

TESTIMONIAL

Muchkund Dubey

President, Council for Social Development
New Delhi & Former Foreign Secretary of India

One of the Three Intellectual Centres in India on International Trade Issues

My association with CUTS dates back to 1995 when I was invited by Mr. Pradeep Mehta to a regional training seminar on international trade issues in Kathmandu. I was very much impressed by the professionalism and thoroughness, which were brought to bear on the preparations for the seminar. That association was cemented when I participated in a series of seminars and conferences organised by CUTS preparatory to the Singapore Ministerial Conference of the WTO in December 1996. Later, CUTS persuaded me to become the Vice Chairman of the International Advisory Board of CUTS CITEE (CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment) that was launched the same year.

CUTS CITEE has emerged as one of the three leading intellectual centres of the country on international trade issues, the other two being the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and the Research & Information System of the Non-aligned and other Developing Countries (RIS). CUTS, however, has its own distinctive profile by virtue of being basically a civil society organisation. CUTS is able to use the civil society for getting inputs from the micro-level as well as a forum for disseminating its output. This has enabled CUTS to carve out a special niche in the areas of advocacy, training and networking.

The activities of CUTS are not confined to international trade and development. It has also been doing remarkably good work in grass-root mobilisation for development and in consumer protection. It has emerged as one of the most prominent organisations in India active in this field.

For its work in the international trade and development field, CUTS has admirably succeeded in networking and forging active relationship with a large number of think tanks from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. It has been successfully drawing upon their resources for its own research work. In the process, it has acquired an international character and has now offices in Nepal, Zambia, Kenya and the United Kingdom.

CUTS thinks and acts both globally and locally. The case studies carried out by it bring out the implications of policies and regimes at the global level, for the general conditions of the marginalised groups of the population.