ARTICLE ROUND-UP
April – May 2006

ECONOMICS and TRADE

1. "U.S. and VIETNAM SIGN BILATERAL MARKET-ACCESS AGREEMENT"

On May 31, 2006, the U.S. and Vietnam signed bilateral market-access agreement in Ho Chi Minh City. The new agreement would take effect on Vietnam's accession to the WTO. Under the agreement, Vietnam would expand market access for U.S. exports by reducing tariffs on manufactured goods. "More than 94 percent of U.S. exports of manufactured goods will face duties of 15 percent or less upon implementation of Vietnam's WTO accession commitments," a USTR fact sheet says.
You also can download documents from the following links:
http://www.ustr.gov/Document_Library/Press_Releases/2006/May/US,_Vietnam_Sign_Historic_Bilateral_Market_Access_Agreement.html
Fact sheets on the market access agreement's handling of agricultural goods,
http://www.ustr.gov/assets/Document_Library/Fact_Sheets/2006/asset_upload_file368_9479.pdf ;
industrial goods,
http://www.ustr.gov/assets/Document_Library/Fact_Sheets/2006/asset_upload_file653_9475.pdf ;
and services
http://www.ustr.gov/assets/Document_Library/Fact_Sheets/2006/asset_upload_file543_9476.pdf

2. "FIVE BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR ADOPTING GOOD BUSINESS GOVERNANCE AND BUSINESS ETHICS PRACTICES"

Barbara S. Fredericks. Assistant General Counsel for Administration Office of the General Counsel United States Department of Commerce. Remarks at the Conference on Corporate Governance and Business Ethics in Ho Chi Minh City May 31, 2006, 7 pages.
This article can be requested and/or sent by email.

3. "GOOD GOVERNANCE and DEVELOPMENT: A TIME FOR ACTION"

Paul Wolfowits. World Bank President, April 11, 2006, 7 pages.
According to the Paul Wolfowits, corruption not only undermines the ability of governments to function properly, it also stifles the growth of the private sector.
You can download this article from the World Bank website. www.worldbank.org

4. "GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES"

William H. Cooper. CRS Report for Congress, March 30, 2006, 10 pages
The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) extends duty-free treatment to certain products that are imported from designated developing countries, Thailand being one of them. The report explains the rationale and the effects of the program on beneficiary countries as well as the U.S. economy. A table showing U.S. imports in GSP for the year

2005 is included. More information on GSP is available at the U.S. Trade Representative Website: http://www.ustr.gov.

5. "BUSINESS and GLOBAL POVERTY REDUCTION"
George Lodge and Craid Wilson. Challenge May/June 06, pp 17-25.
The authors argue that multinational corporations have contributed and can continue to contribute enormously to the reduction of global poverty. The authors grant that public corporations exist to maximize value for their shareholders. But with the creation of a new institution, the authors believe that the energies of multinational corporations can be oriented toward reducing global poverty without undermining shareholder value.

6. "HOW STATE POLICIES CAN RAISE ECONOMIC GROWTH"
Jamee Moudud. Challenge, March/April 2006, 19 pages.
The author explores the extent to which the state can implement progressive public policies in the capitalist market economy. He recommends that states should raise taxes, which would allow the government spending share to rise, allowing more public investment.

REGIONAL SECURITY

7. "WILL CHINA GO TO WAR OVER OIL?"
Lei, Wu; Qinyu, Shen. Far Eastern Economic Review, vol. 169, no. 3, April 2006, p. 38-40.
China's quest for energy security, conducted through aggressive "bilateral energy diplomacy" has attracted worldwide attention, write the authors. Energy security is playing an increasingly important role in Sino-U.S. relations, they note, as China makes oil deals with "rogue states" such as the Sudan and Iran, and seeks deals in Latin America. However, the U.S. and China are not really in direct competition on many energy issues, they write, and common interest in stabilizing energy supply and price provides a strong incentive to exercise strategic cooperation. China is more concerned about the Taiwan issue and fears the U.S. could cut off "oil lifelines" should there ever be a showdown over Taiwan independence, they explain. China needs to remember that energy security is a global issue and no single oil-importing country is immune from an oil crisis, they advise. Further, they recommend that the U.S. and its allies should gradually lead Beijing onto the right path by bringing China into the International Energy Agency in order to turn China's unilateral energy policy into a multilateral one which would help prevent future oil crises and minimize energy security risks.

8. "ASIA IN TRANSITION: THE EVOLVING REGIONAL ORDER"
David Shambaugh. Current History, Vol 105, No. 690, April 2006, pp. 153-159.
According to the author, power politics, interdependence, and an emerging sense of regional identity characterize the new Asian order. But now no one point of view can capture its complexity.

SOCIAL ISSUES

9. “COMBATING CORRUPTION: A POLICY TOOL KIT”
John D. Sullivan, Executive Director. Center for International Private Enterprise, 3 pages
Some simple and effective measures policymakers can implement now to fight corruption.

10. “IN WORLD BANK CORRUPTION FIGHT, INDEPENDENT EVALUATION IS THE KEY”
Levine, Ruth, CGD Notes, April 2006, 2 pages.
Levine, Director of Programs at the Center for Global Development, says World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz has set out his plans for fighting corruption in the developing world. She says his anti-corruption crusade is both positive and ambitious. However, she asks, how will we know whether the anti-corruption programs actually work? Evaluation should be emphasized from the start, she asserts; development agencies have consistently failed to measure the impact of their aid programs. Levine states that donor and recipient countries should request and fund careful, credible and independent third-party evaluation of World Bank and other agencies' programs. Only through evaluation, she explains, can we document a program's impact on transparency and development.

