

# CUTS IN ACTION

CUTS  
International

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## What are you doing for others?

*For certain is death for the born, and certain is birth for the dead;  
therefore, grieve not over the inevitable – Bhagavad Gita*



This stanza from the *Gita* is something, which has guided me for long, so I never ever lament over someone's death. In fact, it is the other lessons from the *Gita*, which have given me the courage to face situations, when others would have run away from the battlefield. Be that as it may, the role of every human being in the society, in one way or the other, is responsible for the progress and welfare of that society. This role demands to shoulder the burden of carrying the society towards progress and a happy future. Since the progress of the society is the sum total of the progress of individual citizens, every citizen has to come forward for the progress of the society. Or, as Martin Luther King had said, "Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

Charity has been our ancient tradition. In fact, the Indian ethos rests on selfless service. For human welfare, the great sage, Dadhichi, sacrificed his living body. The *Jataka* tales illustrate the stories of sacrifice by Gautam Buddha

(Bodhisattva) to save humans, as well as animals in his many previous incarnations. Following the dictum, 'charity begins at home', I have pledged to donate my body after death, so that parts of my body, such as eyes, liver, etc., would serve some needy human. This is written in my will and, thus, I feel great pleasure in offering such a humble donation.

Many Marxists leaders of West Bengal have also made similar announcements. Kanwalmal Lodha of Jaipur had a similar belief. In 1999, writing a letter to a Jaipur-based medical college, he had pledged his dead body to the college for studies. Such noble people, like Lodha, have rendered a significant service after death to their fellow men and women.

Though many old and archaic traditions have fettered Indian society even today, a new light of awakening is appearing, with the change of time. Many people have started donating blood and eyes. Blood donation serves a great deal in helping patients who are in dire need. If you come forward to uphold such noble ideals by donating

something of your own that could help save someone's life, then others would follow the suit. This is how a healthy society is created.

The Guinness Book of World Records notes that the largest blood donation in a single day has been achieved in India. It was organised by *Dera Sacha Sauda* at Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan on October 10, 2004, which attracted 17,921 donors. The donation drive yielded 13,938.5 units (a unit = 350 ml) of blood in the 12-hours that it ran for!

Many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are busy in sensitising people on such noble issues. CUTS, too, is working for making the world a better place to live in. If you have something, share it with others, because in the end, it will return to you or if not, it will serve someone like you. Service, we must remember, never goes in vain. And, finally, remember what Henry Ward Beecher said, "It is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich".

*Pradeep S. Mehta*

Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General

### Interacting with CUTS' Personnel on Several Issues



My first interaction with CUTS was when I received a Bill Blow-up on the Competition Bill of India, 2001, from it. When I started reading this six-page excellent document, I could not stop until I finished it. Immediately, I rang up their head office in Jaipur to know more about the organisation. They were very kind enough in sending me more materials on the subject.

My interaction with CUTS did not end with receiving a document and making use of it. Since mid-2002, I have been interacting with CUTS' personnel on several issues. Around that time, I became the Minister of State for Information Technology & Communication, when I decided to take help from CUTS on policy matters. Among others, Pradeep Mehta suggested that my Department should make use of real estate in the custody of the Postal Department.

Sanjay Paswan

Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, India

### Representing Developing Countries' Interests in the International Fora



CUTS is a highly visible NGO, based in a developing country. It has succeeded in making its development concerns and policy advocacy effectively heard by policy makers and negotiators in both developed and developing countries. Its succinct and insightful policy analysis series have been a must reading for me, as well as many colleagues in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

One of the core strengths lies in its advocacy work. What fascinates me the most is that CUTS has been working both as a grassroots voluntary organisation and also as a professional organisation, doing advocacy work at the national and international level. The strength of CUTS lies in representing developing countries' interests in the international fora.

James X Zhan

Chief, International Investment & Technology Arrangements  
UNCTAD, Switzerland

## EVENTS

### Promoting Competition

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS C-CIER) organised the Final Review Conference of its project entitled, 'Advocacy and Capacity Building on Competition Policy and Law in Asia' (7Up2 Project), at Bangkok, on June 27-28, 2006.

Speaking at the conference, Philippe Brusick, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch of UNCTAD, Geneva said that promotion of fair trade rules is essential for promoting growth with equity. Marc Proksch of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) spoke of the need for Asian economies to promote competition at the domestic level in order to be globally competitive.

