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DISPUTES

US Commerce Department
Announces Final Duties on
Imports of Chinese Solar Cells ... 1

SERVICES

Services Liberalisation Talks
Among Group of WTO
Members Move Forward 3

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

WIPO Assemblies Approve
Copyright Exceptions Roadmap
for the Visually Impaired 6

AGRICULTURE

'One Billion Hungry' Peak
Missing From New FAO
Numbers 8

CLIMATE CHANGE

Bloomberg: Saudi Arabia Said
to Be Blocking Airline from
Participating in EU Emissions
Scheme 10

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events 11
Resources 13

DISPUTES

US Commerce Department Announces Final Duties on Imports of Chinese Solar Cells

The US Commerce Department has determined final anti-dumping and anti-subsidy – also known as countervailing – duties on imports of Chinese solar cells, the government agency said on Wednesday evening. The highly-anticipated announcement comes a year after a coalition of US solar panel manufacturers first lodged the case, which ramped up tensions between Beijing and Washington over their respective renewable energy policies as a result.

The US Commerce Department, in its final determinations today, found that Chinese producers/exporters have dumped solar cells in the United States at prices between 18.32 to 249.96 percent lower than their fair value. The practice of dumping involves companies selling their products abroad at prices below normal market values, causing harm to the domestic industry of the importing country.

In their findings, Commerce also determined that Chinese producers/exporters have received countervailable – or unfair – subsidies of 14.78 to 15.97 percent.

The US International Trade Commission will vote by November on whether or not to approve these duties, Commerce said. Only if it is considered by a majority of commissioners that US producers have not been materially harmed or threatened by Chinese-made solar products will the additional duties not be imposed.

According to Commerce, US authorities will be able to apply both types of duties retroactively. Specifically, these will be collected 90 days prior to the date of Commerce's preliminary determinations, which were issued in March and May of this year for countervailing and anti-dumping duties, respectively. The one exception involves anti-dumping duties applied to Wuxi Suntech, which will be collected as of the date of the preliminary anti-dumping determination.

The announcement follows a lengthy investigation by the US agency into a complaint brought last year by the Coalition for American Solar Manufacturing (CASM), a group of seven US solar panel manufacturers led by SolarWorld Industries America.

The German parent company of SolarWorld Industries America is also behind an investigation launched by the European Commission last month into similar allegations of Chinese solar panel manufacturers dumping their products onto the EU



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development

market (see Bridges Weekly, [13 September 2012](#)). A ruling in the EU case is not expected until late 2013.

Higher countervailing duties

With regarding to dumping, this final ruling of the US agency largely upholds the preliminary findings that it delivered in May, when it determined that Chinese producers/exporters had been selling solar cells in the US at prices that were between 31.14 and 249.96 percent lower than their normal price. (See Bridges Weekly, [23 May 2012](#)) The new numbers are now between 18.32 and 249.96 percent, with some companies facing lower anti-dumping duties than they were set to previously.

With regards to countervailing duties, the new numbers are noticeably higher than the March determination, which had originally said that Chinese producers received unfair government support at levels between 2.9 and 4.73 percent. (See Bridges Weekly, [22 March 2012](#)) The final determination released today sets the range of duties between 14.78 to 15.97 percent.

Statements from Chinese officials were not available as Bridges went to press on Wednesday evening. Earlier comments from Beijing, however, have been critical of the case, with the country's Ministry of Commerce accusing the US in May of "deliberately provoking trade friction in the clean energy sector."

Beijing has also been investigating Washington's own support for domestic renewable energy programmes, concluding in May after an internal investigation that such government assistance violates WTO rules that prohibit unfair subsidies and favourable national treatment for domestic producers over foreign importers. (See Bridges Weekly, [30 May 2012](#))

The 40 percent drop in the global price of solar panels between 2006 and 2011 has largely been attributed to huge growth in Chinese solar panel production. Some analysts say that oversupply by Chinese solar panel manufacturers is to blame for damage to profits of European and US counterparts, with share prices experiencing a similar plunge.

US solar industry split

While US solar panel manufacturers are expected to welcome the decision, US firms which purchase solar panels for use in solar energy projects have long complained that anti-dumping and countervailing duties will raise the cost of solar energy projects, harming both the US and China in the long run.

