Towards a Coherent Trade and Development Strategy of India

24-25 July 2008
Magnolia Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, 24 July 2008

0830-0930  Registration with Tea/Coffee

0930-1030  Opening

Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International

Gopal K. Pillai, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India*

Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission of India*

A. S. Bhal, Economic Adviser, DFID India

1030-1100  Tea/Coffee

1100-1300  Responding to the Challenges of International Trade and Securing an Inclusive Path to Development – Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment of India

• How can India contribute in strengthening the development dimension of the multilateral trading system?
• What would be the characteristics of a pro-development regional trading system in Asia?
• Features of a holistic trade sustainability impact assessment

Chair  Rajiv Kumar, Director & Chief Executive Officer, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi

Speaker  Siddhartha Mitra, Director (Research), CUTS International

Discussants  R. S. Ratna, Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi
Saikat Sinha Roy, Associate Professor, Jadavpur University, Department of Economics, Kolkata

1300-1400  Lunch
1400-1600  *Is the Stage Set for Mainstreaming International Trade into the National Development Strategy of India?*

- In the context of international trade, how do local demands feed into government policies given the lack of information about governmental schemes and policies at the grassroots?
- What are the best ways to ensure democratic participation in development by people at the grassroots so that development policy reflects their needs?

*Chair*  Alok Ray, Former Professor of Economics, IIM Calcutta, Kolkata  
*Speaker*  Pramod Dev, Policy Analyst, CUTS International  
*Discussants*  
  Nabinananda Sen, Reader, Department of Business Management, University of Calcutta, Kolkata  
  Jayati Srivastava, Associate Professor, Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

1600  *Tea/Coffee*

**Day 2: Friday, 25 July 2008**

0930-1130  *Regional Trade Openness Index, Income Disparity and Poverty – An Experiment with Indian Data*

- How open are Indian states with respect to international trade and in what way does regional openness affect the level of poverty and income inequality?
- Are more regionally open states also the more prosperous ones?
- How can the regional openness index be used to provide insights into the trade-poverty nexus?

*Chair*  Srikanta K. Panigrahi, Director, Indian Institute of Sustainable Development, New Delhi  
*Speaker*  Sugata Marjit, Director and RBI Professor of Industrial Economics, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata  
*Discussants*  
  Shovan Ray, Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai  
  Rashmi Banga, Economist, UNCTAD India Programme

1130-1200  *Tea/Coffee*

1200-1300  *Reflections and the Way Forward*

1300-1400  *Lunch*

*To be Confirmed*