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PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS

TPP Talks Report Progress, While Missing Year-End Target

The twelve countries negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement will be extending their talks into 2014, ministers announced on Tuesday, despite having achieved "substantial progress" during an intensive series of talks in Singapore.

The 12-country group had previously set the end of 2013 as its target date for concluding the talks, and had held to that objective throughout the year, while giving informal indications that the negotiations could last longer if the substance demanded it.

After a four-day meeting this week in the Asian city-state, reports have indicated that members are indeed very close to inking an agreement, with many speculating that an announcement could come in the early months of the new year. Ministers will next meet in January following additional work by negotiators, they said, without giving an exact date or location for these talks.

Ministers did confirm on Tuesday that they were able to identify potential "landing zones" for the parts of the text that are not yet closed. These, along with market access issues, will be the focus of their upcoming work, they said in a brief [statement](#).

The twelve members of the TPP are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the US, and Vietnam – a group whose combined GDP amounted to US\$28.1 trillion last year. The deal, if completed, would cover a market of 793 million consumers.

Bali momentum?

The meeting in Singapore came on the heels of the WTO's Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali, which concluded its meetings on Saturday morning with the news that the 159-member global trade body had adopted its first global trade deal in nearly two decades. (For more on the WTO meeting, see related story, this issue)

Many observers had speculated that some of the momentum from the WTO gathering could carry over to the talks in Singapore, particularly since TPP ministers also had the chance to meet bilaterally on the Bali conference sidelines.

Trade analysts have also been watching the TPP talks closely, along with the advances being made in another new "mega-regional," the Trans-Atlantic Trade and



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development

Investment Partnership recently launched by the US and the EU. Observers say that the developments seen in these agreements could have the potential to advance trade rule-making, which could in turn spark progress back at the WTO.

However, some critics have argued that these deals could instead detract from the focus to conclude the WTO's Doha Round, and could leave smaller economies on the sidelines.

The TPP talks also continue to face intense scrutiny by the public, with activists raising questions on various points, such as the proposed intellectual property provisions of the pact. The release this week of additional "leaked" documents pertaining to the talks have only served to fuel the ongoing debate. The documents, which were published by the Huffington Post and anti-secrecy website Wikileaks, purport to outline members' various negotiating positions, though their authenticity has not been verified.

US-Japan dynamic

Much of the focus in recent weeks has also been on whether the US and Japan – the two largest economies participating in the TPP – can resolve their own set of issues. When Washington signed off on Tokyo's joining the talks, it was with the understanding that both sides would also hold bilateral negotiations in parallel on certain subjects, with the outcome being folded into the TPP final agreement. (See Bridges Weekly, [18 April 2013](#))

TPP members earlier this year had praised Japan for appearing willing to put as much as possible on the table, with New Zealand Trade Minister Tim Groser commending Tokyo's "determination to be bold." (See Bridges Weekly, [10 October 2013](#))

Since then, the question over whether Japan will actually be able to agree on full tariff elimination on certain agricultural products – rice, beef and pork, wheat, sugar, and dairy – that are "sacred" to the Asian island country has been a key area of focus for negotiators.

Tokyo, for its part, has stressed in recent weeks that it has limited flexibility in this area, pushing instead to maintain some existing protections on those goods.

"On our side, there are certain things that we cannot compromise on due to parliamentary resolution," Yasutoshi Nishimura, Japanese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, told reporters late on Monday, according to the Wall Street Journal. "We have explained this many times to the US and have asked for their flexibility."

US officials, for their part, have urged Tokyo to yield more ground. Automobiles are another long-standing issue for the two trading partners, with Tokyo reportedly pushing Washington to lift its import tariffs on cars early on.

South Korea on the way?

South Korea has also expressed interest in recent weeks in becoming a TPP member, though whether it will be able to join the pact before or after a deal is signed is unclear. TPP members have generally welcomed the Asian economy's interest in the talks, while qualifying that Seoul will only be invited to join if all current members agree.

