



Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective

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LEAD STORIES

Aid for Trade Review Urges Trade Opening to Combat Global Recession, Draws Donor Support

Developing countries should open their borders to trade in order to stimulate economic growth, according to participants at the Second Global Review of Aid for Trade, which was held at WTO headquarters in Geneva this week. The two-day meeting, which brought together the heads of regional and global financial institutions, international development agencies, as well as the Membership of the WTO, considered strategies for improving trade capacities for developing countries amid the ongoing global economic slowdown.

"If Aid for Trade was urgent in 2007, it is essential today," said WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy in his opening address on Monday. "It is the investment that will allow many developing countries prepare to exit the crisis by enhancing their trade capacity."

Donors make new commitments

The meeting drew substantial commitments from several donors, which Lamy acknowledged in his closing remarks on Tuesday. Japan pledged US\$ 12 billion for 2009-2011 to support Aid for Trade, the United Kingdom promised US\$ 1.6 billion per year, France committed to giving nearly US\$ 1.2 per year, and the Netherlands promised to contribute US\$ 764 million per year.

In addition, the Global Trade Liquidity Programme, or GTLP - a new partnership among an odd mix of players that includes the African Development Bank, the governments of Canada and the Netherlands, the OPEC Fund for International Development, and Citigroup - pledged on Monday to raise US\$ 50 billion to

finance trade. Funds from the GTLP will ultimately be disbursed through a network of more than 500 banks in over 70 developing countries around the world.

A4T: Four years on

The Aid for Trade initiative was launched four years ago with the aim of helping developing countries integrate into the global economy and take advantage of export markets. The WTO held its first review of the initiative in 2007.

Building on the success of the first review, the second review was designed around four objectives: moving from commitment to implementation; integrating trade in national and regional development strategies; sustaining aid flows during the global economic downturn; and assessing the effectiveness of Aid for Trade.

Countries must avoid protectionism to benefit from Aid for Trade, urged World Bank President Robert Zoellick. "Protectionism is particularly damaging to developing countries, especially to those with weak fiscal positions and those that depend heavily on exports of a small number of products," he warned during a session Monday. "So even when global growth recovers, protectionist actions that prevent developing countries from benefiting from the pick-up will protract the suffering."

The need to avoid trade barriers applies to developed and developing countries alike, Zoellick added. He advocated for the conclusion of the WTO's Doha round of trade negotiations as an avenue for opening markets worldwide.

Asian Development Bank President Haruhiko Kuroda stressed that "regional approaches that support national development strategies are best for multiplying the benefits of Aid for Trade." Addressing a session Monday morning, he described the Greater Mekong Subregion corridor linking Thailand and China as an example of a successful regional Aid for Trade project. The corridor, funded in part by the ADB, has cut the transport time for regional goods from three days to four hours.

Kuroda added that "strong partnerships between governments, the private sector, and the donor community" are needed to ensure that the benefits of Aid for Trade are sustainable. Co-operation with the private sector was the topic of a Monday afternoon session, where panels addressed how the business community can be involved in national and regional development strategies.

The review also assessed how the global economic recession has affected aid flows. According to a report released Tuesday by the WTO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, global real GDP growth is projected to fall by 2.75 percent this year, the first fall in 60 years. Developing countries that rely heavily on worker remittances and tourism will be particularly hard hit, since both are also expected to decline this year.

"The worst of the crisis in social terms is still to come, which means that the worst of the crisis in political terms is still to come," Lamy told reporters Tuesday. As a result, "the stress test for the WTO system as a system that prevents high intensity protectionism is still to come."

In this light, participants discussed the role of South-South assistance in facilitating Aid for Trade. At a session Tuesday afternoon, speakers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, and India spoke of the need for recipient countries to advocate their priorities and donor countries to respond to those needs. Panelists also discussed triangular aid strategies, in which industrialised and emerging economies pair up as donors.

