December 2007.

But South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) responded Monday that it was merely voicing real legal issues and not intending to threaten any SACU party. "It is a question of the legal requirements to manage the way the union functions. This is not a political issue, these are legal requirements in order to protect our markets," DTI deputy director-general Xavier Carim told reporters.

Either way, a glitch with SACU will have major implications. Lesotho earns about 60 percent of its national revenue, and Swaziland 70 percent, through the SACU revenue-sharing scheme. If SACU is dissolved, Lesotho could lose up to a quarter of its GDP overnight, and Swaziland 20 percent. The economic fallout from the breakup of SACU would likely spill over into neighbouring South Africa.

ICTSD reporting; "Namibia: No Penalty for Not Signing EPA, Says EU," THE NAMIBIAN, 8 June 2009; "Threat of regional upheaval if SA torpedoes customs union," BUSINESS DAY, 8 June 2009; "DTI says SA not threatening stability of Sacu, regional trade," CREAMER MEDIA'S ENGINEERING NEWS, 8 June 2009; "European Union signs interim EPAs with some SADC countries," SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER, 7 June 2009.

WTO IN BRIEF

Russia Abandons Unilateral Bid to Join WTO

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin threw a curveball to the trade community yesterday with his announcement that Russia will abandon efforts to join the WTO as a single nation. Instead, Russia will seek entry as a new customs union with Belarus and Kazakhstan, to be launched 1 January 2010. Russia has been negotiating its terms of entry into the global trade body since 1993, but the process has repeatedly been tripped up by disputes over politics or trade measures.

This announcement comes as a surprise after Russia generated strong political support for quick WTO accession during high-level meetings last week. EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton and US Trade Representative Ron Kirk, who met with top Russian trade officials on the sidelines of the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, said they both remain committed to Russia's entry to the WTO.

"We have agreed that WTO accession should be completed by the end of the year," Ashton told Reuters following a meeting with Russian Economy Minister Elvira Nabiullina last week. "We have a common understanding on the gaps that need to be bridged now." Kirk also told reporters that Russia had a strong chance of joining the WTO soon, although entry this year "may be a bit premature."

Despite the vote of confidence by the EU and US, Russia still needed to resolve critical issues with its trading partners prior to accession. Moscow had more luck with Brussels than Washington on this front during last week's meetings. The EU is seeking to reduce or eliminate Russia's export duties on timber, which harm the timber industry in Finland. In a change of course last week, the parties initiated dialogue on altering the tariff.

US-Russia negotiations have stalled in recent months over Russia's ban of US pork. Russia's Federal Consumer Protection Service stated that the US pork ban is intended to prevent the spread

of the H1N1 'swine flu' virus, despite a report by the World Health Organization last month that the virus is not transmitted through food. "We continue to hold out hope that Russia will move as quickly as possible to lift the ban," Kirk said at a news conference, following talks with Russian trade officials.

Some analysts posit that Russia's new move is a strategy designed to fast track Russia's accession to the WTO. "He's saying 'If you don't let us in, you'll have to deal with a customs union'," Nikolay Mizulin, a Russian trade lawyer, told the Wall Street Journal.

Others think the move is a genuine tactical shift. "It's a sign of frustration on the Russian side, but it's also recognition that WTO membership is no longer such a priority," Roland Nash, chief strategist at investment bank Renaissance Capital, told Reuters.

Nevertheless, Putin's announcement is puzzling in light of the recent progress in the 16-year negotiations. "[T]here is a good window of opportunity [for Russia to join the WTO] at the moment – probably the best in recent years," Maxim Medvedkov, head of the Russian delegation negotiating Russia's accession to the WTO, told the Rio Novosti news agency at the conclusion of last week's meetings. "So if we don't use this opportunity it would be a shame."

ICTSD reporting; "Russia Changes its WTO Strategy," THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 10 June 2009; "Russia drops unilateral WTO bid for ex-Soviet pact," REUTERS, 9 June 2009; "U.S. Nudges Russia on Trade," THE MOSCOW TIMES, 8 June; "EU, Moscow say Russia should join WTO this year," REUTERS, 4 June; "Russia to discuss WTO entry with EU, U.S. next week," REUTERS, 29 May.

European Generic Drug Seizures Take Centre Stage at TRIPS Council Meeting

German custom officials seized a shipment of generic drug Amoxicillin that was passing through Frankfurt, Germany en route to the Republic of Vanuatu last month, adding fuel to an ongoing debate over whether European patent rules are inhibiting access to medicines in developing countries.

The antibiotics, worth approximately €28,000, were held for four weeks before the authorities released the medicines to Vanuatu. The release came after the British drug manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline, the former patent holder for the Amoxil brand of Amoxicillin, confirmed that there was no trademark violation.