"As with previous prospective members, these consultations will focus on Korea's readiness to meet high standards across the TPP, as well as to address outstanding bilateral issues of concern including full implementation of existing obligations," US Trade Representative Mike Froman [said](#) in November.

ICTSD reporting; "Trans-Pacific Nations Try for Trade Pact Despite Differences," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 9 December 2013; "After WTO, expectations grow for Trans-Pacific trade deal," REUTERS, 9 December 2013; "TPP countries to miss year-end deadline, continue talks," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 9 December 2013.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Success in Bali Sparks Questions over Doha, WTO Future

Trade ministers meeting in Bali last week formally agreed on the WTO's first multilateral pact in nearly 20 years, in a feat that has been broadly welcomed as an "historic" achievement. In addition to the economic benefits that such a deal could provide – with some estimates placing its value at US\$1 trillion in global GDP – the news has also sparked renewed interest and debate over what 2014 may bring for the international organisation.

This year's Ministerial Conference, which is the WTO's highest decision-making body, was a particularly suspenseful one, with negotiations dragging into the night on multiple occasions. The event itself was extended by an extra day, in order to resolve a late push by Cuba to include language in the trade facilitation agreement that would have effectively targeted the US embargo. (A full breakdown of the five-day meeting is available [here](#))

The final outcome was a trade facilitation agreement, along with decisions and declarations on four agricultural issues, and select development-focused provisions – including four that are specific to least developed countries.

Though many have been quick to note that the package agreed in Bali represents just a fraction of the outstanding issues in the Doha Round negotiations – and has skirted the most difficult ones – trade officials have generally stressed that the achievement in Indonesia may have a much greater systemic value: that of reinstating confidence in the WTO's negotiating abilities.

The deal in Bali comes at a time where some in the trade community have worried that so-called mega-regionals, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, have stolen the limelight from the multilateral talks at the WTO, particularly given the repeated setbacks that the Doha Round talks have faced over the past dozen years.

"We have strengthened this organisation; and we have bolstered the cause of multilateralism itself," Director-General Roberto Azevêdo said on Saturday. World leaders have echoed that sentiment, with US President Barack Obama [praising](#) the achievement in Bali as a "rejuvenation of the multilateral trading system." EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso similarly [remarked](#) that "the WTO is back on track and delivering reform."

Next steps for "Bali package"

With the Bali conference in the rearview mirror, trade watchers are now looking to see what will come next for the 159-member body.

One question, sources say, will be how exactly to incorporate the trade facilitation deal into the existing WTO Agreement, a process that will begin after the necessary "legal scrubbing" of the text from Bali takes place. Another question is how long the ratification process itself will take in order to bring the new deal into force.

Two-thirds of WTO members will need to ratify the new trade facilitation deal for it to take effect for those members. Those who do not ratify it, meanwhile, will not be bound by it. Some trade officials have suggested that this process could take at least two years.

What also remains to be seen is how developing countries decide to use the new flexibility on food stocks provided for in the draft Bali package, and how quickly they do so. Other questions, such as when members will take the next steps for operationalising the services waiver for least developed countries, also remain.

New chapter for Doha?

Last week's ministerial declaration includes a section referring to a post-Bali agenda for the organisation, mainly focusing on how to reinvigorate the rest of the Doha Round negotiations. The 12-year talks have been stalled for years, and many trade observers had been looking to Bali for signs on whether or not the beleaguered negotiations could be kick-started once more.

The need to find a solution for the broader Doha Round was highlighted repeatedly by officials last week, with conference chair Gita Wirjawan, Indonesia's trade minister, urging WTO members last week to "take the energy and optimism we have gained here and apply it in Geneva."

"We have crossed the finish line in Bali, but the race is not yet over — now we must complete the Doha Round," he said.

Azevêdo, in his closing remarks, similarly noted that the Bali decisions were a reaffirmation of members' commitment to the WTO, and to "the delivery of the Doha Round agenda."

According to the ministerial declaration issued last Saturday, work on issues in the Doha Round that were not fully addressed in Bali "will resume in the relevant Committees or Negotiating Groups of the WTO."

