



Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective

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LEAD STORIES

Emerging Economies Push for Global Influence at First-Ever BRIC Summit

BRIC leaders signalled their interest in becoming major players in global economic policy at the group's first summit meeting on Tuesday. Leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, and China called for a larger role in global financial infrastructure, but steered clear of addressing the future of the dollar as the world's reserve currency.

"The emerging and developing economies must have a greater voice and representation in international financial institutions," the BRIC countries announced in a joint communiqué. "We also believe that there is a strong need for a stable, predictable and more diversified international monetary system."

The BRIC countries have a common position on International Monetary Fund (IMF) reform, according to Arkady Dvorkovich, a top Russian economic aide. The parties hope to expand the number of currencies that comprise the Special Drawing Rights (SDR), the IMF's reserve asset, to include the Chinese yuan, Russian ruble, Australian and Canadian dollars, and gold. The IMF is set to review the SDR basket of currencies in November 2010.

Before the summit, China, Russia and Brazil pledged to invest heavily in the IMF in order to garner more influence within the financial regulatory institution. Voting power at the IMF is determined by the size of a country's quota, or investment, in SDRs. Currently, Brazil has 1.4 percent voting power, Russia 2.7 percent, India 1.9 percent, and China 3.7 percent.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh encouraged the other BRIC leaders to implement

the short-term measures discussed at the G20 summit to address the global financial crisis. The BRIC countries generated interest at the summit in April when they issued a joint declaration outlining their proposals for responding to the crisis (see Bridges Weekly, 18 March 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/43467/>). In light of the BRIC's bold first unified statement at the G20 summit, spectators were curious to see how the four largest emerging economies would continue to assert their power.

But this week's summit was less controversial. The joint statement was notably silent on a Russian proposal to decrease reliance on the dollar as the world's reserve currency. The BRIC countries depend heavily on the dollar as the world's reserve currency, but would like to become less wedded to the US economy.

"The world economy should not remain entangled, so directly and unnecessarily, in the vicissitudes of a single great world power," Roberto Mangabeira Unger, Brazil's minister for strategic affairs, told The New York Times. "The developing countries should not have to see painfully accumulated hard-currency reserves fall under the shadow of major devaluations." As the group's driving force for policy reform, Russia made an early call for a new international reserve currency, but has since shied away from such a step. "There is an understanding that the last thing we need now is turmoil on financial markets," Dvorkovich said during a news briefing Tuesday.

But the countries plan to invest in each others' economies, even without a unified position on the dollar. BRIC leaders were expected to discuss investing their reserves in each others' currencies, settling bilateral trade in domestic currencies in lieu of the dollar, and developing currency swap agreements, Dvorkovich said.

The new reserve currency issue is one illustration of divergent opinions among the diverse group. Russia and Brazil, the group's smallest economies, have been the most vocal on the currency. China, which holds US\$ 1 trillion in US debt, has been silent on the issue, indicating its reluctance to do anything that might threaten the value of its holdings. The issue is less important to India, whose financial system relies less on international

trade and more on its domestic market. However, India has also been reluctant to disrupt the dollar-based system.

The countries have different economic interests as well. China, whose GDP is as big as the other three BRIC states combined, relies heavily on exports to the United States and Europe. China and India have large labour pools, while Russia and Brazil both have vast supplies of natural resources. As a result, China would prefer lower prices on natural resources like oil, whereas Russia and Brazil hope to keep prices high.

"Between the BRIC countries, there is really little in common," Yevgeny G. Yasin, head of research at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, told the New York Times. "Each of them has its own destiny, its own special character, and it will be much more difficult for them to agree among themselves than separately with Western countries."

However, the parties will seek to cooperate as they can. "[P]artial cooperation is possible, and a meeting like this will help amplify their shared voice," Qin Yaqing, vice president of China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing, told Reuters. Together, the BRIC countries account for 15 percent of the world's economy and 12 percent of trade volume. They comprise 42 percent of the global population and contributed more than 50 percent of international economic growth last year. They will meet again in 2010 in Brazil.

ICTSD reporting; "UPDATE 2-Russia seeks currency debate at first BRIC summit," REUTERS, 16 June 2009; "Emerging Powers Prepare to Meet in Russia," THE NEW YORK TIMES, 16 June 2009; "BRIC seeks global voice at first summit," REUTERS, 14 June 2009.