The incident has intensified recent debate over the EU Regulation on Border Measures, which allows customs officials to intercept goods suspected of infringing certain intellectual property rights. The issue was raised again at an 8 June meeting of the WTO's TRIPS Council, the committee that deals with trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights. Brazil and India, supported by several other developing countries including China, Cuba and South Africa, complained that the EU was confusing legitimate generics with counterfeits and undermining poorer countries' ability to acquire cheaper medicines. The countries called the action by the EU customs officials a violation of the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and argued that the action amounted to 'extra-territoriality' – a country imposing its own law on others.

In response, the EU maintained that it has no intention to obstruct trade in genuine generics. The European representative said that the German customs officials were checking for counterfeits, which it called a fast-growing and dangerous problem that can harm public health in developing countries. It said the action was taken under regulations that set short time limits on seizures and allow consignment owners legal redress for false complaints.

The US also weighed in, adding that brand names can ensure quality, whereas fakes mislead consumers and can endanger public health. The US said that the public and private sectors will need to cooperate to deal with counterfeit trade. Several global health care interest groups have also expressed their concern over the development. In a joint statement, Health Action International (HAI), Oxfam International, BUKO-pharma, Medico International, and the Third World Network, called the seizure “the latest in the list of cases that demonstrate that EU regulations are actively hampering timely access to medicines to developing countries.”

“There is no valid reason for detaining these medicines especially since the name Amoxicillin is an international non-proprietary name,” the groups added, referring to a designation set out by the World Health Organisation.

The group of NGOs has urged the European Commission to take immediate action to ensure that its regulations and laws do not deny developing countries timely access to essential medicines.

The Amoxicillin incident follows a controversial case that came earlier this year when Dutch customs authorities detained a shipment of the drug ‘losartan’ in transit from India to Brazil. The incident sparked controversy at the World Health Organisation’s Executive Board meeting in January and elicited a strong reaction from Brazil and India on the issue (see Bridges Weekly <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/38853/>).

Public health advocates and NGOs warn that such seizures may evolve into a further impediment to public health by creating yet another barrier to the delivery of quality, affordable generic drugs to developing countries.

ICTSD reporting; “Row over generic drugs intensifies after seizure in Germany,” THE ECONOMIC TIMES, 8 June 2009.

WTO OK’s 7 More Months of Ecuador’s Import Restrictions

Members of the WTO’s Balance-of-Payments Committee agreed last week to allow Ecuador to continue to impose import restrictions while the country struggles to bring its finances under control.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of 1994 and the General Agreement on Trade in Services both allow WTO Members struggling with balance-of-payment difficulties to raise tariffs or impose import quotas to raise revenue to help them get through the crisis.

In January, Ecuador’s president, Rafael Correa, a populist who was elected to a second presidential term last month, introduced far-reaching import restrictions intended to protect domestic producers. The safeguards apply to imports from all countries – including those that had previously struck free trade deals or preferential trade agreements with Quito – for one full calendar year. In total, the new restrictions cover 8.7 percent of all of the country’s tariff lines, which accounts for more than a fifth of its total trade volume for 2008.

But following last week’s meeting, Quito agreed to replace the quotas with price-based measures by 1 September, and promised to do away with all of its restrictive trade measures no later than 22 January 2010, the committee said.

In an official statement released after the meeting, the government of Ecuador praised the move, saying that the WTO had recognised the country’s very real financial difficulties that have resulted, at least in part, from the dollarisation of its economy roughly ten years ago.

Last week’s meeting marked the first time in a decade that the WTO has allowed a Member a balance-of-payments exception, Ecuador claimed. Trade observers say the move helps prove that the global trade body remains relevant as countries begin fighting their way back from the global economic slowdown.

At the meeting, which was held on 2 and 4 June, the Balance-of-Payments Committee also approved a draft decision that would automatically make all WTO nations members of the committee.

ICTSD reporting.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

If you would like to submit an event, please email bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch.

Coming up: 11 – 17 June

11 June, Geneva, Switzerland. THE ROLE OF OPEN MARKETS AND THE WTO IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS. As part of World Trade Week UK, the United Kingdom's Mission in Geneva and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) are hosting an informal dialogue on the role of open markets and the WTO in the economic crisis. The event will feature presentations from Claire Durkin, UK Director for Europe, International Trade and Development; Dorothy Tembo, Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework; Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD; Patricia Francis, Executive Director, International Trade Centre; and Alejandro Jara, Deputy Director General of the WTO. Professor Jean-Pierre Lehmann of the IMD Business School and Professor Joost Pauwelyn of the Graduate Institute of International Studies will serve as discussants. For more information, please visit <http://ictsd.net/i/events/dialogues/48006/>. To RSVP, please send an email to Cecile de Gardelle at cdegardelle@ictsd.ch.

