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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Poorest WTO Countries Granted New TRIPS Extension

WTO members have agreed to extend the transition period for least developed countries (LDCs) to implement the organisation's rules on intellectual property rights until July 2021. The news, announced on Tuesday, follows intensive discussions that kicked off earlier this year.

The decision comes as WTO members continue to work feverishly toward concluding a set of deliverables in time for their upcoming ministerial conference at year's end in Bali, Indonesia. While many have warned in recent months that preparations for Bali are not moving at the necessary pace, the success of this extension effort has been welcomed by some as a sign that members can still negotiate constructively.

"The agreement reached by members makes very clear that we can come together and get things done," said WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy in response to the news. "This is the spirit that we need to see in full display over the coming months in order to produce a meaningful outcome at the Bali Ministerial Conference in December."

Previous extensions

When the WTO was established in 1995, the organisation's poorest members were initially given until 1 January 2006 to implement the obligations contained in the WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Agreement.

In 2002, the LDC transition period was extended until January 2016 for pharmaceutical patents, with a later 2005 [decision](#) extending the period for all intellectual property rights until July 2013.

In light of the impending July 2013 deadline, Haiti submitted a [request](#) last November on behalf of the LDC Group to extend the transition period further – specifically, until a given member graduates from being a least developed country.

"The situation of LDCs has not changed significantly since the last extension decision in 2005... [and they] have not been able to develop their productive capacities and have not beneficially integrated with the world economy," the [proposal](#) explained.

While members had generally agreed on the principle of granting LDCs additional time, they spent the last few months negotiating the actual terms of the extension.



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development

Developed countries had argued that the proposal submitted by Haiti amounted in reality to an indefinite extension, which could have implied that intellectual property is not a relevant issue for LDCs.

Sources familiar with the discussions say that members broadly welcomed Tuesday's decision, though some – such as India – still said that the original request for extending the deadline until an LDC is no longer “least developed” should have been accepted. Others, meanwhile, urged that this spirit of compromise be carried over to other discussions at the global trade body.

Least developed countries, for their part, praised the overall result, noting that it would give them “greater incentives and capacity” for participating in TRIPS provisions as LDCs take on a larger role in global trade.

LDCs will be able to seek further extensions after the 2021 deadline. The decision does not affect the current terms for pharmaceuticals, with that deadline remaining at 2016.

“Non-rollback” clause excluded

One of the main issues that had divided members in their recent consultations was whether to include the current “non-rollback” clause under the terms of the new extension. During the latest transition period, this provision had required LDCs to ensure that changes they made in their laws or regulations do not lead to a lesser degree of consistency with the TRIPS Agreement. The controversial measure was ultimately omitted from Tuesday's final text.

LDCs have argued that the “non-rollback” clause is an undue restriction of their policy space and contrary to the letter and spirit of the extension, as stipulated in the TRIPS Agreement. Under the new wording, LDC members have expressed “their determination to preserve and continue the progress towards implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.”

However, the decision notes that nothing in the new extension should prevent LDCs from using the flexibilities inherent in TRIPS to address their needs, such as developing a technological base and overcoming capacity constraints.

Reactions

The prospect of extending the LDC transition period has been backed in recent months by a range of stakeholders, among them scholars, intergovernmental institutions, government representatives, and civil society organisations.

However, the terms of the actual decision – particularly the agreement to extend the period by only eight years, rather than indefinitely – were criticised by some, with Aziz ur Rehman, an intellectual property advisor for Médecins Sans Frontières' Access Campaign, [calling](#) it “a half-hearted compromise.”

Developed countries should instead have permitted a “longer and more complete” extension, he explained, while urging LDCs to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the exclusion of the “no rollback” clause.

Others warned that giving LDCs less than a decade of additional time would limit their opportunities to test out which domestic intellectual property laws might be in their best interests. “The opportunity to experiment will be burdened with uncertainty about the longer term future,” Knowledge Ecology International, a Geneva-based NGO, [said](#).

ICTSD reporting.