Way Forward on IP Issues at the WTO Still Unclear

Last week's WTO Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights saw very little, if any, progress towards resolving TRIPS issues in the context of the Doha negotiations.

The Council, which met on 8 June, 2009 has yet to see substantial progress in the discussions on the three intellectual property issues that have dominated the talks thus far: extension of 'geographical indication', or GI, protections to all products; the establishment of a GI register; and the adoption of an amendment of the TRIPS agreement to require that patent applicants disclose the origin of any genetic resources or traditional knowledge used in the inventions.

Technical cooperation and capacity-building also arose at last week's meeting. But the issue that dominated the session was the recent seizure of a shipment of the generic drug Amoxicillin, which was held up by German customs officials in Frankfurt en route from India to Vanuatu (for coverage of that story, please see Bridges Weekly, 10 June 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/48330/>).

Delayed Movement on Disclosure Requirement

Movement on the disclosure requirement continues to be delayed by deep divisions among Member states as to how to move forward the discussions on this issue.

"Most countries support the full negotiation of the TRIPs agreement on biological resources, traditional knowledge and folklore. However there is continuing lack of consensus," Egypt told the TRIPS Council on behalf of the African group.

"It is difficult and costly for developing countries to fight for their rights on biological resources and/or traditional knowledge," the Egyptian delegate added. "The disclosure requirement is important for poor communities to protect their rights."

Brazil also noted that the disclosure requirement was important for its contribution to commercialising biological resources; increasing the accessibility of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore for society; widening developing countries' participation in the system; and creating an international uniform legal framework.

India also lent its support in this regard, pointing out that there is no contradiction between the TRIPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It also volunteered to create a traditional knowledge database, but stressed that such a measure should be complementary to the disclosure requirement, not a substitute for it.

Since 2006 a number of developing countries have called for an amendment to the TRIPS Agreement to include a mandatory requirement for patent applicants to disclose the origin of any genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge involved in their inventions. In July 2008, an unprecedented coalition of developed and developing countries put forward a proposal to this effect, often referred to as the 'draft modalities text' on IP issues at the WTO (See Bridges Weekly, 23 July 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/ip/13903/>).

Originally proposed by Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, India, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand and Tanzania, by last summer, the proposal had drawn the support of more than 100 WTO Members, including the EU and Switzerland.

At last week's meeting, these two developed members also reaffirmed their commitment to the proposal - document TN/C/W/52 - and expressed their readiness to address the developing countries' concerns. Although the EU has said it sees some merits in other proposals, such as the database approach favoured principally by Japan, it does not consider such alternatives to be as sufficient or as effective as the disclosure requirement.

The United States, joined by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, New Zealand and Taiwan reaffirmed its opposition to the approach spelled out in the draft modalities. According to the US,

the disclosure requirement is not essential and bringing CBD into the TRIPS Agreement would not make sense.

The draft modalities proposal calls for the inclusion of the IP issues “as part of the horizontal process” of the Doha round, advocating that the three controversial IP issues be included in the negotiations as part of the ‘single-undertaking’.

The coalition that supports the ‘draft modalities’ includes more two-thirds of the WTO membership, but that stance has been met with strong opposition from Australia, Canada, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan and the US, who have sponsored a competing initiative dubbed the ‘joint proposal’. These countries hold that including intellectual property issues in the horizontal negotiations on modalities in the industrial and agricultural sectors would “substantially set back efforts to arrive at a viable way forward for the Doha negotiations.”

Outsourcing Discussions of TRIPS and the CBD?

Australia, Canada, and New Zealand suggested the possibility of shifting discussions on the TRIPS Agreement and the CBD to another forum. According to sources, these countries proposed that discussions on this issue might be better placed in the World Intellectual Property Organisation, where there is a specific committee to address genetic resources issues.

But several developing-country Members opposed the suggestion to shift these discussions to WIPO. Given the urgency of halting the misappropriation of genetic resources, these countries say, the international community needs an amendment to the TRIPS Agreement, as such a measure would be binding and therefore stronger than an agreement outside the WTO.

