



Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective

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LEAD STORIES

- WTO Public Forum Kicks off in Geneva..... 1
- Japan Challenges Canadian Renewable Energy
Incentives at WTO..... 3

OTHER NEWS

- Food Prices: Media Driving Upward Trend?..... 4

IN BRIEF

- US Steelworkers Lash out at
Chinese Clean Energy Subsidies 5
- Officials say Obama's Plan to
Boost Exports on Track..... 6
- EU Trade Ministers Tackle FTAs,
Flood Relief at Brussels Meeting 6
- Jakarta Moves to Comply with
EU Timber Legislation 7
- EU Budget Commissioner Slams
Ag Subsidies, Rebates 8

WTO IN BRIEF

- Canadian Farmers Challenge
US Labelling Requirements at DSB 8

EVENTS & RESOURCES

- Events..... 9
- Resources 11

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LEAD STORIES

WTO Public Forum Kicks off in Geneva

Civil society descended on the Centre William Rappard this morning as the WTO's annual Public Forum got underway at the organisation's headquarters on the shores of Lake Geneva. Some 200 panellists and an estimated 1500 participants – from union leaders to business owners to farmers – will make their way to 43 different discussions focussing on this year's Public Forum theme, “the forces shaping world trade.”

The core theme has been divided into four sub-themes, which sessions are arranged around: the WTO and the players that influence the multilateral trading system; the economic, political, and technological factors shaping world trade and the role of the rules-based multilateral trading system in contributing to the global economic recovery; coherence between the WTO and other areas of global governance; and looking to the future: what post-crisis agenda for the WTO in a shifting-power scenario?

But before the sessions got their chance to begin peeling back the layers of the sub-themes, the well-attended plenary session brought a handful of impressive panellists together to help elucidate this year's overarching theme.

Lamy describes a new global trade landscape

Plenary participants took the stage in the darkened WTO theatre this morning to set the tone for the coming three days of discussions. In his inaugural speech, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy outlined a new world where traditional ways of thinking about trade must be re-examined. Lamy painted a picture of global trade as a complex network of interrelated and interdependent stakeholders.

“Most products today, whether goods or services, are not made in country x, y, or z,” Lamy said, referring to the current reality of multiple national interests in various industries and value added processes along the production line. “We can no longer measure trade by counting goods and services across borders.”

Following Lamy’s stage setting, the director-general joined moderator Gideon Rachman, chief foreign affairs commentator of the *Financial Times* newspaper and fellow panellists Jeremy Hobbs, Oxfam International’s executive director; Festus Mogaes, former President of Botswana; Ravi Kant, vice-chairman of Tata Motors, and Dame Billie Miller, former Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados.

Panellists, for the most part, read from prepared statements, which covered an array of issues, but tended to overlap on the agreed need for a functional multilateral trade system to help boost development. Lamy suggested that despite the protracted negotiations, the Doha Round is indeed a development round given the central role of agriculture in current talks and the “paradoxical” push by developing countries today to bring the Round to a conclusion. Notably, environmental issues – including trade issues related to climate change – were largely absent from this morning’s discussion.

Development key point of discussion at plenary

Festus cautioned that poor countries will find themselves further marginalised if countries continue to pursue bilateral and regional trade agreements as Doha talks continue to stall. “The forces that determine trade are old fashioned self interest,” Festus said. “That is why we should place our faith in international institutions like the WTO. [Poor countries] don’t have the bargaining power to ensure that our interests are taken care of.”

The issue of development continued as a prominent theme at the plenary, with several references to next week’s Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Summit which will take place at the UN General Assembly in New York. Lamy called the Public Forum a “warm-up

lap” to establish how developed countries have contributed to achieving the MDGs. But several panellists expressed their displeasure that the MDG 2015 goals were so far from being realised.

“It is clear to all that the MDGs are way off track,” Hobbs said complaining of recycled aid commitments and notable cuts in development aid in 2009. But others pointed to recent increased in trade compared to last year and remarked that Goal 8 of the MDGs – which calls for an “an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system” – has been one of the more successful MDG achievements.

