

CUTS CITEE in Action

July-September 2010

Recent Events

WTO Public Forum 2010

CUTS organised a session entitled 'Role of Non State Actors in the WTO' on September 15, 2010, in Geneva under the WTO Public Forum 2010. The main objectives of the session were to:

- identify ways in which different groups of non state actors (NSAs) influence the on going discussions at the WTO;
- understand if NSAs are successfully influencing discussions at the WTO? If yes, how?;
- understand the interaction between all groups of NSAs, for example the business community, civil society organisations (CSOs), and parliamentarians etc, *vis-à-vis* the WTO and whether these NSAs from WTO members have equal influence in the WTO through their respective governments; and
- discuss various opinions and suggestions in order to optimise the role of NSAs in the WTO.



Importance of the WTO System: Present and Emerging



CUTS organised a Public Lecture by Harsha Vardhana Singh, Deputy Director General, World Trade Organisation entitled, 'The Importance of the WTO System: Present and Emerging' in Jaipur, Rajasthan, on August 10, 2010.

The objective of the lecture was to deliberate on the importance of the WTO system in addressing major present and emerging global issues in regard to use of trade as an engine of economic development and poverty alleviation. The lecture was attended by over 35 persons including many leading trade experts, government officials, media and civil society representatives.

Dr Harsha Vardhan Singh, Deputy Director-General, WTO, has acknowledged that the multilateral trading system, under its aegis, has contributed significantly to poverty reduction in recent times. He said the WTO, as a democratic rules-based system, has been successful in creating a stable and predictable system of doing trade.

National Foreign Trade Policy of India

The Centre with the support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi and Oxfam India organised an advocacy meeting on the Foreign Trade Policy of India, in New Delhi, on September 10, 2010. This advocacy meeting was organised under a flagship project entitled 'Grassroots Reachout and Networking in India on Trade and Economics' (GRANITE).

The objective of the meeting was to bring together diverse stakeholders ranging from government officials to representatives of export promotion councils, CSOs, business houses, academia and media to discuss findings by CUTS on the National Foreign Trade Policy of India and provide their views regarding the same. The feedback received during the meeting will be used to formulate recommendations which would then be submitted to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

More than 30 participants, including project partners, representatives of business chambers and associations as well as civil society, media, government officials and academicians attended the meeting.



Forthcoming Events

Training Programme on Technology Diplomacy

The Centre with the support of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India is organising a Training programme on 'Technology Diplomacy' in Jaipur during October 04-08, 2010. The target participants for the programme are scientists and technologists working in various ministries/departments/councils/institutes/research labs of Government of India and the state government.

This training programme endeavours to imbue government officials/scientists/technologists at various departments/organisations with necessary skills. Such skill formation would facilitate effective participation in trade and technology negotiations for international agreements and their implementation.

GRANITE Phase II - Third National Seminar

The Centre is organising the third national seminar under the GRANITE Project Phase II in Bangalore on November 12, 2010.

The objective of the workshop would be get stakeholders' specific feedback on how to make India's FTP more inclusive and responsive to stakeholder needs. The workshop on one hand would serve as a forum for exchanging experiences of two countries i.e. India and Norway, and on the other, it would facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue to formulate recommendations that would be submitted to the Department of Commerce, Government of India and Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

Climate Change and Food Insecurity on Poverty

The Centre under the project entitled 'Scoping Study on the Impact of Climate Change and Food Insecurity on Poverty' is organising a day-long workshop in New Delhi on January 11, 2011. The objectives of this workshop are to discuss the draft report of the scoping study, which is based on the analysis of farmers' and climate change experts' perceptions on climate change and its impact on agriculture and livelihoods; and receive the comments and insights of experts, project partners and other people associated with this field.

New Projects

Self Regulation in Global Value Chain

The theme of this research project is to study the interrelationship between production and consumption in global regulation of environmental sustainability. The research will study mainly two products, i.e. beef and cotton, both having significant environmental impacts, in three European countries, i.e. Norway, France and UK.

Given the importance of Indian cotton production, CUTS CITEE as a country partner will study the Indian cotton industry, with special reference to environmental sustainability issues. The project is funded by Norwegian Research Council and is being implemented in collaboration with National Institute for Consumer Research (SIFO) and Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO), Oslo.



Assessing Consumer Behaviour on Energy Efficient Products in India

In India, attempts to evolve a systematic understanding of consumer behaviour on energy efficient products and their

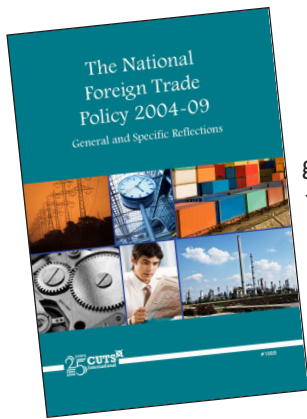


Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation

benefits as well as the determination of the level of and secular trends in use of these products have been lacking. There is, thus, an urgent need to gauge consumer behaviour in regard to these products.