Technical Cooperation and Capacity-building

Egypt suggested that all approaches to technical cooperation and capacity-building should be development-oriented, driven by demand, neutral and transparent. As many countries supported this suggestion, Uganda shared its experience on two

capacity-building projects funded by the EU and expressed its need for more technical cooperation.

While noting the experience of Uganda, the Swiss delegate proposed that an assessment be undertaken by least developed countries in order to provide a basis for effective assistance. The delegate also offered that nations should coordinate to avoid repetition and ensure efficiency. Switzerland’s proposal was welcomed by many countries.

Special Session on GI Register

A special session of the TRIPS council met on 10 June under the chairmanship of Ambassador Trevor Clarke of Barbados. These special sessions are specifically mandated to discuss the creation of a multilateral register for geographical indications on wines and spirits.

During the session, several Members requested that the proponents of a mandatory, legally binding GI register draft a legal text detailing how such a mechanism would function. But this request was promptly refused, as the EU, one of the main supporters of the proposal, dismissed the request as an unnecessary diversion from the real issue at hand – the level of Member participation in the register and the consequences of such participation.

Other Members added that a legal text on the GI register section (document TN/C/W/52) would be difficult to draft, considering that the document is a negotiated compromised text. They say it may prove difficult to reach consensus on further details.

The two other proposals for a GI register on the table are the ‘joint proposal’ advocated by the opponents to a mandatory and legally binding register and the ‘Hong Kong proposal’. Both of the proposals have been drafted as legal texts.

Several member states, including China, Angola, Pakistan, and Peru, expressed their disappointment in the slow progress the TRIPS Council has made on these three main IP issues.

According to Ambassador Clarke, progress in the special sessions will remain slow as some

Members prefer to have the three IP issues move forward together in the broader context of the Doha Round.

The next session of the TRIPS council is scheduled for later this year.

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

G8 Finance Ministers Pledge Support for Doha, Business Reform

Finance ministers from the Group of Eight world economic powers meeting in Italy over the weekend renewed their commitment to resisting protectionism and pushing for a global trade deal, but sparred over whether it is too early to start winding down stimulus spending amid the ongoing economic turmoil.

“Of course, the G8 meeting was a stormy one. We discussed all the most heated issues,” Russian Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin told journalists after the conclusion of the talks, according to a report in *The Moscow Times*. “On the whole, the uncertainty hasn't gone anywhere – the risks remain on the financial markets as well in certain regions. So it's too early to start talking about the end of the crisis.”

The ministers butted heads over whether countries should pursue further stimulus spending amid the economic crisis. The US and the UK argue that it is still too early to withdraw any government funds, while Continental Europe, led by Germany, worry about the ultimate consequences of the debt that such measures have already accumulated.

The communiqué released at the meeting's close concluded that countries should begin considering ‘exit strategies’ for “unwinding the extraordinary policy measures” that were enacted in response to the crisis. But such measures “may vary from country to country,” the ministers allowed.

The ministers also vowed to refrain from implementing trade-strangling protectionist measures, and pledged their support for “an ambitious conclusion” of the Doha Round of trade talks at the WTO. Trade finance – the loans and other forms of credit that oil the wheels of global commerce – also got a mention in the three-page communiqué. The ministers called boosting trade finance support in line with previous G20 commitments “essential” to reviving international trade (see *Bridges Weekly*, 8 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/44813/>).

The ministers also touched on food security and climate change, and outlined the beginnings of a set of standards on “propriety, integrity and transparency” in international business and finance. This initiative, the beginnings of what the ministers dubbed the ‘Lecce Framework’ after the southern Italian town where they met on Saturday, would cover topics ranging from executive compensation and bribery to tax havens, money laundering and terrorism financing. The initiative will aim to build on reform efforts begun by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other international organisations.

“To ensure effectiveness, we will make every effort to pursue maximum country participation and swift and resolute implementation,” the ministers said.

The meeting of finance ministers from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States comes a few weeks ahead of a gathering of their heads of state, who are set to meet from 8-10 July, also in Italy.

Additional information

To read the full text of the G8 finance ministers' communiqué, please click here <http://ictsd.net/downloads/2009/06/g8finmin.pdf>.

ICTSD reporting: “G8 discusses unwinding anti-crisis measures,” *THE MOSCOW TIMES*, 15 June 2009.