For their part, the Coalition for Affordable Solar Energy, a coalition of over 100 US firms, has campaigned openly against the CASM case, arguing that increased duties will damage US efforts to promote sustainable energy as well as harming service-related jobs in the US solar industry.

"Punitive tariffs are the wrong policy at the wrong time, CASM's President Jigar Shah said in an [op-ed](#) published by GreenTech Media earlier this week, in anticipation of today's announcement. "Because the costs of solar energy have been falling, communities around the country are selecting solar power. With punitive tariffs, these customers will think twice about paying a premium for solar energy."

Those organisations behind the original complaint, however, have argued that these duties are necessary to level the playing field in the increasingly competitive renewable energy market

"Even with our automation, low direct labour costs, and freight advantage, we cannot compete with the Chinese government," Steve Ostrenga, Chief Executive of CASM member Helios Solar Works, [testified](#) in front of the ITC earlier this week.

"We hope that with relief from this case, we will be able to stop the harm to this industry and return to fair competition in this market," Kevin Kilkelly of SolarWorld Americas added in his own testimony in front of the panel.

ICTSD reporting; "US set to give final decision on Chinese solar panel duties," REUTERS, 9 October 2012.

SERVICES

Services Liberalisation Talks Among Group of WTO Members Move Forward

A subset of WTO members exploring the possibility of a new services liberalisation agreement have made progress in advancing a potential format for such a deal, sources told Bridges this week. While the talks are said to be still in the early stages, many delegates have expressed hope that formal negotiations for the proposed pact might begin as early as next year.

Capital and Geneva-based officials met from 1-5 October for a so-called "Services Week," which included both meetings within the ambit of the WTO regarding services trade, as well as a gathering of the "Real Good Friends" (RGF) of Services – a group that is looking to lower barriers to trade in this area among a subset of interested WTO members.

Following last week's meetings, participating RGF members have tentatively decided that a possible services liberalisation deal would use the "core articles" of the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services, or GATS, with discussions now centring on which core provisions to incorporate into the deal and how.

Building on the GATS would serve two purposes, various sources commented to Bridges: facilitating the participation of new members, who will "obviously find it easier to join a structure that they already know," as well as allowing for the potential multilateralisation of this deal at a later stage.

Such a deal could potentially use a positive list on market access concessions, and a horizontal – or all sectors – commitment on national treatment, with the possibility of some exceptions, a developed country official familiar with the talks told Bridges. However, another official stressed, a "hybrid" approach is just one of the options on the table, and has not yet been officially agreed.

"We've talked about that possibility [of using a hybrid approach], and most members showed flexibility," one delegate said. "Initially some members wanted to use a negative list, others a positive list, and finally many considered that a hybrid approach could resolve many of the concerns that participating members have. How to put this in place is what we'll discuss next, in order to have specific cases of what such an arrangement would look like and how to operationalise it."

Under a positive list, members only liberalise those areas that they agree to; under a negative list, members liberalise all areas except those specifically excluded.

Other issues, such as whether to include a “ratchet-in” clause or a “standstill clause” in either the areas of market access and/or national treatment, were also raised during last week’s discussions. With a ratchet-in clause, any improvement in services market access made by one participating member would then have to be accorded to all other parties to the deal, as well as becoming permanent. A standstill commitment, meanwhile, would involve members agreeing not to create new obstacles to services trade.

While no agreement was reached on either, sources, say, future meetings are expected to address both of these topics, including the concern tabled by some participants that a ratchet-in clause in market access – which is not included in the GATS – might deter new countries from joining.

Room for new members

While the current membership of the RGF represents 70 percent of global GDP and services trade – with Panama being the most recent to join – participating economies have been exploring ways that would allow for new countries to sign on to the proposed pact.

Talks ahead of last week’s meeting had addressed how such a deal could be both “high ambition” and still be accommodating enough for new members – such as the emerging economies – to sign on, a topic that is expected to be raised again in upcoming discussions.

“We still retain the strong ambition that it can be multilateralised and the design features will be sensitive to that but the most important thing is just to get on with it,” Australian Trade Minister Craig Emerson told Reuters following last week’s RGF meeting.