BILATERAL TIES

Obama, Xi Move Closer on Climate at California Summit

The US and China have reached an agreement to work toward phasing down the production and use of hydrofluorocarbons, a major greenhouse gas, the presidents of both countries announced last week. The two-day meeting between US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping also saw the US pledge to share information with China on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, at Beijing's request.

The bilateral summit, which was held on Friday and Saturday in the US state of California, marked the first such exchange between the two leaders since Xi formally took office in March. The meeting was largely promoted as an opportunity for Obama and Xi to set the stage for a more productive bilateral relationship, given the two countries' long-running history of economic squabbles.

While the huge economies are heavily intertwined, with China-US bilateral goods trade [reaching](#) a value of US\$503 billion in 2011, the two sides have also sparred repeatedly in recent years over issues ranging from both sides' renewable energy support policies, currency, and intellectual property protections.

TPP: China requests more information

One of the trade-related developments seen at last weekend's summit was Xi's [request](#) for information on the TPP negotiations as they go forward – which the US President agreed to. This could potentially include the establishment of a “formal mechanism” for such an exchange.

Indeed, the possibility that China might eventually seek a seat at the TPP table has been the cause of growing speculation over the past month, after the country's Ministry of Commerce announced that it would be evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of seeking entry into the pact. (See Bridges Weekly, [6 June 2013](#))

The US' participation in the proposed trade agreement has been touted as one of the Obama Administration's main efforts toward increasing its engagement with the Asia-Pacific region, with many observers interpreting the pact as an effort to respond to China's growing power on the international trade scene.

Current TPP members, however, have stressed that Beijing is not being pre-emptively excluded from joining the negotiations, and that these are meant to serve as a framework for an agreement that would eventually include all 21 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, of which China is a part.

Climate change commitment

During their California meeting, the presidents also discussed bilateral action on climate change, jointly [announcing](#) a commitment to work together in phasing down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – a type of greenhouse gas commonly used in refrigerators, air conditioners, and industrial applications.

HFCs are known as a “super” greenhouse gas, with a global warming potential hundreds – or even thousands – of times greater than carbon dioxide. Their use has become

increasingly common as a suitable alternative to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), a type of ozone-depleting substance that countries have been actively working to phase out under the Montreal Protocol – an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer.

Past proposals to include HFCs in the Montreal Protocol have met opposition from some countries, including China, on the grounds that HFCs are not ozone-depleting gases and should therefore be addressed in other forums, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. ([29 November 2012](#)) The US was one of the backers of the most recent proposal to add HFCs to Montreal's coverage.

Beijing and Washington will now work with other countries to use the “expertise and institutions of the Montreal Protocol” in the phase-down of HFCs, while at the same time including the gas under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol for the purposes of accounting and reporting emissions.

Cyber theft

During the two-day meet, Obama cited cyber-enabled economic theft – including theft of intellectual property – as one of the greatest obstacles toward fostering a deeper relationship between the two countries, and urged the Chinese President to take action to curb the problem. The issue has been a lightning rod for controversy in recent years, in light of complaints that US government agencies and businesses have allegedly been the subject of cyberattacks by Chinese entities.

Xi, for his part, countered that the Chinese government “is firm in upholding cybersecurity,” and similarly considers it a cause for concern. He also added that US media has largely overhyped the issue, making it seem like the largest problem in the bilateral relationship.

“We hope that earnest measures can be taken to resolve this matter,” Xi said.

Though the leaders pledged to continue discussions on the topic, there was no official proposal for how to solve the cyber theft issue, with Obama [calling](#) the issue “uncharted waters” for policymakers.

ICTSD reporting.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Pressure Mounts for EU-China Solar Solution

With the clock ticking for the EU and China to come to an amicable solution on their trade row regarding solar panels, EU member states and policy analysts alike have increased their calls for the two sides to act quickly to address their differences. US officials, meanwhile, have recently confirmed that a possible joint deal between Washington, Brussels, and Beijing is one of the options being discussed.

