

CUTS IN ACTION

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CUTS
International

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Etiquettes: Where Do We Stand?



In February 2007, I was pleasantly surprised to read that Beijing, the capital of China, will kick-start a campaign to promote good manners ahead of the 2008 Olympic Games by introducing monthly 'Queuing Days' and raising the number of covered bins for disposing spit. The Chinese capital will tighten the enforcement of the US\$6.45 fine for littering and spitting in public places. "Hosting the Olympics is an opportunity for the city to raise its level of civilised behaviour", said Zhang Huiguang, Head of Beijing's Cultural and Ideological Bureau.

This should not offer any consolation to our own countrymen, who are as bad as the Chinese are in upholding civic norms as good behaviour. We too have our own Commonwealth Games coming up in 2010, but has anyone thought of doing it. Or should we wait for some bigger *tamasha* to do what we should be doing on a day-to-day basis.

Proper civic behaviour is conspicuous in India by its absence.

Increasing road rage in Delhi and elsewhere is symptomatic of this unhealthy trend because of which we lose many precious lives every year. The other day a Delhi newspaper carried a report on how a bad driver reversed his car into another and when the person whose car was hit blew his horn to register his protest, the former came out with a hockey stick and bashed up the latter's car coupled with choicest throaty expletives.

Even motorists take umbrage of any fault of mild nature. In a case of road rage in Delhi in 2006, a man was fired from a point blank range. What was his fault? The victim's car slightly touched the bumper of aggressor's Santro car from behind. Insane men fighting or abusing each other at traffic lights are common sights in Delhi. About 98-odd killings this year by blue line buses in Delhi is a blatant testimony to the erratic behaviour of humans.

I am reminded of a very thought provoking speech by former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam that he made in Hyderabad in October 2006. He said: "In Singapore you do not throw cigarette butts on the roads or eat in the stores. You pay

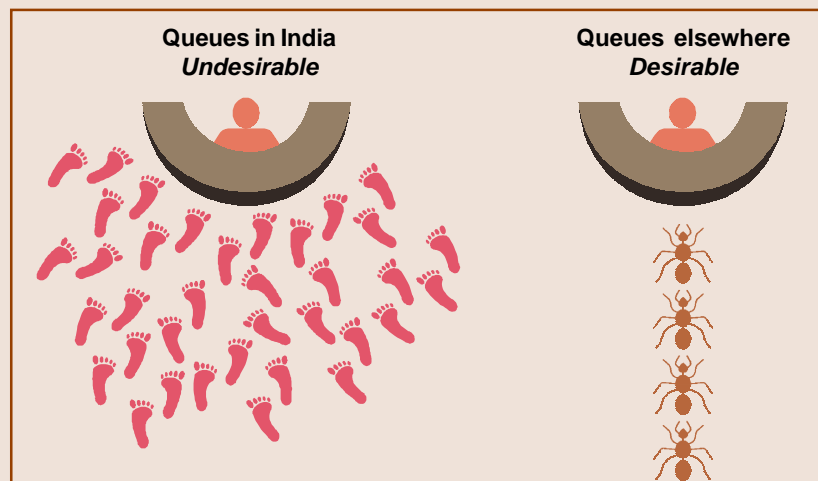
US\$5 for it. You would not dare to eat in public during Ramadan, in Dubai. ...You would not dare to speed beyond 55 mph (88 km/h) in Washington and then tell the traffic cop, *Jaanta hai main kaun hoon* (Do you know who I am?). I am so and so's son. You would not chuck an empty coconut shell anywhere other than the garbage pit on the beaches in Australia and New Zealand. Why do not you spit *Paan* on the streets of Tokyo? ...You can respect and conform to a foreign system in other countries but cannot in your own. If you can be an involved and appreciative citizen in an alien country, why cannot you be the same here in India?"

Compared to most other big cities, there is still some sanity in Mumbai on how people drive and even stand in queues. For example, when Morarji Desai was the Chief Minister of the undivided Bombay province in early 1950s, he posted policemen at every busy bus stop whose job was to shepherd people into queues. That seems to be working even today, and we can see why. The *danda*-wielding visible policeman does offer a disincentive for people to break rules. Is that the only way forward, then so be it a part of every city and state government's agenda, rather than wait for a big event to happen.

How can any country progress when such type of boorish behaviour is becoming a norm. Our leaders do not even make a whimper to tell people that it should stop. Why? Leaders in India belong to a community that does not set high standards in etiquette for the people to follow.

Pradeep S Mehta

Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General



Bridging Research & Policy

CUTS in partnership with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and under the auspices of the Civil Society Partnership Programme (CSPP) UK, organised a South Asia Training of Trainers workshop on *'Bridging Research and Policy'* in Shimla, during September 17-21, 2007.

