Pursuing economic equity and social justice within and across borders by persuading governments and empowering people

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment

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USA

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UK

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ACHIEVEMENTS

• Working closely with the governments in Asia and Africa
• Advisory Committee on International Trade, Department of Commerce, Government of India (3 terms)
• Member of the Indian official delegation to the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of the WTO Members
• Served at the WTO D-G’s Informal NGO Advisory Body
• Accredited to UNCTAD, UNESCAP, UNDP, UNEP, etc

A SLOOT ANALYSIS

Strengths  
• Research quality  
• Networking  
• Unique international perspective  
• Grassroots reach

Opportunities  
• Demystifying trade issues  
• Presenting contrasting positions  
• Disseminating views of South to North  
• Independent research

Limitations  
• Ability to influence public opinion  
• Media strategy and coverage

Threats  
• Becoming irrelevant if research is just project oriented  
• Replication of work and strategy by others

* Chairperson

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment
D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India
Ph: +91.141.228 2821, Fx: +91.141.228 2485
Email: citee@cuts.org, Website: www.cuts-citee.org

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**HISTORY**

Established in 1983, CUTS has risen to the forefront of the consumer movement in India and at the international level. In 1991, it got involved with the issues of international trade, when it discovered that hardly any consumer group in India and very few in the South were pursuing this crucial area of work which impacts every consumer.

In 1996, it established the CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) to carry out high-level political economic analyses of trade and development issues, advocate at appropriate fora and strengthen capacities of the civil society in developing countries. Today, it is looked at as a major think-tank for research and advocacy on issues of developing countries’ interest.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Enable, empower and facilitate representatives of the civil society, from developing countries in particular, to analyse, articulate and advocate on emerging and relevant issues in the international trading development and economic system at the appropriate fora
- Create an informed society through empowerment of people and civil society representatives, and thus enhancing transparency and accountability in the international trading and economic system
- Promote equity between and among the developed and developing countries through well-argued research and advocacy on issues of international trade and economic system

**PROGRAMME AREAS**

**WTO Issues**
- Closely keeping track of the trade negotiations
- Capacity building of grassroots civil society organisations

**Regional Economic Cooperation**
- South-South economic cooperation
- South-North economic cooperation

**Developmental Issues**
- Trade liberalisation and development
- Linkages between trade and non-trade issues

**ACTIVITIES**

- Policy research and publications
- Advocacy and dialogues
- Training and networking
- Information dissemination and outreach
- Human resource development

**RESOURCES**

- Headquartered in Jaipur, India and seven resource centres in India and abroad
- 20 professional staff
- In-house support staff for editing, layouting, documentation, etc
- 12 Fellows
- A 10-member International Advisory Board
- More than 50 networking partners in more than 20 countries in Africa and Asia
- A well-maintained library cum documentation centre with more than 6,000 books and subscription of about 50 journals and e-newsletters in a month

**VALUES**

- Maintaining transparency and accountability
- Marrying the cold of research with the hot of advocacy by extensive networking
- Emphasising on outcomes and not just outputs
- Fostering partnership for development: actively pursuing research and advocacy activities in more than 20 countries, particularly in Africa and Asia
- Linking grassroots with the policy-makers and vice-versa
- Adopting a middle path while advocating for ‘liberalisation with safety nets’

**RECENTLY CONCLUDED AND/OR ONGOING PROJECTS**

**WTO Issues**
- WTO Doha Round and South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations, Phase 2
- Strategic Review of WTO Provided Trade-Related Technical Assistance (WTO TRTA)

**Regional Economic Cooperation**
- South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship
- EU-India FTA: Feasibility and Scope of a Deep Integration

**Developmental Issues**
- Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction
- Grassroots Reachout and Networking in India on Trade and Economics

**FUTURE PLANS**

**WTO Issues**
- WTO Doha Round and Delivering on Development: Mainstreaming Development in the WTO
- Mentorship of African Countries on Standards and Market Access

**Regional Economic Cooperation**
- Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment of FTAs
- Preferential Trade Agreements and India – A Political Economy Approach

**Developmental Issues**
- A Southern Agenda on Global Trade Governance
- Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy