

**REPORT ON THE TRAINING PROGRAMME
ON ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY**

Jaipur, India, 8-10 April 2015



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The increasing economic inter-dependence among countries and the evolution of a rules-based global trade regime have made it essential for countries to sharpen their diplomatic prowess. Economic diplomacy is as much a science as an art which States employ to optimise their economic gains by compromising as little of their domestic interests. In India, economic diplomacy is part of a long tradition dating back to the Arthashastra of 3rd century BC which highlights the central position that India has accorded to this subject.

Economic diplomacy, owing to the dynamic nature of global trade regime, has become increasingly complex. There are new players, new tools and new dimensions. If a country is to protect and promote its economic interests and at the same time exploit the opportunities that are opened up by globalisation it is absolutely necessary to have erudite diplomats equipped with contemporary skill sets to optimally utilise the available diplomatic space. They should be trained on preparing reasonably symmetrical concessions, gathering economic intelligence and forging beneficial economic relationships amongst other things.

This report is an outcome of training programme on Economic Diplomacy for officials from various ministries/department of Government of India. It contains the challenges that India faces in the context of international trade negotiations with particular focus on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs), the role of economic diplomacy in overcoming these challenges and offers policy recommendations for future negotiations. Chapter 1 gives an overview of the 3rd edition of the Training Programme on Economic Diplomacy organised by CUTS International with support from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Chapter 2 elaborates the role of economic diplomacy in exploring new market access opportunities and deepening existing trade linkages. It highlights the role of embassies in studying the business practises of foreign countries and communicating the same to domestic stakeholders. It provides a series of recommendations on how India can leverage its stable and peaceful international relations to augment its economic growth.

Chapter 3 deals specifically with the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. After delineating the fundamental provisions of the Agreement it brings out how diplomacy can be a very effective tool in addressing threats posed by the TBT Agreement. It provides recommendations such as identifying areas where countries can work together, creating synergies between government and industry bodies, exploring the option of mutual recognition agreements, studying the emergence of mega regional agreements etc.

Chapter 4 raises the concerns that India has had in implementing the WTO Agreement on TBT and throws a flash light on most commonly reported concerns. It provides a road map on how these concerns can be remedied and exhorts India to transition itself into a standard setter rather than a standard taker. It also looks at the regulatory models that are extant in the U.S and EU to compare them with the Indian model.

Private or voluntary standards that do not fall within the purview of the WTO regime are an emerging concern because of their de facto legitimacy in value chains and advanced countries' markets. Chapter 5 attempts to discover India's locus in this evolving area which is swiftly gaining currency. India

could look at voluntary standards as an opportunity for better integration with the global market and devise a coherent strategy to assimilate these standards

1. Introduction

The third edition of the Training Programme on Economic Diplomacy for government officials was organised by CUTS International in Jaipur with support from the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India through the Centre for WTO Studies. The programme brought experts and resource persons together to explore and deliberate various aspects of economic diplomacy with a special focus on the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. Through a series of presentations, group discussions and case studies, the programme was effective in developing a comprehensive understanding

Objectives

The objectives of the programme were to:

- Train government officials on economic diplomacy;
- Aid in facilitating coherence between India's domestic economic policies, on the one hand, and its present international commitments and future economic opportunities, on the other;
- Develop and strengthen the capacity of relevant government officials on economic diplomacy (particularly in relation to the TBT Agreement) relating to bilateral, regional and multilateral negotiations.

Scope

The programme covered the following areas¹ related to economic diplomacy and the TBT Agreement:

- An Introduction to Economic Diplomacy
- Understanding the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
- India's Implementation Concerns of the WTO TBT Agreement and Emerging issues on TBT Matters in India
- Operations of Private/Voluntary Sustainability Standards in India and the Role of United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards

Participants

The programme was attended by 14 officials² from the Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Finance, Tea Board of India, Marine Products Export Development Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council, Export Inspection Agency, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

Resource Persons

The resource persons comprised of:

- Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director CUTS.
- T.S. Vishwanath, Principal Advisor (Trade Policy), APJ-SLG Law Offices
- Suparna Karmakar, EU Marie Curie Fellow, Economist and Independent Professional

¹ For detailed agenda of the programme, refer *Annexure I*

² The list of participants can be found in *Annexure II*

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

- Arpit Bhutani, Observer, United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards in India

1. Economic Diplomacy: Exploring market access opportunities through economic diplomacy

Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director CUTS

The session outlined the contours of economic diplomacy, its evolving dimensions, the locus of commercial diplomacy within the realm of economic diplomacy, relation between economic diplomacy and other areas of trade, its crucial role in an economy's growth and finally the role of economic diplomacy in ensuring compliance with standards.

