

# Bridging the Gap

encouraging dialogue between North and South

Newsletter, London Resource Centre, CUTS International, June 2004



London Resource Centre staff; Tamara Lordkipanidze (right) and Emily Woodrooffe (left)

## Bridging the Gap...

By Pradeep S. Mehta

When London Resource Centre (LRC), the new Centre of the India-based international NGO, Consumer Unity and Trust Society, opened a year ago, it claimed a unique position as one of the few organisations in the UK representing a Southern civil society organisation. This is the third overseas centre of CUTS International, the other two being located in Lusaka and Nairobi in Africa.

Basing its work on CUTS International's strong track record in collaborative work, the mission of CUTS-LRC is to bring together Southern civil society with Northern policy makers and to promote understanding and cooperation between representatives of these organisations in the South and the North, particularly on issues of international trade and economics, development and global decision making in the international trading system.

Whereas governments and businesses have well-established channels for international cooperation and exchange, civil society so far lack these channels to exchange different perspectives and strengthen alliances and coalitions. To build a sustainable and just international trading system, which distributes the benefits of trade more equally on a global scale, greater participation of civil society is required. So is a greater degree of cooperation between the North and South.

Many organisations and individuals in the North have for a long time been preoccupied by the wide reaching problems and challenges facing the South but they have so far faced obstacles acquiring first hand knowledge on Southern view points on trade and development. On the other hand Southern NGO voices want and need to be heard by decision makers in the North as

many decisions taken there affects the South directly.

Building on the expertise and experience of CUTS International, CUTS-LRC acts as a hub for North-South networking, for the sharing of expertise and the development of joint projects and research. We encourage and expand the scope of debate and raise awareness of developing countries' perspectives on international trade, economics and development issues. Our aim is to raise the profile of developing country civil society organisations and to expand the opportunities for Southern groups to get involved in policy discussions on an international level.

The first year has seen the consolidation of CUTS International in London. LRC is currently governed by three founder directors Phil Evans, Julius Sen, and myself and managed by Tamara Lordkipanidze. In its first year, the centre also extensively benefited from Olivia Jensen's

continued on p.2

## कट्स CUTS

Established in 1983, Consumer Unity and Trust Society is a research and advocacy group based in India, with overseas centres in Lusaka, Zambia, Nairobi, Kenya and London, UK.

CUTS International's work is divided into five operational areas:

- consumer protection
- trade and development
- competition, investment and regulatory policies
- sustainable production and consumption
- rural consumers and women's empowerment

CUTS International works with several national, regional and international organisations such as Consumers International, Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment. It serves on several policy making bodies at the Government of India and is accredited to the UN Conference on Trade and Development and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

## NEWS:

### Is it really safe?



'Is it really safe?', a book comprised of a number of articles on the safety of commonly used everyday consumer products, was launched on March 13 in New Delhi by the Secretary in the Indian Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MOCA), Navin Chawla. Navin Chawla assured an active government involvement in exposing consumer causes and called for a mass movement to help remove consumer apathy in India. Haling CUTS International's long dedication to consumer safety issues, the organisation was invited to help the minister communicate the message of safe consumption and disseminate information on the issue.

### Community based water management

Proper management of water resources and community partnerships can solve water crisis in desert areas such as Rajasthan. This was one of the main conclusions at a seminar co-organised by CUTS-CART and the World Bank South Asia Water and Sanitation Programme.

The seminar was held in Jaipur on March 20, and was aimed at raising awareness among civil society groups on issues of water allocation, availability and distribution. The seminar also showcased some successful case studies where community based water management had led to better conservation and distribution of available water resources.

## Bridging the gap...

Continued from page 1  
substantial visionary contributions in setting up the centre and building its network and profile. Although LRC is working under tight budget constraints we still have number of devoted professional individuals promoting the organisations' future objectives. In July 2003 LRC was launched by a well received event held on the sidelines of a Commonwealth Business Council's meeting on trade. Prominent business leader of India and Co-Chairman of CBC, Rahul Bajaj; Editor of Financial Express (India), Dr Sanjaya Baru and DFID Investment Team's Head, Roger Nellist spoke on the occasion. They reverberated the purpose of the LRC as well as their experiences with various activities of CUTS International. LRC representatives also

participated in several conferences, workshops and seminars and developed a strong network with resource persons and organisations in the UK.

