



REGIONAL CONSULTATION SEMINAR ON
**SOUTH ASIAN POSITIONS IN THE
WTO DOHA ROUND**

[SOUTH ASIAN FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, PHASE III]

Earl's Court, Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo

June 18, 2010

Jointly Organised by

Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka

and

Consumer Unity & Trust Society [CUTS International]

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09:30 – 10:00	Registration	
10:00 – 10:45	Inauguration	
10:00 – 10:10	Inaugural Address:	<i>Saman Kelegama, Executive Director Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka</i>
10:10 – 10:25	Introduction to the Seminar:	<i>Archana Jatkar, Assistant Policy Analyst CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE)</i>
10:25 – 10:45	Address by the Chief Guest:	<i>Anwarul Hoda, Chair Professor Trade Policy & WTO Research Programme Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Tea/Coffee	

- 11:00 – 12:30 **Session I: Agriculture in the DDR & South Asian Positions**
Chairperson: *Fredrick Abeyratne, Senior Programme Analyst
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*
Agriculture has been a sensitive area of negotiations for the five programme countries of the SAFIT project. This session examines the commonalities and differences of negotiating positions of South Asian countries as highlighted in SAFIT phases I and II and the latest developments thereof, especially the region's stances on modalities, subsidies and safeguard measures.
- 11:00 – 11:45 **Presenter:** *Saikat Sinha Roy, Associate Professor
Jadavpur University, Kolkata*
- 11:45 – 12:00 **Discussants:** *Syed Wajid H. Pirzada, Director/National Coordinator-WTO FARM Cell
Pakistan Agricultural Research Council*
*Anura Herath, Sri Lanka Country Programme Management Facilitator
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)*
- 12:00 – 12:30 **Floor Discussion**
- 12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch**
- 13:30 – 15:00 **Session II: NAMA Liberalisation: Priorities for South Asia**
Chairperson: *Anwarul Hoda, Chair Professor
Trade Policy & WTO Research Programme, Indian Council for Research on
International Economic Relations (ICRIER)*
This session deals with major tariff issues relating to liberalisation of industrial goods, including modalities for tariff cuts, sectoral approach etc. as applicable to South Asian countries. Salient features of the proposals submitted by the programme countries on these issues will be discussed
- 13:30 – 14:15 **Presenter:** *Zafar Mahmood, HEC Foreign Professor of Economics
Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)*
- 14:15 – 14:30 **Discussants:** *Agneshwar Sen, Joint Director General
Office of the Zonal Joint Director General of Foreign Trade, Kolkata*
*Amiti Sen, Senior Assistant Trade Editor
The Economic Times, India*
- 14:30 – 15:00 **Floor Discussion**

- 15:00 – 16:30 **Session III: Services: Is There A Common Agenda For South Asia?**
Chairperson: *Saman Kelegama, Executive Director
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*
- Relative importance of liberalization of services through the 4 modes of trade for South Asian countries and an examination of proposals submitted by them with the objective of finding commonalities and differences in priorities and approach to negotiations*
- 15:00 – 15:45 **Presenter:** *Deshal De Mel, Research Economist,
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*
- 15:45 – 16:00 **Discussants:** *Arpita Mukherjee, Professor,
Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)*
*Pushpa Sharma, Programme Coordinator,
South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE)*
- 16:00 – 16:30 **Floor Discussion**
- 16:30 – 16:45 **Tea/Coffee**
- 16:45 – 17:15 **Closing Session**
Brief Summary & Vote of Thanks: *Joseph George, Research Associate
CUTS Centre for International Trade, Environment
& Economics (CUTS CITEE)*
- 19:30 – **Social Evening / Dinner**