Evolving Dimensions of Economic Diplomacy

The growing relevance of economic diplomacy in international relations is a reflection of the inevitable dead end that mercantilism and other beggar-thy-neighbour policies have run into. States have recognised the importance of negotiations, alliances and most importantly information in securing their economic interests in a globalised market. In that sense, economic diplomacy is commonly used as an umbrella term today, to denote any practise that promotes the transnational economic interests of a nation. It is no longer the exclusive domain of state actors but has come to characterise the actions of an increasing set of players- corporates, industry bodies, export promotion councils, civil society and the diaspora.

In the recent times, countries have witnessed a perceivable change in the language and grammar of market access. Tariff is no longer the crucial determinant of market access. New rules which are closely related to consumer preferences, technological advancements, strategic interests and social values are emerging as critical barriers for accessing foreign markets. These non-tariff barriers primarily account for the difference between trade potential and the actual volume of trade.

Role of Embassies

Economic diplomacy can play a vital role in bridging this gap, a tool which India is yet to effectively utilise. In particular, the role of embassies in gathering economic intelligence on the operational conditions of trade that are extant in the external markets can be extremely helpful. The embassies are poised at a unique position to serve as a gateway between the foreign market and Indian business establishment. This position could be leveraged, through economic diplomacy, to precisely identify potential product lines and the possibility of competitive supplies from India. Market reports which provide information on applied tariff rates, technical standards and other regulatory requirements can be prepared with the view of helping Indian companies develop a better understanding of the market.

The country reports despatched from Indian embassies stand out for their stark banality. They are inferior when juxtaposed to the trade advisories send by developed countries' embassies which arrive with impressive regularity and carry a panoply of trade related information. The Ministry of External Affairs could ensure that every embassy brings out a country specific *Annual Trade Policy Review Report* which could then be widely disseminated among various stakeholders and a *Biannual National Trade Barrier Report*, a comprehensive document that specifies the barriers to trade in crucial export destinations based on information that is made available by exporters and foreign missions. Over and above these review reports, the embassies could maintain a throbbing hotline with New Delhi specifically to pass on economic intelligence such as TBT notifications, black listed firms, changes in FDI policy etc.

Interaction with Foreign missions

Industry bodies and export promotion councils have regular interactions with India's foreign missions. In a majority of cases the embassy has shown alacrity in co-ordinating with the host government to resolve legitimate trade concerns of Indian exporters. However, the embassy's support essentially hinged upon how enthusiastic the diplomats that man the embassy are and there is no established norm as such. It is felt that the Indian Foreign Service officers rather than reacting to a trade situation could be pro-active in communicating new developments that hinder market access.

Capacity Development in Embassies

If India aspires to achieve the stature of a global economic power to reckon with, it will need to overcome the capacity constraints in its diplomatic corps. At just about 900 IFS officers to staff India's 120 missions and 49 consulates abroad, India's IFS cadre is outnumbered by not just advanced countries, but even by large emerging countries. These officers are often underprepared to deal with core commercial issues which require specialists in that domain. In comparison, the US diplomatic service has five specialised 'cones' within which officials work, and two of these are political and economic affairs- and it has a separate commercial service. On the contrary, Indian missions abroad have an economic wing which is entrusted with commercial services such as trade and investment promotion.

Extensive and Intensive engagement

The embassies are crucial in not just ensuring an unobstructed access to foreign markets but also in exploring new opportunities and identifying trade potential. They could continuously strive to cultivate a broad catchment for 'Brand India' through publicity, hospitality, and seminars. This could work in tandem with an intensive approach- sustaining and deepening already established markets. There could be a simultaneous effort to promote investment and technology transfer through trade linkages.