It further states that the "work programme will be developed in a way that is consistent with the guidance provided at [the 2011 ministerial conference in Geneva], including the need to look at ways that may allow members to overcome the most critical and fundamental stumbling blocks" – language that observers are already parsing for an indication of what this could mean in practice.

For some, this refers to possibly pursuing plurilateral initiatives that could later be multilateralised to the whole WTO membership – a controversial topic.

While some subsets of the WTO membership have already begun exploring plurilateral deals, such as the Trade in Services Agreement currently under negotiation, others have warned that these efforts could actually serve as a distraction from the Doha Round talks.

Others say that this work programme will likely take the form of future WTO "mini-packages," such as the one seen in Bali.

Though many have welcomed the renewed prospects for advancing the Doha Round talks, they have also noted that earlier pledges to advance the negotiations have only been met with stalemate. Whether the success in Bali could change the game, they say, is at this stage impossible to predict.

The next major meeting on the international trade calendar is the World Economic Forum in Davos, where various ministers traditionally meet on the event sidelines in order to assess the Doha Round's progress and begin making plans for the upcoming year. The WTO's first General Council meeting of the year, while not yet officially scheduled, is usually held a few weeks later, in February.

ICTSD reporting.

PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS

Fallout Escalates From Ukraine's EU Trade Pact Reversal

Three weeks after Ukraine withdrew from signing a trade deal with the EU, the political crisis it sparked continues to grip the country. Leaders from Kiev and Brussels were originally set to ink an association agreement, including a free trade pact, in late November at the third Eastern Partnership (EaP) summit in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius.

Thousands of riot police moved in on Kiev's Maidan Square in the early hours of Wednesday morning – leaving later in the day after a rough confrontation with protesters. The move came just hours after Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich began two-day long talks with EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, provisionally designed to rekindle the stalled integration process.

In a televised meeting the night before, Yanukovich pledged, "we will go down the European path," according to the Financial Times. A few days prior, the Ukrainian leader had met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi to discuss a "strategic partnership."

Pro-EU protestors have flocked to the Ukrainian capital over the past few weeks, initially taking control of the municipal city government building, erecting central barricades, and pulling down Kiev's last remaining statute of Lenin. Foreign policy leaders from around the globe have urged the president not to resort to force when dealing with the protests.

Around sixty percent of Ukrainians support further integration with the EU, while forty percent would like to see a move towards the Russian-led customs union, [according](#) to the Peterson Institute for International Economics' Anders Åslund.

The EU's EaP initiative was put into motion in 2009, and is aimed at forging closer economic and trade links between the 28-country bloc and six partner countries in Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus. The Ukraine itself has been negotiating an Association Agreement with the EU since March 2007 and a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) pact since February 2008.

The potential agreement has turned into a tug-of-war in recent months. As Ukraine appeared close to shifting trade ties westwards, Russia banned imports of its neighbour's chocolate and other food substances. Experts have also cited energy supply as a critical pressure point – the country is currently US\$2 billion in debt to Russia's Gazprom. Armenia received a 30 percent gas price cut earlier this month, a few weeks after it too jilted the EU EaP option.

In an interview with the Financial Times however, Alexander Medvedev, the energy group's chief executive, dismissed the idea that the Ukraine would receive preferential rates, or debt re-structuring, as a result of joining the Russian economic-bloc as "naïve and primitive."

On Wednesday, Reuters reported that Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov was urging the EU to consider investing in "mutually profitable projects such as the modernisation and development of European transport corridors" – to the tune of €20 billion a year. Earlier in 2013, the EU had signed on to €610 million in macro-financial assistance,

designed to complement a future agreement between the Ukraine and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a sum lambasted by Yanukovich as insufficient.

Regardless of what Kiev decides, Ukraine is expected to face an uphill journey. Analysts suggest that the cash-strapped country has dangerously low levels of foreign reserves, with Citibank circulating a note to investors this week warning that the country would no longer be able to "muddle through." A US\$10-15 billion bailout from the IMF was put on hold in 2011 when expected reforms were not implemented, though Yanukovich recently indicated that his government was now ready to resume talks with the international finance institution.

