



# Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

*Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective*

Volume 16 · Number 3, 25 January 2012

## LEAD STORIES

Obama Takes Aim at China Trade Practices,  
Pushes for Clean Energy ..... 1

## OTHER NEWS

WTO Members Look to Davos for Post-  
Ministerial Way Forward ..... 4

Ag Ministers: Sustainable Farming Key to  
Tackling Hunger ..... 5

US, Mexico to Fight Another Round in Tuna  
Dispute ..... 7

Disputes Roundup: Airbus, Renewable Energy  
Cases Move Forward at WTO ..... 9

## IN BRIEF

South Korea Lifts Ban on Canadian Beef Imports  
..... 11

US, Canada Clinch Two-Year Extension of  
Softwood Lumber Deal ..... 12

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events ..... 13

Resources ..... 16

Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at Ch. de Balexert 7, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: +41 (0) 22-917-8492; fax: 917-8093. To subscribe to Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest or access back issues, visit the [homepage](#).

Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest is made possible through the generous support of the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); the Netherlands Directorate-General of Development Cooperation (DGIS); the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Danida; the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway; AusAID; and Oxfam Novib.

Copyright ICTSD, 2011. Readers are encouraged to quote and reproduce this material for educational, non-profit purposes, provided the source is acknowledged. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No-Derivative Works 3.0 License.

Your support to BRIDGES and the BRIDGES series of publications is most welcome; if interested, please contact [Andrew Crosby](#), Managing Director at (+41) 22 917 8335.

Contributors to this issue are Sofia Alicia Balño, Matt Fleszar, Jonathan Hepburn, Brennan McCormick, Madison Parrish, and Marie Wilke. This edition of Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest is edited by Sofia Alicia Balño.

The Publisher and Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz. The Editor in Chief is Andrew Crosby. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the [editor](#) or the [director](#).

ISSN 1563-0

## LEAD STORIES

### Obama Takes Aim at China Trade Practices, Pushes for Clean Energy

Beijing's trade policies once again came under fire in Washington on Tuesday evening, as US President Barack Obama pledged in his annual State of the Union address to "do more" to ensure a level playing field for US products. With the November presidential election in his sights, clean energy is also set to be high on the White House agenda, with Obama asking Congress to "double-down on a clean energy industry that's never been more promising."

#### "We need to do more" on China, Obama says

The US President, addressing a joint session of Congress in his [speech](#) on Tuesday 24 January, promised to "go anywhere in the world to open markets for American products," adding that he would be sure to hold the US' trading partners to international trade laws.

"I will not stand by when our competitors don't play by the rules," Obama said.

The US and China have seen trade tensions escalate over the past year, with Washington and Beijing engaging in a tit-for-tat row that has covered a broad range of issues, from China's valuation of its currency, to antidumping claims at the WTO, to both countries' support of their respective renewable energy sectors.

"Over a thousand Americans are working today because we stopped a surge in Chinese tyres," Obama said, referring to a WTO dispute in which China had unsuccessfully challenged safeguard measures levelled by Washington on Chinese tyre imports (see Bridges Weekly, [7 September 2011](#)).

“But we need to do more. It’s not right when another country lets our movies, music, and software be pirated. It’s not fair when foreign manufacturers have a leg up on ours only because they’re heavily subsidised,” he added.

In his address, Obama confirmed earlier reports that he would be establishing a Trade Enforcement Unit that would be tasked with investigating “unfair trade practices in countries like China,” along with promising more border inspections to prevent imports of counterfeit or unsafe goods (see Bridges Weekly, [11 January 2012](#))

### **Russia also on the agenda**

The US President also appeared to make a subtle call for Congress to move forward on restoring permanent normal trade relations with Moscow, stressing that “this Congress should make sure that no foreign company has an advantage over American manufacturing when it comes to accessing finance or new markets like Russia.”

Russia’s 18-year bid for WTO membership was approved at the WTO’s Eighth Ministerial Conference in December, with its full membership set to come into effect later this year once the Russian parliament ratifies its accession package (see Bridges Daily Update, [18 December 2011](#)).

However, the US still lacks permanent normal trade relations with Russia, as the result of a Cold War-era provision that allows Washington to deny most-favoured nation (MFN) status to nations with limited freedom of emigration.

The legislation – known as the Jackson-Vanik amendment – would need to be repealed by the US Congress in order for permanent normal trade relations to be restored. Obama has stressed in recent months that taking Jackson-Vanik off the books in 2012 is a White House priority.

Just last week, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told a news conference that the US must repeal the law, or else Russia would “not abide by the commitments it undertook as a WTO member if the Jackson-Vanik amendment remains in force.”

### **White House promises to develop “every available source” of energy**

In his speech, Obama also made a pitch for developing an energy strategy that would open more than 75 percent of the US’ potential offshore oil and gas resources, while also developing natural gas and increasing Washington’s backing of renewable energy.

“The development of natural gas will create jobs and power trucks and factories that are cleaner and cheaper, proving that we don’t have to choose between our environment and our economy,” the US President promised.

Obama also urged Congress that it was time to “double-down” on the clean energy industry. “I will not cede the wind or solar or battery industry to China or Germany because we refuse to make the same commitment here.”

While the US recently retook the top position in investment in clean energy – surpassing China – US solar panel producers have struggled to keep up against cheap solar imports from China and sharp decreases in the price of solar panels (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [23 January 2012](#) and Bridges Weekly, [16 January 2012](#)).

The buzz around finding new sources for the US’ energy needs reached new heights over the past week, after Obama’s 18 January announcement rejecting a plan for the building of a multi-billion dollar pipeline that would have carried crude oil from Canada to the US state of Texas, faulting Republicans for having imposed an “arbitrary” deadline for the project’s approval (see Bridges Weekly, [18 January 2012](#)).

However, in last week’s announcement, Obama made clear that the decision was “not a judgement on the merits of the pipeline,” potentially leaving the door open for the project to move forward at a later date.