Technical discussions on just how to multilateralise such a deal have included a variety of options so far. Some have tabled the suggestion that the deal could be multilateralised upon reaching a level of “critical mass,” though what would constitute such a definition would be uncertain.

While officials have stressed that the talks at this stage are open to any member, participating economies are also discussing a possible accession clause for new member additions when and if the proposed services deal is concluded.

“We haven’t discussed what the clause or conditions would be, we just agree that it needs to be defined,” one delegate involved in the talks explained.

The possibility of such a services deal has elicited repeated scepticism by emerging economies, including Brazil, China, and India, due to their systemic concerns over WTO members pursuing this initiative plurilaterally. At a meeting of the WTO’s Committee on Trade in Services, also held last week, some emerging economy members reportedly reiterated these issues and explained that they preferred not to be a part of the talks in order to not undermine the multilateral system.

However, sources involved with the initiative note, some of these countries have expressed informally that they are watching the talks “with interest,” though they have not made any indication whether or not they might consider joining the discussions at a later stage.

Timeframe

With the Doha trade talks at an impasse – and the related negotiations on services trade seeing no movement – talks of other ways to lower trade barriers, including plurilateral

options, have been increasingly eyed by policymakers, despite the above-mentioned systemic questions that some members have raised about this type of approach.

While some have advocated for clinching a plurilateral services deal in the span of 12 months, sources have stressed that there is no official set timeframe for the talks.

Participating members are still working to define the parameters of such a services agreement further, with the aim of beginning formal negotiations next year, but there is not a deadline that has been committed to.

"There's good progress and agreement on these basic building blocks," a developed country source commented. However, "no one has wanted to establish a date for finishing these talks, just that we want to start in 2013 if we manage to define what the architecture and reach of such a deal would entail," another developing country delegate also familiar with the talks told Bridges.

The next services cluster, set to be held in November, will be an opportunity to "fine tune" some of the topics discussed better, such as scheduling. Another services "cluster" is slated for December.

Current members involved in the services initiative include Australia, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, EU, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Pakistan, Peru, South Korea, Switzerland, Turkey, and the US.

ICTSD reporting; "Services trade talks begin as WTO seeks way out of stalemate," REUTERS, 8 October 2012; "EU and 'good friends' weigh international services pact," EURACTIV, 9 October 2012

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

WIPO Assemblies Approve Copyright Exceptions Roadmap for the Visually Impaired

The World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) 185 member states brought their annual [Assemblies meeting](#) to a close yesterday, endorsing a work plan aimed at intensifying negotiations next year over a legal instrument to improve access to copyrighted material for the visually impaired and print disabled.

Other notable results of the Assemblies included the approval of a roadmap aimed at moving forward negotiations at the Intergovernmental Committee on Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Traditional Cultural Expressions (IGC), along with an agreement to expedite WIPO's trademark body's works on industrial designs.

Copyright exceptions take centre stage

The meetings had kicked off last week with a call from WIPO Director-General Francis Gurry for a "rules-based IP system," in the face of rising "technological protectionism." (See Bridges Weekly, [3 October 2012](#))

The highlight of this year's Assemblies was ultimately the approval of a work plan for the organisation's Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) to continue discussions on a future legal instrument providing exceptions and limitations (E&Ls) for visually impaired persons and persons with print disabilities.

WIPO's copyright body had already [agreed](#) upon the work plan last July. The plan may result in the convening of a diplomatic conference – the highest level of WIPO negotiations – to finalise an agreement next year (See Bridges Weekly, [25 July 2012](#)).

Despite this progress, many delegations noted that some outstanding issues remain unsolved, particularly regarding the nature and scope of the future instrument, with countries debating whether the agreement should have a binding effect and whether it should cover other works apart from books.

The Development Agenda Group (DAG) – a coalition of developing countries that supports the mainstreaming of the development dimension across all areas of WIPO's work – said that member states "must not miss the opportunity to conclude a treaty next year."

"WIPO should contribute with nothing less than a treaty to help address the 'book famine'" for the visually impaired, Brazil argued.

"We do not agree with second class solutions. If we provide right-holders with binding instruments, we should provide persons with print disabilities the same legal certainty," the Brazilian delegate added.

A representative from the World Blind Union said that the his organisation is "cautiously encouraged" by the latest developments and called on the UN agency to conclude a treaty to serve the interests of visually impaired persons worldwide, especially those in need of physical paper hardcopies of copyrighted material.