In the European Parliament on Tuesday, Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle called for a [renewed effort](#) towards Ukraine,

"This is the time to be stronger and not weaker vis-à-vis the commitment to the reform path of the Ukraine," he said. Although acknowledging that the events in recent weeks had clouded the Vilnius summit, Füle emphasised that the door remained open to Kiev, while highlighting that other key deliverables of the EaP had been successfully achieved.

The Commissioner referred to Georgia and Moldova, also former Soviet-bloc countries, which initialled their respective Association Agreements with the EU, also including provisions to establish DCFTAs. These will now require signature by both sides, expected in 2014, followed by a decision to implement the trade components on a provisional basis pending full ratification.

The DCFTAs include the elimination or reduction of tariffs in goods trade, provisions to open up services trade, and commitments for both Georgia and Moldova to bring their legislation on a number of regulatory policy areas closer to that of the EU.

Several [other pieces](#) of the EaP also came to fruition in Vilnius, including a Visa Facilitation Agreement with Azerbaijan, and a Common Aviation Area Agreement with Ukraine.

ICTSD reporting; "Riot police withdraw from central Kiev," FINANCIAL TIMES, 11 December 2013; "Yanukovich promises EU talks in bid to defuse Ukraine crisis," FINANCIAL TIMES, 10 December 2013; "Gazprom denies cheap gas offer to Ukraine in tug-of-ties tussle," FINANCIAL TIMES, 5 December 2013; "Defying protesters, Ukraine's Yanukovich meets Putin on pact," REUTERS, 6 December 2013; "Ukraine seeks 20 billion euros in aid from EU, PM says," REUTERS, 12 December 2013; "Background briefing: Ukraine's fiscal conundrum," FINANCIAL TIMES, 28 November 2013.

IN BRIEF

US Congress Mulls Farm Bill Extension

US lawmakers are reportedly edging closer to a deal for a new Farm Bill, with some predicting that the legislation may be just a few weeks away. Many fear, however, that some parts of US farm policy – particularly dairy – will revert to Depression-era legislation if an extension or temporary legislative measure is not taken before 2013 draws to a close.

Congressional agriculture committees have been debating a Farm Bill – the omnibus legislation governing American farm policy – for over two years now. A bill was missed in 2012, and pundits predict that the same will occur this year. Cuts in food stamp expenditures and the nature of crop insurance programmes that will replace direct and other payments to farmers have held back a final deal.

Back in early January, the US Congress passed an extension to the 2008 Farm Bill in the context of a broader budget compromise, allowing continuity in farm policy. Analysts at the time had feared that if a bill was not passed, supply management policies for dairy would revert to programmes that would more than double the price of milk.

While the “dairy cliff” may have spurred action in January, Andrew Novakovic, an agricultural economics professor at Cornell University, told Bridges that there is currently a “decided lack of anxiety” about the supposed cliff since Congressional leaders are confident it can be avoided. He added that even if lawmakers somehow do not pass an extension of the expiring bill, the old programmes could be stalled through administrative measures by the US Secretary of Agriculture until Congress can pass new legislation this January.

ICTSD reporting.

“Fast Track” Legislation Slips into Slow Lane

With only a few days left in session, senior US lawmakers are unlikely to present a bill on the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) to Congress before year's end. Although last week brought reports of near-agreement on a draft text to put forward, no related hearings are scheduled for the coming days.

“I expect we will be in a position to [pass TPA] early next year,” Dave Camp, the Republican who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, told congressional newspaper The Hill on Tuesday. Leaders of Camp's committee, together with those from the Senate Finance Committee, had previously indicated something would be ready by year's end.

The legislation, known commonly as "fast track," would grant the US executive branch the authority to send a negotiated trade agreement to Congress for a straight up-or-down vote – eliminating the possibility of filibustering or amendments by lawmakers.