A whole-of-government approach

Intra-Governmental co-ordination is indispensable while trying to resolve a trade dispute at the bilateral level. The personnel in Ministry of Commerce and Industry in charge of the concerned sector, the concerned line Ministry, the related division of Ministry of External Affairs, India's mission in the country under question could work closely together to find an amicable and speedy solution to the impugned issue.

Recommendations:

1. Embassies could play a proactive role in gathering economic intelligence for helping Indian companies develop a better understanding of foreign markets.
2. There could be an established norm for remedying legitimate trade concerns at the bilateral level with the help of foreign missions.
3. Embassies could prepare Annual Trade Review Reports and Trade Barrier Reports which are country specific and identify 'focus products' and the relevant regulatory trappings for respective countries.
4. Redress limitations in the diplomatic corps through increased recruitment, creating specialist wings, separate training for soft skills.
5. Diplomatic engagements can be both extensive (exploring new markets) and intensive (deepening and broadening existing markets)
6. There should be co-ordination between various Government departments while formulating policies and finding solutions.

2. The role of Economic Diplomacy in dealing with Technical Barriers to Trade

T S Vishwanath, Principal Advisor (Trade Policy), APJ-SLG Law Offices

Exporters, corporates and Industry bodies in India have, over the years, understood Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) in a partisan manner. There has been a proclivity to club all TBTs together and read them under the same light: as protectionist and as discriminatory. There is a felt need to sensitise stake holders on distinguishing genuine technical standards from those that are, *per se*, protectionist. Before one delves into the use of economic diplomacy while dealing with TBTs it seems pertinent to bring out the legality of TBTs and how complying with certain standards could substantially bolster a product's market access and diversification.

This session of the Programme delved into the fundamental provisions of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. It was discerned to the participants the subtle distinction between technical regulations and standards and TBT and SPS measures. Through a presentation, the procedure for notifying a TBT, the role of TBT committee and WTO's Dispute Settlement Mechanism were clearly spelt out.

The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

TBT agreement came into force on 1 January 1995 replacing the Standards Code. The crucial difference between TBT agreement and Standards Code is that the latter is a plurilateral agreement while the TBT agreement is binding on all WTO members. It also shares the underlying spirit of WTO laws- of non-discrimination (MFN), national treatment, predictability, technical assistance and special and differential treatment for LDCs and a few other countries. In addition, the TBT agreement encourages WTO members to align their technical regulations and standards with International Standards to achieve a certain degree of harmonisation. It also requires that countries impose only those regulations which are necessary to address legitimate concerns. In essence, it is intended to help governments balance legitimate domestic regulatory policy objectives and WTO commitments while protecting human health and safety, or the environment and ensuring quality of its exports.

The TBT agreement does not cover trade in services, government procurement or measures which are covered under the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures. Technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures are the three pillars of TBT Agreement. Technical regulations differ from standards in as much as they are mandatory in nature whereas the latter is voluntary. Conformity assessment procedures delineate the method of verifying compliance with a technical regulation.

Transparency in TBT measures is the cornerstone of the TBT agreement. All members are required to notify their technical regulations and consider the comments they have received before adopting such new measures or altering existing measures. The notification could provide information on the products that are covered (with their corresponding HS code) and the rationale for imposing such a measure. However it is found that in more than 80% of cases, the HS code of the impugned products is missing from the notification.

The Agreement established the TBT Committee which has been given the mandate to provide members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of the Agreement or the furtherance of its objective. The work of the Committee also involves reviewing specific TBT measures and strengthening implementation by following best practises etc.

Difference between SPS and TBT

An SPS Measure is applied to protect human or animal life from risks arising from additives, toxins, contaminants or disease-causing organisms in their food, beverage or feed or human life from plant or animal carried diseases or animal or plant life from pests, diseases or disease causing organisms.

On the other hand a TBT is a document that lays down product characteristics or their related processes and production methods or a document approved by a recognized body that provides for common and repeated use of rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related production and processes methods or a procedure used directly or indirectly to determine compliance to technical regulation or standard. Simply put, when the TBT has a wide scope, SPS specifically deals with food and food related products to protect human, animal and plant health and safety. SPS measures can be targeted towards a specific country or region whereas TBT cannot discriminate between WTO members. Also, an SPS measure which deviates from an International Standard (set by Codex, OIE or IPPC) has to show scientific justification for such a deviation. TBT lays down no such requirement.