However, the US – speaking on behalf of developed country bloc Group B – stressed that “more work is clearly needed,” with the EU requesting to narrow down the scope of the instrument.

“It would be regretful if attempts to widen the scope of the current discussions would endanger the successful achievement of our objective: a meaningful, effective, and balanced instrument,” the EU stated.

Discussions are next set to take place at an [inter-sessional meeting](#) of the committee – to be held later this month – and at the [twenty-fifth session](#) of the SCCR in November, “with a view to conclude or advance substantially the text-based work.”

The General Assembly (GA) also approved the recommendation issued at the last SCCR to continue discussions in three areas of the committee's work: a potential treaty for the protection of broadcasting organisations; a future instrument(s) on E&Ls for libraries and archives; and on an instrument(s) on E&Ls for persons with other disabilities, as well as educational and research institutions.

IGC roadmap endorsed, though differences remain unresolved

Delegates also agreed on a path forward for WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Genetic Resources (GRs), Traditional Knowledge (TK), and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs).

Three thematic IGC meetings – one for each area of work – will take place to work on text(s) for an international legal instrument(s) that will ensure the effective protection of GRs, TK, and TCEs. The last thematic session, which is scheduled for July 2013, will be extended in order to review and take stock of the text(s) and make a recommendation to next year's General Assembly, which will decide whether to convene a diplomatic conference.

The work programme resulted from days of “intense and lengthy” informal negotiations that were held during the Assemblies under Ambassador Wayne McCook of Jamaica, who serves as the committee's chair. While developing countries – the African Group in particular – asked for additional meetings, developed countries were generally reluctant toward extending the IGC sessions.

The nature of the future instrument(s) sparked debate among WIPO members during the talks, with the US among those noting that a “wide divergence of views” remains with regard to the texts.

“The objectives and the draft articles need further refinement before any instrument can be finalised and a decision can be reached on the nature of these instruments,” the Group of Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) added. The EU, for its part, reiterated that the instrument(s) should be “flexible, sufficiently clear, and non-binding.”

However, developing countries urged WIPO members to engage in negotiations to achieve binding legal instruments in the three IGC areas of work.

“International binding rules would correct the imbalances of the international intellectual property system that served the interests of some and not the legitimate interests of others,” Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Developing Countries, said.

“WIPO administers treaties, legally binding agreements, not recommendations,” Zimbabwe added.

Assemblies approve moving work forward on industrial designs

Developed and developing countries also butted heads over a potential treaty to harmonise industrial designs registration formalities under the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT).

As in last month's SCT talks, many developed countries at the GA meeting were eager to move discussions on industrial designs towards a diplomatic conference (See Bridges Weekly, [26 September 2012](#)). Hungary's proposal to hold the conference at the end of 2013 was met with resistance from several developing countries, which judged it to be premature and requested that the discussions include developing countries' needs in the area of capacity building.

Ultimately, members agreed "to advance substantially the basic proposals for a Design Law Treaty" and to include in such a deal "appropriate provisions regarding technical assistance and capacity building for developing countries and LDCs in the [future treaty's] implementation."

As the nine-day talks came to a close, General Assemblies Chair Ambassador Uglješa Zvekić from Serbia praised delegates for the progress achieved in advancing the UN agency's normative agenda.

"No doubt this was the most productive and constructive gathering, which reached agreements on a number of important issues, ranging from... deliberations on the future which lies ahead of us, to setting criteria and timeframes for the conclusion of works in the normative arena," he said.

ICTSD reporting.

AGRICULTURE

'One Billion Hungry' Peak Missing From New FAO Numbers

A revised estimate of the number of hungry people in the world was released yesterday, classifying 870 million as undernourished between 2010-12. Missing from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's figures was any reference to the one billion mark that the agency had claimed was reached in 2009 due to high food prices and the economic crisis. The new report cited a change in methodology and improved data as reasons for the shift.

The FAO had estimated that 1.02 billion people were hungry in 2009, after an additional 100 million people were pushed into hunger and poverty during the previous year due to the food price spike, [according](#) to the organisation's then Director-General, Jacques Diouf. UN agencies working on food and hunger, such as the FAO, the World Food Programme, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development had launched an [awareness](#) campaign built around the one billion figure at the time.