This work will continue and expand into new areas of interest, such as launching a project on developing alliances between producers in the South and consumers in the North, in order to reduce the trade tensions arising due to among other things standards. At the same time LRC will disseminate information on CUTS International's areas of expertise to decision makers and NGOs in UK and Europe and promote the research coming out of CUTS International's agenda in the



Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary general of CUTS International

areas of competition, investment and market access.

LRC proposes to bridge the gap between the developing and the developed world and work actively to promote partnership and alliances with other civil society organisations sharing our goal:

*Economic equity and social justice in the international economic system.*

## Competition policy and law in Mekong Countries

**Launch meeting:** Hanoi, Vietnam 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> April 2004

One thing is to have a competition law, another to have an *effective* competition law. To accelerate and consolidate the process towards a formal competition law and policy in three developing countries in the Mekong Basin region, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, CUTS has proposed a research-based advocacy and capacity building project. Funded by SECO, Switzerland, and administered by London Resource Centre, the project was kick-started with a meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam. The meeting focused on the need for competition law and policy and for shaping the competition regime to fit the needs of the economy, the international dimensions and the

developing countries' experience.

All three countries in the region are pursuing market reforms but given their capacity and resource restraints, technical assistance is needed to catch up with the other members of ASEAN and proceed on the accession process into the WTO. The strong historical, geographic and cultural links between Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia allow for a practical approach to cross fertilise and share experiences to create positive synergy in the region.

During the meeting, experts debated competition policy and laws in developing countries. A plan of

action was adopted and the methodology of the field research set out. The research will be undertaken over the next two years resulting in country reports and advocacy documents recommending policy changes for each of the countries. However, Pradeep Mehta, secretary general of CUTS International, emphasised that the aim of the project was not to dictate these countries what to do but to facilitate policy makers and stakeholders to decide what they want to do for themselves. The project will develop local capacities within civil society, academia and government officials to deal with issues related to competition and competition laws.

# Bleak future for Doha Agenda

**Seminar:** *From Cancun to Hong Kong: Progress inside and outside the WTO, London 23th January 2004*

A bleak future for the Doha Agenda; this was the prevailing apprehension in the seminar 'From Cancun to Hong Kong: Progress inside or outside the WTO', organised by CUTS International's London Resource Centre. The participants included experts from academia and civil society groups, both from India and the UK, and the purpose was to discuss the possibility of salvaging the Doha agenda before the forthcoming Hong Kong minis-

terial of the WTO in 2005. Concerns were expressed that since many of the important players in the WTO are going for elections before Hong Kong and both the US and the EU are changing the leadership of their trade negotiations, countries will be reluctant to make bold decisions.

Furthermore as the US is not particularly interested in the Doha agenda, the future of the agenda de-

pends to a large extent on another major player, the EU. But as pointed out by several experts, EU is not particularly good at negotiations and may not be so keen on the Singapore issues as it appears. Their insistence on these may be nothing more than a tactical ploy to block any progress on agriculture.

The Doha agenda can be salvaged before Hong Kong. However, the question remains, will it be?

# Investment for development

**CUTS report and seminar:** *'Strategising Investment for Development' launched during International seminar on FDI policies and regulation, Geneva 28th-30th January 2004*



Panelists debating FDI in Geneva

support of the Department for International Development (DfID). It was implemented in seven countries: India, Bangladesh, Brazil,

Hungary, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. Introducing the report, Pradeep Mehta, secretary general of CUTS International, highlighted the results of a survey on civil society perceptions of FDI carried out as part of the project. The survey showed that respondents are highly aware of their own country experiences and that countries with more positive experiences in the field are favourably inclined towards FDI.

The study was released by Karl Sauvant, Chief of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development (DITF), UNCTAD:

- This is the first time UNCTAD has worked with an NGO on a project...it was a privilege for UNCTAD to work with CUTS on the IFD project

The following seminar focused on the experience of least developed and large emerging economies regarding FDI. One main conclusion was that developing countries should have policy flexibility in the context of WTO commitments and other international agreements to further their own development. Although least developed countries are keen to attract FDI in manufacturing and non-traditional areas such as services, their share in the world trade is less than 1%. Large emerging economies, in contrast, have attracted increasing amounts of FDI, but in some large emerging economies such as Brazil, this has not produced much benefit for the economic growth process.