The WTO-OECD report also highlighted four steps that can help maintain the momentum of Aid for Trade. First, there is a need for broad-based dissemination of information about the initiative's potential benefits. Second, stakeholders must realise that Aid for Trade is part of a larger economic development and poverty-reduction scheme. Third, there should be a country-by-country assessment of current impediments to trade. And fourth, this assessment should suggest how countries can overcome these impediments.

At an evening event on Monday, the World Economic Forum previewed their "Global Enabling Trade Report 2009," which analyses factors that facilitate cross-border commerce in

national economies. The report used four metrics – market access, border administration, transport and communications infrastructure, and the business environment – to rank 121 countries on trade facilitation. Singapore and Hong Kong took the top spots, with seven European countries and Canada rounding out the top ten.

Reaching out to a wider audience, Lamy pushed the Aid for Trade agenda in an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal on Monday. “Aid for Trade is all about enhancing growth prospects by helping countries overcome their supply-side constraints and increase their competitiveness and their effective participation in world trade,” Lamy wrote. Countries must “ensure that producers are trained in meeting global product quality and safety standards demanded by the world's consumers.” Countries need adequate infrastructure, Lamy added, to ensure a reliable flow of goods.

This advice resonated with Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Mohamed Ibn Chambas, who told Voice of America that Africa must encourage Aid for Trade. “We are very pleased that one of the outcomes from this conference is not only that each of the major developed countries has pledged to maintain their commitment that indeed they have even pledged new funding so that we can use trade as a means of overcoming the current slowdown,” Chambas said.

Additional information

For more information on the Aid for Trade meeting, please visit http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/aid4trade09_e.htm

To access the WTO-OECD report on global aid flows, please visit http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/aid4trade09_e.pdf.

ICTSD reporting; “Africa Said Pleased with Aid for Trade Conference Outcome,” VOICE OF AMERICA, 8 July 2009; “Worst of social, political crisis ahead: WTO chief,” AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 7 July 2009. “Developing Countries

Need Trade,” THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 6 July 2009.

WTO Finds ‘Further Slippage’ Toward Protectionism, Predicts Rise in Anti-Dumping Cases

The world economy has witnessed ‘further slippage’ toward protectionism, a new report from WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy concluded last week, but the use of ‘high-intensity’ trade-restricting measures remains “contained overall, albeit with difficulties.” The report, the third in a series of periodic analyses of WTO Members’ trade policies, predicted that anti-dumping cases could increase amid the ongoing economic turmoil, and warned that ‘buy local’ provisions in national stimulus plans could distort trade.

Although the global economy has shown some recent signs of recovery, the situation remains ‘fragile’, the report said. The organisation revised its earlier forecast of a 9-percent decline in global trade in 2009, saying that it now expects the volume of cross-border commerce to plunge 10-percent this year, the biggest drop since the Second World War. Exports from developed countries will lead the way with a fall of roughly 14 percent, the report predicted, while developing country exports will slide by 7 percent.

Despite the grim outlook, there are some bright spots in global economy, the WTO said. Services trade appears to have weathered the storm better than trade in goods. Trade finance – loans and other forms of credit – has gotten a modest boost from institutions like the World Bank, export credit agencies, and some national governments and central banks. But even with that support, low-income countries that lack strong economic and social safety nets “remain vulnerable” to future drop-offs in trade finance.

This economic news comes in the context of a continuing, though gradual, shift towards protectionist measures among many WTO Members, the WTO said. The report, which covers the period from 1 March to 19 June, found

that the organisation's 153 Member governments had notified a total of 119 new trade measures, 83 of which it the secretariat classified as trade restricting. But neither of those figures includes trade policies enacted in response to the outbreak of the H1N1 'swine flu' in April. Amid the health scare, more than three dozen countries imposed trade bans against pigs and pork products from Canada, Mexico, the United States, and other exporters, despite statements from several intergovernmental organisations that such embargoes were unjustified (see Bridges Weekly, 1 July 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/49943/>).

