

CUTS Partnership Profile in South Asia

Since mid-90s, CUTS International is conducting network- and partnership-based research and advocacy activities on Trade, Regulations and Governance in a number of South Asian countries. Long-term partnerships have been developed with a large number of like-minded civil society organisations (CSOs).

In 1995, CUTS initiated the formation of a network of like-minded organisations from five South Asian countries – thus, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment was established. From 1995-1998, CUTS served as its secretariat and then it was established as an independent organisation in Kathmandu, Nepal.

This note highlights some important aspects of this partnership. It covers projects implemented in six South Asian countries, viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. We are developing such partnership with CSOs in Bhutan and the Maldives.

Besides these organisations, CUTS International has partnered with a large number of CSOs in different regions of India for implementing many of these and other projects. That part of our partnership is not covered in this note.

Other than these partners, we have networked with other type of non-state actors, such as business chambers, sectoral associations, trade promotion bodies, trade unions, academia and media groups. Many of them participated in a number of activities under these and other projects.

| Sl. No. | Institute/Organisation | Thrust Areas | Involvement with CUTS |
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| Afghanistan | | | |
| 1 | Afghan Development Association A non-government, non-profit and non-political organisation established in 1989 www.ada.org.af/ADA | To promote and provide development and humanitarian related services To promote participatory planning | Research and advocacy partner: “Impact of Climate Change and Food Insecurity on Poverty” project www.cuts-citee.org/CCFS |
| Bangladesh | | | |
| 1 | Bangladesh Enterprise Institute Established in 2000 to promote, articulate and influence policy issues for the development of a market-oriented economic environment www.bei-bd.org | To conduct research and reviews of issues which are of vital importance To build its capacity to network with national, regional and international institutions To disseminate knowledge and information derived from research | Research and advocacy partner: “Investment for Development” project www.cuts-international.org/ijf-event.htm Advocacy and networking partner: “Advocacy and Capacity Building on Competition Policy and Law in Asia” project www.cuts-international.org/7up2.htm |

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| 2 | <p>Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association A non-profit legal organisation established in 1992 to assist efforts to protect the environment www.belabangla.org</p> | <p>To organise community training for farmers and fishermen and debates on current issues in order to draft appeals against the proposed government laws</p> | <p>Founding member: “South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment” – a CUTS Initiative www.sawtee.org</p> |
| 3 | <p>Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies An autonomous public multi-disciplinary organisation moved to Bangladesh from Pakistan in January 1971 www.bids.org.bd</p> | <p>To promote excellence in policy research and extend the knowledge frontiers</p> <p>To expand outreach of research to civil society and other stakeholders</p> <p>To develop broader understanding and consensus, and promote knowledge based policy agenda</p> | <p>Research partner: “WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations” project www.cuts-international.org/safit.htm</p> <p>Advocacy and networking partner: “Indo-Bangla Trade with Focus on Stakeholders from the North East of India” project</p> |
| 4 | <p>Centre for Policy Dialogue Established in 1993 to serve the growing demand from the civil society for a more participatory and accountable development process www.cpd-bangladesh.org</p> | <p>To provide a platform for public discussion of important national policy issues.</p> <p>To generate information on public perception on issues of national, economic and social interest</p> <p>To provide policy inputs to the principal decision-makers</p> | <p>Research and networking partner: “South Asian Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues” project http://cuts-international.org/sacsniti.htm</p> <p>Networking and advocacy partner: “Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/tf-events.htm</p> |
| 5 | <p>Consumers Association of Bangladesh A non-governmental, non-political and non-profit voluntary organisation founded in February 1978 www.consumerbd.org</p> | <p>To generate awareness among consumers about their internationally recognised rights and responsibilities</p> <p>To undertake advocacy, representation and lobbying with the policymakers</p> | <p>Member: “International Network of Civil Society Organisations on Competition” – a CUTS-led network of civil society organisations www.incsoc.net</p> <p>Advocacy partner: “Advocacy and Capacity Building on Competition Policy and Law in Asia” project www.cuts-international.org/7up2.htm</p> |

