

CUTS CITEE in Action

January - March 2015

Events

Elements of Public Procurement Policy of India

CUTS organised a national consultation meeting on 'Elements of Public Procurement Policy of India' at New Delhi on March 24, 2015. The objective of this consultation was to disseminate findings gathered from stakeholders' consultations in select Indian cities and validate/substantiate policy recommendations to advocate for a comprehensive and balanced National Procurement Policy of India.

This will help government bodies to derive guidelines to determine their approach to public expenditure after assessing the macro-economic climate and by taking into account their impact on major socio-economic development objectives.

www.cuts-citee.org/NPPPI/pdf/Agenda-National_Consultation_Meeting-Elements_of_Public_Procurement_Policy_of_India.pdf

Assessment of India-Bangladesh Trade Potentiality

CUTS organised a roundtable discussion on 'India Bangladesh Trade Potentiality' in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry at New Delhi on January 21, 2015 and March 18, 2015 respectively. The purposes of these meetings were to develop a broad consensus on some implementation aspects of the proposed bilateral/regional transport facilitation (motor vehicle) agreement and also the need for exploring a bilateral agreement on mutual recognition of standards.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Background_Note-Roundtable_on_Assessment_of_India-Bangladesh_Trade_Potentiality.pdf



India-Nepal Trade through Panitanki-Kakarvitta

CUTS organised the '1st India-Nepal Dialogue on Trade Facilitation through Panitanki-Kakarvitta' at Panitanki, West Bengal on February 20, 2015. This dialogue aimed at validating findings and recommendations of a study entitled 'Trade Consignment Mapping in South Asia: A Study of Three SAARC Corridors' undertaken by CUTS on trade facilitation issues through ground level consultations with practitioners and officials at that border point. CUTS will take forward its agenda on trade facilitation by organising the '2nd India-Nepal Dialogue on Trade Facilitation through Raxaul-Birgung' in April 2015.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Report-India-Nepal_trade_through_Panitanki-Kakarvitta_Challenges_and_the_way_forward.pdf

Regional Trade Potential of WMSMEs in South Asia: The Case of India

CUTS organised a national consultation workshop on 'Regional Trade Potential of WMSMEs in South Asia: The Case of India' at New Delhi on February 11, 2015. The objective was to share findings of the study entitled 'Regional Trade Potential and Associated Non-Tariff Barriers, With



Special Focus on WMSMEs: The Case of India.' The project benefitted from a pan-India survey as well as focus group discussions and key informant interviews that elicited the specific views of women entrepreneurs working in the handloom, coir and wearing apparel sectors.

www.cuts-citee.org/WMSMEs/pdf/Backgrounder-National_Consultation_Workshop-Regional_Trade_Potential_of_WMSMEs_in_South_Asia-The_Case_of_India.pdf

Technical Barriers to Trade between India and Bangladesh

CUTS in association with the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (Eastern Region) organised the '2nd Technical Barriers to Trade between India and Bangladesh Stakeholder Consultation Meeting' on at Kolkata, West Bengal January 29, 2015. The objective was to prepare a memorandum of recommendations with regards to TBT issues between India and Bangladesh for further dissemination to the respective governments and at the regional level so that a cohesive mechanism is established. The Memorandum comprises of key policy and procedural remedies to address technical barriers to trade between India and Bangladesh focussing on selected products, in particular, and other products, in general.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Report-FGD_Meeting-Technical_Barriers_to_Trade_between_India_and_Bangladesh.pdf

Why RCEP is Vital for India

The Diplomat, March 03, 2015

By Bipul Chatterjee and Surendar Singh

Mega regional trade deals are in vogue in an otherwise fragile global economy. In an environment of falling aggregate demand, these trade deals are seen as a means to insulate economies from market uncertainties.

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/03/why-rcep-is-vital-for-india/>

A \$10 trillion economy by 2030

The Hindu Business Line, January 09, 2015

By Pradeep S Mehta

While the general mood in the country seems buoyant, the business sentiment is not quite in sync. The reasons are well known, but there is ardent hope for progress under Narendra Modi.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/a-10-trillion-economy-by-2030/article6768317.ece>

Time to Energise BIMSTEC

The Diplomat, January 07, 2015

By Bipul Chatterjee and Surendar Singh

It has been more than thirty years since the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was formed to promote regional economic cooperation.

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/01/time-to-energize-bimstec/>

Participation

- Archana Jatkar participated in the Executive Committee meeting of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted by FICCI in New Delhi on March 10, 2015. She made a presentation on 'Current Status and Future Prospects of Intra-Regional Trade and Investment in South Asia'.
- Sara Nunez Evora, Kyle Cote, Neeraj R S and Surendra Singh participated in a Seminar on 'India's Free trade Agreements: Opportunities and Challenges' organised by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and FICCI on March 03, 2015.
- Prashant Sharma participated in the First India-Nepal Border Summit organised by the Consulate General of India, at Birgunj, Nepal on February 19-20, 2015. He made a presentation on 'Multi-modal Transport and Transit Connectivity between India and Nepal' in the session on 'Cross Border Trade'.
- Ram Kumar Jha participated in the State Level Agriculture Conference organised by Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre, Jaipur on January 28-29, 2015.
- Archana Jatkar attended dissemination seminar on 'Challenge Fund Study of NTBs in India-Sri Lanka FTA' organised by Centre for Policy Research on January 30, 2015.
- Akshat Mishra and Ram Kumar Jha attended 3rd India Water Week organised by The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India during January 14-16, 2015. The theme was 'Water Management for Sustainable Development'. It addressed issues of sustainability of water resources development and management in line with Sustainable Development Goals 2015 being finalised by UN.