

EVENTS**National Seminar on Globalisation and India:
Voices from the Ground**

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, December 18-19, 2006

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) is implementing various projects, which include amongst others, Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade and Economics, (GRANITE) and Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction (TDP). These projects broadly aim to work



towards articulating policy coherence between trade (including India's commitments to international agreements) and national development policies to reduce poverty.

The Centre, in association with Network of Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (NEED), Lucknow, organised a national seminar on '*Globalisation and India: Voices from the Ground*' in Lucknow, on December 18-19, 2006.

The objective of the seminar was 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. More importantly, it aimed to share experiences of the ground from the GRANITE and TDP projects. To know more about this event <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-dec06.htm#event01>

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

Bangkok, Thailand, November 23-24, 2006

The Centre, 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 organised a conference on 'Advocacy for Trade & Investment Facilitation in the GMS Region' in Bangkok, on November 23-24, 2006.

The objective of conference was 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. To know more about this event please click on www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-nov06.htm

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

New Delhi, India, November 08, 2006

The Centre organised a one-day interactive meeting on Challenges and Opportunities from a Possible India-EU FTA at the India International Centre, New Delhi, on November 08, 2006. The consultation was part of the European Union (EU) commissioned research project entitled, 'A Qualitative Analysis of a Potential Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and India' being jointly implemented by Centre for the Analysis of Regional Integration at Sussex (CARIS), UK, and CUTS.

The meeting focused on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures; Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT); Government Procurement (GP); Investment and; Services. To know more about this event please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-nov06.htm#event01>

WTO Doha Round & South Asia Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations

New Delhi, India, December 21-22, 2006

The Centre with support from Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands organised the review meeting of the Phase II of the Project: *WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations*. The meeting was held in New Delhi, on December 21-22, 2006.

The objective of the meeting was to bring together the project associates (partners, experts and other stakeholders) to review the preparatory phase activities of the project. It provided an opportunity the respective partners to present their draft research paper. Know more about this event <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-dec06.htm#event02>

Regional Conference on Linkages Between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction

Bangkok, Thailand, November 24-25, 2006

The Centre organised the regional conference under the TDP project, in Bangkok, on November 24-25, 2006. This was the first of the regional conferences under TDP project in Asia.



L-R: Pranav Kumar, Maniam Supperamaniam, Sailendra Narain, Ravi Ratnayke, Johannes Smets

The objective of the conference was to identify various pro-poor trade policy initiatives that would help to alleviate the conditions of the marginalised, poor population of South and Southeast Asia thereby promoting pro-poor development in the region. To know more about this event please click on www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-nov06.htm

FUTURE EVENTS

Regional Conference on Capacity Building for the Fast Tracking of the East African Common Market

Nairobi, Kenya, January 29-30, 2007

CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Nairobi with support from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and DFID, UK, will be holding a one and a half day regional conference under a project titled, "Capacity Building for the Fast Tracking of the East African Common Market".

The objective of this conference is to undertake a consultation and sensitisation, advocacy, networking and capacity building that will eventually lead to programme development and monitoring in the East African region before the common market becomes operational. To view the backgrounder please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Backgrounder-EAC-RegionalConference-Jan07.pdf>

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

Nairobi, Kenya, March 15-16, 2007

The Centre is organising the International Conference with support of DFID, UK and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands (MINBUZA) under the TDP project in Nairobi, on March 15-16, 2007. The theme of the conference will be "*Civil Society Organisations and Aid for Trade- Roles and Realities*". The objective of the conference is to provide a discussion forum to deliberate various aspects of the involvement of civil society organisations (CSOs) in implementing aid for trade programmes. To view the backgrounder please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Backgrounder-TDP-InternationalConference-Mar07.pdf>

NEW PROJECTS

Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy: A Pilot Project in Bangladesh and India

CUTS CITEE is implementing a project, "*Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy: A Pilot Project in Bangladesh and India*" with the support from Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi. Over a period of two years, this project will be built through scientific consolidation and expansion of the need-based and demand driven agenda for mainstreaming, international trade into national development strategies of two South Asian countries, viz. Bangladesh and India.

The overall goal of the project is to establish upward and downward linkages between the grassroots and the policymakers (both at the local and national levels) to integrate people's views and concerns on issues of linkages between international trade and human development into the policymaking process.

In addition, this project will address a major problem of trade policy-making and its implementation in developing countries, i.e. the problem of social exclusion.

The project will be implemented in two countries in South Asia: Bangladesh and India. The reason for choosing these two countries for this project is because of the fact that it is better to start at a small-scale (as there is not much of this type of work in these countries), and these countries represent a good mix of different levels of economic development with diverse experiences about the role that the civil society is playing in achieving conditions necessary for pro-poor growth. The project activities will be carried out by the following organisations:

- Bangladesh: *Unnayan Shamannay*, Dhaka
- India: CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment, Jaipur and CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre (CUTS CRC) and Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (CSSS), Kolkata

These organisations have been actively pursuing action-oriented research, advocacy and networking activities in their respective countries/states. Thus, they have developed a network of grassroots groups, which will be utilised in implementing the project. Besides the grassroots groups, two other targeted groups of beneficiaries are policymakers (at local and national level) and parliamentarians.