Apart from the project partners representing leading civil society organisations (CSOs), research institutions and consumer associations from the six project countries, the meeting also drew renowned experts on competition, representatives of inter-governmental organisations and representatives of competition authorities.

([www.cuts-international.org/news-cutsJune06.htm#asian29june06](http://www.cuts-international.org/news-cutsJune06.htm#asian29june06))

### Exploring IBSA Initiative

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE), Jaipur, along with South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), Johannesburg, South Africa, organised the final meeting of the project 'South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring IBSA Initiative' at Pretoria, on June 28, 2006.

Representatives from private sector and exports/imports, academia and CSOs from India, Brazil and South Africa attended the final consultation. The draft synthesis paper on the project was presented, which included the

findings by researchers from India, Brazil and South Africa.

([www.cuts-international.org/eventsreport-June06.htm#ibsa28june06](http://www.cuts-international.org/eventsreport-June06.htm#ibsa28june06))

### Creating Global Friendships

CUTS London Resource Centre (CUTS LRC) organised 'Friends of CUTS' Launch event, which aims to introduce 'Friends of CUTS' scheme to reach out to a wider sections of the people, at London, UK, on May 31, 2006.

Tamara Lordkipanidze of LRC spoke about the role of LRC as well as the unique networking scheme, 'Friends of CUTS', that brings together individuals and organisations interested in promoting a global economy that works for the development of poor nations and their people.

([www.cuts-london.org/friends](http://www.cuts-london.org/friends))

### Strive against Social Crimes

CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD), with the support of *Rajya Mahila Ayog* (State Women's Commission) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), organised a state-level campaign against 'Child Marriage' at Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, from April 15 to May 15, 2006.

The Centre organised a number of events like cultural programmes, awareness campaign, slogan writing, workshops, rallies and distribution of resource materials for the elimination of child marriages and making people aware of its demerits.

([www.cuts-international.org/eventsreport-may06.htm#child15apr06](http://www.cuts-international.org/eventsreport-may06.htm#child15apr06))

### Children of Unknown World

CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART), in partnership with Save the Children (UK), organised a state level advocacy seminar under the project entitled, '*Hum Bhi Bachche Hain*' (we, too, are children) at Jaipur, on May 26, 2006.

In the seminar, suggestions were given for the inclusion of adequate provisions in the Child Labour Act to protect the rights of Child Domestic Workers (CDWs). A future plan of action was finalised, based on the recommendations emerging out of the seminar, which will be submitted to the Rajasthan State Government.

([www.cuts-international.org/eventsreport-may06.htm#cdw26may06](http://www.cuts-international.org/eventsreport-may06.htm#cdw26may06))

### Trade for Human Development

CUTS Africa Resource Centre, Nairobi, in partnership with the Nairobi office of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Germany, organised a regional trade dialogue on 'Linking Trade Policies to National and Regional Development Agenda', at Naivasha, Kenya, on April 27-28, 2006.

The dialogue underscored the need for trade for equitable development, employment creation, observance of human rights and social justice, as well as the need for South-South Cooperation.

([www.cuts-international.org/eventsreport-apr06.htm#es27apr06](http://www.cuts-international.org/eventsreport-apr06.htm#es27apr06))

### Mass Awareness on Drugs

Many socio-economic factors impact the rational practices in availing health care facilities in India. Therefore, at every stage of health services, each stakeholder has to make a certain degree of compromise, which, ultimately, jeopardises the health sector of our country. This assertion was made in a panel discussion on 'Rational Use of Drugs: Are Doctors Alone Responsible?', organised by CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre (CUTS CRC) to celebrate the World Health Day, at Kolkata, on April 07, 2006.

The participants opined that the WHO's slogan to 'Work Together for Health' cannot be implemented if all the stakeholders are sensitised enough to deliver their responsibilities properly.

([www.cuts-international.org/eventsreport-apr06.htm#health7apr06](http://www.cuts-international.org/eventsreport-apr06.htm#health7apr06))

## International Trade Diplomacy



CUTS Institute for Regulation and Competition (CIRC), in partnership with Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, and Institute for Trade and Commercial Diplomacy (ITCD), US, organised a four-day training workshop on 'Diplomacy in International Trade' at New Delhi, during June 28-July 01, 2006.

