

CUTS CITEE in Action

July-September 2011

Events

Trade-related Infrastructure Development under India's Foreign Trade Policy

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) with the support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), India organised a meeting with Parliamentarians on trade related infrastructure development in New Delhi, on August 18, 2011. The objective of this meeting was to facilitate an informed discussion among the Indian parliamentarians on issues of trade-related infrastructure in India and how it is being dealt in the National Foreign Trade Policy of India, 2009-14.

Expected Outcome:

- Sensitise and create better understanding among parliamentarians' on key economic issues
- Ensure informed discussions among parliamentarians' on complex issues outside the more formal framework of the Parliament
- Carry out research, writing and distribution of Issues for Parliamentarians by CUTS
- Helps in inculcating better understanding and ensuring consensus among parliamentarians' on certain contentious issues



Foreign Trade Policy of India

CUTS CITEE with the support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy and Oxfam India organised the final dissemination meeting of Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics (GRANITE) Phase 2 project in New Delhi on August 19, 2011. The objective of the meeting was to bring together diverse stakeholders ranging from government officials to representatives of export promotion councils, civil society organisations (CSOs), business houses, academia and media to discuss findings by CUTS International on the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) of India and provide their views regarding the same. This feedback would be used to formulate recommendations which would then be submitted to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade.





Government Procurement - An emerging tool of global integration and good governance in India

The Centre with the support of the British High Commission, New Delhi organised the launch meeting of the project entitled, 'Government Procurement - An emerging tool of global integration and good governance in India' in New Delhi on August 31, 2011. The objective of the meeting was to lead to more efficient government procurement system in India with greater transparency, efficiency and good governance for both domestic as well as foreign enterprises.

www.cuts-citee.org/GP/

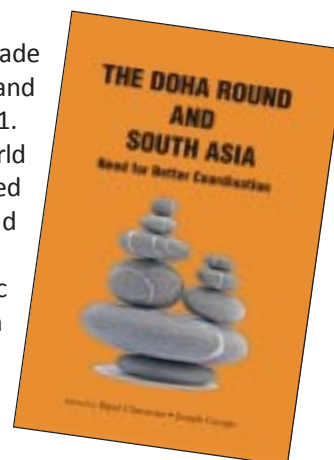
Book Release

Doha Round and South Asia Need for Better Coordination

Harsha Vardhana Singh, Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organisation released a CUTS Publication entitled, 'Doha Round and South Asia: Need for Better Coordination' in Geneva, on July 19, 2011.

The book launch was brought out by CUTS international and the World Bank during the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade, jointly organised by the WTO and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The book is a result of sustained efforts of CUTS to promote economic policy cooperation in the South Asian region. The spirit of collaboration by WTO member countries from South Asia will not only bring economic benefits but will also help to derive huge peace dividends for the region.



Training Programme on Technology Diplomacy

CUTS CITEE with the support of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India organised a training programme on "Technology Diplomacy" in Jaipur during July 11-15, 2011 to build the capacity of scientists and technologists working with various ministries/departments/councils/institutes/research labs of Government of India.



In this five days training programme 25 participants participated from different organisations like Atomic Minerals Directorate, HMT Limited, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute (CEERI), Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Central Silk Board, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL), Ministry of Small, Micro Enterprises (MSME), Electrical Research and Development Association (ERDA) etc.

Upcoming Events

Assessing Consumer Behaviour on Energy Efficient Products in India

The Centre with the support of the Climate Works Foundation, US through Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), New Delhi will be organising the final dissemination meeting of the project entitled, 'Assessing Consumer Behaviour on Energy Efficient Products in India' in New Delhi, in December 2011. The objective of the meeting is to disseminate CUTS findings from the field study and also to receive comments from the experts. On the basis of the comments received, the report will be finalised. In the meeting, people from government departments, CSO representatives, business houses, academia and media will be invited.