Despite her acknowledged pessimistic expectations for next week’s Summit, Miller concurred with the positive role of trade, adding that MDG-8 underpins the other seven MDGs. Still, Hobbs cautioned that while trade can indeed offer much opportunity for lifting countries out of poverty, increased trade in and of itself is not necessarily an indicator of development.

Broad civil society participation expected to continue

Following the plenary, ten lunch and afternoon sessions took place on day one with topics ranging from rules of origin to agriculture to climate change, all arranged around the Forum’s four sub-themes. Notably, sessions on agriculture and food security are featured regularly throughout the 2010 Public Forum, up in prominence over 2009.

Like today’s sessions, discussion over the coming two days will continue to draw civil society into the multilateral trade discourse. Already, sessions have received participation from students, government officials, NGOs, farmers, and others – from both developed and developing countries.

Day two will again feature a prominent panel discussion exploring how world trade should be reshaped. Dame Billie Miller will again join this discussion as will Navanethem Pillay, the UN’s High Commissioner for Human Rights; Nonkululeko Nyembezi-Heit CEO of South Africa’s ArcelorMittal; WTO Deputy-Director-General Valentine Rugwabiza; and Deborah Berlinck, a journalist with Brazilian newspaper *O Globo*.

To follow the progress of the sessions in real time, visit the [Bridges Twitter page](#).

ICTSD Reporting.

Japan Challenges Canadian Renewable Energy Incentives at WTO

Japan launched dispute settlement proceedings against Canada at the World Trade Organization on 13 September by saying that the province of Ontario's green energy plan unfairly pressures its producers of clean power to buy hardware from local manufacturers.

Specifically, Japan is challenging Ontario's Feed-in Tariff Program (FIT), which enables the province to subsidise electricity operators that use renewable energy produced using stringent local content requirements. The "made-in-Ontario" requirement demands that up to 60 percent of all green energy project inputs be manufactured in the province as it strives to create local jobs.

Ontario, Canada's most populous province, launched an incentive program for renewable energy producers last October, aiming to create jobs and eliminate coal-fired power generators. The program has so far been very successful in drawing manufacturers to set up shop in Ontario. The biggest deal under the province's green power plan involved South Korean giant Samsung Group. But many other equipment makers – based in Europe, the US and other parts of Canada – have said they will open plants in Ontario to take advantage of the buying binge which is expected under the green energy plan.

Ontario subsidies breach GATT, national treatment: Tokyo

But Japan says the local-content provisions breach portions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and fall under the definition of a "prohibited subsidy." It has asked for "consultations" with Canada under the WTO process, the first stage of a formal trade dispute.

The local content requirements, Japan argued, accords less favourable treatment to Japanese companies exporting solar panels and other equipment to the province. Thus, the FIT program also violates WTO national treatment obligations under which foreign and domestic producers ought to be treated on an equal footing. It also goes against the WTO agreement on trade-related investment measures, Japan said.

The view of the Canadian provincial and federal governments is "that Ontario's Green Energy Act is consistent with Canada's international trade obligations under the WTO."

Some experts think it will be challenging for Japan to show that what Ontario has done is contrary to WTO rules. In some cases, local-content rules are frowned upon by the WTO, they say, but in others they are permitted.

Local content requirements for Renewable Energy Equipment are nothing new, with China implementing a 70 percent requirement between 2005 and 2009 for wind turbines. However China could justify this on its developing country status, while Ontario has little grounds for this mandate.

One key issue in this case is whether the purchase of renewable power is considered to be government procurement. GATT rules allow for preference to be given to local producers for government purchases, unless a government specifically agrees that it will not give local preference.

The dispute could end up as a long and drawn-out process, partly because Japan is obliged to negotiate with Canada's federal government, not Ontario. And the federal government has no jurisdiction to force the hand of one of its provinces in this way.