The row has become increasingly heated since the European Commission's confirmation last week that it would be imposing provisional duties on imports of solar panels and their component wafers and cells from China, in a decision that has been lambasted by Beijing. (See Bridges Weekly, [6 June 2013](#))

However, rather than immediately implementing the planned 47.6 percent average duty, the Commission decided that it would be imposing it in two phases – starting with a lower 11.8 percent duty until 6 August, and then reverting to the higher number should the two sides fail to reach a negotiated solution.

The Commission will then either revise, maintain, or revoke the duties upon formally concluding its anti-dumping investigation in December.

The US, meanwhile, has imposed both anti-dumping and countervailing duties on imports of Chinese-made solar cells since late last year. (See Bridges Weekly, [10 October 2012](#))

China: wine investigation "not retaliation"

The announcement last week that China's Ministry of Commerce was launching its own trade defence investigation into imports of European wine prompted many in the international trade community to speculate whether this was a tit-for-tat move on Beijing's part in response to the European Commission duties.

Since then, Chinese officials have stressed that the move is not, in fact, retaliation. "China has long been exercising restraint in adopting trade remedy measures despite clear evidence of the EU dumping and subsidising certain exports to China," a spokesperson for the Chinese mission to the EU said in a statement last week.

An editorial in the state-run Chinese newspaper People's Daily, however, warned last week that while Beijing has "set the table" for discussions, there are still "plenty of cards we can play." The article was published under the pen name "Zhong Sheng," which means "Voice of China" and is considered a representation of official views.

Reports have also surfaced in the past week that Beijing may be considering launching a separate investigation into luxury cars from Europe, in response to an industry complaint. However, the Chinese government has not confirmed whether such a probe is indeed under discussion.

USTR-nominee Froman: joint deal possible

Speculation has been rife over the past month over what form an amicable solution – if reached – might take, with rumours swirling over whether the US and EU might join forces

in negotiating with China. While reports of such joint discussions were initially denied by both Washington and Brussels, Mike Froman – who is the current nominee for the position of US Trade Representative (USTR) – has since confirmed that the US is now talking to both trading partners about a possible global settlement.

"There have been some initial discussions with both the European market and China about how to deal with this on a global basis," Froman told a Senate panel on Thursday, in response to questions from Senator Ron Wyden, a Democrat from the US state of Oregon.

"It is a critically important issue because it brings together both the importance of enforcing our trade laws effectively, the importance of seeing the further development of clean energy, and the importance of levelling the playing field so that our producers of clean energy products can participate in that growing market," the USTR nominee continued.

Wyden, in response, urged Froman to "own those negotiations" if he is confirmed as the US' next trade chief, given the magnitude of the issue.

EU member states call for solution

The solar row has also created a rift between EU member states on the subject, with 18 of the 27 reportedly opposing the duties. French President François Hollande publicly called last week for a prompt solution to the disagreement, asking that the Commission hold a special meeting with EU member states to establish a common position on the matter.

"We need to resolve our trade problems with China through discussion, without advantages being given to one country over another," Hollande said on Saturday, in comments reported by Reuters.

While European Commission President José Manuel Barroso has said that there is no reason for heads of state and government not to address the issue again, he told the Wall Street Journal that calling a special summit on the subject would not be "appropriate."

France is one of Europe's main wine producers, together with Italy and Spain, and could potentially be affected by the new wine investigation opened by Beijing.

Germany has similarly been urging the EU and China to come together on an amicable solution, with an economy ministry spokesman on Monday reiterating previous entreaties for such a result to be achieved "quickly."

ICTSD reporting; "Europe Reacts With Alarm to China Threat to Wine Exports," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 5 June 2013; "China's investigation of European wine not retaliation: spokesperson," XINHUA, 7 June 2013; "France's Hollande says EU, China must resolve trade disputes," REUTERS, 8 June 2013; "China eyes EU luxury cars as trade dispute rages," REUTERS, 7 June 2013; "China has more cards to play in EU trade dispute: People's Daily," REUTERS, 5 June 2013.

AGRICULTURE

US Senate Clears Farm Bill

The US Senate passed its version of a five-year Farm Bill on Monday, less than a month after that chamber's agriculture committee cleared the legislation. Many observers warn, however, that the real fight will be when the House of Representatives attempts to pass its own version of the agricultural spending legislation.