Despite the continued 'slippage' toward protectionism, there has been some progress on trade opening in the past three months. The report recorded an upswing in new trade-promoting policies as compared with the previous review, which was released in late March (see Bridges Weekly, 1 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/44532/>). Over the past three months, 13 countries, including Australia, China, Ecuador, India and Saudi Arabia, either reduced or removed trade-restricting measures during the period under review.

Anti-dumping cases could grow

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the report predicted that the WTO will see an upswing in Members' use of 'trade remedies', policy tools that allow countries to take remedial action against imports that are causing material injury to a domestic industry. Such measures include anti-dumping actions, countervailing duties, and safeguards.

On anti-dumping, the report cited evidence of a correlation between a handful of macroeconomic indicators and the pace with which countries investigate each others' export pricing policies. 'Dumping,' in trade parlance, refers to the practice of exporting goods at prices lower than they command in their home market. The WTO Agreement on Anti-Dumping allows Members to place retaliatory tariffs on dumped goods, so long as they can prove that dumping is indeed taking place and that it is injuring the competing domestic industry.

As the global business cycle reaches a low point, anti-dumping cases tend to peak, the report found, pointing to economic evidence dating back to 1979. Metals, and particularly steel products, will likely be frequent targets of future anti-dumping investigations, the report concluded, assuming historic trends hold true in the current crisis. Safeguard actions and countervailing duties have also grown in popularity this year, the WTO said, but use of the measures remains below previous peaks.

WTO warns against 'buy local' provisions

Member governments have announced a number of new stimulus measures and sector-specific support programmes since March, policies that the WTO acknowledged could be critical to stimulating the consumer demand needed to propel economic recovery. But the secretariat warned that such measures, which it said are often obscured behind multiple layers of government and massive amounts of bureaucratic red tape, have the potential to "distort markets and competition," and should be implemented with caution.

The report warned specifically against 'buy local' provisions that may be written into government stimulus packages, on the grounds that such measures skew demand and hinder open competition. The secretariat also said that sector-specific support programmes should be phased out as soon as possible, as such heavy subsidies that unfairly undercut producers whose governments cannot afford to provide such high levels of state support.

"The longer the subsidies remain in place, the more they will distort market-based production and investment decisions globally, the greater will become the threat of chronic trade distortions developing, and the more difficult it will become to correct those distortions," the report said.

The report noted that the leaders of the G20 group of major world economies had vowed to refrain from imposing trade-restricting measures in the face of the economic crisis, and urged them to follow through on that pledge. It called on the leaders to develop 'exit strategies' as soon as

possible "to allow world markets to return to normal."

"To date, the WTO secretariat has not been informed by any G20 member that it has rectified any measure," the report said.

The report is part of a process of feedback intended to keep WTO Members honest as they grapple with the havoc that the global crisis has wrecked on their domestic economies. The full text of the 77-page document will be officially unveiled to WTO Members at a meeting of the WTO's Trade Policy Review Body on 13 July. It will be posted on the WTO website shortly thereafter.

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

China, India Lash out at Talk of 'Carbon Tariffs'

China and India have denounced the possibility that developed countries might impose 'carbon tariffs' on goods imported from countries that do not strictly regulate their greenhouse gas emissions. Such a policy would "protect trade in the name of protecting the environment," China's Ministry of Commerce said on Friday, media sources reported.

"This will not help strengthen confidence that the international community can cooperate to handle the (economic) crisis, it also will not help any country's endeavours during the climate change negotiations, and China is strongly opposed to it," the ministry said.

The public statement, posted on the ministry's website, came one week after the US House of Representatives passed a bill that includes a provision for such 'border tax adjustments' (see Bridges Weekly, 1 July 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/49962/>).

Some US lawmakers consider the measures essential for ensuring that rapidly emerging economies pull their weight in reducing the

world's greenhouse gas emissions. But China insisted on Friday that the idea of carbon tariffs violates the spirit of the Kyoto Protocol, which holds that rich countries should bear a heavier burden than poor countries in mitigating climate change.