11 June, Bonn, Germany. CLIMATE CHANGE, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, AND TRANSFER OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND

THE WAY FORWARD. Co-organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Patent Office (EPO), and ICTSD, this side event at the UNFCCC meetings will focus on recent developments in relation to climate change, technology transfer and intellectual property rights (IPRs) and the way forward in the context of the UNFCCC climate change taking place in Bonn, 1-12 June. The objectives and the main components of the study will be presented at the side event as well as the preliminary results of the patent landscape prepared in its framework. The side event will also seek to present different opinions and perspectives on technology transfer and on the means to achieve progress on these issues with a view to reaching an agreement in Copenhagen which enhances the wide diffusion of climate change technologies to developing countries. For further information, please contact Ahmed Abdel Latif at aabdellatif@ictsd.ch.

11-12 June, Maastricht, Netherlands. EXPERT WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SERVICE DIRECTIVE. This two-day workshop will bring together European and national officials who are involved in the implementation of Directive 2006/123 EC on services in the internal market. As the deadline for the implementation of the Directive is December 2009, the workshop aims to help EU Member States by examining how public authorities are finalising their preparations, what kind of difficulties they have encountered, whether there are any indications of regulatory and administrative convergence or divergence and, finally, whether good practices can already be identified. Each session will start with a short presentation of the main issues to be followed by plenary discussion with input from participating European and national experts. The main points of each session will be included in the overall minutes of the workshop that will be prepared by EIPA and subsequently distributed to participants and public authorities. This workshop is jointly sponsored by OECD and EIPA. For more information, contact Barbara Ubaldi, barbara.ubaldi@oecd.org, or Winny Curfs w.curfs@eipa.eu, or click here: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/30/44/42665876.pdf>.

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 and 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'. The workshop will include speakers from the WTO. If you would like to register, please send an email to Olga Nartova, 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>.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted

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.

- 11 June: Committee on Trade and Development – Session on Aid for Trade
- 12 June: Sub Committee on Least-Developed Countries
- 19 June: Dispute Settlement Body
- 22 June: Working Party on GATS Rules

Other upcoming events

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 an 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>.

23-24 June, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. CARBON MARKETS ASIA: EXPANDING ASIA’S CARBON MARKETS. The fifth Annual Carbon Markets Asia conference will take place in Kuala Lumpur, enabling greater accessibility for project hosts from Asia’s third-largest CDM project base. The event will bring together leading international players to analyse what progress has been made to date and how Asia can realise its full potential. The Chinese and Indian dominance of the carbon credit generation market is well documented and other countries in Asia are fast emerging as key players in the global carbon markets. Significant investment is being made to generate Certified Emission Reduction credits in waste treatment, palm, cement and other sectors in countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia. For more information, please visit: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/v8-12/Prospectus/Index.php?sEventCode=CM0906MY>.

following year. Jointly published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union Commission (AUC), the Economic Report on Africa 2009 calls for African countries to pay special attention to the agriculture sector as a basis for long-term growth and development. The first part of the report looks at recent developments in the global economy and its impacts on Africa. It says GDP growth in Africa is expected to decline from 5.1 percent in 2008 to 2 percent in 2009. Inflation in Africa, excluding Zimbabwe, was 10.7 percent in 2008, up from 6.4 percent in 2007, mainly due to high fuel and food prices. The second part of the report examines the viability of using regional value chains to improve African agriculture. For a copy of the report, please visit: http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Publications/books/era2009/.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM THE AMERICAS. Working Group on Development and Environment in the Americas, 2009. The Working Group’s second policy report provides a comprehensive review of the impacts of foreign investment liberalisation in Latin America. The report is the product of a series of studies conducted by development and environmental economists. Drawing on case studies from across the region—Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Uruguay, and Venezuela—the Working Group examined how foreign investment during the reform period has affected economic growth, environmental policy and performance, and the countries’ political economy. The report shows that foreign investment has fallen far short of stimulating broad-based economic growth and environmental protection in the region. The report recommends that national and regional policies aimed at improving national firms’ capabilities should be implemented and that the “policy space” for such policies should be accommodated in bi-lateral, regional and global trade and investment treaties. The report, as well as the full papers on which the report is based, are available as Working Group Discussion Papers at http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/WorkingGroup_FDI.htm.

Resources

ECONOMIC REPORT ON AFRICA 2009: DEVELOPING AFRICAN AGRICULTURE THROUGH REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS. Economic Commission for Africa, 2009. The Economic Report on Africa (ERA) is an annual publication that provides a comprehensive analysis of developments in African economies over the preceding year, and makes predictions about the

DEVELOPMENT AID AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: A POSITIVE LONG-RUN RELATION. International Monetary Fund, May 2009. This working paper analyses the growth impact of official development assistance to developing countries. The authors provide new cross-country evidence on the positive effect of aid on growth. Drawing on existing appraisals of donor effectiveness, they distinguish between developmental and non-developmental aid as having distinct effects on per capita GDP growth. The authors also consider specifications that allow for the effect of aid on economic growth to occur over long periods. The results of this working paper indicate that developmental aid promotes long-run growth. Through statistical measures, the authors determine that the effect is significant, large and robust using different specifications and estimation techniques. For a copy of this report, please visit:
<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2009/wp09118.pdf>.