

TRADE DISPATCH 2007 – Q3

UNDP Trade Activities in Europe and CIS



The Trade Dispatch is compiled once a quarter by the Trade sub-practice of the Poverty Group at UNDP's Regional Centre for Europe and CIS. If you have any suggestions, comments, or would like to be put on the mailing list, please contact: gina.volynsky@undp.org.

1. UNDP TRADE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN RBEC

Albania: TIRANA ,29 September 2007, Summer support tourist programme 2007

During the summer tourist season of 2007, UNDP Albania conducted a cultural and natural site survey in Berat, Gjirokaster, Butrint and Theth National Park. The survey aimed to provide detailed information about the socio-economic profile, activities, degree of satisfaction, expenditures and desires of visitors to the country. The data gathered will help Albania guide its investment in cultural and nature-based tourism as an important engine for future economic growth for the country.

The UNDP Albania **Eco and Cultural Tourism Support Programme** was launched in April 2006 to provide direct support to the Government in implementing its December 2005 tourism strategy, "Strategy and Action Plan for the Development of the Albanian Tourism Sector Based on Cultural and Environmental Tourism." Implemented in full partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, the primary objective of this programme is to support the Government of Albania in achieving its development objectives through building a successful tourism sector based on cultural and environmental assets. The programme supports the Ministry to strengthen its capacity to meet the challenges of modern tourism, and provides direct support in critical areas where the Ministry lacks human and other resources.

For more information, please contact lauren.bohatka@undp.org or visit www.undp.org.al/index.php?page=detail&id=68

Albania: Representatives of EC and UNDP travel for Kukes Regional Development Initiative

UNDP Resident Representative Mrs. Gülden Türköz-Cosslett and Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Albania, Ambassador Helmuth Lohan, travelled to Kukes for two days to review the progress made on the Kukes Regional Development Initiative (KRDI) and the Mine Action Completion Initiative funded by the EC and implemented by UNDP Albania. The KRDI project with an EC contribution of 4.2 million euros began in February 2005. The project aimed to improve basic infrastructure including water supply systems, sewage systems and school reconstruction for the poorest villages in the Kukes Region. The process of identifying and implementing these development projects was led by community-based organizations composed of citizens living in the communes of Kukes Region. The Kukes Regional Development Initiative is funded by the European Commission CARDS Programme and UNDP Albania.

For more information, please contact Nora.Kushti@undp.org or visit <http://www.undp.org.al/index.php?page=detail&id=67>

Georgia: The Study on the Impact of Free Trade Between Georgia and EU



The UNDP in Georgia has been commissioned by the government to study the impact of potential free trade agreement between EU and Georgia. The three experts have been selected who will prepared for a paper detailing all the aspects of the FTA. After the experts visited Georgia in April and met the key stakeholders. The development and implementation of the study is being supported by the Bratislava Regional Centre. November 2005 and October 2006, the EU's Food Security Programme has supported the provision of technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture through the framework project "Support for reforms in the areas of food safety and animal health". The project, of which this is the final report, assisted the adoption of the Law and Food Safety and Quality, which was passed in December 2005. The main achievements were: briefing policy makers to ensure an improved understanding of the need for key features within the food law (in terms of future EU market access, and functionality of a food safety system), discussions on feasibility and preparation of proposed legal drafts for exemptions and transitional measures to ensure that impacts on small enterprises were removed or deferred until a later date, along with licencing requirements, planning and agreement on a phased development of the institutional capacities within the Ministry of Agriculture and the proposed Food, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service, specifically with the objective of commencing meaningful food inspections by 1st January 2007

For more information, please contact Gina Volynsky – gina.volynsky@undp.org

Georgia: Analysis of Trade and Investment Systems Between the Bordering Regions of Georgia and Armenia



The UNDP in Georgia has started an analysis of trade and investment systems between the bordering regions of Georgia and Armenia within the cross-border cooperation project between Shirak Region, Armenia and the Samtskhe-Javakheti Region, Georgia. The objective of the study is to explore the existing trade/investments links between the regions, identify the challenges towards improving the links and develop a recommendation package that can activate and simplify trading, investment and transportation relations. The UNDP in Armenia is also conducting a similar study from the Armenian perspective. The results of the analysis will be effective.