The proposed pipeline had been the subject of weeks of debate on its environmental and economic implications. Opponents had called the Keystone project environmentally irresponsible, citing concerns over the proposed pipeline’s carbon footprint, among others. Meanwhile,

supporters – which include many Republicans – had argued that the project was key to creating US jobs and increasing the US' energy resources.

### US “on track” to double exports

In his speech, the US President also highlighted progress toward the goal he set at the 2010 State of the Union address, in which he promised to double US exports within five years – from US\$1.57 trillion in 2009 to US\$3.14 trillion by 2015 – in an effort to create new jobs.

“Two years ago, I set a goal of doubling US exports over five years. With the bipartisan trade agreements I signed into law, we are on track to meet that goal – ahead of schedule,” Obama said, referring to the US' free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea.

The three trade pacts had been the subject of prolonged political debate between parties for years, having been signed into law by former US President George W. Bush in 2007.

The FTAs were ratified by the US Congress and signed into law this past autumn (see Bridges Weekly, [12 October 2011](#)).

### Republican presidential candidates respond

The State of the Union address drew harsh rebukes from Republican presidential candidates, who hit back at Obama's economic and energy policies in their responses.

With the US presidential election scheduled for the first Tuesday in November, Republican candidates have spent the past several months jockeying for position in the contests for their party's nomination. Last Friday's primary in the US state of South Carolina saw former House Speaker Newt Gingrich beat out former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney – until then widely seen as the party's frontrunner – by a wide margin in the polls, refocusing much of the national attention on the escalating rivalry between the two candidates.

“I will open up new markets for American goods, and open up our lands so that we can finally develop our energy resources,” former

Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney promised in his pre-rebuttal remarks.

“My administration will support the development of these resources, not find excuses to stand in the way,” the former governor added, pledging both to take advantage of a “revolution in drilling for natural gas” and to approve the Keystone oil pipeline should he win office.

Gingrich, in his response to Obama's address, also took aim at the White House decision to reject TransCanada Corporation's proposed pipeline.

“Only recently the president cancelled the Keystone XL Pipeline that would have created countless new jobs and helped America on the way to energy independence because he wanted to appease the far left of his party,” the former House speaker said. “And yet not a single word on the Keystone XL pipeline tonight.”

The four-man race for the Republican Party nomination next moves to the US state of Florida, with a primary scheduled for Tuesday 31 January.

ICTSD reporting; “Russia threatens to ignore WTO commitments in trade with US if Cold War law isn't scrapped,” ASSOCIATED PRESS, 18 January 2012.

## OTHER NEWS

### WTO Members Look to Davos for Post-Ministerial Way Forward

The annual World Economic Forum kicked off earlier today, bringing together policymakers and business leaders against the backdrop of renewed fears of a global economic slowdown. With the 2011 WTO Ministerial Conference now in the rear-view mirror, trade ministers are regrouping informally this weekend to discuss the way forward for the global trade body in 2012.

The World Economic Forum, which is taking place in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos from 25 to 29 January, comes on the heels of pessimistic economic forecasts from both the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), thanks to debt problems in the eurozone and weakening growth in emerging economies.

In advance of the Davos meet, various chiefs of the world's multilateral and regional institutions issued a "Call to Action" with suggestions on how the global economy can "regain momentum" in light of decelerating global growth and fears of growing protectionism – taking a particular focus on the opportunities that could come from transitioning to a greener economy.

The eleven signatories of the 20 January letter included, among others, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde, and World Bank President Robert Zoellick.

With preparations well underway for the June 2012 meeting marking 20 years since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the signatories urged that the upcoming Rio+20 Conference "consider a comprehensive policy strategy for green growth that encourages innovation and diffusion of new technologies, and makes efficient use of economic and regulatory instruments."

"Low-carbon, climate-resilient growth offers potentially greater employment opportunities," they added, cautioning that "environmental

pressures are putting a significant strain on growth."

Leaders also urged countries to shirk protectionist pressures, and to develop a "comprehensive action plan" in advance of the Mexico summit of the G-20 group of leading economies in June.

### Trade ministers to gather on Saturday

This year's informal meeting of trade ministers – hosted by Swiss economy minister Johann Schneider-Ammann – is meant to provide ministers a chance to discuss ways to move forward after the ministerial conference, especially with the Doha Round of trade talks now entering its eleventh year.

Trade ministers have regularly held these informal Davos meetings in years past, usually with the goal of assessing the progress of the Doha negotiations and making plans for the year ahead. However, with trade ministers having already gathered in Geneva for the WTO ministerial just over a month ago, there is little expectation that the landscape since then might have changed.

Right now, members appear to be taking a "wait and see" approach in terms of finding issue areas that might gain traction in the new year, one official commented, noting that political cycles in the US and elsewhere are likely to prevent any major leaps forward in 2012.

"Everyone realizes that it is a difficult year," one developing country official said.

Regardless of what comes from the ministers' discussions at Davos this weekend, "nothing will emerge that applies to the entire WTO membership," another delegate emphasised, given that not all of the global trade body's membership will be involved in Saturday's talks.

"People might be expecting to see some light at the end of the tunnel," the delegate added, "but I don't think anything will actually be resolved at Davos." Instead, the meeting is intended to serve more as an opportunity for a "frank and open discussion" that is both practical and political.

“It’s after Davos, perhaps, that things will move in a more significant way to establish some sort of work on some sort of process in the WTO,” another official explained.

Items on Saturday’s agenda currently include a summary of the post-ministerial state of play from WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy and a discussion among ministers to identify priorities for the global trade body in the year ahead.

These talks are expected to focus on current global challenges facing the WTO, development issues, and the Doha negotiations, along with identifying issues where there might already be convergence among members.

However, “in the wake of the ministerial, it’s clear that there’s not a consensus on an agreed way forward,” one trade official told Bridges.

#### **NAMA negotiations to resume; other negotiating groups to meet**

Back in Geneva, negotiators on non-agricultural market access (NAMA) held their first meeting of the year yesterday, also with the goal of developing a post-ministerial game plan for Doha.

