

also seems willing to support an “expanded agenda” for trade, which would include social and environmental concerns.

- While the Quad, and the U.S. - E.U. relationship in particular, remains important in World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations, the voices of developing countries have been growing stronger as well. One of the biggest challenges facing the global agenda for trade negotiations and the U.S. - EU relationship continues to be agriculture.
- The telecommunications sector is a good indicator of where economic trends are moving because it is the largest and fastest growing market. It is a fundamentally revolutionary force. Liberalising the service sector, including telecommunications (and finance), is by far the biggest ticket on the trade agenda today. However, before this can be achieved policy makers must develop a coherent set of regulations at home first. (The current horizontal approach to liberalising telecommunications services does not tackle the communications infrastructure as a whole, bringing into focus the need for the development of a comprehensive broadband service policy). Indeed, with telecommunications systems and suppliers virtually the same around the world, the importance of policy (and coincidence of other factors) figures large in how a country’s telecommunications systems run.
- The digital divide is more a function of how subsidies are allocated rather than due to poverty (and lack of access to telecommunications infrastructure and training in the developing countries).
- *The dispute between Canada and the U.S. over soft wood lumber will likely be resolved since there is a bigger agenda to negotiate between the two trading partners besides this one issue.*

#### IV. Ballistic Missile Defence

**Speaker: Herb York (IGCC)**

- The future of the National Missile Defence is not certain. In historical context, this is the 6<sup>th</sup> time the U.S. government has proposed to build NMD (under the leadership of President Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Reagan). Most likely, support will be rallied for the scheme and the Secretary of Defence, Donald Rumsfeld, will continue to promote the idea. In the end, President Bush will likely say that “we are going ahead [with the construction of the NMD] when it becomes possible.” Consequently nothing much will actually happen.
- There are several elements that the policy makers should consider before launching NMD:
  - 1) going ahead may be interpreted as breaching the ABM treaty and as a unilateral step that could further undermine the already fragile non-proliferation regime,