Countries need to rethink their strategies for economic development and to integrate FDI (foreign direct investment) into those strategies says CUTS report. 'Strategising Investment for development' was launched in Geneva at 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2004 during a panel discussion on 'Civil Society Perceptions of FDI', which was succeeded by a seminar on 'FDI Policies and Regulations'.

The event marked the ending of a CUTS implemented two year research project 'Investment for Development' (IFD), conducted in collaboration with UNCTAD and with the

## NEWS:

### Anaemic motherhood in India

Anaemia is one of the major causes of the increasing maternal mortality rate in developing countries. Speaking at a conference on safe motherhood organised in April in Chittorgarh by CUTS — Centre for Human Development (CUTS-CHD), collector R S Gathala expressed concern over the higher number of anaemic women in India and emphasised on the importance of promoting blood



donation to save women in labour. Also a better more balanced nutrition to pregnant women and more awareness raising community initiatives are required to counter the problem. In Rajasthan, where the conference was held, almost 50% of women are anaemic.

### Road safety is no accident

To coincide with the theme of road traffic injury on World Health Day this year, CUTS India organised a panel discussion on April 7 highlighting the road safety problems in India and the measures to prevent them. Even in slums in Calcutta, traffic is the biggest killer. High speed and poor conditions of the roads were pointed out as the main causes of accidents. CUTS International will continue to work on the issue under the Road Safety Initiative all throughout the year.

# Afro-Asian Networking in New Delhi

From the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> of April delegates from Afro-Asian civil society gathered in Delhi to discuss the role of civil society in the multilateral trading system. London Resource Centre shares impressions from the three days of intensive debates

by Signe Glahn and Emily Woodrooffe

In the afternoon on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, Le Meridian Hotel in Delhi was buzzing with multiple different languages and conversations, as delegates from all over the world registered for the three day conference 'From Cancun to Sao Paulo: The role of civil society in the international trading system'. Over the next three days more than 100 participants from over 40 countries assembled, representing governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs, business organisations, research and media institutions and academia. The focus of the conference was the role that civil society might play in the future of the multilateral trading system, and how it could engage more, both at national and international policy making levels.

## Wide ranging debates

The first day at 5pm the inaugural session began with several speakers, including Colin Ball, Director of the Commonwealth Foundation (UK), who co-funded the conference. This was followed by a reception and dinner for the attendees. The following two days sessions started at 9am and finished around 6.30pm, but delegates had a good



chance during the tea/coffee breaks and mealtimes to network and discuss further the broad range of issues that were raised in each segment.

Each session had a panel with a chairman, a keynote speaker presenting a paper, and two or three other speakers who each gave a response to the topic. Presentations by the speakers touched on many aspects of the world trading system, which included possible ways forward for the UNCTAD XI meeting in June, reasons for the outcome of the trade talks at Can-

cun, and case studies of experiences from organisations both in Asia, Africa and the Pacific. After their discussions, the Chairman opened up the floor to questions and comments. The debates were lively and vivid and focused on the central challenges faced by Southern civil society in dealing with international trade issues. The issues that were raised throughout the conference, particularly in the question times, were interesting, complex and wide ranging, which reflects the complex nature of the trading system, let alone the multifaceted issues relating to the causes of poverty and how they can be addressed.

## An enhanced role for NGOs

The general line of debates seemed to follow two strands, one which fundamentally questions the basics of the neo liberal paradigm and another, which seeks to find improvements within the current paradigm. Either way, as stressed by K. A. Azad Rana, Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organisation, there is an urgent need for developing the capacity of developing and least developed countries when engaging in trade negotiations. Here the UNCTAD and the UNDP could play a more productive role, if national governments and civil society from developing coun-

### Conference facts:

The three-day Afro-Asian Civil Society Seminar titled *From Cancun to São Paulo: The Role of Civil Society in the International Trading System* took place in New Delhi, April 12-15 2004 and was organised by CUTS International.

