

EVENTS

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

Nairobi, Kenya, January 29-30, 2007

The objective of this conference was to undertake a consultation and sensitization, 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. Further the objective



was to provide a platform for the regional stakeholders, including policy-makers from members of the East Africa Community countries to discuss debate and share pertinent policy and practical issues by getting perspectives from different stakeholders on the proposed East African common market.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-jan07.htm>

Boxing Smart on EPA's: Identifying the least bad options

Great Rift Valley Lodge, Naivasha 13-14 February 2007

The objective of the Workshop was to enable participants (who represent a wide range of Kenyan CSOs and private sector representatives with interests in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations between their government and



the EU) to assess the costs and benefits of alternative goods trade regimes with Europe after the current Cotonou trade agreement expires in December 2007.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-feb07.htm#event02>

UPCOMING EVENT

International Conference on Linkages Between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction

Nairobi, Kenya, March 15-16, 2007

Representatives of project partners from fifteen countries across South and South-East Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, Europe viz.- Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Kenya, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, UK, Vietnam, Zambia will

be attending the conference apart from representatives from inter-governmental agencies, governments, civil society, and research organisations.

The theme of the conference will be "Civil Society Organisations & Aid for Trade: Roles & Realities."

Inception workshop of the Project: Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy: A Pilot Project in Bangladesh and India

Kolkata, India, February 07-08, 2007



The objective of this event was to bring together people associated with the project and to discuss and finalise the sectors, draft Terms of Reference and questionnaires. It involved participants from partner organisations in Bangladesh and India (Rajasthan and West Bengal), NGO, government officials, project associate and researchers. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-feb07.htm>

REPRESENTATION

Warwick Commission into the Future of the Global Trade Regime

Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General of CUTS International has been invited to be a member of the "Warwick Commission into the Future of the Global Trade Regime". It is hosted at the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation at the University of Warwick, UK (www.warwick.ac.uk/csgr). Mr. Pierre Pettigrew, former Canadian Minister for Trade and Foreign Affairs is the Chairman of this Commission. The first meeting of the body was held on 23-24 February and Mehta presented a Note on "Threats/Obstacles and Possible Solutions". <http://www.cuts-citee.org/advocacy-archive-jan07.htm#ADV01>

PRESS RELEASE

CUTS hails the revival of Doha trade talks

New Delhi, India, January 27, 2007

"Global welfare worth billions of dollars is at stake and trade ministers from around the world have taken a right decision to revive the Doha round of trade talks at the political level," said Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General of CUTS International while welcoming the decision. Trade ministers from about 30 countries from Asia, Europe and Americas met on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum held at Davos in Switzerland and decided to revive the stalled negotiations. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/press-archive-dec06.htm#PRESS01>

The objective of the conference is to provide a discussion forum to deliberate on various aspects of the involvement of civil society organisations in implementing aid for trade programmes. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Backgrounder-TDP-InternationalConference-Mar07.pdf>

PUBLICATIONS

Concluding the Doha Round: *The Reality Check*

The negotiations were suspended in late July 2006 due to irreconcilable differences among G-6 countries over farm subsidies and tariff cuts. In spite of the not so encouraging outcome of members' informal consultations and some high profile meetings involving heads of states, Pascal Lamy, however is making one last-ditch effort to restart the Doha negotiations. Lamy is aware of the fact that whatever little chance of finishing the round by 2007 depends upon achievement of significant progress in negotiations by the early spring. If this is not done now, then the Round could go into hibernation. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP07-WTO-1.pdf>

ABC of Dispute Settlement

This monograph focuses on the dispute settlement mechanism, which came into force with the establishment of the WTO in 1995. An introduction and basics on the development of WTO's procedure for adjudicating trade disputes between member countries is presented by this monograph. This will help to introduce the WTO dispute settlement systems, which have become the most frequently used mechanisms for the settlement of disputes among governments. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/MONOGRAPH07-01.pdf> <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP06-DI-5.pdf>

