

Annual report

2008-2009



Annual Report 2008-2009

Published by

Consumer Unity & Trust Society

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CUTS 
International



CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society) began its journey in 1983 in Rajasthan, from a rural development communication initiative, a wall newspaper Gram Gadar (Village Revolution). This monthly is published regularly and has been instrumental in providing a forum for the oppressed classes to get justice. On seeing Gram Gadar, Rubens Ricupero, the immediate past Secretary-General of UNCTAD observed: "It confirmed my view that often the simple lack of awareness lies at the root of so much misery".

In 1983, CUTS was a small voluntary group of concerned citizens operating out of a garage on a zero budget at Jaipur. Today, its annual budget exceeds US\$2.5mn or Rs13crores. The organisation consists of five programme centres and one resource centre in India (at Jaipur with headquarters, Chittorgarh, Calcutta and New Delhi), two resource centres in Africa (at Lusaka, Zambia and Nairobi, Kenya) and one resource centre in London, UK. CUTS is probably the only Indian NGO with such overseas operations. The current staff strength is over 130 persons, of which one third are females at managerial levels too.

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From the Secretary General's Desk



The year 2008 marked the silver jubilee of CUTS. CUTS silver jubilee year has been a witness to various activities and expansion of programmes, achievements and commitments to excel in the future. Retrospection fills me with satisfaction for what we have achieved and what we need to do to strengthen the organisation's resolve to work with greater zeal.

CUTS Branches Out in Geneva

Among the major highlights is opening of a new overseas centre in Geneva on July 16, 2008, the fifth overseas centre of CUTS International, which will work closely with Geneva-based developing country negotiators, their policymakers and civil society representatives. It will ensure the presence of a pro-trade, pro-consumer developmental NGO closer to trade policy debates. Research, analysis and other activities carried out/undertaken by the centre will be demand-driven and objective. The centre would function to provide a credible and pro-trade-for-development voice in Geneva.

Competition and Regulation

CUTS' 7Up model that involves all stakeholders through a bottom up approach for better economic regulation has been successful in helping countries adopt competition law and policy. CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS CCIER) implemented a two-year project '*Strengthening Constituencies for Effective Competition Regimes in Select West African Countries*' (also referred to as 7Up4 Project) with the support of the Department for International Development, UK; the International Development Research Centre, Canada and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden. The project has been implemented in seven countries, viz. – Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

CCIER implemented second phase of the project, '*India Competition and Regulation Report*' (ICRR) with the support of the British High Commission, New Delhi. It aims to highlight various distortions in economic management of the country and provide inputs on a periodic basis to governments (Central as well as states), Competition Commission of India, sectoral regulatory authorities, other governmental agencies, civil society organisations (CSOs), business, academia, media and professionals for taking necessary action to promote well-functioning markets. The first issue of the biennial report, '*Competition and Regulation in India, 2007*' was published and released in October 2007 while the second issue is due in 2009.

Another significant project launched with the support of Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) by CCIER in March 2008 was '*Capacity Building on Electricity Reforms in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (RESA)*' with an aim to build capacity of consumer groups/CSOs to enable them to deal holistically with the issues involved, take up action-oriented research, share experiences, and carry out advocacy with policymakers and regulatory agencies to affect pro-consumer changes in the electricity regulatory/policy processes in Bangladesh, India (West Bengal and Rajasthan) and Nepal.

During the year, CUTS was engaged by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Private Sector Development and President's Special Initiatives (MOTIPSDPSI) of Ghana to develop a Competition Bill for Ghana from the perspective of international best practices, taking into consideration the socio-economic and political realities of the country. CUTS prepared the first draft of the Bill and submitted it to the MOTIPSDPSI in May 2008.

CUTS also participated in the third European Conference on Competition and Regulation in Greece, on July 04-05, 2008. I made a presentation on '*Competition Policy: Institutions and Procedures*'.

Trade and Development

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) made remarkable progress in implementing various projects successfully as well as carrying out research and advocacy programmes with greater commitment. It has been at the forefront of working on the equitable international trading system, especially trade negotiations and capacity building of CSOs at the grassroots under World Trade Organisation (WTO) Doha Round negotiations.

In this context, CUTS CITEE with the support of Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands implemented a project, '*South Asia Forum for International Trade (SAFIT-II)*', which was conceptualised on the premises of Doha Developmental Agenda (DDA). Under the project, a book, entitled '*Domestic Preparedness for Services Trade Liberalisation: Are South Asian Countries Prepared for Further Liberalisation?*' was published.

To further the advocacy work on the above-mentioned issue, the Centre represented at a conference on '*Broadening Economic Integration in South Asia: Incorporating Services Liberalisation at a Time of Global Economic Crisis*' in Colombo, on March 30-31, 2009.

On regional economic cooperation issues, the Centre with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), India implemented a project, '*India and Regional Economic Cooperation (REC) in South and South East Asia*' to engage diverse stakeholders in India with regional trade initiatives in South Asia and promote policy responses that would be inclusive of stakeholder preferences. Under the project, three stakeholder consultations

were organised and a monograph entitled, *'India and Preferential Trade Agreements: The Path Traversed and the Road Ahead'* was brought out.

CITEE implemented the project entitled *'Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy: A Pilot Project in Bangladesh and India'* (MINTDEV) with the support of Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi, India that aimed to address social and political considerations into trade policy-making and engage civil society in a socially inclusive manner. Under the project, the Centre brought out a study *'Is the Stage set for Mainstreaming Trade into National Development Strategy of India? Results of Field Survey in Two States'*.

A training-cum-advocacy meeting for farmers and *panchayat* representatives entitled *'International Trade and National Development Strategy in India: Voices from the Ground'* was held in Jaipur on May 07, 2008; and in Kolkata on June 12, 2008 respectively.

On environment issues, CITEE, as project partner, implemented a four-year project entitled, *'Enabling Developing Countries to Seize Ecolabel Opportunities'* to increase the environmental efficiency of key export products and related industrial processes in Brazil, China, India, Kenya, Mexico and South Africa by supporting the active contribution of industry and government to the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech process). The project is supported by the EU (EC Programme on Environment in Developing Countries) & the Federal Ministry for the Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ, German Ministry).

Consumer Protection and Governance

Consumer protection is intrinsic to our work. Towards this, CUTS has implemented projects on awareness generation. CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART) with the support of the State Consumer Welfare Fund under *'Consumer Awareness Programme (CAP)'*, helped spread consumer awareness at the grassroots by strengthening the capacity of the networkers in 20 selected blocks in Rajasthan through skill training programmes, consumer friends trainings and consumer rallies.

With a motto of *'An Educated Investor is a Protected Investor'* the Centre with the support of Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) implemented a project, *'Securities Market Awareness Campaign'* (SMAC) – Round VI, to sensitise investors on the functioning of the securities market.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India appointed CUTS as the Regional Resource Agency (RRA) for Rajasthan under the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) for a period of three years, i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09.

'Tobacco Control Campaign by Mobilising Key Stakeholders in Rajasthan' was another important project that the Centre worked on with an aim to sensitise and educate the educational institutions and the common mass on various provisions of tobacco control act all over Rajasthan. The project was implemented with the support of World Health Organisation (WHO) India & the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India (GoI).

On utility reforms, CART with the support of the World Bank implemented a project entitled *'Assessing 2Qs (Quality & Quantity) Outputs of the 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' (NREGS) in Sirohi District of Rajasthan'*, with an aim to test the effectiveness of social accountability approaches in influencing the public expenditure outcomes. A novel outcome was the creation of assessment criteria, e.g. Citizen Report Card and Community Score Card.

On road safety, the Centre with the support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) implemented a project *'Traffic Claming Strategies to Improve Pedestrian Safety in India'* to highlight the key flaws in the design of Indian roads and develop a unique manual, first of its kind in India for concerned policy/decision makers in Police, Transport, Municipal Corporation, Development Authority and Public Works Department.

On child rights, the Centre in collaboration with Health Related Information Dissemination Amongst Youth (HRIDAY), New Delhi undertook a project in Jaipur city entitled *'Get Active'* involving 25 selected schools in Jaipur. *'Get Active'* is a health promotion programme focusing on diet, nutrition and physical activity with an aim to inculcate healthy nutritional intake and physical activity promotion among school students.

Work at the Grassroots

Through sustained advocacy and awareness campaigns, empowerment of people, particularly women at the grassroots has been one of the major focus areas of CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD), Chittorgarh. The Centre was selected as the Mother NGO (MNGO) for Chittorgarh, Rajasthan under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) scheme of the MoHFW, GoI.

Helping women gain self-respect via economic independence was the objective of the *'Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Bank Linkages'* project which proved very satisfying since many women in the villages of Chittorgarh and Bhilwara are taking part in enterprise generation activities. A new SHG project with National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) for forming 800 SHGs in Bhilwara and Chittorgarh has been initiated, which aims to target mainly Above Poverty Line families.

Another micro-credit project has begun with the support of *Zila Parishad*, Chittorgarh to ensure socio-economic development and enhance livelihood security in rural areas. With support from Save the Children – *Bal Raksha Bharat*, the Centre has undertaken '*Improving Quality of Elementary Education Project (IQEEP)*' to improve quality of education in Rajasthan. The project is being implemented in 25 villages of six *Gram Panchayats* of Chittor block in Chittorgarh district.

Overseas Accomplishments

The first initiative of CUTS Geneva is a project entitled, '*Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)*'. It focuses on three countries in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) and two in Southern Africa (Malawi and Zambia). This three-year project is being supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, US and will have three inter-linked streams of activities, namely: policy research, advocacy, and networking.

CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Lusaka with the support of the Finnish Embassy, Zambia implemented a project '*Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) – Aid for Trade to Least Developed Countries (LDCs)*' to act as focal point in supporting CSOs to respond to ongoing policy discussions in the EIF process in Zambia; analyse the Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study of Zambia; and mainstream the rice sector into the EIF processes.

A research project on '*Competition Policy and Regulations in the Energy Sector in Kenya*' has been implemented by CUTS ARC, Nairobi in collaboration with Investment Climate and Business Environment Research Fund (ICBE-RF) created by Trust Africa, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Foundation for Sustainable Enterprise and Development (FSED). The objective of the project is to assess overlaps in institutional and regulatory frameworks between the competition and energy regulator, and suggest measures for effective cooperation between them.

CUTS Hanoi is presently working with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in developing a consumer protection law and also putting in place a consumer grievances redressal mechanism.

Growing Recognition

CUTS received two prestigious awards during the year: M R Pai Memorial Award for relentless campaign to educate consumers on competition and regulatory issues on April 09, 2008. The award carries a citation and a cheque of Rs 51,000; and India Power Award 2008 for outstanding networking and various outreach activities towards consumer empowerment in New Delhi, on November 03, 2008.

I am extremely grateful to all the partner organisations, funding agencies, individuals and institutions, experts and academia, and government departments and private groups for their continued support and good wishes. Equally important have been the efforts of CUTS staff who collectively contributed towards making CUTS an internationally recognised organisation. I hope they will continue to support us in our future endeavours.

Jaipur
April 2010

Pradeep S Mehta
Secretary General

About CUTS

CUTS was established in 1983 as a small group of concerned citizens. Since then it has been working towards bridging the gap between the people at the grassroots and the international policymaking community. Today, it is a leading consumer organisation in India. More importantly, CUTS is now at the cutting edge of the consumer movement, not only in India but also in other parts of the world. The organisation focuses its programmes on the following five areas:

- Consumer Protection
- International Trade & Development
- Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation
- Human Development
- Consumer Safety

Historical Perspective

CUTS began from a rural development initiative, a wall newspaper, *Gram Gadar* (Village Revolution). As the organisation's mouthpiece, *Gram Gadar* is published regularly and reaches every nook and corner of Rajasthan, even to the remote villages where radio is the only medium of communication. It has been instrumental in providing a forum for providing justice to the oppressed classes at the grassroots.

Objectives

CUTS, as an advocacy and research organisation, aims:

- to initiate, undertake and aid directly or through its affiliated bodies, schemes for the furtherance of consumer and public welfare, including those relating to environment, healthcare, general awareness, empowerment and socio-economic development;
- to promote, organise and assist measures for the availability of consumer commodities and services, including those relating to environment, healthcare, general awareness, empowerment and socio-economic development;
- to study consumer and public interest/welfare problems and evolve remedies, including those relating to environment, healthcare, general awareness, empowerment and socio-economic development;
- to publish studies, periodicals, reports and other literature relating to consumer commodities and services, including those relating to environment, healthcare, general awareness, empowerment and socio-economic development;
- to undertake, research and case studies in respect of consumer commodities and services public interest/welfare, including those relating to environment, healthcare, general awareness, empowerment and socio-economic development;
- to advise and if necessary, assist government and the concerned authorities in framing and enforcing laws to safeguard the interests of the consumer and citizen, including

I have visited CUTS office and was pleasantly surprised to see the professional culture of work.

Usually, it is very rare in the CSOs. The people here are knowledgeable and well-versed with the latest challenging issues. Its resource centres and the web-portal is one of the best. CITEE site is another excellent work done – all recent WTO, RTA and developmental issues and updates are available. I have also been enriched by their work and issue papers during my tenure in the Department of Commerce, Government of India in the past, and I am sure this will continue in my present posting as well.

R S Ratna
Professor, Centre for
WTO Studies
Indian Institute of
Foreign Trade
New Delhi

Very impressed by the range and quality of activities led by CUTS.

Dr Stephen Rimmer
Senior Regulatory Reform Expert, Foreign Investment Advisory Service (FIAS), World Bank

those relating to environment, healthcare, general awareness, empowerment and socio-economic development; and

- to disseminate knowledge and information and to educate the public regarding consumer and public interest/welfare problems and programmes on a scientific basis, including those relating to environment, healthcare, general awareness, empowerment and economic development.

Vision Statement

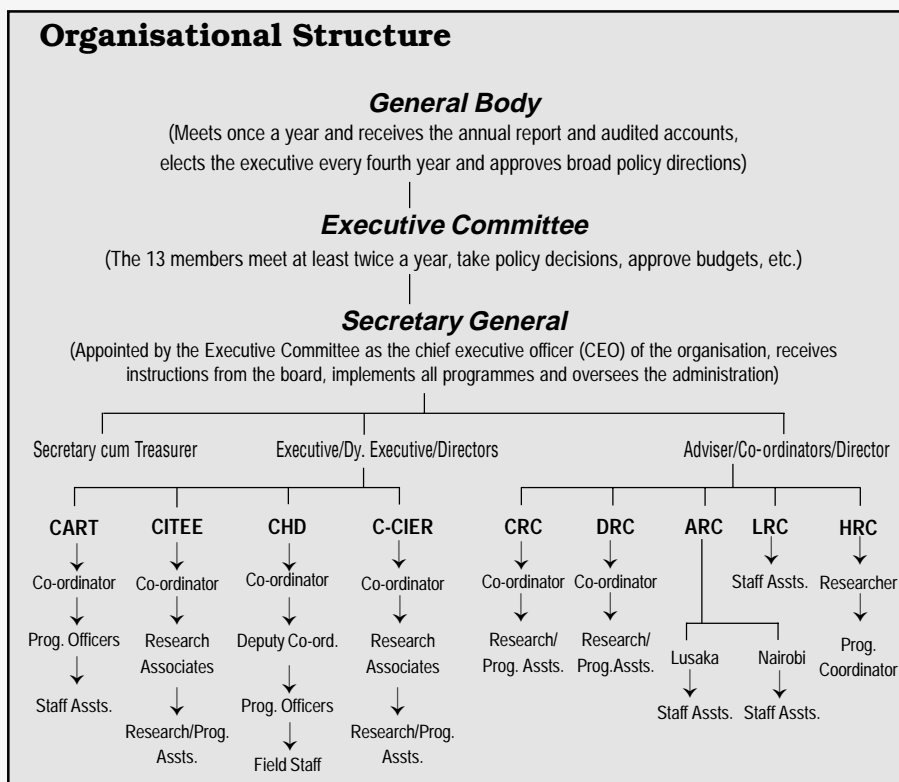
'Consumer sovereignty in the framework of social justice and equality within and across borders'

Organisational Development

From a small voluntary group of concerned citizens operating out of a garage on a zero budget to an international NGO, the journey is marked with healthy growth. The year 2008-09 was marked by important organisational developments within the country and abroad. CUTS' centres are broadly divided into two distinct categories:

- Programme Centres; and
- Resource Centres.

Organisational Structure



Programme Centres

- Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CITEE), Jaipur, India
- Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CART), Jaipur, India
- Centre for Human Development (CHD), Chittorgarh, India

N C Pahariya
 Secretary cum Treasurer



Rajeev D Mathur
 Executive Director



G C Jain
 Assistant Director (Finance & Administration)



Siddhartha Mitra
 Director (Research)



L N Sharma
 Senior Accounts Officer



Sudhir Kumar
 Accounts Officer



Manish Pareek
 Accounts Officer



- Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CCIER), Jaipur, India

Resource Centres

- Calcutta Resource Centre (CRC), Calcutta, India
- Africa Resource Centre (ARC), Lusaka, Zambia
- London Resource Centre (LRC), London, UK
- Delhi Resource Centre (DRC), New Delhi, India
- Africa Resource Centre (ARC), Nairobi, Kenya
- Hanoi Resource Centre (HRC), Hanoi, Vietnam

Meeting of the General Body

The General Body Meeting was held on November 21, 2008 in which the Annual Report and audited accounts were presented.

Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting of the Executive Committee was held on November 21, 2008 where internal policy matters, progress made and budget were reviewed.

Human Resource Development

During this year Amarjeet Singh, Yamini Kumawat, Madhu Sudan Sharma, Shweta Gupta, Sudipta Mukherjee, Amar Deep Singh, Azeem ur Rehman, S K Bhatt, Natasha Gupta, Manish Drona, Akhlaq Ahmed, Mansi Gupta, Khushbu Parnami, Verity McGivern, Kritika Kapil, Varsha Rathore, G C Jain, Niru Yadav, Rahul Ranjan joined CUTS at Jaipur.

Laxmi Lal Gurjur, Seema Teli, Renu Pareekh, Om Prakash Jaiswal, Rajmal Gaur, Pushkar Lal Meena, Neetu Joshi, Narayan Lal Gurjur, Jamna Lal Mali, Lokendra Pandya, Prashto Bagchi, Mukesh Chaudhary, Vandana Chauhan, Sanjay Moud, Ashok Kumar Bairagi joined CUTS Chittorgarh office. Prithviraj Nath, Sushanto Banerjee joined our Calcutta Resource Centre whereas P S Verma joined Delhi Resource Centre.

Atul Kaushik, Josiane Rufener, Rashid S Kaukab, Julian Mukiibi joined CUTS Geneva Resource Centre. Ngo Thi Bich Thuy, Tran Thi To Tam joined Hanoi Resource Centre. Daniel Okendo Asher joined Africa Resource Centre, Nairobi.

CUTS Website

CUTS has developed a comprehensive website with an URL www.cuts-international.org. It has useful links and hyperlinks leading to its various Programme and Resource Centres that provide an insight into the individual sub-domains. Main page mirrors the broad outline about the organisation and its activities. In addition, it provides valuable information on the following areas:

- Projects and events;
- Media articles and press releases;
- Current initiatives; and
- Advocacy campaigns.

Ruchi Sharma
HR/Administrative
Officer



S K Soni
Personal Assistant

Mukesh Tyagi
DTP Officer



Rajkumar Trivedi
DTP Assistant

Impressed by CUTS' specialisation in spreading its message to every nook and corner of the society. It would have been better if 'Gram Gadar' would have been published in regional languages from every region.

Rakesh Bhartiya
Director
Department of Science
& Technology
Government of India



Sweepthish Jayan
Assistant IT Officer



Akhlaq Ahmed
Assistant Web-
designer



Madhuri Vasnani
Publications Assistant



Richa Bhatnagar
Assistant
Programme Officer



Lokpal Jangir
Assistant
Documentation
Officer



Vikram Singh
Rathore
Documentation
Assistant

Highly motivated and impressive team at CUTS working on interesting regulatory issues.

Paramita Dasgupta,
Senior Private
Sector Development
Specialist,
International Finance
Corporation (IFC),
World Bank

CUTS Library and Documentation Department

CUTS library and documentation department plays a vital role in supporting in-house research work by facilitating access to relevant information sources.

The Library

CUTS library has an extensive collection of books, journals, research reports, working papers, monographs, briefing papers and pamphlets in the fields of economics, economic development, foreign direct investment (FDI), competition, poverty, industry, international trade, trade and development, trade and environment, energy, agriculture, law, consumerism etc. It subscribes 22 journals/magazines and more than 10 newspapers. It also contains wide collection of CDs/audio-videos/photographs.

Information Unit

This unit has a database, which is a collection of international, national and grassroots level organisations including inter-governmental organisations, governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). It contains Postal Mailing Lists (ML), Electronic List (EL), and Visiting Cards. Information Unit is responsible for providing mailing list(s) to the dispatch section in label format.

Infrastructural Development

Considerable investments were made on information technology and office equipments. New books were added to the library. The number of computers increased from 45 to 68 and some of the existing computers were upgraded for compatibility. Heavy duty centralised printers were installed. Centralised Network and Internet connectivity was provided. High-end electronic gadgets like routers at all the three offices at Jaipur to control the Internet bandwidth and fight spam in order to give users non-stop browsing and increase the productivity, were purchased.

Capacity Building of the Staff

- Kirti Johari of CUTS attended a one day awareness programme on *e-granthalaya* at Rajasthan University, Jaipur on January 21, 2009.
- Amit Chaudhury of CUTS CHD attended a national conference on 'Challenges in Human Development' held at CDS Thiruvananthapuram from January 24-25, 2009
- Team Building workshops facilitated by Tasmac were organised at Jaipur and Chittorgarh on February 07-08, 2009 and February 10-11, 2009 respectively.
- Pham Thi Que Anh of CUTS Hanoi attended CI Asia Pacific Regional Meeting in Malaysia, on February 17-19, 2009.
- Amarjeet Singh of CUTS CART attended a workshop on Resource Mobilisation and Communication jointly organised by IBS and The Resource Alliance in Jaipur, from March 02-20, 2009.

Donor Agencies

CUTS maintains an interactive association with various donor agencies both at the national and international levels. The organisation receives funds from national as well as international agencies to implement various development projects and programmes. Through judicious use of funds, the organisation pursues and strengthens its various functional areas. During 2008-09, the main funding agencies for the organisation have been categorised into two: the governmental sector donors and the non-governmental sector donors.

The government sector donors include: Department for International Development (DFID), UK; Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), New Delhi; various Ministries of Government of India (GoI); Government of Rajasthan; Government of the Netherlands; Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation (NORAD), Norway; Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), Berne and New Delhi; Swiss Agency for International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Stockholm; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva; European Commission (EC); World Health Organisation (WHO), New Delhi; and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), New Delhi.

The non-governmental sector donors include: Oxfam GB in India; Novib the Netherlands; Save the Children, UK; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Germany; International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada; and Commonwealth Foundation, UK. As its best practice, CUTS makes consistent efforts to establish long-term working relations with donors.

Good discussion both about India and Africa with some future possibilities for collaboration.

Martha Stein Sochas
Director
Asia Department,
Agence
Francaise De
Development (AFD),
Paris

Major Highlights of the Year 2008-09

Striving towards new challenges and new thinking, CUTS focused on its core functional areas during the year 2008-09. Some of the major activities are listed below:

Programmes & Events

2008	Major Events and Activities
April 17	A one-day Local Inception Workshop under the project 'Capacity Building on Electricity Reforms in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (RESA)' in Kolkata, West Bengal, India on April 17, 2009.
May 21	A one-day District Level Dissemination meeting under the project 'Assessing the Qualitative and Quantitative Output of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)' in Sirohi, Rajasthan, India on May 21, 2008.
June 04	The fifth and the final debate in the series, entitled, 'Democracy & Development: Friends or foes?' under the Soho to Soweto project in London, UK on June 04, 2008.
June 19	A two-day international conference marking the launch of a two-year regional project entitled, 'Strengthening Constituencies towards Effective Competition Regimes in Select Countries of West Africa (also referred to as 7Up4 Project), in Ghana, on June 19, 2008.
July 16	CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (CUTS GRC) was launched in Geneva, Switzerland on July 16, 2008. It will work closely with Geneva-based developing country negotiators and their policymakers and civil society representatives.
July 24-25	A two-day regional conference on 'Joining Forces in the Global Trading Arena – Formulating African Trade Strategy', in Lusaka, Zambia on July 24-25, 2008.
August 12-13	A major conference on 'Global Partnership for Development: Where do we stand & where to go?' organised by CUTS and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in association with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the World Bank in New Delhi, India on August 12-13, 2008.
August 14	A seminar entitled, "Enhancing Development through a Competition Culture", in New Delhi, India on August 14, 2008.
September 24-25	Two sessions entitled, 'The Missing Link between Trade Openness and Poverty Reduction: The Role of the Multilateral Trading System', and 'What Future for Global Economic Governance: Potential Role of the WTO', at the WTO Public Forum in Geneva, Switzerland on September 24-25, 2008.
October 14, 15, 17, 20 & 23	National inception meetings under the project entitled, 'Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System' (FEATS) in the five project countries, i.e. in Nairobi (Kenya) on October 14; Kampala (Uganda) on

Contd..