Experts point to green energy rivalry

Other experts say they think it is puzzling that Japan has decided to make its move now. Ontario's neighbouring province Quebec has had a local-procurement program for years for its energy development, they note, including rules that force power producers to buy equipment from specific regions inside the province. The

Quebec policy has never drawn complaints from the Japanese, the source says.

Some observers have speculated that Japan is targeting Ontario in the wake of a \$7 billion contract given to Korean competitor Samsung by the Ontario government. Recently, Japanese companies – such as Sharp, Mitsubishi, and Kyocera – were on the losing end of a US\$20 billion nuclear power deal in the United Arab Emirates. The Ontario deal could be perceived by Japan as a sign of losing ground in the green energy arena, some experts say.

Under the agreement with Samsung, Ontario will provide the company with subsidies to establish a massive solar and wind energy capacity in the province. The government will support the company by providing preferential grid access, financial assistance, and land. The deal has been a boon to Samsung, which is vying to position itself as a major renewable energy player. Samsung, as part of the deal, will also establish a wind turbine facility and solar power production facility in Ontario.

If Japan eventually wins its claim, it could be a blow for Ontario's alternative energy plans. The prices the province pays for green energy – for certain types of solar power it is almost 20 times the rate customers pay – can only be financially justified if Ontario gets significant employment benefits from new development.

ICTSD Reporting; “Japan takes issue with Ontario's green energy plan,” THE GLOBE AND MAIL, 13 September 2010; “Japan starts WTO dispute with Canada on clean power,” REUTERS, 13 September; “The Real Reason Behind Japan's WTO Challenge of Ontario's Green Energy Subsidy Local Content Requirements,” GREEN WORLD INVESTOR, 14 September 2010.

OTHER NEWS

Food Prices: Media Driving Upward Trend?

Cereal stocks are up, the harvest for wheat is the most plentiful in years, and fuel prices are low – yet food prices have been climbing. Although food prices are less than half of the historical peaks of 2007-2008, some governments and traders are leading the charge to hedge against a shortage. A recent Russian export ban and riots in Mozambique for bread have thrust the question back into the media spotlight.

Drought and shockingly high temperatures cut Russian wheat output by a third this year. The government has stopped all grain exports and is focused on replenishing stocks at least until January 2011, or the next season when – according to Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, “it is clear how much we have.” Pronouncements such as these have preceded rallies in wheat markets. However, according to the [FAO](#), the loss of Russian output will be made up by surpluses in Europe over the course of the year.

In Mozambique riots have erupted in response to a hike in bread prices and transportation costs. Invariably, the causes are complex but [analysts](#) have blamed a precipitous fall in Mozambique's Metical – relative to the South African Rand – for the bulk of the increase in bread prices. Arguably, the Russian export ban on wheat seems to have been incidental to the riots in Mozambique, considering the challenges that the government is facing on a variety of fiscal and financial fronts.

Stocks and forecasts

Reassuringly, the FAO forecasts that global food production will only be slightly lower than 2008-2009, a record bumper crop. In some cases, such as wheat – even in light of an export ban – trade is expected to grow slightly this year, according to the [USDA](#). Global wheat and rice production is also likely to have been affected by the recent floods in Pakistan, as the country is amongst the largest exporters of both goods.

Although food prices have been climbing, up nearly 5 percent since August, they are lower than in 2008 but higher than they were in 2009. The FAO's food price index components - cereals, sugar and oils - have seen their prices rise since this summer, while meat and dairy have increased only slightly. Stocks for most cereals, a driver of volatility, have been diminished by sustained levels of utilisation in the face of production shortfalls but are likely to recover as farmers are signalled to plant more in response to profit-inducing prices.

Media panic?

Experts at some think tanks, such as Maximo Torero of the International Food Policy Research Institute, have criticised the uptick in media coverage of the price increases, as a “reflexive narrative” that has “already caused another global price spike.” He pointed out that the causes of the decline in production, such as bad weather, have only affected some exporters, such as Russia and Pakistan, while other major producers - such as Argentina, Australia, Canada, and the US - continue to have healthy stocks to buffer shortfalls or are expecting larger tallies for food commodities, year over year.