At the meeting, chair Luzius Wasescha of Switzerland told members that he will be holding consultations on all aspects of the NAMA talks, after which he will present members with different options for debate.

While the chair noted a general readiness to take steps to advance the talks, he stressed that “I don’t think that we have a consensus on what to do and how to do it and when.”

At yesterday’s meeting, several members underscored the need to discuss not only non-tariff barriers, which have been the main focus in the last few years of the negotiations, but also the tariff component of the Doha mandate. Others, meanwhile, stressed that balance needs to be achieved both in the NAMA discussions and in the overall Doha negotiations.

With the next meeting of NAMA negotiators set to be held in a month’s time, the chair suggested that members finish what they can, and then put it

on hold until there is a clearer direction on how to resolve the other remaining issues.

Meanwhile, sources note that the chair of the Committee for Trade and Development Special Session is also planning to convene various informal small group consultations between February and March. Chairs of other groups are also calling members together to see where progress can be made, officials told Bridges.

ICTSD reporting.

---

### **Ag Ministers: Sustainable Farming Key to Tackling Hunger**

Agriculture must become more sustainable if it is to help end hunger and malnutrition, farm ministers said on Saturday 21 January in Berlin.

A communiqué agreed by ministers from 64 countries underscored the importance of tackling food waste and improving environmental sustainability in the run-up to the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development. The conference is due to be held in June of this year, twenty years after the original Earth Summit in the Brazilian city (see Bridges Weekly, 11 January 2012).

The new declaration, issued this weekend at the conclusion of the fourth Berlin Agriculture Ministers’ Summit, called on the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to “draw up concepts for reducing the loss and waste of food,” and to co-operate with governments and other actors to implement such policies.

Ministers from Brazil, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, and the UK were among those present at the high-level gathering, which also included some three dozen developing countries.

#### **Hunger and malnutrition**

Farm ministers also stated their “commitment to renewed efforts to eliminate hunger and malnutrition,” although they did not further specify how they would achieve this goal.

While economic growth in some Asian countries has spurred rapid progress towards Millennium Development Goal targets – as well as more ambitious milestones from the 1996 World Food Summit – high and volatile food prices have recently exacerbated difficulties in achieving such targets in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions (see Bridges Weekly, [9 March 2011](#)).

One government official involved in organising the event told Bridges that it was inevitable that such a large gathering would only be able to generate a “watered-down” communiqué that was limited to agreement on general principles.

“The more ministries and governments you gather, it’s usually like this,” he said.

However, another claimed that the outcomes of the conference were “very concrete,” giving as an example the ministers’ stated commitment “to the promotion and protection of the rights of women.” The official nonetheless observed that discussing any of these statements in detail at the conference was not possible, given the large number of countries present.

Some observers argued that the Berlin summit represented a political opportunity for agriculture ministers to underscore the importance of farming and food security ahead of the sustainable development summit this June – still seen in many circles as primarily the preserve of environment ministers. “Politically, it’s saying ‘we are important as well, agriculture and food security are important’ pre-Rio+20,” said Marita Wiggerthale, agricultural expert at Oxfam Germany.

### **da Silva: new paradigm needed**

The FAO’s Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, said that a new agricultural paradigm was needed – “one that allows us to increase yields while using fewer resources.”

Countries need to shift away from the current model, based on intensive use of natural resources and inputs, he said in a keynote [speech](#) delivered at the event.

“About 80 percent of the increase in food production that is needed to eliminate hunger and

feed a growing world population will have to come from increases in yields and cropping intensity in developing countries,” said da Silva, who took office three weeks ago.

The conference communiqué stressed that “increases in agricultural production must be made in a sustainable way,” although again did not specify how governments will ensure this result.

### **Consumption and waste**

German farm minister Ilse Aigner, who hosted the event, [cautioned](#) that policymakers needed to tackle both unsustainable consumption patterns as well as problems with production.

“Every single consumer bears a great responsibility in respect of food because food wastage brings additional pressure to bear on resources such as energy, soil and water,” Aigner said.

Her remarks were echoed by da Silva, who noted that “roughly one-third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year — approximately 1.3 billion tonnes — gets lost or wasted.”

The FAO chief told participants that rich country consumers waste “almost as much food – 222 million tonnes – as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa – 230 million tonnes.”

### **Access to food**

da Silva also argued that poverty, and not a lack of available food, was the fundamental cause of hunger. “People are hungry not because there is not enough food available but because they do not have the money to buy food,” he said.

The new director-general previously served as Brazil’s minister of food security, where he oversaw the country’s ‘zero hunger’ programme credited for lifting 28 million people out of extreme poverty.

“We cannot ask them to wait for the structural changes to happen, we need to provide immediate assistance while we work on those changes,” da Silva said. He instead recommended that policy-



makers explore “cash for work and cash transfer programmes” to stimulate growth in local markets – tools that had formed the cornerstone of Brazil's own food security strategy in recent years.

### **Trade: subsidies and tariffs spark debate**

In comments at a press conference in the margins of the summit, Aigner told reporters that she opposed “all subsidies for exports.” She added that export subsidies “have no role in agriculture in this day and age”.

Trade-distorting support in the developed world has traditionally been a contentious issue with trading partners, who have argued that it provides an unfair competitive advantage to producers in subsidising countries, to the detriment of their counterparts elsewhere.

However, Indonesian agriculture minister Asyraf Suswono replied that it was also important for developed countries to refrain from protecting their markets from developing country farm exports. “Too much protectionism makes it difficult for emerging developing countries to find markets for agriculture products,” Suswono said.

While the EU has substantially reduced the level of trade-distorting agricultural subsidies it provides its farmers, it continues to maintain relatively high tariffs on some farm products, whilst also providing preferential access to goods from many poor countries.

However, in stark contrast to the previous year's summit, trade was almost completely absent from the final communiqué (see Bridges Weekly, [26 January 2011](#)).

“It was deliberately chosen not to have trade as a part,” said one official who had been involved in organising the event. Another told Bridges that “you cannot discuss every topic every year.”