The training workshop was addressed by Prabir Sengupta, Director, IIFT and Shrawan Nigam, Consultant, Planning Commission and Fellow, C-CIER.

Participants from various ministries, Government of India attended the workshop in which areas related to Commercial Diplomacy were covered. Pradeep S Mehta addressed the valedictory session while Geza Feketekuty, President, ITCD, US gave away the certificates to the participants.

## Mehta Appointed on two Working Groups of the Planning Commission

The Planning Commission of India has appointed Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International, as member of its newly formed Working Groups on Consumer Protection and on Competition Policy under the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

The Working Group on Consumer Protection will recommend a comprehensive set of policies, programmes and action plans to launch a strong paradigm for consumer protection.

The Working Group on Competition Policy will recommend a set of comprehensive policy instruments and strategic interventions to effectively generate a culture of competition to enhance competition. Mehta attended the first meeting on Competition Policy at New Delhi, on June 30, 2006.

More on: [www.cuts-international.org/news-cutsJune06.htm#psm24June06](http://www.cuts-international.org/news-cutsJune06.htm#psm24June06)

### Too Costly, Too Scarce

Dalia Dey of CUTS CRC participated in the World Health Assembly (WHA) held at Geneva, Switzerland, during May 22-27, 2006.

Dalia presented a paper, 'Medicines: Too Costly, Too Scarce', written jointly by Margaret Ewen of Health Action International Europe and herself, in a technical briefing 'Medicines for Chronic Diseases: Too Costly, Too Scarce, Too Important to Ignore'.

### A Civil Society Review

George Cheriyan and R K Sharma of CUTS CART attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Society Review of the 'National Common Minimum Programme' (CMP), organised by *Wada Na Todo Abhiyan* (WNTA) along with other like-minded organisations, at New Delhi, on May 23, 2006.

The meeting was held to facilitate a comprehensive analysis of the role of the government in its achievement of the CMP and formulate policy recommendations and strategic actions for advocacy in this context.

### Negotiating Positions in WTO

Chandan Mukherjee of CUTS CITEE attended the international conference on 'South Asia in the WTO', organised by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka, and FES, Colombo, at Colombo, Sri Lanka, on May 18-19, 2006.

The conference provided an important platform to analyse the negotiating positions of individual South Asian countries on the various issues of the July Framework Agreement in the aftermath of the WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong.

### Investment for Development

Pradeep S Mehta and KC Sharma of CUTS International attended a one-day seminar on 'Critical Issues of Investment in Rajasthan', in the context of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, organised by the Planning Commission, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), at Jaipur, on April 12, 2006.

The main objective of the seminar was to receive feedback on the critical issues and areas of focus pertaining to Rajasthan's development in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan.

## How to Proceed in Africa?

Sajeev Nair and Rijit Sengupta represented CUTS International in the Fifth Annual Conference of the International Competition Network (ICN) held at Cape



Town, South Africa, on May 03-05, 2006. CUTS International announced the release of its book 'Competition Regimes in the World - A Civil Society Report' during the conference and also organised a roundtable, 'Civil Society Participation in Evolving a Functional Competition Regime - How to Proceed in Africa'.



## SHORT CUTS

- Prana, Kumar of CUTS CITEE attended a meeting organised on 'IBSA and Human Security' by the Centre for Policy Studies, in Johannesburg, during June 29-30, 2006. The focus of the meeting was on cooperation between IBSA countries.
- Mehta attended the sub-committee meeting of the Advisory Committee on National Competition Policy of Competition Commission of India (CCI), at New Delhi, on June 05, 2006. He also attended the ADB Competition Law and Policy Roundtable at New Delhi, on May 16, 2006.
- Tamara Lordkipanidze attended an Exploratory Research Meeting, focused on the development of a multi-national study of Transparency, Governance and Accountability, within the third sectors of the UK, Hungary, Georgia, and the US, at London, on May 25-27, 2006.
- Dr N C Pahariya represented CUTS CITEE at the interactive session 'India-GCC Comprehensive Economic Co-operation Agreement (CECA)', organised jointly by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in New Delhi, on May 01, 2006.
- Bipul Chatterjee of CUTS CITEE made a presentation to UNCTAD India for a study on 'Socio Economic Implications of Geographical Indications Registration for Agriculture and Non-agricultural Products', at New Delhi, on April 18, 2006.
- Mita Dutta of CUTS CRC attended a national seminar on 'Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs): General Issues and Implications for India', organised by the *Rabindra Bharati* University (RBU), Kolkata, on April 12, 2006.
- K S Sajeev and Vladimir Chilanya of CUTS ARC participated in a half-day discussion organised by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), to discuss the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)-Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), at the Agriculture Consultative Forum (ACF), at Lusaka, on April 03, 2006.