2008		Major Events and Activities	
		October 15; Dar-Es-Salaam (Tanzania) on October 17; Lusaka (Zambia) on October 20; and in Lilongwe (Malawi) on October 23, 2008 respectively.	
November 20		Scoping workshop under a two-year project entitled, 'Competition Policy and Domestic Regulatory Framework in the Energy Sector in Kenya' in Nairobi, Kenya on November 20, 2008	
December 12		Launch-cum-Teachers Training Workshop under the project entitled, 'Get Active' in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India on December 12, 2008	
2009			
January 13		An Advocacy Meeting entitled, 'South Asia: Stakes and Role in the Global Trading System – Doha Round and Beyond' under the SAFIT-II project in Geneva, Switzerland, on January 13, 2009	
February 01-02		Two seminars entitled, 'A Southern Agenda on Global Trade Governance: <i>Some Views and Concerns from South Asia</i> ' and 'Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development: <i>Some Perspectives from South Asia</i> ' in Dhaka, Bangladesh on February 01-02, 2009	
February 04-05 & 25-26		Two divisional level advocacy meetings under the project entitled, ' <i>Tobacco Control Campaign by Mobilising Key Stakeholders in Rajasthan</i> ' in Jodhpur on February 25-26, 2009; and in Churu, Rajasthan, India on February 04-05, 2009 respectively.	
March 28		The Political Economy of Regulation in India-What do we need to do?' as part of the project 'India Competition and Regulation Report' in New Delhi, India on March 28, 2009	
March 13		A half-day stakeholder consultation on 'Indo-Bangla Trade: Focus on the North East' in Assam, India on March 13, 2009	

Research & Publications

- This research volume 'Politics Triumphs Economics? - *Political Economy and the Implementation of Competition Law and Economic Regulation in Developing Countries*' was published under the Competition, Regulation and Development Research Forum (CDRF) project. It covers a wide range of issues such as how political economy underlying the implementation and enforcement of competition and regulatory laws and regimes, how barriers posed by vested interests to the free and fair functioning of competition and regulatory regimes and why the often choppy relationship between competition enforcement agencies and regulators attributable to functional overlap, which often delays decisions and is, therefore, detrimental to the welfare of any country.
- A Research Report entitled, '*Poverty Linkages: A Case Study of the Poultry Industry in Bangladesh*' was published to analyse the trade poverty linkages in the poultry industry in Bangladesh.

- Exploring the Post-1990s Trade-Labour Linkage in India – A *Set of Case Studies from West Bengal, Maharashtra and Gujarat* is based on field surveys from a number of disparate industries and locations in West Bengal, Maharashtra and Gujarat that finds striking and significant evidence on the impact of international trade on production, organisation and occupational patterns at the industry level.
- Another Research Report, ‘A Critical Look at Economic Governance in India: *The Case of National Foreign Trade Policy*’ endeavours to understand the policymaking process of National Foreign Trade Policy of India, and to ascertain its impact especially at the grassroots.
- The purpose of this Report, ‘Training Needs for Commercial and Economic Diplomacy: *An Indian Case Study*’ is to carry out the need assessment for formal training to Indian government officials and business executives, who are handling issues related to commercial and economic diplomacy.
- India and Preferential Trade Agreements: *The Path Traversed and the Road Ahead* provides an in-depth analysis of PTAs/ RTAs/FTAs, their significance and overall impact on Indian economy.
- The monograph entitled, ‘Policy-induced Barriers to Competition in Ethiopia’ focuses on the evolution of economic policy in Ethiopia and analyses the current barriers to competition in the country.
- ‘Using Consumer Law to Improve Governance’ documents various decisions of the Supreme Court and the consumer fora, established under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- ‘Enforcing the Competition Law in Namibia: *A Toolkit*’ was published during the period to analyse the constraints and challenges that the competition authority of Namibia may face towards building a healthy competition culture in the country, and suggests a framework for addressing the same.
- ‘Competition and Regulation in India, 2009’ – A Curtain Raiser examines the evolution of regulation/regulatory problems from a political economy perspective and assesses the quality of regulation in terms of the suitability of content for tackling market failures, effectiveness and independence of the regulator and the extent to which set of sector regulations foster competition.
- A monograph entitled, ‘The Competition Regime as a Determinant of Consumer Welfare: Focus on Indian Telecom’ elaborates the concept of consumer welfare which has been concretised and delineated in the form of consumer rights and examines how such rights can be furthered through a competition regime. It offers a case study of the telecom sector in India.
- Trade-Development-Poverty Linkages: *Reflections from Selected Asian and Sub-Saharan African Countries Volume II Sector Case Studies* comprises the sectoral studies conducted in the 13 countries under a project entitled ‘Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction (TDP)’ identify the factors that need to accompany trade openness for it to become an engine of economic development and poverty alleviation.

- Trade Liberalisation, Growth and Poverty in Bangladesh conduct an assessment of trade liberalisation in Bangladesh and examine its impact on growth and poverty in the country.
- The monograph, 'Competition Law and Intellectual Property Rights: *Controlling Abuse or Abusing Control?*' examines the interface between competition law issues and the protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) – both complementarities and conflicts.
- Three issue notes for Parliamentarians' Forum on Economic Policy Issues (PARFORE) entitled, 'Competition and Regulation in Indian Retail Sector'; 'National Competition Policy for India'; and Ensuring Quality in Indian Higher Education were published.
- Two discussion papers entitled, 'Regulation of Higher Education in India' and 'Informal Sector and Competition: A *Comprehensive Agenda for Research and Action*' were also published.
- Two policy briefs, 'Privatisation Initiative in Botswana: Any Bearing on Competition?' 'Leveraging Economic Growth Through Better Regulation' were published during the period.

Advocacy & Networking

- Skill & Consumer Friends Training and Seminar under the Consumer Awareness Programme in Jayal, Nagaur, on April 21-23, 2008.
- A five-day training workshop on 'Competition Law Enforcement in Ethiopia' in Addis Ababa, during May 12-16, 2008.
- A training programme on 'IPRs and Related WTO Issues' in Jaipur, on November 03-07, 2008 with a purpose to build the capacity of women scientists and technologists working with various ministries/departments/councils/institutes/research laboratories of the Government of India.
- A capacity building workshop for media on trade and development issues, in Lusaka, on November 07, 2008.
- Two training workshops under the project entitled, 'Strengthening the Consumer Movement in Vietnam', in Hai Phong, on November 18, 2008; and in Vung Tau, Vietnam, on November 20, 2008 respectively.
- 'Training Programme for Indian Government Officials and Business Executives' in Jaipur, during January 19-21, 2009.

Honours & Achievements

- Pradeep S Mehta received M R Pai Memorial Award by Shyamala Gopinath, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for a relentless campaign to educate consumers on competition and regulatory issues on April 09, 2008. The award carries a citation and a cheque of Rs 51,000.
- CUTS received the prestigious India Power Award 2008 for its outstanding networking and various outreach activities towards consumer empowerment by Dr M S Swaminathan, a noted Agriculture Scientist and Member of Parliament in New Delhi, on November 03, 2008.

Representations

Date & Venue	Event	Issue	Participants
New Delhi, India, April 21, 2008	Interactive session on 'Public-Private Partnership in India Railways' organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)	Provided a unique opportunity for the customer of Indian Railways to know their expectations are being taken into account by various policy initiatives while drawing the future course of action	Ramrao Mundhe
Paris, France, April 22-25, 2008	United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Expert Meeting on Sustainable Innovation and OECD UNEP Conference on Resource Efficiency	A presentation on 'Bio-fuels and the course of world economic development'	Siddharth Mitra
Ahmedabad, India, May 14, 2008	'Microfinance in India: Evolving Strategies to Deepen and Broaden the Outreach' organised by Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute	Paper presentation on 'Strengthening the institutional base for reaching extreme poverty'	Amit Chowdhury
Washington DC, US, June 02-03, 2008	Demand for Good Governance (DFGG) Summit organised by the World Bank	Presentation on 'Improving Public Expenditure Outcomes through Social Accountability Approaches: Field Experiences from Rajasthan, India'	George Cheriyan
Hanoi, Vietnam June 07-11, 2008	'Making Markets Work for Small Farmers: Understanding Marketing and Market Intermediation', organised by the Asia Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (DHRRA), in collaboration with Viet DHRRA, Vietnam Farmers Union, Foro Rural Mundial and ASEAN Foundation	Enhance the knowledge and skills of participants in marketing and market intermediation which would link small farmers to markets	Pham Thi Que Anh
Cotonou, Benin, July 09-11, 2008	A Regional Conference on the 'Right to Food and Voluntary Guidelines', organised by an NGO, United Sisters at work, with the support of Food First Information & Action Network (FIAN) International and Bread for the World (Pain Pour le Monde)	Launch the 'Right to Food Network' in Africa and establish a network that would help a permanent and continuous dialogue among human rights activists	Angela Mwape Mulenga

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Date & Venue	Event	Issue	Participants
Venice, Italy, July 18-19, 2008	CESifo Venice Summer Institute workshop on 'Reforming Rules and Regulations: Laws, Institutions and Enforcement'	Presentation on 'How Vital Is Regulatory Independence: The Telecom Sector in Developing Countries'	Siddhartha Mitra
Greece, Athens, July 04-05, 2008	'Third European Conference on Competition and Regulation'	Presentation on 'Competition Policy: Institutions and Procedures'	Pradeep S Mehta
Australia, Sydney, October 04, 2008	'Unleashing the Tiger? Competition Law in China and Hong Kong' sponsored by premier competition law firm Gilbert + Tobin, the Australian and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG), and the Asian Competition Forum	Explore the emergence of competition law in China and Hong Kong and also discuss policy questions and concerns of regulators and lawyers	Pradeep S Mehta
Hanoi, Vietnam, October 23, 2008	'Sharing Experience and Identifying orientation on Advocacy of NGOs', jointly organised by Centre for Support of Social Development Programmes (CSDP) and Centre for Development Assistance (CDA)	Sharing experiences on advocacy regarding poverty reduction and development cooperation between NGOs in and outside of Cooperation Development Group (CDG) and identifying orientation on advocacy for NGOs in general, and CDG in particular	To Tam
Geneva, Switzerland November 24-26, 2008	'Confronting the Global Food Challenge: Finding New Approaches to Trade and Investment that Support the Right to Food' convened by The World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCAs), together with the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, FoodFirst Information and Action Network and Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy	Trade impact and investment on the right to food; explore the impact of climate change and agro-fuels, and develop advocacy strategies to raise human rights concerns <i>vis-à-vis</i> trade and investment policies	Atul Kaushik Rashid S Kaukab Annie Haakenstad
Islamabad, Pakistan, December 01-03, 2008	The 11 th Sustainable Development Conference with the overarching theme: 'Peace and Sustainable Development in South Asia: Issues and Challenges of Globalisation'.	Presentation on 'Of Peace Dividends and Trade Dividends: The Case of Pakistan and India'	Siddhartha Mitra

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Date & Venue	Event	Issue	Participants
Hong Kong, December 08-09, 2008	Asian Competition Forum organised by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Paper presentation on the 'International Competition Fund: Solution for Effective Deterrence and Distribution of Cartel Fines'	Rijit Sengupta
Hong Kong, February 26-27, 2009	'Infrastructure Regulation: What works, Why, and How do we know?' organised by LIRNEasia, in collaboration with the Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore and the University of Hong Kong	Presented a paper on 'Assessing Regulatory Performance: The Case of the Indian Power Sector'	Rajesh Kumar
London, UK March 09-10, 2009	'Securing our Common Future: A Conference on the Future of International Development', organised by the Department for International Development (DFID)	Focused on issues facing world security and brought together some of the leading thinkers and practitioners on international development	Pradeep S Mehta
Jaipur, Rajasthan, March 20, 2009	'State Level Seminar on Competition Policy and Law' jointly organised by the Competition Commission of India and Government of Rajasthan	Mehta spoke in the opening session on 'Competition Law of India'	Pradeep S Mehta Rijit Sengupta Udai S Mehta
Colombo, Sri Lanka, March 30-31, 2009	'Broadening Economic Integration in South Asia: Incorporating Services Liberalisation at a Time of Global Economic Crisis' organised by the Institute of Policy Studies and United Nations Development Programme	Facilitate informed discussion and consultations on the way forward for the SAARC countries' engagement in negotiations	Archana Jhatkar
Paris, March 30-31, 2009	'The Future of Agriculture in a Globalised World' organised by Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	Agriculture and its Link with Other Sectors	Pranav Kumar

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CITEE)

CUTS CITEE was established in 1996, with the aim of being a global level institution for research and advocacy on multilateral trade and sustainable development issues, and has been working on issues related to trade and economics. The centre's philosophy is "liberalisation yes, but with safety nets". In the early 1990s, when the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was at its peak, CUTS got involved with trade and economic issues (including regulatory issues such as competition policy and investment).

The Mission of CITEE is *Pursuing economic equity and social justice within and across borders by persuading governments and empowering people.*

The main objective of the Centre is to enable and empower representatives of civil society, especially from developing countries, to articulate and advocate on relevant issues at appropriate fora and thus create a questioning society, characterised by transparent and accountable institutions. Simultaneously, it also tries to promote equity within and across developed and developing countries through network-based research and advocacy on emerging and relevant issues.

CITEE aims to achieve its mission and objectives by means of three inter-linked functions: research, advocacy and networking. Capacity building of civil society organisations (CSOs) and other stakeholders, especially from developing and least developed countries (LDCs) cuts across these functions. CITEE is regarded as a key research and advocacy group working on issues of trade and development of interest to developing countries. CITEE operates closely with other CUTS centres to strengthen upward and downward linkages on critical trade and economic policy issues involving policymakers and civil society.



Bipul Chatterjee
Deputy
Executive
Director & Head,
CITEE

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Programme
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Vishwajit Habbu
Programme
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Archana Jatkar
Assistant Policy
Analyst &
Researcher



Kritika Kapil
Research
Assistant

Anutosh Biswas
Programme
Assistant





Ladli Prasad Katara
Personal Assistant

International Advisory Board

The Centre carries out its activities under the guidance of an advisory board comprised of the following members.

Chairman	T N Srinivasan , Samuel C Park, Jr. Professor of Economics, Yale University, US
Members	<p>L Alan Winters, Professor of Economics, University of Sussex, UK</p> <p>Ann Weston, Vice-President and Research Coordinator, The North-South Institute Ottawa, Canada</p> <p>M Supperamaniam, Adviser, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, Kuala Lumpur</p> <p>Jean-Pierre Lehmann Chairman, Professor, International Political Economy and Founding Director of Evian Group at IMD, Lausanne</p> <p>Dianna Tussie, Senior Research Fellow, Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Buenos Aires, Argentina</p> <p>Dominique Njinkeu, Executive Director, Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP), Canada</p> <p>Veena Jha, Visiting Professor, Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Warwick and Fellow, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)</p> <p>Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International</p>

Programme Areas

- WTO Issues
- Regional Economic Cooperation
- Developmental Issues: Trade, Environment, Pro-poor Growth
- Capacity-building: A Cross Cutting Issue

Projects

- Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction
- WTO Doha Round and South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations
- Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy: A Pilot Project in Bangladesh and India
- Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment of Free Trade Agreement
- Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Consumption and Production of Vegetable Oils in India
- Training Programmes on IPRs and Related WTO Issues
- India and Regional Economic Cooperation in South and Southeast Asia
- Welfare Impacts of the Doha Round Agreement on India
- India's Engagement with PTAs
- State Business Relationship in Indian States under the IPPG Project

- Enabling Developing Countries to Sieze Ecolabel Opportunities
- Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics

Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction (TDP)

The TDP project aimed to explore the policy environment during the distribution of the fruits of globalisation and advocate at different levels with diverse stakeholders for remedial action, if required. The project aimed to enable stakeholders to take decisions and formulate strategies that were based on a deeper understanding of the impact/opportunities of/from international trade, with a pro-poor perspective.

TDP was a multi-country project involving 15 countries from South and Southeast Asia; Eastern and Southern Africa; and Europe, viz., Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Kenya, Nepal, The Netherlands, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, UK, Vietnam and Zambia. Project activities included analysis of stakeholder perceptions regarding TDP, networking with partner organisations and other stakeholders, advocacy with policymakers and CSOs, dialogues involving producers and CSOs and other stakeholders, outreach aimed at diplomats, parliamentarians and developmental agencies (including donor agencies). The duration of the project was of four years, i.e. January 2005-December 2008.

Advocacy and Networking

- CITEE, in association with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Foreign Trade Institute of Pakistan (FTIP), jointly organised a seminar on *Mainstreaming Development Issues in Pakistan's Trade Policy* in Islamabad, on April 12, 2008. The seminar was organised in the backdrop of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) XII meeting being held in Accra during April 20-25, 2008. The objective of the seminar was to discuss and debate on the linkages between trade and development.
- On the occasion of quadrennial meeting of the UNCTAD XII in Accra, CUTS organised an event entitled *Trade-Development-Poverty Linkages* on April 18, 2008. The main objective of the event was to place a set of key messages on trade-development-poverty linkages to the trade community at large. The book entitled *Trade-Development-Poverty Linkages – Reflections from Selected Asian and Sub Saharan African Countries' Volume I – Country Case Studies* was also launched on the occasion.
- CITEE organised a training workshop on trade related issues for journalists in Bangladesh on June 29-30, 2008. The workshop was attended by 26 journalists representing both print and electronic media. Selim Raihan, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and M Abu Eusuf, Associate Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka and TDP project coordinator, Unnayan Shamannay facilitated the workshop. Raihan covered the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and regional

trade related issues while Eusuf covered the basic trade related concepts including an overview of Bangladesh trade policy.

- The Centre, in association with the Economic Institute of Cambodia (EIC), organised a workshop on *Mainstreaming Development into the WTO* in Cambodia, on July 01, 2008, with the main objective of highlighting issues of concern in the international trading system and their relationship with development and poverty reduction in Cambodia. The workshop served as a forum for practitioners in the fields of trade and development to discuss and exchange ideas. The workshop attracted around 100 participants from government agencies, donors, private sector, NGOs, academia and local media.
- A national conference on *Towards a Coherent Trade and Development Strategy of India* was held in New Delhi, on July 24-25, 2008. The conference aimed at providing a discussion forum on the dynamic relationship linking international trade and poverty reduction at the national as well as international level. It addressed the need for mainstreaming India's national development strategy into international trade so as to maximise the benefits of the latter for enhancing development and poverty alleviation.
- The Centre and National Economic Research Institute jointly organised a seminar in Beijing, in November 2008. The purpose of the seminar was to discuss the macroeconomic situation in China, especially the impact of global economic crisis on the world economy, in general, and the Chinese economy, in particular, with focus on the impact of international trade. The discussion was attended by 16 government officials from China.

Research and Publications

Research Report

- *Trade-Development-Poverty Linkages: Reflections from Selected Asian and Sub-Saharan African Countries – Volume II - Sector Case Studies*

Discussion Papers

- *Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction: Perceptions of UK Trade Policy*
- *Trade and Poverty: A Case Study of The Netherlands*

Briefing Papers

- *Trade as a Tool for Employment Generation*
- *Aid for Trade: The Process So Far, But What Next?*
- *Mainstreaming Development in the WTO: Developing Countries in the Doha Round*
- *From UNCTAD XI to UNCTAD XII – A Stocktaking*

WTO Doha Round and South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations

The Centre implemented Phase II of the project entitled *WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations*. The project was also known as *South Asia Forum*

for *International Trade (SAFIT-II)*. It aimed at establishing linkages between the CSOs and research institutions while conducting advocacy with the governments. The project was implemented in five South Asian countries, viz. Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in partnership with various organisations. The duration of the project was of four years, i.e. April 2006-March 2009. It was divided into three components.

Component I (Focus on Doha Round of Trade Negotiations)

Component I focused on research of some key issues of WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. The research aimed at providing negotiating inputs to the policymakers before the conclusion of the Doha Round. The researched topics were published in the form of a book entitled *South Asian Positions in the WTO Doha Round: In Search of A True Development Agenda – Volume II*.

Component II (Focus on Domestic Preparedness)

Component II focused on the domestic preparedness of the partner countries to face the challenges of trade liberalisation and globalisation in 'Services' sector. The researched topics were published in the form of a book entitled *Domestic Preparedness for Services Trade Liberalisation: Are South Asian Countries Prepared For Further Liberalisation?*

Component III (Focus on Campaign-based Advocacy and Demand-driven Capacity Building)

The advocacy began as part of project activity in all the five South Asian countries after the completion of Component II. This was done by linking the final outcomes of Component I and II to help South Asian countries better understand each other's concerns.

Advocacy & Networking

- A session was organised at UNCTAD XII Civil Society Forum on Services Liberalisation and Domestic Regulation in Accra on April 17-19, 2008 to increase awareness about the research carried out under SAFIT as well as enhance networking among CSOs on the issues. A paper entitled *Domestic Regulation and Service Trade Liberalisation – A South Asian Perspective* encapsulating some key messages from the study under the project was also discussed.
- CUTS, in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (FICCI), organised a Conference entitled *Global Partnership for Development: Where Do We Stand and Where to Go?* in New Delhi, on August 12-13, 2008. Among others, the conference covered and discussed issues such as aid for trade, LDC concerns pertaining to the WTO, services trade liberalisation, which are subject areas under the WTO as well as SAFIT II.
- The Centre organised an advocacy meeting entitled *South Asia: Stakes and Role in the Global Trading System – Doha Round and Beyond* in Geneva on January 13, 2009. This event discussed the emerging issues relevant to the South Asian countries in the global trading system and further assessed

the way forward for them. In this regard, an effort was made to bring diverse views ranging from government officials to the independent voices from these South Asian countries. The meeting was attended by more than 40 participants.

- The Centre and South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM) organised a seminar entitled, *A Southern Agenda on Global Trade Governance: Some Views and Concerns from South Asia* in Dhaka, on February 02, 2009.

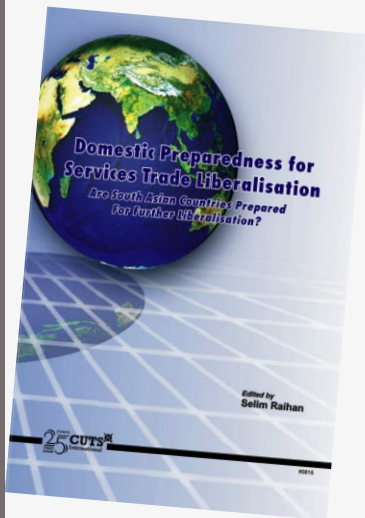
Research & Publications

Research Report

- Domestic Preparedness for Services Trade Liberalisation: *Are South Asian Countries Prepared For Further Liberalisation?*

Briefing Paper

- Domestic Regulation and Service Trade Liberalisation: *A South Asian Perspective*



Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy: A Pilot Project in Bangladesh and India (MINTDEV)

CITEE implemented a project entitled *Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy: A Pilot Project in Bangladesh and India* with the support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi, India. The duration of the project was of two years, i.e. December 2006-December 2008. The project was implemented in two South Asian countries – Bangladesh and India.

The objectives of the project were to ensure and enhance positive linkages between trade and human development, foster equity and accountability of the national trade policy; and enhance a more coherent civil society voice in the formulation of national trade policy and its linkages with national development strategy.

The project addressed a major problem of trade policy-making and its implementation in developing countries, i.e. the problem of social exclusion through collection of data/information from the grassroots and its analysis. It addressed several questions, such as:

- How to embed social and political considerations into trade policy making?
- How to engage civil society into trade policy making in a socially inclusive manner?
- What are the conditions necessary for mainstreaming trade into national development strategy?

Advocacy & Networking

- A training-cum-advocacy meeting entitled *International Trade and National Development Strategy in India: Voices from the Ground* for farmers, farmer leaders and *panchayat* representatives was held in Jaipur on May 07, 2008. This marked the culmination of rigorous field based research in Rajasthan and aimed at demystifying the contents of

globalisation and international trade and its impacts on agriculture. The workshop also shed light on the importance of good governance at the local level, i.e. *Panchayati Raj* Institutions.

- CRC and CITEE organised a training-cum-advocacy workshop entitled *International Trade and National Development Strategy in India: Voices from the Ground* for farmers, farmer leaders, CSOs and *panchayat* representatives in Kolkata on June 12, 2008. The workshop was a follow-up activity to address the major information gaps in the decision making process, as revealed from the field survey of 400 agricultural households conducted in four districts of Kolkata namely – Hooghly, Purulia, Malda and Jalpaiguri.
- A Rajasthan State Level Meeting entitled *International Trade and its Reach at the Grassroots* was organised in Jaipur on June 17, 2008. This meeting was broadly aimed at taking a detailed look at the process of international trade and its impact on development in India. More specifically, it enabled a thorough discussion on the research findings on “the level of stakeholder participation in the formulation and implementation of the National Foreign Trade Policy of India (2004-09) –Rajasthan’s Perspective”.
- CRC and CITEE organised a state-level advocacy workshop entitled *Mainstreaming International Trade and National Development Strategy in India* with government officials, people’s representatives, members of different political parties, farmers, farmer leaders, CSOs, *panchayat* representatives and academicians in Kolkata on July 05, 2008. This workshop emphasised the important role played by CSOs in effective implementation of pro-poor schemes at the grassroots; and understand ways to incorporate development needs into political considerations.
- A National Conference entitled *Towards a Coherent Trade and Development Strategy of India* was held in New Delhi on July 24-25, 2008. The conference discussed important issues, such as the need for mainstreaming international trade into national development strategy of India and how the country could respond to the challenges of international trade and secure an inclusive path to development. The discussion took into account various measures of disparity and deprivation – the regional trade openness index, income disparity and poverty.
- CUTS and SANEM organised a seminar entitled, *Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development: Some Perspectives from South Asia* in Dhaka on February 01, 2009.