The Senate version approved this week is set to cost taxpayers US\$955 billion over ten years. Along with covering agricultural spending, the Farm Bill touches on other areas of US policy, such as international food aid and environmental conservation.

What the Senate passed earlier this week is "almost the same" as what the body had approved last year, according to long-time Farm Bill watcher and National Journal columnist Jerry Hagstrom. The Senate bill eliminates direct payments to farmers, expands crop insurance, and trims nutrition payments to achieve US\$24 billion in cuts over a ten-year period when [compared](#) to the 2008 Farm Bill.

The bulk of the spending continues to go towards nutrition – \$US760 billion over the coming decade. Crop insurance and commodity spending are the next big ticket items at US\$89 billion and US\$41 billion, respectively, over the same period. Amendments to the bill include a limit on crop insurance premium subsidies for farmers earning more than US\$750,000 per year.

The Senate's bill also includes a controversial provision, Adverse Market Payments (AMP), that some lawmakers fear could be successfully challenged at the WTO. (See Bridges Weekly, [23 May 2013](#)) The proposed programme sets up a system of target prices that Southern rice and peanut farmers had sought, but ultimately did not include, in last year's bill.

Critics argue that the target prices set are too high and that such a programme could distort planting decisions, while ensuring healthy returns for farmers of certain crops.

House fight forthcoming

Despite this week's Senate action, Farm Bill observers worry that the full House may not bring its version of the Farm Bill to a vote, just as it failed to do last year. The Republican leadership of the House, however, has [promised](#) that the bill will be debated this month.

With a smaller share of members from rural America, many of whom are participating for the first time in a Farm Bill, the House today is said to be a far more challenging environment for authorising nearly one trillion dollars in farm spending, according to many following the issue. Some members of that chamber have been particularly sceptical, with Speaker John Boehner, a Republican from Ohio, calling the dairy programmes in the bill "Soviet-style."

Farm Bills have historically been a compromise between food stamp-concerned urban districts and rural members interested in spending on commodities. A partisan divide on food stamps may upend this delicate balance.

Overall, the House legislation cuts US\$40 billion per year over the next decade, when compared to the bill's 2008 iteration. Nearly half of those savings, US\$20.5 billion, come

from a reduction in nutrition programmes. The Senate's recently approved bill cut similar programmes by only US\$4 billion.

Many Democrats in the House have vowed to fight the cuts, while some Republicans have [called](#) for removing food stamp-related nutrition spending from the bill altogether.

Although the tussle in the House could broaden to include crop insurance and commodity programmes, observers say that the chamber fight is likely to centre on nutrition. Final passage of the bill may ultimately depend on whether the House is a "legislative body or stage," said Urban Lehner, Editor Emeritus at DTN, a farm news publication.

ICTSD reporting; "Lawmakers Need to Show Strong Leadership to Move Forward With Farm Bill," NATIONAL JOURNAL, 9 June 2013; "Moment of Truth for the Farm Bill," DTN, 10 June 2013.

AGRICULTURE

OECD, FAO: Agricultural Production Growth to Slow in Coming Decade

Agricultural production is expected to grow more slowly over the coming decade, [according](#) to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In another [report](#), the FAO noted that government interventions, such as taxes or subsidies, may be useful in addressing nutritional needs.

The OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2013-2022, launched last week, projects the state of global agriculture for the next ten years. This year's report found that global production is likely to grow at 1.5 percent annually, on average, compared to 2.1 percent in the preceding decade. The outlook also projects rising prices for both crop and livestock products over the next ten years, due to a combination of slower production growth and stronger demand – including for biofuels.

However, some uncertainty remains, the report cautioned, due in part to the “two-speed” global economic recovery – as seen with the weak improvements in developed economies and the strong growth in developing ones.

“If we fail to turn the global economy around, investment and growth in agriculture will suffer and food security may be compromised,” OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría warned at a Beijing launch event for the report, while noting that the outlook paints a “relatively bright picture” if such an economic improvement is seen.