Increasing role of Developing Countries in Standard Setting:

Developing countries are gradually transitioning from standard takers to standard setters. As said earlier, the grammar of market access has undergone a categorical change and it is standards that are fast determining market access. More importantly, the advanced countries are in the process of negotiating mega regional agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership which will introduce new rules in these areas. This means that developing nations have to reform their domestic regulatory paraphernalia to introduce a culture of high standards and simultaneously engage in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy to bring legitimacy to their domestic standards and build a consensus around it.

Role of Economic Diplomacy

1. Political, economic and commercial diplomacy has proved to be a very effective tool in addressing the threats posed by technical barriers to trade. As said earlier, countries often resort to Non-tariff measures for a variety of reasons which may not be immediately clear to exporters or industries. For instance, there was a sudden spike in the use of NTMs around the world in 2005 owing to the stalemate reached in the Doha round and the subsequent failure to reach consensus to conclude the round. Similarly, the 2008 financial crisis triggered a series of TBTs taken for “emergency” reasons. Such situations have necessitated the need for Track I and Track II diplomacy to ease the panic and persuade countries from taking knee jerk reactions.
2. A key element of diplomacy is identifying areas where countries can work together. There have been instances when countries have erected TBT barriers on a certain product out of vindictive retaliation against a measure on some other product which they felt were arbitrary. Brazil imposing certification for telecom products in response to a restriction on imports of Chicken legs and poultry meat to India, EU citing Phytosanitary shortcomings in Indian mangoes in response to labelling requirements on Scotch and Whiskey by India are good examples. It is only through diplomacy that we temptations to pursue such beggar-thy neighbour policies which would result in a zero sum game. It will involve working out a barter that is mutually beneficial to both countries.

3. On an average, 2000 TBTs are notified in a single year. At an industry level it can get cumbersome to sift through such technical documents and extract the information that is relevant to one's own sector. The Government could have dedicated personnel who monitor such notifications, sort them on the basis of their HS code and disseminate the information to the relevant industry or export promotion council. Similarly, India could host an upgraded Notification Submission System that notifies TBTs to WTO based on their HS code and also provides the rationale behind the impugned measure.
4. Governments can assist industries and farmers in adhering to TBTs that are burdensome. They can pose questions to the imposing nations which they are duty bound to answer. Initiating such a dialogue not only increases the clarity on the TBT but also sets the clock for implementation (60 days) backwards giving the sector more time to reconcile with the new measures.
5. Negotiating Mutual Recognition Agreements, as impractical as they seem, depends on mutual trust and confidence building. The Government of India, through negotiations, could pitch for mutual recognition of standards and conformity assessment procedures in key export destinations in thrust sectors by gauging the mood and the space to manoeuvre with different WTO members.
6. As said earlier, with the rise of mega PTAs developing countries are trying to exert their weight and evolve as standard setters. There is a need to build South-South co-operation if the advanced countries are to be hindered from multilateralising the mega PTA rules. Regional and multilateral diplomacy becomes extremely crucial if India wishes to play a role in such consensus building.

3. India's Concerns with the Implementation of WTO TBT Agreement

Suparna Karmakar, EU Marie Curie Fellow, Economist and Independent Researcher

This session captured the specific trade concerns that arose on account of TBT issues at the WTO, the underlying causes of laxity in their implementation and mooted capacity building measures and technical assistance that can be adopted. It brought out the dichotomy in the regulatory models that are extant in the EU (which follows a precautionary principle) and the US (which allows the industry to set its own standards regulated by market forces). It was also mooted that the Make in India programme and the mega regional agreements could be used as opportunities for upgrading India's domestic standards regime.

India's Implementation Concerns

A lot of implementation concerns arise because India is unable to fulfil the provisions of the TBT Agreement satisfactorily. Most of the problems that India is facing on the TBT front are emanating from what is already envisaged under the WTO laws itself. This pertains to transparency requirements, lack of TBT notification, inconsistency with international standards, absence of national treatment etc. Implementation irregularities arise from sub-national regulations within a federal system such as India. These are systemic issues and will require sweeping reforms at an institutional and organisational level. The Government could be guided on "good regulatory practices" while setting product requirements, such as for labelling and certification, so that these measures avoid disrupting trade unnecessarily.