Long term problems remain

As changes in prices becomes a part of the discussion on food, addressing longer term structural issues remains key in the view of leading commentators. M.S. Swaminathan, widely regarded as the father of India's Green Revolution, is calling for agricultural research and investment that promotes “knowledge-intensive agriculture.” Envisioning food security strategies that attend to availability, access and absorption, he emphasises the concurrent role that crop production increasing technologies play with basic issues such as clean water, in ensuring food security.

In the wake of the 2007-2008 food price spike, some institutions - such as the World Bank - have moved to refocus funds and attention on agriculture, which has been long neglected. These efforts, afforded billions of dollars, have yet to bear immediate fruit. The number of food-insecure people remains at above a billion, with numbers substantially increasing with each new

shock. For example, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food has recently warned of two to three million potential food-insecure people in Syria. Amongst broader trends, food prices in many developing country markets remain stubbornly high even as international prices plummet from 2008 levels.

International institutions have called for improved regulation of markets, greater market transparency, and emergency stocks in the face of the current panic and as a solution to long term trends. According to the FAO, “fluid and efficient international trade” amongst these issues remains key.

ICTSD Reporting.

IN BRIEF

US Steelworkers Lash out at Chinese Clean Energy Subsidies

The United Steelworkers union in the US has filed a trade case against China accusing it of unfairly subsidising its clean energy industry. The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) says it has received the union's petition and that it will reach a decision on whether to open an investigation within the next 45 days.

The union submitted the document to the USTR on 9 September, highlighting five main areas of protectionist policies used by China that they say gives their green sector an unfair advantage over US companies and violate WTO free-trade rules.

“These practices have enabled China to emerge as a dominant supplier of green technology,” said Leo Gerard, president of the United Steelworkers union (USW) in the US. “Right now, China is taking every possible step - many of them illegal under international trade laws - to ensure that it will control that sector.”

The USW accuses China of subsidising companies that export green energy products such as solar panels and wind turbines. They also complain that China blocks the importation of clean energy

goods and restricts the sale of exhaustible natural resources that foreign energy firms need in order to compete with Chinese companies.

Wang Baodong, a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in the US, expressed hope for a bilateral agreement between the US and China regarding the clean energy industry. "Great potential exists between China and the US in developing clean energy...with the aim of creating a win-win situation commercially and helping combat the climate change effect," Wang said.

China claims that their investment in clean energy will benefit worldwide goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but trade experts maintain that Chinese protectionist policies may lead to WTO involvement.

If the US Trade Representative accepts the USW petition, the case may be heard in front of a WTO dispute settlement panel.

A decision by the USTR regarding the petition is expected by 24 October.

ICTSD Reporting; "Union Accuses China of Illegal Clean Energy Subsidies," NEW YORK TIMES, 9 September 2010; "Steelworkers want Obama to sue China over green energy subsidy," ECONOMICTIMES.COM, 10 September 2010; "U.S. steelworkers target China," THE WASHINGTON POST, 10 September 2010.

Officials say Obama's Plan to Boost Exports on Track

US President Barack Obama's National Export Initiative (NEI) is on track to double US exports over the next five years, trade officials in Washington announced Monday. Gary Locke, the US Commerce Secretary pointed towards the 17 percent increase in exports from this time last year, rising to slightly over US\$1 billion. In order to achieve the five year goal, US exports would have to maintain a year on year increase of about 15 percent.

The encouraging indicators come from sources including the Commerce Department and the

Export-Import Bank. The Obama administration says these data suggest the NEI will reach or exceed the intended goal.

Critics, however, say the data is not being portrayed accurately and have expressed doubts that the 15 percent growth rate can be maintained. That the base data year being used by the Obama administration is 2009, a year which saw a three year low for US exports, they say.

Exchange rate issues relating to the potential for future sustained growth were also criticised as some economists pointed to the strong US dollar and the continued undervaluation of the Yuan – the US's trade deficit with China increased slightly at the beginning of this year according to a US Commerce Department report.