More than 100 participants from over 40 countries representing civil society, academia, governments, IGO and businesses discussed and debated key themes like civil society's role within the international trading system, trade capacity building in developing and least developed countries and the need to recognise differences within the developing world when forming international alliances.

The distinguished list of speakers over the three days included representatives from the Indian Government Department of Commerce, the WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP, and the Egyptian Ambassador to Greece.

A draft for a joint 'Afro-Asian Civil Society Statement on Trade' was discussed and once feedback has been taken into account the statement will be presented at UNCTAD's quadrennial conference in June.

Another outcome of the conference was an Afro-Asian Civil Society Network on Trade, which will work together to implement the research agenda and do advocacy at different levels.

For more information please see [www.cuts-international.org](http://www.cuts-international.org)



At the conference there was plenty of time to chat between seminars, workshops and debates

tries recognised their strengths and limitations and worked within them. The question of the role of civil society in building this capacity emerged several times and the forum recommended a research agenda for the civil society organisations to take forward. NGOs are an integral and vital part of the multilateral trading system and their role could and should be enhanced over time as underlined by Magda Shahin, Egypt's Ambassador to Greece:  
- Increased awareness of NGOs on issues confronting the international trading system is indeed helping developing countries in manifesting their concerns of development in a better way.

**Domestic agendas and international coalitions**

However, if the civil society organizations are in a position to facilitate the building of international capacities and coalitions, the question remains how they

would reconcile the international civil society perspectives with the national perspectives. The challenge is to recognise the complex relationship between the governments and the NGOs – on a national as well as international level - particularly when the non-state actors challenge the existing paradigm of governance and related issues. There could be joint international advocacy strategies around some issues such as it has already been seen in Cancun and on the issues of health and TRIPS, but whether this can be taken further or broadened remains to be seen. The domestic dimensions of the issues and their linkages with the international trading system should be recognised and researched properly. The Afro-Asian Civil Society Network on Trade, one of the outcomes of the conference, will look at addressing these issues in the future.

**Comments and afterthoughts from delegates:**

*It was a grand success in multifold ways. You have really worked very hard in achieving such a level of quality. Striving for an excellence through NGO with lot of constraints is a hurriculane task which you have done it so very successfully*

- **Ashok Bapna**, Centre for Trade & Investment(CTI), Jaipur

*My warmest thanks for a wonderful seminar in Delhi. The deliberations were deep and thought provoking.*

- **Bhaskar Sharma**, SAWTEE, Nepal

*The overall impression of the seminar was that there was insufficient focus, clarity and coherence in its structure or choice of topics and hence its outcome. However, it was far more productive and successful in creating an awareness of just how complex the task of building networks and policy coherence across two major components of the developing world really was.*

- **Julius Sen**, London School of Economics

*I really gained from participating. Thanks again for your invitation and hospitality.*

- **Alok Ray**, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

*Thank you very much for including me in your seminar as well as excellent organizing for this CUTS meeting! I learnt a lot from this meeting and feel greatness of you Indian people*

- **Shuahihua Cheng**, Shanghai Municipal Development Research Center

**Up coming conferences**

**WTO Public Symposium**

May, Geneva

CUTS International will participate in the WTO Public Symposium 2004 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May and will organise two panel discussions:

One will be on South-South cooperation with participation of among others Ambassador F.d.S. Correa from Brazil, Ambassador T. Ali from Bangladesh and Laksmi Puri from UNCTAD.

Another will focus on competition policy under the title:

'Multilateral Competition Framework: *Where and how?* Speakers will include Patrick Krauskopf, COMCO, Phil Evans, CA and Tai-moon Stewart from UWI, Trinidad.

**UNCTAD XI**

June, Sao Paulo, Brazil

CUTS International will take part in the UNCTAD conference in Sao Paulo in Brazil from the 13-18<sup>th</sup> of June. The main theme for this year's conference is:

*Enhancing coherence between national development strategies and global economic processes towards economic growth and development, particularly of developing countries.*

During the week long conference, a number of sessions on trade, investment, finance, technology and development-related topics will be organised.