It is equally worrying that Indian firms are facing concerns in implementing the technical regulations of foreign countries. The cost of complying with 21st century standards, divergence of standards across jurisdictions, technical limitations are some of the reasons. Also, Indian producers have the option to fall back on the enormous domestic market even if their product standards are incoherent with foreign standards.

India's domestic demand –led growth has thrown open enormous potential for Indian industries to prosper without exploring export markets which are often accompanied with the additional burden of meeting their standards. This high rate of domestic consumption and low level of sensitisation amongst domestic consumers has created an eco-system which is largely oblivious to the issue of TBTs and SPS measures. In comparison, the EU insists on imposing (mandatory) technical regulations for a majority of products if they are to be traded in the EU markets. On the other hand, in the U.S, firms use standards as a marketing tool and by upgrading to higher standards they are able to edge out their competitors because their consumers are sensitive about plant and animal safety, environmental spill overs and other negative externalities of a product. The important point that one can take away from these two regimes is that whether by being a discerning state (as in the case of EU) or through consumer preferences (as in the case of US), both these regimes have succeeded in creating a culture of very high standards within their respective jurisdictions. India will also have to eventually transform into an economy which gives predominance to the quality and safety aspects of products to ensure that it does not become a haven for sub-standard imports and also to ensure that its exporters enjoy unbridled access to foreign markets.

Some Emerging Issues and Recommendations

1. India has launched the 'Make in India' programme which envisions a manufacturing revolution in India. It is equally important that India simultaneously carries forward a strategic road map for upgrading its national standards. India could liberalise investment in sectors where it has domestic limitations with the key motive of technology transfer. This will help in bridging the ever widening gap on the technology frontier.
2. Lifecycle monitoring, particularly in farm products is gaining traction in advanced countries. This becomes an onerous task in a country like India with fragmented farm holdings. Organised retail, whether through FDI or by domestic players could bring about efficient integration of backward linkages and monitor the entire production chain.
3. As said earlier, mega PTAs will be game changers in the present trade regime. In light of this, India will have to make that crucial transition from a standard taker to a standard setter. The role of export promotion councils and commodity boards in not only assimilating the aspirations of the industry and communicating it to policy makers but also responding to trade issues that come up will help India in making comprehensive contributions to the discussions at organisations that set International Standards.
4. Export promotion councils and industry bodies can also engage in sensitising domestic industries on the need for licensing and undergoing assessment tests. Regulators, on the other hand, need to facilitate the process of registration/ licensing by clarifying procedural hurdles and obviating unnecessary requirements.
5. The Government of India needs to conduct training sessions to help industries interpret and utilise FTAs in a more efficacious manner. Sector-specific initiatives can be organised where producers and exporters can meet with policy makers to better understand the language of trade standards.
6. In the long run, firms in India will have to bank on competitiveness to access foreign markets and not depend on export subsidies and tariff concessions. Even if standards are unreasonable barriers to market access, firms usually have just the binary option- either adhere to the high standards or stay out of the markets. The debate on whether the standards are legitimate or discriminatory could be one that is protracted and drag on for years at the WTO Dispute Settlement.

4. Voluntary Sustainability Standards- Challenges and Opportunities

Arpit Bhutani, Observer for the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards in India

This segment was devoted for private/ voluntary sustainability standards. Being an emerging area, there was a felt need to delineate its historic context to fully understand the contemporary practises. Private standards were juxtaposed with TBT measures to bring out the differences. The session spelt out how private standards can achieve de facto legitimacy although they fall outside the strict purview of WTO and the pursuant challenges. However India will need to embrace these standards and see them as an opportunity to better integrate with the global market.

In the recent past India has witnessed a burgeoning interest in the area of Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS), commonly known as ‘private standards’ as they have started guiding procurement decisions on supply chains and substantially influencing consumer preferences. VSS include processes and production methods of products and services related to environmental, social, economic and animal-welfare issues. While legally voluntary, they can de facto become mandatory through the market power of VSS-applying companies or as supply-chain management tools. Their growing currency has thrown open both challenges and opportunities for developing countries.

