

EVENTS

Pre UNCTAD XII Civil Society Forum

On the occasion of the quadrennial meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII) in Accra, Ghana on 20-25 April 2008, CUTS CITEE organised a two-day international conference each in Nairobi, Kenya, on March 13-14, 2008 and in Hanoi, Vietnam, during March 06-07, 2008, within the framework of its project on Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP).

These meetings formulated a set of key messages to feed them into the Civil Society Forum of UNCTAD XII. In both the places, the stakeholders discussed the four sub-themes of the UNCTAD XII. Participants included civil society organisations (CSOs), business associations, media, academics, government officials, representatives from international and inter-governmental organisations and the donor community from around the Asian region, with special priority given to developing and least developed economies. The UNCTAD Secretary General's comments as well as the Recommendations of African Civil Society and Asian Civil Society to UNCTAD XII can be viewed at <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events-archive-mar08.htm>

UNCTAD XII Civil Society Forum

At UNCTAD XII, the following events were organised:

- Aid for Trade: Questions and Challenges (April 18) <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Report-AfT-Accra.pdf>
- Going Beyond Rhetoric: Ensuring that EPAs Deliver Real Development (April 18) <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Report-EPAs-Accra.pdf>
- Trade Development and Poverty Reduction (April 19) <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Report-TDP-Accra.pdf>

To view the CUTS Statement to UNCTAD XII log on to <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/CUTSStatement-UNCTADXII.pdf>

Commercial Diplomacy

CUTS CITEE ventured into capacity building on commercial diplomacy for state and non-state actors of African and Asian countries by strengthening their capacity on the tools of diplomacy like negotiation, creating operational documents, public and private communications, analysis on the issues of economics, politics, law and social relations and coalition building. To view the brochure <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BROCHURE-08-01.pdf>

Training on "IPR and Related WTO Issues"

CUTS CITEE organised this training programme at Jaipur during April 28-May 02, 2008. It was designed for the scientists and technologists and aimed towards facilitating them on the basic principles of multilateral trading system (MTS) enshrined in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and inculcate an understanding of the trade rules that apply to intellectual property rights (IPRs) under the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) Agreement. It sought to prepare the scientists and technologists to better exploit the opportunities that arise from the use of IPRs and help them in understanding advance IPR and WTO related issues and drafting of patents. For more on the content of the training programme <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Backgrounder-IPR-WTOIssues-Apr-May08.pdf>

PUBLICATIONS

Briefing Papers

- Domestic Regulation and Service Trade Liberalisation A South Asian Perspective <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-WTO-1.pdf>
- Aid for Trade – the Process So Far But What Next? <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-7.pdf>
- Mainstreaming Development in the WTO – Developing Countries in the Doha Round <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-6.pdf>
- The Saga of Rising Food Prices <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-5.pdf>
- From UNCTA XI to UNCTAD XII – A Stocktaking <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-4.pdf>
- Upscaling Aid for Trade – A Kenyan Perspective <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-2.pdf>
- Trade Openness: The Only Path to Sustainable Growth <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-1.pdf>
- Evolution of Service Sector in Zambia toward greater Trade Orientation-An Overview <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-3.pdf>

Trade Law Brief

- The Banana War at the GATT/WTO <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/TLB08-01.pdf>

Research Reports

- 11 Modules on Trade and Regulatory Issues <http://www.cuts-citee.org/research-reports08.htm>
- Five Analytical Papers on SAFTA <http://www.cuts-citee.org/research-reports08.htm>
- Political Economy of Trade Liberalisation In Bangladesh: Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Bangladesh Agriculture <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/RREPORT08-04.pdf>
- Regional Trade Openness Index, Income Disparity and Poverty- An experiment with Indian data <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/RREPORT08-03.pdf>
- Training Needs for Commercial and Economic Diplomacy- An Indian Case Study <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/RREPORT08-01.pdf>

Monograph

- Services Trade and Investment Liberalisation, and Domestic Regulation-A Summary of six Country Case Studies <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/MONOGRAPH08-02.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Trade and National Development Strategy in India: Voices from the Ground

