

scuttled the WTO Ministerial conference at Cancun. A parallel to the original Finance G-5 is clearly suggested in this process.

For institutional architects, the fact that the July 2004 WTO agreement was not brokered by the semi-permanent clubs was perhaps a setback of sorts; for enthusiasts of self-organizing "emergence", a feature of complex adaptive systems, in this case in clear support of multilateralism, this was affirmation of the importance of informality and of the need to be prepared for surprising developments which such systems routinely conjure up.

Implications for middle powers

The club scene in international relations is not permanent; just as with night clubs, some become less "fashionable"—or in our context less relevant—while others emerge. Thus, even as the WTO scene has been energized by the formation of the G-20 of dynamic emerging markets, the "Five Interested Parties", and the G-90, "traditional" alliances are gradually disappearing from the scene, including the Quad and the Cairns Group. Recent years have also witnessed a flurry of "mini-Ministerials" that involved a changing mix of WTO Members meeting for various WTO-related reasons, but generally serving to inform and persuade various parties to the negotiations. In the world of finance, we see a similar evolution of institutional structures with the invitation to China to join on occasion the G-7 Finance Ministers discussions on international financial matters. Further, a proposal was recently mooted by the US Council on Foreign Relations for a new Quad of the US, the EU, China and Japan to serve as the core group to manage the "big picture" in the international finance domain.

What do all these developments imply for middle powers such as Canada which might not always be part of the problem that drives the structure of emerging clubs? One answer is that the key to being part of the club scene is to be energetically involved—including by providing new perspectives and innovative ideas—in the multilateral process which is the breeding ground for the clubs. Perhaps a second way is to build on Den-