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| 6 | <p>Institute for Policy, Advocacy and Governance A not-for-profit policy outfit and independent think tank came into existence in 2009 http://i-pag.com.bd</p> | <p>To make positive contribution in the achievement of a functional democratic system based on fairness, justice and good governance</p> <p>To promote sustainable economic development that provides equal opportunities to all and do not either marginalise or deprive the underprivileged</p> | <p>Networking partner: “Community of Practice on Social Accountability” project www.copsa.in</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Cost of Economic Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA</p> <p>Research partner: “Promoting Participatory Approaches for removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA-Phase-II</p> |
| 7 | <p>Manusher Jonno Foundation An initiative designed to promote 'human rights' and 'good governance' in Bangladesh www.manusherjonno.org</p> | <p>To facilitate coherence in human rights and governance work in Bangladesh, through networking and policy advocacy</p> <p>To monitor human rights and governance situation in the country and make this information publicly available</p> | <p>Regional Core Group Member for Networking: “Community of Practice on Social Accountability” project www.copsa.in</p> |
| 8 | <p>Practical Action, Bangladesh An international non-governmental organisation (NGO) that uses technology to challenge poverty in developing countries started in 1973 http://practicalaction.org</p> | <p>To work with financially backward population to influence social, economic and institutional systems for innovation and the use of technology</p> | <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Impact of Climate Change and Food Insecurity on Poverty” project www.cuts-citee.org/CCFS</p> |

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| 9 | <p>PRIP Trust, Bangladesh Established in 1996, is an endeavour to build human and institutional capacities of Development Sector www.priptrust.org</p> | <p>To build institutional capacities of NGOs/CSOs for promoting good governance</p> <p>To strengthen capacities of strategic support organisations through partnership process</p> <p>To strengthen capacities of the local government functionaries</p> | <p>Networking partner: “Community of Practice on Social Accountability” project www.copsa.in</p> |
| 10 | <p>South Asia Network on Economic Modelling Established in January 2007 is primarily a network of economic modellers in South Asia www.sanemnet.org</p> | <p>To facilitate the dissemination of information on the best policies and practices in the areas of trade and poverty</p> <p>To produce objective, high quality, country- and South Asia region-specific policy and thematic research</p> | <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development: Some Perspectives from South Asia” project www.sanemnet.org/currentevents.php#main</p> |
| 11 | <p>Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Established in 1973 is an apex representative organisation safeguarding the interest of the private sector in trade and industry in Bangladesh www.fbcci-bd.org</p> | <p>To aid and stimulate investment, development of trade, commerce, industry, agriculture, tourism, human resources and communication sectors in Bangladesh</p> <p>To make efforts for the spread of commercial, technical and economic knowledge</p> | <p>Networking and advocacy partner: “Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/tf-events.htm</p> <p>Research partner: “Promoting Participatory Approaches for removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA-Phase-II</p> |
| 12 | <p>Unnayan Onneshan Registered in 2003 as a not-for-profit trust to contribute towards search for solutions to endemic poverty, injustice, gender inequality and environmental degradation at the local, national and global levels www.unnayan.org</p> | <p>To champion innovation for exploring paths of social transformation towards a world, free from poverty, injustice, gender inequality and environmental degradation</p> | <p>Partner in Overseas Development Institute’s civil society organisation network: “Evidence Based Policy in Development Network” in which CUTS is a partner for India www.ebpdn.org</p> |

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| 13 | <p>Unnayan Shamannay A non-profit organisation established in July 1994, was conceived in the light of a felt need for an alternative socio-cultural trend www.unnayanshamannay.org</p> | <p>To invigorate and further strengthen private sector initiatives for socioeconomic and cultural development</p> <p>To facilitate quantitative and qualitative research work, training, communication and advocacy of development activities</p> | <p>Member: “South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment” – a CUTS Initiative www.sawtee.org</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction” project www.cuts-citee.org/tdp</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy” project www.cuts-citee.org/mainstreaming</p> <p>Research partner: “WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations” Phase II project www.cuts-international.org/safit-II.htm</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: "Regulatory Reforms in Electricity Sector in South Asia" project www.cuts-ccier.org/resa</p> <p>Research and networking partner: “Bangladesh Investment Climate Facility" project</p> <p>Advocacy partner: “Advocacy and Capacity Building on Competition Policy and Law in Asia” project www.cuts-international.org/7up2.htm</p> |