Reactions in India were similarly scathing.

"We are completely surprised and rather dismayed by the development. This is an attempt to bring trade and competitiveness into environmental negotiations," a top Indian climate negotiator told Reuters, referring to the US legislation.

"This is the quid pro quo for cap-and-trade, but the international community can't be held down by the domestic political compulsions of President Obama," the official said.

Some analysts said the measures amounted to bullying and trade protectionism in uncertain economic times.

"I think they are using it as a means to pressure developing countries to cut more GHG emissions," said Zhang Haibin, a professor and an adviser to China's Ministry of Commerce, according to a report in China's state-owned China Daily newspaper.

"But if the US takes unilateral action without proper multilateral consultations and agreements it could spark big trade disputes, or even a trade war," he said.

But there is still no guarantee that the border taxes included in the House version of the US climate bill will ever make it into law. The Senate has yet to vote on its version of the legislation, and US President Barack Obama publicly denounced the tariff measures soon after the House bill passed.

"At a time when the economy worldwide is still deep in recession and we've seen a significant drop in global trade, I think we have to be very careful about sending any protectionist signals out there," Obama said last week, according to The New York Times.

ICTSD reporting; "US Carbon Tariffs, Still Long Way Off, Draw Asia Ire," REUTERS, 6 July 2009;

“Carbon tariff 'an excuse' to protect trade,” CHINA DAILY, 4 July 2009; “Obama Opposes Trade Sanctions in Climate Bill,” NEW YORK TIMES, 28 June 2008.

WIPO Committee Reaches Standstill on Traditional Knowledge

The WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) reached an impasse last week on the protection of indigenous knowledge, putting the future of the committee in jeopardy.

Members discussed creating a mechanism to protect intellectual property rights of indigenous communities but failed to reach a consensus on the way forward. A group of developing countries argued that the committee should commit to creating a binding legal document and then negotiate the document's text. Opponents, mostly from developed countries, argued that the committee should draft language first and then determine what type of agreement – binding or non-binding – is most appropriate.

The developing countries believe a binding agreement is necessary to protect their indigenous cultural resources. “A law without teeth can be breeched with impunity,” said Marcia Stewart (also known as Queen Mother Moses), spokesperson for the Ethio-Africa Diaspora Union Millennium Council.

But representatives from other countries, including Canada, the European Union, Switzerland, and the US, argued that they need a better understanding of the issues before determining which type of outcome would be best.

The IGC committee was supposed to develop its next mandate during last week's meeting, which would include a proposal on traditional knowledge, and forward its recommendation to the WIPO General Assemblies for a decision. Without a recommendation, the committee has left its fate in the General Assemblies' hands, and

it is unclear how the General Assemblies will proceed. The committee's current mandate is set to expire in October.

ICTSD reporting; “Late-Night Breakdown On Traditional Knowledge At WIPO; Future Unclear,” INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WATCH, 6 July 2009; “WIPO Members Seek Deal To Negotiate On Traditional Knowledge Protection,” INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WATCH, 3 July 2009.

WTO IN BRIEF

G8+5 Leaders Set to Pledge Doha Action as India Plans September Mini-Ministerial

Leaders from the G8 group of major world economies will commit to wrapping up the WTO's Doha Round of trade talks as soon as possible, according to a draft communiqué that was seen by Reuters. Absent from that statement, however, is a timeline for the completion of the talks, a point that is being strongly pushed by the G5 group of major developing economies.

But a second draft statement that has been prepared for the G8 plus the G5 does include such a timeframe – it calls for the global trade talks to be concluded before the end of next year.

“Leaders commit to reaching an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha round in 2010, consistent with its mandate, building on progress already made on modalities,” a draft of the G8+G5 statement said, Reuters reported.