For more information, please contact natia.natsvlshvili@undp.org or Sophia.svanadze@undp.org.ge

Serbia: Poverty Reduction and Economic Development (PRED) Cluster



In 2007, PRED maintains strong focus on social inclusion, participatory policy making and issues related to economic development in order to ensure that no one is left behind. Access to social protection and access to employment are the two main axis along which the program has been developing. Strong partnerships have been established primarily with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, with close cooperation being built with the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and Ministry of Youth and Sports as of June 2007.

For more information, please contact branka.andjelkovic@undp.org

Moldova: Debriefing on FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission



Following the severe drought during the 2007 agricultural season, the Government of Moldova requested that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations assess the effects of the drought on the food supply in order to develop appropriate measures to ensure food security, as well as to identify immediate and medium-term measures to mitigate the impact of drought on the agricultural sector.

For more information, please contact irina.ciobanu@undp.org

Uzbekistan: UNDP-supported legal database formally launched



Tashkent, 27 September 2007 - Deputy Justice Minister of Uzbekistan Esemurat Kanyazov presented at the Fifth Anniversary ICT Summit 2007 an online national legislation database – [Lex.uz](http://lex.uz), created at assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The website was officially launched with this presentation. [Lex.uz](http://lex.uz) aimed to develop and improve system on dissemination of legal information with use of new information technologies, including via Internet, and formation of reliable and full database of legislative documents, as well as provide access to state bodies, population and businesses to legal information.

See <http://www.undp.uz/en/news/story.php?id=553> for more information or contact nazar.talibdjanov@chamber.uz or nodir.khakimov@undp.org

Uzbekistan: Customs registration and declaration issues discussed



Tashkent city, 28 September 2007 -- Customs registration is one of the most important stages of interaction between foreign economic activity participants and customs bodies. It represents aggregate set of customs operations with respect to goods and vehicles moved across customs border. The cumulative set of aforesaid customs operations consist of a diversity of procedures and formalities, starting with operations preceding customs declaration filing, preliminary and actual declaration of goods, and ending with operations on completion of a customs regime under which the goods were placed. As seen from above-mentioned, customs registration is quite a complicated process and effective operation of each foreign economic activity participant and the economy in general heavily depend on levels of transparency and simplicity of passing each of these stages.

For more information, please contact: customs.uz@undp.org, dilshod.akbarov@cer.uz

Uzbekistan: UNDP official in Uzbekistan opens ICT Expo 2007



Tashkent city, 25 September 2007 - UNDP welcomed the organization of Information-Communication Technologies Exhibition (ICTExpo), which demonstrates the country's strong interest in the ICT development, UNDP official said on Tuesday at the opening of the exhibition in Tashkent. The Second National Information and Communication Technologies Exhibition – ICTExpo 2007 opened in Tashkent, capital city of Uzbekistan, on 25 September. ICTExpo 2007 was held within the ICT Week, which started on 24 September. The exhibition was organized by the Association of Uzbek IT enterprises and organizations at official support of the Agency for Communication and Information of Uzbekistan. UNDP Country Office in Uzbekistan acted as official partner through its

project “Assisting the Government of Uzbekistan in the formulation and implementation of ICT for development policy”.