Challenges

VSS can become a serious market entry hurdle and a key challenge in particular for small-scale producers. The cost of complying with private standards is exorbitantly high and is often beyond the reach of micro and small entities. The impact on the Indian economy will be deep, considering that a majority of Indian industries work in the unorganised sector. To make matters worse, in some sectors there are multiple standards that are incoherent with each other. Supply chains sometimes insists on multi-dimensional parameters such as labour and environment standards which becomes stringent and leads to marginalization of smallholders and less developed countries.

As said earlier, VSS tend to be de facto mandatory and can corrode the authority of WTO disciplines on TBT and SPS. Whether they can co-exist in a harmonised manner or whether VSS will obscure TBT/SPS measures is uncertain as of now, but the threat is ever looming. In any case, VSS being unregulated and driven by market forces poses the risk of being used as an anti-competitive tool to protect vested commercial interests. It has also been observed that VSS, sometimes, don a garb of ‘sustainability’ by taking a one-dimensional approach fuelling confusion at the consumer’s end. More often than not there are hidden environmental costs of a product which the standard fails to quantify resulting in ‘green washing’ of the consumers.

Opportunities

VSS also presents some real developmental opportunities when one considers that there are strong dynamics in markets for sustainably produced products, which generally expand much faster than conventional markets. Private standards stand at the cutting edge of technology and demand a high level of upgradation. But they also ensure guaranteed access to international supply chains and automatically ensure compliance with domestic and international standards. Having said that, for private standards to have such an overarching reach they need to be considered legitimate by all stakeholders and for this there should be inclusiveness and transparency in standard setting. Private standards are often the testing ground for future public standards and it makes sense for firms to

institutionalise these standards because sooner or later they tend to achieve global legitimacy. Voluntary standards have gradually brought inclusive governance across supply chains.

India and VSS

India does not have a visible coherent strategy as yet to deal with private standards even though many manufacturers have to adopt them to gain market access. Some initiatives have been taken by APEDA, Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts (Vriksh), Apparel Export Promotion Council (Disha), Tea Board (Trust Tea) but there has been no serious policy initiative from the Government of India. At the WTO, India has pointed out that VSS could result in creation of unnecessary barriers to trade. India, along with other developing countries argue that all 'Non-Governmental Bodies' located within the territory of WTO members are bound by the Code of Good Practice under the WTO TBT Agreement and that the definition of 'Non-Governmental Bodies' is inclusive which would make it imperative for private standards to comply with WTO. It suggested that the WTO should proactively discuss the issue of VSS, clarify the scope and applicability of the TBT agreement and that the Secretariat could organize a workshop or a special session for Members to discuss specifically how VSS can be regulated by the TBT Agreement.

Recommendations on the Way Forward

1. India needs a coherent strategy to deal with VSS that will provide a road map for development of private standards, capacity building of industry and promote compliance.
2. There is a felt need for a National Platform in India driven by the Commerce Ministry that can ensure coherence amongst voluntary standards. This could act as a focal point for VSS which is equipped with the the skills and agility to co-ordinate with other stakeholders to operationalise instruments such as interpretation, harmonisation, obtaining equivalence and seeking mutual recognition amongst VSS
3. It needs to be appreciated that evolution of VSS would continue to influence trade and India needs to see this as an opportunity to better integrate with the global market.