The discrepancies between the two drafts are expected to be ironed out in joint talks between the two groups on Thursday.

An announcement on Doha is expected to be made official before the end of the three-day G8 summit that kicked off in L'Aquila, Italy on Wednesday. The G8 countries consist of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States.

The G5 countries – emerging economies Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Mexico and South Africa – were slated to hold parallel talks on Wednesday and will join the G8 leaders for meetings on Thursday.

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, who is attending the summit, shied away from assessing the prospects for concluding a global trade deal, which he has long championed as a means to bolster the global economy and forestall a substantial increase in protectionist measures amid the ongoing slump.

"I probably will be able to give you a clearer answer to this question on Friday after the G8 and the G8-plus-5 discussions on trade," Lamy said on Tuesday, Reuters reported.

Further progress toward a Doha deal could come in early September, when India is planning to host a two-day conference of trade ministers in New Delhi. The 'mini-ministerial' will bring together top trade envoys from a select group of 25 to 30 countries, according to a trade official with knowledge of the meeting. While the meeting's agenda has yet to be finalised, the focus of the gathering will be the Doha Round of trade talks, which have struggled along in fits and starts for nearly eight years without reaching a conclusion. The meeting in New Delhi, set for 3 and 4 September, is intended to build momentum on Doha ahead of a summit of the G20 heads of state to be hosted by the US later that month.

Also on the agenda at this week's summit in L'Aquila is a proposal to help the world's hungry.

"We hope to approve an initiative for food security in the world. We will approve about \$10-15 billion for all the people in the world who are suffering from hunger," Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi told journalists on Tuesday, Reuters reported.

Washington is prepared to pledge US\$3-4 billion for the plan, and has called on other countries to match that commitment, according to a draft declaration that was seen by Reuters.

NGOs have called on the leaders to prioritise agriculture and food policies that improve the

position of small producers and women in their declaration on the matter.

ICTSD reporting; "G8 plus G5 agree to conclude Doha in 2010 - draft," REUTERS, 8 July 2009; "Berlusconi hopes G-8 to pledge \$10-15 billion for food security," 7 July 2009.

The Right to Food – A Trade Issue?

Olivier De Schutter, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, argued for the primacy of food security in trade negotiations at the WTO last week. Presenting the findings from a report on the right to food, De Schutter addressed agriculture delegates at the WTO. The three-hour session on 2 July drew strong and mixed reactions from those present.

Although De Schutter's presentation caused some controversy, it was viewed as an important opportunity for two usually disparate views on international rule-making to intersect. De Schutter attempted to outline the elements of trade that are in need of reform. Central to his critique was his assumption that growth in agricultural productivity will not be able to keep pace with growth in demand, a position that could be seen as a challenge to the fundamental tenets of the current trade regime.

De Schutter criticised some developing countries' increased dependence on food imports and stressed that developing countries should be allowed to protect their agricultural markets from import surges until investment in their domestic farm sectors succeeds in increasing their productivity. De Schutter pointed out that there has been a decline in prices cocoa and coffee, critical agricultural export commodities for developing countries. That drop in prices has tended to increase returns for large companies while providing few measurable gains for those at the bottom, he said.

Trade negotiators from both developed and developing countries had mixed reactions to De Schutter's presentation. Some went so far as to assert that he had lost credibility by speaking out so harshly against the status quo. Others, such as

India, welcomed what they saw as the first attempt to address food security at the WTO. Delegates roundly criticised the Rapporteur for defending protectionist policies and not sufficiently condemning developed country trade barriers and subsidies.

A trade official, speaking on condition of anonymity, suggested that, in light of De Schutter's presentation and the flexibilities enjoyed by developed countries in the current round, the WTO Membership "should remove 'development' from the name of Doha Round." The official also noted that current technological capacity could eliminate hunger but developing countries lacked the infrastructure and research capacity to do so and that De Schutter should address this need.