For more information, please contact sophie.yip@diplobel.fed.be or visit the website http://europeandcis.undp.org/?menu=p_cms/show&content_id=7BA2A250-F203-1EE9-BA9B071B2C8A662C

2. TRADE NEWS – RBEC REGION

New EU states debate how to spend their 600m USD of aid

The total aid budget of the 12 new EU members is expected to exceed 1.3bn USD by 2010. The new members of the European Union will contribute to discussion on development cooperation priorities in preparation for the European Development Days (7-9 November). The European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and non-governmental organizations joined their efforts to raise public awareness in the new and emerging European donor countries by organizing parliamentary debates on development cooperation in each of the new member states. Previously recipients of aid, now members of the donor community with funding and invaluable experience - twelve countries, which joined the European Union after 1 May 2004 committed to reduce global poverty and support poorer nations in pursuing the Millennium Development Goals. Their debates was organized around 17 October - International Poverty Eradication Day. The events gathered decision-makers, members of parliaments, the international community and non-governmental organizations to discuss national, European and global development policies. The participants were primarily discussing their countries' contribution and role in building global partnership for development.

Sources: europeandcis.undp.org/mdgdebates, magda.sikorska@undp.pl

Poland :Pre-election debate on Poland facing global challenges



October 17, on the International Day for Eradication Poverty, first in the history of Polish parliamentary elections a debate took place with the participation of politicians devoted to the position of Poland in solving global challenges, such as poverty. Poland assigned last year 239 million Euro of aid for poorer countries. The debate was attended by: Joanna Fabisiak (PO), Lukasz Foltyn (PSL), Nelly Rokita (PiS), Marcin Swiecicki (LiD) and Ryszard Czarnecki (non-party, member of the European Parliament). During the debate several matters were brought up which are practically absent in the parliamentary campaign and concern every Polish voter. Politicians were asked about their position towards Polish development cooperation, increase of the Official Development Assistance, quality of aid, legal and institutional framework for Polish aid and relation between human rights and development cooperation. During the conference, a group of Polish NGOs active in development assistance presented a Report on Polish Development Aid. The conference was organized by the Center for International Relations in cooperation with a European Commission and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) within the framework of 12 parliamentary debates in 12 new EU member countries. These debates prepare the essential contribution of these states for the discussion during European Days of the Development (Lisbon, 7-9 November). Twelve new EU member states spent last year almost 600 millions Euro in total for the development assistance. In 2010 this aid will exceed 1 billion Euro, where of the half will be provided by Poland. The conference was opened by Anna Darska, the Head of UNDP and Jerzy Pomianowski, the Head of the Department of the Development Cooperation at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For more information europeandcis.undp.org/mdgdebates

Moldova: Maria Sharapova and LeBron James team up against poverty



World-renowned photographer Patrick Demarchelier photographed both stars for a new series of UNDP *pro bono* advertisements for the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals. 26 September 2007 - Maria Sharapova, United Nations Development Programme Goodwill Ambassador, has invited NBA star LeBron James to "Team Up Against Poverty" on a new UNDP advertisement to garner support for achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals. Sharapova's work with UNDP includes promoting international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Adopted by 189 countries in 2000, the Goals are clear, time-bound targets for achieving measurable improvements in the lives of the world's poorest people. They aim at eradicating poverty, putting children in schools, promoting women's rights, fighting killer diseases, and providing access to safe drinking water. UNDP coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals.

For more information, please contact aziyade.poltier@undp.org

Or visit <http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/2007/september/sharapova-lebron-20070926.en>

SEE Minister's First Joint Committee Meeting, Ohrid 28 September 2007

On September 28, in Ohrid, under the Chairmanship of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, SEE Ministers responsible for trade and the Director of Economic Policy of the United Nations Interim Administrative Mission in Kosovo took a number of key decisions that will ensure the efficient and effective implementation of CEFTA 2006. Ministers of Economy/Trade from all the Parties and the Special Representative of the Secretary General, United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) on behalf of Kosovo will adopt a series of decisions to ensure the efficient and effective facilitation of this important economic agreement. Among those invited to participate in this important regional event are Erhard Busek, Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Hido Bišćević, Appointed Secretary General of the Regional Co-operation Council, and Erwan Fouéré, Head of the EC Delegation in Skopje. The Stability Pact, the European Commission and other members of the international community have been staunch supporters of the regional trade agenda in South Eastern Europe have provided political, technical and financial support for the development of this agreement.