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| Nepal | | | |
| 1 | <p>Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Established in 1965, FNCCI is an umbrella organisation of the Nepalese private sector which aims of promoting business and industry while protecting the rights and interests of business communities www.fncci.org</p> | <p>To play a catalytic role in the business, industrial development and establish sound industrial relations in the country</p> <p>To provide advisory services to government, business and industry related policies, acts and programmes</p> | <p>Advocacy and networking partner: “South Asian Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues” project http://cuts-international.org/sacsniti.htm</p> <p>Advocacy partner: “Promoting Participatory Approaches for removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA-Phase-II</p> <p>Networking and advocacy partner: “Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/tf-events.htm</p> |
| 2 | <p>Forum for Protection of Public Interest A non-profit, a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the cause of public interest, was founded in 1991 www.propublic.org</p> | <p>To increase government and private sector accountability and transparency through good governance advocacy and judicial activities</p> <p>To enhance the capacities of local and grassroots organisations</p> | <p>Founding member: “South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment” – a CUTS Initiative www.sawtee.org</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Linkages Between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction” project www.cuts-citee.org/tdp</p> |
| 3 | <p>Institute for Policy Research and Development Established in 1995 as a non-profit making non-governmental organisation www.iprad.org.np</p> | <p>To undertake research on economic, social and environmental issues</p> <p>To promote regional and international cooperation in the areas of socio-economic research</p> | <p>Research and networking partner: “South Asian Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues” project http://cuts-international.org/sacsniti.htm</p> |
| 4 | <p>South Asia Partnership – Nepal Established in 1985, SAP-Nepal is a voluntary, non-government development organisation www.sapnepal.org.np</p> | <p>To help develop participatory sustainable development models</p> | <p>Regional Core Group Member of Nepal: “Community of Practice on Social Accountability” project www.copsa.in</p> |
| 5 | <p>Society for Legal and Environmental Analysis and Development Research Registered as non-government and not-for-profit making organisation in 1991 under the Society Registration Act 2034, at Kathmandu http://leadersnepal.org.np</p> | <p>To promote the cause of environment and legal awareness, conduct action research</p> <p>To develop common platform to address problems on human rights, livelihood and environment for social equity</p> | <p>Founding member: “South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment” – a CUTS Initiative www.sawtee.org</p> |

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| 6 | <p>South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment Launched in 1994 and established as an independent network-based regional institution in 1999 with the objective to promote research and networking on trade and development issues http://www.sawtee.org/</p> | <p>To facilitate the process of regional integration within South Asia</p> <p>To conduct research and advocacy programme on trade, economic and environmental issues</p> <p>To establish linkages with other organisation having similar objectives</p> | <p>Research and networking partner: “South Asian Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues” project http://cuts-international.org/sacsmiti.htm</p> <p>Member: “International Network of Civil Society Organisations on Competition” – a CUTS-led network of civil society organisations www.incsoc.net</p> <p>Research partner: “WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations” project www.cuts-international.org/safit.htm</p> <p>Research partner: “WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations” Phase II project www.cuts-international.org/safit-II.htm</p> <p>Research partner: “South Asian Forum for International Trade” project www.cuts-citee.org/SAFIT-III</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction” project www.cuts-citee.org/tdp</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Cost of Economic Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA</p> <p>Research partner: “Promoting Participatory Approaches for removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA-Phase-II</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: "Regulatory Reforms in Electricity Sector in South Asia" project www.cuts-ccier.org/resa</p> <p>Networking and advocacy partner: “Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/tf-events.htm</p> <p>Advocacy partner: “Advocacy and Capacity Building on Competition Policy and Law in Asia” project www.cuts-international.org/7up2.htm</p> |

