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PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS

TPP Leaders: Negotiations "On Track," Pushing for 2013 Finish

Negotiations for the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement remain "on track," leaders from the 12-country group reported on Tuesday, reiterating their goal of concluding the talks this year. Despite these reports of "significant progress," however, some officials have lately hinted that the process could drag on into 2014.

"We have agreed that negotiators should now proceed to resolve all outstanding issues with the objective of completing this year a comprehensive and balanced regional agreement that achieves the goals we established in Honolulu in 2011," leaders [said](#) after their meeting, which was held on the margins of the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Week.

The TPP leaders' meeting was meant to serve as a political push for advancing the high-profile trade talks, following weeks of intersessional meetings among negotiators aimed at reducing some of the gaps that remained after the last negotiating round. (See Bridges Weekly, [5 September 2013](#)) Along with this week's leaders' meeting, chief negotiators and ministers also met in Bali in order to discuss the TPP state of play.

The unexpected absence of US President Barack Obama from the APEC meet, however, led many to fear that the TPP meetings might not be as productive, and could even put the self-imposed 2013 deadline in danger. The surprise decision, which was prompted by the US federal government shutdown, also sparked questions among trade observers that the US – the biggest player, in economic terms, in the talks – could be shifting away from its recent Asia focus.

US officials sought to dispel such questions at the meeting, stressing that Obama's decision to skip the Bali summit was purely due to the political situation at home.

"None of what is happening in Washington diminishes one iota our commitment to our partners in Asia, including our efforts to promote trade and investment throughout the region," US Secretary of State John Kerry, who stood in for Obama at APEC, said this weekend.

The stalemate in Washington also led the US to postpone its second round of trade negotiations with the EU, which were meant to have begun in Brussels on Monday. (For more on the US-EU talks, see related article, this issue)



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development

Officials hint at possible extension

The 2013 deadline has been the subject of growing scrutiny in past months, with several of the more difficult chapters remaining open. TPP countries are now putting together work plans designed at advancing the negotiations in these areas.

TPP ministers may meet again in December on the sidelines of the WTO's ministerial conference, officials have said, in order to push the process forward.

While publicly reiterating their 2013 objective on Tuesday, officials have increasingly suggested that the talks could drag on until 2014 if the substance requires. While some chapters are substantively closed, major disagreements in other areas – such as intellectual property rights and state-owned enterprises – remain.

"Our sense is that it may take longer than the end of the year," Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak told reporters on Sunday, in remarks reported by the Wall Street Journal.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, who hosted the TPP leaders' meeting, similarly cautioned against placing too much emphasis on the 2013 deadline.

"You wouldn't want to bet the ranch on the fact a deal is agreed by the end of the year, but let's see," he told the New Zealand Herald. "It's either get it right the first time or live for a long time with a poor quality deal. I don't think we want to be in that position."

The recent entry of Tokyo into the talks had also led some to worry that the negotiations could slow down, as members juggle Japan's negotiating interests with their own. However, even with Japanese officials facing domestic pushback against the possibility of eliminating tariffs on certain agricultural products, other TPP members have so far lauded Tokyo's efforts to put as much as possible on the table.

"There is a very strong sense of Japanese determination to be bold," New Zealand Trade Minister Tim Groser told the Financial Times in an interview this week. He noted that tariff elimination – a stated goal from the 2011 TPP leaders' meeting – remains the plan, including for Japan, though some countries may implement this on different schedules.

"Growing interest" from prospective members

So-called "mega-regionals" such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership have attracted growing attention by trade officials, advocacy groups, and the private sector alike, both for the pacts' systemic implications on the broader multilateral trading system and their potential to create growth and address new trade topics.

Originally a four-country agreement between Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, and Singapore, the TPP's membership has now ballooned to twelve countries, including economic heavyweights such as the US and Japan. Officials have touted the proposed deal as a "21st-century" agreement, which would include new disciplines in various areas, and have said it could serve as a template for a broader free trade area that would encompass all 21 members of APEC.

