

Seminar Announcement

The South Centre Innovation and Access to Knowledge Programme invites you to the **Fifth South Innovation Perspectives Series Seminar** titled:

“The Implementation Game: Developing Countries, the TRIPS Agreement and the Global Politics of Intellectual Property”

Date: Wednesday, 5 December 2007

Venue: Palais des Nations, Room No. XXV

Time: 15h00 – 18h00

Speaker:

Dr. Carolyn Deere - Director, Global Trade Governance Project, Global Economic Governance Programme, University of Oxford*

Commentators:

Mr. Boumediene Mahi - Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN, Geneva

Mr. Christoph Spennemann - Legal Expert, Intellectual Property Team, Policy Implementation Section, UNCTAD, Geneva

Mr. Ahmed Abdel Latif - Programme Manager for Intellectual Property, ICTSD, Geneva

About the theme:

The TRIPS Agreement has triggered an intense global debate on the relationship between intellectual property (IP) regulation and development. A thorough analysis of TRIPS implementation is the key to understanding the concrete impact of new global IP rules on developing countries, particularly as TRIPS was conceived as a framework agreement to be implemented through measures at the national level.

Dr. Deere's presentation will begin with a review of the evidence on TRIPS implementation, emphasizing the considerable variation in developing country approaches to implementation, most notably to the use of the 'flexibilities' the Agreement provides. To date, she argues, the question of *why* there is such diversity in developing country approaches has not attracted the systematic attention it deserves.

A close analysis shows the process of TRIPS implementation to be a competitive game played out

* *The speaker will present the core argument of her forthcoming book on the politics of TRIPS implementation scheduled for publication by Oxford University Press in 2008.*

between national governments, industry, NGOs, and international organizations, each working to advance their particular views and interests. Building on this starting point, Dr. Deere's presentation will advance a two part explanation for variation in TRIPS implementation. The first part of the argument is that TRIPS implementation was shaped by a dynamic interaction with debates on the contested terms of the TRIPS bargain and with ongoing international IP negotiations. Second, explaining variation between countries demands attention to the *interplay* between international debates, external power pressures, and the national process of IP-decision-making in each country. In this regard, the presentation will identify the multiple sources of external pressure, the strategies specific actors deployed, and the kinds of power they exerted. Further, the presentation will elaborate on domestic factors in developing countries which either limited or amplified the actual influence of external pressures, thereby contributing to variation in TRIPS implementation. In conclusion, the presentation will draw out some of the lessons that could be useful for advancing a development agenda with regard to domestic IP reforms and the implementation of international IP agreements by developing countries.

About South Innovation Perspectives Series Seminars

The seminar series, presented by the South Centre on a quarterly basis, aims to provide a forum where cutting-edge research and ideas on innovation, access to knowledge and intellectual property, from a development perspective, are presented and debated. Speakers are researchers and policy analysts, especially from the South, who focus their work on key issues for developing countries as well as relevant global issues. By presenting new/innovative research and ideas, the seminar series plays an important role in linking local/national circumstances and challenges to the norm-setting activities in various International institutions and processes in Geneva and beyond. By engaging negotiators and the main players in international processes, the seminars also contribute to promoting evidence-based norm-setting in key institutions such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the World Trade Organization (WTO); among others.

About the Speaker

Dr. Carolyn Deere is the Director of the Global Trade Governance Project and a Senior Researcher at the Global Economic Governance Programme, University of Oxford. She is also a Resident Scholar at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva, Switzerland. Carolyn is the founder and Chair of the Board of Intellectual Property Watch, the leading news service on international intellectual property policymaking, and the Chair of the Advisory Board of 3D -> Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy. She was also member of the International Commission, sponsored by the UK's Royal Society of Arts, which prepared the Adelphi Charter on Creativity, Innovation and Intellectual Property.

Carolyn previously served as the Assistant Director of the Global Inclusion theme at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York where she was responsible for the foundation's grant making strategies on intellectual property, trade and sustainable development and launched the Bellagio Series on Development and Intellectual Property Policy. She has previously worked at the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and as the Manager of the Congressional Staff Forum on International Development at the Overseas Development Council (ODC) in Washington, D.C. Carolyn's publications include *The Implementation Game: Developing Countries, the TRIPS Agreement and the Global Politics of Intellectual Property* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2008), *Greening the Americas: NAFTA's Lessons for Hemispheric Trade* (co-edited with Dan Esty, MIT Press, 2001) and *Fisheries, International Trade and Sustainable Development* (co-authored with Elizabeth Havice, ICTSD, 2006). She holds a DPhil in International Relations (University College, Oxford), an MA in International Relations (Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies) and a bachelor's degree in political economy from the University of Sydney, Australia.

Registration

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Pre-registration is required due to limited space and security requirements.