ACTA Talks Set to Pick up Next Month

Negotiations toward the creation of an international agreement to combat counterfeiting and piracy will soon get a boost, as officials are set to meet in Morocco next month to work toward their stated goal of inking a deal by 2010, according to a joint statement released on Friday.

The negotiating countries say that existing rules on intellectual property enforcement allow the global black market to operate with relative impunity. To that end, they kicked off negotiations toward an Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, or ACTA, a year ago, aiming to end commercial-scale piracy and counterfeiting. Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, and the United States are all party to the talks.

Business leaders have welcomed the move. Mark Esper of the US Chamber of Commerce, which represents business interests, called the recent announcement “an important step forward” on an “urgent issue.” Intellectual property theft “doesn’t just affect businesses’ bottom lines in the short term, but also discourages investment and innovation in the long term,” he added.

But many in civil society have a different take on the negotiations. Thanks in large part to the scant amount of publicly available information, the ACTA talks have generated their share of controversy. Some groups fear that the negotiations are part of “an aggressive new agenda to expand and enforce intellectual property rights” – in the words of James Love, Director of Washington-based Knowledge Ecology International, or KEI. Such a push threatens to hinder access to affordable medicines and criminalise acts like non-commercial file sharing over the internet, they say.

Earlier this year, the Obama administration refused a freedom-of-information request for the release of a series of documents related to the talks (see Bridges Weekly, 18 March 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/43452/>). The president’s trade office has since made public

a ‘summary’ of the negotiations to date, but that document has failed to satisfy many members of civil society, who say they want to see the fine print (see Bridges Weekly, 8 April, 2009 <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/44809/>).

“This is big government and big business at its worst, creating rules without input or sensitivity to the concerns of consumers, over-riding civil rights, undermining privacy, increasing prices to consumers,” KEI’s Love said in a statement this week. “The topics under review...are big sweeping changes in our basic freedoms, and underhanded attempts to give lobbyists rules they can’t get in a normal democratic setting,” he added.

The United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk gave a nod to that criticism in a statement released on Friday.

“As we proceed with these negotiations, we will ensure that the public is kept well informed and has further opportunities to give input,” he said. ICTSD reporting.

Debate over GM Wheat Reignites

Farmers associations and environmental groups are rekindling the debate about whether to support research for genetically modified (GM) wheat. A group of nine wheat organisations in the US, Canada, and Australia – the world’s largest wheat exporters – issued a statement on 15 May calling for “the synchronized introduction of biotech wheat.” Two weeks later, 15 groups opposing GM wheat issued a response offering point-by-point counterarguments against the crop’s introduction.

The GM supporters’ statement revived a debate many believed had run its course. In 2004, biotech company Monsanto shelved plans to develop an herbicide-resistant strain of GM wheat after hearing the concerns of farmers, buyers, and exporters, who feared such a seed would cause them to lose export markets.

This concern has not changed in the past five years. Many consumers, particularly in Europe and

Asia, are apprehensive about eating genetically modified food. Six European countries have now invoked national bans on the cultivation of a GM maize variety produced by Monsanto, despite the EU's approval of the crop (see Bridges Weekly, 22 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/45446/>).

Opponents cite this as a principal reason for prohibiting the introduction of GM wheat.

But GM proponents say this is a challenge worth pursuing. "If the consumer perceives that the benefit is just for the producer or worse still, just for some big company that's making a profit out of it, why would they want to adopt it?" Robert Henry, director of the Center for Plant Conservation Genetics, told Reuters. "They really need to be convinced there's some benefit for the environment from a point of view of their own health."

Proponents hope to build this support by highlighting the crop's unique characteristics. According to their statement, GM wheat would offer increased insect and disease resistance and improved tolerance of extreme weather, both of which contribute to higher crop yields. The crop could also be designed for consumption by people with wheat intolerance.

But critics argue that GM wheat offers no agronomic improvement other than easier application of pesticides, according to their statement. Additionally, they suggest that "there is no evidence to substantiate the claim that GE [genetically engineered] crop varieties increase yields."

The GM wheat debate is complicated by the ease with which seeds move through the environment. When wheat seeds are carried by the wind, they can cross-pollinate with other seeds. "If [genetically engineered] wheat is released commercially, contamination would be inevitable and markets would view all wheat produced from these areas as GE unless proven to be non-GE," the opponent groups stated. Some farmers would unwittingly become subject to gene patent restrictions and labelling requirements.