TPP leaders confirmed on Tuesday that there is a "growing interest" by new countries in the negotiations, without naming anyone in particular, though rumours have increased in recent weeks that Thailand and South Korea are mulling the possibilities of joining.

Current members are "engaging" with other countries in the region about their potential for future participation, they added.

China is not currently part of the negotiations, but has lately demonstrated an increased interest in the content of the TPP. Concurrently, Beijing has been involved in a sixteen-

country negotiation of its own, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership – a new group that includes some TPP participants as well as all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), but does not involve the US.

Along with the US and Japan, the group negotiating the TPP includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

ICTSD reporting; "US warns TPP deal could miss deadline," FINANCIAL TIMES, 8 October 2013; "U.S. trade official says to seek TPP deal by year-end," REUTERS, 8 October 2013; "TPP members encouraged by Japan 'determination'," FINANCIAL TIMES, 7 October 2013; "More Trans-Pacific Trade Talks Needed to Reach Year-End Deal Goal," THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 6 October 2013; "Let's not be hasty on TPP, Key cautions," THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 8 October 2013.

CLIMATE CHANGE

UN Body to Develop Global Aviation Emissions Plan

Members of the UN's civil aviation body agreed last week to develop a global plan for reducing airline carbon emissions, in a move that was touted by members as a "landmark" decision. The result, however, has also cast into doubt the next steps for the aviation component of the EU's own Emissions Trading System (ETS).

Under the agreement, which was clinched last Friday following a two-week meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, the 191 members of the UN group have pledged to develop a proposal for the first-ever global market-based mechanism (MBM) on aviation emissions by 2016.

Aimed at lowering pollution from a sector responsible for three percent of the world's emissions, the final mechanism would then enter into force by 2020, according to the ICAO roadmap.

"This MBM agreement is an historic milestone for air transport and for the role of multilateralism in addressing global climate challenges," ICAO Council President Roberto Kobeh González said following the Montreal meetings.

Airline industry groups, such as the International Air Transport Association (IATA), have similarly welcomed the ICAO result.

"Airlines need and want a global MBM," [said](#) Tony Tyler, IATA's Director General and CEO. "Without losing any of the momentum built up over these last two weeks, we are eager to get on with the detailed work needed to design the global scheme in time for finalisation at the 2016 Assembly."

The news followed days of intense negotiations, and years of preceding discussions that appeared, until just months ago, to have little end in sight. However, what form such a global mechanism might take remains to be seen, and some critics have said that last week's ICAO decision is not as strong as environmental advocates had hoped.

Even if a plan is developed by 2016, they note, this does not guarantee that it will be formally adopted, or how stringent it will be, given that some of the most difficult negotiations still lie ahead.

EU ETS: Fate of aviation rule unclear

The ICAO resolution includes a section saying that countries must seek the agreement of other nations before imposing their own market-based measures, a provision that put the aviation component of the EU's regional scheme, the ETS, squarely in the spotlight.

The EU brought aviation into its ETS in January 2012, in the hopes of spurring action at ICAO after negotiations there failed to bear fruit. The move – which required airlines landing in or taking off from the 28-nation bloc to surrender carbon permits equalling their emissions over their whole flight – was quickly panned by over two dozen countries, including the US, China, and Russia.

These opposing countries, a self-dubbed "coalition of the unwilling," ultimately agreed on a series of potential countermeasures that they could take to combat the EU rule, including boycotting the measure or assessing its WTO compatibility. Some studies, such as a 2012 ICTSD paper by Cambridge professor Lorand Bartels, have suggested that the aviation component of the EU scheme is likely WTO-compliant. (Editor's note: ICTSD is the publisher of Bridges.)

After months of escalating controversy and speculation of a potential "trade war," Brussels ultimately announced last November that it would be "stopping the clock" on including aviation emissions from non-EU countries in the ETS for one year, effective from April 2013 to April 2014, in an effort to allow ICAO time to make progress toward a global deal. (See Bridges Weekly, [14 November 2012](#))

In the weeks leading up the ICAO meeting, the EU offered to go a step further, and include in its ETS only the portions of a flight taking place in the bloc's airspace, rather than over the entire flight, as originally envisioned in the scheme. (See Bridges Weekly, [12 September 2013](#))

This concession was reportedly panned at the ICAO meeting. Even with the pushback, however, EU officials, such as Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard, welcomed last week's overall ICAO decision, noting that the global mechanism was always the 28-nation bloc's primary goal. "The EU's hard work has paid off," she said in a statement, referring to the plans for a global scheme.