WTO Members with agricultural export interests, such as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, the EU, South Africa, and Uruguay, were the most critical of De Schutter's presentation. They pointed out that increased protectionism may lead to a loss of productivity and could diminish the importance of South-South trade. They urged future reports to include the fact that Least Developed Countries are exempted from cuts and that small and vulnerable economies receive considerable flexibility. Countries with a strong interest in protecting their agricultural markets – including Bolivia, Cuba, India, Luxembourg, Mauritius, and Tanzania – welcomed De Schutter's remarks.

Some Members, largely agricultural exporters, mentioned that De Schutter's presentation was toned down from the text of the prepared report, which delves deeper into the issues that the Rapporteur's presentation addressed. However, it also helps define the right to food in the context of trade negotiations. The report's recommendations highlight the need for greater collaboration across international organisations and the obligation of WTO Members to fulfill and protect their citizens' right to food. More specifically, it argues that the right to food should be used to define the agenda of negotiations on agricultural trade. In the view of some trade delegates, this is an important shift.

Additional information

The full text of the report is available at:
http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?m=101

ICTSD reporting.

Boeing/Airbus Feud Reignites over New 'Launch Aid'

Discussions over potential new European subsidies to plane manufacturer Airbus have reignited an ongoing trade row between Europe and the United States over state support of civil airline industries. The two sides have been locked in legal battles over Brussels' subsidies to Airbus and Washington's support for Boeing since 2004.

The latest flare in the dispute was sparked last month, when officials from the France, Germany, Spain and the UK met to discuss the provision of € 3.5 billion in new development 'launch aid' to European manufacturer Airbus. The additional support would offset the cost of Airbus' A350 long-range aircraft, which is set to be completed in 2013. The new A350 will compete with Boeing's 777 and 787 aircrafts but is expected to have lower operating costs and use less fuel. The meeting caught the attention of US trade officials, who maintain that this type of aid violates international trade obligations.

The US is also concerned because the new European talks go to the heart of an ongoing and unresolved legal matter. Washington is awaiting an interim ruling from the WTO in the next few months that will address the legality of launch aid awarded for past Airbus projects. Prior to the A350, European countries provided assistance for Airbus A340 and A380 airplanes, granting the manufacturer preferential loans and conditioning repayment on the projects' commercial success. As a result, the US invoked the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism in 2004, alleging, *inter alia*, that the subsidies violated provisions of Article 3 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) and resulted in lost sales for Boeing.

Washington has indicated that it will not tolerate the new launch aid scheme, especially in the run-up to the interim ruling. "If they do move forward, we will respond quickly and swiftly and file another action within the WTO," US Trade Representative Ron Kirk said at a press conference on 25 June.

That might not be necessary however, depending on the arbitrators' decision. "If the WTO finds what the US has asked it to find, there would be no reason to file another complaint (on the A350 launch aid), as it would be covered" by the WTO interim ruling, Robert T. Novick, a legal counsel for Boeing, told Dow Jones Newswires on 17 June.

But France, Germany, Spain and the UK are not expected to give in easily. After the US requested consultations with the WTO in 2004, the EU filed a counter-claim, alleging that the United States also provided illegal subsidies to Boeing through contracts with the US Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The European Communities believe that their approach is more transparent than the US practice of providing military contracts and tax rebates to its flagship airline manufacturer.

"To level the playing field, the only available and transparent way of funding A350 is through repayable loans, although today nothing has been agreed or decided with the four governments," Airbus spokeswoman Maggie Bergsma told Dow Jones. "Boeing has a US\$ 5 billion advantage that has to be leveled out."

In the meantime, US and European trade officials will await the WTO's interim decision, which Kirk believes may be out by the end of August.