## VISITORS

Name	Comments
Jamie M Zimmerman Associate Director, Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, Washington, DC 20004	Thank you for graciously inviting me to your Centre to discuss trade and development in India. You do great work and I am positive I will benefit from the insights I gained here. All the best!
Gitika Kapoor, Director, RA Poddar Institute of Management, Jaipur	There is a lot of innovative work, which is being done here, especially with respect to emerging issues of concern to business, industry and government. I wish them all the success in their efforts, and especially for the upcoming CIRC.
L. Alan Winters Director of the Development Research Group, World Bank	I am very much impressed by the intelligence and drive of CUTS' staff. Also impressed by the progress. I heard about in putting competition on the Indian policy agenda. Well done.

## FORUM

### DFID Lauds CUTS' Efforts on Competition & Trade

I enjoyed meeting Pradeep S Mehta and Tamara Lordkipanidze on May 03, 2006, in the absence overseas of Hilary Benn, and learning more about CUTS International's work on competition policy and trade. Both these agendas are very important for equitable development and the DFID attaches priority to each.

We value the productive working relationship that CUTS and the DFID have built up in recent years on competition policy issues. In particular, we are pleased to have been supporting CUTS in the development and implementation of the successful '7Up' competition model in Asia and Africa.

CUTS could also apply to our Civil Society Challenge Fund, which makes project awards for up to five years. Although we are considering the future of our Asia Regional Poverty Fund (which has supported CUTS 7Up2 Project), CUTS could keep in touch with its managers, in case there is scope for further engagement.

On your trade work, I would be interested in reading your reports on special products, as well as on Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT), and hope to receive the copies of the same, once the studies have been completed later this year.

**Gareth Thomas**

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
Department for International Development (DFID)  
London. UK*

### Glimpses of Ongoing and Future Projects of CUTS

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

CUTS CITEE has undertaken the project entitled, 'Trade Facilitation: Needs Assessment in Select South Asian Countries', with the support of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Bangkok, which is based on the Article 8 of the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). The main objective of the project is to measure the present state of Trade Facilitation in the South Asian countries and explore ways to increase exports.



#### CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD)

CUTS CHD, with the support of Save the Children Fund, UK, is implementing a project entitled, 'Capacity Building, Protection, Development & Welfare of Children', in select blocks of Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts of Rajasthan. The objectives of the project would be to strengthen the existing children's forums; develop their capacity to raise issues pertaining to their lives.



#### CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS C-CIER)

CUTS C CIER has undertaken the project, 'India Competition and Regulation Report (ICRR)' with the support of British High Commission, New Delhi. It would highlight various distortions in economic management of the country and provide inputs on a periodic basis to the policy makers as well as other stakeholders for taking necessary actions to promote well-functioning markets. The first issue of the ICRR would be released in June 2007.



#### CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre (CUTS CRC)

CUTS CRC is implementing a project entitled, 'Farmers Rights to Livelihood', funded by Novib (Oxfam, The Netherlands), and The Ford Foundation, US through South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal. The objective of the project is to build stakeholders' capacity for devising mechanisms to protect farmers' rights to livelihoods.



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

CUTS CART, in association with Save the Children Fund, UK, has undertaken a project entitled, 'Hum Bhi Bachche Hain (we, too, are children)'. The objectives of the project is to bring the issue to the focus of the Government by advocating for the inclusion of Child Domestic Workers (CDWs) within the purview of Child Labour Act 1986.



#### CUTS London Resource Centre (CUTS LRC)

CUTS LRC is implementing the second phase of the project entitled, 'Capacity Building on Eastern and Southern African Civil Society' during the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) now in five project countries. The project is supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German *Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ). This phase will focus on the developing information and campaigning materials, organising consultative civil society workshop and preparing a civil society advocacy paper.