With the US looking both East and West towards concluding major regional trade agreements, the legislation, which lapsed in 2007, has been deemed important by trade negotiators seeking to assure their overseas partners that completed deals will not be unravelled in Congress.

Opposition last month from 173 House lawmakers formally declaring resistance to the legislation has made for an uncertain Hill journey for TPA. The White House has also weighed in, criticising Congress for a lack of momentum in bringing "fast track" up for a vote. (See Bridges Weekly [21 November 2013](#))

The bill had originally been slated for passage by the end of the year, in order to tie in with a potential finish line for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement. However, in light of the TPP Singapore Ministerial Statement released on Tuesday, which suggests further "[intensive work](#)" will continue into 2014, observers warn that the wind may now be absent from the TPA's sails. (For more on the TPP, see related story, this issue)

ICTSD reporting; "Fast-track opens door for US TPP approval," FINANCIAL TIMES, 6 December 2013; "Trade deals threatened by Hill opposition," THE HILL, 16 November 2013; "Fast-track authority, currency manipulation remain top trade issues amid TPP delay," THE HILL, 10 December 2013.

Australia, Korea Finish Trade Talks

Australia and Korea have finalised their negotiations for a bilateral trade pact, officials announced last Thursday, nearly five years after the talks were first launched. The deal, proponents say, could boost bilateral trade by as much as US\$4.5 billion between 2015 and 2030.

"Conclusion of this agreement will be good news for our exporters, good news for our farmers, good news for jobs, good news for growth, and good news for Australia," Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said.

The deal has received a warm welcome from the Australian farming community, in light of provisions that would lower Korean import tariffs on many agricultural goods, with the main exception being rice. Canberra, meanwhile, has agreed to lift tariffs on Korean-made automobiles, a key export for the Asian economy.

Other provisions include an investor-state dispute settlement mechanism, as well as cuts in Korean tariffs on Australian energy and minerals products, a key export for the country.

Both sides will still have to go through their own domestic approval processes before the deal can take effect.

Total bilateral trade between the two sides already hit A\$31.9 billion last year, or US\$29.1 billion. Korea is Australia's third largest export market, and fourth largest trading partner, according to Canberra statistics.

ICTSD reporting; "Australia, South Korea Reach Free-Trade Deal," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 5 December 2013; "Australia finalises free trade agreement with South Korea," THE GUARDIAN, 5 December 2013; "Farmers cheer Korea trade deal," THE AUSTRALIAN, 7 December 2013.

China Files New WTO Challenge Against US Trade Remedies

The US and China are once again set to face off at the WTO over the use of trade remedies, after Beijing filed a formal challenge against Washington at the global trade arbiter on 3 December. This marks the eighth case that China has launched against the US on the subject, four of which were submitted to the WTO this year alone.

This particular [complaint](#) focuses on 13 anti-dumping measures that the US has imposed against certain Chinese products, such as oil-well pipes.

In its consultation request, Beijing criticises the US Department of Commerce's decision to use "targeted dumping" methodology, which includes the controversial practice of zeroing, in trade remedy proceedings.

Chinese Ministry of Commerce spokesman Shen Danyang has [said](#) that the US agency's investigation involved a "series of wrong behaviors" that were in violation of WTO rules. These trade remedies have affected US\$8.4 billion of annual exports from Chinese enterprises, Shen said, "seriously [injuring] the legitimate interests of Chinese enterprises."

In trade law jargon, targeted dumping refers to a situation where dumping – the practice of selling products overseas at prices lower than their domestic value – is targeted to a specific region, period, or purchaser. If targeted dumping is found, the importing country can then use an alternative method of calculating dumping margins that determines normal value using an average of market prices. That average is then compared to the prices of individual export transactions, rather than the conventional "average-to-average" or "transaction-to-transaction" comparison.

Under WTO rules, members can use this alternative method provided certain conditions are met. The imposing country must also explain and justify the reason behind this change. Beijing alleges that Washington has not complied with these requirements.

Parties to a WTO dispute have 60 days to conduct consultations to resolve their differences. If this fails, the complainant may then request that a panel be established to hear the case.

