

CUTS CITEE in Action

October-December 2010

Events

GRANITE Phase II - Third National Seminar

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) under the project entitled, 'Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics' (GRANITE) organised the third national seminar in Bangalore, on November 12, 2010. The overall objective of the workshop was to pool in stakeholder specific feedback on how to make India's Foreign Trade Policy more inclusive and responsive to stakeholder needs.

The workshop, on one hand, served as a forum for exchanging experiences of two countries viz. India and Norway, while on the other it helped facilitating a multi-stakeholder dialogue that would be used to formulate recommendations to be submitted to the Department of Commerce, Government of India and Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).



The seminar was attended by more than 80 participants. Various officials from Government of Karnataka, civil society organisations and media persons attended the seminar.

Training Programme on Technology Diplomacy

The Centre with the support of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India organised a five day training programme on 'Technology Diplomacy' in Jaipur from October 04-08, 2010.

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.

The programme was well attended by government officials, scientists/technologists from various ministries/ departments/councils/institutes/research labs of the Government of India. The training programme brought together experts/resource persons who explored and deliberated on various aspects of technology diplomacy issues. Over the period of five days the participants sharpened their skills on various aspects of technology diplomacy through lectures, real life experiences of resource persons, simulation exercises, group discussions and so on.



Forthcoming Event

Scoping Study on the Impact of Climate Change and Food Insecurity on Poverty

The Centre is organising a regional workshop 'A Scoping Study on the Impact of Climate Change and Food Insecurity on Poverty in South Asia' in New Delhi on January 11, 2011. This workshop is a part of the project entitled 'Scoping Study on the Impact of Climate Change and Food Insecurity on Poverty'. 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 Project

A Study of Environmental Standards and their Trade Impacts: The Case of India

The project is based on three theoretical perspectives – the relationship between consumption and globalisation; theories to explain consumer attitudes; and the implications of evolution of governance for the standardisation and emergence of environmental labels. The project will try to study economic, social, cultural and political implications of environmental standards and how quality attributes related to environmental concerns are defined and developed in relation to textiles and clothing (T&C), as well as how they are managed in the Northern and Southern hemisphere. The project is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Royal Norwegian Embassy.

The objective is to promote dialogue on environmental standards and labels between producers in the South and consumers in the North, especially those associated with India and Europe (the emphasis would be on Norway but the cases of Germany, Sweden and France will also be studied in detail); generate estimates and ascertain stakeholder perceptions of net welfare benefits from such standards/labels; and thereby recommend changes in associated systems of governance to augment such net welfare levels.

Participation

- **Suresh P Singh** attended Swedish International Development Agency's International Training Programme on Rules of Origin in Stockholm (Sweden) during November 29-December 10, 2010.
- **Pramod Dev** represented CUTS in United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 5th Steering Committee Meeting organised by UNEP in Washington on October 28, 2010.
- **Shruti Mittal** presented a paper on Sustainable Consumption in a two-day National Seminar on 'Sustainable Consumption, Climate Change and Consumers – Towards a Better Future' organised by the Indian Institute of Public Administration in New Delhi, November 11-12, 2010.