"What matters to us is that the aviation sector also contributes to our efforts to reduce emissions. While we would have liked more countries to accept our regional scheme, progress was made overall and we will now factor this in when, together with the member states and the European Parliament, we decide on the way forward with the EU ETS," the EU climate chief continued.

Under EU law, the Commission must agree any changes in the bloc's legislation with both the Parliament and the Council. Some EU parliamentarians, particularly the Greens, have already said that they will not support removing aviation by foreign airlines from the scheme.

Environment groups, while welcoming the possibility of a global cap on airline emissions, have also warned that stopping individual countries or regions from taxing emissions within their own borders could be taking a step backward in the fight against climate change.

"On one hand, ICAO has opened a door to the possibility of a future global cap on these emissions and an array of programs," [said](#) Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) International Counsel Annie Petsonk. "But a bedrock principle of international law is that nations have the sovereign right to limit pollution emitted in their borders."

ICTSD reporting; "UPDATE 1-U.N. aviation body agrees on emissions deal," REUTERS, 3 October 2013; "ICAO rebukes EU ETS," EUROPEAN VOICE, 4 October 2013; "Global Emissions Plan for Airlines Gets First UN Approval," BLOOMBERG, 1 October 2013; "ICAO members reach last-minute deal on climate change," MONTREAL GAZETTE, 4 October 2013.

GLOBAL ECONOMY

Asia-Pacific Leaders Press for WTO Outcome in Bali

Success at the WTO's upcoming ministerial conference is of "utmost importance," leaders from 21 Asia-Pacific nations urged during their annual summit this past week, warning that a failure to clinch a deal for the December meeting could have lasting ramifications for the multilateral trading system. The political push comes as Geneva-based negotiators race to meet an end-October deadline to conclude their main negotiations.

"We are now at the eleventh hour to put the negotiating function of the WTO back on track," APEC leaders warned in Bali on Tuesday, noting that the next step will be "critical" for both the global trade body's role and the multilateral trading system as a whole.

Leaders also "strongly encouraged" all of the global trade body's members to show both flexibility and political will during the coming weeks in order to resolve the existing divides.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation – also known as APEC – summit had been touted as an opportunity to give additional political momentum to the WTO negotiations, in light of the limited time remaining before the 159-member body kicks off its biennial December ministerial, which will also be held in Bali.

WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, who took the helm of the global trade body at the beginning of September, has been conducting a series of intensive consultations with members over the past month, in the hopes of facilitating an agreement in time for the ministerial. Though there have been reports of a new negotiating dynamic in Geneva, the new trade chief has warned in recent weeks that political engagement from capitals will be key to bringing the process to a successful close.

"It is a clear possibility: a first harvest is within reach," Azevêdo [told](#) APEC trade ministers last week, calling for their help. "But we are not there yet – in fact the challenges are still quite significant and time is running out."

The APEC summit is one of several international trips the WTO chief is making to build momentum for the Bali package. He attended the G-20 summit in Russia last month, and is next slated to attend the World Bank-International Monetary Fund Annual Meetings in Washington in the coming days.

Back in Geneva, negotiations have continued in the Director-General's absence. Reporting back to WTO members on Tuesday on the APEC conference, Azevêdo [noted](#) that Bali preparatory process will enter their final stages on Monday, urging them to be prepared.

"The moment of truth will have arrived," he said. "Starting next Monday, every hour is a working hour and every day is a working day."

ITA talks to resume

Negotiations to expand the coverage of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), a plurilateral WTO pact that eliminates tariffs on trade in information and communication technology products, are also expected to resume in the coming weeks, following discussions involving some of the participants on the APEC summit sidelines.