Some others say they fear retaliation and protectionism as a reaction to the export initiative. Washington has increased loans by US\$2 billion through the NEI, which some countries may argue are unfair subsidies.

Proponents, however, say that with careful planning and some reforms to the export control system, the goal is easily attainable. Many point to the stalled progress of the Doha round, in which American participation and policy is controlled by the US Congress. They also point to pending FTAs with Columbia, Panama, and South Korea – negotiated during the Bush administration – which are all stalled in the US Senate.

ICTSD Reporting; "US Exports On Track To Double In Five Years – Trade Officials," THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 13 September 2010; "Obama Outlines Drive to Raise U.S. Exports," THE NEW YORK TIMES, 11 March 2010; "President Obama Provides Progress Report on National Export Initiative," THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASE, 7 July 2010.

EU Trade Ministers Tackle FTAs, Flood Relief at Brussels Meeting

EU Trade Ministers met in Brussels on 10 September to discuss free trade agreements (FTAs) and ways to promote international trade

that would help support European businesses. Free trade negotiations involving Malaysia and South Korea were at the top of the meeting's agenda, as were issues involving Pakistan.

"Today's meeting highlights the way trade policy can help the economic recovery," said EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht. "I want to create new business opportunities for European companies in countries like Malaysia and by doing so, lower the costs for European business of international commerce."

The EU is in the process of negotiating trade agreements with a number of Asian countries. It has already agreed to an FTA with South Korea and other trade negotiations are proceeding with India and Singapore. The Ministers discussed the status of the EU-Korea FTA, setting a date of no later than 6 October for the agreement to be signed.

The deal is estimated to be worth €19 billion in new trade for EU exporters, removing nearly all tariffs between the two economies, as well as many other barriers to trade. The EU has a trade deficit with Korea in the trade of goods, but forecasts predict that the "Korean market offers significant growth potential," according to an EU press release.

Also in the works is a FTA between the EU and Malaysia. European goods and services exports to the EU's second largest trade partner in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) were valued at €12.3 billion in 2009. An FTA between these two economies will likely benefit European businesses and result in an increase in foreign direct investment outflows to Malaysia.

The EU foreign ministers also prepared to grant trade preferences to flood-devastated Pakistan. The trade preferences would allow a WTO waiver for some Pakistani exports. This would award approximately €230 million in reduced tariffs to the disaster stricken nation.

"If you want to stabilise Pakistan in the long run so that it does not drift away to extremism or fundamentalism you have to make sure that the medium and long term consequences of the

catastrophe will be countered economically," said German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle.

The WTO waiver is expected to prompt criticism from other textile exporters such as China and India.

ICTSD Reporting, "EU Trade Commissioner welcomes successful meeting of Trade Ministers," EC.EUROPA.EU, 10 September 2010; "Europe preparing to grant Pakistan extraordinary trade concessions," DAILYTIMES.COM, 14 September 2010; "Ministers support trade concessions for Pakistan," EUROPEANVOICE.COM, 13 September 2010.

Jakarta Moves to Comply with EU Timber Legislation

Indonesia has launched a new system aimed at verifying the legality of domestically harvested timber before it exports. The move is seen as an effort to conform to recently approved EU import restrictions on illegal timber.

The Timber Legality Verification System (or SVLK in its Bahasa Indonesia acronym) would apply to almost all forests in Indonesia, and is supposed to bring timber exports in line with EU laws, which now restrict the importation of illegally harvested timber (see Bridges Weekly, [23 June 2010](#)). Jakarta says the SVLK system will allow all exports destined to the EU market to be fully traceable through the supply chain to their source.

The EU legislation bans the import of illegal timber into the EU, and aims to force timber exporters to prove the legality of their timber – even if raw logs are first sent elsewhere for processing. The SVLK signals Jakarta's further commitment to establishing a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the bloc.

