



CUTS @ WTO Public Forum 2006

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) organised its annual Public Forum on September 25-26, 2006 in Geneva. CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) organised two sessions in this Forum on September 26, 2006.

Operationalising Aid for Trade

The objective of this session was to deliberate the issues for operationalising Aid for Trade (AfT) from the perspectives of developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), and other stakeholders so as to evolve a roadmap for taking forward this initiative. Keeping in mind the recommendations of the Task Force on AfT, this session discussed the following issues: (1) Expectations, particularly of LDCs, from the AfT initiative (2) Role of donors and inter-governmental organisations for operationalising AfT (3) An effective AfT partnership: Local accountability and global review.

The speakers for this session were: Mia Horn Af Rantzen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN and Other International Organizations in Geneva; Susan Barton, DFID, UK; Khadija Rachida Masri, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the African Union in Geneva; Harmon Thomas, UNCTAD; Martina Garcia, OECD.

Some key recommendations were: involvement of stakeholders; donors' expertise on trade issues; role of the WTO in the implementation of AfT. Mainstreaming trade into the developmental strategies is another key issue, which require utmost attention. The session identified the donors' role in AfT operationalisation. There is a need for donors to become partners in development. In order to realise this objective, the donors should support the country led process of development.

It is crucial to make an assessment of the current inequality situation and the likely impacts of increased trade on inequality. For this identification of the barriers that prevent the poorest, engaging women and marginalised groups in trade opportunities is must.

The operationalisation of AfT should not be linked to the Doha Round negotiations. Another important question that will need to be addressed by Africa is whether it should push for binding commitments or not under the initiative. If not, why and with what *quid pro quo*? The Report can be viewed at: http://www.cuts-citee.org/documents/Report_AfT.doc



Ambassador Mia Horn

G-20 Civil Society Views on WTO

This session was jointly organised by FES and CUTS. The objectives of the working session were to highlight the G-20 civil society perspectives on the WTO and to identify the main challenges for G-20 civil society.

The speakers for this session were Thomas Manz, Coordinator of the Dialogue on Globalisation Programme, Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES), Berlin, Germany; Umberto Celli Jr., International Trade Law and Development Institute, Brazil; Mzukisi Qobo, Research Associate, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), South Africa; Pradeep S. Metha, Secretary General, CUTS International, India; Ricardo Melendez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Switzerland.

The presentations of the panellists and the discussion showed the following points:

- G-20 civil society is not homogenous, but rather a very heterogeneous and highly complex entity, comprising of a wide range of perspectives.
- in order to be effective at global level, G-20 civil society groups have to start at national level to lobby their interests.
- it was mentioned that G-20 civil society has the responsibility to guarantee that the benefits of trade liberalisation are distributed equally among the people.

One principal recommendation is that the WTO should provide for a more structured and institutionalised procedure to include civil society actors in the discussion of global issues. As a precondition for a more civil society engagement, it was mentioned that the WTO procedures should become more transparent and inclusive. The Report can be viewed at: http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/Report_G-20.pdf

Stocktaking on WTO Negotiations: Concerns of Developing Countries

Pradeep S Mehta delivered a presentation on South Asian position and the way forward in SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) session 'Stocktaking on WTO Negotiations: Concerns of Developing Countries' held on September 26, 2006 at the WTO Public Forum.

The purpose of this session was to highlight and raise issues of developing countries, particularly South Asia, at an international forum.

Trade and Development post non-Doha: Let's get real

Pranav Kumar participated in the Evian Group Session on "Trade and Development post non-Doha: Let's get real" held on September 26, 2006 at the WTO Public Forum.

The purpose of the meeting was to explore new ways to increase public awareness of the multi-lateral trading system and its benefits, simultaneously seeking to explode some of the myths abounding the international trading system and globalisation, and retain, indeed advocate and widely disseminate the realities of development in the context of both the limits and opportunities that trade provides.

EVENTS

KIC Inception Workshop

Jaipur, September 9, 2006

CUTS CITEE organised an Inception Workshop under the GRANITE project in Jaipur, on September 09, 2006 to introduce its new initiative i.e. Knowledge Infrastructure with and between Counterparts KIC-GRANITE project. The basic purpose and objective of this meeting was to document advocacy practices involving stakeholders with processes of trade and globalisation. Amongst its eight partners across India, four were selected under GRANITE, based on geographic spread, to participate in this initiative.