Research & Publications

Research Reports

- Political Economy of Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh: *Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Bangladesh Agriculture*
- Is the Stage set for Mainstreaming Trade into National Development Strategy of India? *Results of Field Survey in Two States*



- Trade Liberalisation, Growth and Poverty in Bangladesh
- Trade and Poverty Linkages: A Case Study of the Poultry Industry in Bangladesh
- Exploring the Post-1990s Trade-Labour Linkage in India – A Set of Case Studies from West Bengal, Maharashtra and Gujarat
- Regional Trade Openness Index, Income Disparity and Poverty: An Indian Case Study

Briefing Papers

- Is the Stage set for Mainstreaming Trade into National Development Strategy of India?
- Political Economy of Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh: Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Bangladesh Agriculture
- Trade Liberalisation, Growth and Poverty in Bangladesh

Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment of Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

The project entitled 'Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Union and the Republic of India' was awarded by the ECORYS Netherlands on behalf of the European Commission, to assess how the trade and investment provisions of the enhanced agreement under negotiation could affect economic, social, environmental and developmental issues in the EU and India.

The project was implemented in three phases, i.e. Phase 1 – Global Analysis Report (April 07, 2008), Phase 2 – Interim Report (August 25, 2008) and Phase 3 – Final Report (November 2008). The duration of the study was of one year, i.e. March 2008-April 2009.

Advocacy & Networking

- A Trade SIA workshop was held in New Delhi on June 23, 2008. The objectives of the workshop were to inform civil society and key stakeholders about the methodology and goals of the SIA; and discuss the results of Phase 1 with the Indian and the EU stakeholders and gather their views/critiques on these results.
- Three public meetings were held in Brussels, on June 05, 2008; November 06, 2008; and January 29, 2009. The purpose of the meetings was to collect/assemble comments of the Indian and the EU stakeholders and discuss with the civil society the results and analysis at various stages throughout the study.

Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Consumption and Production of Vegetable Oils in India

A study on assessing the impact of trade liberalisation on oilseeds and edible oil sector in India was conducted by the Centre. The study commissioned by UNCTAD India Programme revisits the impact of trade liberalisation process on the entire economy, i.e. oilseed crop cultivators, edible oil processors and consumers of edible oil by adopting a concrete and rigorous quantitative and qualitative approach.

Training Programmes on IPRs and Related WTO Issues

Training programmes on IPRs and Related WTO Issues were organised with the support of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India in order to build the capacity of scientists and technologists working with various departments, institutes and research laboratories of the Government of India. Two training programmes were conducted in Jaipur, on April 28-May 02, 2008; and November 03-07, 2008 respectively. Out of these two, one was only for women scientists and technologists from government departments/institutes/labs.

These training programmes helped facilitate an overview of the basic principles of multilateral trading system (MTS) enshrined in the WTO and an understanding of the trade rules that apply to IPRs under its Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) Agreement. The methodology adopted for undertaking the training programme included lectures, case analysis, simulation exercises, interaction with experts, group discussions, etc.

These five-day training programmes covered broadly an overview of the WTO, an overview of the WTO Agreement on TRIPs, enforcement under the TRIPs Agreement, copyrights and related rights, implications of IPRs for developing countries, basic features of the Indian Copyright Act, the Indian Patent Act, the Indian Plant Varieties Protection and Farmers' Rights Act, a brief overview of other IPR laws in India, relationship of IPRs with biotechnology, traditional knowledge and access and benefit sharing, patent drafting, and negotiations in the WTO on IPR issues.

Resource persons comprised of eminent experts, practitioners and academicians in the field of advance IPR, WTO related issues and patent writing.

India and Regional Economic Cooperation (REC) in South and South East Asia

The Centre with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), India implemented this project to engage diverse stakeholders in India with regional trade initiatives in South Asia and promote policy responses that would be inclusive of stakeholder preferences. The project helped assess future prospects of India's approach towards REC in South Asia in a bilateral or multilateral setting. The duration of the project was of three months, i.e. July 2008-October 2008.



Training Programme on IPRs and WTO Issues held in Jaipur on April 28-May 02, 2008

Advocacy & Networking

- The Centre organised a stakeholder consultation on *Regional Economic Cooperation in South Asia with a Focus on India-Sri Lanka Trade* in Kochi on August 21, 2008. It marked the release of a CUTS monograph entitled *India and Preferential Trade Agreements: The Path Traversed and the Road Ahead*. The event brought together like-minded people to ascertain their opinions/views on India's engagement in regional economic cooperation in South Asia.
- A stakeholder consultation on *Regional Economic Cooperation in South Asia with a Focus on India-Bangladesh Trade* was held in Kolkata, on September 19, 2008. The objectives were to engage Indian stakeholders in regional trade initiatives in South Asia and promote policy responses that would be inclusive of stakeholder preferences; and involve business representatives, farmer organisations, civil society representatives, academics, and government to create awareness and momentum towards REC in South Asia to influence future policy direction in trade and investment promotion within the country.
- The Centre organised a stakeholder consultation on *Indo-Bangla Trade: Focus on the North East* in Assam, on March 13, 2009. The twin objectives of this consultation were to elicit views of stakeholders in Bangladesh and North Eastern India about the prospects for trade and pertinent economic activities involving these two regions; and create awareness about stakeholder preferences for trade between Bangladesh and North Eastern India.

Research & Publications

- *India and Preferential Trade Agreements: The Path Traversed and the Road Ahead*

Welfare Impacts of the Doha Round Agreement on India

The Doha Development Round (DDR) of negotiations under the WTO will have profound and far-reaching impact on developing countries like India. Therefore, a research project entitled *Doha Round Impacts on India: A Study in a Sequential Dynamic CGE Framework* was initiated by CUTS to examine the impact of DDR on the economy of India.

The specific objectives of the project were to examine the impact of agricultural trade liberalisation and non-agricultural market access (NAMA) under the Doha negotiations; explore the combined effect of agricultural and NAMA negotiations; and study the impact of liberalisation of the domestic services sectors. The project was launched in November 2008 with duration of eight months. The Centre engaged Selim Raihan and Bazlul Haque Khondker of Department of Economics, University of Dhaka for carrying out the following research components of the project:

- Review and modification of Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) for India;
- Numerical specification and parameterisation of the static and dynamic CGE models;

- (iii) Simulation design and conduct;
- (iv) Construction of poverty module;
- (v) Analysis of simulation outcomes; and
- (vi) Final report and policy briefs.

India's Engagement with PTAs

The Centre conducted a research study to provide a holistic approach to the entire gamut of issues relating to India's involvement in Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) so as to achieve a better informed decision making process both at the stage of launching a PTA negotiation and at various decision making stages during negotiations and final conclusion of the deal. The study commissioned by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, encapsulates the international experience in negotiating PTAs, India's own experience with PTA negotiations, and an *ex-post* assessment of the results of PTAs finalised by India.

State Business Relationship (SBR) in Indian States under the IPPG Project

While growth has accelerated in India since the 1980s, the outcomes with respect to growth and poverty reduction have differed widely across Indian states. The differential paths of Indian states with respect to poverty reduction and economic growth since the reforms of the 1980s and 1990s seem to be related, to some degree, with the nature of SBRs at the state level. In this context, the University of Manchester, UK and CUTS have undertaken a study to assess SBRs across Indian states over the post-independence period and its impact on growth and growth-related outcomes in the state economy. Both organisations are a part of the Research Consortium on *Improving Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth*, based at the Institute for Development Policy and Management, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, formerly at the London School of Economics, London. The duration of the study is of one-and-a-half-year, i.e. June 2008-December 2009.

The study will construct a state-level measure of SBRs for 16 major Indian states. The index construction will be based on secondary as well as primary data collected through extensive interviews with business associations as well as state ministries in the state capitals. The index will be used to analyse the relationship between state business relations and growth across Indian states and gradually at the macro level. The specific objectives of this research are to understand the nature of formal and informal interactions between the state and business across states in India, and how the institutions governing these have evolved over time; and understand the effects of different types of state business relations on measures of economic performance.

Enabling Developing Countries to Seize Ecolabel Opportunities

The Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Division of Technology, Industry and Economics together with other National partners initiated a project, co-funded by the European Commission within the EuropeAid programme and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany) aimed at promoting eco-labelling in emerging economies. CUTS is the national partner from India. The project involves several countries: Brazil, China, India, Kenya, Mexico and South Africa. The duration of the project is of four years, i.e. July 2007-December 2010.

The overall objective of this project is to increase the environmental efficiency of key export products and related industrial processes in the target countries. The environmental efficiency would increase by supporting the active contribution of the industry and the government to the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech process). The specific objective is to increase the number of products from target countries in the EU as well as in their national and global markets eco-labelled with the EU Eco-label or other European countries' 'Type I' environmental labels.

Advocacy and Networking

- The Centre and the Confederation of Indian Textiles Industries (CITI), New Delhi, in collaboration with the UNEP organised a national workshop in Jaipur, on June 23-24, 2008. The objectives of the workshop were to create awareness among relevant stakeholders on the opportunities related to eco-labelling; and increase textile industry stakeholders' knowledge of the EU Eco-label, its procedure, criteria and related market opportunities.

Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade & Economics (GRANITE Phase II)

GRANITE Phase II is a three year project (2007-10) funded by Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands and Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi. The objective of this project is to "generate a more coherent civil society voice on economic governance in India in the context of globalisation and its effects on the livelihoods of the poor, particularly the marginalised and women", by ensuring better economic literacy especially at the grassroots. The project, which is being implemented in eight Indian states in partnership with local CSOs working at the grassroots focuses on the five major thrust areas under the NFTP, namely agriculture, handloom and handicrafts, leather and leather products, marine products and gems & jewellery. The duration of the project is of four years, i.e. July 2007-June 2010.

Advocacy & Networking

- CRC organised a State Level meeting in Kolkata on May 07, 2008, after the completion of the field survey in five districts of West Bengal namely Hooghly, Nadia, Malda, Murshidabad, and Darjeeling. The objectives of the meeting were to present the findings of the field research in the state; share views/pinions on how to make NFTP more pro poor; chalk out strategies to promote agricultural and handloom exports through institutionalised mechanisms; facilitate interaction between government officials, exporters, farmers'/weavers' associations, media representatives and other stakeholders; and finalise further research areas.
- A national seminar entitled *National Foreign Trade Policy of India: Why is Civil Society's Involvement Required?* was organised in New Delhi on July 01-02, 2008. The seminar addressed the need for civil society involvement in the implementation and formulation of NFTP and made recommendations to the policymakers to ensure pro-poor changes in the existing policy. More than 60 participants from different parts of India attended this meeting.



Focus Group Discussion held in Kolkata under GRANITE Project



National Seminar held in New Delhi on July 01-02, 2008

Research & Publications

Research Report

- A Critical Look at Economic Governance in India: *The Case of National Foreign Trade Policy*

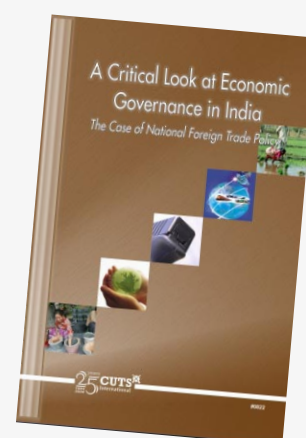
Briefing Paper

- The National Foreign Trade Policy – *An Impact Assessment*

Other Initiatives

CUTS@WTO Forum

CUTS, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Evian Group and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, organised two sessions entitled *The Missing Link between Trade Openness and Poverty Reduction: The Role of the Multilateral Trading System* and *What Future for Global Economic Governance: Potential Role of the WTO* at the WTO Public Forum in Geneva, on September 24-25, 2008.



Representations

Date & Place	Events & Organiser	Issue/objective	Participant(s)
Paris, France, April 22, 2008	UNEP's Expert Meeting on Sustainable Innovation		Siddhartha Mitra
Paris, France, April 23-25, 2008	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) UNEP Conference on Resource Efficiency	Presentation on 'Bio-fuels and the course of world economic development'	Siddhartha Mitra
Barcelona, Spain, May 28-31, 2008	Barcelona Dialogue, jointly organised by the International Chair WTO/Regional Integration (University of Barcelona) and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development		Pranav Kumar
Oslo, Norway, June 03-06, 2008	Seminar presentation at Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)	Impact of globalisation on poverty in India	Siddhartha Mitra
Kathmandu, Nepal, July 14-18, 2008	South Asian Training Programme on Computable General Equilibrium Modelling jointly organised by the South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment, Nepal, and SANEM	Introduction to applied (numerical) general equilibrium models constructed using General Algebraic Modelling System	Purnima Purohit
July 18-19, 2008 San Servolo, Venice, Italy	CESifo Venice Summer Institute workshop on 'Reforming Rules and Regulations: Laws, Institutions and Enforcement'	Presentation on 'How Vital Is Regulatory Independence: The Telecom Sector in Developing Countries'	Siddhartha Mitra
Des Moines, US, September 17-19, 2008	International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) Meetings	Paper Presentation on Agricultural Export Restrictions with Tim Josling	Siddhartha Mitra
Crans-Montana, Switzerland, September 17-20, 2008	Geneva Trade and Development Forum, organised by the Geneva-based International Development Economics Associates (IDEAS) Centre	Deliberate on various issues relating to inclusive globalisation	Bipul Chatterjee
Islamabad, Pakistan, December 01-03, 2008	The 11 th Sustainable Development Conference with the overarching theme: 'Peace and Sustainable Development in South Asia: Issues and Challenges of Globalisation'	Paper Presentation, 'Of Peace Dividends and Trade Dividends: The Case of Pakistan and India'	Siddhartha Mitra

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Date & Place	Events & Organiser	Issue/objective	Participant(s)
Paris, France, February 17-20, 2009	OECD Global Competition Forum	Paper Presentation on the relationship between informality and competition	Siddhartha Mitra
Colombo, Sri Lanka, March 30-31, 2009	Broadening Economic Integration in South Asia: Incorporating Services Liberalisation at a Time of Global Economic Crisis' organised by the Institute of Policy Studies and United Nations Development Programme	CUTS publication, 'Domestic Preparedness for Services Trade Liberalisation: Are South Asian Countries Prepared for Further Liberalisation?' was launched	Archana Jhatkar
Paris, France, March 30-31, 2009	OECD event entitled, 'The Future of Agriculture in a Globalised World'	Agriculture and its Link with Other Sectors	Pranav Kumar

The objectives of the sessions were to identify the feasibility role of trade liberalisation under the WTO regime for poverty alleviation and formulate recommendations for making global economic governance effective for development.

Outreach & Publications

Following publications were brought out during the period:

Briefing Papers

- The Saga of Rising Food Prices
- Regional Trade Openness Index, Income Disparity and Poverty – *An Experiment with Indian Data*
- 'Energising' India's Development through Economic Diplomacy
- Activism against Low Labour Standards in Developing Countries: *Is It a bane in disguise?*
- SAARC and BIMSTEC: *Understanding their Experience in Regional Cooperation*
- Do India's AEZs Need a Fresh Start?
- Fighting the Financial Meltdown
- India's Stand in the WTO Doha Round
- African Regional Integration: *Turning a Dream into a Reality*
- Doha Development Agenda Needs Confidence Building Measures
- Services Trade and Domestic Regulation in Kenya
- Services Trade and Domestic Regulation in the Gambia
- Services Trade and Domestic Regulation in Jamaica
- Evolution of Service Sector in Bangladesh: *An Overview*

Book

- Multilateralism will Reinvent Itself in a More Resolute *Avatar*

Trade Law Briefs

- India, Thailand and US on Anti-dumping Measures relating to Shrimp: *Another case calling for clarity in the WTO rules*
- The Indian Patent (Amendment) Act 2005 and the Novartis Case

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CCIER)

To confer a distinct identity to CUTS' work on competition, investment and regulatory issues as well as to take it forward in a more organised and structured manner, CUTS CCIER was established in 2003 in Jaipur, India. Pursuing its mission, *Promoting Fair Markets to Enhance Consumer Welfare and Economic Development*, CCIER has been undertaking its activities across Africa and Asia under the guidance of an International Advisory Board chaired by renowned competition expert Frederic Jenny.

The Centre has been undertaking outcome-oriented research on relevant policy issues (in the realm of competition, regulation and investment) that is 'need based' and almost always accompanied with an inbuilt element of advocacy; consistent with the organisation's approach of producing and using research/evidence. There is a constant effort to link research outcomes with policy processes, thereby contributing to 'evidence-based policy' in countries where CUTS has been involved in implementing projects. CCIER has now worked in nearly 20 countries of Africa, and over 10 countries in Asia.

The Centre adopts a multi-stakeholder approach to facilitate composite dialogues among the policy community, academia, civil society, media etc. to ensure that its research findings have broad-based acceptability and therefore have greater possibility to be reflected in policy changes.

International Advisory Board

CCIER operates under the guidance of an authoritative International Advisory Board tabled below:

Chairman	Frederic Jenny , Chairman of the Committee on Competition Law and Policy, OECD, Paris.
Members	<p>Allan Asher, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)</p> <p>Cezley Sampson, Privatisation & Regulatory Consultant, Jamaica</p> <p>Eleanor Fox, Professor of Law, New York University, US</p> <p>George Lipimile, Senior Adviser-Competition Law and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD, Switzerland</p> <p>Gesner Oliveira, President, The Water and Sanitation Company of Sao Paulo (SABESP), Brazil</p> <p>Philippe Brusick, Chairman, PRB International, Switzerland</p> <p>S. L. Rao, Chairman of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, India</p> <p>Scott H. Jacobs, Managing Director of Jacobs & Associates, US</p> <p>Taimoon Stewart, Senior Advisor, Business Development Office, University of West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago</p>

Rijit Sen Gupta
Centre
Coordinator &
Deputy Head



V V Singh
Fellow

Udai S Mehta
Assistant Policy
Analyst



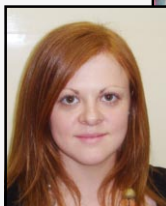
Vikash Batham
Programme
Officer

Cornelius Dube
Economist



Rajesh Kumar
Assistant Policy
Analyst

Ashutosh Soni
Office Assistant



Verity McGivern
Research
Assistant

Members	<p>Xiaoye Wang, Professor and Director of Economic Law Department of the Institute of Law, CASS, China</p> <p>Mona Yassine, Chairperson of the Egyptian Competition Authority, Egypt</p> <p>David Lewis, Extraordinary Professor, The Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), South Africa</p> <p>Allan Fels, Dean of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG), Australia</p> <p>Robert D Anderson, Counsellor, World Trade Organization (WTO), Switzerland</p> <p>Simon J. Evenett, Professor, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland</p> <p>R Shyam Khemani, Principal, MiCRA, US</p> <p>S Chakravarthy, Competition Policy and Law Consultant</p>
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Programme Areas

- Competition Policy & Law
- Economic Regulation
- Investment Climate
- Consumer Protection

Projects

- Capacity Building on Electricity Reforms in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (RESA Project)
- Strengthening Constituencies for Effective Competition Regimes in Select West African Countries' (7Up4 Project)
- India Competition & Regulation Report (ICRR-II)
- Ghana Competition Bill
- India's Investment Environment

Capacity Building on Electricity Reforms in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (RESA Project)

CUTS with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) Norway, has been implementing a project on electricity regulation and reforms over a span of two years (2008-2010) in Bangladesh, India (States of West Bengal and Rajasthan) and Nepal. The main objective of this project is to enhance the capacity of consumers to better understand the

regulatory process involved in electricity reforms – enabling them to take up action-oriented research and advocacy of policy issues in the electricity sector. The project was formally launched in Kolkata (India) on March 13-14, 2008.

Advocacy & Networking

- The Local Inception Workshops (LIWs) were organised in each of the project territories (Bangladesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Nepal) in April 2008. The objective of these LIWs was primarily to orient key stakeholders about the objective and anticipated outcomes of the project



Local inception meeting of the Project in Jaipur (Rajasthan)

were discussed at the workshops. Participants comprised of representatives from the partner organisations, members of the Reference Group (RG) – a group of 15-20 national stakeholders, who would be consulted to implement the project in each of the territories, academia, government officials, regulators and media.

- RG meetings were organised in each of the project territories (Bangladesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Nepal) in July 2008. The RG meetings were organised to apprise RG members on the project activities, its goals and outcomes, and also to brief them about the activities implemented so far; seek comments/inputs for further improvement in order to ensure smooth functioning of future project activities; and invite comments/suggestions on two important outputs – Territorial Base Paper (TBP) and the Territorial Training Manual (TTM) prepared by CUTS.
- Territorial Meetings were organised across the project territories over the period August-September 2008 in order to enhance the capacity of RG members on various key elements of the electricity reforms process, and impart skills of advocacy.
- The first phase of the Grassroots Interface Meetings (GIMs) was conducted during November-December 2008 in all the respective project territories: Bangladesh, Nepal and India (Rajasthan and West Bengal). The objective of the meetings was to build the capacity of consumers and make them aware of their responsibilities and role that they need to play in the regulatory reform process. Local vernacular handouts based on the Territorial Base Paper (TBP) and project posters were distributed to the participants during the meetings.



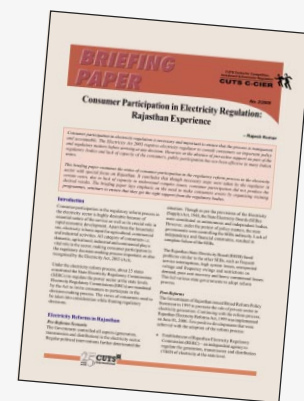
Grassroots Interface Meeting held in Kota, Rajasthan, on November 06, 2008

Research & Publications

Briefing Paper

Consumer Participation in Electricity Regulation: Rajasthan Experience

This briefing paper examines the status of consumer participation in the regulatory reform process in the electricity sector with special focus on Rajasthan. It concludes that though necessary steps had been taken by the regulator in certain cases, due to lack of capacity to understand complex issues, consumer participation did not produce the desired results. The paper lays emphasis on the need to make consumers aware by developing their capacity to engage effectively in the regulatory reform process.



Strengthening Constituencies for Effective Competition Regimes in Select West African Countries' (7Up4 Project)

The Centre is implementing a two-year project 'Strengthening Constituencies for Effective Competition Regimes in Select West



Launch meeting of the project held in Accra, Ghana, on June 19-20, 2008

African Countries' (also referred to as 7Up4 Project) with the support of the DFID, UK; the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden. The project is running in seven countries of West Africa – Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

The project aims to raise the profile of competition at the national and the regional levels in West Africa. It endeavours to highlight the relevance and need for an effective competition regime for economic development and poverty reduction in the

project countries, and therefore set in motion the process of evolution and implementation of competition regimes in them.

Advocacy & Networking

- A two-day launch meeting was organised in collaboration with Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), Ghana in Accra, on June 19-20, 2008. The Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry, Private Sector Development & President's Special Initiatives of Ghana, Hon'ble Kwaku Agyeman-Manu stressed on the commitment of the Ghanaian government towards evolving competitive markets in the country to achieve economic growth and development.
- As a first exercise to familiarise themselves of the prevailing competition scenario in the project countries, the partner organisations from each project country drafted preliminary country papers (PCPs).



The National Reference Group meeting held in Mali under the 7Up4 project

- The draft papers were discussed at the first meeting of a select group of national stakeholders (referred to as the National Reference Group, NRG) in each country capital during September-October, 2008. There were mainly three purposes of these meetings: to introduce the project to this select group of key national stakeholders; organise these stakeholders into the NRG by sharing ways in which they could contribute to the project and benefit from it; and get their views on the PCP.

Subsequently, with the guidance of the Project Adviser and the Research Adviser, CUTS developed the methodology for undertaking a detailed research on competition policy and law issues in each of the project country. The outcome of this research would be documented in Country Research Reports (CRRs), to be prepared for each country. The CRRs aim to present background information about the state of competition in each country – and identify the way forward for them to take forward, the process of competition reforms.

India Competition and Regulation Report (ICRR) – Second Cycle

CUTS has been preparing the second edition (2009) of this biennial report to assess the functioning of markets in India, and highlight various distortions in the economy that impede competition and the regulatory reforms process in the country. An ultimate aim of this report is to provide relevant inputs to the policy community, key stakeholders, etc. to perform necessary actions to promote well-functioning markets in the country. This edition of the report was supported by the British High Commission, New Delhi. The first issue of the biennial report, “Competition and Regulation in India, 2007” was published and released in October 2007.

In continuation of the first research cycle, the second research cycle was initiated with “Competition Assessment in India” as the theme. The broad objective of the report is to familiarise the Indian policy community with the extent to which competition has been promoted by appropriate policies in select sectors; and initiate discussion on better policy options *vis-à-vis* competition in specific sectors.