Indonesia and the EU began VPA talks in 2007. A technical meeting between both parties will take place this month in Jakarta to clarify details of the agreement and the deal is expected to be signed later this year. Full features of the agreement are expected to be implemented by 2013.

In Indonesia, stakeholders in the timber industry have already agreed to work with the SVLK system. Jakarta has also indicated that the system is in line with the country's battle against illegal logging. With 120 million hectares of forests and one third of its timber exports going to the EU the move is key to maintaining a positive trade relationship.

VPAs lie at the core of the European Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, the EU's response to a call for action at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. Beyond VPAs, Brussels promised to require EU member states to purchase sustainable forest products, and to introduce a legislative measure discouraging the importation of wood from unknown - and thus, potentially illegal - sources. The new EU legislation marks a significant move towards this goal.

The EU has inked VPA deals with a hand full of African countries and is currently in negotiations with several other countries, including Malaysia, Liberia, and Central African Republic.

ICTSD Reporting; "Indonesia Bans Exports of Illegally Harvested Timber," THE JAKARTA POST, 13 September 2010.

EU Budget Commissioner Slams Ag Subsidies, Rebates

The Europe must decrease its level of agricultural subsidies and eliminate rebates, Janusz Lewandowski, the EU's Budget Commissioner told Reuters in an interview. The EU budget, valued around EUR 130 billion annually, should be restructured to allocate more funds for research, development, and innovation, the commissioner said.

"Farm spending should constitute about a third of EU spending and not its main part," Lewandowski said. "We are living in special times, when national budgets are subject to painful cuts, which creates a lot of frustration."

The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), worth approximately EUR 50 billion annually, accounts for more than 40 percent of the EU budget. Funds from CAP go towards farm subsidies within the EU, notably France, which is a major beneficiary from CAP and is expected to lead efforts against cuts in agricultural spending.

Additionally, Lewandowski called for an end to the annual rebate awarded to Britain, which receives the reimbursed funds due to their high payments into the EU budget and their relatively small use of CAP finances.

"The British rebate has lost its original justification," the budget commissioner said. "The structure of the EU budget has changed substantially." The rebate was put in place in 1984 but a decrease in agricultural subsidies has nullified any need for reimbursement, he argues.

The budget negotiations are scheduled to begin early next year. The current budget runs until 2013.

ICTSD Reporting, "Farm aid should be a third of EU outlays - budget chief," REUTERS.COM, 6 September 2010; "E.U. Chief's Comments Likely to Spark Farm Aid Debate," NEW YORK TIMES, 6 September 2010; "UK rebate 'no longer justified,' Brussels says," EUOBSERVER.COM, 6 September 2010.

WTO IN BRIEF

Canadian Farmers Challenge US Labelling Requirements at DSB

Canada is challenging the US's country-of-origin labelling (COOL) requirements for beef and pork at a meeting of the WTO's Dispute Settlements Body (DSB). The Canadian government, backed by several business groups – including some from the US, claims that the implementation of COOL requirements is immensely costly forcing Canadian businesses to seek less money for their beef so as to absorb the cost of implementing the requirement. They maintain that COOL is a

technical barrier to trade (TBT) and as such illegal under WTO law.

“The COOL measure is not intended to address health or safety concerns,” Canada said in its opening statement. “The objective of the COOL measure was to distort the conditions of competition in the US market to favour US cattle and hogs compared to imported livestock.”

The COOL act requires that consumers be informed of the country of origin of meat by a label on the sales package. To receive an “A” label, cattle must be born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States. Meat from cattle with a mixed life – for example, born and raised in Canada but slaughtered in the US – must have a label indicating the mix.

However, rather than taking issue with country-of-origin labelling as a whole – Canada, as well as dozens of other WTO member countries, has its own country-of-origin laws, the agricultural giant is challenging the specific country of birth, raising, and slaughter of imported livestock requirements under the policy.

The Mexican government has also filed a separate challenge similar to that of Canada’s, alleging that COOL regulations are responsible for an almost 50 percent drop in the country’s cattle trade in recent years. The Mexican oral statement is being heard together with the Canadian and American statements.