ANNEXURE I

Agenda for the 3rd Training Programme on Economic Diplomacy

07 April, 2015	
Arrival of Participants	
Day One – 8th April 2015	
0930-1030	Opening and Introduction Welcome <i>Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International</i> Introduction of the Participants and their Expectations Special Remarks <i>Murali Kallummal, Associate Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade</i>
1030-1100	Break for Tea/Coffee and Networking
1100-1300	Introduction to Economic Diplomacy <i>Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International</i> Key stakeholders; commercial diplomacy as a subset of economic diplomacy; evolving dimensions of economic diplomacy; basic features of trade and investment promotion; contribution to economic growth; relationship between economic diplomacy and other major areas of trade and investment promotion; importance of economic diplomacy for compliance with standards
1300-1400	Break for Lunch and Networking
1400-1600	Understanding the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade <i>T S Vishwanath, Principal Advisor-Trade Policy, APJ-SLG Law Offices</i> <i>Dibyajyoti Bhattacharjee, Advisor, APJ-SLG Law Offices</i> An introduction to the WTO TBT Agreement; differences between SPS and TBT measures; the WTO TBT Committee; technical regulations; standards; conformity assessment procedure; international standards notifications to the WTO TBT Committee; the role of developing countries in standard setting; ‘protection or protectionism’
1600-1630	Break for Tea/Coffee and Networking
1630-1730	Group Discussion <i>T S Vishwanath, Principal Advisor-Trade Policy, APJ-SLG Law Offices</i> <i>Dibyajyoti Bhattacharjee, Advisor, APJ-SLG Law Offices</i> Participants will be divided into two groups to discuss their learning on the WTO TBT Agreement. This discussion will be facilitated by a case study on one of India’s notifications to the WTO TBT Committee.
Day Two – 9th April, 2015	
0930-1030	Recap of Day One and Presentations from Group Discussion
1030-1100	Break for Tea/Coffee and Networking
1100-1300	India’s Implementation Concerns of the WTO TBT Agreement

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	<p><i>Suparna Karmakar, EU Marie Curie Fellow, Economist and Independent Professional (Trade Policy and Economic Regulations) and Affiliate Fellow, ICEC</i></p> <p>India's specific trade concerns on TBT issues at the WTO; transparency requirements; equivalence; mutual recognition arrangements; TBT notification authorities; national enquiry points; information management system; special and differential treatments; dispute settlement; technical assistance and capacity building measures;</p>
1300-1400	Break for Lunch and Networking
1400-1600	<p>Emerging Issues on TBT Matters in India</p> <p><i>Suparna Karmakar, EU Marie Curie Fellow, Economist and Independent Professional (Trade Policy and Economic Regulations) and Affiliate Fellow, ICEC</i></p> <p>The precautionary principle; process and production methods; Make in India; private/voluntary sustainability standards; sector-specific TBT barriers faced by India and how they are addressed; other emerging TBT-related issues in India; expected impact of mega regional trading agreements on TBT standards, India's market access and possible counter-measures.</p>
1600-1630	Break for Tea/Coffee and Networking
1630-1730	<p>Group Discussion</p> <p><i>Suparna Karmakar, EU Marie Curie Fellow, Economist and Independent Professional (Trade Policy and Economic Regulations) and Affiliate Fellow, ICEC</i></p> <p>Participants will be divided into two groups to discuss their learning on implementation concerns and emerging issues on TBT matters in India. This discussion will be facilitated by a case study on one of India's WTO disputes on TBT measures.</p>

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Day Three: 10th April, 2015	
0900-1000	Recap of Day Two and Presentations from Group Discussion
1000-1030	Break for Tea/Coffee and Networking
1030-1230	<p>Operations of Private/Voluntary Sustainability Standards in India</p> <p><i>Arpit Bhutani, Observer for the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards in India</i></p> <p>Historical developments and current understanding on private/voluntary sustainability standards, particularly those related to TBT measures; how different they are from measures as per the WTO TBT Agreement; their operational aspects in India; their impact on India's trade; challenges and opportunities regarding the operations of private/voluntary sustainability standards in India; future activities of UNFSS in India and the role of the Department of Commerce, Government of India</p>
1230-1330	Break for Lunch and Networking
1330-1430	<p>Group Discussion</p> <p><i>Arpit Bhutani, Observer for the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards in India</i></p> <p>Participants will be divided into two groups to discuss their learning on operational aspects of private/voluntary standards in India. This discussion will be facilitated by a case study on an Indian product following a private/voluntary sustainability standard for its export.</p>
1430-1530	<p>Presentations from Group Discussion</p> <p><i>Arpit Bhutani, Observer for the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards in India</i></p>
1530-1600	Break for Tea/Coffee and Networking
1600-1700	<p>Closing and Feedback</p> <p>There will be an 'overview' of the Programme. Participants will be asked to provide their feedback.</p>

ANNEXURE II

Participants at the 3rd Training Programme on Economic Diplomacy

SL. No.	Name	Coordinates
1.	Anupam Prakash	Director Ministry of Textiles Room No 392, Udyog Bhavan New Delhi-110011 Phone: 011-23063770 Email: anupam.prakash@nic.in
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