

1 October 2007, Issue 1

EDITORIAL: Some Home Truths About Current Negotiations On Agriculture at WTO

The South Bulletin is back. South Bulletin: *Reflections and Foresights* has a new look and a new format that puts greater emphasis on sharing *Knowledge that Matters* for the South.

This is an outcome of ideas shared by several colleagues, including officials from Member Countries of South Centre in Geneva, New York, Brussels and in the Capitals who would like the *Bulletin* to be interactive. The new *Bulletin* will enable cross-sharing of experiences and fulfill specific knowledge needs on current and emerging issues in which developing countries are stakeholders.

September witnessed certain developments at the WTO. But the Doha Round has not moved significantly forward. Given the current situation, the South may still face huge losses as the scenarios unfold. Luisa Bernal, Coordinator, *Trade for Development Programme*, South Centre provides insights on the issue in her article on *Prospects for the Doha Round*. The biggest loss, yet, may be impossible to calculate – the loss of policy space and high opportunity costs the South may have to incur for limited gains in agriculture and low-technology manufacturing.

To put the spirit back into discussions, the WTO needs to become OTW or Open up to Development of Third World. The Doha Round is a Development Round. The WTO, to vindicate itself, must open up to the concerns of the developing countries, especially those that are most vulnerable to the hazards of trade liberalization and globalization.

In another article, Vice Yu, Coordinator, *Global Governance for Development Programme* reflects on UNCTAD XII. The preparatory process begins this month. UNCTAD XII comes at a time that is ripe for change and is opportune for the global community to build a common future on the basis of equal partnership. UNCTAD XII can be a catalyst for the birth of a new model of global cooperation for development. This is its challenge and also its opportunity.

Finally, Xuan Li, Acting Coordinator, *Innovation and Access to Knowledge Programme* in her article demystifies the explosion in patenting growth rate in the South. She cautions against premature drawing of definite conclusions from the WIPO 2007 Patent Report on the changing geography of innovation. The relationship between a sharp rise in patent filings and innovation capacity may not be as straightforward, as it may appear from reading the WIPO report.

The *South Bulletin* will provide critical assessments of the new challenges facing the developing countries, and appraisals of the variety of negotiations in which they are engaged. It is hoped that our constituents will appreciate these efforts, and will continue to provide critical support to the South Centre.

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