ICRR 2009 covers the following sector:

- Emerging Sectors: Civil Aviation and Water
- Ports
- Agricultural Markets
- Higher Education
- Power Sector

During the first research cycle of the report, a NRG comprising up of eminent experts and economists in the country was constituted to guide the implementation of the project with former Under-Secretary General of United Nations, Nitin Desai as its Chair. The group met at regular intervals to take stock of the overall progress of the report and to suggest ways to render shape and structure to the report.

Advocacy & Networking

- The first NRG meeting was held in New Delhi, on April 01, 2008. The meeting served as a brainstorming for the second research phase of the project. Discussions indicated keeping infrastructure as the focus.
- The second NRG meeting was held in New Delhi, on May 20, 2008. Siddhartha Mitra (Director, Research) of CUTS made a presentation on the basis of an overview paper prepared as per the comments received during the 1st NRG meeting.
- The third NRG meeting was held in New Delhi, to review the first draft of the chapters (based on the selected sectors) of the report. The draft version of various chapters were presented and discussed with the NRG members. The purpose of organising the meeting was also to provide an opportunity to the NRG members to provide their inputs/suggestions for finalising the report.
- The Centre, in association with CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC) organised a Roundtable on ‘The Political Economy of Regulation in India-What do we need to do?’ in



Montek Singh Ahluwalia releasing the report, 'Competition and Regulation in India, 2009'

New Delhi, on March 28, 2009. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India released an advance copy of ICRR 2009 (Competition and Regulation in India 2009) report.

Research & Publications

India Competition and Regulation Report, 2009 – A Curtain Raiser

It tries to examine the evolution of regulation/regulatory problems from a political economy perspective and assesses the quality of regulation in terms of the suitability of content for

tackling market failures, effectiveness and independence of the regulator and the extent to which the set of sector regulations foster competition.

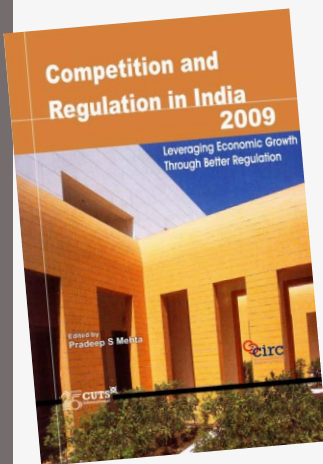
Leveraging Economic Growth Through Better Regulation

Ghana Competition Bill

CUTS International was engaged by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Private Sector Development and President's Special Initiatives (MOTIPSDPSI) of Ghana to develop a Competition Bill for Ghana from the perspective of international best practices, taking into consideration the socio-economic and political realities of the country. CUTS prepared the first draft of the Bill and submitted it to the MOTIPSDPSI in May 2008.

In order to refine the Bill (incorporating views of the national stakeholders), CUTS with assistance from MOTIPSDPSI organised a stakeholders' workshop in Accra, Ghana on June 18, 2008. Stakeholders included the major sectoral regulators, government departments and consumer associations, whose role is crucial for competition administration in Ghana. The purpose of the workshop was to solicit views, comments and suggestions on areas to help improve the Draft Bill to make it more suitable and acceptable for the economy. In addition, personal interviews were also conducted with select stakeholders to register their views on competition in Ghana and specifically on essential components that the Competition Bill would cover.

Based on the comments received in this workshop, CUTS refined the Competition Bill, and tabled it again before these stakeholders in September 2008 to arrive at the final form of the Bill. Finally, in November 2008, the Competition Bill of Ghana was delivered to the MoTIPSDPSI, Ghana. The government is providing finishing touches to this Bill, and is expected to embrace it in the form of a Competition Act soon.



India's Investment Environment

Economic reforms and liberalisation of foreign direct investment (FDI) policy has been a dynamic process in India that has led to the country having emerged as a global investment 'hotspot'. The Central Government has by and large removed the obstacles in obtaining FDI approvals and implementation hurdles. But procedures at the State level are still fairly cumbersome and time consuming which leads to delay in project implementation.

The country is certainly an attractive destination for FDI especially given its huge consumer base but there are certain factors, which have prevented it from realising its true potential. More can be achieved through continued reforms that strengthen institutions, improve economic policies, ease administrative hurdles and create an environment conducive for private investment.

CUTS International has completed a study for Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to analyse certain aspects of India's investment environment. The organisation has also been periodically tracking developments that aim to achieve investment policy reforms. As a follow up, CUTS has been preparing monthly updates on FDI policy changes in India.

Representations

Place & Date	Event/Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
New Delhi, India, April 21, 2008	Public-Private Partnership in India Railways' organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)	Provided a unique opportunity for the customer of Indian railways as to how their expectations are being taken into account by various policy initiatives while drawing the future course of action	Ramrao Mundhe
Stockholm, Sweden, June 12, 2008	ICC World Business Summit	Challenges facing the World Trading System	Pradeep S Mehta
Greece, Athens, July 04-05, 2008	Third European Conference on Competition and Regulation'	A presentation on Competition Policy: Institutions and Procedures'	Pradeep S Mehta
Geneva, Switzerland, July 15-18, 2008	Ninth session of the Inter-governmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy		Pradeep S Mehta
Venice, Italy, July 18-19, 2008	CESifo Venice Summer Institute workshop on 'Reforming Rules and Regulations: Laws, Institutions and Enforcement'	How Vital Is Regulatory Independence: The Telecom Sector in Developing Countries	Siddhartha Mitra
New Delhi, India, September 29, 2008	Public Hearing on 'Measures for Restraining the Prices of Electricity in Short Term Sale/Trading', organised by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission		Rajesh Kumar
Trivandarum, India, October 20, 2008	Indian Economic Service Officers' in a training programme organised by National Maritime Academy	Infrastructure Regulation	Dr V V Singh
New Delhi, India, December 03, 2008.	Captive and Distributed Power Generation' organised by Independent Power Producers Association of India		Rajesh Kumar
Hong Kong, December 08-09, 2008	Asian Competition Forum, organised by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University	A presentation on International Competition Fund: Solution for Effective Deterrence and Distribution of Cartel Fines'	Rijit Sengupta

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Date & Venue	Event/Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
Hong Kong, February 26-27, 2009	A two-day conference entitled, 'Infrastructure Regulation: What works, Why, and How do we know?' organised by LIRNEasia, in collaboration with the Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore and the University of Hong Kong	Assessing Regulatory Performance: The Case of the Indian Power Sector	Rajesh Kumar
London, UK, March 09-10, 2009	'Securing our Common Future: A Conference on the Future of International Development', organised by the Department for International Development (DFID)	Focused on issues facing world security and brought together some of the leading thinkers and practitioners on international development	Pradeep S Mehta
Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, March 20, 2009	State Level Seminar on Competition Policy and Law jointly organised by the Competition Commission of India and Government of Rajasthan	Competition Law of India	Pradeep S Mehta Rijit Sengupta Udai S Mehta

Other Activities

- CUTS in association with the International Network of Civil Society Organisations on Competition (INCSOC) organised a seminar entitled, "Enhancing Development Through a Competition Culture" in New Delhi, on August 14, 2008. IDRC, Canada released their recent publication, 'Competition & Development: The Power of Competitive Markets'. DFID, UK provided an orientation of the 'Consumer Assessment Framework' (CAF) developed by them. An advanced copy of the 'Competition Toolkit for India' prepared by CUTS was also released by Amitabh Kumar, Director General, Competition Commission of India.
- CCIER and Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ethiopia co-organised a training workshop on 'Competition Law Enforcement for Ethiopia' (CPS.06) in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from May 12-16, 2008. The training workshop was conducted by CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC). This workshop was meant mostly for members and staff of the Trade Practice Investigative Commission (TPIC), Ethiopia, though the ministry also invited other government



Dignitaries at a seminar on 'Enhancing Development through a Competition Culture' held in New Delhi, on August 14, 2008



Resource persons answering participants at the workshop

departments, select academics, consumer organisation and media to the event. Over the period of the five days, the participants sharpened their skills on various aspects of competition policy and law through lectures, practical examples provided by resource persons, case studies and focused group discussions.

Outreach/Publications

Quarterly Newsletters

ReguLetter

The flagship newsletter of CUTC CCIER, focuses on various issues relating to competition regulation at the international level, under specific sections: macro, micro, restructuring, investment and privatisation, sectoral regulation, corporate issues and news and views.

Policy Watch

Covers developments, policy responses, implementation and distortions in key economic policy arenas in India. Current developments in the areas of infrastructure, trade & economics, governance & reforms and accountability are reported on a quarterly basis.

Discussion Paper

- **Regulation of Higher Education in India**

Presents a review of the progress made in higher education in India and examines the status of regulation of higher education in India, and makes certain recommendations.

Briefing Papers

- **Policy-induced Barriers to Competition in Ethiopia**

Focuses on the evolution of economic policy in Ethiopia and analyses the current barriers to competition in the country.

- **Minibus Operators and Passenger Welfare in Malawi**

Sensitise readers of the situation in the Malawian public transport system and highlights the possibilities for the competition agency to address the situation, by the effective implementation of the country's competition act.

- **Competition Policy and Economic Growth – Is There a Causal Factor?**

Attempts to dwell on the issues surrounding the relationship between competition policy/law and economic growth. It discusses various channels through which economic growth and competition policy/law can be interlinked.

- **Dealing With Anti-competitive Practices in the Indian Pharmaceuticals and the Health Delivery Sector**

Examines the legal and policy options, to effectively curb anti-competitive practices in the health sector in the country.

- **Factors Affecting Competition in the Agricultural Produce Markets in India**

Suggests steps to reduce geographical isolation of markets for farm produce and the economic distance between the farmers to introduce competition in agriculture.

- **Competition Policy in Malawi: A course to development**

Clarifies how an effective implementation of the competition regime in Malawi can help the country achieve its developmental goals.

- **'Public Interest' Issues In Competition Analysis**

Defines 'public interest' and highlight, how some competition authorities deal with public interest issues in their respective countries, and make recommendations on ways of dealing with public interest issues in competition law.

- **The Basics of Bid Rigging**

Explains the concept of bid rigging with representative examples of cases which have been handled by competition authorities and makes policy recommendations.

- **Cross-Border Mergers and the Experience of Developing Countries**

Examines the experience from developing countries in dealing with cross-border mergers by studying the possible constraints they have faced and their response in various cases.

- **Comparative Study of Regulatory Framework in Infrastructure Sector: *Lessons for India***

Analyses and compares the regulatory framework in seven countries with respect to institutional and governance aspects, and identifies lessons for India.

- **Using Competition Policy to Regulate MNC Behaviour in Namibia**

Explore ways in which the Namibian competition regime can be effective in controlling unfavourable behaviours of multinational corporations (MNCs) operating in Namibia. It looks at recent anti-competitive practices by MNCs in the cement sector.

- **Privatisation Initiative in Botswana: Any Bearing on Competition?**

Examines the relationship between privatisation and competition, highlighting implementation of the privatisation policy in Botswana and its likely impact on competition in the market.

Issue Notes

- **Competition and Regulation in Indian Retail Sector**

Describes the structure of the retail sector in the country, including its diverse components. It looks at the main challenges faced by the retail sector, and analyses the nuances of regulation and competition for the sector.

- **National Competition Policy for India**

Questions type of platforms that Competition Policy Council (CPC) can create to coordinate with all relevant stakeholders in implementing the National Competition Policy (NCP) and the best ways for providing incentives to state and sub-state governments to encourage them to carry out pro-competition reforms keeping in mind the principles of the NCP.

Monographs

- **Competition Law and Intellectual Property Rights: Controlling Abuse or Abusing Control?**

Examines the interface between competition issues and protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs); complementarities and conflicts.

- **Competition Policy: Essential Element for Private Sector Development in Eastern and Southern Africa**

Highlights impediments to the effective operationalisation of competition regimes in the Eastern and Southern African region, which has been argued to be an imperative for private sector development therein.

- **The Competition Regime as a Determinant of Consumer Welfare: Focus on Indian Telecom**

Elaborates on the concept of consumer welfare which has been concretised and delineated in the form of consumer rights and examines how such rights can be furthered through a competition regime. It also offers a case study of the telecom sector in India.

Competition Toolkit

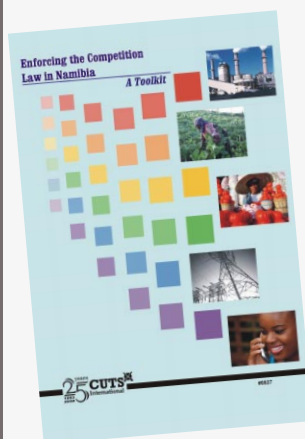
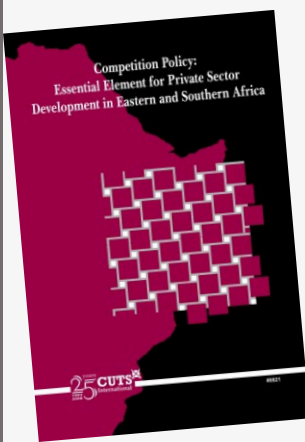
- **Enforcing the Competition Law in Namibia: A Toolkit**

Researched and compiled by CUTS and customised in the Namibia context, is meant to act as a manual for Namibia, providing a simple and concise handbook on various implementation issues relating to the Competition Act, 2003 (Competition Law of Namibia).

Research Report

- **Politics Triumphs Economics? Political Economy and the Implementation of Competition Law and Economic Regulation in Developing Countries**

Published under the 'Competition, Regulation and Development Research Forum' (CDRF) project is a compendium of studies devoted to characterising the state of the world in regulation in developing countries and identifying the political economy and governance constraints that often frustrate the successful implementation of regulatory laws in the developing world.



CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CART)

CUTS was founded in the year 1983 with the mandate of pursuing the cause of common consumers. As the organisation expanded both in terms of infrastructure and activity areas, it handed over the inherited agenda of CUTS, i.e. consumer protection to CART, which was established in 1996. The programmes of the Centre are primarily aimed at generating awareness, creating a more responsible society and encouraging changes at the policy level through advocacy with the government machinery and sensitising it to its issues of concern to the common man. The Centre has spearheaded several campaigns and pioneered consumer empowerment. It has created and trained over 1200 activists and helped establish over 300 independent groups in Rajasthan and elsewhere. Persistently, CART is having more than 1000 organisations in its network. Its mission is *to enable people, particularly the poor and the marginalised, to achieve their rights to basic needs and sustainable development through a strong consumer movement.*

Advisory Board

The Centre carries its activities under the guidance of an advisory board. The following is the list of the advisory board:

Chairman	Sharada Jain , Educationalist and Adviser, SANDHAN (Society for Education & Development), Jaipur
Members	<p>Padma Bhushan V S Vyas, Professor Emeritus, IDS, Jaipur</p> <p>VS Dave, Former Judge, Rajasthan High Court, Jaipur</p> <p>PN Bhandari, Former Chairman, Rajasthan State Electricity Board, Jaipur</p> <p>Anita Mathur, Social Activist, Jaipur</p> <p>Madhavi Joshi, Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad</p> <p>Ashok Bapna, Director, IILM Academy of Higher Learning, Jaipur</p> <p>KB Kothari, Managing Trustee, 'Pratham Rajasthan', Jaipur</p> <p>Sunny Sebastian, Special Correspondent, The Hindu, Jaipur</p> <p>BL Swami, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Malviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur</p>

George Cheriyan
Director & Head,
CUTS CART



Deepak Saxena
Programme
Officer

Dharmendra
Chaturvedi
Office Assistant



B N Sharma
Assistant Editor

A K Thalia
Office Assistant



Om Prakash
Arya
Project
Coordinator

Amardeep Singh
Project Officer



Amarjeet Singh
Assistant Project
Coordinator

Ajun Kant Jha
Project Associate



Madhu Sudan
Shamra
Project Officer

Programme Areas

- Consumer Education and Protection
- Investor Education and Protection
- Good Governance, which special focus on accountability and access to information
- Utility Reforms (Power and Water)
- Sustainable Mobility, which includes Road Safety
- Women and Child: Protection and Rights
- Sustainable Development, which includes MDGs, environment, livelihoods etc.

Projects

- Combating Corruption in Rajasthan State by Applying RTI as a tool (Phase I)
- Consumer Awareness Programme (CAP)
- Assessing 2Qs (Quality & Quantity) Outputs of the 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' (NREGS) in Sirohi District of Rajasthan, India
- National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC) 2008-09: RRA for Rajasthan
- Capacity Building on Regulatory Reforms in Electricity Sector in South Asian Countries (RESA)
- Tobacco Control Campaign by Mobilising key Stakeholders in Rajasthan
- Get Active: Health Promotion Programme in Schools
- Crafting the Market for SAc Approaches and Tools in the Supply-side Constituencies through Strategic Communication and Dissemination
- Securities and Market Awareness Campaign (6th Round)
- Traffic Calming Strategies to Improve Pedestrian Safety in India
- Road Safety Awareness

Combating Corruption in Rajasthan State by Applying RTI as a Tool (Phase I)

CUTS CART in partnership with the Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF), an international NGO based in Washington DC, US dedicated to helping civil society play an effective role in the design, implementation and monitoring of national anti-corruption programmes, conceptualised a project entitled 'Combating Corruption in Rajasthan State, India, by Applying RTI Act as a Tool' in 2007. The overall objective of the project was to generate awareness in the rural areas, encouraging the common citizens towards application of Right to Information (RTI) Act; empowering the CSOs and the vulnerable sections at the grassroots in order to improve functioning of the existing accountability mechanisms; and advocating with the policymakers for effective implementation of RTI Act to ensure good governance and accountability.

Advocacy & Networking

- Six focused group discussions (FGDs) were conducted in Viratnagar, Jaipur on June 11, 2008; in Bansur, Alwar, on June 12, 2008; in Tonk, on June 16, 2008; in Bhilwara, on

June 19, 2008; in Dudu, Jaipur on June 25, 2008; and in Masuda, Ajmer on June 27, 2008 respectively. The purpose of FGDs was to understand the entire process of filing of RTI application as motivated by Consortium of Groups Combating Corruption (CGCC) members, the outcomes of the applications, its impact upon service delivery, enhancing transparency and accountability and ultimately its contribution in creating an enabling environment in addressing corruption.



A view of the focused group discussion

Consumer Awareness Programme (CAP)

This was the first project implemented by CUTS, with the support of Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of Rajasthan, after the awareness activities supported by the Consumer Welfare Fund managed by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India was transferred to the state government. The objective of this project was to spread consumer awareness at the grassroots by strengthening the capacity of networkers' in 20 selected blocks in Rajasthan within a year and to build up a strong consumer movement. The activities were in the following three broader categories:

Skill Training Programmes- Part I

The objective of skill training was to impart awareness and skill training to networkers and other volunteers of the block, who were interested to undertake the training.

Consumer Friends Training- Part II

The purpose of organising consumer friends training workshops under phase two of the project was to create a team of networkers/activists, who would in turn take up litigation on behalf of aggrieved poor consumers in the consumer forums.

Awareness Meetings on specific issues related to Consumer Protection- Part III

Under the third phase, small meetings were organised with focus on specific consumer issues like adulteration, misleading ads, right to information etc.

Advocacy & Networking

Three events were held under the project:

- In the first programme at Jayal (Nagaur) on April 21-23, 2008, there were technical sessions on Consumer Protection Act (COPRA) and its different provisions. Group discussion among the participants were held for their active participation.



Stakeholders discussing grassroots consumer activities at Nagaur

- In the second meeting at Bhupal Sagar (Chittorgarh) on May 12-13, 2008, Shantilal Bafna, *Sarpanch* of *Panchayat* village near Bhupalsagar block was the guest speaker. Bhagwanlal Sharma and Ravindra Joshi, both lawyers, were the other speakers in the training along with P R Vyas of Bhilwara, Jeevraj Paliwal of *Rashtriya Manavta Mission*, Rajmal Lohar of *Krishi Upbhokta Hit Raksha Samiti*, and Radheyshyam Parashar of *Upbhokta Seva Samiti*, Bhupalsagar were the other speakers.
- At Choti Sadri, Mamta Patidaar, *Sarpanch* of Gagrol village, Choti Sadri block was the guest speaker. Other speakers were Shivilal Ahir and Ramlal Meena, both workers and members of *Upbhokta Parmarsh evan Soochna Samiti*. In all three programmes, the participants were mainly students and nodal officers of consumer clubs and citizens and a few NGO representatives of the area.

Assessing 2Qs (Quality & Quantity) Outputs of the 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' (NREGS) in Sirohi District of Rajasthan, India

The Centre started the project 'Assessing 2Qs (Quality and Quantity) Outputs of the 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' (NREGS) in Sirohi District of Rajasthan' on May 30, 2007, though project activities formally began in June 2007. The main objective of the project was to assess the qualitative and quantitative outcomes of the NREGS implementation in Sirohi, with an aim to test the effectiveness of social accountability approaches in influencing the public expenditure outcomes. The assessment mainly looked at three main aspects of the scheme: highlights of implementation of the scheme; gaps, if any, in the implementation; and a set of recommendations to address the gaps.



District Level Dissemination meeting in progress in Sirohi on May 21, 2008

Advocacy & Networking

- Three dissemination meetings were held at the block level: in Pindwara, on April 25, 2008; in Sirohi, on April 29, 2008; and in Abu Road on April 30, 2008 respectively. The participants were officials at the block level such as Block Development Officer (BDO), Programme Officer (NREGS), *Pradhan* and members of the *Panchayat Samiti*, representatives of NGOs and beneficiaries in various meetings. The participants provided a positive feedback on the draft data of the respective blocks, which was presented.
- A dissemination meeting was held in Reodar on May 19, 2008. Other officials at the block level and also the *Panchayati Raj Institution* (PRI) members including the *Pradhan* attended the meeting. The draft data for Reodar block was presented and the participants gave their feedback on the same.
- A one-day District Level Dissemination meeting was held in Sirohi on May 21, 2008. The objective of the meeting was to disseminate findings of the assessment done under the project

across the relevant stakeholders. This was mainly to show them the status of implementation of NREGS in their district. It also aimed to suggest measures to rectify the gaps for further smooth implementation.

- A State Level Dissemination Meeting was held in Jaipur, on July 16, 2008 to share key findings of the project, especially various social accountability tools used for the assessment. The event started with screening of a film 'Social Accountability in Action: Experiences from Grassroots'. More than 60 participants including senior bureaucrats, government officials, representatives of donor agencies, CSOs and PRI were present during the meeting.



A view of the workshop held under NEAC in Jaipur, on July 16, 2008

National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC)

The Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India has appointed CUTS as the Regional Resource Agency (RRA) for Rajasthan under NEAC for three years from 2006-07 to 2008-09. CUTS CART was entrusted with the responsibility of functioning as the RRA. The Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India has been organising NEAC every year since 1986, with the objective of creating environmental awareness at the national level. In all, 34 organisations located in different parts of the country have been designated as RRAs. 'Climate Change' was the campaign theme for 2008-09.

Advocacy & Networking

- A rally of 35 school children was organised on the occasion of the 'World Environment Day' from Ram Mandir, Bani Park to Railway Station on June 05, 2008. When the rally reached the Station Road junction, they received an overwhelming response and was received by the traffic department personnel. Pollution safety masks were provided to the traffic personnel by the school children. Electronic and print media provided wider coverage of the event.
- To make NEAC programme more effective, an interactive workshop was organised in New Delhi, during July 31-August 01, 2008 for the benefit of all RRAs, on behalf of the Ministry, Indian Environment Society (IES), Delhi.
- A total of six divisional level pre-proposal workshops were organised at Bhilwara on August 07, Chittorgarh on August 08, Kota on August 11, Jodhpur on August 12, Churu on August 13, and Jaipur on August 20, 2008. A total of 540 proposals were received from the NGOs.
- The Regional Committee meeting was held at BAIF, Pune on September 23-25, 2008, which was headed by R Mehta,



The Pollution Safety Mask is being demonstrated

Adviser, NEAC. Out of 445 proposals recommended by CUTS, a total of 257 proposals were sanctioned with a total grant of Rs 17,42,000 in 2008.

- Post proposal workshop of sanctioned NGOs was held in Jaipur, on November 15, 2008. About 154 participants participated in workshop. BS Nathawat, Deputy Secretary Department of Environment, Government of Rajasthan was the chief guest and delivered the main address in the workshop.

Capacity Building on Regulatory Reforms in Electricity in South Asian Countries (RESA)

CUTS with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) undertook an initiative over two years (2008-2010) in Bangladesh, Nepal and two states of India, i.e. West Bengal and Rajasthan to build capacity of consumer groups/CSOs to enable them to deal with the issues involved, take up action oriented research and carry out advocacy with policymakers and regulatory agencies to effect pro-consumer changes in the electricity regulatory/policy processes. CUTS C-CIER in partnership with CUTS CART (Rajasthan), CUTS CRC (West Bengal), Unnayan Shamannay (Bangladesh) and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE, Nepal) is responsible for the implementation of the project. The project was launched in Kolkata, on March 13-15, 2008.



Dignitaries at the local inception workshop held in Jaipur, on April 17, 2008

The baseline survey was done in all the 10 districts, to assess the level of awareness of various categories of users. Based on the key findings and analysis, a Territorial Base Paper (TBP) was prepared and circulated among the members of Reference Group (RG) for their comments and inputs. The RG was formed in Rajasthan comprising 14 members. The objectives of RG are to apprise with the project activities, to seek comments/inputs for further improvement in order to ensure smoother functioning of the future project activities and to seek comments/suggestions on two important documents; TBP and a Territorial Training Manual (TTM).



