

***South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring IBSA Initiative
National Consultation, New Delhi
7 October 2005***

Theme: Exploring India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Initiative in South-South Economic Cooperation

Objective: To engage businesses in regional trade initiatives and promote policy responses that factor stakeholder preferences.

Background

South-South trade as a percentage of world trade has increased from 6.5% in 1991 to 10.7% in 2001. In 1990, intra-developing country exports as a percentage of South-North exports were 41%. In 2001, this increased to 60%, emphasising the growing importance of South-South trade. Average Southern tariff rates have also reduced from 25% in 1985 to less than 15% in 2000. (WTO 2003)

India, Brazil and South Africa are rated as the fastest growing democracies in their respective continents. In June 2003 the Foreign Ministers of these three countries met in Brasilia, Brazil India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Forum is laying the base for convergence between preferential trade negotiations of the three countries and their regions (Mercosur-SACU, Mercosur-SAFTA, SACU-SAFTA). The Forum also attempts to increase trade flows between the three countries from US\$ 4.6 billion presently to US\$ 10 billion by 2007; and strengthen business-to-business links among the three countries. In addition, the IBSA Forum would continue holding IBSA business summits and conduct studies on how to increase trade and investment among the three countries by establishing trilateral Business Council.

Context

In view of the increasing ties amongst the three IBSA countries, CUTS-CITEE developed a pilot project to understand the potential for promoting trade and investment between India, Brazil and South Africa, by engaging relevant stakeholders and understanding their perspectives and concerns on future trade and investment scenarios. This national consultation envisages tabling the findings of the research undertaken and receiving stakeholder responses on the same.

The Event

The event is designed to involve business representatives, government, civil society representatives and academics primarily from India, in a half-day meeting, to receive inputs on the research that is expected to influence the future policy direction on trade and investment promotion amongst IBSA countries.

The Programme

Friday, October 7, 2005

09:00 – 02:00

- Introductory Presentation by Representative, FICCI, (IBSA Business Council)
- Keynote Address by Representative, Ministry of External Affairs, GoI
- Coffee/Tea Break
- Presentation of Research Findings by Representative, CUTS-CITEE
- Comments by Two Discussants
- Open Floor for Discussions
- Lunch

Venue: Committee Room, 2nd Floor, Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi 110001, Tel: 011-23738760-70, Fax: 011-23721504, 23320714.