The American government claims that the COOL requirements allow consumer choice, and have been in place for a long time on other products, such as “Canadian Maple Syrup” and “Mexican Tequila.” In their opening statement, the US government states several ways that the Canadian and Mexican governments are “dramatically overstating” the situation.

The bulk of the United States’ counter argument is that American slaughterhouses continue to import Canadian and Mexican cattle. The US also points to recent significant increases of imported Canadian and Mexican cattle compared to the same time last year. Their argument, however, does not address in detail the claim that American

slaughterhouses are simply paying less for imported cattle.

The Dispute Settlement Body is currently hearing the case, but is not expected to release its ruling for several months.

ICTSD Reporting; “Canada to present its beef against U.S. livestock trade rule to WTO,” THE CANADIAN PRESS, 13 September 2010; “The Canadian and Mexican WTO Challenges to U.S. Country of Origin Labelling,” INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TRADE POLICY, March 2009; “WTO to Hear Canada’s Challenge to U.S. Mandatory Country-of-Origin Labelling,” FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CANADA, 19 November 2009.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Coming up this week

16 September, Bern, Switzerland. NATIONAL CENTRES OF COMPETENCE IN RESEARCH: RESEARCH LECTURE SERIES ON “PROMISES AND PERILS OF NEW GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: EXAMINING THE NEW ROLE OF THE G20. This meeting seeks to examine the new global governance order that has the G20 at the helm in the wake of the financial crisis of 2008, considering the theoretical and underpinnings of governance networks, and in particular focusing on the G20’s emerging relationship with the WTO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). For more information, please refer to the [NCCR’s website](#).

20-21 September, Paris, France. 10TH ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION TRADING. The International Energy Agency (IEA), along with the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) will be hosting the 10th annual workshop

on Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading. The workshop will focus on the future of global carbon markets post-COP 15, including scaled-up and new market mechanisms, regional linkages, carbon market oversight, and accounting and verification. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for government, business and various stakeholders to discuss key issues relating to carbon markets and climate policy, along with new developments over the past year. For more information, please refer to the [IEA's website](#).

20-22 September, New York, US. UN HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG SUMMIT). This high-level plenary meeting by the General Assembly has the primary goals of accelerating progress towards the internationally agreed to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The meeting is expected to comprehensively review successes, best practices, lessons learned, obstacles, challenges and opportunities “leading to concrete strategies for action”. The meeting will be marked by six round-table meetings to be chaired by heads of state, with the overarching theme of “Making it happen by 2015”. For further information, please refer to the [UN's website](#).

22 September, Washington, US. GLOBAL SERVICES SUMMIT 2010: BREAKING THE DEADLOCK ON SERVICES TRADE AND INVESTMENT. The Coalition of Service Industry will be holding this summit featuring high level diplomats and trade ministers from across the globe. The summit will gather government and private sector leaders from around the world to consider how to move the expansion of services trade and investment forward with new energy, in order to create jobs, growth, and sustained economic recovery. For more information, please [click here](#).

WTO events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted on the [WTO website](#). 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.

15-17 September: WTO Public Forum

20 + 22 September: Trade Policy Review Body – Honduras

21 September: Dispute Settlement Body; Working Party – Accession – Yemen

22-24 September: Workshop on Agriculture Notifications

Other upcoming events

23-24 September, London, England. THE CHATHAM HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2010. This conference will look at whether an international deal on climate will be reached in the next year. If not, it will look at what alternative forms of governance will emerge and what practical steps government and business can take. For more information, please refer to the [Chatham House website](#).

24 September, Copenhagen, Denmark. CONFERENCE ON UNDERSTANDING THE POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITATIONS FOR AFRICA TO ACCESS INTERNATIONAL MARKETS: A GOOD BASIS FOR REAL DEVELOPMENT. This conference will bring together private companies from Europe and Africa to spur growth through the private sector rather than through government. Experts from Denmark and Africa will come together to discuss the rules of international trade and their consequences for African producers' access to European Markets. For more information, please refer to the [Danish Development Research Network's website](#).

