



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

**FACULTÉ DE DROIT**

Trade and Environment  
Research Group

**THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE** | GENEVA

INSTITUT DE HAUTES ÉTUDES  
INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT

GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



## **Final Project Conference**

# **Trade, the Environment and the Role of Technology Transfer**

**A RUIG/GIAN Project  
with cooperation from UNCTAD, UNEP and INECE**

**Thursday, 24 January 2008, 9.30 AM - 17.30 PM**

**Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)  
Auditoire Jacques Freymond, Rue de Lausanne 132, Genève  
(Next to the WTO Parking), Tram 13, 15 Stop "Butini"**

This conference concludes a 14-month research program conducted by the University of Geneva's Law Faculty and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies with cooperation from the United Nations Environment Programme (Economics and Trade Branch), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the International Network on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement. Funding has been provided by the Geneva International Academic Network (RUIG/GIAN). The general framework of this research consists in the relationship between Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and the WTO agreements, with a particular emphasis on the role of technology transfer and on the recent negotiations in this domain under the Doha Development Agenda (DDA).

This research has been written by three researchers: (i) Maria Julia Oliva (Law Faculty) has focused on the role of technology transfer in the case of climate change; (ii) Matthew Stilwell (IHEID, and International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), Washington DC) has followed the negotiations on Environmental Goods under paragraph 31.3. of the DDA; (iii) Urs P. Thomas (Law Faculty) has focused on the Geneva-based Wastes and Chemicals Convention, i.e. the Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions, as well as UNEP Chemicals.

In light of the presence of these Secretariats in Geneva we have decided to take advantage of the privileged cooperation with the staff of these Secretariats in order to organize a Roundtable focusing on technology cooperation and the relations between these Conventions and the WTO. This initiative is furthermore enriched by the fact that the

mandate of the three Conventions overlaps somewhat in certain instances, they cooperate therefore in numerous cases. For these reasons they constitute an important case study for the more general question of improving of synergies among MEAs.

Last but not least, we believe that the medium and long term dangers due to the strongly increasing international transports of hazardous wastes and chemicals represent one of the most important threats to the global ecosystem, but that they do not attract the attention in the media and in the political processes that they deserve. We therefore hope to be able to make a contribution in strengthening the profile of these Conventions and related inter-agency activities, and to encourage the academic interest for research in this domain which is evolving thanks to innovative ways of intergovernmental cooperation. At the same time we are convinced -- in the spirit of the fundamental mandate of the RUIG/GIAN programs -- that this Roundtable will reinforce the cooperation between intergovernmental organizations and scientific institutions.

### **Morning Session: 9.30 h, Coffee, 10.00-12.30 h**

- > Welcome: Prof. Urs Luterbacher, HEID
- > Introduction: Prof. John Cuddy, HEID
  
- > Benjamin Simmons, Legal Officer, UNEP Economics and Trade Branch:  
WTO Environmental Goods and Services Negotiations - An Opportunity for the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements?
  
- > Speaker from UNCTAD:  
Advancing the WTO's Environmental Goods Negotiations: Options and Opportunities
  
- > Maria Julia Oliva, ICTSD and PhD candidate, Faculty of Law:  
Technology Transfer, Trade, and the Environment -- Challenges and Opportunities in the Climate Change Context

### **Afternoon Session: 14.30 - 17.30 h**

- > Chair: Dr. sc. nat. Philippe Roch, Independent Consultant, former Director of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
  
- > Urs P. Thomas, Faculty of Law:  
The Geneva-based Wastes and Chemicals Conventions, Technology Cooperation, and WTO Compatibility
  
- > Roundtable on the Regulation of International Transports of Hazardous Wastes and Chemicals : Technology Cooperation, WTO Relations, and the Question of Synergies  
  
Participants from:
  - > Basel Convention
  - > Rotterdam Convention
  - > Stockholm Convention
  - > UNEP Chemicals/SAICM
  - > UNEP Division of GEF Coordination
  - > Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
  
- > Conclusion and Wrap-up of the RUIG Project: Prof. Anne Petitpierre, Faculty of Law

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