The FAO now [says](#) that the revised figures, part of the [annual State of Food Insecurity Report](#) (SOFI), do not capture the impact of short-term price spikes or depressions and are not comparable to previous editions. Despite this change, the agency still believes that

high food prices continue to be a worrying element in ensuring food security for the most vulnerable, since they spend the greatest share of their income on food.

Progress to be made

Finding that there are 132 million fewer people hungry in 2010-12 than 1990-92, the report insists that the Millennium Development Goal of halving the prevalence of hunger in developing countries by 2015 is within reach if the trend continues.

The share of undernourished people in the developing world has fallen from 23.2 to 14.9 percent over the aforementioned 20 year period. Achieving the MDG would mean cutting that number to 11.6 percent, while current projections suggest that 12.5 percent is possible.

Gains made between 1990 and 2007 have since stalled due to the impact of the global economic slowdown. The report calls for safety nets for the most vulnerable, along with broad-based economic growth – particularly in agriculture – as a way of reducing the number of hungry.

SOFI cautions that growth in the agricultural sector, if policies fail to focus on crops grown widely by smallholders or those vulnerable to hunger, is not sufficient to improve food security. It cites Tanzania as a particular case where export-oriented cash crops, such as cotton and tobacco, received government research and extension support instead of assistance that is more directly tied to undernourishment – maize, root crops, pulses, and oilseeds.

Revised methodology

The FAO's undernourishment figures have been the subject of some criticism for more than a decade. Experts, such as Peter Svedberg – formerly of Stockholm University – have long pointed out the weaknesses in the household surveys, data used, and the fundamental methodology. Sources within the UN have confided to Bridges over the years that the previous calculation process may have not been sufficiently rigorous.

The new SOFI paints a picture of global hunger that has gone from a worsening situation to a “steady improvement,” Svedberg observed in an exchange with Bridges. This has turned the “hunger problem” on its head, he added. Older estimates showed the hunger condition deteriorating, while the new numbers suggest that things are improving or stable.

The FAO says that the key changes in its methodology used to calculate the figure are the following: an awareness of the loss of calories during distribution to households, better household survey data, new minimum dietary energy requirements, and population figures.

Svedberg notes that the new estimates “square much better” with other nutritional indicators such as childhood stunting and anthropometric measures, such as the number of underweight adults.

Welcoming the first “notable revisions” of the FAO's method and data since 1996, Svedberg warned that the methodology used to calculate the undernourishment figures cannot be used to answer policy relevant questions. Those directing policy interventions, he argued, must know who the malnourished are, where they are located and when they are malnourished to be effective. “The FAO method is, and will remain, silent on these policy-relevant questions,” he added.

ICTSD reporting.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Bloomberg: Saudi Arabia Said to Be Blocking Airline from Participating in EU Emissions Scheme

Saudi Arabia has reportedly prohibited its national airline from complying with the controversial aviation component of the EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS), according to two unnamed sources cited by Bloomberg last week.

The two sources cited by the news agency, which are said to have knowledge of the subject, claim that Saudi officials have notified Brussels of the decision. Both sides are now said to be in negotiations in an effort to reach a compromise.

Saudi Arabia is among the self-dubbed "coalition of the unwilling," a group of nations that issued a joint statement in February stating their opposition to the EU's aviation emissions rule. Of those countries, India and China have already prohibited their airlines from complying with the EU law without government approval.

The reported move would be the latest pushback against Brussels' aviation emissions rule, which will require all airlines – regardless of nationality – to surrender emission permits for intra-EU flights, as well as flights to and from the 27-country bloc. The inclusion of aviation into the EU scheme entered into force this past January, though airlines will not have to surrender permits for 2012 carbon production until April of next year.

To date, the EU has required that airlines submit carbon emissions data for 2011 as part of compliance with the scheme, a request which the state-owned Saudi Arabian Airlines – the country's only carrier with flights to Europe – fulfilled. Eight Chinese airlines and two Indian airlines were cited earlier this year by the European Commission for failing to submit carbon data by Brussels' 31 March deadline (See Bridges Weekly, [16 May 2012](#)).