The outcome of this project would be to have a collated work, which would highlight the best practices to be shared by other NGOs (in the Oxfam international Network) pursuing similar ends, thereby accomplishing the purpose of the KIC-GRANITE project. http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/Report_%20KIC-GRANITE.pdf

Second State Level Workshop of the GRANITE Project

Jaipur, Rajasthan, October 11, 2006

CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART) in association with CUTS CITEE, Jaipur and with the active support of Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands and Royal Norwegian Agency, New Delhi organised the State Level Workshop of the Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics (GRANITE) Project, at Jaipur, Rajasthan, on October 11, 2006.

The objective of the workshop was to ensure wider outreach and networking in agriculture, textile, handicrafts and handlooms relevant issues in purview of World Trade Organisation (WTO) and globalisation. <http://www.granite.org.in/reports.htm>

TDP Regional Conference

Nairobi, October 16-17, 2006

CUTS CITEE, Jaipur, in association with CUTS ARC, Nairobi organised the Regional Conference under the TDP project in Nairobi on October 16-17, 2006. This was the first of the regional conferences under the TDP project in Africa. The objective of the event



L-R: Clement Onyango, CUTS ARC, Nairobi; David Ongolo, Spellman & Walker Co. Ltd; Bipul Chatterjee, CUTS International; and David S Nalo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade & Industry, Govt. of Kenya

was to provide a discussion forum to deliberate various trade-related capacity building initiatives in Eastern and Southern Africa from the point of view of development and poverty reduction. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/Report-TDP-RegionalConference-Nairobi-Oct06.pdf>

FUTURE EVENTS

Meeting on 'Challenges and Opportunities from a Possible India-EU FTA'

New Delhi, India, November 8, 2006

CUTS CITEE is organising a one-day Interactive Meeting on 'Challenges and Opportunities from a Possible India-EU FTA', New Delhi on November 08, 2006. The consultation is part of the EU Commissioned research project entitled 'A Qualitative Analysis of a Potential Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and India' being jointly implemented by CUTS CITEE and Centre for the Analysis of Regional Integration at Sussex, UK (CARIS). <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/Backgrounder-InteractiveMeeting-EUFTA.pdf>

KIC-GRANITE State level Roundtable Meeting

Jaipur, India, November 18, 2006

CUTS CITEE with the support of Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands will organise the KIC-GRANITE State level Roundtable meeting on the 18th of November, 2006 in Jaipur, India. The objective of this meeting is to discuss the case studies on advocacy practices with local level stakeholders on issues relating to globalisation and trade in the State of Rajasthan. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/Backgrounder-KIC-Granite-Roundtable-Nov06.pdf>

Conference on 'Advocacy for Trade & Investment Facilitation in the GMS Region'

Bangkok, Thailand, November 23-24, 2006

CUTS CITEE, in association with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok, is organising a conference on 'Advocacy for Trade & Investment Facilitation in the GMS Region' in Bangkok on November 23-24, 2006. The objective of this event is to explore the way forward for better economic cooperation on trade and investment between countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) by emphasising the role of China, India and Thailand as facilitators. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/Backgrounder-MGR-Bangkok-Nov06.pdf>

Regional Conference on Linkages Between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)

Bangkok, Thailand, November 24-25, 2006

CUTS CITEE will organise the Regional Conference under the TDP project in Bangkok on November 24-25, 2006. The objective of the event is to identify various pro-poor trade policy initiatives that will help alleviate the conditions of the marginalised and poor population of South and South East Asia thereby promoting pro-poor development in the region. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/Backgrounder-TDP-Bangkok-Nov06.pdf>

National Seminar on 'Globalisation and India: Voices from the Ground'

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, December 18-19, 2006

CUTS CITEE and Network of Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (NEED) are jointly organising a National Seminar on *Globalisation and India: Voices from the Ground* in Lucknow, on December 18-19, 2006. The objective of the seminar is to deliberate and share experiences in generating awareness on the trade-development linkages in different parts of India by exploring the successes and non-successes, including the next step to develop appropriate pro-poor policy responses. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/Backgrounder-KICGRANITE-NationalSeminar-Dec06.pdf>

Project Review Meeting: WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations (SAFIT-II)

New Delhi, India, December 21-22, 2006

CUTS CITEE with support from Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands, will organise the project review meeting of the Phase II of the Project: WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations. The meeting is to be held at New Delhi, India, on December 15-16, 2006. The objective of the meeting is to bring together the project stakeholders (five partners and three experts) to review the preparatory phase activities of the project that have been carried out till date. <http://www.cuts-international.org/documents/SAFITbackground.doc>

WTO Issues

The happenings at the WTO exert impacts on all countries in a variety of ways. Multilateral trade negotiations, agreements and their implementation, including dispute settlement are some of the issues being covered in this monthly e-newsletter. Since we started our journey in South Asia and that we have specific regional projects on the WTO issues, a section of this e-newsletter is devoted to such issues *vis-à-vis* this region. Issues emanating from the rest of the world are placed separately.