The ITA dates back to the mid-1990s, and a subset of the group's participants have spent over a year working to develop a list of new products to add to the agreement's coverage in order to reflect the changes in world trade since 1996. A revised ITA had been touted as another possible deliverable for the WTO's ministerial conference in December.

However, the talks were suspended in July, due to differences between China and other participants over which products to include. Specifically, Beijing had indicated a series of product lines that it deemed too sensitive for inclusion. Other members – such as the US – in turn argued that China had asked to exclude too many items. (See Bridges Weekly, [18 July 2013](#))

China has now agreed to reduce the list of items it wishes to exclude from consideration, officials said, paving the way for the ITA talks to resume within the coming weeks.

"I'm pleased to announce that there is a hopeful sign this week of our ability to work creatively together to solve problems and make progress in the WTO," US Trade Representative Mike Froman [told](#) reporters on Saturday. "We were happy to work with China and others to get the information technology agreement talks back on track."

Global growth, trade prospects in focus

Discussions on trade at the APEC summit also brought into focus the latest developments on the global economic recovery, with leaders highlighting the various policy actions they have taken as a group, and individually, to limit risk and improve financial market conditions.

"Nevertheless, global growth is too weak, risks remain tilted to the downside, global trade is weakening, and the economic outlook suggests growth is likely to be slower and less balanced than desired," they warned.

With this in mind, APEC leaders extended their "standstill" commitment – a pledge to refrain from raising barriers to trade and investment – to 2016, as well as their promise to undo any recent protectionist measures that have been put into place during the crisis.

Environmental goods

This year's meeting also gave leaders an opportunity to reiterate their earlier goal to lower tariffs to five percent or less on a list of 54 environmental goods by 2015. Though non-binding, the environmental goods agreement reached in 2012 was touted as having the potential to both spur growth in the sector and potentially reignite discussions at the WTO on environmental goods and services trade, which have lagged for years.

Leaders pledged this week to "advance implementation" of last year's environmental goods commitment, while also announcing the establishment of an APEC public-private partnership on environmental goods and services. The partnership would build on their existing work on trade and investment in this sector, leaders said.

More information

The APEC countries encompass over half of the world's economic output, with their combined GDP hitting US\$40 trillion in 2012, according to US government statistics. The regional grouping's 21 members include Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), Thailand, the US, and Vietnam.

ICTSD reporting.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

WIPO Assemblies End in Stalemate Over Design Law Treaty, Budget

The World Intellectual Property Organization brought its annual meetings to a dramatic close last week, with members calling for a follow-up "extraordinary session" to be held in December after delegates were unable to reach agreement on several key issues, ranging from the organisation's budget to the next steps for a proposed "industrial design law" treaty.

Last week's impasse reflected a "crisis of governance" at the UN body, South Korea said as the meetings drew to a close on Wednesday evening. Others said that WIPO members themselves were at fault. "We should not blame the WIPO secretariat for the lack of agreement among member states, we should blame ourselves," India said.

Throughout the two weeks of negotiations, WIPO's budget for 2014-2015 remained a particularly divisive issue, mainly over the issue of external offices. The UN body currently has four external offices outside of its Geneva headquarters, and had proposed opening five new ones in Africa, China, Russia, and the US.

The proposal was met by demands from some members, such as Germany, for greater transparency in the selection process. Various members also made the case for establishing offices in their respective countries and regions. African countries, for instance, noted that their continent is the only region lacking WIPO offices, despite needing them for capacity building and technical assistance. The matter was ultimately left unresolved.

Industrial design law treaty sparks controversy

Whether to convene a diplomatic conference – WIPO's highest level of negotiations – in order to adopt a proposed "industrial design law" treaty was another issue that was left on the table after the Assemblies ended. The proposed treaty aims to harmonise industrial design registration formalities at the international level, and has been under discussion since 2009.

In the early days of the Assemblies, some members, such as the EU, had suggested that a design law treaty was in "easy reach." Developing countries had similarly welcomed the proposed treaty, in principle. As the meetings went on, however, the latter group stressed that any legal instrument must include specific provisions regarding technical assistance and capacity building.