Opponents to including aviation in the EU scheme have argued that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) – the UN body tasked with civil aviation – is the appropriate forum for creating a global pact aimed at reducing carbon emissions from aviation, and that Brussels has exceeded its authority in imposing the rule on the segments of flights that occur in non-EU airspace.

"The EU thinks that, with time, the charges levied on [Saudi Arabia] will become normal and acceptable. We wanted to make sure to send them a message that the case will not end easily," Mohammed al-Sabban, a former Saudi chief climate negotiator, told the news agency last month. al-Sabban represented the kingdom in helping prepare the February communique that outlined possible countermeasures that the rule's opponents could potentially take against Brussels. (See Bridges Weekly, [22 February 2012](#))

Other efforts to block airline participation in the EU scheme recently advanced in Washington, with last month's announcement that the US Senate had unanimously passed its version of legislation targeting the Brussels policy. (See Bridges Weekly, [26 September 2012](#)) The US Congress' other chamber had passed its own version of the legislation a year prior; both bills would next need to be reconciled with one another and receive presidential approval before becoming law.

ICTSD reporting; "Saudi Arabia Said to Order Airline to Reject EU Carbon Rules," BLOOMBERG, 2 October 2012.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Coming soon

11-12 October, Santiago, Chile. FOURTH INTERNATIONAL ECLAC CARBON FOOTPRINT SEMINAR. Co-hosted by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and French Cooperation, this seminar will address the potential implications of carbon footprint initiatives for Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) trade. This year's session will focus on "Environmental footprint and Latin American food exports: International regulations and business practice." The seminar will look at the state of carbon footprint labelling standards internationally, discuss the state of methodologies for calculating the carbon footprint of products, and look at the application of environmental standards on imports by US and European retail chains and cases of adoption of such standards by exporters in Chile, Colombia, and Costa Rica. For more information, visit the event [website](#).

12 October, Tokyo, Japan. THE EUROZONE CRISIS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR ASIAN ECONOMIES. Organised by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), this event will address the major threat to global economic growth and stability posed by the Euro area sovereign debt and banking sector crisis. The objective of this seminar is to provide further insight into the factors underlying the eurozone crisis, policy suggestions for ending the crisis, and the implications of the crisis for economic and financial sustainability in Asia. For more information, visit the event [website](#).

15-16 October, London, UK. CLIMATE CHANGE 2012. Sponsored by Chatham House, this conference will examine the key economic, social, and geopolitical security threats caused by climate change and debate what national and international responses are required to manage these security challenges. Among other topics, the event will discuss the impact of climate change on border shifts, migration, health, security of critical infrastructure, and competition for natural resources. It will also address the role of geoengineering in managing climate. For more information, visit the event [website](#).

15-16 October, Paris, France. TWELFTH ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION TRADING. Organised by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), this two-day annual workshop will bring together more than 130 senior government officials from OECD countries, the EU, and other nations; corporate executives from electric companies, energy-intensive industries, brokerage companies, and the financial community; analysts and researchers from non-governmental organisations and academia. Participants will discuss the evolution of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions trading programmes around the world. Specific topics to be addressed include: new and evolving national and sub-national trading systems, climate finance, and the trade-related issues and disputes that may emerge – or have already done so – as domestic emissions trading systems are being established. For more information, visit the IEA [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.

15-16 October: Workshop – Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

15+17 October: Trade Policy Review Body – Bangladesh

16 October: Committee on Market Access

Other Upcoming Events

21-26 October, Nairobi, Kenya. AFRICAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FINANCE SUMMER ACADEMY. Held by the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, this five-day training course on sustainable energy finance aims to provide a comprehensive framework on renewable energy and energy efficiency financing, with a special emphasis on Africa. Topics to be addressed include the economics of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power; climate change and political negotiations; the potential for renewable and energy efficiency projects on the continent; and financing sources. For more information, visit the Frankfurt School [website](#).

28 October – 1 November, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. JOINT CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND TRADE 2012. Organised by the Joint Ministerial Conference of Agriculture and Trade, this event will convene under the theme "Boosting Intra-African Trade for Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security." The goal of this event is for ministers to review progress on the implementation of continental agriculture and trade development initiatives, revisiting specifically those efforts that impact intra-African trade, agricultural transformation, and achievement of food security in the continent. Ministers also aim to review and agree on a short and medium-term action-oriented strategy toward realising the African Union's vision of promoting intra-African trade and its impact on attaining agricultural transformation, as well as a food- and nutrition-secured Africa. For more information, visit the event [website](#).