| Pakistan | | | |
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| 1 | <p>Asian institute of Trade and Development Founded in 1971, the AITD is a not-for profit association and is fully owned by members www.aitd.com.au</p> | <p>To foster excellence, innovation and professional integrity in training, learning and development for the workplace</p> | <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction” project www.cuts-citee.org/tdp</p> |
| 2 | <p>Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan Established in 1998, CRCP is an independent, non-profit, and non-governmental organisation works primarily as a rights based civil initiative www.crmp.org.pk</p> | <p>To articulate and promote the interests and rights of citizens and consumers at all socio-economic levels, with a particular emphasis on the inarticulate and disadvantaged groups</p> | <p>Research partner: “Promoting Participatory Approaches for removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA-Phase-II</p> <p>Networking partner: “Community of Practice on Social Accountability” project www.coppsa.in</p> <p>Member: “International Network of Civil Society Organisations on Competition” – a CUTS-led network of civil society organisations www.incsoc.net</p> |
| 3 | <p>Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Established in 1950, is an Apex body of trade and Industry and chief spokesman of the Private Sector of Pakistan http://fpcci.org.pk/</p> | <p>To advocate and voice the collective opinion, concern and aspiration of the private sector</p> <p>To offer helpful advice and assistance to the government in its efforts to stimulate economic activities</p> | <p>Advocacy and networking partner: “Promoting Participatory Approaches for removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA-Phase-II</p> |
| 4 | <p>Hissar Foundation A non-profit organisation committed to promote Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and environmental conservation www.hissar.org</p> | <p>To promote appropriate policies and creative, low-cost solutions for water, food, livelihood and climate change issues</p> <p>To promote approaches of balancing environment with development through innovation</p> | <p>Regional Core Group Member for Pakistan: “Community of Practice on Social Accountability” project www.coppsa.in</p> |

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| 5 | <p>Institute of Public Policy Established in 2006 as an independent, private sector think tank for research on economic, social, political and foreign policy issues http://ippbnu.org</p> | <p>To provide strategic analyses of concepts and doctrines in selected areas of public policy</p> <p>To undertake research in areas that is important for regional cooperation</p> <p>To help create socio-economic stability within the country, and an environment of regional cooperation with its neighbours</p> | <p>Partnered in "A brief study on trade and investment between India and Pakistan"</p> |
| 6 | <p>Journalist Democracy and Human Rights Founded in 1998 JDHR is an independent think tank and a pro-people campaigning/policy outreach, capacity building and research organisation www.jdhr.org</p> | <p>To support poor people's causes and amplify their voices, prompt humanitarian assistance in distress, disaster and conflict situations</p> <p>To create a countrywide network of media, social journalism and development practitioners and analysts</p> | <p>Founding Member: "South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment" – a CUTS Initiative www.sawtee.org</p> <p>Research and networking partner: "South Asian Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues" project http://cuts-international.org/sacsnti.htm</p> |
| 7 | <p>Network for Consumer Protection Established in 1992 is an independent non-government as well as a non-profit making organisation www.thenetwork.org.pk</p> | <p>To work on consumer protection and promote awareness and enhance the livelihoods for consumers in Pakistan</p> | <p>Advocacy partner: "Comparative Study of Competition Regimes in Select Developing Countries of the Commonwealth" project www.cuts-ccier.org/7up1</p> |
| 8 | <p>Pakistan Institute of Development Economics Established at Karachi in 1957 and in 1964 accorded the status of an autonomous research organisation by the Government of Pakistan www.pide.org.pk</p> | <p>To provide a firm academic basis to economic policymaking</p> <p>To provide a window through which the outside world can view the nature and direction of economic research in Pakistan</p> | <p>Research partner: "WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations" project www.cuts-international.org/safit.htm</p> <p>Research and networking partner: "South Asian Forum for International Trade" project www.cuts-citee.org/SAFTT-III</p> |