As food prices nudged record heights, last year's event had focused extensively on agricultural trade and food price volatility, with the French government highlighting these issues under its presidency of the G-20 group of major economies.

### **Food security first**

However, some observers expressed concern that, should prices now come down this year from their unusually high peaks, leaders' interest in global food security could fall too. “That's precisely what happened in 1973 and '74,” observed Stefan Tangermann, emeritus professor at the University of Goettingen in Germany, and a former head of trade and agriculture at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

“I'm afraid the same might happen again,” Tangermann told Bridges.

Others argued that a fresh approach to trade and food security was needed. Sophia Murphy, senior advisor to the Washington-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), argued that “there has been a big loss of confidence in international markets, and we need both to remove some distortions and probably to put some others back to proceed.”

“The point is to allow trade to be a tool again, situated in food security strategies rather than claiming to be sufficient for economic growth and development,” Murphy said.

ICTSD reporting.

---

## **US, Mexico to Fight Another Round in Tuna Dispute**

The United States on Friday filed an appeal in its WTO dispute with Mexico over “dolphin-safe” labelling for tuna products sold in the US ([DS381](#)). The 20 January decision came only two days before the final appeal deadline; a counter-appeal is expected from Mexico City before the week's end.

Washington's decision to appeal “demonstrates the commitment of the United States to our dolphin-safe labelling measures,” [said](#) Andrea Mead, Press Secretary for the US Trade Representative. “[The labels] provide information for American consumers as they make food purchasing decisions for their families.”

Following the US decision, the Mexican Ministry of Economy released a [statement](#) announcing that it will file a counter-appeal in the coming days. The counter-appeal will address issues that the panel did not resolve in Mexico's favour, including the arguably discriminatory aspects of the dolphin-safe label.

"This measure affects Mexico more than any other exporter," the Mexican Ministry explained in its announcement.

Circulated in September 2011, the original WTO panel ruling was seen as a mixed victory for Mexico (see Bridges Weekly, [21 September 2011](#)). Mexico City ultimately prevailed, with the panel finding that the US measures were a governmental regulation that was unnecessarily trade restrictive, and thus in violation of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

The panel, however, also sided with Washington on some aspects of the case, notably Mexico City's claim that the measure was discriminatory. The panel ultimately ruled that the labelling policy did not favour US tuna products or those of other countries over those from Mexico.

### **Washington, Mexico City both find fault with ruling**

The panel finding from September is set to meet challenges from both parties involved in the case, albeit for different reasons.

The US is [challenging](#) the panel's findings on several grounds. First, the US will seek to establish that labelling laws are indeed voluntary, since they "need not be met to place tuna products on the US market." This challenges the panel's finding that the label was *de facto* mandatory.

This had been a major point of contention in the case, as the label is not legally required for importation or marketing. However, since the measure prohibits all alternative labels that use a different standard, it regulates consumer information in a compulsory fashion. This, the panel found, makes the measure as such *de facto* mandatory.

The voluntary versus mandatory distinction is important, as it forms the sole basis for classifying a country's law as a standard or technical regulation under the TBT. Since the US labelling law was characterised as a technical regulation by the panel, the US regulations were subject to provisions of the TBT that required the measures to not be more trade-restrictive than necessary to fulfil their objective.

The labelling requirements' inconsistency with this provision ultimately won Mexico the case.

Washington also disagrees with the panel's finding that the US labelling provisions were more trade restrictive than necessary to inform consumers and protect animal health. In its appeal, the US claims that the panel failed to objectively assess the evidence that the US measures do indeed fulfil legitimate objectives.

Furthermore, Washington argues that the panel erred in concluding that the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) labelling scheme was a reasonably available, less trade-restrictive alternative that could fulfil the objectives at the same level as the labelling law currently in place.

Even though the panel did not require the US to use the AIDCP "dolphin safe" definition, it suggested that both labelling schemes could "coexist" on the US market and provide the necessary information to consumers.

Washington further argues that the AIDCP is not an international standardising body capable of preparing and adopting international standards under the TBT, as the panel had concluded.

Mexico, which heralded the panel decision as a success for its country and fishing industry, will focus on the discrimination issue in its counter-appeal. Verification by independent observers that no dolphins were killed or seriously injured during a specific catch is sufficient to get the US dolphin-safe label for countries fishing outside the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP). For Mexico, considerably higher requirements apply. The panel had dismissed Mexico's argument that this resulted in a *de facto* discrimination on the basis of nationality.



In accordance with WTO rules, the Appellate Body will only examine issues of law covered in the panel report and legal interpretations developed by the panel. Matters of fact may not be re-examined, nor may the Appellate Body engage in legal discussions that the panel had not examined in the first instance. Normally an appellate report shall be issued no more than 90 days after the appeal. However, the panel in this dispute had already exceeded the given timeline by more than two years.

### More information

For more analysis of the panel's legal findings, see Bridges Trade BioRes Review [November 2011](#).

ICTSD reporting.

---

## Disputes Roundup: Airbus, Renewable Energy Cases Move Forward at WTO

With 2012 still in its infancy, two high-stakes trade cases are already set to take major strides in the coming months. At its second meeting of the year, the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) established a panel to hear the EU's complaint against the Canadian province of Ontario's green energy support programme. A week prior, EU and US officials met in Geneva to discuss Brussels' claim of having eliminated subsidies to civil aircraft manufacturer Airbus that had been deemed WTO illegal.

### WTO to hear EU and Japan together over Ontario feed-in tariff

The WTO could soon be required to rule on the relationship between green energy support and national stimulus measures, with the DSB announcing on Friday 20 January that it would be establishing a panel to hear the EU's complaint over the Canadian province of Ontario's feed-in tariff (FIT) programme for renewable energy ([DS426](#)).

As a dispute panel has already been established to hear Japan's complaint over the same matter ([DS412](#)), the two proceedings will be merged.

Japan and the EU claim that Ontario's support programme for renewable energy unfairly discriminates against foreign companies, as it mandates the use of domestic over foreign products. The controversial "domestic content" provision requires up to 60 percent of all input to be produced and sourced in Ontario (see Bridges Trade BioRes Review, [April 2011](#)).

