

**Pre-UNCTAD XII Civil Society Forum in Asia**  
**Hanoi, Vietnam, 6-7 March 2008**

**Agenda**

Day One: 6 March 2008

**0900 – 1000 Inaugural**

*Chair:* Atiur Rahman, Chairman, Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh

*Welcome and Introduction:* Pranav Kumar, Policy Analyst and Deputy Head, CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment

*Book Launch: TDP Country Case Studies (Volume I)*

*Overview of the TDP Country Case Studies:* Mohammad A. Razzaque, Economic Adviser, Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat

*Vote of Thanks:* Alice Pham, Director, CUTS Hanoi Resource Centre

**1000 – 1030 Tea/Coffee**

**1030 – 1200 Coherence in Global Policy Making (including Regional Approaches) for Sustainable Economic Development and Poverty Reduction**

- Why global policy coherence is important for sustainable development?
- What is the significance of global policy coherence in the context of development of Asian countries?
- What are the ongoing initiatives at the regional/multilateral level to achieve policy coherence?
- Why policy coherence is difficult to achieve? What are the key areas for making progress?

*Chair:* Sharad Joshi, Founder, Shetkari Sanghatna, India and Member of the Indian Parliament

*Thematic Presentation:* Veena Jha, Executive Director, Maguru Consultants Limited, Visiting Professor, Warwick University, Research Fellow, International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada

*Discussants:*

Shakeel Ramey, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan

Ngo Huong, Center for Development & Integration, Vietnam

**1200 – 1300 Lunch**

**1300 – 1430 Key Trade and Development Issues and the New Realities in the Geography of the World Economy**

- What are the key positive and negative development-related impacts and concerns of trade policies/rules and the current trade agenda?
- What could be the possible development-related policies to face the challenges of trade liberalisation and also to reap the benefits out of it?
- The significance of increasing role of the South in promoting new exports in the international economic landscape. What are the positive features and problems of the South in accessing the global market, and what are policy measures that can overcome current constraints?
- What can Asian countries achieve by fostering greater trade and economic cooperation among themselves and also with the larger South, e.g. through bilateral, regional and interregional trade agreements, participating in a new global value chain (production sharing), and creating a trade-investment-technology transfer nexus?

*Chair:* Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh  
*Thematic Presentation:* Marc Proksch, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations ESCAP

*Discussants:*

Dushni Weerakoon, Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka

Putu Kamayana, Deputy Country Director, Asian Development Bank – Vietnam

1430 – 1500 **Tea/Coffee**

1500 – 1630 **Harnessing Knowledge for Development to Enhance Productive Capacity, Trade and Investment**

- How can Asian countries harp on global knowledge pool for devising an effective developmental strategy that can bridge the development gaps?
- What are the perceived systemic failures come in the way of harnessing the positive forces of globalisation?
- How foreign direct investment could be exploited for facilitating knowledge transfer and productive investment?
- How to create enabling policy and regulatory frameworks for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and for attracting FDI?

*Chair:* Marlene D. Ramirez, Secretary General, Asia DHRRA, the Philippines

*Thematic Presentation:* Zhu Zhenming, Professor & Deputy Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, China

*Discussants:*

Saloni Jha, WTO, FTA & Foreign Trade Division, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Bhoj Raj Khanal, Research Manager, Mekong Institute, Thailand

1900 **Social Evening & Dinner**

Day Two: 7 March 2008

0900 – 1030 **Strengthening UNCTAD – Enhancing its Development Role, Impact and Institutional Effectiveness**

- What are the major challenges UNCTAD is facing on delivering its developmental role and impact?
- What strategies UNCTAD could follow in order to fulfil its developmental mission and mandates as contained in the Bangkok Plan of Action and the Sao Paulo Consensus?
- Which are the major emerging trade and developments issues concerning Asian countries where UNCTAD needs to intervene and play an active role?
- How UNCTAD could better complement by partnering with other UN organisations for better result and to avoid duplication?
- How could UNCTAD increase the involvement of Civil Society and private sector in its work, particularly from developing countries?

*Chair:* Elenita Dano, Senior Associate of the Third World Network, the Philippines

*Thematic Presentation:* Maniam Supperamaniam, Former Malaysian Ambassador to the WTO

*Discussants:*

Atiur Rahman, Chairman, Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh

Li Ronglin, Deputy Director, Institute of International Economics, Nankai University, China

*1030 – 1100*    **Tea/Coffee**

*1100 – 1300*    **Group Discussions**

Participants will be divided into four groups to discuss four thematic issues and suggest recommendations.

*Facilitators/Coordinators:*

Group I: Kakada Dourng, Senior Researcher, Economic Institute of Cambodia

Group II: Anil K. Singh, Network for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development, India

Group III: Jenina Joy Chavez, Focus on the Global South, the Philippines

Group IV: Winston Set Aung, Vice Principal/Director, ASIA Language & Business Academy, Myanmar

*1300 – 1400*    **Lunch**

*1400 – 1600*    **Closing**

Presentation from Group Discussions and Adoption of Recommendations