Additional sources of uncertainty for agricultural markets include production shortfalls, price volatility, and trade interruptions, the outlook says. A major drought, combined with low food stocks, also has the potential to raise crop prices by 15 to 40 percent.

Call for increased investment

Developing countries are expected to take centre stage on trade and production in farm goods, the agencies said. Emerging economies will account for the majority of exports of coarse grains, rice, oilseeds, vegetable oil, sugar, beef, poultry, and fish, while the OECD countries' share of trade is expected to continue to decline.

Global sugar production will increase by almost 2 percent each year, primarily from sugar cane in India and Brazil. Developing countries as a whole are likely to account for 80 percent of the growth in global meat production and for 74 percent of global milk production gains.

To capture a share of these economic benefits, governments will need to invest in their agricultural sectors to encourage innovation, increase productivity, and improve integration in global value chains, the FAO and the OECD found.

“Let's not forget that 70 percent of the world's food insecure population lives in rural areas of developing countries and that many of them are small-scale and subsistence farmers themselves,” FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva said in Beijing last week.

“Investment in rural areas is still lagging behind,” he added, highlighting particularly the lack of investment in food storage and transportation.

Feeding China: domestic challenge, trade opportunity

The 2013 report places a special focus on China, given its significance to global production and trade in agriculture. The Asian economic powerhouse is the world's largest producer and consumer of certain key cereals, such as rice and wheat. With an enormous population, changing appetites, and quick economic growth, the country's influence in global markets is expected to continue increasing in the coming decade.

The OECD and FAO found that more food and higher incomes have cut the number of hungry in China by 100 million since 1990. However, the Asian giant is also facing problems of water and land scarcity, leading Beijing to place food security and self-sufficiency at the top of its policy agenda.

Chinese consumption of farm goods will likely outpace production by 0.3 percent annually, potentially creating an opportunity for those looking to export. China is expected to become the world's leading consumer of pigmeat on a per capita basis and account for 59 percent of global oilseed imports by 2022.

Government intervention can improve nutrition, FAO says

In a separate report also released last week, the FAO found that malnutrition is posing major social and economic costs on countries at every income level. The 2013 [edition](#) of the State of Food and Agriculture report finds, for instance, that productivity loss and direct healthcare costs as a result of malnutrition could account for up to five percent of global gross domestic product (GDP), equivalent to US\$3.5 trillion per year or US\$500 per person.

This cost can justify government intervention in food markets through nutrition-specific food price subsidies and taxes, the FAO says, as part of a series of recommendations. Price subsidies, for instance, could encourage the consumption of more diverse foods such as fruits and vegetables. Taxes, meanwhile, could discourage the consumption of less nutritious food.

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

Senate Panel Advances Mike Froman Nomination for USTR

The Senate Finance Committee has unanimously [advanced](#) Mike Froman's nomination for the position of US Trade Representative, leaving confirmation by the full chamber as the last remaining step before he can assume the US' top trade position.

Froman has long been a player on the Washington trade scene through his previous role as Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs. In this position, he has been involved both in US bilateral trade negotiations as well as serving as the US Sherpa at international summits, such as the G-8 and the G-20.

If confirmed, Froman is set to face a broad trade agenda that includes the ongoing Trans-Pacific Partnership talks, as well as the planned EU-US trade negotiations. The Office of the USTR also oversees the US' involvement at the WTO.

Notably, Froman [said](#) at his confirmation hearing last Thursday that the White House will indeed push for the renewal of the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), which expired in 2007. TPA, also known as "fast track," allows the executive branch to submit trade deals to Congress for straight up-or-down votes without any amendments.

ICTSD reporting.

"Cultural Exception" Debate Ramps Up Ahead of EU Mandate Vote

EU member states are expected to meet tomorrow to approve the negotiating mandate for their upcoming US trade talks, in a move that would pave the way for a potential launch at next week's G-8 summit. However, France has held its stance that it will block the negotiations unless it is clear that the "cultural exception" rule will be kept off the table, prompting questions over what compromise EU member states will reach.