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| <p>9</p> | <p>Sustainable Development Policy Institute Established in 1992 on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy as an independent and non-profit organisation policy analysis, policy intervention and programme advisory services www.sdpi.org</p> | <p>To conduct policy-oriented research & advocacy from a broad multidisciplinary perspective</p> <p>To promote the implementation of policies, programmes, laws and regulations based on sustainable development</p> <p>To strengthen and promote civil society-government interaction through collaboration with other organisations and activist networks</p> | <p>Founding member: “South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment” – a CUTS Initiative www.sawtee.org</p> <p>Research and networking partner: “South Asian Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues” project http://cuts-international.org/sacsnti.htm</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Comparative Study of Competition Regimes in Select Developing Countries of the Commonwealth” project www.cuts-ccier.org/7up1</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Cost of Economic Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia” Project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA</p> <p>Research partner: “Promoting Participatory Approaches for removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA-Phase-II</p> <p>Research partner: “WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations” Phase II project www.cuts-international.org/safit-II.htm</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction” project www.cuts-citee.org/tdp</p> <p>Member: “International Network of Civil Society Organisations on Competition” – a CUTS-led network of civil society organisations www.incso.net</p> <p>Networking partner: “Community of Practice on Social Accountability” project www.copsa.in</p> |
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| Sri Lanka | | | |
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| 1 | <p>Centre for Policy Alternatives Formed in 1996 is an independent, non-partisan organisation which is committed to programmes of research and advocacy through which public policy is critiqued, alternatives identified and disseminated www.cpalanka.org</p> | <p>To strengthen institution and capacity-building for good governance and conflict transformation</p> <p>To aim at the dissemination and advocacy of policy alternatives for non-violent conflict resolution and democratic governance</p> | <p>Regional Core Group Member for Networking: “Community of Practice on Social Accountability” project www.copsa.in</p> |
| 2 | <p>Institute of Policy Studies An autonomous research institute established in 1988 as a policy think-tank on socio-economic research www.ips.lk</p> | <p>To provide informed analysis to national planners and policymakers</p> <p>To serve as a working partner in workshops and seminars in the region</p> | <p>Founding member of a network: “South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment” – a CUTS Initiative www.sawtee.org</p> <p>Research and networking partner: “South Asian Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues” project http://cuts-international.org/sacsnti.htm</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Cost of Economic Non-Cooperation to Consumers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA</p> <p>Research partner: “Promoting Participatory Approaches for removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA-Phase-II</p> <p>Member: “International Network of Civil Society Organisations on Competition” – a CUTS-led network of civil society organisations www.incsoc.net</p> <p>Research partner: “WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations” project www.cuts-citee.org/SAFTT-III</p> <p>Research and advocacy Partner of 'Linkages Between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction' project www.cuts-citee.org/tdp</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Comparative Study of Competition Regimes in Select Developing Countries of the Commonwealth” project www.cuts-cvier.org/7np1</p> <p>Advocacy partner: “Advocacy and Capacity Building on Competition Policy and Law in Asia” project www.cuts-international.org/7np2.htm</p> |

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| 3 | <p>Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka Established in 1973, FCCISL is the largest and most representative apex business organisation of Sri Lankan business</p> | <p>To provide business solutions through research, interactions with the government and through global networking To enhance the quality of life of the common people</p> | <p>Advocacy and networking partner: “Promoting Participatory Approaches for removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia” project www.cuts-citee.org/COENCOSA-Phase-II</p> |
| 4 | <p>Law & Society Trust A non-profit body, established in 1982 and committed to improving public awareness on civil and political rights www.lawandsocietytrust.org</p> | <p>To promote cooperation between government and society within South Asia on questions related to human rights, democracy and minority protection</p> | <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Comparative Study of Competition Regimes in Select Developing Countries of the Commonwealth” project www.cuts-ccier.org/7up1</p> <p>Research and advocacy partner: “Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction” project www.cuts-citee.org/tdp</p> <p>Founding member: “South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment” – a CUTS Initiative www.sawtee.org</p> |