

## **Back-to-Office-Report (BTOR) of the ILEAP Conference**

### Background

On 28-29 September 2006 the Toronto-based International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP) organized a conference on “Mainstreaming Development in Trade – A Longer-term Approach to Developing Sustained Capacity” at the New Arusha Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania. Bipul Chatterjee represented CUTS International at this meeting and delivered a presentation at the Session titled “Lessons Learned in Existing Training Programmes” by drawing inputs from CUTS project on “Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction,” which is being implemented for a period 2005-08 with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands and Department for International Development, UK. A Discussion Paper covering some implementation aspects of selected trade-related development initiatives in Eastern and Southern Africa, which has been written by Alex Werth as part of this CUTS project, was distributed at this conference.

The event was held in response to the need to consider optimal delivery of trade-related technical assistance and ensure that beneficiary countries played a leading role in its articulation. Details about the conference, including papers, presentations and report, are available at [www.ileap-jeicp.org](http://www.ileap-jeicp.org).

### Participants

Approximately 60 participants from various countries (mainly from Africa) were present at this meeting. They included academics/researchers, representatives from inter-governmental and multilateral bodies and donors.

### Highlights

- A good networking opportunity to gather new ideas, establish new contacts, etc.
- A wide range of issues relevant to our trade work were discussed and debated.

### Lowlights

- There was minimal participation from governments – the direct recipient of trade-related technical assistance.
- Discussions were more academic than on practical (on-the-ground) experiences – this is why our Discussion Paper (and the presentation) was much appreciated.
- African civil society was minimally present at the event.

### Lessons Learned

- There is still a long way to go to fully understand trade-poverty linkage. One reason for this could be that most of the existing research on trade is with macro data while research on poverty is with micro data. In this respect, one may apply Amartya Kumar Sen’s analysis of entitlement-endowment approach in explaining famines.
- Mainstreaming development in trade (and/or vice-versa) cannot be fully understood unless one looks at the politics/political economy of trade policy-making (role, relationship, etc of and between different actors/stakeholders) in a country.

### Miscellaneous Issues

- Some new project ideas were discussed with the representative from Canadian International Development Agency, UNCTAD and DFID.
- Established contact with the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa, which is a new initiative of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.
- An opportunity was to take forward CUTS’ work in Eastern Africa, especially through discussions with the representatives of the Secretariat of the East African Community, which is based at Arusha, Tanzania.