Territorial Training held in Jaipur, on September 28-26, 2008

Advocacy & Networking

- Local inception workshop for Rajasthan was organised in Jaipur, on April 17, 2008. The overall objective of the workshop was to launch the project in the state of Rajasthan and share its objective and activities with local partner CSOs, so that it can be implemented properly and effectively at the state level.

- A meeting of RG was held in Jaipur on July 11, 2008. Out of 14 RG members, 10 attended the meeting.
- Territorial Trainings (Phase I & II) in Rajasthan under the project were organised in Jaipur on September 17-18 & 25-26, 2008 respectively. The objectives were capacity building of second tier partner CSOs and other consumer activists and networking with regulator, utilities, media and subject experts.
- 10 Grassroots Interface Meetings (GIMs) were organised in Kota, November 06, 2008; Sawai Madhopur, November 07, 2008; Jhunjhunu, November 13, 2008; Churu, November 14, 2008; Dholpur, November 25, 2008; Chittorgarh, December 09, 2008; Banswara, December 10, 2008; Udaipur, December 11, 2008; Sirohi, December 19, 2008; and Bikaner, December 23, 2008 respectively. In addition, the partners also organised four sub-GIMs in each of the districts.



Grassroot Interface Meeting held in Jhunjhunu, on November 13, 2008

Tobacco Control Campaign by Mobilising Key Stakeholders in Rajasthan

The Centre with the support of the World Health Organisation (WHO) India and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India (GoI) undertook a project entitled, 'Tobacco Control Campaign by Mobilising Key Stakeholders in Rajasthan'. The objective of the project was to sensitise and educate the educational institutions and the common public on various provisions of Tobacco Control Act all over Rajasthan.

Advocacy & Networking

- The project was launched in Jaipur, on August 06, 2008 with the aim to create a platform for various stakeholders to discuss issues and work together to increase the level of awareness among the participants. More than 90 participants including officials, CSOs, NGOs working on health issues, tobacco cessation centers, selected schools, doctors of government hospitals, media and others working on the issue were present in the meeting.
- A survey was conducted in 12 key locations in Jaipur city, a day after the implementation of the 'ban on smoking in public places', which came into effect from October 02, 2008. The locations in Jaipur surveyed include railway station, Sindhi camp bus station, Crystal Mall, Moti Mahal Cinema Hall, Satellite Hospital, Session's Court, Central Library, Mini Secretariat, Indian Coffee house etc. Times of India carried a good story on the survey findings and some other Hindi newspapers also covered it.



A State-level Project launch meeting held in Jaipur, on August 06, 2008



Divisional Level Advocacy Meeting held in Jaipur, on November 26, 2008

- An awareness rally, along with a public meeting, was organised in Alwar, on November 18, 2008 to mark the beginning of divisional level events. Yadunath Singh, Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer of Alwar District, flagged off the rally, after addressing the participants. Rally covered the main market of Alwar district, Nagar Parishad Road, Kendalganj etc. and concluded at Purjan Vihar, Company Baag.

- Divisional Level Advocacy Meetings were held in Jaipur, on November 26, 2008; in Dholpur, on December 01-02, 2008; in Kota, on December 11, 2008; in Bhilwara, on January 05-06, 2009; in Chittorgarh, on January 08-09, 2009; in Churu, on

February 04-05, 2009; and in Jodhpur, on February 25-26, 2009 respectively. Under the divisional level events, a tobacco control awareness rally was organised in Kota on January 16, 2009. The objective of these meetings was to disseminate the findings of baseline survey in all the seven administrative divisions of Rajasthan State.

Research & Publications

A newsletter entitled, 'Choose Life not Tobacco' was brought out.



Project Launch-cum-Teachers Training Workshop held in Jaipur, on December 12, 2008

Get Active: Health Promotion Programme in Schools

The Centre in partnership with Health Related Information Dissemination Amongst Youth-Student Health Action Network (HRIDAY-SHAN), New Delhi undertook a project in Jaipur city entitled 'Get Active' involving 25 selected schools in Jaipur. 'Get Active' is a health promotion programme focusing on diet, nutrition and physical activity with an aim to inculcate healthy nutritional intake and physical activity promotion among school students. The target groups for the programme were students of Class VI-VIII.

Advocacy & Networking

- The Centre organised the 'Launch-cum-Teachers Training Workshop' in Jaipur, on December 12, 2008. The main objective of the workshop was to generate awareness among teachers about the importance of diet, nutrition and physical activity in a student's life with an aim to make students realise the importance of nutritional intake and physical activity and provide training to



An 'Inter-School Poster Competition' held in Jaipur, on January 30, 2009

teachers for effective implementation of project activities in their respective schools.

- An 'Inter-school Poster Competition' was held in Jaipur, on January 30, 2009. The theme of the competition was 'Eat Healthy, Think Healthy'. The main objective of the competition was to provide a common platform to all students to express knowledge and information gained by them, under the 'Get Active' programme, by the means of colours. About 75 students from 25 partnering schools accompanied by 25 teachers participated in the competition.

Crafting the Market for SAc Approaches and Tools in the Supply-side Constituencies through Strategic Communication and Dissemination

CUTS CART with the support of the World Bank, Washington DC has undertaken a project entitled, 'Crafting the Market for SAc Tools and Approaches in Supply-side Constituencies through Strategic Communication and Dissemination'. The objective of the project is to build up and strengthen the market to be socially accountable.

The activities under the project would include two divisional level advocacy meetings at Jodhpur and Kota, media workshop, a documentary narrating the potential of SAc tools in influencing policies etc. and a national level workshop on 'Social Accountability in India'. These activities could further propel the environment building process and draw more attention and interest of decision makers to institutionalise such mechanisms.

Securities & Market Awareness Campaign (6th Round)

Though all consumers are not investors, all investors are consumers of financial services. Considering this aspect, the Centre is actively involved in investor education and protection activities. CUTS is an Investor Association recognised by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and registered with Ministry of Company Affairs, Government of India under Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF). Earlier, CUTS had implemented investor education and protection programmes with the support of IEPF and SEBI.

Advocacy & Networking

- Under the sixth round of Securities and Market Awareness Campaign (SMAC) programmes, seven workshops were organised: Bhilwara, September 20, 2008; Pratapgarh, September 20, 2008; Bandikui (Dausa), December 14, 2008; Thanagazi (Alwar), December 29, 2008; Dholpur, January 12, 2009; Kolayat (Bikaner), February 27, 2009; and Pipadcity (Jodhpur), March 07, 2009 respectively.



SMAC workshop held in Dholpur, on January 12, 2009

The workshops aimed at reaching out to the common investors and were being held primarily in small and medium towns and cities all over the country. The aim of these workshops was to acclimatise the investors with the functioning of the securities market, fundamentals of investment and risk management and their rights and responsibilities.

Traffic Calming Strategies to Improve Pedestrian Safety in India

CUTS CART, jointly with Lund University, Sweden implemented the project entitled, 'Traffic Calming Strategies to improve Pedestrian Safety in India'. The project aims to highlight the key flaws in the design of Indian roads and develop a manual, first of its kind in India, which will contain suggestions/recommendations on "remedial traffic calming strategies" for concerned policymakers, primarily in the Departments of Police, Transport, Municipal Corporation, Development Authority and Public Works.

Experiences from Sweden and other countries clearly demonstrate the relevance of these strategies. Under this project 24 sites out of six locations in Jaipur city are aimed to be studied for road crashes involving pedestrians. The project was launched on March 03, 2008 in Jaipur.

Research

The research component in this project primarily includes 'Before Studies & Its Analysis', 'After Studies & Its Analysis' and 'Preparation of a Manual'. The Swedish Conflict Technique would be used as the research tool.

Primary Survey

A primary survey was carried out to collect accident details from registered First Information Reports (FIRs – a written document prepared by the police when they receive information about the commission of a cognisable offence) by visiting 37 police stations across Jaipur.

Site Selection

In all, 24 accidental sites were shortlisted based on the accidents recorded in the FIRs for the year 2006 out of which seven high accident prone sites were identified for intensive analysis.

Conflict Technique

Conflict technique primarily focuses on manual and video recordings of the split seconds before near accidents (which were, however, avoided). The technique considers only two road users for the analysis who were involved in a situation of a potential accident. The conflict technique observes two factors, namely;

- Time to Accident (TA): This records the split seconds that record the time a road user starts evasive manoeuvres to avoid a possible collision.
- Conflicting Speed (CS): Records the speed of vehicles (km per hr) including bicycles at the start of the evasive manoeuvre.

Field Studies

Field studies include video recording of traffic for four days at each site after which the Swedish experts along with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) consultants will provide remedial measures for each site. Implementation shall then be sought through the stakeholders on our suggested measures.

Research & Publications

A bi-monthly newsletter entitled, 'CityMatters' and brochure was brought out.



Road Safety Awareness Programme in Jaipur

CUTS has been implementing road safety awareness activities under the aegis of the Ministry since many years and the purpose of these programmes to raise the level of awareness among all kinds of road users on different road safety issues through awareness programmes like road junction campaigns, road safety camps, rallies, trainings and workshops etc.

Advocacy & Networking

- In connection with the formal inaugural of Road Safety Week on January 05, 2009 at Jawahar Kala Kendra, CUTS CART put up a stall displaying road safety initiatives, along with other CSOs working on road safety issues. Rajasthan Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot visited the stall and appreciated CUTS' concern on road safety issues and inaugurated the 'Make Roads Safe' global campaign by releasing the campaign materials. T-shirts, buttons, wristbands, pamphlets and brochures were the centre of attraction of the stall. A set of road safety kit was also handed over to the Chief Minister.
- Coinciding with the road safety week activities, CUTS with the support of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), Government of India kick started road safety awareness campaign with a workshop on Section 134 of Motor Vehicle (MV) Act held at Pink City Press Club, in Jaipur, on January 07, 2009. About 40 people participated in the workshop.
- To conduct eye check-ups and glare recovery and reaction time related tests, a team of professionals were hired, which included eye specialist, Dr Sunil Gupta and Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) professors along with their technical staff. These camps were organised at five bus stands/depots of Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC) in Jaipur during January 2009. A total of 628 persons were tested in these camps.
- Lakshya Human Development Sansthan was hired to conduct bus drivers' training programme. Training activities were organised during January 19-23, 2009. Media provided a wide coverage to various activities under this project.



A set of Road Safety kit was provided to the Chief Minister by CUTS staff

- A workshop on Section 134 of the MV Act was held on February 20, 2009. Brij Kishore Sharma, Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Rajasthan was the chief guest at the workshop and delivered an inaugural address.

Special Endeavours

Gram Gadar Awards

The Gram Gadar Awards for 2007 were distributed at an event organised in Birla Auditorium on August 18, 2008, as part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of CUTS. Sumitra Singh, Speaker, Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly distributed the awards to the following persons on the mentioned topics.

1. Food Security: Chandra Mehta, Executive Editor, *Nafa Nuksan*, Jaipur
2. Environment & Bio-diversity: Nitesh Soni, Deputy Editor, *Rajasthan Patrika*, Sikar
3. Corruption: An Obstruction in Development: Ramcharan Mali, Freelance Journalist & Chief Editor, *Pakshik Vanvasi Express*, Baran (a local news paper)

Vidhayak Samvad

Vidhayak Samvaad is a non-partisan forum of legislators in Rajasthan to discuss economic issues, issues related to infrastructure, economic, centre-state issues etc. initiated by CUTS. CUTS initiated '*Vidhayak Samvaad*' in April 2007 to discuss the key issues affecting the public and to increase the pace of developmental reforms in Rajasthan State. A meeting of the All Party Committee under *Vidhayak Samvad*, was held comprising the legislators under the chairmanship of Sumitra Singh in State Assembly premises on June 04, 2008. Discussions were held on water, electricity and other infrastructure development issues.



State-level Seminar on RTI held in Jaipur, on October 22, 2008

Three years of RTI in India: Rajasthan Perspective

CART and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), New Delhi in collaboration with the Rajasthan State Information Commission and Department of Administrative Reforms, Government of Rajasthan (GoR) organised a day-long State Level seminar on 'Three Years of RTI in India: Problems and Possibilities' in Jaipur, Rajasthan, on October 22, 2008. The objective of the seminar was to commemorate the three years of the RTI

Act in India, which came into force on October 12, 2005; analyse problems in the way of effective implementation of the Act; and rejuvenate the immense potential and possibilities of this Act with special reference to Rajasthan state.

Assembly of Grassroots Change Makers

An 'Assembly of Grassroots Change Makers' was organised at Birla Auditorium on August 18, 2008 as part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of CUTS. The theme of the Assembly was 'Role of Civil Society in Good Governance'. As the Chief Guest of the event, Sumitra Singh, Speaker, Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly delivered the inaugural address. Surendra Goyal, Minister for Urban Development & Housing, Government of Rajasthan delivered the keynote address. Sharda Jain, Chairperson, CART Advisory Committee chaired the thematic session on 'Role of Civil Society in Good Governance'.



Pradeep S Mehta and Sumitra Singh on the occasion of Silver Jubilee Celebrations of CUTS on August 18, 2008

World Consumer Rights Day

A sample survey entitled 'The Junk Food Trap' was carried out by CART as a part of a global strategy to advocate against marketing of unhealthy foods on the eve of the World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD), 2009. Every year, March 15th is observed as WCRD and this year's theme is 'Stopping the Marketing of Unhealthy Food to Children'. This survey was part of an international campaign for 'International Code on Marketing of Food and non-alcoholic Beverages to Children', which will protect the present and future generations from damage to health due to consumption of energy-dense and nutrient poor food. This study was conducted in 30 schools across Jaipur city, which included both government and private schools. The survey covered three segments: students, parents and school authorities. The students covered in the sample had 50:50 ratio of boys and girls from classes VI-VIII in the age group of 11-13.

Consumer Complaints Handling, Information & Advisory Services

During the period, the Consumer Information Cell (CIC) located at CART office handled a total of 103 main complaints, in addition to providing information and advisory services to a large number of consumers through direct counseling, and also through e-mail and telephone. Out of the total complaints handled 31 percent were related to the telecom services; 12 percent to banking and insurance services; 11 percent to post/courier; four percent to transport/parking; nine percent to the sale of inferior quality of goods; six percent to power services and 27 percent complaints of unsatisfactory services in other miscellaneous areas.

Outreach Activities (including publications)

In addition to *Gram Gadar*, the following are the regular publications of CART, which are the main tools for outreach activities:

- *Paanchwan Stambh* (in Hindi),
- *Catalyst* (E-newsletter in English)



Staff during the Mini Retreat held in Jaipur, on August 23, 2008

CART Mini Retreat

CART Mini Retreat was held on August 23, 2008 at Maharani Plaza. In addition to reviewing the projects just concluded as well as ongoing projects, detailed discussions were held on the funding strategy, positive developments and the critical limitations. As decided in the retreat, a strategic planning meeting was organised on August 29, 2008 in the CART premises to finalise the strategic business plan for 2008-10. All the 13 staff members of the Centre attended the retreat as well as the strategic planning meeting.

Representations

Date & Place	Events & Organiser	Issue/objective	Participant(s)
New Delhi, India, April 04-05, 2008	National Capacity Building Workshop for NGO personnel for Effective Enforcement of the Indian Tobacco Control Act, 2003' organised by Advocacy Forum for Tobacco Control (AFTC) India	Tobacco Control	George Cheriyan
Jaipur, India, April 09, 2008	City Level Consultation on 'Public Distribution System and Urban Poor' organised by the Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR), in association with Women's Forums' – <i>Jagrati Mahila Manch</i>	Public Distribution System (PDS) and Urban Poor	Dharmendra Chaturvedi
Jaipur, India, April 25-26, 2008	A national workshop on 'Driver licensing systems' organised by the Transport Department, Government of Rajasthan, in collaboration with IRTE, New Delhi, Jaipur Development Authority, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, FIA Foundation and Muskaan	Road Safety	Bhavna Tripathi
Dehradun, India, May 09, 2008	Capacity Building of Consumer Advocacy Groups and Consumer Education at Dehradun organised by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)	Telecom Issues	Aamrjeet Singh
New Delhi, India, May 23, 2008	A workshop on 'Social Accountability (SAC)' project organised by the World Bank	Social Accountability	Om Prakash Arya
Jaipur, India, June 07, 2008	Inaugural session of the workshop entitled, 'RTI: Challenge to Existence' organised by the Centre for Media Research & Development	Right to Information	R K Sharma
Jaipur, India, July 19, 2008	NGO Personnel on Tobacco Control organised by Rajasthan Cancer Foundation with support of <i>HRIDAY</i>	Tobacco Control	Dharmendra Chaturvedi Amar Deep Singh
Jaipur, India, September 12, 2008	A State Level Workshop of <i>Panchayati Raj</i> Women Sangathan, organised by The Hunger Project, Rajasthan Chapter	<i>Panchayati Raj Institution</i> (PRI)	Arjun Kant Jha
Jaipur, India, September 19, 2008	The Dialogue on 'Sanitation with Special Reference to MDGs in Rajasthan', jointly organised by UNICEF and IILM	Sanitation and MDGs	Om Prakash Arya
New Delhi, India, September 29-30, 2008	A National Consultation & Planning Workshop on Local MDG Monitoring in India, organised by UNDP & PRIA	MDGs	George Cheriyan

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Date & Venue	Events & Organiser	Issue/objective	Participant(s)
Ahmedabad, India, October 11, 2008	An 'Open House-cum-Seminar' on 'Three years of RTI Act in India', organised by <i>Maheti Adhikar Gujarat Pahel</i> (MAGP) in collaboration with State Information Commission of Gujarat	RTI	Madhu Sudan Sharma
Jaipur, India, October 20, 2008	A meeting of NGOs, working on road safety issues in Jaipur, organised by the Transport Department, GoR	Road Safety	Deepak Saxena
New Delhi, India, October 24, 2008	The Annual Meeting of Consumer Advocacy Groups (CAGs) organised by TRAI	Telecom Sector	Amarjeet Singh
Jaipur, India, November 13, 2008	Delivered a lecture on 'Tobacco Control Initiatives' at the Government Senior Secondary Girls School, Jhotwara, Jaipur	Tobacco Control	Dharmendra Chaturvedi Amar Deep Singh
Jaipur, India, November 27, 2008	The inaugural session of a workshop on the theme 'Right to Education' jointly organised by IDS and <i>Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti</i> in Jaipur	Right to Education	R K Sharma
Jaipur, India, January 16, 2009	A conference on 'Women Entrepreneurship and Empowerment'	Women Empowerment	Sudipta Mukherjee
Mangalore, Karnataka, January 20-21, 2009	'International Workshop on Governance and Accountability in the Rural Sector' organised by the Water & Sanitation Programme-South Asia (WSP-SA) of the World Bank	Presentation on 'Right to Information (RTI) and Its Use in the Rural Service Delivery'	George Cheriyan
Jaipur, India, March 15, 2009	An open discussion on 'Road Accident and the Role of Media' organised by People's Trust	Road safety and media	Deepak Saxena
Jaipur, India, March 24, 2009	A workshop on 'Education and Child Labour' organised by 'World Vision'	Child Labour	Khushbu Parnami

CUTS Human Resource Centre (CHD)

Under the policy of working at the grassroots, Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD) was established in 1991 in Senti village of Chittorgarh district. It was aimed at raising the living standards of people, especially women, neglected, deprived and weaker sections of the society. The Centre has been working to facilitate intervention process for 'community based action programmes' at the grassroots level. The Mission of the Centre is "To be an innovative centre for strategic interventions to raise the living standards of people". *The centre aims to be an innovative centre for strategic interventions to raise the living standards of people.*

Advisory Board

CUTS CHD works under an Advisory Board. They are:

Chairman	ML Mehta , Former Chief Secretary of Rajasthan
Members	<p>Usha Jumani, Jumani Foundation, Ahmedabad</p> <p>I M Sethiya, Chartered Accountant, Chittorgarh</p> <p>Indu Kapoor, Director, CHETNA, Ahmedabad</p> <p>Neelima Khetan, Chief Executive, Seva Mandir Udaipur</p> <p>M S Rathore, Senior Fellow, Institution of Development Studies (IDS), Jaipur</p> <p>Barun Kanjilal, Indian Institution of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur</p> <p>B S Tanwar, Chief Engineer (retd.) Chittorgarh</p> <p>Anil K Singh, Chief Executive, Network of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (NEED), Lucknow</p> <p>B L Sisodiya, Senior Advocate and Social Worker, Chittorgarh</p>

Programme Areas

- Empowerment
- Reproductive & Child Health
- Good Governance
- Natural Resource Management

Projects

- Improving Quality of Elementary Education Project (IQEEP)
- SHG Promotion and Bank Linkage Project Chittorgarh and Bhilwara
- Micro Credit project for poverty alleviation (SGSY)
- MNGO Scheme, Chittorgarh and Bhilwara
- Climate Change under National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC)

Amit Choudhary
Centre Coordinator



Madan Giri
Goswami
Senior Field
Officer



Madan Lal Keer
Field Organiser



Neetu Joshi
Block Officer



Vandana Chauhan
Computer Operator



Sanjay Moud
Assistant
Project
Officer



Pushkar Lal Meena
Block Officer



Seema Yagik
Block Officer





Shiv Lal Prajapat
Block Officer

- Tobacco Control Campaign by Mobilising Key Stakeholders in Rajasthan
- Capacity Building on Electricity Reforms in Select South Asian Countries' (RESA)

Improving Quality of Elementary Education Project (IQEEP)

CUTS CHD implemented the Improving Quality of Elementary Education Project (IQEEP) in partnership with Save the Children-Bal Raksha Bharat in 100 villages in four of the disadvantaged districts Alwar, Chittour, Karauli and Rajsamand of Rajasthan. Four NGOs had been selected for implementing the project in four districts; CUTS CHD for Chittorgarh, AIMED for Alwar, PRIA for Karauli and Pratham for Rajsamand.



Narmada Bhambhi speaking at the launch meeting

The project was based on the twin strategies: first, involvement of children and community empowerment; and second, developing the capacity of government functionaries to effectively implement the policies and programmes to enable children, especially the most marginalised, to realise their right to education. This project also complements the Indian government's ambitious programme called *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)*, an initiative that aims to provide useful age group by 2010. The duration of the project was of 11 months, i.e. May 2008 to March 2009.

The overall objective of the project was to improve the quality of government elementary education system in Rajasthan so that it becomes more relevant and responsive to the needs of children, especially those who are from migratory families, tribal communities, ethnic minorities, or have disabilities, girls or engaged in hazardous labour.



Amit Chowdhury addressing media and district administration representatives

Advocacy and Networking

- Two district Level orientation-cum-consultation workshops on quality education for policymakers and media were organised at the Centre on September 25 & 26, 2008 respectively. The purpose of the workshops were to sensitise local leaders and district administration and devising a mechanism for supporting government and NGO initiatives in promoting quality education. 16 people from local electronic and print media attended the workshop on quality education for media.
- One-day Orientation-cum-Training Workshop was organised for school headmasters and teachers of the target schools at the Centre's premises on November 21, 2008, with an aim to orient about quality education and request them to cooperate in successful implementation of the project. Narmada Bhambi, Additional District Education Officer (Primary), attended the

programme and urged the participants to extend their cooperation with CUTS.

- Consultation workshops for School Development & Monitoring Committee (SDMC) members of 27 schools from 25 IQEEP villages were held at CHD on February 02, 03, 10 & 12, 2008 respectively. The purpose of these workshops was to activate SDMCs and make them feel accountable



Amit with School Teachers during the Teacher's Training in Chittorgarh on November 21, 2008

towards their responsibilities. SDMCs have been constituted for every government school for reviewing school activities on a regular basis.

- A *Bal Mela* was organised at CHD on February 15, 2009. The purpose of the *mela* was to provide opportunity to members of *Bal Sabha* formed under IQEEP to interact with children from different villages and exchange their views on their rights, responsibilities and quality education. Various games were planned for the day in which children participated overwhelmingly.
- Education tour of *Bal Panchayat* members from IQEEP villages to three selected NGOs (*Vikash, Manav Aashrita Sansthan and Mahan Sewa Sansthan*) of Udaipur was organised on February 22-23, 2009. The purpose of the tour was to help children learn from experiences of other child forums and build their confidence to work as a team.
- The *Jan Sammelan* (public meeting) was held at CHD on March 16, 2009. Narmada Bhambi – Additional District Education Officer (Primary), Chandra Kanta Tripathi Additional District Education Officer (Secondary), Suresh Sharma, Additional District Education Officer (*Sarwa Sikhsha Abhiyan*), Abha Mehta – Professor – DIET, Kumar Bikram- District Convergence Officer, UN Agency and officers from District Education Office attended the programme and expressed their views on quality education.
- The life skill education training for children of IQEEP villages were organised in two phases. The purpose of the training was to teach children about the characteristics of life skill and the art of saying no to wrong things. First training was organised at CHD on March 16-17, 2009; and the second was held at CHD on March 21-22, 2009 respectively.