As Japan had initiated formal proceedings more than a year before the EU, a first panel hearing over Japan's claims was already scheduled to take place next week (see Bridges Weekly, [7 September 2011](#)). These proceedings will now be suspended in order to harmonise timetables for the two disputes. A meeting between the two complainants to organise this process could take place as early as this week.

Formal panel proceedings, however, are not expected to start before the end of March.

Though the EU had requested consultations on the matter already in summer 2011, the panel request followed only last week. Sources close to the case suggest this considerable gap between the failure of consultations and the EU's panel request might partially be explained by the complainants hoping that the case could be resolved otherwise. A heated election process in Ontario in autumn 2011 – where the FIT programme itself took centre stage – had fuelled hopes for such a scenario. With the Liberal governmental party staying in office, however, the FIT programme has been endorsed.

Though renewable energy subsidisation in and of itself is not being challenged in the dispute, experts suggest most WTO members would prefer the global trade body not to rule on a dispute so close to the larger climate change mitigation and trade debate. Also, many EU members have their own similar FIT programmes, thus causing them to shy away from litigation.

Canadian policy experts further warn that even a victory for Japan and the EU at the global trade body could still result in eventual disappointment, as in this case Canadian provinces cannot be forced by the federal government – which is accountable to the WTO – to bring their measures into compliance.

Japan and the EU contend that Ontario's law violates most-favoured nation treatment rules in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS), since the FIT regime requires dedicated amounts of Ontario-originated green energy goods and services. Moreover, the complainants both contend that the measure constitutes a prohibited subsidy under the WTO's Subsidy and Countervailing Duty Agreement (SCMA).

Facing staunch opposition against the Ontario Renewable Energy Act, the provincial government had introduced the measure, arguably, to boost domestic support.

With 2011 in the books and the continuity of the FIT ensured for now, this dispute will move forward. For an in-depth analysis of the FIT case, see Bridges Trade BioRes Review, [April 2011](#).

#### **WTO appoints arbitrator for trade damages in Airbus case**

In another high-profile trade spat, EU and US officials met in Geneva on 13 January to evaluate Brussels' claims that it has brought its subsidies to civil aircraft manufacturer Airbus – which had been deemed WTO illegal – into conformity with the global trade body's rules ([DS316](#)). The meeting was not formally part of the ongoing WTO proceedings, but was instead convened by the two parties in order to determine the next steps.

On the same day, the WTO appointed an arbitrator to handle Washington's US\$7 to 10 billion countermeasures claim (see Bridges Weekly, [14 December 2011](#)), in response to allegations that Brussels has not met its WTO obligations in the Airbus case (see [WT/DS316/20](#)).

Despite the WTO's appointment of an arbitrator, the arbitration proceedings will be suspended until a parallel WTO compliance panel – examining whether the measures taken by the EU comprise compliance – has finalised its work.

This agreement on the sequencing of procedures also extends to any possible arbitration stemming

from an EU claim against the US for similar illegal subsidies to Airbus competitor Boeing. That case is currently at the appeals stage at the WTO.

A WTO Appellate Body report in May 2011 found that EU member states were providing Airbus with subsidies that violated WTO law, and called for the EU to withdraw illegal support to the aircraft manufacturer or remove its adverse effects within six months (see Bridges Weekly, [25 May 2011](#)). In December, the EU submitted a compliance report that detailed thirty-six measures taken by its members to comply with the ruling (see Bridges Weekly, [7 December 2011](#)).

The trade war between the US and EU over subsidies to aerospace giants Airbus and Boeing is the world's largest trade dispute, affecting a market worth more than US\$ 2 trillion.

#### **Dispute panels formed for China anti-dumping cases**

Also at its 20 January meeting, the DSB established panels to review two cases regarding anti-dumping duties imposed by China: one on US chicken broiler products (see [DS427](#)), and another on EU X-ray scanners ([DS425](#)).

This was Washington's second request for a panel in the poultry import case, after the first request had been deferred following Beijing's objection. The second panel request cannot be blocked; instead, a panel is automatically established.

China had launched investigations on imports of US chicken in September 2009 and subsequently imposed high duties in 2010; until 2009, the US had been China's largest chicken broiler products supplier. The announcement in September 2011 that Washington would be launching a formal dispute on Chinese poultry duties had largely come as a surprise to trade observers (see Bridges Weekly, [28 September 2011](#)).

The EU request was also in front of the DSB for the second time. Brussels argues that China's anti-dumping duties on European x-ray scanners are inconsistent with WTO rules, but it believes that the creation of a panel will lead Beijing to remove the duties.

The next meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body is scheduled for 22 February.

ICTSD reporting: "U.S., EU Begin Next Step in Airbus Subsidies Case," AVIATION WEEK, 16 January 2012; "EU, U.S. meet over Airbus," WALL STREET JOURNAL MARKET WATCH, 14 January, 2012.

## IN BRIEF

### South Korea Lifts Ban on Canadian Beef Imports

Canada and South Korea appear ready to bring their nearly decade-long beef trade dispute to a close, after Seoul announced it would immediately open its borders to Canadian beef from cattle under 30 months old. The 20 January announcement follows the temporary suspension of a related WTO dispute in summer 2011 that had meant to facilitate a negotiated solution between the two countries.

South Korea's ban dates back to 2003, when the Asian country – along with other nations – shut its borders to all Canadian and US beef products, in response to North American producers being linked to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease.

Canadian Trade Minister Ed Fast and Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz welcomed the move, calling it a "significant breakthrough" and a victory for Canadian diplomacy.

"Our government has worked tirelessly to ensure the Korean market is re-opened to high-quality Canadian beef," Fast said in a [statement](#). "The Korean government's decision to restore access is the direct result of these efforts."

In 2002, Canada exported over US\$40 million in beef products to South Korea, making it the fourth-largest market for Canadian beef at the time. Reopening the Asian market is considered essential to bringing Canadian beef production back to 2002 numbers.

"There are still a number of key markets where we need expanded access in order to return to pre-2003 market access levels," Travis Toews from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association explained in a first reaction to the announcement.

Full access for all beef products to Korea has not been gained, and barriers also remain in other markets, including Japan, that date back to the BSE crisis, Toews added.

South Korea, where the public is particularly sensitive to food safety concerns, had long been reluctant to ease the ban. Already in 2003, after tests on cattle herds showed that all tested animals were free from BSE, many countries, including the US and Japan, began to ease restrictions for Canadian beef. But South Korea maintained the original ban, even after the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) classified Canada as a zone with controlled BSE risk in 2007.

Seoul's 2008 decision to reopen its market to US products resulted in months of anti-government protests in the country. Following this, observers were pessimistic on the chances of market access for Canadian beef.

Only in 2009, after Canada initiated a WTO dispute ([DS391](#)) on the matter, was South Korea ready to discuss easing the ban (see Bridges Weekly, [22 April 2009](#)). Canada, contending that there was no scientific evidence to justify South Korea's persistence in maintaining the ban, cited violations of the WTO's Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement – which governs rules pertaining to food safety – as justification for a WTO panel to investigate South Korean barriers to trade.

"The United States, which has the same OIE controlled-risk status as Canada, obtained access to the South Korean beef market in June 2008," Stockwell Day, then Canada's Minister of Trade, complained at the time.

But bilateral talks between the parties continued in parallel to the dispute as Korea tried to avoid a high-profile loss at the global trade body. In July 2011, shortly after the parties were informed about the preliminary findings, the two nations agreed to a negotiated solution and a temporary

suspension of the dispute (see Bridges Weekly, [6 July 2011](#)). The new announcement puts this agreement into effect.

ICTSD reporting; “South Korea’s market now open to Canadian beef,” CBC NEWS, 20 January 2012.

---

## US, Canada Clinch Two-Year Extension of Softwood Lumber Deal

Washington and Ottawa have signed an extension of their landmark softwood lumber agreement, just days after US President Barack Obama announced his rejection of a plan to build a pipeline that would have carried crude oil from Canada’s oil sands down to the US state of Texas.

The lumber pact, which was set to end in 2013, will now remain in effect for two additional years until October 2015, according to statements from both governments made earlier this week. The extension included no modifications to the agreement, which was originally signed in 2006 (see Bridges Weekly, [12 July 2006](#)).

Softwood lumber is one of Canada’s largest exports to the United States; in the first 11 months of 2011, Canada exported US\$2.6 billion of softwood lumber to the US, according to Canadian trade ministry data.

Some observers had speculated that Obama’s rejection of the Keystone project could have damaging effects on trade relations between Washington and Ottawa. However, Canadian Minister for International Trade Ed Fast, who signed the two-year SLA extension, rebuffed these concerns, insisting that the trade relationship between the North American neighbours remains strong.

“Obama’s action on the Canada-US pipeline hasn’t soured relations,” he told reporters in Washington on Monday, adding that TransCanada – the company behind the pipeline – will be allowed to file a revised route for the Keystone

XL project that avoids an environmentally sensitive area in the US state of Nebraska.

“This extension agreement will bring much-needed stability and predictability to the lumber industry,” he added.

### Controversy

Disagreements between the two countries on the lumber issue date back well over two decades, with legal battles having taken place both within the WTO and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) dispute settlement systems.

The heart of the disagreement lies in Washington’s claim that the Canadian lumber industry was the recipient of unfair government support: the prices Canada charged to harvest the timber on state-owned land, called ‘stumpage fees’, were believed by the US to be so low that they constituted a subsidy. In response, Washington began levying retaliatory tariffs on Canadian lumber imports in 2002

Under the 2006 agreement, the United States agreed to cease imposing antidumping and countervailing duties on softwood lumber from Canada. In exchange, Ottawa agreed to apply export measures, the majority of which are export changes and volume limitations, to shipments of softwood lumber from Canada to the United States when the price of softwood products falls below a certain market level.

Under the original seven-year deal, the US has returned approximately US \$4.5 billion, or roughly 80 percent of the levies collected, to Canada.

### US lumber industry expresses concerns

The extension of the accord was heralded by both governments as a victory. United States Trade Representative (USTR) Ron Kirk underscored the importance of this extension after the announcement made on Monday.

“The 2006 US-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement has provided a predictable and fair environment for conducting international trade for both producers and consumers,” he said. “The Administration’s record on softwood lumber

demonstrates our steadfast commitment to ensuring fair trade that benefits American businesses and workers.”

While lumber industry representatives welcomed the announcement, they also cautioned that fundamental disagreements still remain about trade practices in the disputed sector.

The US Lumber Coalition warned that it will continue to keep a close eye on Canada, citing concerns regarding Canada’s compliance record under the agreement.

Since the 2006 signing of the deal, the US has taken Canada to the London Court of International Arbitration twice on cases regarding lumber exports, winning both times; a third dispute is currently ongoing, and is expected to conclude this autumn.

“If the US industry continues to find itself having to seek multiple arbitrations to address Canada’s unwillingness to adhere to its commitments, then the US industry has to seriously consider whether it would not be better off exercising its rights under US trade laws,” US Lumber Coalition Chairman Steve Swanson said.

ICTSD reporting: “Softwood Lumber Agreement with U.S. Extended,” CBC NEWS BRITISH COLUMBIA, 23 January 2012; “Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement Extended Until 2015,” BLOOMBERG, 23 January 2012; “U.S. Canada Extend Multibillion-Dollar Softwood Lumber Agreement,” CANADA.COM, 23 January 2012; “US, Canada Extend Lumber Trade Agreement,” THE HILL, 23 January 2012.

