Article Round-Up
June – July 2006

ECONOMICS and TRADE

1. "Vietnam PNTR Status and WTO Assession: Issues and Implications for the United States"

Mark E. Manyin and William H. Cooper, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division; Bernard A. Gelb, Resources, Science, and Industry Division, CRS Publication, 06/21/2006
This report is designed to assist the 109th Congress as it considers the question of PNTR for Vietnam and the related issue of Vietnam's accession to the WTO. The report provides a brief overview of the U.S.-Vietnam economic relationship, an examination of the WTO accession process and Vietnam's status, an overview of the Jackson-Vanik amendment and PNTR, an analysis of the issues that may arise during congressional consideration of PNTR, and options available to the Congress.

2. "Vietnam: Country Outlook"

Economist Intelligence Unit – ViewsWire, 4 pages
The article provides brief and updated information on Vietnam's development including economic growth, international relations, political environment, and policy trends.

3. "The Hidden Key To Growth"

Martin Baily, Diana Farrell, and Jaana Remes, International Economy, Winter 2006, 8 pages.
Dynamic, competitive local services can contribute greatly to GDP growth and employment, but they are being overlooked. Policymakers who want to leverage the economic power of local services need to ensure barriers to competition are removed and service companies are treated equally to manufacturing firms.

4. "Fixing The World Economy, Part 97"

Clive Crook, National Journal, April 29, 2006, 2 pages.
The international imbalances, mainly the U.S. current-account deficit and China's surplus, have been around for several years, and economists have warned of imminent disaster. The author discusses the recent agreement to enlarge the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and to equip it to "help resolve global economic imbalances." He also warns against taking comfort with the issue, asserting that "imbalances in global trade and finances are exposing the United States and the world to some serious economic hazards."

5. "Reforming The International Monetary Fund And The World Bank"

Interview with Ngaire Woods, Challenge, May/June 2006, 12 pages.
The IMF and the World Bank face twin crises: the source of their funding is running dry and criticism of their policies is widespread. Woods, Director of the Global Economic Governance Program at Oxford, argues that both institutions must be saved because no other institution can provide their services.

6. "Two Myths of Globalization"

Gottesman, A. Edward, World Policy Journal, vol. 23, no. 1, Spring 2006, pp. 37-44
The author notes that an economic discussion of globalization has often focused on two widely accepted, but mainly misunderstood theories. First, China is the "next economic superpower" Second, the current-account deficit the U.S. has run for a number of years is "unsustainable" and will result in some global economic catastrophe. To make sense of globalization, the author wants to re-focus the discussion by not comparing apples (the mature Western industrial economies) with oranges (developing countries or newly industrialized countries). In a global free market, the West's accumulated wealth and resources are the main sources of financing to stimulate growth of these developing nations. Debunking these theories of globalization requires placing the world economy in perspective for one to understand the complex and fragile process of globalization.

SOCIAL ISSUES

7. "Today's Golden Age of Poverty Reduction"
Surjit S. Bhalla. International Economy, Spring 2006, 5 pages.
Claims that globalization increases poverty and inequality are simply false. The increase in poverty that organizations like the World Bank report is based purely on the number of poor people. While an increased population does mean more poor people, the numbers fail to reflect the even larger increase in the number of people who have moved out of poverty. History has shown that economic liberalization leads to productivity, which fuels economic growth and leads people out of poverty. Moreover, poverty reduction has been very successful that it is time to move the absolute poverty line to about two dollars a day.

8. "The Long War Against Corruption"
Ben W. Heineman, JKr. and Fritz Heimann, Foreign Affairs, May-June 2006, 12 pages.
Since the mid-1990s, the global anticorruption movement has gained ground, but its key agents (i.e. developed and developing countries, international organizations, and multinational corporations) must do more to prevent and punish misbehavior.

9. "Google"
Vise, David, Foreign Policy, no. 154, May/June 2006, pp. 20-24
Google, which has been hailed as the new Microsoft, may not be as innovative and sustainable as many have believed. One problem the company faces is international competition, specifically from South Korea, where local companies have successfully thwarted Google, and Europe, where the French have invested more than $2 billion in a Franco-German operation. Another barrier to future success is the recent debacle in China, where Google's decision to self-censor its content at the behest of the Chinese leadership has tarnished the company's reputation. While Google is likely to remain a key player in the technology market, it needs to be more innovative and globally minded to be a leader.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY (IS)

10. "Rescuing A Planet Under Stress"
Brown, Lester R. The Futurist, vol. 40, no. 4, July-August 2006, pp. 18-25

The Earth cannot sustain the levels of energy and resource consumption of the Western lifestyle if it is adopted by hundreds of millions of people in developing nations, writes the president of the Earth Policy Institute. The world must move toward a new economic model powered by renewable energy -- such as wind, solar, geothermal and biofuels -- and by a manufacturing strategy which designs and creates all products for ultimate recycling. Technology and knowledge of how to achieve this new economic model is well within the human grasp, if not already available, but making the transition before economic decline and environmental collapse begin is the difficult thing. Brown suggests movement to an honest market which gives weight to factors currently overlooked or ignored -- the indirect prices of production, the cost of environmental damage and consequences to future generations. Available online at http://www.wfs.org/summariesja06.htm

11. "America Confronts the Asian Century"
Morton Abramowitz and Stephen Bosworth, Current History, April 2006, 6 pages.
Based on its military might and cultural preeminence, the United States has been the leading power in East Asia since World War II. But change is under way. The authors discuss the economic growth of China and the region's increasing global influence, then details four inter-related issues that will determine the American relationship with the new East Asia.