Narmada Bhambi lighting candle during *Jan Sammelan*

Research & Publications

- Poster on Quality Education (*aao milkar haath badhayein, shiksha mein gunvatta laayen*) was published.

SHG Promotion and Bank Linkage Project Chittorgarh and Bhilwara

Continuing its effort to empower women, CHD has undertaken a new Self help Group (SHG) project with the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD). CHD will be forming 800 SHGs in Bhilwara and Chittorgarh districts. In all, 400 SHGs will be formed in each district during the project period. The duration of the project is of three years and targets mainly Above Poverty Line (APL) families. This being the first year, the focus was on mobilising women and men, formation of groups, inter-loaning, opening bank accounts in the local banks and capacity building of group leaders and members.

In Bhilwara district, the project is being implemented in Banera, Suwana and Mandalgarh blocks. In Chittorgarh district, the project is being implemented in Chittorgarh, Nimbahera and Gangrar blocks. The objective of the project is to increase the savings activity among women, and help them engage in income-generating activities, which will raise their living standards on sustainable basis. During the first year of the project CUTS successfully promoted 123 SHGs in Chittorgarh and 242 SHGs in Bhilwara district.



Stakeholders at the orientation-cum-training of the SHGs



Bal Kishan Chawla, Project Officer-SGSY Chittorgarh
imparting training to SHG members

Advocacy and Networking

- The orientation-cum-training programme for animators of Bhilwara SHG project was held at Senior Secondary School, Bigod, Mandalgarh on June 13, 2008, in which 13 out of 32 animators attended the programme. Animators were oriented on project objectives and activities and training kits were provided to them for future reference.

- The training programme in Chittorgarh block was held on September 24-25, 2008 at CHD, in which 69 SHG members from six SHGs participated. Another training programme for seven SHGs of Chittor block was held at Gharwara village on September 27-28, 2008. Rajeshawri Meena, Pradhan, Chittor block and representative from *Krishi Vighyan Kendra* were present along with local school teachers and village leaders. A two-day training programme at Gangrar block was held on September 26-27, 2008 in Gangrar in which 76 SHG members from seven SHGs attended the training programme.

- Project Implementation & Monitoring Committee (PIMC) was held at CHD, on May 12, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to share the project objectives and plan of execution with the committee members and take their approval for release of the first installment.

- The first PMIC was held at Bhilwara, on May 06, 2008. The meeting was attended by HS Shekhawat, District Development Manager

(DDM) NABARD, Bhilwara, RS Chundawat, Manager-Central Cooperative Bank, Bhilwara, Pankaj Kumar, Additional Lead Bank Manager, SK Sharma, Manager, Bank of Baroda and BK Arora of Bank of Rajasthan.

- PIMC meeting for Bhilwara was held on December 18, 2008 in which HS Shekhawat, District Development Manager (DDM)-NABARD, Bhilwara; JL Suthar, Lead District Manager (LDM), Bank of Baroda, Bhilwara; GS Johari, Chief Manager, Bank of Rajasthan; MK Gupta, Bank of Rajasthan; AK Kathuria, Manager, Baroda Rajasthan Grameen Bank, Barundni; and ML Rathore, Manager, Baroda Rajasthan Grameen Bank attended the meeting.
- PIMC meeting for Chittorgarh was held at CHD on December 22, 2008. Sudhanshu Kumar, DDM NABARD, Chittorgarh; NK Sanidhya, LDM, Bank of Baroda, Chittorgarh; Mathura Prasad, Managing Director, Cooperative Bank, Chittorgarh; and AK Surana, Manager, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, Chittorgarh attended the meeting.



Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee meeting

Swarn Jayanti Grameen Swa-Rozgar Yojna (SGSY) – Chittorgarh

CHD is implementing a micro-credit project in three blocks (Nimbaheda, Bhadesar and Chittorgarh) of Chittorgarh. The project is being funded by *Zila Parishad* under SGSY scheme of Government of India. The project covers below poverty level (BPL) community. The objective of the project is to empower weaker sections of the society, linking them with income generation activities and make them self reliant.

Advocacy and Networking

- The orientation-cum-training programme for animators was held at CHD on June 11-12, 2008, in which 32 out of 40 animators turned up for the training. Aarti Joshi, SHG expert and Project Officer, *Swarn Jayanti Grameen Swa-Rozgar Yojna* (SGSY), Chittorgarh attended the programme as a trainer. Rajeshwari Meena, *Pradhan*, Chittorgarh was the Chief Guest.
- Training programmes were organised for SHG members in Chittor, Nimbahera and Gangrar blocks of Chittorgarh district. The training programme in Nimbahera block was held on September 22-23, 2008 at *Panchayat Samiti Parisar*, in which 33 SHG members from three SHGs participated. The Project Officer-SGSY, Chittorgarh; Block Development Officer, Nimbahera block; Bank Manager, Central Cooperative Bank; Block Coordinator, SGSY; local NGO representative and *Panchayati Raj* Institution (PRI) member attended the programme as resource persons.



Rajeshwari Meena, addressing SGSY SHG members at Gharwara village

Mother NGO Scheme

CHD has been working as Mother NGO for Chittorgarh under the 'Reproductive and Child Health (RCH)' scheme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The objectives of the project broadly include: utilisation and delivery of health services for reduction in maternal mortality; reproductive mortality; infant mortality and fertility; improvement in maternal healthcare; addressing general healthcare issues; childcare; and family welfare through multi-stakeholder involvement and action.



Project Proposal Writing workshop held in Chittorgarh on May 09-10, 2008

Bhilwara

Under the Mother NGO Project, the data entry of RCH baseline survey of Bhilwara district was completed during April-June.

A two-day project proposal writing workshop was organised at CHD on May 09-10, 2008. Two representatives each from *Mewar Sewa Sansthan*, *Gharib Nawaz Mahila Avam Bal Kalyan Samiti*, *Prayas Sewa Sansthan* and *Vikalang Kalyan Shayata Samiti* attended the workshop. During the programme, participants were enlightened on the project proposal concepts. Gaps identified on health issues in the survey data analysis were discussed and FNGOs were asked to prepare proposal based on the identified gaps. Issues related to finance and monitoring systems were also covered. The draft proposal submitted by *Mewar Sewa Sansthan*, *Gharib Nawaz Mahila Avam Bal Kalyan Samiti*, *Prayas Sewa Sansthan* and *Vikalang Kalyan Shayata Samiti* were thoroughly assessed and feedback was given to the partners. A composite project proposal for Bhilwara district was prepared with suggestions from VHAI and submitted to District Health Society (Bhilwara).

Climate Change under National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC)

The main objective of the NEAC programme is to raise awareness among the public and make environmental protection a people's movement, so that each and every citizen of this country is involved in the protection of the environment. The local environmental problems must be highlighted during the programme to find long lasting solutions to them. The MoEF has further identified sub-themes for conducting the campaign. CUTS, with the support of the MoEF, has been organising awareness programmes on various themes under the National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC).

CUTS CART is the nodal agency for implementing the project in all the districts of Rajasthan. CHD is the project partner in implementing it in Chittorgarh district. The objective of NEAC is to raise awareness and motivate the community to protect and conserve the environment.

Advocacy and Networking

- One day consultation workshop was organised at the Centre on August 08, 2008 for seeking application for National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC) programme. The workshop was attended by NGOs from Udaipur division. The theme of the campaign is 'Climate Change' for the year 2008. The Centre has decided to engage local schools in the implementation of the programme for better results. Application from 25 schools from Chittorgarh have been submitted to CUTS CART.

Research & Publications

- Poster on Climate Change (*Jalvaayu parivartan ke liye jimmedar??*) was brought out.

Tobacco Control Campaign by Mobilising Key Stakeholders in Rajasthan

CUTS CART has been implementing a project, 'Tobacco Control Campaign by Mobilising Key Stakeholders in Rajasthan' with the support of World Health Organisation (WHO India) & Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Advocacy and Networking

- A District Level Workshop was held at CHD on January 07, 2009. The purpose of the workshop was to disseminate survey findings carried out on tobacco product consumers and sellers, sensitise citizens about dangerous consequences of tobacco consumption and discuss various provisions of Tobacco Control Law.
- A Tobacco Control Awareness Rally was organised in Raghunathpura on January 09, 2009. The purpose of the rally was to create awareness among general masses about ill consequences of tobacco consumption. 115 children of Government Upper Primary School (UPS) participated in the rally.

Capacity Building on Electricity Reforms in Select South Asian Countries (RESA)

CUTS with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) is undertaking an initiative over two years (2008-2010) in Nepal, Bangladesh, and two states of India (West Bengal and Rajasthan) to build capacity of consumer groups/CSOs to enable them to deal with the issues involved, take-up action research, share experiences, and carry out advocacy with policymakers and regulatory agencies to affect pro-consumer changes in the electricity regulatory/policy processes. The project is being implemented in association with local partners CHD is the local partner in Chittorgarh.



A tobacco control awareness rally in Raghunathpura on January 09, 2009



A View of the RESA Workshop

Advocacy and Networking

- The Centre organised a Grassroot Interface Meeting (GIM) at the Centre on December 11, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to appreciate the role played by different stakeholders in electricity reforms and pass on the advocacy skills to them to enhance the efficiency to continue their good work.

- The Sub Grassroots Interface Meetings (SGIMs) were held in Bhopalsagar, on January 06, 2009; Rashmi, on January 09, 2009; Begu, on January 09, 2009; and in Gangrar, on January 07, 2009

respectively. The objective of SGIMs was to reach out to the local people who were targeted during the baseline survey and transfer some of the key advocacy skills to them.

Other Initiatives

A New Beginning for Kanjar Community



Kanjar community members surrendering before the police

The livelihood of *Kanjar* community is practicing burglary/robbery/crime. In order to change their criminal profession, CUTS was approached and a district team was formed to draw a plan for their rehabilitation. A team including CUTS Staff, Superintendent of Police (SP), Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), and community leaders was formed for community dialogue and rehabilitation programme for *Kanjar* community members who were willing to surrender before the police. After a series of meetings, 19 people surrendered during a programme

organised by CHD at the Government High School, Kapasan, Chittorgarh, on July 16, 2008. The *Kanjars* were taken to the local court to file their cases. The District Administration assured to provide future opportunities to them.

CHD Advisory Board Meeting

CHD Advisory Board meeting was held on August 08, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to apprise the board members about the Centre's programme and project activities. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Advisory Board, Metha Lal Mehta, Chairman, Rajasthan Mission on Livelihoods (RMoL). Status of ongoing programmes as well as future projects was briefed. The achievements and problems were discussed in detail and suggestions were sought from the committee members. The board members and other participants praised Centre's initiatives in various fields.

International Hand Wash Day

On International Hand Wash Day an event was organised at the Government Primary School in Raghunathpura village of Chittor block on October 15, 2008. Children were told about the importance of washing hands prior to meals and after using toilet. They were shown the correct way of washing hands with soap. United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) along with Government of India has taken the initiative to sensitise community about the importance of hygienic life and how important washing hands is prior to meals and after using toilet. It is a pilot project under the *Sarwa Sikhsha Abhiyan* started in schools.

ASER Survey Training

ASER 2008 survey training was organised at CHD on October 17-21, 2008. The purpose of the ASER survey was to assess the learning level of school going students. CHD is one of the partners in carrying out the survey for Pratham Rajasthan for Chittorgarh. The survey was carried out in 30 villages of Chittorgarh district. 30 volunteers participated for the survey work.

Polio Eradication Initiative

A campaign to support polio eradication was organised in Government Primary School, Rithola on December 20, 2008. The purpose of the campaign was to spread message of National Polio Vaccination Day on December 21, 2008 and request parents to visit polio booths with their kids for polio drops. A polio booth was set up at CHD premises.

Drive Against Alcohol Abuse

In an effort to create awareness among the community about the ill effects of alcohol and for protecting youth from the consequences of consumption of alcohol, *Dainik Bhaskar* launched a statewide campaign warning youth against the risks of abuse. The newspaper requested CHD to join hands in the advocacy campaign for Chittorgarh. Two campaigns against alcoholism were organised in Rithola village on December 20, 2008 and Ghatiawali village with women SHG on December 21, 2008 respectively. More than 100 women joined hands and vowed to work against alcoholism.

National Consumer Day

CHD with the support from District Supply Office, Chittorgarh organised a consultation workshop to mark the occasion of National Consumer Day on December 24, 2008. The national theme was '*Sajag Upbhokta, Surakshit Upbhokta*'. 108 participants attended



Campaign Against Liquor



Sumit Sharma, District Collector, Chittorgarh during National Consumer Day on December 24, 2008

the workshop. Samit Sharma District Collector, Chittorgarh requested participants to support the consumer movement of CUTS. Speaking on the use of generic medicine, Sharma stressed on using generic medicine and shared his plan to develop Chittorgarh as a model district.

Team Building Workshop

A team building training workshop was organised at CHD on February 07-08, 2009. The training programme was planned to enhance the work efficiency of CUTS staff. TASMAC Management Training resources Pvt. Ltd, Pune was given the responsibility for conducting the training. Major General Lal Ram Rakhyani was the trainer. 19 participants attended the training programme, out of which 12 were from CHD and seven from CUTS Head Office. The purpose of the training was to help team members identify key factors that impact team learning and development, assess their current role in promoting team learning and development, and identify good practices such as providing and receiving feedback, a core skill.



Participants sharing views on consumer problems during International Consumer Day on March 15, 2009

International Consumer Day

A function was organised on the occasion of International Consumer Day at CHD on March 15, 2009. Samit Sharma, District Collector; Vimla Sethiya, Member, State Consumer Forum; Shayam Sunder Sharma, District Supply Officer; and BL Sishodiya, Senior Advocate graced the occasion. More than 100 participants, including district officials, teachers, members of consumer club, villagers, businessmen and non-governmental organisation (NGO) workers were present in the event. Discussions were centered on consumer issues. Participants raised concerns over the behaviour of shopkeepers and stressed on the

need to strengthen information dissemination process to educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities.

Outreach Activities

The outreach resources of CHD include newsletter, monthly wall newspaper, training manuals, such as *Gram Gadar* (Village Revolution) and a quarterly e-newsletter entitled, 'Participation and Action Towards Community Empowerment' (PACE). *Gram Gadar* is widely read in the *Choupal Baithaks*, *gram Baithaks*, and SHG meetings. Information contained in the training materials and publications are disseminated among the villagers by the networkers. A brochure showcasing the activities of the Centre has also been brought out.

Representations

Date & Place	Events & Organiser	Issue/objective	Participant(s)
May 14, 2008, Ahmedabad, India	National consultation workshop on "Microfinance in India: Evolving Strategies to Deepen and Broaden the Outreach" organised by Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute (MGLI)	Microfinance in India: Evolving Strategies to Deepen and Broaden the Outreach	Amit Chowdhury
July 21, 2008, Jaipur, India	Consultation meeting of MAMTA-New Delhi and Plan International organised by Seva Mandir, Udaipur	Draw a plan of future activities for Sexual and Reproductive Health Initiative for Joint Action Network (SRIJAN) project	Amit Chowdhury
September 02, 2008, Jaipur, India	MNGO project consultation meeting organised by State RCH office, Rajasthan and Regional Resource Centre (RRC) Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), New Delhi	Project Consultation Meeting	Madan Lal Keer
September 18-19, 2008, Jaipur, India	Project consultation meeting of IQEEP organised by Save the Children	Project Consultation Meeting	Amit Chowdhury
September 17, 2008, Bhilwara, India	NABARD-Bankers meeting	To discuss problems faced by NGOs during account opening and loan procuring for SHGs.	Lokendra Pandya
September 29, 2008, Chittorgarh, India	Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) Project Committee Meeting	To review the progress of SHG work in the district	Amit Chowdhury and Madan Giri Goswami
October 16, 2008, Jaipur, India	Training programme organised by the State RCH office, Rajasthan and RRC-Voluntary Health Association of India (RRCVHAI), New Delhi	Project management for Mother NGO partners	Madan Lal Keer
November 05, 2008, Jaipur, India	State level consultation meeting organised by Save the Children	Child Survival Environment in Rajasthan	Prasanto Baakshi
November 05, 2008, Chittorgarh, India	Meeting with Principal DIET, Chittorgarh	Cooperation with CUTS for Improving Quality of Education in the district	Amit Chowdhury and Madan Lal Keer
January 30, 2009, Jaipur, India	Consultation Workshop	Social Protection: Means to Enhance Children's Rights in South Asia	Amit Chowdhury

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Date & Venue	Event	Issue	Participant(s)
January 01, 2009, Chittorgarh, India	District level consultation workshop organised by DRCH and PNDT Cell, Chittorgarh	Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act	Amit Chowdhury and Madan Lal Keer
January 15-18, 2009, Jaipur, India	Training Programme organised by Save the Children	Paper presentation on 'Life-Skill Education'	Amit Chowdhury, Madan Lal Keer, Vandana Chouhan, Sanjay Moud, Neetu Joshi and four animators
January 24-25, 2009, Trivandrum, India	National Conference organised by the Centre for Development Studies	Challenges in Human Development in India'	Amit Chowdhury
January 23, 2009, Udaipur, India	Consultation Meet organised by NABARD	NABARD Micro Credit project	Madan Giri Goswami
February 24, 2009, Chittorgarh, India	District Health Society (DHS) meeting	Review health projects and programmes in the district	Madan Lal Keer
March 09, 2009, Chittorgarh, India	Consultation Workshop organised by Indian Medical Association and CMHO office	Decreasing Sex ratio	Amit Chowdhury
March 19-20, 2009 Jaipur, India	Training Programme organised by Save the Children	Preparing Life-Skill Education Module	Vandana Chouhan

CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre (CRC)

CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre (CRC) became operational in 1987. Gradually working in the area of consumer protection in 1991, it began work on trade, economics and environment. Later on, a specialised centre, called Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CITEE), was launched to undertake this work. Meanwhile, a network, 'South Asia Watch on Trade Economics and Environment' (SAWTEE), was launched jointly with other NGOs in South Asia. The same was developed with a view of strengthening work on capacity building, policy research and advocacy in the regional bloc.

In the latter part of 1997, CITEE moved to Jaipur and the dimension of CRC changed. A programme centre was started, called Safety Watch, which focused on consumer safety. A new round of activities on Sustainable Production and Consumption was also taken up at this Centre. A host of projects on environmental sustainability and atmospheric issues was taken up during 1999 to 2002.

In 2001, once again trade-related activities were reintroduced. A cluster of programmes on Grassroots Economic Development was taken up during this period. From then, the Centre continues to work in parallel on Trade & Economics, Environment and Consumer Safety. The mission of the centre is *'To ensure consumer sovereignty and economic equality within and across borders, in association with other CUTS Centres'*.

Programme Areas

- Trade & Economics
- Electricity Reforms
- Environment

Projects

- Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy
- Grassroots Reachout and Networking in India on Trade and Economics (GRANITE Phase-II)
- Capacity Building on Electricity Reforms in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (RESA)
- Lead-Acid Battery Waste Management in West Bengal
- A Study on Socioeconomic Impact Assessment of Rural Electrification in the State of West Bengal

Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy

CUTS CRC, with support from CUTS CITEE, implemented the project entitled 'Mainstreaming International Trade into National Development Strategy: A Pilot Project in Bangladesh and India'.

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Adviser



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Sumanta Biswas
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The initiative was funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi, India. The objectives of the project were to ensure and enhance positive linkages between trade and human development; foster equity and accountability of the national trade policy; and enhance a more coherent civil society voice in the formulation and implementation of national trade policy and in its linkages with national development strategy.

A field survey of 400 agricultural households spread across four districts of West Bengal, namely, Hooghly, Purulia, Malda and Jalpaiguri, was conducted by the Centre. The survey took into account views and concerns about the various government officials and people's representatives who are considered to be the key players for facilitating effective information flow and decision flow between the grassroot stakeholders and central policymakers. Based on the major findings of the survey, a local level training workshop and a state level advocacy workshop was organised by the Centre.

Advocacy & Networking

- The Centre organised a day-long Local Level Training Workshop in Kolkata, on June 12, 2008, for farmers, farmer leaders, academicians, CSOs and *Panchayat* representatives. The one-day workshop aimed at demystifying the relationship between international trade and how it affects the agriculture sector at large. It further simplified a number of issues related to *Gram Panchayats*, including their composition, structure, functioning and linkages with the *Panchayat Samiti* and *Zilla Parishads*. The workshop also made the participants aware about various provisions and ways to avail two very important schemes implemented by the *Gram Panchayats* – The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), which guarantees to provide 100 days of employment to each of the families seeking work, and *Swarnajayanti Gramin Swarozgar Yojna* (SGSY), which aims at improving the socioeconomic conditions of the below poverty line (BPL) families.



Local Level Training Workshop in Kolkata on June 12, 2008



State Level Advocacy Workshop in Kolkata on July 05, 2008

- The Centre organised a half-day State Level Advocacy Workshop in Kolkata, on July 05, 2008 with government officials, representatives of the people, members of different political parties, farmers, farmer leaders, CSOs, *Panchayat* representatives and academicians. The major objectives of the workshop were: to emphasise the role of Social Accountability Techniques for better Public Expenditure outcomes; understand ways to incorporate development needs into political considerations; and emphasise the role played by CSOs in effective implementation of pro-poor schemes at the grassroots.

Research & Publications

- A publication, entitled “Is the Stage Set for Mainstreaming Trade into National Development Strategy in India? – Results of Field Survey in Two States”, was published. The primary objective of this study is to go beyond an exploration of the likely impact of globalisation and trade liberalisation on the stakeholders of the agriculture sector, especially the most vulnerable amongst them and enquire about the prevailing conditions for mainstreaming trade into national development strategy. The study also enquired the implementation of NREGS to understand its effectiveness as a support measure.

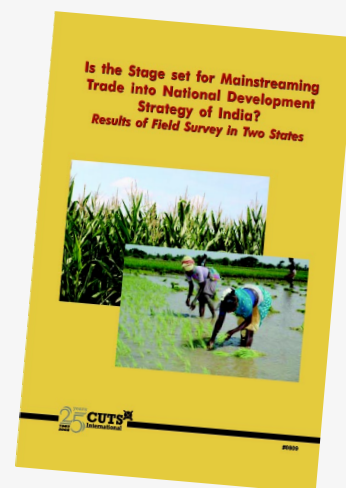
Grassroots Reachout and Networking in India on Trade and Economics (GRANITE Phase-II)

The Centre implemented, as a project partner, a two-year project, entitled GRANITE Phase-I, in partnership with CSOs in West Bengal, from 2005. The project was implemented in eight Indian states, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation (NORAD) and Novib (Oxfam, The Netherlands). After the successful completion of the first phase of the project, the Centre has been involved in the second phase (**GRANITE-II**) of the project. In the second phase, the project focused on the National Foreign Trade Policy (NFTP) of India, 2004-09 by taking stock of how state governments and other stakeholders in these eight states were involved in the process of preparation and implementation of this policy and how the NFTP has benefited (or not benefited) export of specific products from West Bengal.

The Centre undertook a survey to gauge the perception of various stakeholders on National Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 in five districts of West Bengal, namely, Hooghly, Nadia, Malda, Murshidabad and Darjeeling. In these districts, a questionnaire was also used for the survey. A case study was conducted on the mango economy of Malda. Conducting the case study involved literature review, conducting questionnaire survey and focused group discussions with relevant stakeholders in the mango economy of Malda. A pilot study was also undertaken in Malda that was followed by the questionnaire survey and Focussed Group discussion in January 2009.

Advocacy & Networking

- A State Level Advocacy Workshop was held in Kolkata, on May 07, 2008. The major objectives of the workshop were to present the findings of the field research in the state, share opinions on how to make NFTP more pro-poor, chalk out strategies to promote agricultural and handloom exports through institutionalised mechanisms, facilitate interaction between government officials, exporters, farmers'/weavers' associations, media representatives and other stake holders, and to finalise further research areas. It was proposed that some kind of a benefit-sharing mechanism needs to be devised so that the primary producers at the grassroots can get a



share of the profits earned by the exporters in international markets.

Capacity Building on Electricity Reforms in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (RESA)

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation is implementing the project entitled 'Capacity Building on Electricity Reforms in Bangladesh, India and Nepal' (RESA). The project is being implemented with the support of NORAD. Over a period of two years, this project intends to build capacity of consumer groups/CSOs to enable them to deal with the issues involved, take-up action research, share experiences and carryout advocacy with policymakers and regulatory agencies to effect pro-consumer changes in the electricity regulatory/policy processes in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. The Centre has been involved in the implementation of the project in West Bengal.

Advocacy & Networking

- A State Level Inception Workshop was organised in Kolkata, on April 17, 2008. The main objectives of the workshop were to identify 10-12 CSOs to undertake various activities over the span of two years; train local CSOs on the consumer survey methodology so that they could undertake baseline consumer survey at the grassroots level; build capacity of civil society on electricity reforms in project countries; and make CSOs aware of the project objectives and activities to be conducted at the state level.

- Reference Group (RG) Meeting I was organised in Kolkata, on July 16, 2008. The main objectives of the meeting were to apprise RG members of the project activities, its goals and outcomes and also to brief them about the activities implemented so far; seek comments/inputs for further improvement in order to ensure smoother functioning of the future project activities; and seek comments/suggestions on two important documents prepared by the Centre: Territorial Base Paper (TBP) and Territorial Training Manual (TTM) which was already circulated to all the members before the meeting.