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### Events

#### Coming soon

25-29 January, Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING 2012. This annual forum will convene under the theme “The Great Transformation: Shaping New Models” and will address the rebalancing and deleveraging that is reshaping the present global economy. In the short term, this transformation is seen in the context of how developed countries will deleverage their finances without falling into a recession and how emerging countries will tackle inflation and future economic obstacles. In the long term, organisers note, both will play out as the world population passes 7 billion while being interconnected through information technology on an historic scale, leading to transformational changes in social values, resource needs and technological innovations. With this context in mind, this event aims to bring together leaders for the purpose of defining what the future should look like, aligning stakeholders around that vision, and inspiring their institutions to realise that vision. For more information on this annual global forum, please visit the WEF [website](#).

26 January, Geneva, Switzerland. LDC IV MONITOR: AN INDEPENDENT PARTNERSHIP FOR THE MONITORING OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. This event was recently established by a group of think tanks and academic institutions from LDC and partner countries for the purpose of assessing the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the Least Developed Countries. It also aims to add value to the official follow-up and review mechanism of the IPoA, in line with the IPoA’s mandate. The event strives to enhance the transparency of the Istanbul follow-up process, promote accountability by development partners, agencies and national governments, and foster efficiency in the graduation of LDCs. Current partners include ICTSD, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the OECD Development

Centre, the Centre for Applied Economic Studies (CREA), Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Foundation for International Development Study and Research (FERDI), Galatasaray University (GSU), and the Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec). For more information, please visit ICTSD's website for the [event](#).

26-27 January, Washington, US. TRANSFORMING TRANSPORTATION 2012. Held at the World Bank in Washington, DC, this ninth annual conference will focus on sustainable transport in cities world-wide. Over the two days, event participants, who will include 300 of the world's leading transport and urban development experts, will reflect briefly on the past successes and ongoing challenges of implementing sustainable urban transport and development, and then to turn their attention to scaling up for the future. Event sessions will include moderated panel discussion on sustainable transport ideas, private sector finance, and transitioning to a green economy. The event is being jointly hosted by EMBARQ, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Institute for Transportation Development and Policy, the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities, and the Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport. Please note that this event is open to the public. For more information, please visit the event's [website](#).

31 January, Brussels, Belgium. THIRD ANNUAL BRUSSELS THINK TANK DIALOGUE: SOLIDARITY AND AUSTERITY: THE 2012 STATE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. The world today is facing a series of challenges, including the need to implement austerity packages in EU countries, along with increasing social discontent. In light of these concerns, ten Brussels-based think tanks have joined forces to discuss the issue of solidarity and austerity in the European Union at their third annual Brussels Think Tank Dialogue. In five invitation-only workshops, the Think Tank Dialogue will focus on Energy and Natural Resources; Economic and Social Challenges; the EU Budget; Migration and Integration; and External Relations. These workshops seek to deliver cutting-edge policy analysis and innovative recommendations for the future; these sessions will be followed by an open

plenary discussion. Speakers at the event will include Martin Schulz, the new President of the European Parliament; Nicolaj Wammen, Danish Minister for European Affairs; Jaimini Bhagwati, Ambassador of India to Belgium, Luxembourg, and to the European Union, among others. To find out more about this annual event, please visit the conference's [website](#).

## WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted [here](#). 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.

25 + 27 January: Trade Policy Review Body – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

31 January: Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

1 February: Council for Trade in Goods

## Other Upcoming Events

3-4 February, Kathmandu, Nepal. COST OF ECONOMIC NON-COOPERATION TO CONSUMERS IN SOUTH ASIA. This event, hosted by CUTS International, aims to distribute the findings of The Asia Foundation-supported project entitled *Cost of Economic Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia* and discuss both its recommendations and areas for further research on intra-regional trade costs in South Asia. CUTS International launched this project to examine the potential benefits of increased intra-regional trade to consumers in the region. Participants will analyse reasons for economic non-cooperation among South Asian countries, assess the costs in terms of loss of consumer welfare, and develop recommendations for enhancing trade and investment relations in the South Asian region. For more information about this meeting, please visit the CUTS International website for the [event](#).



10 February, Geneva, Switzerland. CONFERENCE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY. Held at the University of Geneva, this international conference aims to inform the public and those attending on the recent developments regarding intellectual property in the pharmaceutical industry. It will also discuss the present and future challenges of intellectual property law from an international, European, and Swiss perspective. This event welcomes anyone interested in the present and future challenges of intellectual property law. As a special note, participants from non-profit organisations can benefit from a reduced registration fee (contact Nicole Crausaz: [Nicole.crausaz@unige.ch](mailto:Nicole.crausaz@unige.ch)). For more details, please visit the event's [website](#).

20-22 February, Nairobi, Kenya. TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM. Hosted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), this forum will be held in the United Nations Office in Nairobi. The ministerial consultations during this special session will focus on emerging policy issues under the overall theme of "The Environmental Agenda in the Changing World: From Stockholm (1972) to Rio (2012)." The Council/Forum will also consider reports submitted by the Executive Director on various issues, as requested by decisions of the Council adopted at previous sessions. In addition, the Council/Forum will take up any other issues that may be raised by its members. Find more details about the GCSS-XII GMEF at the event's [website](#).

21-22 February, Basel, Switzerland. GLOBAL ENERGY BASEL (GEB) SUMMIT: THE SECOND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING SUMMIT. The GEB founders and their network partners, which includes ICTSD, believe that sustainable infrastructure is key to answering four of the major challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: climate change, resource scarcity, population growth, and urbanisation. This two-day conference will bring together high-profile representatives from governments, the private sector, and civil society

to address the financing of sustainable urban infrastructure. The goal of the conference is to enable investment in modern cities, while proposing solutions to urban ecological challenges, including resource scarcity, energy security, and global warming. GEB also provides international organisations and industry representatives with a forum to discuss innovative financing of sustainable urban infrastructure projects. To register for the Summit or for more information, please visit the event's [website](#).