**Meeting on Standard Setting**

September, London

In September CUTS London Resource Centre will organise a meeting on the 'Effects of Standards Setting in traded goods on Developing Country exporters' – particularly regarding food products.

This initial meeting will hope to engage key parties in discussing critical issues and formulating a coherent plan to assess and address the true effects these standards have on trade.

If you are interested in participating in this discussion, please contact us at CUTS International, London Office (see p.8 for details).

**In the next issue of LRC newsletter we will have first hand reports from the conferences**

# Will regional replace multilateral? An Asian perspective

By Olivia Jensen

All over the world, regional trade agreements are being signed, strengthened and extended. One of these, the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement covering ten countries of South-East Asia, kicked in last year. The more developed nations in the grouping removed most tariffs in 2003, including those on sensitive agricultural goods, while the less developed countries, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, have until 2006-2008 to bring down trade barriers.

ASEAN has also started discussions with China to extend the free trade area by 2010, which would make the world's largest free trade area. Trade between ASEAN and China surged to US\$78bn in 2003, reflecting rising imports of raw materials, parts and components into China. ASEAN currently enjoys a trade surplus with China and a FTA between them would allow ASEAN countries greater access to the vast Chinese market. ASEAN has also raised the possibility of trade agreements with Japan and India.

Last month, India and China conducted preliminary talks on a bilateral trade agreement as trade between the two giants heads towards US\$10bn a year.

Does all this activity in Asia reflect a region trying to make rapid progress while the multilateral World Trade Organization struggles to lift itself out of a rut?

Regional trade agreements are often seen as rivals to or distractions from the 'real' business of liberalising international trade which takes place at the WTO. Regionalism is sometimes presented as a threat to the benefits that trade liberalisation brings and a reflection of failure at the multilateral level. But in Asia, a regional push seems rather to go hand in hand with international efforts. Becoming a member of the WTO, like becoming part of ASEAN is a mark of progress for liberalising economies.

In Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, these are seen as steps on the road to becoming globally integrated market economies and are



Cambodia was admitted into ASEAN in 1999

accompanied by domestic reforms. At home, they are embarking on broad programmes to encourage private enterprise and to end privileges for state-owned companies. Efforts to reduce discrimination against foreign investors has swung even further, with Vietnam now offering some of the most extensive Foreign Direct Incentives in the region. The countries are also experimenting with different forms of privatisation.

Accession to the WTO is another achievement along the same road and it is as much about what happens within the country's borders as what crosses them. In order to comply with the conditions for entry to the WTO, developing countries undertake a long – and arduous – process of reviewing domestic laws. A huge number of laws need to be redrafted or amended.

WTO membership is both part of and a spur for domestic reform and governments are fully committed to it. Cambodia has completed the accession process, with assistance from multilateral donors, and was accepted as a Member of the WTO last year, although its accession is still to be ratified by the national parliament. Currently, Vietnam has drafted and will debate a competition law, while investment laws, commercial laws and intellectual property laws are all coming under the microscope as it prepares its bid for membership.

On the other hand, civil society

groups have sometimes found themselves left behind in these developments. While government officials comfortably use the vocabulary of liberalisation and competition, many in civil society think more in terms of planning and co-operation. Changes at this level



are bound to be slower, but if new policies are going to be implemented effectively, this gap needs to be closed. This is

where organisations like CUTS International come in, to share their knowledge of economic reform processes with groups in other countries who want to participate fully in the important debates going on around them.

Olivia Jensen lives and works in South-East Asia, where she is undertaking research for her PhD on water privatisation. In spring 2003 she set up the CUTS' Resource Centre in London.

## CUTS International initiatives in South East Asia

To share our knowledge of economic reform processes, competition and trading systems CUTS International is currently undertaking several projects in the region:

For example in April, Mark II was launched in Vietnam by C-CIER (see p.2). The cross-country research-based advocacy and capacity building programme is aimed at accelerating the process towards an appropriate competition policy and law in the three Mekong Provinces, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. The project will soon be extended to include Nepal, Bangladesh and India.