- Territorial Trainings (TTs) were organised on September 11-12 and 25-26, 2008 respectively. The trainings were designed to enhance the capacity of the local CSOs to make sure that they act effectively to transfer the knowledge to the grass roots for making the ordinary consumers aware and capable of participating in the electricity reform process. The main objectives of the Territorial Training were to enhance the knowledge of consumers

regarding issues and processes of electricity reforms in the



State Level Inception Workshop in Kolkata on April 17, 2008



A Cross-section of participants in Territorial Training under the project

Representations

Date & Place	Event	Issue	Participant
July 25, 2008, Kolkata, India	Opportunities and Challenges of Geographical Indications (GI) Protection in West Bengal	Generate awareness among different groups of stakeholders about the basic issues pertaining to GIs in West Bengal	Jayeeta Sarkar Selina Kabir
August 09, 2008, Kolkata, India	141 st Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC) Meeting	The objective of the meeting was to discuss the all-round safety issue and suggestion for development in the Railway's Howrah division	N K Sinha
August, 22-23, 2008 Kolkata, India	Energy Conclave 2008: Energy in the Age of Climate Change	Energy Efficiency, Conservation and New Options	Arnab Ganguly Mrinmoy Dey
August 28-30, 2008 Colombo, Sri Lanka	1 st South Asian Economic Summit on Economic Integration in South Asia: South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) and Beyond	Greater economic cooperation within the region in an increasingly globalising world	Keya Ghosh
November 08, 2008, Kolkata, India	Curtain Raiser to Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit 2008	Regional economic cooperation among the major Southeast Asian Countries around the Bay of Bengal	Arnab Ganguly
November 22, 2008, Kolkata, India	Second State Level Consultation on Right to Information (RTI)	Sensitising various stakeholders about their responsibilities and to chalk out a road map to facilitate effective implementation of RTI in West Bengal.	Keya Ghosh Prithviraj Nath
December 13, 2008, Kolkata, India	Observation of Energy Conservation Day	Energy Conservation and scope for non-conventional energy	Prithviraj Nath Mrinmoy Dey
January 15, 2009, Hili, India	Consultative meeting between mango exporters, DGFT Officials and Officials from Customs Department	Facilitating better exports and export-related practices	Arnab Ganguly Sumanta Biswas
March 25, 2009, Kolkata, India	Economic Crisis and Response	Discussions on strategies/ measures to be adopted by the state to tide over the present phase of world economic crisis	Arnab Ganguly Mrinmoy Dey

country; and develop the capacity of the CSOs and enhance consumer participation in the process of electricity reforms.

Research/Publications

- A four page Calendar for year 2009 was published bearing key message for electricity consumers. The areas covered were energy conservation, grievance redressal mechanism and power theft.

Lead-Acid Battery Waste Management in West Bengal

The Centre with the support of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) is implementing the project entitled 'Lead-Acid Battery Waste Management in West Bengal'. The overall objective of the project is to identify the stakeholders involved in different stages of battery usage and assess the extent of compliance to the Battery (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001, among various stakeholders.

Advocacy & Networking

The major activities for this period included:

- Study and data entry of returns filed by different stakeholders;
- Analysis of returns to prepare a report on the status of return filing and compliance level, as reflected by the returns;
- Presentation of findings to the WBPCB; and
- Questionnaire survey of different stakeholder groups.

A Study on Socioeconomic Impact Assessment of Rural Electrification in the State of West Bengal

The Centre with the support of KPMG Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd is implementing the project entitled 'A Study on Socioeconomic Impact Assessment of Rural Electrification in the State of West Bengal'. The overall objective of the project is to study the social and economic linkages to various components of the power sector reforms and to identify cross-linkages of the power sector with other sectors like impact of rural electrification on social, environmental and economic fabric of villages and linkages of agriculture to water, irrigation and energy issues.

Advocacy & Networking

- Conducting questionnaire survey of 1200 households in six districts in West Bengal. This included electrified, as well as non-electrified households. In every district at least four *moujas* were studied.
- Conducting Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in the said districts with diverse groups like farmers groups, women's groups, etc., to understand how electrification has affected them.
- Conducting Key Informants' Interviews with at least eight respondents from each of the six districts. This included *Panchayat* members, local opinion leaders, NGO representatives, government officials, school masters, prominent businessmen, etc.



Keya Ghosh handing over the RESA Territorial Training Memento to P Ray, WBERC

CUTS Delhi Resource Centre (DRC)

CUTS Delhi Resource Centre (CUTS DRC) was established in 2002 to act as the focal point for CUTS' advocacy, outreach and external relations with national and international institutions, including government departments and agencies. The objective of the Centre is to feed the work being done at the national level by other centres of CUTS into policy level interventions.

Besides showcasing the work of CUTS and feeding the same in various policy advocacies at appropriate forums, the Centre also works towards strengthening network with research organisations and consumer groups. The Centre maintains regular communication with national and international media, national associations of trade and industry, other NGOs, parliamentarians and special interest groups and affiliations.

Programme Areas

- Parliamentary Advocacy
- Media Outreach
- Networking
- Event Management

Parliamentary Advocacy

Parliamentary advocacy is an important activity of the Centre. To facilitate the parliamentary advocacy, the Centre worked on:

- sending questions to identified parliamentarians to be raised during the parliamentary sessions;
- following up of the questions raised and responses received, on subjects of interest; and
- informing and sensitising members of Parliament (MPs) for raising parliamentary questions on different socio-economic issues, including bills to be put forth for a wider and well-informed discussion on the floor of the Parliament.

A Souvenir on PAFORE and an Issue Note entitled, 'Social Sector Budgeting: *Higher Allocations Mask Poor Utilisation*' were published.

Media Outreach

CUTS DRC has successfully organised participation and coverage of media both print as well as electronic for CUTS' various events. The Centre is responsible for coordinating for columns/write ups in various newspapers in print and electronic media for greater visibility of CUTS activities in media. It liaises with the press on one to one basis through informal meetings, giving press releases, sharing exclusive stories, and initiating debates on topical issues. The Centre also did advocacy with media, making them aware of issues of immediate attention coming out of CUTS' research.



P S Verma
Acting Centre
Coordinator

Networking

The Centre was able to maintain working relationships with important Delhi-based CSOs, developmental organisations, premier Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Government Ministries and their various departments. It has been able to build up an effective and meaningful working relationship with the following ministries and their departments: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Finance (especially DCA & DEA) Ministry of Consumer Affairs (especially BIS), Ministry of Environment & Forest, and Planning Commission.

Event Management

The Centre was involved in executing and organising various events – beginning from booking of the venues, dealing with vendors, necessary logistics till the final execution of the event. This also includes the necessary follow-up with the participants, hotels/venues, signing the contract and ensuring the necessary and crucial elements for organising an event with economies of scale. Some of such events in which the Centre was involved are:

- ICRR Conference, on April 01, 2008
- NRG meeting under ICRR on May 20, 2008
- Ecorys-TSIA conference, on June 23, 2008
- GRANITE-II, on July 01-02, 2008
- MINTDEV & TDP Workshop, July 24-25, 2008
- 'Global Partnership for Development' MDG-8, an international conference organised by CUTS and FICCI in association with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Commonwealth Secretariat and India Office of the World Bank at FICCI on August 12-13, 2008
- Reception and Dinner hosted by CUTS at Hotel Le-Meridian marking 25 years of existence on August 12, 2008
- 'Enhancing Development through a Competition Culture' a seminar on August 14, 2008
- Doha Impacts on India in January 2009
- ICRR-II Conference, on March 28, 2009
- Roundtable on 'Political Economy of Regulation in India – What do we need to do' to mark release of 'Competition and Regulation in India 2009' report by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission followed by a panel discussion on March 28, 2009

Representations

During the period, the Centre was involved in representing CUTS in different conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings organised by different CSOs, consumer organisations, academic research bodies and institutions, ministries and financial institutions.

Other Activities

Involved in the coordination of two CCIER projects, namely Consumer Protection Regimes in the World and Creation of Competition Database. Both are non-funded CUTS initiative under the banner of INCSOC and CCIER respectively.

Overseas Resource Centres

CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC)

CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Lusaka is a non governmental organisation which was established in December 2000 in Lusaka Zambia. CUTS ARC is the southern Africa Resource Centre for CUTS international based in India. The centre is functioning as a resource centre for Africa based Civil Society Organisations, as well as a centre for studies, research and advocacy programmes. It is entrusted with the responsibility of developing a close and beneficial relationship between two developing regions namely Southern Africa and South Asia. The centre also works with partner institutions in Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Namibia, Mozambique and Malawi among others in the implementation of policy, investment, and consumer protection issues.

Programme Areas

- Trade and Development
- Competition & Regulatory Policy
- Consumer Protection

Projects

- Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction Project (TDP)
- Supply side Capacity
- Incorporating CSOs' Views in the Formulation of the Zambian Competition Policy and Underlying Implementation Processes
- Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)
- Building Capacity for Media Coverage on Trade and Economic Issues in Zambia
- Enhanced Integrated Framework (Aid for Trade to LDCs)
- Capacity Building for Parliamentarians in Zambia

Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)

This was a four-year project (December 2005-December 2008) implemented by CUTS CITEE. It was aimed at facilitating cross-fertilisation of experiences and lessons learnt on linkages between trade, development and poverty. CUTS CITEE is implementing these activities in association with its different centres and partner organisations in 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Asia and Europe.

Advocacy and Networking

- An advocacy workshop was held in Katete District in Eastern Province of Zambia on August 06, 2008. The main objectives of the workshop were to draw lessons and experiences on linkages between trade and poverty reduction among farmers



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in the district; and facilitate the synergy between government and CSOs so as to learn from each other and strengthen perspectives and position on trade, development and poverty reduction in the district.

- A one-day workshop for small farmers was organised in Chibombo district, Central Province of Zambia, on June 25, 2008. The Advocacy Document entitled, '*Strengthening the Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction*' and the TDP Campaign Toolkit for Zambia were presented at the workshop.
- A one day workshop was held in Livingstone at holy cross recreation centre. The TDP volume entitled, '*Trade-Development-Poverty Linkages: Reflections from Selected Asian and Sub-Saharan African Countries – Volume II Country Case Studies*' was also presented.

Supply side Capacity

This study was part of a multi country project "Understanding Supply-Side Capacity and Export Response: Diagnostic Studies in Selected Commonwealth Countries". The broad objectives of this research project were to find out the factors determining export success of a few firms in certain sectors of the countries being studied and to learn lessons from the success experiences so that appropriate interventions could be undertaken for the benefit of other potential entrepreneurs to strengthen the countries' efforts towards diversification.

'Incorporating CSOs' Views in the Formulation of the Zambian Competition Policy and Underlying Implementation Processes' was a two-month study under Capacity Building for Private Sector Development (CBPSD)/ Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (MCTI) which was undertaken in order to generate inputs of CSOs in a coordinated and harmonised manner in the drafting of the competition policy in Zambia. Focussed group discussions were held on September 29, 2008.

Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (CUTS GRC) with the support of The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, US, is implementing the "Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)" Project. FEATS project began in 2008 and will continue through March 2011 with the broad goals to raise awareness for better coherence between development and trade policies, thus contributing to economic development and poverty reduction in project countries. FEATS project countries include Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Advocacy and Networking

The Centre hosted its national inception meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, on October 21, 2008. This meeting was one of the five project meetings in five countries of which Zambia was one of them. The meetings achieved the main objectives, including the adoption of revised Terms of Reference for trade policy research and the establishment of the five National Reference Groups.

Building Capacity for Media Coverage on Trade and Economic Issues in Zambia

This was a one off activity that aimed to bring change in the trade and development agenda through using journalist. It aimed at building the capacity of journalists from all selected provinces in Zambia to report and analyse trade, economic and development related issues. The project endeavoured to bridge links between sector stakeholders *vis-à-vis* civil society, academics, private sector, business associations and Policy makers with the objective of building an environment which will sustain media coverage on trade, economics and developmental issues.

Enhanced Integrated Framework (Aid for Trade to LDCs)

This is a one-year project spanning from December 2008-December 2009. It is aimed at supporting CSOs respond to policy discussions in the Integrated Framework process and CUTS will act as the focal point. Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is a measure to bridge the gap between demand and supply as effectively as possible and mainstream trade into national development strategies. The objective of the project is to engage civil society and other actors in the EIF process and supporting them to respond to ongoing policy discussions on trade and development taking place in the EIF process, thus playing an active role in the Trade Expansion Working Group.

- A national sensitisation workshop was organised in Lusaka, Zambia on January 21, 2009. The workshop was also used as a platform to sensitise and engage stakeholders on the EIF process so that they can assess the opportunities of the EIF for to the LDCs. The workshop was attended by 42 representatives from government, CSOs, research institutions and the media.
- The Centre hosted a provincial workshop in Kitwe Town of the Copperbelt Province in continuation with the lined up activities on the EIF project on February 11, 2009. The main purpose of the workshop was to sensitise both state and non-state actors of the Copperbelt Province on the importance of the EIF process.
- ARC, Lusaka organised a roundtable meeting on February 27, 2009. The meeting was organised for CSOs to discuss, analyse and give an input into the EIF implementation process in Zambia. Recommendations from this workshop will be presented to Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and the EIF team in Geneva.





Centre EIF National Adviser Alain P Bernard responding to a question

- The Centre with CSPR hosted a sensitisation workshop on EIF in Mansa on March 19, 2009. The objectives of the workshop were to build awareness about the EIF and trade in Luapula Province, identify the needs of those involved in trade and those marginalised during trade, discuss strategies to improve trade and look at ways of integrating these strategies into national programmes.

Research & Publications

An e-newsletter has been published under the project.

Capacity Building for Parliamentarians in Zambia

ARC, Lusaka developed a capacity building concept paper for Members of Parliament (MPs) on Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction. The objective of the project would be to sensitise MPs on the Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction, so that these issues are related at constituency level and MPs are able to engage and debate around various trade agreements, such as EPAs and WTO.

Outreach

- **Consumer Watch:** This e-newsletter enhances consumer welfare, through sensitisation, information dissemination and capacity building of consumers, business entities and the government.
- **Tradequity:** The Centre produces this quarterly e-newsletter on trade and development issues.

Representations

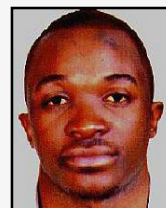
Date & Place	Event & Organiser	Issues/Objectives	Participant(s)
April 03, 2008, Lusaka, Zambia	Working Group meeting at The Zambia Association for Research and Development	Strategise on what message regional CSOs were required to carry as regard to EPAs	Patrick Chengo
April 16-19, 2008, Accra, Ghana	UNCTAD XII CSO activities	Networking with various CSOs from both the North and South	Angela Mwape Mulenga
May 11, 2008, Lusaka, Zambia	Midmorning Television programme featured on the National television programme "Midmorning show"	Inform the public about CUTS work and its engagement with the EPA's negotiations	Angela Mwape Mulenga
May 23, 2008, Lusaka, Zambia	Domestic Trade Policies and Process Workshop organised by the Civil Society Trade Network Zambia (CSTNZ)	Focus on domestic trade policies and provide information regarding statutory instruments being provided for by the government	Patrick Chengo
May 29-30, 2008, Lusaka, Zambia	Southern Africa Development Forum on Progress and Prospects for the Implementation of Protocols in Southern Africa	Focus on the SADC protocols and COMESA Treaty provisions on trade, transport and the free movement of persons	Angela Mwape Mulenga
June 03-05, 2008, Lusaka, Zambia	EPAs and Regional Integration Workshop organised by The Eastern and Southern Africa Farmers Forum	'EU's Position on Development' Market Challenges and Opportunities Locally and Regionally'	Patrick Chengo
July 09-10, 2008, Cotonou, Benin	Regional Conference on the 'Right to Food and Voluntary Guidelines' organised by an NGO, United Sisters at work, with the support of Food First Information & Action Network International and Bread for the World	Launch the 'Right to Food Network' in Africa that would help a permanent and continuous dialogue among human rights activists	Angela Mwape Mulenga
August 21, 2008, Lusaka, Zambia	Launch of the joint MDG8 progress reports by CTNZ, Civil Society for Poverty Reduction and Jesuits Centre for Theological Reflection	The three reports vividly looked at the key elements of MDG8 which include debt relief, increased aid flows and better trade and market access for goods from developing countries	Simon Ng'ona

Contd...

Date & Venue	Event	Issue	Participant(s)
September 19, 2008, Lusaka, Zambia	“4th Edition of the ZSF on Trade and Development in Zambia” organised by Zambia Council for Social Development	Angela presented a paper	Angela Mwape Mulenga
December 09, 2008, Zambia	Workshop on Farmers Organisations in Zambia organised by PELUM Zambia	To develop a clear understanding of the effectiveness of the Farmer Association in poverty reduction	Simon Ng’ona
December 09-10, 2008	Aid for Trade (AfT) Seminar organised by the Embassy of Finland	To improve the knowledge of the global AfT agenda and awareness options	Patrick Chengo

CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Nairobi

CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Nairobi is a registered non-governmental organisation (NGO) that started its operations in the year 2002 to work in not only the region of East Africa but also the Horn of Africa. It was set up with the mandate of providing support to NGO's in eastern Africa in the areas of consumer protection, poverty reduction, development of trade and economic policy, training and advocacy in these regions. All this continues to be done with a view to consolidate and expand the activities of CUTS International in promoting South-South civil society cooperation in economic development and trade in the world economy.



Clement Victor Onyango
Administration Officer

Programme Areas

- Competition Policy and Law
- Consumer Education and Awareness
- Economic Regulation

Projects

- Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading system (FEATS)
- Competition Policy and Regulation in the Energy Sector in Kenya
- Building an Inclusive East African Community (BIEAC)
- Understanding Supply-side Capacity and Export Response: Diagnostic studies in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia
- Joint Africa Trade Strategy
- Economic Roundtables
- Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)
- Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (7Up3)

Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (CUTS GRC) is implementing the FEATS project, in collaboration with CUTS Africa Resource Centres in Lusaka, Zambia and Nairobi, Kenya. This project began in April 2008 with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation of the US. The three-year project focuses on five countries: three from Eastern (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda); and two from Southern (Malawi and Zambia) Africa. The overarching objective of the project is to generate a more coherent and pro-trade, pro-development voice in the formulation and implementation of trade policy at both the national and international levels.

Advocacy & Networking

A National Inception Meeting was held in Nairobi, on October 14, 2008. The main



National Inception meeting held in Nairobi, on October 14, 2008

objectives of the meeting were to broaden and deepen the understanding of all stakeholders about the Project and the Trade Polity study; better understand the ground realities of trade and development in the project countries; establish networks by launching five National Reference Groups; and discuss and finalise the Terms of Reference.

Research Project on Competition Policy and Regulations in the Energy Sector in Kenya

The Centre with the support of TrustAfrica has undertaken a project entitled 'Research Project on Competition Policy and Regulations in the Energy Sector in Kenya'. The objective of the project is to assess the institutional framework of the national competition policy and the regulatory structures; review and evaluate the competition policy and regulatory framework of the energy sector in light of energy sector reforms; and undertake a comparative analysis of competition and regulatory framework in energy sector in other countries.

Advocacy & Networking

A Scoping workshop was held in Nairobi, on November 20, 2008. The workshop aimed at seeking views and recommendations from the relevant stakeholders to help fine tune and enrich the scope and the Terms of Reference for the project.

Building an Inclusive East African Community (BIEAC)

Building an Inclusive East African Community (BIEAC) project is being implemented by CUTS GRC in December 2008 and is envisaged to conclude in November 2010. The project is funded by *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ), Germany, and its implementation is in the five East Africa Community (EAC) member countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. ARC, Nairobi is the project partner.

Understanding Supply-side Capacity and Export Response: Diagnostic studies in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia

This was a research project aimed at finding out the factors determining export success of a few firms in certain sectors of individual Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Vulnerable States (SVS). It further aimed at drawing lessons from the success experiences so that appropriate interventions can be undertaken for the benefit of other potential entrepreneurs to strengthen the countries' efforts towards diversification. The project was supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Research & Publications

A Research Report entitled, 'Understanding Supply-side Capacity and Export Response: Diagnostic Studies in Three Selected Commonwealth Developing Countries' was published.

Joint Africa Trade Strategy Project

The Centre with the support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Kenya has undertaken a project entitled, 'Joint Africa Trade Strategy (ATS)'. The main objective of the project is to discuss and provide modalities for formulating a joint African Trade Strategy (ATS) that can further Africa's integration and its beneficial interaction with the rest of the world trading economy.

Advocacy & Networking

A two-day regional conference on "Joining Forces in the Global Trading Arena-Formulating African Trade Strategy" was held Naivasha, Kenya, on July 24-25, 2008. The event drew 26 participants from different Africa's regional trading blocs. The final outcome of the meeting was that the formulation of the joint ATS will be very crucial in the integration process of Africa.

Economic Roundtables

ARC Nairobi, in partnership with FES Kenya, initiated a series of periodic roundtable debates as a modern concept of dialoguing on pertinent issues on the Kenyan economy, be they internally or externally instigated. During 2008, the following events were organised to enhance the objectives of the Roundtable initiative:

Advocacy & Networking

- The 3rd Economic Roundtable meeting was organised in Nairobi, on April 10, 2008. The objective of the roundtable was to discuss and provide guidance on the possible strategies for post-conflict recovery, following the disputed 2007 presidential election and on how to ensure long term peace and sustained economic development in Kenya.
- The 4th Economic Roundtable meeting was held in Nairobi. The main objective of the forum was to work out and provide guidance to policy makers on feasible strategies for ensuring sustainable development and management of an efficient, co-ordinated and integrated intervention that enables smooth transformation of youth unemployment conditions in Kenya.

Research and Publications

A policy brief, entitled 'Bridging the Gap', and an advocacy tool kit on "Putting Kenya onto the Path Back to Sustainable Economic Growth and Development: Strategies and Ideas", were published.

Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)

The Centre jointly with CUTS CITEE, coordinated the advocacy and networking aspect of the ongoing project entitled, 'Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)', which was implemented over a period of four years (January 2005 to December 2008), with support from the Royal Netherlands Embassy and DFID, UK. The project has been implemented in selected countries in Asia, Africa and Europe in a partnership mode.

Advocacy & Networking

ARC Nairobi, in liaison with CUTS CITEE, India, organised a pre-UNCTAD XII meeting in Nairobi, on March 13-14, 2008 which sought to formulate a set of key messages to be fed into the UNCTAD XII. The event was in line with the quadrennial meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII) held in Accra, Ghana, on April 20-25, 2008.

Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (7Up3)

CUTS ARC, as resource partner coordinated the project entitled 'Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa' codenamed 7Up3, which was implemented in seven countries, viz. Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Uganda, with support from the NORAD, Norway and DFID, UK. One of the main objectives of the 7Up3 project was to develop the capacity of national stakeholders including the policy makers, regulators, CSOs, academicians and the media in each of the project countries through a participatory process.

Advocacy & Networking

- An international competition conference to mark the culmination of the project was held in Gaborone, on February 14-15, 2008. In addition to drawing project partners and other stakeholders from the seven project countries, this conference offered an opportunity for competition scholars and practitioners from the continent and outside to engage in the discourse on the road ahead for evolving effective competition regimes in sub-Saharan Africa.

Outreach

Tradequity: The newsletter highlights the current topics and debates on trade, environment and regional integration.

Regional Co-operation and Development Monitor: The e-newsletter aims at bringing out stories and resources from various sources in the region on trade and development. It also comprises activities of the Centre and the entire CUTS and other relevant news items on trade, consumer protection, environment and development.

Representations

Date & Place	Event & Organiser(s)	Issue & Objectives	Participant(s)
February 11, 2009, Nairobi, Kenya	Sensitisation workshop on food safety organised by National Executive Codex Committee	Create awareness and the way forward on the prevalence of melamine in imported milk and milk products in the market and the health hazards posed to consumers	David Okendo Asher
February 26, 2009, Nairobi, Kenya	Organised by KEPLOTRADE/ECORYS meeting	Discuss the new programme on productivity and competitiveness and endorse the coordinating committee	Clement Victor Onyango Samson Awino
February 25-27, 2009, Nairobi, Kenya	'CSO EPA Audit' organised by Kenya Civil society Alliance and KEPLOTRADE	Bridge the gap between government and civil society on their diverging perspectives on EPAs so as to achieve a national consensus	Victor Ogalo Omondi
October 23, 2008, Nairobi, Kenya	World Standards Day celebration under the theme; 'Intelligent and Sustainable Buildings' organised by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)	Create awareness and emphasise the need for standards for buildings that bring in usability and sustainability worldwide	David Okendo Asher
September 22-23, 2008, Nairobi, Kenya	ISO Workshop on Consumer Involvement in Standardisation organised by the KEBS in partnership with Consumer International	Enhance the participants' understanding of standards and standards-development process; and build rapport between consumer organisations and the national standards body (KEBS) for future engagement	David Okendo Asher

CUTS Hanoi Resource Centre (CUTS HRC)

CUTS Hanoi Resource Centre (CUTS HRC) was officially launched on February 29, 2008. It is one of five overseas centre of CUTS International in Hanoi, aimed at promoting trilateral development cooperation on a range of trade and economic policy issues.