14-16 March, Vancouver, Canada. TWELFTH ANNUAL GLOBE CONFERENCE 2012. Hosted by the GLOBE Foundation in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), this event offers platforms for thinking, dialogue, and action by the worldwide financial services and investment community in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD Rio +20). GLOBE 2012 aims to bring together leaders from government, the private sector, and civil society to discuss current trends and to showcase innovative technology solutions for the world's environmental problems. The trade show and sustainable business conference also seeks to provide opportunities for discussing a roadmap to a financially sustainable economy. Conference session topics will include developing sustainability initiatives through social media, efficient water use for corporations, and more. For more information about GLOBE 2012, please visit the event's [website](#).

21-26 April, Doha, Qatar. THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD XIII) AND CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM. This Conference will convene under the theme Development-centred globalization: Towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development." The Conference's aim is to enhance the understanding of specific trade and development issues, especially after the fallout of the economic crisis. In parallel with the Conference, UNCTAD has also partnered with the United Nations Non-Government Liaison Service and the Qatari National Human Rights Committee to organise a Civil Society Forum, where representatives from NGOs, the private



sector, and civil society will explore different ways to strengthen partnerships with UNCTAD to boost the effectiveness of trade and development efforts. The Civil Society Forum will begin its work on 17 April. As an important reminder to those civil organisations that do not have observer status with UNCTAD and wish to participate in the Conference and the Civil Society Forum, the deadline for applications for the accreditation to the UNCTAD XIII is 31 January. For more information on the UNCTAD XIII Conference and the Civil Society Forum, please visit the UNCTAD XIII [website](#).

---

## Resources

CDMPOLICYDIALOGUE.COM. Launched by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board (January 2012). This brand new website aims to house information and materials related to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) policy dialogue. The site contains information on the dialogue, panel members, meetings, press-related topics, and input received on the subject. The aim of the CDM policy dialogue, which was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban in 2011, is to take stock of the lessons learned implementing the CDM and recommend how to position the mechanism going forward.

The policy dialogue will be conducted from January to September 2012 and the panel's work will be submitted to the CDM Executive Board and published in a report immediately afterwards. For more information about the CDM policy dialogue, please visit the official [website](#).

CLIMATE CHANGE, ASSETS AND FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITIES. Edited by Bruce Frayne, Caroline Moser, and Gina Ziervogel (December 2011). This book focuses on the effects of climate change on developing countries: the authors find that increasing urbanisation and growing poverty levels make it imperative that the impact of climate change on asset accumulation and food security for the urban poor be investigated. The authors conducted case studies in several cities, including Cape Town, South Africa; Mombasa, Kenya; and

more. The insights which this book presents can be used to understand other urban centres in low- and middle-income countries around the world. To read more about this book, please click [here](#).

GREEN ECONOMY: ANALYSIS OF UNCSD SUBMISSIONS. Released by the Green Economy Coalition (January 2012). This resource collection contains an analysis of United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development (UNCSD) submissions to the Rio +20 Zero Draft. It aims to evaluate the extent to which "green economy" is gaining political traction at the global and national level by providing a picture of how governments and stakeholders are responding, interpreting, and re-defining the concept of a green economy. This analysis also reveals the opportunities and obstacles surrounding the transition to a greener economic pathway in many different contexts and shows what governments world-wide are expecting and hoping from Rio +20 this June. This study highlights specific questions regarding the green economy initiative, including the emerging concerns associated with a green economy for developing countries. To access this publication, please click [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (IISD) ASSESSMENT OF THE COP-17 CONFERENCE. By the International Institute for Sustainable Development's (IISD) Climate and Change Team (December 2011). This resource contains an assessment of the outcomes of the recent United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 17, held in Durban, South Africa. The Conference illustrated the clear trade-off between the level of ambition and the inclusivity and robustness of a future agreement, the authors note. The negotiations made it clear that many divisions remain between key actors on critical issues. Nonetheless, the authors believe that the outcomes in Durban are a step forward in establishing an international agreement beyond Kyoto – one with mitigation commitments from all major emitters, including developed countries and several major developing countries. This report includes the IISD's assessment of the Conference and shows how they came to develop

their responses to COP-17 negotiation outcomes. To access the full report, please click [here](#).

**JOINT IMPLEMENTATION QUARTERLY (JIQ).** Published by the Joint Implementation Network (JIN) (December 2011). This informative quarterly focuses on the negotiation outcomes of the recent United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties in Durban, South Africa. Within the publication, the Joint Implementation Network (JIN) investigates whether or not the outcomes of the Conference's negotiations were enough to satisfy all participants. Topics included within the quarterly are the 2011 Durban Agreement, domestic emission trading systems in non-Annex I countries, domestic offset projects, and more. The contributing authors include both positive and negative perspectives of the results of the Conference and attempt to predict what topics will be discussed at the 2012 Conference of the Parties. For more details about the latest issue of the JIQ, please click [here](#).

**PUTTING ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN THE VISION OF AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE GREEN ECONOMY.** Released by the United Nations Environment Programme (December 2011). The seventh issue of the UNEP Policy Series on Ecosystem Management demonstrates the foundational significance of ecosystems for human well-being in the African region. It highlights some of the key policy challenges and opportunities in ecosystem management and makes some recommendations for enhancing capacity of policy makers in the region. The paper seeks to stimulate discussion and debate on how, in the effort to prevent and reverse degradation of ecosystems and the services they provide, the continent can promote and utilise healthy ecosystems to support a sustainable and more climate-resilient development path. To view the policy brief in its entirety, please click [here](#).

**RESOLVING THE FOOD CRISIS: ASSESSING GLOBAL POLICY REFORMS SINCE 2007.** By Timothy A. Wise and Sophia Murphy for the Global Development and Environment Institute and Institute for

Agriculture and Trade Policy (January 2012). This GDAE-IATP policy report focuses on the challenges involved with global food prices and the impacts they have on agricultural development and food security in developing and developed countries. The report is based on a comprehensive assessment of the policies and actions taken since 2007 by four international groups of actors: the UN, the G-20, the World Bank, and international donors. The authors find encouraging signs of improvement in the attention to environmental issues, including climate change. Yet, they warn that policy reforms fall well short of what is needed to meet the world's current and future food needs in a sustainable way. For more details about the report or to view it in its entirety, please click [here](#).