For further information, visit <http://www.stabilitypact.org/wt2/TradeCEFTA.asp>

Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Trade Liberalisation and Facilitation, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 17 and 18 July 2007

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Stability Pact's Trade Working Group was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting focused on the preparations for the instigation of new regional structures for trade relations in South Eastern Europe and on issues relating to key non-tariff barriers to trade including customs procedures. CEFTA 2006 enters into force on 26 July for Albania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and UNMIK Kosovo. Croatia as Depository will forward copies of the notification to TWG members to facilitate preparations in those countries. Croatia expects to deposit its instrument of ratification in the coming days and hence the Agreement will enter into force for it in August. The Serbian Government has passed the law on CEFTA and it will now proceed to Parliament where it will follow a fast track procedure. It should be ratified in early September. The BiH House of Representatives is to vote on the Agreement on 31 July.

Source: <http://www.stabilitypact.org/trade/TWG%20Sarajevo%20July%2007%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

**“Making Globalization work for the Least Developed Countries”
Ministerial Conference of LDCs, Istanbul, 9-10 July 2007**



The two-day Ministerial Conference “Making Globalization Work for LDCs” assessed LDC participation in the global production, trade, financial, monetary and information systems and review the impact of globalization on the development of LDCs. It will identify concrete and practical measure, including programmes and projects, for the beneficial integration of LDCs in the world economy. It assisted in building coalitions of action among LDCs as well as partnerships between LDCs and their development partners, in pursuit of this goal, by bringing together all relevant actors. The conference will also provide a forum for sharing experience, lessons learned and best practices. The Conference will bring together Ministers, Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, and National Focal Points of the 50 LDCs, government representatives, civil society agencies, financial institutions and international and regional organizations.

For more information, please contact Ms. Annie Concha (concha@un.org) in the UN OHRLLS or visit the website <http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrls/Advocacy/Turkey/Information%20for%20participants.doc>

**“Meeting on International Trade and Trade Facilitation”
Midterm review of the Almaty program of action, Mongolia, 28-31 August 2007**

The thematic meeting on international trade and trade facilitation is expected to result in a document on priority areas for cooperation for transit transport infrastructure development, which will be used as substantive contribution to the midterm review. The meeting will bring the following benefits: 1) Review the progress made in the implementation of priority one and three of the Almaty Programme of Action on Policy Improvements and International Trade. 2) Deliberate on future actions needed to further strengthen the global partnership for achieving these goals. 3) Contribute to the substantive preparations for the midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action for Land Locked Developing Countries.

For more information, please visit <http://unohrls.expressiondev.com/en/orphan/369/>

3. TRADE NEWS – OTHER REGIONS

World Trade Institute, Summer University Workshop, 16-27 August, Berne, Switzerland

The WTO Summer Programme addresses the increasing demand by professionals, scholars and students for opportunities to improve their knowledge of international trade regulation. It has been designed as an intensive five-week programme. All courses were held at the World Trade Institute in Berne, Switzerland. The program of the summer university was various, it included the Basic Principles and Economics of the World Trading System, Dispute Settlement in the first two weeks. Starting from August there was put a big attention on the agriculture and International Trade in Services and GATS, later moving on the topics of Trade Remedies and an interesting WTO Visit. The summer university closed with the Regional Integration topic.

For more information, please contact luca.monge.roffarello@undp.org or visit the website <http://www.common-fund.org/?nid=44>

WTO started a conference on “Multilateralising Regionalism”

The World Trade Organization and the Geneva-based Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI) will jointly host the conference “Multilateralising Regionalism” on 10-12 September, examining the impact of the large and growing number of regional trade accords on the global trading system. The first two days of the conference will consider how a multilateral approach to regionalism could ensure greater predictability, cooperation and transparency to what is currently a fragmented and often inconsistent system of regional and bilateral pacts. The final day will be dedicated to a high level, policy-oriented discussion of regionalism and what the future may hold in terms of re-defining trade co-operation. “Regional and bilateral agreements can make a contribution provided they are complementary to the multilateral trading system and not a substitute for it,” said WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy. “This conference will raise public understanding on the need for a more co-ordinated approach to trade liberalisation and how it can best be implemented.”

