

EVENTS

First Steering Committee Meeting of the project “Enabling Developing Countries to Seize the Eco-labeling Opportunities - Capacity Building and Technical Assistance for Industries and Governments in Developing Economies”

Paris, France, July 2-3, 2007

CUTS International is a national project partner of the project, “Enabling Developing Countries to Seize Eco-label Opportunities – Capacity Building and Technical Assistance for Industries and Governments in Developing Economies”. This four year project is implemented by United Nations for Environment Protection (UNEP) in association with its national partners and co-funded by the EU (EC Programme on Environment in Developing Countries) & the Federal Ministry for the Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ, German Ministry).

The first Steering Committee meeting of the project was organised by UNEP in Paris, France on July 02-03, 2007, to discuss the project in detail, its concept and steps. The meeting was chaired by UNEP and composed of nominated representatives of the international and national partners which included representatives each from Sino-Japan Friendship Environmental Protection Centre (EDC), China; Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International, India; National Institute for Standards and Certification (INMC); Mexico, Kenya National Cleaner Production Centre (KNPC), Kenya; National Cleaner Production Centre (SA NCPC), South Africa; Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gmbH (InWent) Capacity Building International, Germany; UBA: the Federal Environmental Agency, Germany; Foreign Trade Secretariat of Brazil (SECEX); Global Eco-labelling Network (GEN); and from UNEP.

Apart from the participation in the Steering Committee, CUTS presented an overview of the market chain and related European market potential for textiles from India.

This project’s overall objective is to increase the environmental efficiency of key export products and related industrial processes in the target countries supporting their industry and

partners under this project are: Textiles (India, South Africa); Footwear (Mexico, Kenya); Paper (Brazil); and Appliances (China).

Project activities include background and assessment activities including the establishment of multi-stakeholder dialogues in the target countries; capacity building on eco-labeling; technical assistance; and



Participants of the First Steering Committee Meeting of the project

government’s active contribution to the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech process). Mainly through capacity building and technical assistance, the project intends to foster target countries’ use of eco-labels that represent voluntary, participatory, market-based and transparent economic instruments aiming at decreasing environmental impacts of products throughout their life-cycle, promoting natural resource efficiency of industrial processes, while enabling consumers to make informed decisions based on products environmental preferability. Product Groups chosen by the respective

exchange of information and knowledge on the opportunities and the procedures of increased cooperation among eco-labeling schemes. The target groups are (i) Industry representatives and industrial designers of key target countries’ export product groups (appliances in China; textiles in India and South Africa; footwear in Mexico and Kenya; paper in Brazil); (ii) Government decision-makers in the target countries; (iii) European and local eco-labeling bodies.

<http://www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/design/eco-labelling/index.htm>

GRANITE Phase 2 Toolbox Analysis Kolkata, India, May 28-29, 2007

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE), with support from Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands, organised one and a half day meeting in Kolkata on May 28-29, 2007. The objective of the meeting was to deliberate various aspects related to the implementation of the Phase-II of the Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics (GRANITE) Project. Among the participants were representatives from project partners from eight states across India and Oxfam Novib and Oxfam India.



The presentation on the achievements of the Phase-I of the GRANITE project provided a discussion forum to all the partners and enabled them to properly finetune the outcomes and the deliverables of the Phase-II of the project.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-may07.htm#event01>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Project Stakeholder Consultation on “Study to Identify Hurdles for Independent Indian Health Service Personnel in Selected Countries under GATS Mode 4” New Delhi, July 16, 2007

CUTS CITEE is implementing the project entitled, “*Study to Identify Hurdles for Independent Indian Health Service Personnel in Selected Countries under GATS Mode IV*” with support from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and World Health Organisation (WHO). Under the project a Stakeholder Consultation is being organised in New Delhi on July 16, 2007. The objective of consultation is to bring together the project stakeholders (Regulatory Authorities/Government Agencies, Health Professionals, Councils, Indian Medical Association, Placement/Facilitating agencies and other experts and practitioners in the field etc); to discuss the draft research paper prepared under the project; and elicit their views to help in finalising the draft papers. This consultation aims to make the study practically more viable by taking into account diverse views of a wider set of stakeholders.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-jul07.htm#event01>

GRANITE Phase 2 Inception Workshop Kolkata, India, August 9-10, 2007

CUTS CITEE is going to organise an Inception Workshop on Phase-II of the GRANITE project in Kolkata on August 09-10, 2007. The objective of the workshop is to have a thorough discussion on the various issues and methodology while implementing Phase-II with specific focus to look into the familiarisation and understanding the issues related to National Foreign Trade Policy of India. It also aims to take up discussion on research methodology to be adopted in the first year of the project and finalisation of terms of reference and milestones to be achieved and risk to be faced during project implementation. Representative of project partners from eight states across India will be attending this meeting apart from representative of Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands, Oxfam India and Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi. Besides, representatives from government and inter-governmental organisations will also attend this meeting.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-aug07.htm#event01>

PARTICIPATION

Symposium on Agriculture Crisis and Farmer’s Commission: Response from the States Jaipur, India, June 26, 2007

Suprita Jayaram was invited by Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Jaipur that organised a one-day Symposium on Agriculture Crisis and Farmer’s Commission: Response from the States, in collaboration with Oxfam International on June 26, 2007.