The US is also facing a separate challenge from Korea dealing with Washington's targeted dumping methodology ([DS464](#)). That case is currently in the consultations phase.

ICTSD reporting.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Coming soon

16 December, Washington, US. DEEP INTEGRATION IN MEGA TRADE AGREEMENTS: WHAT ROLE FOR JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES? This public seminar, hosted by the Center for East Asia Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution, will analyse the priorities in the rules area of trade talks for Japan, the EU, and the US. The goal of this analysis will be to identify shared agendas and strategies to bridge negotiating differences, particularly in the context of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, and the Japan-EU trade talks. To learn more, or to register, click [here](#).

16 December, Tokyo, Japan. SEMINAR BY SHIRO ARMSTRONG: TPP, RCEP, AND THE OUTLOOK FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. This seminar, hosted by the Asian Development Bank Institute, will feature Dr. Shiro Armstrong of the Australian National University's Crawford School of Public Policy. Armstrong will discuss how the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership face challenges in deepening economic integration in East Asia and the Asia and Pacific region. One of the main challenges will be whether these two proposed deals can be complementary, rather than competing. How these pacts can also contribute to strengthening the multilateral trading system is another question Armstrong will address. More information is available at the ADBI [website](#).

17 December, New York, US. OWG ON SDGS: INFORMAL MEETING ON MEASURING PROGRESS. Ambassador Csaba Kőrösi of Hungary and Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya, the Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG on SDGs), will chair this informal meeting, with the goal of sharing with OWG members and other member states the relevant expertise and experience of the statistical community. The meeting will discuss experiences gained in the MDG monitoring and implementation in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, including a set of SDGs. Please note that a UN Groundspass is required for entry. More information is available [here](#).

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.

18 December: Dispute Settlement Body

Other Upcoming Events

22-25 January 2014, Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING 2014: The Reshaping of the World: Consequences for Society, Politics, and Business. This high-level event, hosted by the World Economic Forum, will focus on a range of global issues that the international community is currently facing. The aim of this event is for participants to develop the insights, initiatives, and actions necessary to

respond to current and emerging challenges, given the latest trends that are driving global, regional, and industry transformation. For more information, visit the event's [website](#).

23-28 January 2014, London, UK. MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ENERGY 2014. This event, sponsored by the Chatham House, will assess geopolitical and market developments affecting oil and gas producers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), in the context of shifting demand to growth economies and increasing competition from unconventional production. Sessions will also explore, among other topics, energy priorities and investment in North Africa, and the potential for hydrocarbon development in the Eastern Mediterranean region. For more information visit the event's [website](#).

17 March 2014, London, UK. GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKETS: NEW RULES ON MARKET STRUCTURE, TRADING AND FUNDING. This Chatham House conference will focus on current and planned reforms to market structure, trading practices, and non-bank credit intermediation activities. Participants are also set to examine what kind of policies and processes will provide regulatory and supervisory clarity and coherence. To learn more, visit the Chatham House [website](#).

3-21 March 2014, Washington, US. TRAINING SEMINAR: INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC PROCUREMENT. This training seminar, hosted by the International Law Institute, covers the institutional, legal, financial, and procedural issues involved in the procurement of goods and services by public entities and discusses reform programmes to improve transparency, efficiency, and accountability. The seminar is designed for government officials, academics, legal, and other private sector professionals. More information on the event is available [here](#). A full schedule of seminars planned for 2014 can be found at the ILI [website](#).

Resources

WHY GROWTH IN EMERGING ECONOMIES IS LIKELY TO FALL. By Anders Åslund for the Peterson Institute for International Economics (November 2013). In this working paper, the author argues that growth in emerging economies is likely to be lower in the years ahead, compared to what was seen from 2000-2012. Among the reasons, the author says, is that much of the "catch-up potential" has already been expended, while long-standing governance problems remain relatively intact. To access the paper, please click [here](#).