Source: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres07_e/pr489_e.htm

Canada gives CAD400,000 for food, animal and plant health standards

Canada has provided CAD400,000 (approximately CHF433,367) to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), a programme set up to help developing countries improve their expertise and their capacity to analyze and implement international standards on food safety and animal and plant health. Canada’s funding builds on a similar contribution in 2005.

For more information, please visit http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/archive_e/igo_arc_e.htm

Aid-for-Trade initiative “critical” for Latin America and the Caribbean — Lamy

Aid-for-Trade initiative “critical” for Latin America and the Caribbean — Lamy Director-General Pascal Lamy, in opening the conference “Mobilizing Aid for Trade: Focus Latin America and the Caribbean” on 13 September in Lima, Peru, said the initiative is “critical” for the region and the world trading system because “today’s global economy — which could be widened and strengthened by the conclusion of the Doha Round — is fundamentally changing the development dynamic”.

For more information, visit the website http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/archive_e/aid_arc_e.htm

Aid-for-Trade regional reviews set in Lima, Manila and Dar es Salaam

The WTO together with regional banks and governments are organizing regional reviews on Aid for Trade: in Lima, Peru on 13-14 September; in Manila, Philippines on 19-20 September; and in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 1-2 October. The global Aid for Trade review will be held in Geneva on 20-21 November.

For more information, please visit the website http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/archive_e/aid_arc_e.htm

Lamy underlines need for significant Doha progress

Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his foreword to the WTO Annual Report 2007 published on 14 August 2007, said that the “most demanding” of the tasks facing the WTO this year is the conclusion of the Doha Development Round. He added in parallel with the efforts of Members and the Secretariat to advance the negotiations, the past year has also involved hard work on many other issues, including on trade and environment, and on the Aid for Trade initiative for developing countries.

For more information, please visit the website http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/archive_e/aid_arc_e.htm

Formal meeting of the Working Group on the relationship between trade and investment

At its third formal meeting (16-18 September 2002) since the Doha Ministerial Conference the Working Group completed its review of the seven issues set out for further clarification in paragraph 22 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration. Altogether some 39 written contributions (document codes WT/WGTI/W108 to WT/WGTI/W147 — open in a new window) were presented and discussed — including nine by the Secretariat.

For more information, please visit the website http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/archive_e/trim_arc_e.htm

Farm and non-farm talks' chairs circulate revised blueprints of final deal

Agriculture negotiations chairperson Ambassador Crawford Falconer and non-agricultural market access (NAMA) chairperson Ambassador Don Stephenson circulated their revised draft “modalities” on 17 July 2007. The drafts are based on WTO member governments’ latest positions in the negotiations and are an assessment of what might be agreed for the formulas for cutting tariffs and trade-distorting agricultural subsidies, and related provisions. Their release kicks off another intensive series of meetings for members to try to reach agreement, and probably to amend the draft.

For more information, please visit the website http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/archive_e/goods_arc_e.htm

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Poverty Reduction, Reproductive Health and Health Sector Reform- Bangkok, Thailand

The Global Course, **Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Poverty Reduction, Reproductive Health and Health Sector Reform** was held from August 20-31, 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand. The course explored key elements in designing efficient, equitable and financially sustainable population policies and reproductive health programs in the context of health sector reform and Millennium Development Goals. After attending the course, participants learned to recognize how the changing international and national policy environments affect their work in population and reproductive health and to identify the linkages among health, gender and poverty. .