GLOBAL ISSUES AND ENVIRONMENT

11. “URBAN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT: SUSTAINABILITY, ONE STREAM AT A TIME”
Platt, Rutherford. Environment, vol. 48, no. 4, May 2006, pp. 26-42.
The author, professor of geography at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, writes that modern cities have tended to cut the bonds between humans and the natural world, at the same time have had a growing adverse impact on their natural surroundings. This has had the greatest impact on regional watersheds, from artificial drainage, channels and floodwalls, to increased impervious cover, which alters the local stream hydrology and increases flood hazards. Platt notes that the urban proportion of the world's population is projected to be 60 percent within a generation, overcoming this "human/nature apartheid" is critical in making urban environments more sustainable. The article features successful urban watershed management programs in Washington, D.C., Boston, Houston, and Portland, Oregon.

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

12. “SCAN THIS BOOK!”
Kelly, Kevin. New York Times Magazine, May 14, 2006, pp. 43-71.

The idea for a "universal library" of all the world's knowledge dates back at least to the legendary library at Alexandria, Egypt, in 300 B.C. Today that idea is being revived by the search engine company Google, which is currently scanning all the several million books in five major research libraries. These books eventually will be linked in the same manner as articles and web pages now accessible through Internet search engines. Author Kevin Kelly, the "senior maverick" for Wired magazine, looks at the implications of this astonishing project. "The static world of book knowledge is about to be

transformed by the same elevation of relationships [as on linked web pages], as each page in a book discovers other pages and other books. Once text is digital, books seep out of their bindings and weave themselves together. The collective intelligence of a library allows us to see things we can't see in a single, isolated book." The new universal library will not be limited to books, the article explains, and Google is not the only company scanning books. Copyright restrictions, and the fact that ownership of many books is unclear, are obstacles that may slow but will not stop the move from static printed pages in books to the fluid, interlinked World Wide Web.

13. "PUBLISHING TRENDS"
Paula Berinstein. Searcher, April 2006, pp. 26-32.
The arrival of online digitized books has swung the balance of power back from the publisher to the author. In this article, Paula Berinstein examines the business models that can be used and also addressed online publishing copyright issues.

14. "THINK AGAIN GOOGLE"
David A. Vise. Foreign Policy, May/June 2006, pp. 20-24.
According to the author, in only eight years, the darling of the internet world has rocketed to fame and fortune. Boasting users in every corner of the world, the popular search engine is the quintessential American success story. Yet it has begun to draw skeptism from Wall Street and the ire of human rights group. David questioned, "Is Google really as kind, ubiquitous, and omnipotent as it seems?"

15. "OFFSHORING: THE NEXT INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION?"
Alan S. Blinder. Foreign Affairs, March/April 2006, pp. 113-128.
Alan S. Blinder, argues that economists who insist that "offshore outsourcing" is just a routine extension of international trade are overlooking how major a transformation it will likely bring and how significant the consequences could be. The governments and societies of the developed world must start preparing and fast.

U.S. POLITICS, SOCIETY AND CULTURE

16. "A PRIMER ON LOBBYISTS, EARMARKS, AND CONGRESSIONAL REFORM"
Ronald D. Utt. Heritage Backgrounder #1924, April 27, 2006, 23 pages.
Growing evidence that links earmarks to bribes from lobbyists and their clients has encouraged Congress to enact reforms. Unfortunately, many of the reform proposals would make only cosmetic changes and leave the worst of the problems in place. The author explores the role of lobbyists and the shady nature of the earmarking process. He concludes that much more transparency is needed, and even with meaningful reform, the number of earmarks will continue to increase, but the process will likely be more honest.

17. "THE FUTURE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION: SUNRISE OR PERFECT STORM?"
James Hilton. EDUCAUSE Review, March/April 2006, 8 pages.
In today's knowledge economy, the role of higher education is being fundamentally redefined. The author suggests that there are at least two ways to look at the future of

higher education: a perfect storm born from the convergence of numerous disruptive forces, or the dawn of a new day, a sunrise rife with opportunities. How we choose to view it will determine much of the higher education landscape during the coming decade.

18. "LESSONS IN POWER: LYNDON JOHNSON REVEALED"
Robert A. Caro. Harvard Business Review, April 2006.
In a discussion with the Harvard Business Review, Historian Robert A. Caro stated that many people want to be leaders but very few are winning student of power. The great ones, whether presidents or CEOs, use their power or some great purpose.

19. "GENERATION ASIAN: AMERICAN-BETWEEN TWO WORLDS"
Feff Chu and Nadia Mustafa. Time. May 1, 2006.
Forty years ago the end of discriminatory laws prompted thousands of Asian to migrate to the U.S. Now, a generation of migrants' kid forges a new identity.

20. "THE BEST UNDERGRADUATE BUSINESS SCHOOLS"
Louis Lavelle. BusinessWeek. May 8, 2005, pp. 78-81, 82-84, 88, 90, 92-93.
The BusinessWeek carried out a survey of more than 100,000 business majors at top schools and a poll of undergraduate recruiters. Here is how the top schools stack up in the magazine's rankings.

TRANSLATED DOCUMENTS

21. MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF BIRD FLU
Commitment Science Report, December 2005, 20 pages.
Below documents are from "Focus on IPR" – IIP's publication, January 2006

22. WHAT IS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY?
Thomas G. Field Jr.
IIP Publication, January 2006, 6 pages.

23. WHY PROTECTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS MATTERS
E. Anthony Wayne
IIP Publication, January 2006, 7 pages.

24. A SHORT GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL IPR TREATIES
Paul E. Salmon
IIP Publication, January 2006, 7 pages.

25. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Allison Areias
IIP Publication, January 2006, 7 pages.