ICTSD reporting; "Kirk Says More Aid to Airbus Would Spark U.S. Complaint to WTO," BLOOMBERG, 25 June 2009; "AIR SHOW: Boeing: WTO Ruling Could Cover A350 Launch Aid," THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 17 June 2009.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

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

Coming up: 9 – 15 July

9-10 July, Washington, United States. 2009 INTERNATIONAL AID & TRADE. This two-day conference is a forum for humanitarian relief professionals to network, communicate, build partnerships and share knowledge. It brings together procurement professionals, product and service providers and thought leaders from the industry. Participants will attend exhibits, workshops, and round-table discussions to share opinions and best practices to shape the provision of humanitarian relief. The event is sponsored by InterAction, the largest network of US-based international NGOs. For more information, please visit <http://www.aidandtrade.org/event2009/>.

9-10 July, San Diego, United States. 4TH ANNUAL SOLAR SUMMIT. This two-day summit will provide information from industry leaders on a variety of issues related to solar products, including solar market trends during the global financial crisis, local government approaches for widespread deployment of solar technology, and tax implications of solar power. Speakers will also address the current investment and policy climate for solar energy. For more information about this event, visit <http://www.frallc.com/conference.aspx?ccode=B726>.

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.

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.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 10 July: | Working Party on the Accession of Serbia |
| 10 July: | Committee on Trade and Environment |
| 15 July: | WTO Introduction Day |
| 17 July: | Committee on Rules of Origin |

Other upcoming events

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.

16-22 August, Stockholm, Sweden. 2009 WORLD WATER WEEK. Organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the 2009 edition of this annual event will focus on the theme: "Responding to Global Change: Accessing Water for the Common Good." This event will bring together experts, practitioners, decision makers and leaders from around the globe to exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions. By harnessing and linking best practices, scientific understanding, policy insight and decision-making, the program aims to transcend rhetoric and provide real answers to the world's water-related problems. This event features a comprehensive agenda of workshops, seminars and side events that undertake in-depth examinations of the most critical issues, complemented by prize ceremonies, field trips and events that provide an abundance of opportunities for the professional networking. For more information, visit <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>.

28-30 September, Geneva, Switzerland. WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2009. Under the heading "Global problems, global solutions: towards better global governance," the World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum 2009 will gather civil society representatives, governments and international organisations to discuss the role of the multilateral trading system and the Doha Round of negotiations within the context of the current global economic crisis. For more information, send an email to publicforum2009@wto.org, or see the event's website

http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/ngo_e/forum09_background_e.htm

Resources

FOOD SECURITY: THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE. Robbin Johnson, International Policy Council, June 2009. This discussion paper argues that successful agricultural trade liberalisation requires a shared vision of a global food system that ensures food security, food safety and sustainability. The author argues that food security is fundamentally about achieving reliable access to adequate, affordable and nutritious food supplies sufficient to avoid chronic hunger, crisis hunger and stunted development. The safety dimension involves securing food supplies free from contamination, adulteration or food-borne diseases and healthy foods that reduce the influence of diet-based diseases and promote well-being. Alongside security and safety has emerged the new concern of sustainability—the ability of one generation to meet its food needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. The collapse of the Doha negotiations and the emergence of a food crisis in early 2008, a financial crisis in mid 2008 and an economic crisis in late 2008 have reinforced autarchic instincts and weakened support for trade reform. To counteract these developments, the author calls for agricultural trade reform. For a copy of the discussion paper, visit <http://agritrade.org/Publications/documents/FoodSecurity.pdf>.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS 2009: WORLDWIDE GOVERNANCE INDICATORS 1996-2008. The World Bank, June 2009. The eighth release of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), one of the most comprehensive cross-country sets of governance indicators currently available, highlights the serious challenges that remain for rich and poor countries alike, and draws attention to the well-established link between better governance and improved development results. While this year's update of the research dataset shows many countries making progress in governance and anti-

corruption over the past decade, it also reveals that many countries around the world failed to make such improvements. The WGI measures six broad dimensions of governance: voice and accountability; political stability and absence of violence; government effectiveness; regulatory quality; rule of law; and control of corruption. To access the new data, please visit <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.asp>.