

# CUTS CITEE in Action

January-March 2013

## Events

### Government Procurement - National Consultation

CUTS International with support from British High Commission organised a National Consultation Meeting on Government Procurement - Opportunities and Challenges for India within the WTO GPA Framework in New Delhi, on January 31, 2013.

The objective of the meeting was to share the findings of the subject mentioned study with the relevant stakeholders and discuss future course of action based on its recommendations and to explore more efficient government procurement system in India with greater transparency, efficiency and good governance which will help domestic as well as foreign enterprises.



National Consultation on Government Procurement held in New Delhi on January 31, 2013

### Roundtable of BRICS Ambassadors

CUTS International organised a roundtable of BRICS Ambassadors entitled, 'Significance of Emerging Economies and the Way Forward for Cooperation' in New Delhi on February 06, 2013.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss thoughts on the way forward for the on-going cooperation among BRICS, and the impact it will have on rest of the world. These thoughts will be taken forward to Durban and beyond through CUTS' recently established initiative called BRICS Trade & Economics Research Network.

More than 20 participants representing the Government of India, ambassadors of the BRICS countries, representatives from the G-20 countries, business associations, consumer and other civil society groups, research institutions and media took part in the deliberation on how best to take forward the role of emerging economies.

### Promoting Participatory Approaches for Removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia



A Public Private Dialogue held in New Delhi on March 19, 2013

CUTS International with support from The Asia Foundation and in partnership with the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) organised an event entitled, 'Public-Private Dialogue on Removal/Harmonisation of Non-tariff Barriers in South Asia' in New Delhi, on March 19, 2013.

The objective of the event was to discuss and frame a plan for removing and/or harmonising NTBs affecting intra-regional trade in South Asia through a participatory approach by taking into account the views and concerns of business/trade associations and relevant government bodies.

Arvind Mehta, Joint secretary (SAARC Division), Department of Commerce, Government of India said that India should focus more sharply to advance trade relations with neighbouring countries in South Asia and specific policy proposals should emerge from think tanks in order to initiate actions that results in growth of regional trade.

### COENCOSA Phase II - Final Meeting

CUTS with support from The Asia Foundation will be organising the final meeting of COENCOSA Phase-II in New Delhi on April 11, 2013.

Considering the need for institutionalising an effective system of public-private-people dialogues to address NTBs affecting regional trade in South Asia, the objective is to endorse a business plan which has been formulated to advocate for an interventionist and participatory role of the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders in identification and removal/harmonisation of NTBs and to launch a network of policy champions to take forward the agenda.

### Participatory Approaches to South Asian Regional Integration and Connectivity

CUTS in partnership with AUSAID will be organising a stakeholder consultation on Participatory Approaches to South Asian Regional Integration and Connectivity in New Delhi on April 12, 2013.

Realising that an inclusive and participatory approach is necessary to achieve progress on development issues in South Asia, the proposed meeting has two objectives:

- gain civil society inputs on AusAID's strategy supporting South Asian regional integration and connectivity; and
- develop a shared understanding of the big issues affecting progress towards regional economic integration and identify priority actions.

### Addressing Barriers to Rice Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh

CUTS International with support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will organise the launch meeting of a project entitled 'Addressing Barriers to Rice Seeds Trade between India and Bangladesh' in Kolkata, West Bengal on April 19, 2012.

The main objective of the is to ensure that members of the project team, Project Advisory Committee and other experts including key participants/informants and project partners are on to the same footing/page as far as project activities, outputs and outcomes are concerned. Additionally, it is also for validation of activities, outputs and outcomes; and discussion on activities, outputs and desired/expected outcomes.

## Participation

- Archana Jatkar participated in the ORF-FCO Workshop on Rules Based Governance on in New Delhi, on March 15, 2013. She also attended a seminar on WTO and International Trade: Issues of Relevance to Rajasthan organised by Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT at Jaipur, on March 21-22, 2013.
- Bipul Chatterjee participated in BRICS Academic Forum in Durban on March 10-11, 2013.
- Joseph George participated in a meeting on Consequences for the Global Economy and Implications for Emerging Countries organised by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES, Shanghai) and the Shanghai Institute of International studies (SIIS), Shanghai on January 21-22, 2013.
- Suresh P Singh participated in a three-day Sub-Regional Workshop on Accelerated Achievement of MDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda in South Asia jointly organised by UNESCAP, UNDP and Asian Development Bank under their regional partnership arrangements in Dhaka, Bangladesh on February 09-11, 2013.