Paris has long been a proponent of the cultural exception, which involves the exclusion of audiovisual goods and services from some trade disciplines. While EU officials, including Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht, have stressed that the cultural exception will not be harmed by the negotiations, they have also urged France to allow some discussions regarding the audiovisual sector. US officials, for their part, have in recent days urged the EU to avoid outlining any "carve-outs" before the two sides even begin negotiating.

ICTSD reporting; "Culture fears over planned EU-US trade deal," BBC NEWS, 23 April 2013; "US warns EU against exempting film industry from trade talks," FINANCIAL TIMES, 11 June 2013.

Kazakhstan Accession Talks Advance, With Bali in Sight

Kazakhstan's WTO accession negotiations have reached an advanced stage, officials [announced](#) this week. The country could potentially be welcomed as the organisation's 160th member in time for the Bali ministerial conference.

However, Working Party Chairman Vesa Himanen of Finland warned, the Central Asian country will only be able to join in December if members accelerate their efforts in both technical and substantive areas. "Time is of the essence," he said.

Members should therefore aim to complete a draft accession package by the end of July, the chair continued.

Kazakhstan applied for membership of the WTO in 1996, and, in 2010, proposed to join the organisation as a customs union with Russia and Belarus. However, a lack of precedent and an implemented framework for the customs union approach meant that efforts for a combined accession were soon dropped. Russia is currently the only country of the group to have joined the WTO, acceding in August 2012.

ICTSD reporting.

WTO Members Discuss IP Protections, Green Technologies

WTO members should examine the ways in which intellectual property (IP) protections affect the development and use of environmentally-sound technologies, according to a recent submission tabled by Ecuador. Sources say that the suggestion to the WTO's Council on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) sparked intense discussions among members at their Tuesday meeting.

The submission (IP/C/W/585) highlights the importance of technology and its transfer for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Introduced at an earlier meeting in March, the paper's proposals include, among others, amending the WTO's intellectual property rules to reduce the length of time patents can be applied to green technologies in developing countries. Presenting the paper, Ecuador also suggested that members consider issuing a declaration on the subject at December's ministerial conference in Bali.

Some developing countries – including, Indonesia, China, and India – expressed support for the paper, trade sources confirmed to Bridges. However, several developed countries, including the US, Japan, and the EU argued that intellectual property protection encourages both the development of environmentally sound technologies at accessible prices, as well as technology transfer.

ICTSD reporting.

Bosnia and Herzegovina Enters “Final Lap” in WTO Accession Talks

Bosnia and Herzegovina's accession talks have “entered the final lap,” WTO officials [announced](#) this week, fifteen years after the country first submitted its application for membership.

István Major of Hungary, who chairs the Working Party tasked with the negotiations, urged members last week to accelerate their efforts in order for the country to join the global trade body in time for December's ministerial conference in the Indonesian province of Bali.

Officials reported last Friday that, while there has been progress in the country's plurilateral negotiations on agriculture, some issues still need to be solved at a multilateral and bilateral level. To date, Sarajevo has inked eleven bilateral market access agreements, and is soon expected to clinch another one with the US.

Major has now urged members to conclude bilateral talks by the end of this month. Members are aiming to have one last Working Party this October in order to clinch the final terms of the accession protocol.

ICTSD reporting.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Coming soon

14 June, Lough Erne, Ireland. G-8 PRE-SUMMIT CONFERENCE: "PROSPECTS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR THE G8 LOUGH ERNE SUMMIT: TRADE, TRANSPARENCY, TAXATION AND TERRORISM." This conference is being jointly organised by the Queen's University Belfast and the University of Toronto's G8 Research Group, and aims to bring together leading experts – such as current and former summit sherpas, along with global public policy scholars – to discuss the forthcoming G8 summit's agenda and prospects. The conference will contain expert panels on each of the agenda items proposed by UK Prime Minister David Cameron – namely trade, tax, and transparency. To register or find out more information, please visit the conference's [website](#).