"Once you introduce it, it's over and it's over and it's over and it all becomes GMO just like we now

have in canola," Canadian farmer Percy Schmeiser told the Canadian Press. Monsanto sued Schmeiser in 1998 for using the company's genetically modified seeds without a license. Schmeiser claimed that the seeds could have blown over from a neighbouring field.

Even if proponents build the necessary political support for GM wheat research, the new crop would not be introduced for some time. Supporters estimate that it could take six to eight years for new biotech wheat crops to be ready for commercial introduction.

ICTSD reporting; "GMO wheat acceptance hinges on public benefit," REUTERS, 7 June 2009; "Debate on growing GM wheat rises again, but experts say issues are the same," THE CANADIAN PRESS, 6 June 2009.

WTO IN BRIEF

EU Says US Internet Gambling Laws Breach WTO Rules

WTO action against US internet gambling laws would be justified, according to an EU report that was made public last week.

Brussels first made a public claim that Washington's internet gambling laws were illegal back in March (see Bridges Weekly, 1 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/44507/>), but it has now released the full text of the report that backs the accusation.

"Internet gambling is a complex and delicate area, and we do not want to dictate how the US should regulate its market. However, the US must respect its WTO obligations. I hope that we will be able to reach an amicable solution to this issue," EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton said in a statement.

The 94-page report is the culmination of a year-long investigation that was triggered by a December 2007 request from the London-based Remote Gambling Association. The RGA

claimed, among other things, that Washington's ban on foreign internet gambling providers was unfairly discriminatory and constituted a violation of world trade rules. European gambling companies maintain that their profits and stock prices have tumbled since Washington's Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act (UIGEA), which was passed in 2006 by a Republican-controlled Congress, forced them to pull out of the US market. The EU report largely supported those accusations.

But changes to the US law could come soon. Last month, US Congressman Barney Frank introduced legislation, dubbed the Reasonable Prudence in Regulation Act, which would overturn the UIGEA. So far, the bill has attracted 15 co-sponsors and has been recommended for review by the House Committee on Financial Services.

But WTO action would still be justified even if Washington amends its laws, the EU report concluded, based on the fact that the US is now engaged in legal proceedings against European internet gambling providers for actions they took before the UIGEA took effect. The US maintains that it was illegal for foreign providers to operate in the United States even prior to the law's passage in 2006, but EU firms maintain that the law was unclear at the time.

Despite the conclusions of the report, a WTO case may not necessarily be imminent, Brussels said last week.

"Although WTO proceedings would be justified on the basis of the report, this is not an automatic consequence," the Commission said in a statement, adding that the EU's first tactic would be to consult with the administration of US President Barack Obama on the matter.

Additional information

To download the full EU report, please visit http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2009/june/tradoc_143405.pdf.

ICTSD reporting; "Barney Frank Bill to Delay UIGEA Regulations Up to 13 Co-Sponsors," POKER NEWS DAILY, 10 June 2009.

WTO Praises New Zealand's Economic Policies, with Some Caveats

New Zealand has achieved one of the world's most open economies due to its "prudent macroeconomic policies," but the country should work to boost productivity and decrease its reliance on foreign borrowing, according to the WTO's most recent Trade Policy Review (TPR) conducted on 10 and 12 June. As a result of its continued liberalisation and restructuring, New Zealand has enjoyed GDP growth averaging 3.2 percent over the past six years.

In the six years since its last WTO review, New Zealand has reduced or eliminated many of its already low tariffs, particularly on agricultural products. The country has also limited its use of non-tariff barriers to trade in plant and animal products that raise health concerns.

The WTO concluded that New Zealand's economic fundamentals have remained sound since its last TPR, but recommended that the country address setbacks such as low labour productivity and over-reliance on foreign borrowing in order to achieve sustained growth. The WTO also forecasted that New Zealand's GDP growth will slow this fiscal year due to the global economic downturn and encouraged New Zealand to address the recession with policy tools that will not compromise its long-term macroeconomic goals.