12 November, London, UK. DELEVERAGING THE WEST: THE IMPACT ON GLOBAL GROWTH. Hosted by Chatham House, this conference will make the statement that the West needs to deleverage, reform its economies, and achieve fiscal sustainability while stimulating economic growth and maintaining the social compact. It will aim to answer whether such deleveraging will be orderly or chaotic, while also addressing the role of banks and other financial intermediaries in the European and the global economy. For more information, visit the Chatham House [website](#).

19-22 November, London, UK. WORLD CONGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES (WCST 2012). This multidisciplinary congress, co-sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE) UK/RI section, aims to bridge the natural, social, and engineering sciences, as well as the environment and development of communities. The congress covers a wide spectrum of topics related to sustainability, including technical and non-technical research areas. It also encourages sharing new knowledge in the field of sustainable technologies and the environmental impacts. For more information, visit the event [website](#).

Resources

THE WTO AND THE ENVIRONMENT: DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETENCE BEYOND TRADE. By James Watson; published by Routledge (October 2012). This book reviews the development of the WTO dispute resolution procedure and the power and influence it has gained over the practises of member economies, as well as in other international treaties. The book addresses the development of environmental competency in the WTO and examines the arguments of those who oppose WTO rulemaking with impacts on the environment. The WTO's interactions with multilateral environmental agreements are considered and recent cases are analysed. The book goes on to make recommendations, based on existing practise in the WTO dispute resolution procedure, which could potentially enhance decision-making in environmental cases heard by the global trade arbiter. The book is available for purchase [here](#).

PROSPECTS FOR SERVICES TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. By Jeffrey J. Schott, Minsoo Lee, and Julia Muir for the Peterson Institute for International Economics (October 2012). This working paper examines what has been achieved in both regional and multilateral compacts in dismantling barriers in services trade and investment, specifically by surveying international precedents involving Asian countries which have included services trade reforms. The authors then assess the prospects for services trade negotiations and explore how such negotiations could be pursued over the next decade through two distinct channels: the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and a plurilateral approach that is currently being explored by a group of WTO members. The full paper can be found [here](#).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT UNIVERSITIES: NEW HORIZONS. Published by Peter Lang International Academic Publishers (2012). Prepared in the context of Rio+20, this book contains the papers submitted to the World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 5 and 6 June 2012. It aims to document experiences from universities all around the world regarding education on sustainable development; foster the exchange of information and ideas regarding this topic; and to introduce methodological approaches and projects geared at integrating the subject of sustainable development in university curriculums. The full text can be purchased [here](#).

CHOICE AND COERCION IN EAST ASIAN EXCHANGE RATE REGIMES. By C. Randall Henning for the Peterson Institute for International Economics (September 2012). This paper examines the exchange rate regimes of East Asian countries since the initial shift by China to a controlled appreciation in July 2005, testing the weights of key currencies in the implicit baskets that appear to be targeted by East Asian monetary authorities. It finds, first, that Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines have formed a loose but effective "renminbi bloc" with China, and that South Korea has participated tentatively since the onset of the global financial crisis. Second, the emergence of the renminbi bloc in terms of the exchange rate has been facilitated by the continued dominance of the US dollar as a trade, investment, and reserve currency. Third, exchange rate stabilisation is explained by the economic strategies of these countries, which rely heavily on export development and financial repression, and the economic rise of China. Fourth, the authors say, analysts should specify the exchange rate preferences of these emerging market countries carefully before drawing inferences about Chinese influence within the region. The full publication can be found [here](#).

FARM SAFETY NET PROVISIONS IN A 2012 FARM BILL: S. 3240 AND H.R. 6083. By Dennis A. Shields and Randy Schnepf for the Congressional Research Service (September 2012). With the 2012 crop year, America's farm commodity provisions of the 2008 Farm

Bill will expire. This report analyses the two versions of Congress' new Farm Bill that would establish the direction of American agricultural policy for the next five years: the Senate's version (S.3240) and the House Committee on Agriculture's version (H.R. 6083). The full report is available [here](#).

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