

CUTS CITEE in Action

October-December 2015

Events

Trade As a Tool for LDC Graduation

How Can the Multilateral Trading System Deliver on Development?

CUTS International in collaboration with The WTO Development Division organised a side event at Nairobi, Kenya on December 17, 2015. On the sidelines of WTO Nairobi Ministerial, this event looked at the various ways through which the



multilateral trading system has fostered development in the past and how WTO can aid in achieving the goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA); in particular, what measures can be implemented to facilitate the least developed countries (LDCs) in their transition.

www.cuts-geneva.org/pdf/MC10%20Event%20on%20LDC%20Graduation%20-%20Final%20Programme.pdf

Regional Integration and Public Participation in Africa

CUTS International in partnership with university of Sussex and European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) organised an event on 'Regional Integration and Public Participation' at Nairobi, Kenya on December 16-17, 2015. The event discussed challenges of defining regional integration and measurements of poverty, availability of quality quantitative data, and limited application of qualitative assessment.

Mega Regional Trade Agreements and their Impacts on Developing Countries and the Multilateral Trading Regime

CUTS International and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Geneva office organised an event on ‘Mega Regional Trade Agreements and Their Impacts on Developing Countries and the Multilateral Trading Regime’ at Nairobi, Kenya on December 16, 2015. The event deliberated the possible challenges developing countries may face from the emergence of mega regional trade agreements and the necessary policy options. It provided a space to various stakeholders to provide inputs on the multiple avenues of possible response, including domestic policy reforms, expanding bilateral and regional trade, and greater engagement at the multilateral level.

www.cuts-geneva.org/pdf/MC10%20-%20CUTS-FES_Megaregionals_Programme.pdf

Participation

- Saurabh Kumar and Aparna Sharma participated in a consultation on ‘Regional Cooperation on Trade, Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia: Reflections and Way Forward’ at Nepal on December 27-28, 2015. Saurabh was a discussant for the paper entitled *The outcome of the 10th WTO ministerial conference: Need for more regional cooperation in South Asia* presented by Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment.

Aparna was a discussant for the presentation entitled *Agriculture investment in South Asia: Trends, opportunities and challenges* by Krishna P. Pant, Fellow, South Asia Network for Development and Environmental Economics.

- Surendar Singh participated in WTO/ESCAP 11th ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop for Empirical Trade Analysis: Impacts of Trade Facilitation and Aid for Trade at Bangkok on December 21-24, 2015.
- Bipul Chatterjee spoke on agricultural subsidies and their implications on food security at The E15 initiative under the ICTSD Trade and Development Symposium organised event entitled ‘WTO rules on farm goods and fish: Towards more equitable, sustainable and efficient global markets?’ at Nairobi, Kenya on December 16, 2015.
- Bipul Chatterjee spoke on ‘TTIP, TPP and the Rise of Mega-regionals’ in a FES conference at Berlin, Germany on November 23-24, 2015.
- Chenai Mukumba attended a three-day conference on ‘India and Sustainability Standards’ organised by the Centre for Responsible Business at New Delhi on November 17, 2015. The meeting discussed voluntary sustainability standards and collaborative sustainability initiatives.
- Surendar Singh delivered a presentation on ‘Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20’ at Federation of Rajasthan Handicraft Exporters Jaipur on October 28, 2015.

Balancing Opposition and Economic Benefits in Privatisation Policy

An Analysis of Brazil, South Africa and India

Privatisation of state-owned corporations can benefit an economy in many cases. However, some segments of society lose from privatisation and it is generally an unpopular policy even among segments of society that are not directly affected. Successfully implementing privatisation requires overcoming these sources of opposition while not sacrificing the economic benefits of the policy. This Discussion Paper analyses privatisation across Brazil, India and South Africa to understand how these countries implemented it and what measures were effective in overcoming opposition without sacrificing efficiency.