For more information, please visit the website http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/archive_e/goods_arc_e.htm

APEC Leaders Week, 2-9 September, Sydney, Australia

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an inter-governmental forum facilitating economic growth and prosperity, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region, and operates on the basis of non-binding commitments, open dialogue and equal respect for the views of all participants regardless of the size of their economy. From January to September 2007 Australia hosted a series of APEC meetings focusing on areas of interest to the nation, with over 100 days of ministerial, officials-level and business-group meetings held across the country. The APEC Australia 2007™ year culminated with the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) in early September, the most significant international gathering of an economic kind that Australia has hosted. The AELM took place in an informal, relaxed retreat setting in which leaders addressed issues of strategic importance that affect the region. At the conclusion of discussions, leaders issued the APEC Economic Leaders Declaration, which contained the shared views of leaders and set the strategic directions for APEC for the next year.

For more information, please visit the website <http://www.apec2007.org/>

4. PUBLICATIONS

Moldova's Middle income mistake identity, The sever income and human development costs

The newly independent Republic of Moldova joined the WTO in 1992. The World Bank designed it a “middle- income” country, that implied that the government was not eligible for concessionary lending from the World Trade Bank and IMF and would not receive concessionary financial helps from major bilateral development agencies. This country study investigates the consequences.

To read previous issues of John Weeks <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCCountryStudy11.pdf> the Road to Doha, visit the website www.un-ngls.org , hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2004/pdf/hdr04_complete.pdf

WTO publishes “World Tariff Profiles” with UNCTAD and ITC

Up to now, access to tariff data had been cumbersome and limited to trade specialists. This has changed with the publication by the WTO, UNCTAD and ITC of “World Tariff Profiles,” which provides detailed data on bound and applied tariffs of the 150 WTO Members.

For more information, please visit http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/archive_e/reser_arc_e.htm

Early Warning Report, Kosovo, April - June 2007

The Early Warning System will provide valuable information to Kosovo stakeholdersthrough conflict monitoring and prevention system. The Early Warning System will build the capacity for local analysts to foresee potential crisis and advise crisis prevention policies.

For more information visit http://europeandcis.undp.org/?menu=p_publications

Book on 2006 WTO Public Forum Out

The WTO Secretariat has published a book providing a summary of the many views and concerns raised at the 2006 WTO Public Forum, organized under the overall theme “What WTO for the XXIst Century?”

Source: http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum_e/forum06_e.htm

Agricultural Support Measures of Advanced Countries and Food Insecurity in Developing Countries

Michael Herrmann edits the study about food insecurity in UNCTAD Geneva. Many developing nations, especially the least developed countries, are subjected to recurrent spells of food insecurity. In order to understand food insecurity in these countries it is necessary to consider not only immediate or trigger-causes of food crises, but also its underlying or systemic causes. This paper argues that the agricultural support measures of advanced countries may act as a systemic cause for food insecurity in developing countries. While the import of subsidized foods by developing countries and/or the provision of food aid by developed countries are frequently necessary options to address food crises in the short run, they can adversely affect the economic development in the long run. Access to cheap foods can undermine agricultural production and contribute to the recurrence of food shortages. This paper examines these developments and makes proposals to address them.

Source: http://www.livelihoods.org/hot_topics/Agriculture/AgricultureGT.html?em=0507#4

Getting the fundamentals right: The early stages of Afghanistan's WTO accession process- 28. July 2007

Afghanistan has recently embarked on the process of joining the World Trade Organization (WTO). While increased trade can help lift countries out of poverty, the experience of countries at similar levels of development to Afghanistan's which have joined the WTO suggests that, unless great care is exercised, the terms of that membership may adversely affect poverty reduction. This paper seeks to identify how Afghanistan can give itself the best possible chance of achieving a WTO accession package that supports its efforts to develop sustainably and to reduce poverty.

Source: http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/briefingpapers/bp92_afghanistan_wto_accession_0706

Blind spot: The continued failure of the World Bank and IMF to fully assess the impact of their advice on poor people – 19. September 2007

It seems impossible that the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) would give advice to developing countries without fully considering how it might affect the lives of poor people. Yet, despite it being a long-stated policy of both institutions to do so, and some recent progress on the part of the IMF, they are still failing to consistently ensure that there is a proper assessment of the likely consequences of different policy actions on the poorest people.

Source: http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/briefingnotes/bn0709_blind_spot_world_bank_imf

5. UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Kosovo : Safe Houses get supported with equipment - 29 October, 2007



Kosovo safe houses for victims of domestic violence and trafficking in Kosovo received new equipment in an event, which also launch the UNDP campaign rising awareness on issues related to violence against women and trafficking in Kosovo, on Tuesday 16 October. The event is organized by the Women's

For more information, please contact: contact nazar.talibdjnov@chamber.uz or nodir.khakimov@undp.org or visit www.undp.uz

Georgia: Business Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility, October 2007



TBILISI. 23 October 2007 – Head of the United Nations in Georgia Robert Watkins and State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and Vice Prime Minister of Georgia Giorgi Baramidze at the specially convened Business Forum discussed best practices and prospects of Corporate Social Responsibility.

For more information, please contact http://europeandcis.undp.org/?menu=p_practice&FocusAreaId=1

Russia: 15 October, 2007 - International Congress: "Business Reputation and Russia's Future"

Global Compact in the Russian Federation along with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP), the largest association representing business interests in Russia, and private electricity provider, OAO RAO "UES of Russia" will be organized.

For more information, please visit http://europeandcis.undp.org/?menu=p_practice&FocusAreaId=1

Poland :30 October, 2007 – It is time to help others!



Warsaw, Poland, 22 October 2007 – Over 700 experts, politicians, ambassadors, government officials and NGO representatives meet on parliamentary debates on the role of the new members of the European Union in providing development assistance. UNDP, the European Commission.

For more information, please visit http://europeandcis.undp.org/?menu=p_practice&FocusAreaId=1

WTO: Trade Policy Review Body — Peru has continued to liberalize its trade regime 17- 19 October 2007

However, Peru has also moved away from its largely uniform tariff structure, thus increasing the level of effective assistance to some sectors. Additional selective assistance has also been granted through several fiscal incentives, some of which are contingent upon the use of domestic inputs or domestic processing requirements, the report says. The current favourable economic environment presents an opportunity to inject greater competition into the domestic market, set up a more uniform incentive structure by rationalizing incentive schemes, and consolidating reforms in some services sectors to help reduce remaining bottlenecks, in particular those arising from poor infrastructure. The WTO report, along with a policy statements by the Government of Peru, will be the basis for the third TPR of Peru by the Trade Policy Review Body of the WTO on 17 and 19 October 2007.

For more information, please visit http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp_r_e/tp289_e.htm

Seminar on the WTO: Trade Policy Review Body — Turkey 10-12 December 2007

This is the opening seminar of the 5th tranche UNDA project on trade facilitation in Central Asia. The programme of the seminar will focus on: the Integrated Approach to Trade Facilitation (25 June); Public-Private Partnerships for Trade Facilitation (26 June), and an organizational meeting for the future events under the UNDA project.

For more information, please contact mario.apostolov@unece.org or visit <http://www.unece.org/trade/workshop/workshop.htm>

WTO hosts global review of Aid for Trade

The WTO will host “Mobilizing Aid for Trade: A Global Review” at its Geneva headquarters on 20-21 November 2007. It will be preceded by a technical workshop on monitoring and evaluation of Aid for Trade on 19 November 2007. The review will also be open to registered NGOs and the press. The Global Aid-for-Trade Review is the focal point of WTO's monitoring mandate for 2007. It will provide an overview of what is — and what is not — happening in the delivery of Aid-for-Trade, including current flows, existing gaps, and where improvements need to be made. It will also create incentives — by shining a “spotlight” on the issues — to deliver more and better Aid-for-Trade, and to strengthen mutual accountability between partner countries and donors.

For more information visit http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/global_review_e.htm