Under the project entitled, 'Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy (MINTDEV)', CUTS CITEE is organising a Training-cum-Advocacy workshop, at Jaipur on May 07, 2008. It aims at demystifying the contents of globalisation and international trade and its impacts on agriculture and agriculturists. The participants will include farmers, representatives from farmer associations, *Panchayati Raj Institutions* (PRIs) representatives and political leaders at the village level-<http://www.cuts-citee.org/events.htm#event04>

National Workshop on Eco-labelling

CUTS International, Jaipur, and the Confederation of Indian Textiles Industries (CITI), New Delhi, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is organising a national workshop under the project entitled, 'Enabling Developing Countries to Seize Eco-label Opportunities' at Jaipur, on June 23-24, 2008. The objective of the workshop is to create awareness among relevant stakeholders on opportunities related to eco-labelling and increase the knowledge of textile stakeholders' knowledge of EU eco-label and the related issues.

State Level Networking Meeting under the GRANITE -2 Project

CUTS CITEE is going to organise a state level networking meeting under its project entitled, 'Grassroots Reach out and Networking in India on Trade and Economics (GRANITE)' at Jaipur, on June 03, 2008. The meeting seeks to connect the state level policy makers, government officials, civil society and media with the grassroots on the issues of formulation and implementation of National Foreign Trade Policy (NFTP) in the state and coordinate the voices of the civil society to make it more coherent on the issues of economic governance in India.

National Foreign Trade Policy: why the civil society's involvement is required?

CUTS CITEE will organise this conference at New Delhi, on July 01-02, 2008. The conference aims to see the participation from the Department of Commerce and Industries, Government of India along with stakeholders from various research institutions, state WTO cells and project partners from the states to discuss the NFTP of India and advocate for pro-poor changes in the existing policy. The background and the agenda of the meeting can be viewed at <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events.htm#event02>

Towards a Coherent Trade and Development Strategy of India

In order to provide a forum for discussion on the dynamic relationship between international trade and poverty reduction at the national as well as international levels, CUTS CITEE is going to organise this conference at July 24-25, 2008 in New Delhi. The conference will address the need for mainstreaming India's national development strategy to make use of the beneficial role that international trade could play in enhancing development and reducing poverty. The background and the agenda of the meeting can be viewed at <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events.htm#event01>

PARTICIPATION

Bipul Chatterjee and Sonja Blasig participated in a national workshop entitled 'Trade Liberalisation Policies & FTAs: Social and Gender implications of EU-India FTA' in New Delhi, on March 25-26, 2008. The workshop was organised by Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF-India) in collaboration with WIDE-Network of Women in Development Europe (Brussels) and South Asia Institute (Delhi).

Atul Kaushik participated in a conference entitled, "Consultation on Doha to Accra: Does Development have a Chance?" It was organised by Centre for Trade and Development (CENTAD), New Delhi, on March 26, 2008.

Siddharth Mitra participated in UNEP's Expert Meeting on Sustainable Innovation held in Paris, on April 22, 2008 and OECD UNEP Conference on Resource Efficiency held in Paris, on April 23-25, 2008. He made a presentation on 'Bio-fuels and the course of world economic development'.

IN MEDIA

Govt must review domestic trade policy framework

The Nation, April 13, 2008

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-apr08.htm#media04>

Analysts welcome Prime Minister's announcement on duty-free markets

The Hindu, April 11, 2008

'India's decision a lot better than Brazil and China's offer'

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-apr08.htm#media03>

Foreign Trade Policy: Hopes die; promises remain unfulfilled

The Financial Express, April 10, 2008

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-apr08.htm#media02>

Duty-free market access scheme for LDCs

The Financial Express, April 09, 2008

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-apr08.htm#media01>

Trade against terror and tragedy

The Financial Express, March 30, 2008

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-mar08.htm#media03>

FTA with India needs more study

Independent, Bangladesh, March 26, 2008

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-mar08.htm#media04>

Hanoi hosts Pre-UNCTAD XII conference

Nhan Dan - Hanoi, Vietnam, March 07, 2008

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-mar08.htm#media01>

Hanoi hosts Pre-UNCTAD Civil Society Forum

VietNamNet Bridge, March 07, 2008

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/media-archive-mar08.htm#media02>