Initially, CUTS HRC actively engaged itself in capacity building for competition authorities and also strengthening the consumer movement in Vietnam. It also contributed significantly to policy making process, poverty reduction, trade development and economic policy, advocacy and networking.

The Centre's mission is: *To be a catalyst in transferring objective knowledge and advocacy skills from India and elsewhere to the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) towards mainstreaming the civil society movement therein into the development process.*

Programme Areas

- Competition Policy and Law
- Economic Regulation
- Investment Climate
- Consumer Protection Policy
- International Trade & Economics

Projects

- Strengthening the Competition Authorities in Vietnam (SCAV)
- Strengthening the Consumer Movement in Vietnam (SCMV)
- Using Competition Law/Policy Tools in Dealing with Anticompetitive Practices in the Pharmaceutical Distribution System in Vietnam

Strengthening the Competition Authorities in Vietnam (SCAV)

The project entitled, 'Strengthening the Competition Authorities in Vietnam' has been implemented with the support of State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland (SECO) and the Swiss Competition Commission (COMCO). It would contribute to the establishment of a business environment that is conducive to the development of the private sector; and would deepen the application and the implementation of Vietnamese competition policies. The duration of the project is of three years.

Research

As per the Project schedule, a market study on the telecoms sector in Vietnam has been conducted by the VCAD officials in the 1st year. CUTS HRC has provided technical support to them in this regard, such as commenting on study outline, providing list of references and available (soft) copies on the identified topic, i.e. Telecom Sector and comments on a Survey Questionnaire prepared by the VCAD.

Pham Thi Que
Anh
Director



Ngo Rich Thuy
Part-time
Accountant



Strengthening the Consumer Movement in Vietnam (SCMV)

The Centre has implemented a project entitled “Strengthening the consumer movement in Vietnam” in association with the Vietnam Standards and Consumers Association (VINASTAS) with the support of The Ford Foundation - Office for Vietnam and Thailand. The overall goal of this project is to promote a healthy and vibrant consumer culture in Vietnam, which ensures the meeting, in the long term, of the seven legitimate needs of consumers as set out in the United Nations’ Guidelines for Consumer Protection. The duration of the project is two years, expected to be completed by 2010.



A Training Workshop on Consumer Protection held in Hanoi, on November 20, 2008

Advocacy & Networking

Two training workshops entitled, ‘How to Handle Consumer Complaints – Legislation Problems and Practices’ were organised in Hai Phong, on November 18, 2008; and in Vung Tau, Vietnam, on November 20, 2008 respectively. While delivering the inaugural address, Dr Doan Phuong, President, VINASTAS pointed out myriad difficulties that the consumer movement in Vietnam is facing. George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART) participated as a resource person.

The workshops deliberated on legal issues (litigation) as well as the practices of consumer redressal mechanism. There were presentations on legal framework analysis, case studies and hypothetical case handling techniques, with an introduction of Indian system of consumer dispute settlement mechanisms to Vietnam.

Research

The Centre, jointly with the VCAD, prepared a research report on most common provisions in consumer protection laws in the world to serve as a baseline for the Consumer Protection Law drafting process in Vietnam.

Using Competition Law/Policy Tools in Dealing with Anticompetitive Practices in the Pharmaceutical Distribution System in Vietnam

The Project, supported under the Competition Research for Economic Development (CRED) Grant of IDRC, implemented from August 2008-March 2009, is meant to contribute to the promotion of public (consumer) welfare in Vietnam, by way of ensuring and enhancing access to medicines and enhancing the efficiency of health delivery systems in the country. This is a joint research project between HRC and VCAD, with VCAD taking the lead as the institutional partner for IDRC. Two seminars

were organised in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on March 18 & 20, 2009 respectively, for the purpose of information dissemination.

Representations

Place & Date	Event/Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
March 27, 2009, Hanoi, Vietnam	Seminar organised by the Department of Industry and Trade of Da Nang, within the support of EC-funded Multilateral Trade Assistance Project III	Presentation on 'Class Action in Consumer Protection Law and Consumer Protection Regimes in the World – Lessons for Vietnam'	To Tam
March 18 & 20, 2009, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	Information dissemination seminars organised in collaboration with the VCAD		Pham Thi Que Anh
March 18-20, 2008, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Consumers International's Asia Pacific Regional Members Meeting, organised by CI Kuala Lumpur Office	Presentation on 'Competition & Consumer Protection'	Pham Thi Que Anh
December 16, 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam	Vietnam Innovation Day 2009, co-organised by the Government Inspectorate and the World Bank Vietnam	More Accountability and Transparency, Less Corruption	To Tam
November 11, 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam	'Impacts on Economics, Employment and Poverty Reduction of Vietnam Two Years after WTO's Admission' jointly organised by the Centre of Development and Integration and the Vietnam Asia-Pacific Economic Centre		To Tam
October 23, 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam	Sharing Experience and Identifying orientation on Advocacy of NGOs', jointly organised by Centre for Support of Social Development Programmes and Centre for Development Assistance	To share experiences in advocacy regarding poverty reduction and development cooperation between NGOs in and outside of Cooperation Development Group and identifying orientation on advocacy for NGOs in general, and CDG in particular	To Tam
June 11, 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam	'Reviewing the Law Enforcement Practices on Consumer Protection and Building a Bill on Consumer Protection in Vietnam', organised by the VCAD		Pham Thi Que Anh Thanh Mai

Contd...

Date & Place	Event	Issue	Participant(s)
June 07-11, 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam	Regional Training and Forum on 'Making Markets Work for Small Farmers: Understanding Marketing and Market Intermediation', organised by the Asia Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (DHRRA), in collaboration with Viet DHRRA, Vietnam Farmers Union, Foro Rural Mundial and ASEAN Foundation	To enhance the knowledge and skills of participants in marketing and market intermediation which would link small farmers to markets	Pham Thi Que Anh
April 07-08, 2008, Khon Kaen, Thailand	Regional Policy Dialogue on Trade Facilitation Policy Gap Analysis on Cross-Transport Agreement in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, organised by the Mekong Institute, with the support of New Zealand's International Aid and Development Agency		Pham Thi Que Anh

Other Activities

Lectures on "Restrictive Business Practices and the EC and US Response"

HRC in association with the Business Administration Department, Foreign Trade University of Vietnam and the Law Department, Hanoi National University organised two lectures on "Restrictive Business Practices (RBPs) and the EC and US response" in Hanoi, on December 13 & 15, 2008 respectively. Professor Mark Furse, a visiting scholar on competition from Glasgow University, Scotland delivered the lectures to a wide audience of teachers and students in these universities. The lectures were organised as part of CUTS HRC's advocacy and networking programmes.

Asian Civil Society Lauds UNCTAD's XII Quadrennial Conference

On the eve of the forthcoming quadrennial meeting of the UNCTAD XII to be held in Accra, Ghana on April 20-25, 2008, CUTS organised a two-day international conference in Hanoi, on March 06-07, 2008. The conference sought to formulate a set of key messages to be fed into the Civil Society Forum, to be held during the UNCTAD XII. This event was held under a project entitled, "Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction" by CUTS International. A total of 37 participants from 16 countries attended the conference. Several media representatives attended the conference, who facilitated a wide coverage of the event in Vietnam and abroad.

Outreach

Competition Law and Intellectual Property Rights: Controlling Abuse or Abusing Control?

This Monograph examines the interface between competition law issues and the protection of IPRs – both complementarities and conflicts. It discusses the IPRs-related competition issues, highlighting abuse of a dominance position due to IPRs. In addition, the paper provides an overview of the competition law and IPRs in developing countries. Written in an easy-to-understand language, it aims to serve the purpose of reaching out to relevant stakeholders as well as general readers.

New 'Windows' on Competition: The Microsoft Case

The Microsoft cases are still under controversy. This monograph examines Microsoft's various alleged anti-competitive practices and its long-lasting battle with successive trials from nations worldwide. It also looks into some legal issues that should be discussed that are based on Microsoft's experiences. The ultimate objective is to raise awareness on the new application of competition law, especially for reference in developing countries to deal with cases of the same nature.



CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (CUTS GRC)

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (CUTS GRC) was established as a research based advocacy NGO in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2007. The potential beneficiaries of the work of GRC include all the key stakeholders in and from developing countries: governments and inter-governmental organisations (IGOs), Parliamentarians, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the private sector. GRC started functioning in July 2009. CUTS GRC office was inaugurated on July 16, 2009 by Valentine Rugwabiza, Deputy Director General of WTO. Staff members were appointed in September 2009. The mission of the Centre is: *To establish and promote a pro-trade, pro-equity credible Southern NGO voice as well as the means to achieve this in the policymaking circles working on trade and development and other related issues in Geneva.*

Programme Areas

- Trade and Development
- Competition
- Consumer Protection

Projects

- Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)
- Building an Inclusive East African Community (BIEAC)

Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)

GRC is implementing the FEATS project, in collaboration with CUTS Africa Resource Centres in Lusaka, Zambia and Nairobi, Kenya. This project began in April 2008, before GRC was launched in July 2008, with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation of the US. The three-year project focuses on five countries: three from Eastern (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda); and two from Southern (Malawi and Zambia) Africa.

The overarching objective of the project is to generate a more coherent and pro-trade, pro-development voice in the formulation and implementation of trade policy at both the national and international levels. The specific objectives of the project include:

- Ensuring and enhancing positive linkages between trade and development in Africa by developing the capacity of governments to proactively and positively respond to trade issues, through their involvement in policy research;
- Advocacy with trade officials and in national capitals by establishing robust, two-way linkages between activities in Geneva and in project countries; and

Atul Kaushik
Director, Geneva
Resource Centre &
Adviser (Projects) CUTS



Rashid S. Kaukab
Deputy Director,
Geneva Resource
Centre &
Research
Coordinator

Julian Mukhibi
Research Officer



Josiane Rufener
Administrative
Officer



Valentine Rugwabiza, Pradeep S Mehta & Lakshmi Puri during the launch of the Centre on July 16, 2008

- Generating a more coherent and pro-trade for development voice in the formulation and implementation of trade and development policy at both the national and international levels.

To achieve these objectives, three sets of interlinked activities are being undertaken, i.e. research and analysis, advocacy and networking.

Advocacy & Networking

- The Geneva Inception Meeting established the Initial Reference Group for the FEATS Project consisting of all the participants. This Group is to facilitate communication and feedback on policy research as well as other FEATS activities.
- National Inception Meetings (NIMs) were held in Kenya, Nairobi, on October 14, 2008; in Uganda, Kampala, on October 15, 2008; in Tanzania, Dar-Es-Salaam, on October 17, 2008; in Zambia, Lusaka, on October 20, 2008; and in Malawi, Lilongwe, on October 23, 2008 respectively. These meetings were organised with the support of the local partners in each country and attended by about 30 stakeholders, including representatives of the government, the private sector and the civil society. One representative each from the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, a CSO and a research institute contributed short papers to the NIMs in each project country and made presentations. The NIMs were well attended and held open and constructive discussions. They also approved the revised ToRs for the first policy study and the establishment of NRG for the FEATS project in each country.

Building an Inclusive East African Community (BIEAC)

Building an Inclusive East African Community (BIEAC) project commenced in December 2008 and is envisaged to conclude in November 2010. The project is funded by *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ), Germany, and its implementation is in the five East Africa Community (EAC) member countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The BIEAC project aims and expected outputs include the following:

- Supporting a range of CSOs in the EAC member states to examine the implications of external trade policies on the livelihood of the people and provide a better understanding of both the challenges and opportunities of trade integration;
- Raising awareness of the general public on the relevant issues, gathering their concerns and carrying out advocacy to highlight them to the policy makers; and
- Studying the potential implications of the proposed intra-EAC and external trade policies for the poor and the marginalised in the region; identifying interventions and policies required to support economic and social adjustments to trade reforms; and the measures required to support better access to opportunities provided through regional and external trade integration.

The project is divided into two major year-long phases, wherein the activities in each year are research, awareness-raising and advocacy. The implementation is through research and outreach partners. The research component is undertaken from both in-house resources and research partners contracted from the EAC region. There are five outreach partners in the EAC member countries that will carry out the awareness-raising and advocacy activities.

The inception/project awareness-raising workshops were successfully held in February 2009 in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and registered a good turnout of the targeted stakeholders.

Representations

Place & Date	Event/Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
July 15-17, 2008, Geneva, Switzerland	Inaugural Conference of the Society for International Economic Law (SIEL) jointly with the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies	The International Trading System: Revisiting the Past to Address the Future	Atul Kaushik
September 17, 2008, Geneva, Switzerland	UNCTAD Civil Society Hearing	Theme 1: The Global Food Crisis: Addressing a Systemic Failure in Development Strategy; Theme 2: The Global Financial Crisis and Its Impact on Sustainable Development	
November 13-14, 2008, Arusha, Tanzania	Annual Conference of the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (TRAPCA) entitled 'Strengthening and Deepening Economic Integration in Developing Countries'	Moderated one of the sessions and also presented to one of the sessions a paper by Dr Yenkong	Rashid S Kaukab
November 15-16, 2008, Chateau de Bossy, Switzerland	FES Second Workshop on Global Economic Governance Scenarios 2020	Moderated the final session	Rashid S Kaukab
November 17, 2008, Geneva, Switzerland	ICTSD Meeting on Sustainable Development and China Trade Policy	Made a presentation on some issues related to China-Africa trade relationship	Rashid S Kaukab
March 21-22, 2009, Brussels, Belgium	German Marshall Fund of the US (GMFUS) Global Forum	Key discussant for a session entitled 'Competing for Land: How to Balance Food and Energy Security in the Era of Global Warming'	Atul Kaushik

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Place & Date	Event/Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
March 25, 2009, Geneva, Switzerland	ACP/WTI Advisors Meeting on Issues of Interest to ACP Countries in Doha Round	presentation on "Building a Strategic Vision of the Development Component of the Doha Round"	Atul Kaushik
March 31-April 01, 2009, London, UK	Commonwealth Secretariat Workshop on 'Doha: Securing Development Outcomes for Small Economies and LDCs' organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat	A presentation based on a draft paper on "DDA Negotiations: Implications for the Development of SVEs".	Rashid S Kaukab

Other Activities

GRC facilitated the organisation of a meeting entitled 'South Asia: Stakes and Role in the Global Trading System – Doha Round and Beyond' under CUTS project on South Asia Forum on International Trade (SAFIT) II in Geneva, on January 13, 2009. During this meeting, wide interest for CUTS facilitating discussions on South Asian issues in Geneva was expressed. Taking into consideration this interest and with a view to organising its possible future work for South Asian countries, the Centre organised a meeting of the South Asian Geneva mission delegates on March 16, 2009. All the eight South Asian Missions in Geneva were invited. Except for Maldives and Bhutan, all others were represented. They were asked to provide their thoughts on the role they would like GRC to fulfil in trade and development discussions within and beyond Geneva. All participants gratefully recognised this initiative taken by GRC to organise the meetings of South Asian countries in Geneva as a positive step and wanted this effort to continue.

Outreach

- An advocacy Briefing Paper on "African Regional Integration: Turning a Dream into a Reality" was prepared that has been published electronically.
- Another Briefing Paper on "Developing Countries and the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism" was prepared that has also been published electronically.
- The Commonwealth Secretariat has commissioned GRC to contribute a study on "DDA Negotiations: Implications for the Development of SVEs". The draft of the study has been prepared and submitted to the Commonwealth Secretariat. The draft will be finalised and published after discussion in a workshop being organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London on "Doha: Securing Development Outcomes for Small Economies and LDCs" on March 31-April 01, 2009.

Selected CUTS Publications

Books

- Multilateralism will Reinvent Itself in a More Resolute Avatar
- Domestic Preparedness for Services Trade Liberalisation: *Are South Asian Countries Prepared For Further Liberalisation?*
- Politics Triumphs Economics? *Political Economy and the Implementation of Competition Law and Economic Regulation in Developing Countries*

Research Reports

- Training Needs for Commercial and Economic Diplomacy: *An Indian Case Study*
- Regional Trade Openness Index, Income Disparity and Poverty – *An Experiment with Indian Data*
- Political Economy of Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh: *Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Bangladesh Agriculture*
- Is the Stage set for Mainstreaming Trade into National Development Strategy of India? *Results of Field Survey in Two States*
- Trade Liberalisation, Growth and Poverty in Bangladesh
- Trade and Poverty Linkages: A Case Study of the Poultry Industry in Bangladesh
- Exploring the Post-1990s Trade-Labour Linkage in India – *A Set of Case Studies from West Bengal, Maharashtra and Gujarat*
- A Critical Look at Economic Governance in India: *The Case of National Foreign Trade Policy*
- Trade-Development-Poverty Linkages: Reflections from Selected Asian and Sub-Saharan African Countries *Volume II Sector Case Studies*

Monographs

- India and Preferential Trade Agreements: *The Path Traversed and the Road Ahead* (No
- Services Trade and Investment Liberalisation, and Domestic Regulation: *A Summary of Six Country Case Studies*
- Policy-induced Barriers to Competition in Ethiopia
- Competition Law and Intellectual Property Rights: *Controlling Abuse or Abusing Control?*
- Competition Policy: Essential Element for Private Sector Development in Eastern and Southern Africa
- Using Consumer Law to Improve Governance
- The Competition Regime as a Determinant of Consumer Welfare: *Focus on Indian Telecom*
- Competition and Regulation in India, 2009 – A Curtain Raiser

Advocacy Document

- How does Trade Lead to Development and Poverty Reduction? *Evidence from the field*

Toolkit

- Enforcing the Competition Law in Namibia: *A Toolkit*

Briefing Papers

- The Saga of Rising Food Prices
- *From UNCTAD XI to UNCTAD XII – A Stocktaking*
- Mainstreaming Development in the WTO: Developing Countries in the Doha Round
- Aid for Trade: The Process So Far, But What Next?
- Domestic Regulation and Service Trade Liberalisation: *A South Asian Perspective*
- Minibus Operators and Passenger Welfare in Malawi
- Trade as a Tool for Employment Generation
- Services Trade and Domestic Regulation in Kenya

- Services Trade and Domestic Regulation in the Gambia
- Services Trade and Domestic Regulation in Jamaica
- Evolution of Service Sector in Bangladesh: An Overview
- 'Energising' India's Development through Economic Diplomacy
- Activism against Low Labour Standards in Developing Countries: *Is It a bane in disguise?*
- Competition Policy and Economic Growth – *Is There a Causal Factor?*
- Dealing With Anti-Competitive Practices in the Indian Pharmaceuticals and the Health Delivery Sector
- Factors Affecting Competition in the Agricultural Produce Markets in India
- Competition Policy in Malawi: A course to development
- 'Public Interest' Issues In Competition Analysis
- SAARC and BIMSTEC: *Understanding their Experience in Regional Cooperation*
- Do India's AEZs Need a Fresh Start?
- Designing A Consumer Policy Framework For Small States
- The Basics of Bid Rigging
- Cross-Border Mergers and the Experience of Developing Countries
- Comparative Study of Regulatory Framework in Infrastructure Sector: Lessons for
- Using Competition Policy to Regulate MNC Behaviour in Namibia
- Is the Stage set for Mainstreaming Trade into National Development Strategy of India?
- Fighting the Financial Meltdown
- Political Economy of Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh: *Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Bangladesh Agriculture*
- Trade Liberalisation, Growth and Poverty in Bangladesh
- Regional Trade Openness Index, Income Disparity and Poverty: *An Indian Case Study*
- The National Foreign Trade Policy – *An Impact Assessment*
- India's Stand in the WTO Doha Round
- Assessing Impacts of Government Policies on Consumers
- African Regional Integration: *Turning a Dream into a Reality*
- Doha Development Agenda Needs Confidence Building Measures
- Consumer Participation in Electricity Regulation: *Rajasthan Experience*
- Surrogate Advertising in India
- Patent Rights on Goods in Transit: *A Threat to Access Affordable Medicines*
- Trade and Climate Change

Discussion Paper

- Regulation of Higher Education in India
- Informal Sector and Competition: *A Comprehensive Agenda for Research and Action*

Policy Briefs

- Privatisation Initiative in Botswana: Any Bearing on Competition?
- Leveraging Economic Growth Through Better Regulation

Issue Notes

- Competition and Regulation in Indian Retail Sector
- National Competition Policy for India
- Ensuring Quality in Indian Higher Education

Trade Law Brief

- India, Thailand and US on Anti-dumping Measures relating to Shrimp: Another case calling for clarity in the WTO rules
- The Indian Patent (Amendment) Act 2005 and the Novartis Case

Viewpoint Paper

- Competition Authorities and Sector Regulators: *What is the Best Operational Framework?*
- India 2006 National Environment Policy: *Not a Paradigm Shift*

Annual Accounts 2008-09

Management Report

The management of the CUTS International is responsible for preparing the financial statements, which are in accordance with the auditing standards generally applied in India. These are on a consistent manner and are never overstated or misstated for reasons varying from error to fraud. The financial statement includes amounts that are based on management's best estimates, accuracy and consistency.

The management of CUTS International has formulated and maintains a system of internal discipline by providing the integrity and reliability of the financial statements, the protection of assets from unauthorised use or misuse and prevention of fraudulent financial reporting.

In addition, management administers its responsibility by fostering ethical environment so that the organisation's affairs are carried out according to the highest standards of individual as well organisational regulation. This responsibility is reflected in the organisation's code of conduct, development of a systematic process in compliance with the policies, and open communication in resolving conflicts, if any.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have examined the Balance Sheet of **CONSUMER UNITY & TRUST SOCIETY, BHASKAR MARG, BANIPARK, JAIPUR** as at 31st March 2009 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said society.

We have obtained all the information and explanation which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion proper books of accounts have been kept by the society so far as appears from our examinations of the books.

In our opinion and to best of our knowledge, and according to explanations given to us, the said accounts subject to our comments given in the annexed Accounting policies and Notes of accounts- annexed with Balance Sheet, give a true and fair view: -

- (i) In the case of the Balance Sheet of the state of affairs of the abovenamed society as at 31 March , 2009 and
- (ii) In the case of the Income and Expenditure Account of the Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on 31st March 2009.

Place: Jaipur
Dated:

21 SEP 2009



For Goyal Dinesh & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Dinesh Kumar Goyal
(Partner)
MN 72959

Consumer Unity & Trust Society


Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2009

Amount in 'Rs'

Figures as at 31.03.2008	Liabilities	Sch.	Figures as at 31.03.2009	- Figures as at 31.03.2008	Assets	Sch.	Figures as at 31.03.2009
3040395.50	Corpus Fund		3040395.50	17,481,685.95	Fixed Assets	"D"	16,958,496.88
3,376,676.47	Capital Reserve B/F		3,376,676.47	-	Gratuity fund-LIC		1,944,001.00
-	Gratuity Payable		1,944,001.00	32,222,116.30	Cash & Bank Balance	"E"	70,644,765.90
39,822,394.09	Grants-In-Aid	"A"	72,932,963.99	2,593,658.88	Advances & Deposits	"F"	2,606,612.35
11,580,895.42	Depreciation Fund	"B"	11,737,362.30	6,281,300.35	Income & Expenditure A/c		1,798,040.13
200,000.00	Employee Welfare Fund		200,000.00				
558,400.00	Advances	"C"	720,517.00				
<hr/>					<hr/>		
58,578,761.48			93,951,916.26	58,578,761.48			93,951,916.26
<hr/>					<hr/>		

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes of account-Schedule I

For Consumer Unity & Trust Society

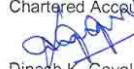

Secretary


Treasurer

AUDITORS' REPORT

In terms of our report of even date annexed hereto

For Goyal Dinesh & Associates
Chartered Accountants


Dinesh K. Goyal
Partner
M N 72959

Jaipur
Dated

21 SEP 2009



Consumer Unity & Trust Society

Income & Expenditure A/C for the Year ended on 31st March 2009

Figures for Previous year	Expenditure	Ann.	Figures for Current year	Figures for Previous year	Income	Ann.	Figures for Current year
14,768,929.90	To Salary & Honorarium	"A"	19,633,340.00	1,100.00	By Donation & Contribution		172,034.00
11,618,864.25	To Office Costs	"B"	9,560,144.34	75,049.69	By Contribution for Publication		31,489.50
3,180,331.34	To Training & Networking	"C"	1,243,426.41	80,182,331.99	By Grant in Aid	"G"	129,196,011.63
23,519,815.67	To Seminar & Workshop	"D"	27,308,997.36	1,090,733.87	By Interest received	"H"	5,581,919.42
25,004,826.96	To Research & Investigation	"E"	69,724,412.89	542,359.00	By Training Fees		95,000.00
2,089,563.87	To Publication	"F"	2,421,171.80	83,071.00	By Mis. Income		311,317.00
1,105,801.80	To Depreciation		1,013,018.53				
686,511.76	To Excess of Income over expenditure		4,483,260.22				
81,974,645.55			135,387,771.55	81,974,645.55			135,387,771.55

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes of account-Schedule I

For Consumer Unity & Trust Society


Secretary


Treasurer

AUDITORS' REPORT

In terms of our report of even date annexed hereto

For Goyal Dinesh & Associates
Chartered Accountants


Dinesh K. Goyal
Partner
M N 72959

Jaipur
Dated

21 SEP 2009





Consumer Unity & Trust Society

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