CUTS with the support of Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF) would be implementing this project. The objective of the project would be to provide a base for strategy to promote energy conservation in India by correctly characterising the present status of awareness about the need for energy conservation; the use of energy efficient products; and the determinants of such use including barriers to increase usage of such products. The project will:

- generate a comprehensive benchmark, against which future developments in awareness about the need for energy conservation and use of energy efficient products can be evaluated; and
- provide a basis for designing national level future strategies by the relevant departments and ministries of the government of India for enhancing the use of energy efficient products in India.



The National Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09: General and Specific Reflections

This synthesis paper is an attempt to review the success of the NFTP in stimulating employment generation through promotion of exports of the mentioned labour intensive sectors. It examines the production, processing and export of various labour intensive products in different states of the country – Andhra Pradesh (turmeric), Karnataka (spices), Maharashtra (grapes), Orissa (spices), Rajasthan (gems and jewellery), Tamil Nadu (marine products), Uttar Pradesh (*chikan* craft) and West Bengal (mangoes) – in regard to these aspects.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/GRANITE-II/pdf/The_National_Foreign_Trade_Policy_2004-09.pdf

The Impact of ACTA upon Consumers

This paper is an attempt to address the potential impact that Anti Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) could have on the rules under the WTO and World Intellectual Property Organisation. Also, it will discuss the effects of ACTA on the consumers of party and non-party nations in the areas of trademarks, copyrights, and patents.

This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Briefing_Paper10-The_Impact_of_ACTA_upon_Consumers.pdf

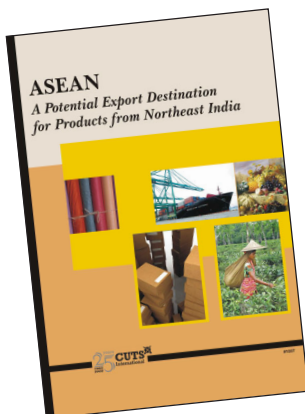


ASEAN: A Potential Export Destination for Products from Northeast India

The basic objective of the paper is to identify products from North-eastern region which could be exported to the Association of Southeast Asian (ASEAN) market. The paper provides an enumeration of economic potential and facilitating factors for economic integration of the region with the ASEAN. The paper also highlights emergence of ASEAN and India as economic powerhouses and focuses on highlighting the current dynamics of two markets.

This Discussion Paper can be viewed at:

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Discussion_Paper10-ASEAN-A_Potential_Export_Destination_for_Products_from_Northeast_India.pdf



Breaking Old Barriers:

Sino-Indian Relations Making Headway

India and China, the two neighbouring resurgent giants of Asia have had a troubled relationship in the past, but share similar challenges/opportunities to/for economic development in the future. With the focus now firmly on development, India-China relations is shifting to one of cooperation from that of conflict, driven by increasing economic dependency on each other. Many avenues for mutual benefits through collaboration await the fast growing Asian giants.

This Awareness Capsule can be viewed at:

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Breaking_Old_Barriers-Sino-Indian_Relations_Making_Headway.pdf



The Evolution of China as a WTO Disputant

This brief aims to study the causes, stages and implications of this change in policy, the lessons China has learnt over the years and those it is yet to incorporate. It also draws lessons from Brazil, a successful developing country disputant, which could be implemented in the Chinese context.

This Trade Law Brief can be viewed at:

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Trade_law_Brief10-The_Evolution_of_China_as_a_WTO_Disputant.pdf



Participation

- Archana Jatkar participated in the Seminar on Government Procurement organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (FICCI) at Federation House, New Delhi, on August 19, 2010.
- Anutosh Biswas, Rashid S Kaukab and Arnab Ganguly participated in an advocacy meeting on 'Globalisation, Regional Disparities and Poverty in India' organised by Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) under GRANITE Phase II project in Oslo, on September 30, 2010.
- Suresh P Singh attended a consultation workshop on submission of development related projects organised by the Department for International Development (DFID) in New Delhi, on August 19, 2010.

Reflections from Media

Untapped Promise of G-20

The News, Pakistan, September 19, 2010
By Pradeep S Mehta

World leaders will...to renew their pledge toward attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The rationale for the differentiated approach adopted by the MDGs is sound: income poverty is not only highly correlated with the other mentioned forms of deprivation but often the alleviation of the former can only be facilitated on a sustainable basis if there is a concerted and direct attack on the latter.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/article-Orchestrating_development_The_untapped_promise_of_G-20.htm

Tobin Tax: An idea whose time must not pass

Financial Express, Bangladesh, July 25, 2010
By Pradeep S Mehta and Anurag Srivastava

James Tobin's suggestion of 'throwing sands in the wheels of international finance' by taxing currency trading has become a vociferously advocated initiative in the post crisis discourse on reformative regulation. The call is worthy to take a close look, as it emphasises the need for this tax in the context of 'elusive' capital while fiscal deficits are compounding human development deficits.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/article-Tobin_Tax_An_idea_whose_time_must_not_pass.htm

Leading NGO Suggests Ways to Curb Food Inflation

PTI, July 30, 2010

CUTS has urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to create more storage facilities, better governance and tracking the movement of food grains from the farm to the fork to cut down food inflation. In a recent letter to the PM, Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS suggested huge increase in cold storage and warehousing facilities through public-private partnerships or purely private efforts backed by the enhanced ability of farmers to pay for these on the basis of anticipated increase in farm incomes.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-Leading_NGO_suggests_ways_to_PM_to_curb_food_inflation.htm