The Symposium was organised in the backdrop of the ailing agricultural scenario of the country, as this sector continues to be the main employer in India yet it is the most neglected. This Symposium came in as an appropriate forum to brainstorm views and ideas of the representatives from across different states in India. Moreover, the Symposium made space for ‘voices from the ground’ to be heard more clearly in the midst of policy makers and representatives from think tanks.

Pre-global forum on migration and development London, UK, May 17, 2007

Pranav Kumar was invited by the Commonwealth Secretariat to present a paper entitled “Nexus Between Migration and Development: A Case Study of India” at a Pre-global Forum on migration and development held at London on May 17, 2007. The Global Forum on Migration will be organised by the International Organisation of Migration at Brussels, Belgium in July 2007.

Participants in the Pre-global Forum on Migration and Development convened by the Commonwealth Secretariat at the Headquarters of the Commonwealth, London, acknowledged the initiative of the proposed Global Migration Group and the Government of Belgium in convening a Global Forum on Migration and Development in July. The objectives of this meeting were: address existing policies, interventions, issues and challenges confronting partners and stakeholders; share good practices and partnership efforts in addressing migration and development at all levels; identify and agree on strategies to advocate for consideration and action at the Global Forum in July 2007.

PARTICIPATION

Warwick Commission to Study Consequences of Doha Development Round

Toronto, June 15-16, 2007

Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International attended the first overseas meeting of the Warwick Commission on 'The Multilateral Trading System after Doha' in Toronto on June 15-16, 2007. An initiative of the University of Warwick, one of the UK's leading universities, the Commission is chaired by the Honourable Pierre Pettigrew and is comprised of 17 other leading experts on world trade.

During its two-day session, the Commission considered the results of its survey of 250 experts on the future of trade liberalisation and covered issues such as the role of the WTO, challenges to the WTO's Dispute Settlement Mechanism, equity in the trade system and the impact of preferential trade agreements.

PUBLICATIONS

Briefing Papers

- WTO Doha Round and Special Measures for Less Developed Countries
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP07-WTO-8.pdf>
- Financial Compensation in the WTO: *Improving the Remedies of WTO Dispute Settlement*
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP07-WTO-7.pdf>

IN MEDIA

Perpetual Disparities

The Dawn Review, May 17, 2007

The prime minister and other government functionaries made tall claims about having reduced poverty and Pakistan being set to achieve all the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), making great strides in improving the lives of the teeming millions. The claim, however, has little to show in terms of bringing any actual improvement in the lives of the people at the grassroots level.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-may07.htm#MEDIA03>

TRPAP Overcoming Poverty

Spotlight, May 4-10, 2007

Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme (TRPAP) message is that tourism can be the best way to fight poverty in the countries like Nepal. The implementation of TRPAP's in August 2002 came as a boon to the local residents of the villages in Nepal. The goal of the programme is to contribute to the poverty alleviation objective of the government through review and formulation of policy and strategic planning for sustainable tourism development that are pro-poor, pro-environment and pro-rural communities and pro-women.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-may07.htm#MEDIA02>

SEZs Turning into Land Scam

Economic Times, May 04, 2007

In a zest to secure tax holidays, developers are gradually turning Special Economic Zones (SEZs) into a land scam, leading industrialist Rahul Bajaj has said. Advocating direct interaction with the farmers, he said, if vast stretches of land have to be acquired to set up SEZs the companies must get them by paying the right value, and not the subsidised rates.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-may07.htm#MEDIA01>

Survey with Mixed Findings

TNS, Jang, June 17, 2007

When governments have to repeatedly inform that it is bringing prosperity and development for masses then pro-public development is actually not taking place. Despite the government's claims of robust economic growth, the Economic Survey contains a lot of alarming facts.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-jun07.htm#MEDIA02>

Duty and Quota Free Market Access to LDCs — India, China must act now

The Hindu Business Line, June 13, 2007

Since the 2003 WTO Cancun Ministerial Conference, LDCs have stood up to the pressure from developed countries and lent crucial support to G-20 and G-33 in their aggressive effort to dismantle the huge farm subsidies of the West. Now, it is time for larger developing countries to repay the LDCs by granting them DFQF market access. This is economically and politically very significant.

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-jun07.htm#MEDIA01>