An Inception Workshop of the project will be organised in Kolkata on February 07-08, 2007. The objective of this event is to bring together people associated with the project and to discuss and finalise the sectors, draft Terms of Reference and questionnaires. It will involve participants from partner organisations in Bangladesh and India (Rajasthan and West Bengal), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), government officials, project associate and researchers etc. For more information please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/mainstreaming/index.htm>

Study to Identify Hurdles for Independent Indian Health Service Personnel in Selected Countries under GATS Mode IV

CUTS has undertaken the project, "Study to identify hurdles for independent Indian health service personnel in selected countries under GATS Mode IV". The project aims to simultaneously focus on experiences acquired by Indian professionals to draw lessons that can facilitate in managing the temporary movement effectively. It intends to highlight how the ongoing General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations could be used to generate a stronger liberalising momentum in health sector. This project is supported by World Health Organisation (WHO) for a period of four months.

The study has two main objectives. Firstly, it aims to examine the policy, administrative and implementation mechanisms employed by various governments at the national, bilateral and regional level to manage temporary migration of independent health service providers in India. Besides, it would also analyse the domestic regulations of various countries viz. US, UK, Canada, Australia, Gulf countries, Singapore etc., to shed light on issues that have detrimental effect on the movement of Indian health service providers.

Secondly, it aims to identify the barriers faced by Indian independent health service providers (namely, medical and dental service providers, including services provided by midwives, nurses, physiotherapists & paramedical personnel) under Mode IV of GATS and appropriately would provide recommendation strategies to ensure access of Indian health professionals to opportunities for employment abroad through authorised channels.

For more information please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/GATS-Mode4/index.htm>

PRESS RELEASES

Coming Four Months are Very Crucial for the Doha Round

December 27, 2006

"The suspension of Doha Round negotiations in July this year has brought into focus not only the substantive issues which are the subject of discord, but also institutionalised asymmetries which continue to pervade WTO after its emergence from General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). While its professed objective is greater openness in all aspects of trade, in practice, this objective is observed in a highly selective manner that reflects the predilections and concerns of developed countries," said Mr S N Menon, Former Commerce Secretary of India. He was speaking at a review meeting of the project titled, "WTO Doha Round and South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations" which was held in New Delhi on 21-22 December. For more information please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/press-archive-dec06.htm#PRESS03>

South Asian countries should bridge their differences on WTO issues: CUTS

December 14, 2006

In July 2006, the Director-General of WTO after consulting the WTO members suspended the Doha Round of negotiations as an interim measure to allow for a period of "time-out". Negotiations crammed upon agriculture that represents merely eight percent of total world trade, as food production always remained a very sensitive sector for both rich and poor countries. For more information please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/press-archive-dec06.htm#PRESS02>

Huge Cost of Suspension of Doha Talks: CUTS

December 06, 2006

With the current stalemate in Doha Round of trade talks, India should make all efforts to revive and concludes Doha Round of negotiations, as overall the country will gain much from multilateral liberalisation, says CUTS International. For more information please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/press-archive-dec06.htm#PRESS01>

ADVOCACY

IN MEDIA

FTA with EU not Linked to Doha Debacle

Financial Express,
November 08, 2006

The government has said the negotiations to link a free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU) was not linked to the failure of the Doha Round of WTO talks. Indo-EU FTA will help both the sides gain in terms of investment and trade. For more information please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-nov06.htm#MEDIA01>

India Wary of Lamy Draft to Save Doha Talks

Financial Express, India,
December 07, 2006

The WTO Director General, Pascal Lamy is said to be keen on producing a draft with clear directions to all members on what needs to be done to salvage the Doha Round of talks. India is, however, totally against any such text and is of the opinion that only political will can save the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). For complete information please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-dec06.htm#MEDIA02>

ARTICLES

Time to Accelerate Economic Ties

Business Line, December 16, 2006

Whenever one speaks about the peace-promoting economic relations between India and Pakistan, sceptics opine that the relations between the two are marred by the border dispute and cross-border terrorism. Hence, to expect more peaceful relations between the two fast growing economies through trade is a dream. We do not agree. For complete analysis please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-dec06.htm#MEDIA10>

Broad Benefits of Special Economic Zones

Financial Express, India, December 14, 2006

The commerce and finance ministries, as has been reported extensively in the news media, are currently at loggerheads over the way the current concept of special economic zones (SEZs) is to be handled in India. There is no quarrel on their need; while the finance ministry feels that tax rebates will result in huge losses from direct and indirect taxes, the Commerce & Industry Ministry is arguing that short-term loses will be compensated for by vast overall gains in the long run. For more information please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-dec06.htm#MEDIA07>