Regional Economic Cooperation

In this e-newsletter the section 'Bilateral Cooperation' covers latest news on the bilateral FTAs between different

countries in the world while the section 'Regional Cooperation' covers latest happenings on the RTAs between different countries in the world.

Developmental Issues

In line with the mission of "pursuing economic equity and social justice within and across borders", this e-newsletter is devoted to disseminate the latest information on three crucial issues of global sustenance: international trade policies and its impact on development; relationship between multilateral environmental agreements and international trade; and institutions and pro-poor growth.

BRIEFING PAPERS**Suspension of Doha Round Talks: The Cost Implications for India**

*Author: Pradeep S Mehta & Pranav Kumar
Secretary General & Policy Analyst of CUTS International*

This Briefing Paper addresses the prevailing imbalances in the world trading system, including economic loss due to suspension, impacts on geopolitics, setback to economic reforms and the cost of litigious disputes. The paper can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/CostofFailure.pdf>

SAFTA: An Instrument For Peace & Prosperity

*Author: N C Pahariya
Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Rajasthan and Fellow of CUTS*

The Briefing Paper argues for SAFTA to be used as an instrument of peace dividend, which may provide an all-time opportunity to forge sustained peaceful political and economic relations between the two nations i.e. India and Pakistan based on mutual respect and cooperation much similar to what the European nations have developed under the umbrella of EU. The paper can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/SAFTA-2006-NCP.pdf>

MONOGRAPHS

*Author:
Chandan Mukherjee
Research Assistant,
CUTS International*

'ABC of Trade Facilitation' is the 10th monograph in the series titled, 'Globalisation and India – Myths & Realities' launched by CUTS way back in September 2001. This series aims to create awareness among the civil society representatives, business community and government officials, especially at the sub-national level on economic issues, in general, and the WTO issues, in particular.

This monograph attempts to educate the reader and build a fundamental foundation for understanding the basic issues concerning TF under GATT. The monograph can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/abc-TF.pdf>

ADVOCACY**India to provide Preferential Market Access to LDCs**

India is about to announce its offer of duty-free, quota-free market access to LDCs. CUTS has conducted advocacy in this regard. To view this please click on the link: <http://www.cuts-international.org/cuts-advocacyPublications.htm#PMA>

**Trade Policy Making in India
Need for A Separate Department of International
Trade and Trade Diplomacy**

There is a need for a specialised International Trade Policy Department to provide some specialised expertise on a continuing basis. CUTS have prepared a short note on this. You can access the full text by clicking the following link: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/TradePolicy.pdf>

IN MEDIA**Ecolabels? You must be joking**

*September 15, 2006, Business Standard
New Delhi, India*

One of the biggest changes in the last decade is the high degree of awareness amongst urban schoolchildren of environmental issues. But will these same children, when they begin to wield authority in the workplace, continue to be as aware? For more click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/mediaSeptember06.htm>

**Ecomark scheme cries for industry attention
October 06, 2006, The Financial Express
New Delhi, India**

Even 15 years after it became operational, the Indian Ecomark Scheme has not gained the attention of the consumer and the industry. The National Environment Policy Statement of India, 2006 had recognised the role of ecolabels on products in promoting environmental conservation. For more click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/mediaOctober06.htm>

ARTICLES**Poverty has reduced in Nepal, but unequal
distribution of wealth exists: Survey
September 27, 2006, Nepal News**

In a stark revelation of widely unequal distribution of wealth, a report by Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) has shown that in 52 districts of the country, the average proportion of people living below the poverty line is more by four percent compared to national average. For more click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/articlesSeptember06.htm#poverty>

