

EVENTS

Stakeholder Consultation on “Study to Identify Hurdles for Independent Indian Health Service Personnel in Selected Countries under GATS Mode 4”

New Delhi, India, July 16, 2007

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) organised project stakeholder consultation on “Study to Identify Hurdles for Independent Indian Health Service Personnel in Selected Countries under GATS Mode 4” to discuss the draft research paper prepared under the project with the project stakeholders and elicit their views to help in finalising the draft papers.

This event was designed to involve the project stakeholders from all four states, viz. Delhi, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The deliberations were organised in a structured form to ensure that there was ample time for debate and discussions. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-jul07.htm>

GRANITE Phase 2 Inception Workshop

Kolkata, India, August 09-10, 2007

CUTS CITEE organised an Inception Workshop on the GRANITE Project Phase-2 in Kolkata on August 09-10, 2007. The objective of the workshop was to have a thorough discussion on various issues and methodologies that have to be taken into consideration while implementing Phase-2 of the project with specific focus to look into the familiarisation and understanding of the issues related to National Foreign Trade Policy of India (NFTP). It also aimed to take up discussion on research methodology to be adopted in the first year of the project, finalisation of terms of reference, milestones to be achieved and risk to be faced during project implementation.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-aug07.htm>



L-R: Bipul Chatterjee, Valter Angell, S N Menon, S Nandwani

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rajasthan State Level Inception Workshop under the GRANITE Phase-2 Project

Jaipur, India, September 05, 2007

The Rajasthan State Level Inception Workshop under the GRANITE Project Phase-2 project will be organised on September 05, 2007 inviting a multistakeholder participation from the farmer unions, weaver unions, agriculture institutes like National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM) Jaipur, Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand and Institute for Integrated Learning in Management (IILM) Jaipur, banking and micro finance institutions like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and other community based organisations (CBOs).

The workshop aims to act as a platform to discuss the export issues in agriculture and handloom and handicraft sectors in Rajasthan. The farmers and weavers are intended to raise their concerns and seek clarifications on export oriented issues of their products. At the same time, the workshop also aims to focus on a healthy debate on the problems and potential of the agriculture and handloom and handicraft sectors concerning foreign trade.

Gender and Trade: How to engender India’s National Foreign Trade Policy?

Kolkata, India, October 04, 2007

CUTS CITEE will organise a “National Dialogue on Gender and Trade: How to engender India’s National Foreign Trade Policy?” Kolkata, on October 04, 2007.

A national dialogue is meant to gather stakeholder views. This year’s national dialogue will be focusing on ‘Gender and Trade: How to engender the National Foreign Trade Policy?’

Roundtable on Trade and Poverty: Making the Integrated Framework a Tool for Poverty Reduction?

Geneva, Switzerland, October 18, 2007

CUTS CITEE will organise a roundtable on “Trade and Poverty: Making the Integrated Framework a Tool for Poverty Reduction?” in Geneva, on October 18, 2007.

This roundtable aims to provide a space in which representatives from the Integrated Framework (IF) countries, such as focal points, ministry representatives, least developed countries’ (LDCs’) missions and civil society organisations (CSOs) so that they could engage with the main IF agencies, the donor community and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to discuss the ongoing challenges facing the IF and address critical questions about ownership and how the IF responds to the challenge of tackling poverty. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-oct07.htm#event01>

PUBLICATIONS

Strengthening the Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction

During the implementation of the Project entitled, ‘Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction’, different key themes have been garnered from the case studies and the research work. The Advocacy Document is directed towards policy-makers, CSOs and other stakeholders. It contains seven key messages for further research and enhanced dialogue and aims to influence a policy shift amongst trade ministries to incorporate a more development-oriented foreign trade policy. This can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/ADV07-02.pdf>

PARTICIPATION

Archana Jatkar participated in a workshop titled, "Going Beyond Doha Negotiations: Promoting South-South Trade" jointly organised by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, UNCTAD and FICCI on August 09-10, 2007 at FICCI Federation House, New Delhi. For more on conference see

<http://www.ficci.com/conference/Agenda%20GSTPaug910.doc>

Suprita Jayaram participated in a training workshop on "Mainstreaming Gender in Development Organisations". This training workshop was organised by IRMA during July 31-August 03, 2007. The facilitators of this workshop were Prof Ila Patel of International Development Education Stanford University, US and Prof RV Jayapadma, a visiting fellow at IRMA who has done extensive research in the area of gender and organisations, social leadership, rural water supply and sanitation and governance of NGOs. This workshop laid the foundation for a preliminary understanding of gender, while highlighting the role of deep culture in organisations that reinforce stereotypical gender roles in an organisation.

Shashi Shikha attended a Management Development Programme at IRMA on "Livelihoods & Governance" during August 21-24, 2007. The training workshop familiarised the participants with various livelihood models which are used to address the livelihood concerns of poor. The workshop helped to establish a connection between the vulnerability context of the poor, i.e. the capacity of the marginalised to face a vulnerable occurrence depends largely upon the possession of the livelihood assets and Policy, Institution and Practices (PIP).

IN MEDIA

Kenyan Exporters Win Key WTO Concession

Business Daily Africa, July 18, 2007

By Allan Odhiambo

Kenya has won a major concession from the World Trade Organisation (WTO) establishing a degree of stability in the increasingly competitive export market. The deal, which allows the country to continue offering export subsidies in the next eight years, came amid fears that the country would be struck out of the list of eligible member states based on the economic recent upturn.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-july07.htm#MEDIA02>

Does Failure of WTO Talks Matter?

The Economic Times, July 05, 2007

By Pradeep S Mehta

Since developing countries like India, China and Brazil do not stand to gain anything significant from the Doha Development Round, it doesn't matter whether the WTO talks are concluded now or later, says Pradeep S Mehta.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-july07.htm#MEDIA01>

Gaps between Commitments and Actions

Dhaka Daily, August 21, 2007

M Abu Eusuf

Numerous studies indicate that services have the potential to provide a significant development outcome to the Doha Round of negotiations. Unfortunately, progress in this area is directly linked to breakthroughs in Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) negotiations. Before the suspension of the Round in July 2006, around 30 revised offers were made. There were not much for the LDCs in those offers as modes and sectors of interest to the LDCs were not included.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-aug07.htm#MEDIA03>

PUBLICATIONS

Integrated Framework for Trade Related Assistance: What is its role in tackling poverty?

This Briefing Paper examines the neglect and constraints in trade capacity building in the poor countries and analyses the IF process, including its weaknesses and ongoing reforms and specific recommendations.

This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP07-DI-10.pdf>

Services Trade Negotiations after WTO Hong Kong Ministerial: A South Asian Perspective (SAFIT-II 2/2007)

This Briefing Paper focuses on the developmental elements in services trade negotiations from the perspectives of the South Asian countries' interest. It explores the development that has taken place since the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference and provides for a way out for this region in the prevailing scenario.

This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP07-WTO-9.pdf>

Preference Erosion and Aid for Trade: A South Asian Perspective (SAFIT-II 3/2007)

This Briefing Paper provides an overview of various generalised system of preference (GSP) schemes and identifies countries and sectors in South Asia, which would be vulnerable to preference erosion in the context of trade liberalisation under the Doha Round. Further, it discusses possible options available – both trade and non-trade related measures including Aid for Trade (A4T), to mitigate adverse effects of preference erosion and suggest a way forward to deal with the problem.

This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP07-WTO-10.pdf>