12. "A China Policy for This Century"
Scott Tait, Hoover Digest, Winter 2006, 5 pages.
Can the United States and China be partners instead of rivals in the twenty-first century? The road ahead will be treacherous, but the rewards could be enormous. Can you add a little more?

GLOBAL ISSUES / INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION (GIC)

13. “The Dangers of Ocean Acidification”
Scott Doney. Scientific American, March 2006, 8 pages.
Global warming and the rise of ocean levels have attracted a great deal of attention recently, but a lesser-known matter of mankind's burning of fossil fuels has been its effect on the acidity levels in the world's oceans. Approximately half of all the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution has been absorbed by the ocean. The absorbed CO_2 is turned into carbonic acid and lowers the pH level, adversely affecting the ability of many forms of marine life, such as coral and shellfish, to build hard exteriors out of calcium carbonate. Within a century, the Southern Ocean will become too acidic for the tiny shellfish that form a key link in the marine food chain. While some species of phytoplankton might benefit from the growing presence of CO_2 in the ocean, the increased oceanic acidity levels will have a harmful effect on other forms of marine life.

14. “How to Stop Intellectual Property Theft in China”
Ted C. Fishman. INC. June page 98-102.
America’s most innovative companies are being robbed every day on Chinese factory floors. In some cases, they are forced to participate against their will. All industries are at risk. Therefore, businesses need to lead in the creation on an IP compliance program before it is too late.

15. "How To Recycle Practically Anything"
Sally Deneen, The Environmental Magazine, May/June 2006, 7 pages.
Recycling is not just a feel-good activity, but it is also a foundation of global economic development. The author explores opportunities to recycle almost anything instead of deferring to landfills.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES (SV)

16. "All Roads Lead Through America: Celebrating 50 Years of The Interstate Highway System"
Sciolla, Angelina, AAA World, July/August 2006, pp. 62-68, including sidebars
A half-century after President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal Highway Act of 1956, the Interstate Highway System underscores how much America has changed for the better, but not without a bit of nostalgia for the less complicated life of days long past. The 1956 legislation launched the construction of superhighways with wider lanes designed to accommodate higher speeds with no intersections, traffic signals, or rail crossings to interfere with the steady flow. Today, more than 46,000 miles of highways crisscross the nation, forming a system that includes 82 tunnels, some 14,000 interchanges and more than 55,000 bridges. Over the years, the establishment of this system has changed the tourism industry and vacation habits, leading to the ubiquitous "weekend getaway" the traveling public embraces.

17. "Open Content and The Emerging Global Meta-University"
Charles M. Vest, EDUCAUSE Review, May/June 2006, 8 pages.
Open-access projects are stimulating a broader open-content movement, which is leading to the emergence of a meta-university—an accessible, dynamic, and communally constructed framework of open materials and platforms on which higher education worldwide can be developed and enhanced. The benefits and challenges of MIT's OpenCourseWare (OCW) project is a featured example.

18. "Women of Influence: A Conversation with Cokie Roberts"
Bruce Cole and Cokie Roberts, Humanities, January/February 2006, 9 pages.
Cole, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, talks with news analyst Cokie Roberts about her recent book *Founding Mothers* and the importance of women in U.S. political history. Comparing the recent advances of women in politics with the role women played in the early days of the U.S., Roberts also discusses the difficulties of locating the original letters and manuscripts that formed the basis of the book.

TRANSLATED DOCUMENTS
The documents below are from "Focus on IPR" – IIP's publication, January 2006:

19. "Taking Action: How Countries are Fighting for Crime"
http://vietnamese.vietnam.usembassy.gov/doc_intelprp_vi.html
10 pages

20. "The U.S. Approach: Traditional knowledge, genetic resources, and folklore"
http://vietnamese.vietnam.usembassy.gov/doc_intelprp_vii.html

14 pages

21. “The Challenge of Copyright in The Digital Age”
http://vietnamese.vietnam.usembassy.gov/doc_intelprp_viii.html
13 pages

22. “What is "Fair Use"?
http://vietnamese.vietnam.usembassy.gov/doc_intelprp_ix.html
2 pages

23. “The Importance of The Public Domain”
http://vietnamese.vietnam.usembassy.gov/doc_intelprp_x.html
2 pages

24. “Roundtable: Enforcement, A Priority for All Countries”
http://vietnamese.vietnam.usembassy.gov/doc_intelprp_xi.html
14 pages

25. “Protecting Trademarks on The Internet”
http://vietnamese.vietnam.usembassy.gov/doc_intelprp_xvii.html
4 pages

END