17-18 June, Lough Erne, Ireland. G-8 SUMMIT: PROMOTING GLOBAL FAIRNESS THROUGH TRADE, TAXATION AND TRANSPARENCY. Led by the UK presidency, this year's summit will focus on advancing global trade as an engine for economic growth, including trade in Africa; enforcing tax compliance standards; and promoting greater transparency in government data and the natural resources sector. Leaders will also exchange views on the global economy and discuss issues pertaining to food security, the transition in North Africa, and climate change. For more details on the summit, please click [here](#).

17 June - 14 July, online. OVERCOMING NEGOTIATION DEADLOCKS. This four-week online course aims to equip participants with the practical skills to improve individual negotiation capacity. Participants will be taught key components of effective negotiations, psychological factors that influence negotiation behaviour, and how to lead through situations of deadlock. Government officials, diplomats, representatives of international organisations, as well as private sector professionals are encouraged to apply. Post-graduate students with relevant experience in a multicultural working environment are also welcomed. For registration or more information, please visit UNITAR's [website](#).

19 June, Washington, US. THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP: NEW RULES FOR A NEW ERA. This event, held at the Wilson Centre, aims to give a global perspective on what the Trans-Pacific Partnership could mean for future trade negotiations. Panellists will also speak on the important aspects of a future trade model and how the Trans-Pacific Partnership fits into other regional trade agreements. Former World Bank President Robert Zoellick will serve as the event's keynote speaker. To watch a live webcast of the event or find out more details, please click [here](#).

20 June, Qingdao, China. ASIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT FORUM 2013. Organised by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ABDI) in partnership with the Boao Forum for Asia, the Asian Development Bank, and the Qingdao Municipality Government, this forum offers an opportunity for invited researchers and policy planners to discuss growing regional economic integration in Asia. The event will feature four sessions on a broad range of economic integration issues, including production networks, free trade agreements (FTAs), and the WTO. Other topics to be discussed include the trilateral FTA being negotiated between China, South Korea, and Japan; the Trans-Pacific Partnership talks; and the planned Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. More information can be found at this [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.

13 – 14 June: Committee on Agriculture

17 + 19-20 June: Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (followed by Inf.)

17-18 June: Workshop on E-Commerce

18 June: Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade – Special Meeting

18-19 June: Committee on Trade and Development – Session on Aid for Trade

19 June: Committee on Trade in Financial Services

19 June: Working Party on Domestic Regulation

20 June: Working Party on GATS Rules

20 June: Council for Trade in Services

20 June: Committee on Specific Commitments

Other Upcoming Events

24-25 June, Geneva, Switzerland, UNCTAD PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM: "NEW ECONOMIC APPROACHES FOR A COHERENT POST-2015 AGENDA." This annual outreach event, hosted by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), will bring together government officials, academics, civil society representatives, the private sector, and other interested observers to engage in an interactive discussion addressing developmental challenges beyond 2015 – namely rising inequalities, persistent high unemployment, growing economic insecurity, and environmental disasters. This year's event features a combination of moderated plenary sessions and parallel group sessions led by experts, and the themes of focus are macroeconomic and financial governance as well as trade and investment rules for inclusive and sustainable development. Refer to UNCTAD's [website](#) for further details.

24-28 June, Bangkok, Thailand. WTO/ESCAP NINTH ARTNeT CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR TRADE RESEARCH: "TRADE FLOWS AND TRADE POLICY ANALYSIS". This workshop, hosted jointly by the WTO and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will focus on developing research skills and tools for trade analysis. The event will cover topics such as how to analyse trade flows hands-on using software packages, as well as how to quantify trade policy. In addition, participants will discuss their individual research projects and get feedback. To learn more, click [here](#).

25 June, Bern, Switzerland. MIGRATION, GLOBALISATION AND THE STATE. This public lecture on migration management, organised by the National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR), explores the paradox that states face when managing their migration for strategic gains – opening borders for economic gains versus closing borders over security and political concerns. The lecture will be given by James F. Hollifield, a professor of international political economy who teaches at Southern Methodist University (SMU). For more details, refer to the website [here](#).