Members were ultimately unable to agree on a future work plan for WIPO's Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), the committee dealing with the design law discussions. The plan had included proposals for the committee's work on exceptions and limitations to copyright with regards to libraries and archives.

The General Assembly was also unable to reach consensus on whether to convene a diplomatic conference for a treaty that would facilitate the protection of broadcasting organisations.

IGC mandate renewed

Despite the impasse on these issues, delegates did agree to renew the mandate of the WIPO committee tasked with devising a regime for the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) was created in 2000 to address concerns regarding the misappropriation and misuse of the above-mentioned resources, a practice commonly referred to as bio-piracy.

Early on in the Assemblies, WIPO members agreed on a detailed work programme for the next two years, including plans to hold a high-level meeting of ambassadors at the beginning of the IGC's upcoming February session. The committee must also report to next year's General Assembly, so that the latter may issue a decision regarding a possible diplomatic conference.

The timing of such a conference is likely to remain contentious in meetings to come. Despite the agreement on the work plan, members continued to be at odds over issues such as the diplomatic conference's timing, whether an instrument would be legally binding, and how advanced the current draft texts are.

While developing countries say that a diplomatic conference could be held within two years' time, developed countries maintained at last week's meetings that this would be premature. The latter set also has reservations over whether an instrument protecting these resources should be legally binding, which has long been a demand of developing countries.

Any international instrument should be "non-binding, flexible, and sufficiently clear," the EU said last week, adding that Brussels would have preferred a less extensive work programme for the upcoming biennium.

In a separate development, members have also agreed to advance the revision of an existing WIPO treaty, the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origins and Geographical Indications, with a diplomatic conference now slated for 2015 or sooner.

Development expenditure

The General Assembly has also asked member states to continue consulting on a proposal to revise the current definition of "development expenditure," in the hopes of reaching a final version sometime next year. The wording of the definition directly affects how the UN body allocates its funds towards development activities.

Under the current definition, spending qualifies as development expenditure only in instances where the beneficiaries are developing countries, and as long as the same type of expenditure is not provided to developed countries.

The revised version builds on this classification, noting that such expenditures should also directly contribute to helping developing countries "derive benefits from the IP system, [and] reduce the knowledge gap between developed and developing countries." The new definition also specifies a list of activities that would further these goals.

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

EU-US Trade Talks Delayed as Govt Shutdown Continues in Washington

The second round of EU-US trade talks have been postponed as a result of the continuing government shutdown in Washington, officials announced last week. The talks were originally scheduled for 7-11 October in Brussels.

It was impossible to send the necessary officials to Europe for the talks, US Trade Representative Michael Froman said in explaining the decision. With no clear end to the budget stalemate in sight, no new date for the negotiating round has been set.

This second round was meant to have focused primarily on regulatory issues and standards, which are widely viewed as the most difficult part of the newly-launched trade negotiations. Officials from both sides had said that they hope negotiators can complete a "commonly agreed" outline of the regulatory and rules component of the pact by January, in time for a political review; it was unclear as Bridges went to press whether this timeline would be changed due to the delay. (See Bridges Weekly, [3 October 2013](#))

While EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht [described](#) the news as "unfortunate," he added that it did not undermine both sides' "clear commitment" to the negotiations.

Other trade initiatives have also felt the ramifications of the US federal government shutdown over the past week, with US President Barack Obama having to unexpectedly cancel his trip to Bali for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, as well as his participation in the related meetings regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership talks.

ICTSD reporting; "Amid Shutdown, US Cancels Trade Talks with the EU," THE HILL, 4 October 2013; "US Budget Trouble Hits EU Trade Talks," EU OBSERVER, 7 October 2013.

Australia PM Aims to Clinch China Trade Pact in 2014

Newly-minted Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has pledged to complete trade talks with China – which date back to 2005 – in the next 12 months. The two sides have already held 19 rounds since the negotiations began.

Neighbouring New Zealand already has its own agricultural trade deal with China, which the Australian leader credits as added incentive to bring Canberra's talks with Beijing to a rapid close. "They managed to go from start to finish much more quickly than we have been able to manage over the last few years of the former government," Abbott told reporters.