We Need a Separate Trade Department

Business Standard, New Delhi, December 07, 2006

More specialised and experienced people are needed to deal with international trade policy matters, perhaps civil servants appointed for the job on a permanent basis. The overall objective should be that ministry of commerce speaks for the system as a whole, as broadly understood, with the confidence and assurance that a deep comprehensive consultative procedure alone can bring. For more information please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-dec06.htm#MEDIA01>

PARTICIPATION

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

7th Annual Poverty Symposium on Poverty Research

December 6-7, 2006, Sri Lanka

Prashmita Ghosh presented a paper on "Globalisation and Inequality: The Development Rationale" at the 7th Annual Poverty Symposium on Poverty Research held on December 06-07, 2006 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The topic for debate was: "Does Inequality matter? Exploring the links between poverty and inequality." The symposium was supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit(GTZ), International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada and International Alert, UK. The main objective was to highlight the issue of poverty and inequality.

PUBLICATION

Environmental Standards in Food Processing Industry: Impact on South Asian Exports

Author - Simi T B

Researcher CUTS International

The Food Processing Industry (FPI) though one of the largest industries in India has only one percent share of overall global trade. One main reason for this small share is the rejection of Indian food and manufactured products by the developed countries on the ground of environmental and safety standards. However, this growing desire of developed countries to have high food safety standards does not imply that such standards are anti-trade or are against the principles of the WTO. Only they need to make certain that such regulatory barriers are not misused to achieve protectionist objectives.

This briefing paper looks into a few specific examples wherein food and manufactured products from South Asia, particularly from India, were rejected by the developed countries. Also, it tries to put forward a few recommendations to overcome this current scenario. For more information please click on <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP06-DI-5.pdf>

Ninth Sustainable Development Conference

December 13-15, 2006, Pakistan

Pradeep S Mehta participated in the session on 'South Asian Common Positions in the WTO' at the Ninth Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) held from December 13-15, 2006 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Each SDC is designed to be a forum for sharing and exchanging dialogues on sustainable development with practitioners, civil society and policy-makers. The overarching theme of the SDPI's Ninth SDC was "Missing Links in Sustainable Development (SD): South Asian Perspectives".

BRIEFING PAPER

Environmental Standards in Food Processing Industry: Impact on South Asian Exports

Introduction

The Food Processing Industry (FPI) is one of the prime industries in India in terms of production, consumption, export and growth prospects. The sector is critical to India's development, for it establishes a vital linkage and synergy between the two pillars of the economy - Industry and Agriculture. The sector accounts for a gross output of more than 1.65-1.85, out of which value-added food products comprising 0.90-1.25. The industry ranks fifth in size in the world and occupies a major share of the industrial output, which would make it fifth largest in the world. The food industry is one of the most traditional and labour intensive sectors in the previous.

India's food processing industry is highly diversified and occupies a major share of the industrial output, which would make it fifth largest in the world. The food industry is one of the most traditional and labour intensive sectors in the previous.

(A) 1992 has, especially the agro-processing sub-sectors and market development. Also, governments have been made to this regard for setting up of a National Institute of Food-Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management and developing the Food Processing Research Centre at Jaipur into a national level institution. FPI is thus clearly emerging to be the next major sector in the country.

Impact of Environment & Health Standards
In spite of this significant share in India's trade, its export potential is still very low due to the world trade of processed food items through the country has a large export potential. This makes easier for this small share in the exports of the food and manufactured products exports by the developed countries on the ground of environmental and safety standards. There is a wide disparity between the food quality standards that Indian firms need to meet in the international markets and those it needs to receive foreign

developed countries have adopted a high environmental standards taking into consideration the environment and health. Developed countries are to be followed by other developing countries to be able to compete with them.

WBI's E-Learning Courses

Prashmita Ghosh and Suprita Jayaram have undergone a course on Trade and Gender while Simi T B has undergone a course on Trade, Growth and Poverty.



This was the first online course that I have ever taken. Altogether I found this course very informative and useful. I will certainly utilise this additional knowledge that I gained during my course in all my future works in a fruitful and productive way. I thank CUTS and World Bank Institute for giving me this opportunity. It was exactly what I needed. I have enjoyed the course and I do recommend such courses to all my colleagues. **Simi T B**

The course on Trade and Gender helped me to understand better the linkages between gender as a social construct and its implications on trade, which is essentially seen as an economic activity. I particularly feel enriched reading the case studies provided as course material. Such case studies provided an opportunity to attempt a comparative study between two or more countries. **Suprita Jayaram**



The Trade and Gender E-learning course was delivered by the World Bank Institute from October 29 to November 17, 2006. Participants were drawn from all over the globe. Such a global interactive platform enabled a rich discussion on international development issues and gender related problems. My thanks to CUTS for giving me this opportunity to participate in this intellectually stimulating course. **Prashmita Ghosh**