Labour productivity is still a problem for New Zealand, despite the fact that productivity grew 1.1 percent every year between 2000 and 2007. New Zealand lags behind the United States on this output measure by roughly 45 percent and has fallen 25 percent behind the group average for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). As a result, New Zealand's standard of living is approximately 16 percent lower than that of other OECD countries. Despite this, New Zealand enjoys a "high human development" status, according to the UN Human Development Index, ranking 20th out of 179 in 2008. New Zealand's government lists improving productivity as a priority.

The country has also seen a dramatic increase in its current account deficit. New Zealand's deficit grew from NZ \$ 6.7 billion (4.8 percent of GDP) in 2003/2004 to NZ \$ 14.2 billion (8 percent of GDP) in 2007/2008, an increase of 112 percent. The WTO attributed the deficit growth to a rise in overseas borrowing, due to increased domestic consumption and a shortfall in domestic savings.

New Zealand has remained committed to the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations and believes that a successful conclusion of the talks "is a key component in the mix of global policy approaches needed to respond effectively to the global financial crisis," according to the government's report to the WTO Trade Policy Review Body.

In addition to Doha, New Zealand has pursued bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements with most of its major trading partners. New Zealand and Australia have one of the world's most open trade agreements, and the two parties are committed to developing a single economic market (SEM). Australia is New Zealand's largest trading partner.

New Zealand also has free trade agreements with China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and is negotiating an expansion of the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement to include the United States, Australia, Peru, and Vietnam.

ICTSD reporting.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

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

Coming up: 18 – 24 June

18 June, Geneva, Switzerland. TRADE AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT. Jeffrey A. Frankel, Professor at the Kennedy School of

Government at Harvard University, will deliver a lecture on "Trade and the Global Environment." He directs the program in International Finance and Macroeconomics at the National Bureau of Economic Research, where he is also a member of the Business Cycle Dating Committee, which officially declares recessions. Professor Frankel served on President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers from 1996 to 1999 during which time he worked – among other things – on international environment issues. Since then he has analysed how the WTO can and should interact with climate issues. The talk will be held in the Auditorium Jacques-Freymond (132, rue de Lausanne) and will start at 18.30. The talk will be followed by a reception. This event is organised by the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI). For more information, please contact the organisers: ctei@graduateinstitute.ch.

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/EXTABCD/EXTABCD2009/0,,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 5th Annual Carbon Markets Asia conference will take place in Kuala Lumpur, enabling greater accessibility for project hosts from Asia's 3rd 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>.

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.

19 June: Dispute Settlement Body
 22 June: Working Party on GATS Rules
 22-23 June: Council for Trade in Services

22-24 June: Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Other upcoming events

28-30 June, Marseille, France. CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: RESPONDING TO THE URGENT AGENDA. The symposium, supported by the World Bank, OECD, UN Habitat, UNFPA and other donors, will address the impacts of city and urban growth on climate change; measuring and anticipating the consequences of climate change on urban quality of life, city assets, and local and national economies; and assessing alternatives to increase the resilience of cities and related costs and incentives required for successful implementation. The symposium is structured around five broad research clusters that represent the most relevant issues faced by cities and peri-urban areas on climate change. These clusters include: science and indicators of climate change, infrastructure and energy efficiency, institutions and urban planning, economics and finance, and the social aspects of climate change. For more information contact: urbansymposium@worldbank.org or visit <http://www.urs2009.net/index.html>.

10 July, Geneva, Switzerland. BOOK LAUNCH: IMPLEMENTING THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA. The latest in the Geneva Seminars for Development Research (GSDR) series, this seminar marks the global launch of *Implementing the WIPO's Development Agenda*, a new book containing insights on reforming international intellectual property policies and institutions. It is edited by Jeremy de Beer with a foreword by Daniel J. Gervais and an afterword by Christopher May. Publication of this book is the first stage in an ongoing project involving a multidisciplinary network of experts from developing and developed countries working to monitor, assess and advance implementation of development-oriented reforms at and beyond WIPO. The objective of the GSDR seminars is to provide an international platform for researchers, academics and practitioners, particularly from developing countries, to share and test the results of their research on the development dimension of issues that are the subject of discussion and/or standard-

setting in key Geneva-based international organisations. To register, please send an email to alexander@iqsensato.org.