28-30 September, Tokyo, Japan. ADBI-OECD CONFERENCE ON SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN THE POST-CRISIS CONTEXT. The Asian Development Bank Institute and the Organization For Economic Co-Operation and Development's joint conference will look at how skill sets will need to be developed and changed in export oriented countries as world consumption (US

consumption) remains sluggish over the years to come. The conference will look at skills development as a national rebalancing aspect, as well as at the local level with integration of employment, skills and economic development. For more information, please refer to the [Asian Development Bank Institute's website](#).

Resources

IS THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH FOR EMERGING ECONOMIES?. Edited by Zdenek Drabek (Palgrave Macmillan, February 2010). Do countries benefit from their membership in the WTO? This book addresses this question and examines the role of the WTO in the process of economic development of emerging markets and other developing countries. Divided into five parts, the book contains essays examining topics such as the effects of WTO accession, Free Trade Agreements, Trade Flows, and a cost benefit analysis for countries looking to join the WTO. For more information about this publication, please refer to the [Macmillan website](#).

POLICY SPACE TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE FINANCIAL CRISES IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT TREATIES. By Kelvin P. Gallagher (Global Development and Environment Institute, May 2010). Do nations have the policy space to deploy capital controls in order to prevent and mitigate financial crises? This paper examines the extent to which measures to mitigate this crisis and prevent future crises are permissible under a variety of bilateral, regional and multilateral trade and investment agreements. It is found that the United States trade and investment agreements, and to a lesser extent the WTO, leave little room to manoeuvre when it comes to capital controls. This is the case despite the increasing economic evidence showing that certain capital controls can be useful in preventing or mitigating financial crises. It also stands in contrast with investment rules under the IMF, OECD and the treaties of most capital exporting nations which allow for at least the temporary use of capital controls as a safeguard measure. Drawing on the comparative analysis conducted in the paper, the author offers a range of policies that could be

deployed to make the United States investment rules more consistent with the rules of its peers and the economic realities of the 21st century. To access this report, please [click here](#).

POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS OF A SPECIAL SAFEGUARD MECHANISM IN THE WTO: THE CASE OF WHEAT. By Thomas W. Hertel and Will Martin (The World Bank, June 2010). The Special Safeguard Mechanism was a key issue in the July 2008 failure to reach agreement in the World Trade Organization negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda. It includes both price and quantity-triggered measures. This paper uses a stochastic simulation model of the world wheat market to investigate the effects of policy makers implementing policies based on the Special Safeguard Mechanism rules. The report finds that “[a]s expected, implementation of the quantity-triggered measures is found to reduce imports, raise domestic prices, and boost mean domestic production in the Special Safeguard Mechanism regions. However, rather than insulating countries that use it from price volatility, it would actually increase domestic price volatility in developing countries, largely by restricting imports when domestic output is low and prices high.” The paper finds that the price measures discriminate against low price exporters -- many of whom are developing countries -- and tend to increase producer price instability. To access this report, please [click here](#).

TRADE AND THE COMPETITIVENESS AGENDA. By Jose Guilherme Reis and Thomas Farole (The World Bank, June 2010). This note discusses the renewed role of government in trade and growth policy from the competitiveness angle and it suggests some priorities for the new competitiveness agenda. To access this report, please [click here](#).

HOW TO CONDUCT PATENT SEARCHES FOR MEDICINES: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE. (The World Health Organization, 2010). This guide describes a step-by-step approach to locating information about patents on medicines, which, though not easily found, is often available on the Internet. Concrete examples are given of how to trace, through the various online databases, whether a patent has been applied for, granted, refused or revoked. Suggestions are also

provided for using Internet sources to obtain data (such as priority dates) that can facilitate efforts to identify relevant patents through more traditional means, such as patent office gazettes. To access this guide, please visit the [WHO website](#).