2 July, Brussels, Belgium. HOW TO ALIGN INCENTIVES FOR GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS ACROSS THE EU, MEMBER STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS? Organised by the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), this workshop illustrates the elements of a test cycle that could enable a better alignment of standards, labelling systems, and transport taxes across the EU. The discussions will also explore the essential characteristics of an EU-wide labelling system that would provide consistent signals to consumers and manufacturers across car markets. Practical ideas for a better alignment of the fiscal incentives will also be discussed. For further details, or to register, please click [here](#).

8-10 July, Geneva, Switzerland. FOURTH GLOBAL REVIEW OF AID FOR TRADE. This year's event, held at the WTO, will focus on the theme "Connecting to Value Chains." The meeting brings together ministers from developed and developing countries, heads of international agencies and regional organisations, representatives from private sector companies and associations, and an array of trade and development experts. The Review will examine the economic opportunities that trade in value added offers, the constraints that firms in developing, and in particular least-developed, countries face in connecting (and moving up) value chains and will focus on how Aid for Trade can assist in this process. The event builds on the results of an extensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) exercise undertaken jointly by the OECD and WTO, in collaboration with various others. More information is available [here](#).

10-11 September, Beijing, China. ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE FACILITATION FORUM 2013: "TOWARDS MORE EFFICIENT AND INCLUSIVE SUPPLY CHAINS: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVES." Attracting two to three hundred participants from 30 countries each year, this annual forum serves as a regional platform for exchanging information, experiences, and practices for trade facilitation in Asia-Pacific, identifying priority areas for regional cooperation and integration, and learning about new tools and services which can increase the efficiency of cross-border transactions. The event is being co-organised by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank. Event organisers hope the gathering can help strengthen regional cooperation and coordination of Aid for Trade and related technical assistance and capacity building in trade facilitation. For more information, please visit their [website](#).

1-3 October 2013, Geneva, Switzerland. WTO PUBLIC FORUM: "EXPANDING TRADE THROUGH INNOVATION AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY." This annual WTO event aims to provide a platform for public debate across a range of trade issues and topics. This year's forum specifically looks at the future of trade in an era of innovation and digitalisation. A call for proposals for sessions is now open, and online registration for attending the event is also available. More information can be found at the Public Forum [website](#).

Resources

PUTTING GREEN GROWTH AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENT. Published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (June 2013). This publication argues that green growth is essential for sustaining long-term growth and development – by offering an alternative that relies on and values natural assets that are needed for the well-being and livelihoods of people in developing countries. Covering 74 policy measures from numerous countries and regional initiatives, it outlines an action-oriented twin-track agenda to guide national and international policies to successfully tackle green growth. To read the publication in full, click [here](#).

ACCESS BARRIERS TO SERVICES MARKETS: MAPPING, TRACING, UNDERSTANDING AND MEASURING. Published by Federica Mustilli and Jacques Pelkmans for the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) (June 2013). This paper aims to address the scope, nature, and economic meaning of barriers to a single services market in the European Union. The progress in EU's horizontal reform in services markets is analysed, and a brief assessment of access restrictiveness indices is provided for both the non-EU WTO environment and for intra-EU services access barriers. The full report is available [here](#).

PRESERVING THE OPEN GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM: A STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT FOR CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. By Arvind Subramanian for the Peterson Institute for International Economics. (June 2013) This policy brief proposes that the US and China strike a bargain: the United States should yield some of its power in existing multilateral institutions in return for China taking on greater global leadership, while Beijing should show greater willingness to make concessions in areas such as climate change and contributions to strengthening the IMF. To view the full analysis, click [here](#).

ESTIMATES OF FUNDAMENTAL EQUILIBRIUM EXCHANGE RATES. By William R. Cline for the Peterson Institute for International Economics (May 2013). In this semiannual update, the author presents new estimates of fundamental equilibrium exchange rates (FEERs). The United States and Chinese currencies are found once again to be only modestly over- and undervalued, respectively. The Japanese yen has fallen below its FEER since the launch of its quantitative easing policy. Cline suggests that if the yen declines much further, the G-7 nations may need to jointly intervene. The study adds a variant of the calculations in which rich countries set a target floor of at least a zero current account balance, and emerging market economies set a target ceiling of zero balance. To view the full analysis, click [here](#).

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