www.cuts-citee.org/CONBEE/

Cost of Economic Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia

CUTS CITEE with the support of the Asia Foundation will organise the final dissemination meeting of the project entitled, 'Cost of Economic Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia' in Kathmandu, in December 2011. The objective of this meeting is to disseminate CUTS findings from the field study and also to receive comments from the experts. On the basis of the comments received, the report will be finalised. In the meeting government officials from five project countries (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal) will be invited. Apart from that, CSO representatives, business houses, academia and media will also be invited.

www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA/

Training Programme on Technology Diplomacy

The Centre with the support of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India will organise a training programme on "Technology Diplomacy" in Jaipur during November 14-18, 2011. This programme is an endeavour which is based on the second approach of bridging the gaps between our scientists and technologists and those who are engaged in international (bilateral, regional and multilateral) negotiations on comprehensive economic cooperation agreements in general and technology agreements in particular.

Over a period of five days, this programme will cover a range of issues - from basics of technology diplomacy to technology promotion, technology sourcing and assessment to the application of intellectual property rights. Case studies and simulation exercise will be conducted to impart practical skills and knowledge. A number of subject-specific experts will be engaged to deliver this programme.

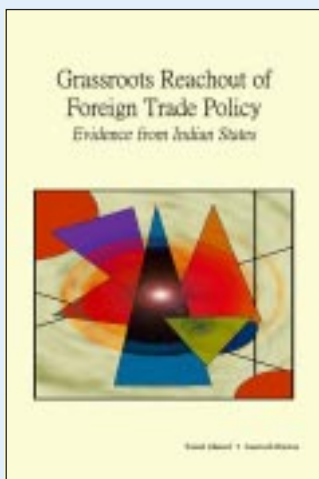
Participation

- **Suresh P Singh** participated as a resource person in a two-day South Asian Consultation on 'Food Justice in a Resource Constrained South Asia' jointly organised by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), and Oxfam in Kathmandu, on September 26-27, 2011.
- **Bipul Chatterjee and Archana Jatkar** participated in WTO Public Forum 2011 in Geneva, during September 19-21, 2011. A session entitled 'Rebalancing the Rights of Importers' was organised jointly by International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council & CUTS International under the WTO Public Forum 2011 in Geneva, on September 20, 2011.

The session examined the motivations and impacts of agricultural export restrictions undertaken by governments in order to protect their population from high food prices. The session also explored whether and how international trade disciplines on agricultural export restrictions can be improved.

Grassroots Reachout of Foreign Trade Policy

Evidence from Indian States



Given the ground reality that the national trade policy making process in India is centralised and adequate channels of communication between the grassroots and the policy makers are yet to be established and implemented, CUTS stepped in to act as a conduit or channel linking those framing the NFTP to those affected by it. CUTS has performed three major roles in this regard through the Grassroots Reachout and Networking in India on Trade and Economics (GRANITE) Phase II project namely demystifying the trade policy, taking feedback from those affected by the policy to those implementing it and communicating this feedback to the formulators so that adequate changes can be made taking into account the demands and needs of the grassroots.

This monograph analyses the findings emerging from product-specific case analyses carried out in the third year of Phase 2 and tries to relate these to findings emerging from the studies carried out in the first two years of the project. These case analyses are intended to complete the scenario presented by those carried out in the second year.

Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia

The study on 'Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia' mainly focuses on farmers' perception of climate change and its imminent impact upon their livelihoods. It covers four countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. It aims at addressing food insecurity and livelihood threats in South Asia by changing the region's cultivation practices and operationalising the regional food bank.

In each of the four project countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan – CUTS partner organisations undertook survey of farmers. Based on the survey results and their analyses, the study provides some policy mechanisms to address the impact of climate change upon food security. It suggests measures such as adopting climate-resilient agriculture, realising regional food bank, and increasing the volume of intra-regional trade.

It also aimed at disseminating a better knowledge on the subject matter to policy-makers, researchers, civil society organisations and the media, particularly those who are working on agricultural issues. It will enable many rural grass-roots civil society organisations to better understand issues emanating from climate change and tailor their actions accordingly, so as to better serve the vulnerable communities in the region.