OECD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, VOLUME 2013 ISSUE 2. Published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (November 2013). In this analysis, part of a twice-yearly series by the OECD, the organisation reviews major economic trends while outlining the likely prospects for the next two years. Both OECD member countries and select non-members are included in the analysis. A preliminary version of the Outlook is available [here](#).

CLIMATE COMMISSIONER HEDEGAARD SUPPORTS RENEWABLES AND EFFICIENCY TARGETS. Published by viEUws, the EU Policy Broadcaster (December 2013). In this interview, conducted by viEUws, EU Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard highlights the importance of keeping renewables and efficiency targets. She also argues in favour of a more integrated energy policy at the EU level, and notes the particular value of the EU's Emissions Trading System. For more information, or to watch the interview, visit the viEUws [website](#).

TRADE FACILITATION FROM AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE. Published by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (November 2013). This paper analyses various trade facilitation issues from an African perspective. The focus is primarily technical, and was prepared in the context of the 3-7 December WTO Ministerial Conference. To learn more, or to download the paper, visit the UNECA [website](#).

HOW WILL CHINA GIVE MARKETS A "DECISIVE" ROLE? By Nicholas R. Lardy for the Peterson Institute for International Economics (November 2013). In this Peterson Perspectives Interview, Senior Fellow Nicholas R. Lardy assesses the prospects for the implementation of the Chinese Communist Party leadership's recent pledge to increase the economy's reliance on markets. To learn more, or to watch the interview, please click [here](#).

FOOD FOR THOUGHT. Published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). This blog is part of the "Food Security Portal" facilitated by IFPRI, and includes various posts related to last week's WTO Ministerial Conference. Other topics addressed include biofuels, the FAO Food Price Index, and various other subjects relating to food policy and trade. The blog is available [here](#).

ELIMINATING ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES IN REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS. Published by the National Board of Trade, Sweden (November 2013). The report provides an overview of those regional trade agreements that have eliminated the use of anti-dumping measures, as well as the legal foundations for this provision. The report argues that the inclusion of competition rules and other forms of policy harmonisation between member countries is a possible substitute for the use of anti-dumping measures in regional trade agreements. Unfair competition should be addressed by efficient competition rules rather than the use of anti-dumping measures. The replacement of anti-dumping measures with competition rules in regional trade agreements could, ultimately, be seen as a stepping stone and an example to follow in multilateral trade negotiations, the

authors say. The abolishment of intra-regional anti-dumping measures might also influence regional value chains in a positive way. The report can be found [here](#).

EFFECTS ON TRADE AND COMPETITION OF ABOLISHING ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES. Published by the National Board of Trade, Sweden (November 2013). The report provides an empirical analysis of the effects of abolishing anti-dumping measures within the EU at the time of its enlargement in 2004. The report observes that abolishing such measures does not necessarily cause injury, in terms of price undercutting and loss of market share, when the EU's integration is used as an example. The report also observes that competition rules in the EU would not be applicable to imports of products from acceding countries following the abolition of these measures. What were once considered as third country imports that caused injury to the domestic industry, as well as triggering the use of EU anti-dumping measures, have, since the enlargement, been considered normal business practices in the line with the requirements of "fair competition." To read the publication, click [here](#).

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<http://ictsd.org/news/bridges-africa/>
English language

PUENTES

Latin America-focussed analysis and news on trade and sustainable development
<http://ictsd.org/news/puentes/>
Spanish language

МОСТЫ

CIS-focussed analysis and news on trade and sustainable development
<http://ictsd.org/news/bridgesrussian/>
Russian language

PONTES

Analysis and news on trade and sustainable development for the Portuguese-speaking world
<http://ictsd.org/news/pontes/>
Portuguese language

桥

Analysis and news on trade and sustainable development for the Chinese-speaking world
<http://ictsd.org/news/qiao/>
Chinese language

PASSERELLES

Africa-focussed analysis and news on trade and sustainable development
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International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development
Chemin de Balexert 7-9
1219 Geneva, Switzerland
+41-22-917-8492
www.ictsd.org

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DGIS - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Netherlands

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

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Contributors to this issue are Ammad Bahalim,
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