## Recent publications and briefing papers

Mehta, P.S. & Winters, L.A. (ed.): **Bridging the Differences – Analysis of Five Issues of the WTO Agenda: Investment, Competition, Anti-Dumping, Mobility of Labour, Textiles and Clothing** (CUTS 2003)

- First publication from EINTAD, EU-India Network on Trade and Development has brought together researchers from India, European Institute for Asian Studies in Brussels and University of Sussex, UK to analyse the five issues - timely and valuable research, especially seen in the perspective of the failure of Cancun.

**We've been here before – perspectives on the Cancun ministerial** (CUTS 2003)

- A collection of articles on the collapse of Cancun bringing together a wide range of the pre-Cancun and post-Cancun analyses published in leading international newspapers.

**Pulling Up Our Socks – a study of competition regimes of seven developing countries of Africa and Asia: The 7-Up Project** (CUTS 2003)  
Price: \$50

- Report on competition law and competition law enforcement in developing countries: A comparative analysis of the experiences of seven developing countries (India, Kenya, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Zambia), which have adopted, with varying degrees of success, a competition law instrument and explores the reasons for their successes and failures. Stand alone reports on each country are also available.

**Strategising Investment for Development** (CUTS-C-CIER 2003)

- A report from CUTS studying investment policies, performance and perceptions in seven developing and transition economies; Bangladesh, Brazil, Hungary, India, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia.

**Globalisation, Economic Liberalisation and the Indian Informal Sector – A Roadmap for Advocacy**

- Project on globalisation and the Indian informal sector examining the premise that globalisation and economic liberalisation can result in potential gains, even for the poor, but there is the need for safety measures.

**CUTS' quarterly newsletters:**

**Economiquity** (Oct-Dec 2003)  
- about the collapse of the Cancun Ministerial.

**Reguletter** (Oct-Dec 2003)  
This quarter, the newsletter highlights the adoption of new initiatives for competition law and policy by several developing countries.

**Policy Watch** (Oct-Dec 2003)  
- covers labour reforms initiated in India.

All publications can be obtained by contacting CUTS-LRC, Gordon House, 6, Lissenden Gardens, London NW5 1LX, tel: 0207 482 8830, email: [cuts-london@cuts-international.org](mailto:cuts-london@cuts-international.org)

## Don't miss out...

- upcoming opportunities



### Civil Society Challenge Fund

**Eligible Organisations:** UK based non-profit organisations

**Funding Criteria:** Projects should focus on building the capacity of Southern civil society to engage in national and in local decision making processes, on building improved international linkages and on raising awareness of entitlements and rights to poor people

**Funding available per activity:** 100% funding up to £500,000 for a maximum of 5 years

**Deadline:** 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2004

For more information, go to [www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)

### Asia-Link Programme

**Eligible organisations:** EU based research institutions

**Funding criteria:** Asia-Link is an EC grant, which foster cooperation in the field of higher education within three strands, Partner Support, information support and studies and capacity building actions

**Deadline:** 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2004

For more information, go to [www.europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid)

### Global Opportunities Fund

**Eligible Organisations:** A wide range of organisations, preferably with UK based branches

**Funding Criteria:** Six themes have been identified as priorities for Foreign Commonwealth Office: Counter Terrorism, Climate Change and Energy Engaging with the Islamic World, Reuniting Europe Programme, Strengthening Relations with Emerging Markets, Human Rights and Democracy and Good Governance Programme (HRDGG)

**Deadline:** open ended

For more information, contact FCO: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)

### Community Fund

**Eligible organisations:** UK based organisations set up for benevolent, philanthropic or charitable purposes

**Funding criteria:** Community Fund gives Lottery money to charities and voluntary and community groups. They give grants mainly to help meet the needs of those at greatest disadvantage in society and also to improve the quality of life in the community.

**Deadline:** open ended

For more information, go to: [www.c-f.org.uk](http://www.c-f.org.uk)

## IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER...

- Exclusive first hand report from the UNCTAD conference in June in Sao Paulo, Brazil
- New publications and briefings from CUTS International
- News and events at London Resource Centre
- Feature from the WTO civil society symposium in Geneva
- The funding deadlines of the autumn
- Extracts from Pradeep S. Mehta's new collection of essays compiled from a long writing career



The next issue of LRC newsletter will be out September 2004



## Become a Friend of CUTS

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