**Suspension of Doha Round Talks: Reasons and the Possible After effects,
The Diplomatist**

Lamy has long held that unblocking the negotiations would require parallel progress on a 'triangle' of issues: the US would have to agree to deeper cuts to domestic farm support; the EU to provide increased agricultural market access, and developing countries such as Brazil and India to lower industrial tariffs. To view this article please click on http://www.diplomatist.com/dipo3rd06/story_05.htm

PARTICIPATION

(To view more click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/participation.htm>)

UN-ESCAP Sub-regional Workshop on the 'Trade and Environment Dimensions in the Food and Food Processing Industries in South Asia'

Simi T B participated and presented a paper in a sub-regional workshop on the 'Trade and Environment Dimensions in the Food and Food Processing Industries in South Asia' held in the Colombo, September 06-07, 2006. This workshop was organised by United Nation and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

This sub regional workshop in South Asia aimed at exchanging national experiences within the South Asia region and making recommendations from a sub regional perspective.

ITC Annual Executive Forum

Pranav Kumar and Gideon Robinowitz participated at this Forum held in Berlin on September 27-28, 2006. Gideon submitted a paper on linkages between trade, development and poverty, while Pranav made a presentation on pro-poor trade policies in developing countries.

Mainstreaming Development in Trade – A Longer-term Approach to Developing Sustained Capacity

Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS delivered a presentation at the Session titled 'Lessons Learned in Existing Training Programmes' in the conference organised by International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP) on 'Mainstreaming Development in Trade – A Longer-term Approach to Developing Sustained Capacity' in Arusha, Tanzania on September 28-29, 2006.

The event was held in response to the need for considering optimal delivery of trade-related technical assistance and ensuring that beneficiary countries played a leading role in its articulation.

India Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

Simi T B participated in a Roundtable on 'Sustainable Consumption and Production' organised by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with the collaboration of Safety Action Group (SAG) and sponsored by the European Commission (EC) in Mumbai, on September 29, 2006.

This Roundtable intends to give a concrete follow-up on the recommendations of the Ostend meeting and on the India-EU Environment Forum on waste management held in November last year.

India-SACU PTA: Opportunities & Challenges

Prof. N.C. Pahariya participated and presented a case for formation of a PTA by India with 5-member SACU the oldest customs union around the world in the seminar organised jointly by ASSOCHAM and South African High Commission on 6th October, 2006 at New Delhi. The seminar was well attended. The Ambassadors from Southern African countries and a large number of trade and industry representatives and government officials participated.

Trade & Investment Facilitation in the GMS Region

Pranav Kumar participated and presented on 'Advocacy for Trade & Investment Facilitation in the GMS Region' on October 16, 2006, in an informal meeting convened by Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC), in New Delhi.

The main objectives of the meeting include:

- to apprise partners of changing focus of SDC;
- to clarify the role of India in the capacity building of GMS countries; and
- to find ways as to how the four partner organisations in India could complement each other in delivery and meeting SDC objectives of capacity building of GMS countries.

OECD Global Forum on Trade

Bipul Chatterjee participated in OECD Global Forum on Trade, which was held in Mexico City on 23-24 October. The theme was "A Trade Policy Dialogue on the Multiple Dimensions of Market Access and Development". He made a presentation on "Relative Importance of North-South and South-South Trade".

FES/WTO Asia Regional Dialogue

Ritu Lodha participated in a conference jointly organised by FES/WTO Asia Regional Dialogue on 'WTO at Cross-Roads? – Experiences and Expectations around the Doha Agenda' in Singapore on October 30-31, 2006. The objectives of the conference include:

- to discuss relevant issues of the Doha Round and the WTO with different stakeholders from various regions of the world; and
- to facilitate discussions and obtain participants' perspectives on what could be done for the successful outcome of Doha Round.

WBI's E-Learning Courses

World Bank Institute (WBI) offers e-learning courses periodically for civil society and government officials on a number of sectors and themes. Three staff of CUTS have been selected for World Bank's e-learning course.



Simi T B has been selected to participate in the **Trade, Growth and Poverty** Internet course that would be delivered from October 29 to December 22, 2006. The course will explore some of the analytical and policy issues related to the impact of trade liberalisation on economic growth and poverty reduction.



Prashmita Ghosh and Suprita Jayaram have been selected to participate in the online **Trade and Gender** Internet course to be delivered by World Bank Institute from 29 October to 17 November 2006. The course aims to understand how the linkages between trade liberalisation, economic growth and poverty affect gender issues and the consequences they may have on women.