The Australian Prime Minister took office just last month, after his party won a landslide election victory against Labor, which had been in power for the previous six years. Improved

trade ties with China had also been a stated government priority under the tenures of both of Abbott's predecessors, Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard.

Despite the push to finalise a deal, trade observers note that major hurdles – such as disagreement on how to deal with investments from state-owned enterprises, or agricultural market access – remain, and could slow down the process.

Abbott is set to visit China next year, by invitation from Chinese President Xi Jinping. However, the Australian Prime Minister has conceded that it is unlikely the trade pact could be finalised before the trip.

ICTSD reporting; "Tony Abbott Driving China Trade Deal," THE AUSTRALIAN, 8 October 2013; "Australian PM Pledges to Finalize FTA with China in 12 Months," XINHUA, 7 October 2013.

Russia Restricts Lithuanian Dairy Products, Fuelling EU Trade Row

Russia has announced that it will be banning some imports of dairy products from Lithuania due to alleged quality and safety concerns, with the measure taking effect this past Monday. The move is the latest salvo in a growing row between the EU and Russia over trade with Eastern European nations.

Lithuania, which is the current holder of the EU's rotating presidency, is hosting the bloc's Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius this November. Leaders hope to finalise at the meeting a series of EU association agreements with several former ex-Soviet countries, specifically Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Moscow, however, has sharply criticised its neighbours' – particularly Kiev's – plans to ink such deals, over fears that this could jeopardise Russia's own plans to bring these countries into its customs union with Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Russia has said that the Lithuania-focused ban is not politically motivated; however, pundits have been quick to point out that Moscow has already restricted imports of Moldovan wine and Georgian mineral water in recent weeks, while simultaneously ratcheting up its rhetoric regarding the association agreements.

Brussels officials, in turn have questioned Moscow's safety claims, with European Commission spokesman for health and consumer policy Frederic Vincent telling reporters that the EU's system is the "most stringent in the world" with regards to food safety.

The dairy industry is responsible for about one-fifth of Lithuania's agricultural production, with the Russian market accounting for about 85 percent of the Baltic state's total dairy exports.

ICTSD reporting, "Russia halts Lithuanian dairy imports before EU summit," REUTERS, 7 October 2013; "Russia bans Lithuanian dairy amid EU tensions," AFP, 6 October 2013.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Coming soon

11 October, Washington, US. "RESPONDING TO FINANCIAL CRISIS: LESSONS FROM ASIA THEN, THE UNITED STATES, AND EUROPE NOW" This Peterson Institute for International Economics webcast will focus on a study released jointly with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on financial crises responses. The study contrasts Asia's successes in responding to the recent crisis with its performance during its own crisis in the late 1990s, and elaborates on the potential gap between the recommendations for Asia made by US and EU leaders then and what the latter economies are practicing themselves in today's context. For more information about the webcast, and related event materials, click [here](#).

11 October, Washington. US. "THE ROAD TO A NEW GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES." This event, hosted by the Global Economy and Development department at the Brookings Institution, will feature a discussion on the challenges and opportunities inherent in reaching a new treaty on global climate change. Discussants will include government officials involved in the UN talks, private sector leaders, and representatives from academia. More information is available on the [website](#).

14-15 October, Manila, Philippines. TRAINING WORKSHOP ON MAXIMIZING ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND CLIMATE. This Asian Development Bank training event aims to address current concerns in the areas of climate change and environmentally sustainable growth, specifically with regards to "climate proofing" in new investment projects. The programme aims to bring back the focus to environmental issues, such as biodiversity and air pollution, while continuing to address the climate change agenda. For more information on the event visit ADB's [website](#).

17 October, London, UK. "CHINA: STUMBLING BLOCKS TO GROWTH." This event will feature Professor Kerry Brown, Associate Fellow of the Asia Programme at the Chatham House, as the guest speaker. Brown will discuss the main challenges for China's new administration as it aims to deliver fast, sustainable growth over the coming decade. He will identify the main obstacles to growth, such as low consumption levels and an underdeveloped service sector, and then assess the economic and political costs for the new administration of addressing these imbalances. More information is available at the Chatham House [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.

