

CUTS CITEE in Action

January-March 2016

Events

India-Pakistan Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy

CUTS International in collaboration with Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency organised the third leg of the third India-Pakistan Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy at Jaipur, India on March 12, 2016. Participants included Members of Parliament and State/Provincial Legislatures from Pakistan and India, practitioners and subject-experts from the two countries who raised key issues and reform ideas covering the themes of Promotion of Agriculture and Tourism.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Joint-Statement-India-Pakistan_Legislators_and_Public_Officials_Dialogue_on_Sharing_of_Experiences_on_Governance_and_Democracy.pdf



Evolving Global Trade Architecture and India

CUTS International, in association with, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organised a lecture on 'Evolving Global Trade Architecture and India' by Martin Wolf, Chief Economics Commentator, Financial Times, London at New Delhi on March 10, 2016. The objective was to discuss implications (on India) of mega regional trade agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership of Asia and the Pacific. There was a broad consensus among speakers and participants that notwithstanding the developments in the global trading system, India should continue its domestic reforms for enhancing its trade competitiveness, which will help the Indian industry to protect itself from unfair competition as well as will integrate India more with the global economy.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Indias_trade_policy_is_at_a_cross-road-Martin_Wolf.pdf

Reducing Non-Tariff Barriers in Food Trade between India and South Asian Nations

CUTS International and Centre for Policy Research New Delhi, with support from the Asia Foundation, organised a dissemination meeting of 'Reducing Non-Tariff Barriers in Food Trade between India and South Asian Nations' in New Delhi on February 11, 2016. The objective was to disseminate a research report 'Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) to Food Trade in India: A Case Study of Selected Ports' which highlighted the barriers to food trade in the region, resulting from an absence of timely reforms. These include Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and problematic administrative measures.

www.cuts-citee.org/press_release-Non-tariff_barriers_biggest_concern_to_food_trade_and_food_security_in_South_Asia.htm

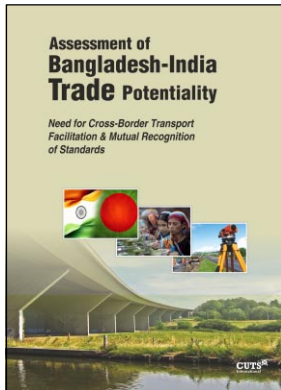


Participation

- Surendar Singh presented a paper entitled "FDI and Make in India Policy" in a national conference entitled, 'Indian Economy: A Roadmap towards Development' organised by Department of Economics, Rajasthan University on January 22-23, 2016.
- Susan Mathew and Veena Vidyadharan attended International Workshop on Food Security in India entitled 'An Interaction of Climate Change, Economics, Politics & Trade' by SIFO, Norway at ISEC, Bangalore on January 19, 2016.
- Susan Mathew attended a policy writing workshop entitled 'Frame the Debate' organised by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the US State Department and the US Embassy in New Delhi on January 05, 2016.

Assessment of Bangladesh-India Trade Potentiality

Need for Cross-Border Transport Facilitation & Mutual Recognition of Standards



India and Bangladesh share cultural, historical and linguistic commonalities with each other, having been one country before 1947. Therefore and given the present era of growing competition, it is important for them to make collective efforts towards promoting greater economic integration by adopting a broader trade connectivity framework.

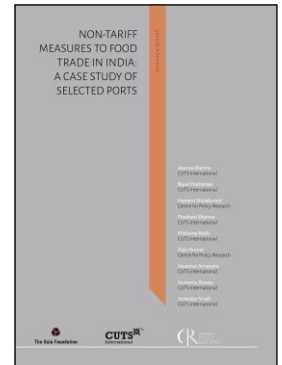
This Study has assessed what needs to be done for addressing transport-related infrastructural bottlenecks and for harmonising standard-related measures for the betterment of cross border trade.

www.cuts-citee.org/IBTA-II/pdf/Assessment_of_BangladeshIndia_Trade_Potentiality.pdf

Non-Tariff Measures to Food Trade in India

A Case Study of Selected Ports

This study on reducing non-tariff barriers to food trade seeks to identify product and port specific non-tariff measures (NTMs) to imports of selected agricultural, food and processed food items from a specific group of countries into India. The broad objective of conducting such a study is to provide policy makers, government officials, and other relevant stakeholders a practical set of recommendations to remove or harmonise identified NTMs at their respective levels. Under this study, an assessment of food trade through six land and sea ports- Agartala, Attari, Chennai, Mumbai, Panitanki and Petrapole in India has been done. This is a joint publication of CUTS International, Centre for Policy Research and The Asia Foundation.



www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Non-Tariff_Measures_to_Food_Trade_in_India_A_Case_Study_of_Selected_Ports.pdf

Briefing Paper

The BRICS New Development Bank & Civil Society Imperatives



Often times infrastructural investments incur risks and threats that are not taken into consideration both in the planning and implementation phases of the financing of particularly large-scale infrastructure development. In light of this, various stakeholders have raised concerns over the lack of a clearly articulated broad-based platform for civil society to contribute to the decision-making processes of the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) New Development Bank (NDB).

This Briefing Paper provides an overview of the newly established BRICS bank and gives broad recommendations on how the NDB may address issues related to increased civil society engagement in its operations.

www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Briefing_Paper-The_BRICS_New_Development_Bank_&_Civil_Society_Imperatives.pdf

Case Study

India's Access to the Pharmaceutical Market in Argentina

In today's global trading system, regulatory processes pose as much a challenge to accessing markets as tariff-related measures. To do this often requires a significant amount of political astuteness, and, at times, pressure. The following case study illustrates how the Indian Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the leadership of Ambassador Amarendra Khatua, through its extensive political know-how and do-how, played a key role in the opening up of the Argentinian market to India's pharmaceutical products.



www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Case_Study-Indias_Access_to_the_Pharmaceutical_Market_in_Argentina.pdf

Lakshman rekha for India's trade talks

The Hindu Business Line, March 04, 2016
By Pradeep S Mehta

Much debate has taken place on whether India has gained or lost in its Preferential Trade Agreements. The Finance Ministry's Chief Economic Adviser, Arvind Subramanian, a well-known economist, was tasked to review the situation. In the latest Economic Survey, he says that we are not doing badly in trade with our PTA partners as compared to non-PTA partners. The survey does touch upon the issue of tariffs, which is a crucial ingredient in how our trade flows would roll out.

www.thehindubusinessline.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/lakshman-rekha-for-indias-trade-talks/article8311083.ece

India's Solar Panel Dispute: A Need to Look Within

The Wire, March 15, 2016
By Pradeep S Mehta and Smriti Bahety

While the WTO decision on India's solar programme may have been a hit to the 'Make in India' campaign, it is difficult to state that the country's domestic content requirements were the least trade-restrictive alternative to achieve the goal of clean energy.

<http://thewire.in/2016/03/15/indias-solar-panel-dispute-a-need-to-look-within-24787/>

The Nairobi WTO Ministerial Conference and post-Nairobi Developments

World Commerce Review, Vol. 10, Issue 1 (March 2016)
By Bipul Chatterjee and Smriti Bahety

This article aims to understand the outcome of the Nairobi Ministerial Conference and the post-Nairobi developments. At the outset, it is important to briefly understand the background of the WTO negotiations leading up to Nairobi. We will then discuss the implications of the decisions taken at Nairobi and the road ahead for the multilateral trading system.

www.worldcommercereview.com/html/chatterjee-and-bahety-the-nairobi-wto-ministerial-conference-and-post-nairobi-developments.html