

ECOFAIR TRADE DIALOGUE

EcoFair Trade Dialogue Newsletter No. 4 – March 2007

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Welcome to the 4th newsletter of the EcoFair Trade Dialogue project. The EcoFair Trade Dialogue is proud of its cyberspace face-lift:

Our new Website online !

Check out our updated and extended internet presentation at www.ecofair-trade.org. The new website delivers more information on the process, detailed background to the project, short bios of the participants and, of course, all our publications for download (various policy papers, key messages paper, newsletters etc.).

What else has happened in the process?

New discussion papers published

Three new discussion papers written by Expert Panel members of the EcoFair Trade Dialogue have now been published.

Arze Glipo, director of the Integrated Rural Development Foundation of the Philippines (IRDF) and convener of the Asia-Pacific Network for Food Sovereignty (APNFS), analyzes effects of the liberalization of agricultural trade. In her paper "Achieving Food and Livelihood Security in Developing Countries: The Need for a Stronger Governance of Imports", she identifies the impediments on governing imports associated with the current trade system. Arze concludes with some recommendations for restoring policy space to allow for the effective governance of imports in order to protect farmer livelihoods and foster sustainable rural development. Her paper is available for download at: www.ecofair-trade.org/en/nav/116.html

In the paper "Agriculture and Trade in an Asymmetric World", Gonzalo Fanjul, head of research at Intermón Oxfam in Spain, reveals asymmetries in trade relations as one of the obstacles preventing the emergence of fairer, more ecologically sound trade rules for agriculture. He analyzes existing asymmetries and their role in the problems associated with the current trade system, and concludes with some recommendations for policy change in order to arrive at a future trade regime that systematically redresses asymmetries. Please download Gonzalo's paper at: www.ecofair-trade.org/en/nav/110.html

Kamal Malhotra, senior adviser on inclusive globalization at UNDP, authored the paper "A Sustainable Human Development Approach to the Role of Exports in a National Development Strategy". The paper analyzes the potential role of exports for economic growth, poverty reduction and human development, in the context of an overall national development strategy. It concludes with some recommendations for policy options in order to maximize the contribution of

exports to sustainable human development. Kamal's paper can be found at: www.ecofair-trade.org/en/nav/117.html

EcoFair Trade Dialogue Regional Consultations

In its series of stakeholder dialogues, the EcoFair Trade Dialogue has conducted the Central America Regional Consultation in Teotihuacan, Mexico, on October 16-18, 2006. After similar consultations had been conducted before in Senegal, Thailand, Brazil, and the U.S., this meeting brought together about 40 experts from governmental bodies, civil society organizations, farmer unions, and academics, from the Central American region and the Caribbean. The participants critically revisited the concept of Food Sovereignty, identified asymmetries in global trade relations and their significance for the region, debated the necessity of public support in agriculture, as well as impacts from foreign support systems on their local farm economies, and considered the relevance of the instrument of supply management for stabilizing farm gate prices.

At the end of October 2006, an additional stakeholder workshop was conducted in Germany, mostly with German policy makers, NGO representatives, and academics.

On November 8, 2008, the last EcoFair Trade Regional Consultation took place in Brussels, Belgium, for the European region. Close to 30 experts discussed the draft final proposal of the EcoFair Trade Dialogue. Particular topics on the Agenda were: asymmetries in trade relations, and instruments to qualify market access. The dialogue concluded with a discussion on the potential role of the EU in serving as a levy for an eco-fair trade regime, including an interesting debate with representatives from the European Commission.

Fifth Expert Panel meeting – discussing the draft final reform proposal of the EcoFair Trade Dialogue

Back to back with the regional consultation, the fifth meeting of the Expert Panel was devoted to finalizing the draft final report of the EcoFair Trade Dialogue. Discussions aimed at improving the draft text presented by Wolfgang Sachs and Tilman Santarius, in order to reconsider the solutions presented and to resolve outstanding contradictions in the text.

Future event: International EcoFair Trade Conference in April 2007 !

The final reform proposal of the EcoFair Trade Dialogue, titled "Slow Trade – Sound Farming", will be first published and presented at an international conference in Berlin on April 24, 2007. Please check www.ecofair-trade.org/en/web/Events.html for more information on this conference, as well as for an online application form.