South-South Economic Cooperation: *Exploring the IBSA Initiative*

This report is an attempt to analyse and present the fundamental issues pertaining to the IBSA initiative in order to facilitate increased trade and investment among the countries through enhance contact between business and industry bodies, high political proximity and removal of all types of procedural barriers. It also aims to catalyze discussions among the international trade community and draw a future road map for South-South trade partnerships. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/advocacy1.pdf>

IN MEDIA

India Inc advises caution against US, EU farm offer

Financial Express, India, January 30, 2007

India Inc and civil society groups welcomed the new impetus given to the WTO negotiations at Davos, but said India should be cautious about the reported 'offers' made by the EU and the US on agriculture. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-jan07.htm#MEDIA05>

Troubled talks threaten WTO's credibility

Financial Times, London, January 24, 2007

Consensus takes time. The last successful round of trade talks took seven years; Doha has been going for more than five and, though showing signs of life, is still in deep trouble. But few trade observers and officials doubt that WTO credibility is worth preserving. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-jan07.htm#MEDIA04>

Can India become an EU member?

Business Line, India, February 24, 2007

The European Union is a unique success story and thus many countries are queuing up to join it. Starting from six countries in 1951, it now has 27 members with many more set to join. One question raised to the EU's Enlargement Commissioner, Olli Rehn in the columns of *Financial Times* recently shows how adventurous people can be. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-feb07.htm#MEDIA01>

PARTICIPATION

Realising the Doha Development Agenda As if the Future Mattered

Salzburg, Austria, February 16-20, 2007

Bipul Chatterjee participated in this seminar which was based on a premise that concluding the Doha Round will be difficult, especially if it is to really advance a development agenda. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BOR-Salzburg-Feb07.pdf>

SAARC 2015: Expanding Horizons and Forging Cooperation in a Resurgent Asia

New Delhi, India, February 09-11, 2007

Nemi Chand Pahriya participated in this conference jointly organised by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) India and the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). It deliberated extensively on evolving ways and means for South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to become an effective and powerful institution for expanding horizons and forging cooperation in a resurgent Asia in the next decade or by 2015.

Awareness Raising Seminar on IS/ISO 10015 and Quality Management in human Capital Formation

Uttar Pradesh, India, February 07-08, 2007

Suprita Jayaram participated in this Seminar organised by the Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) in collaboration with International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), to introduce and generate awareness on the IS/ISO 10015 system among stake holding organisations. This way organised at the National Institute of Training for Standardisation, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BOR-UP-Feb07.pdf>

GRANITE Tamil Nadu Workshop

Chennai, India, January 22, 2007

Vishwajit Habbu participated in 'Tamil Nadu State Level Workshop' of the GRANITE project organized by Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG) in collaboration with Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission. This workshop was held on January 19, 2007 at Chennai. Its purpose of this workshop was to highlight the agricultural and textile issues faced by the farmers and labours at the grassroot level.

Freedom from past

Jang, Pakistan, January 14, 2007

Pakistan and India need to go beyond formal exchanges to resolve their differences. The world abounds in examples that the two countries can follow to foster peace and prosperity in South Asia. Only a few weeks ago, Pakistan and India exchanged the lists of their nuclear installations. The purpose of the exercise is that these installations will not be attacked by the two countries in the event of any conflict. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-jan07.htm#MEDIA03>

Developed world's agriculture sop offer key to Doha revival

Financial Express, India, January 14, 2007

With the deadlock in WTO talks continuing, any positive indication by major trading partners is seen as a flicker of hope for breaking the impasse. The meeting between EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson and US trade representative Susan Schwab in Washington last week did generate some hope. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-jan07.htm#MEDIA02>

For more than mutual assurance

Indo-Pak lessons from the Argentine-Brazilian model of cooperation
Financial Express, India, January 12, 2007

Pakistan and India have just exchanged lists of their nuclear installations, as part of a mutual assurance that these shall not be attacked by either party in the event of any conflict. However, exchanging lists is not sufficient cover for an unwarranted action by either country. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-jan07.htm#MEDIA01>