<http://cuts-international.org/BRICS-TERN/pdf/>

Balancing Opposition and Economic Benefits in Privatisation Policy.pdf

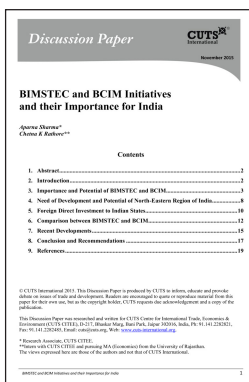


BIMSTEC and BCIM Initiatives and their Importance for India

India has tangled with two important sub-regional groupings to boost economic relationship with its neighbour countries. In 1997, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and in 1999, Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) sub-regional groups were formed including India as a member country. Both the forums have their own importance in different aspects for India having a common aim of regional integration and trade facilitation. This Briefing Paper is about the potential of these initiatives including analysis of trade relations between India and other countries and a comparative analysis between BIMSTEC and BCIM initiatives followed by conclusion and key recommendations.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/

BIMSTEC and BCIM Initiatives and their Importance for India.pdf



WTO Verdict on Livestock Sector

A Threat or an Opportunity to Strengthen our System?

WTO panel has recently ruled that India's ban on importation of various agricultural products, such as poultry meat, eggs and live pigs from the US purportedly because of concerns related to Avian Influenza violated several global trade laws because they were imposed without sufficient scientific evidence. Though India has appealed to the Dispute Settlement Board of the WTO, it is wise to develop and enhance India's own livestock sector, both in terms of domestic demand and in terms of exports to other countries. Besides, coming up with a more robust livestock policy to boost the exports and at competitive rates to countries from where India is importing at present.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Briefing_Paper15-

WTO Verdict on Livestock SectorA Threat or an Opportunity to Strengthen our System.pdf



The road after Nairobi ministerial

The Hindu Business Line, January 07, 2016

Much has been written and said about the Nairobi meeting of the WTO criticising India's trade and industry minister, Nirmala Sitharaman. She could not have done better than what she did for our poor farmers.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/the-road-after-nairobi-ministerial/article8077911.ece>

Trading blows, war continues: How India fares at WTO yet to be decided

The Economic Times, December 22, 2015

After five days of intense negotiations, 162 members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) came to a deal in Nairobi to push the agenda, and crucially reassert its relevance. The Indian delegation, led by commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman, succeeded in getting a balanced deal, which will protect the interests of developing country farmers, as well as advance the quest for global equity.

<http://blogs.economictimes.indiatimes.com/et-commentary/trading-blows-war-continues-how-india-fares-at-wto-yet-to-be-decided/>

What about ease of doing farming?

The Hindu Business Line, December 10, 2015

The Ministry of Agriculture was renamed recently as the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. A welcome step and, perhaps, the Centre will devote better attention to farmers' welfare and not just agriculture.

www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/what-about-ease-of-doing-farming/article7971795.ece

WTO Doha Round issues: Time to pull the plug

The Financial Express, Dhaka and Modern Ghana, November 21, 2015

With the ensuing Nairobi Ministerial of the WTO, the Director General of the WTO, Roberto Azevêdo, said at a recent meeting of trade ministers from the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States in Brussels, that while there remains agreement that the Doha Round core issues such as agriculture, market access and services remain on the negotiating agenda, there is a clear divergence among members on how these negotiations should take place — whether under the present Doha framework or whether under some new architecture.

<http://old.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2015/11/21/119098>

Why States must mean business

The Hindu Business Line, October 02, 2015

Narendra Modi faced a barrage of comments during his recent interactions with American business honchos in New York. In unison, they said he was doing good work but must continue to do more, and faster. They were not shy in referring to a host of obstacles such as complex regulations, excessive approvals, confusing bureaucracy, red-tapism, taxation issues, poor infrastructure, etc. "It is not an easy place to do business" said one gentleman..

www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/why-states-must-mean-business/article7712636.ece?homepage=true