11 October: Working Party on the Accession of Kazakhstan

14 October: Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products

15 October: Committee on Trade and Development - Session on Aid for Trade

15 October: Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

16 October: Committee on Trade and Environment

16 - 18 October: Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Other Upcoming Events

23 October, London, UK. "BETWEEN MONOPOLY AND MARKET: THE EVOLUTION OF RUSSIA'S GAS POLICY." At this Chatham House event, speakers will discuss the new drivers and future challenges for gas development in Russia. Along with an overview of the relationship between the Russian state and the gas industry over the past twenty years, participants will also review recent changes in gas pricing and taxation practices, as well as Moscow's export policies in this area. More information is available at the Chatham House [website](#).

24-25 October, Montreux, Switzerland. HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN A POST-2015 ERA: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL. This symposium – one of the preparatory events for the 2014 UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) – will focus on the post-2015 development agenda. The meeting will bring together experts from donor and programme countries, international organisations, civil society and the private sector to discuss how development cooperation can advance equitable and sustainable development, among various other related subjects. More information is available [here](#).

12-13 November, Santiago, Chile. UNCTAD REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON PROMOTING SERVICES DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LAC). This event is being organised jointly by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), together with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA). The goal is to bring together regional stakeholders, along with various development partners and donors, in order to exchange views on the topic of promoting services sector development and trade-led growth. Participants will also work to identify elements of a Latin American agenda relating to policymaking and trade negotiations in services. More information is available on the [website](#).

Resources

THE INTERNET ECONOMY ON THE RISE: PROGRESS SINCE THE SEOUL DECLARATION. By the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (September 2013). This publication reviews progress made since the 2008 OECD Seoul Declaration for the Future of the Internet Economy and identifies areas for future work. Overall, the review finds that the internet economy has become a new source of growth, with the potential to boost the global economy; to foster innovation, competitiveness, and user participation; and to contribute effectively to the prosperity of society as a whole. Click here for the full [report](#).

CHANGING COURSE TO FEED THE WORLD IN 2050. By Timothy A. Wise and Marie Brill for the Global Development and Environment Institute (GDAE) at Tufts University (October 2013). This report argues that many of the public pronouncements calling for a doubling of global food production by 2050 are based on incorrect economic forecasting and characterisations of such research. The authors say that GDAE estimates instead suggest the need and the capacity to increase agricultural production by 60 percent over 2005–7 levels by 2050. This working paper, and the related ActionAid report, reviews the economic forecasting on which most of the 2050 pronouncements are based, presents alternative modelling, and identifies areas in which further research can guide decision-makers in adapting current policies. For the full report click [here](#)

ENDING GLOBAL DEFORESTATION: POLICY OPTIONS FOR CONSUMER COUNTRIES. By Duncan Brack with Rob Bailey for the Chatham House and Forest Trends (September 2013). This report considers the consumer-country measures that have been used to exclude illegal timber from agricultural commodity supply chains, and evaluates whether these could potentially be used to exclude key illegal or unsustainable agricultural products associated with deforestation. Measures considered include public procurement policy, differential tariffs, other government regulations, bilateral agreements, requirements on companies, regulation of finance and investment, and working with the private sector. For the full report, click [here](#).

ENHANCING CHINA'S MEDIUM-TERM GROWTH PROSPECTS: THE PATH TO A HIGH-INCOME ECONOMY. By Malhar Nabar and Papa N'Diaye for the International Monetary Fund (October 2013). This working paper notes that China's current growth model, despite its various successes, has become too reliant on credit and investment and has therefore begun to experience diminishing returns. Delays in advancing the government's reform agenda will mean that vulnerabilities continue to grow, increasing the probability of stalled convergence, the authors say. On the other hand, with reforms to accelerate total factor productivity (TFP) growth and shift the economy away from its continued reliance on capital accumulation, this report finds that China can grow at a healthy pace and maintain its convergence toward the level of high-income economies. Evidence from China's provinces indicates that there is room to improve productivity and sustain such a convergence toward the level of more prosperous economies. The full report is available [here](#).

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