16-17 July, Paris, France. WORKSHOP ON TRADEMARKS AND TRADEMARK DATA. This workshop is co-organised by INNO-tec and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), with the support of the Strike network. The goal of this workshop is to present and discuss current work and analyses conducted on trademarks from various perspectives, so as to better understand their functioning and their effect on firms and markets. Despite their importance in economic life, trademarks and trademark data have long been neglected in the economic literature on industrial organisation, contrasting with the larger attention paid to patents. For the last ten years, a growing number of researchers have taken an interest in this topic. It has been noted that trademarks could bring interesting information on firm and market dynamics, as they seem to be related to key-variables such as firm performance or innovative activity. For further information, please contact Ms Valentine Millot: valentine.millot@oecd.org.

of international trade, particularly in agriculture. For a copy of this paper, visit: <http://asc.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/AgricWGReportJuly08.pdf>.

THREADS, THE NEWSLETTER FROM ICTB. International Textiles and Clothing Bureau, May 2009. The Geneva-based International Textiles and Clothing Bureau recently launched a bimonthly newsletter to provide reliable news, views and analysis of developments in trade of textiles and clothing for informed decision-making by businesses, policy makers and other stakeholders. ICTB's mission is to promote collaboration among developing countries and positive actions aimed at increasing their exports of textiles and clothing. In pursuit of this objective, it serves as a common platform to articulate their concerns and aspirations for improved access to markets and full regard for the principles and rules of the multilateral trading system. To download the first issue, visit <http://www.itcb.org/Documents/Threads%20No.1%20May09.pdf>.

THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: A REGIONAL REVIEW. The Asian Development Bank, May 2009. This report by the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) notes that business-as-usual in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam could cause combined damages equivalent to more than 6 percent of those countries' gross domestic products per year by the end of this century, dwarfing the costs of the current financial crisis. The Bank has also published its second Sustainability Report presenting information on the promotion of environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive growth, and minimising its corporate environment footprint. The study shows that in Asia, one of the world's most dynamic regions, rapid economic growth in past decades has raised large numbers of people out of extreme poverty. But incidence of income and non-income poverty is still very high, and achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDG) remains a daunting task. If not addressed adequately, climate change would have serious negative consequences for the region's sustainable development and poverty eradication policies and agenda, the authors conclude. To download the report, visit:

Resources

THE PROMISE AND THE PERILS OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE LIBERALIZATION: LESSONS FROM LATIN AMERICA. Mamerto Pérez, Sergio Schlesinger, and Timothy A. Wise, with the Working Group on Development and Environment in the Americas, June 2008. Based on seven country studies examining both the promise of export agriculture and the perils of trade liberalisation for small-scale farmers in Latin America, the authors of this collaborative report call for a thorough review of agricultural trade and development policies in the region. The project assesses Mexico's performance under NAFTA; the South American soybean boom in Brazil, Argentina, and Bolivia; and the impacts of rising imports on small-scale farmers in El Salvador, Bolivia, and Brazil. The authors suggest that the most important policy reform Latin America needs now is a much more selective and careful management

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Economics-Climate-Change-SEA/PDF/Economics-Climate-Change.pdf>.

VACANCY

Trade Negotiations Insights (TNI) Editor

The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), an independent non-profit and non-governmental organization contributing to a better understanding of development and environment concerns in the context of international trade, seeks to recruit a pro-active professional to fill position of Trade Negotiations Insights (TNI) Editor.

The post requires at least three years experience in managing a publication; a solid understanding of issues related to trade negotiations, especially EPA negotiations; excellent journalism skills, including the ability to express complex concepts in a language accessible to non-specialist audiences and to come up with editorial story ideas; perfect command of English and French; excellent organisational skills, directing the work of different partners to meet tight deadlines; university degree in law, economics, journalism or equivalent experience that supports the ability to manage a publication; ability to interact directly with staff and act as a problem solver; ability to work independently and take initiative; and ability to work in a multicultural environment, with highly diverse external audiences and as part of a team. A wide degree of creativity and latitude is expected.

Please send your CV, a letter of motivation and a sample of writing to jobs@ictsd.ch or to Human Resources – International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), 7 Chemin de Balexert, 1219 Chatelaine. For a job description visit: <http://ictsd.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/tor-editor-tni-eclairage-aug-08-rev-ac.doc>.

Applications must be received by 30 June 2009.