The aim of this five-day training workshop was to develop the understanding among select civil society organisations (CSOs) from the South Asian countries, namely Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka on evidence-based research for developmental policy advocacy.

The workshop targeted middle/senior level officials representing select CSOs from South Asian region as trainees. Experts and practitioners from the region and outside were the Resource Persons to provide the training. An outcome of this training workshop would be a 'Training of Trainers Manual'.

Identifying Barriers

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) organised the 'Project Stakeholder Consultation', under the project entitled, *'Study to Identify Hurdles for Independent Indian Health Service Personnel in Selected Countries under GATS Mode 4'*, in New Delhi, on July 16, 2007.

The consultation brought together the project stakeholders to elicit their views in discussing and finalising the draft research paper, prepared under the project. Its aim was to make the study practically more viable by taking into account diverse views of a wider set of stakeholders.

Representatives from the recruitment agencies of all the project states, research institutions, the World Health Organisation (WHO) India office and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, participated.

Project Appraisal

CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART), in partnership with the World Bank organised a one-day Launch Meeting of the project entitled *'Assessment of the Qualitative and Quantitative Output of National Rural Employment Gurantee Scheme'*, in Sirohi, Rajasthan, on August 09, 2007.

Siddhart Mahajan, District Collector, Sirohi, suggested that the study under this project should be independent and should reveal the facts and figures at the grassroots level so that corrective measures could be taken for better implementation.

The event witnessed an active participation of around 60 relevant stakeholders, representing various

CSOs, the *Panchayati Raj* Institutions (PRIs), government officials, the media and other common citizens.

(www.cuts-international.org/pdf/ReportofLaunchMeeting-QnQ.pdf)

Aid for Development

CUTS London Resource Centre (CUTS LRC) organised a launch meeting of a new project entitled, *'Soho to Soweto'* with the first debate: 'Does Aid Aid Development?' in London, on September 19, 2007.

The meeting attracted a wide range of public. The format of the debate mimicked a famous UK television show 'Question Time', which encourages participation of the members from the audience, by asking the panellists questions and joining the discussion.

(www.cuts-london.org/documents/AidReport.doc)

Women's Voice in EPAs

CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Lusaka, with the support of the African Women's Economic Policy Network (AWEPON) organised a workshop on *'Promoting African Women's Voice in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiations'* in Lusaka, on July 24, 2007. The workshop deliberated upon the ways of making the EPAs gender-responsive and ensuring economic rights to the women in Africa.

Training on Commercial Diplomacy



CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC) organised a *'Training Programme for Mid-level Civil Servants and Executives'* in Jaipur, during August 22-25, 2007. The programme was sponsored by the Department of Commerce, Government of India.

The objectives of the training programme were to: meet the imperative of having trained government officials at various levels who are involved in commercial

and economic diplomacy; ensure coherence between India's domestic policy on trade and investment-related issues with international commitments; and enhance the skills by developing/strengthening the capacity for taking effective part in trade and investment negotiations and the implementation aspects of related international agreements.

The event was attended by 23 participants comprising government officials from various ministries/departments of the Government of India, the State Governments, the Apparel Export Promotion Council of India (AEPC) and the

Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank). Various resource persons, having expertise and knowledge in the sphere of commercial and economic diplomacy, designed the intensive and interactive programme. The participants sharpened their skills in various aspects of commercial and economic diplomacy, through lectures, real life experiences of resource persons, simulation exercises, group discussions, etc.

Pathways to Legitimacy

Pradeep S Mehta and Archana Jatkar of CUTS participated in a major international conference entitled *'Pathways to Legitimacy? The Future of Globalisation and Regional Governance'* organised jointly by the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR) in cooperation with GARNET, the EU-funded Network of Excellence on Global Governance, Regionalisation and Regulation: The Role of the EU, at Warwick University, UK during September 17-19, 2007.

Mehta and Archana presented a paper on 'A Brief Account of Coalitions in the WTO':

To know more about the conference, please visit: www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/csgr/activitiesnews/conferences/conference2007/

Regulation on Biodiversity

RK Sharma of CUTS CART attended a Regional Workshop on *'Biodiversity, Regulation: Legality and Reality'*, co-organised by the Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON), Rajasthan; FTN-Asia; Kalpavriksh, New Delhi; and in collaboration with GRAIN, New Delhi, in Jaipur, during September 06-07, 2007.

The workshop was organised under an ongoing campaign for community control over biodiversity, with respect to the conservation and management of biological resources and related traditional knowledge.

CSOs on Competition

Alice Pham of CUTS Hanoi Resource Centre (CUTS HRC) attended the international conference on the *'Need to Build an Effective Regional Competition Institution'*, organised by the Vietnam Competition Administration Department (VCAD), with support from *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ), US Agency for International Development (USAID) and *Association pour le Développement des Echanges en Technologie Economique et Financière* (ADETEF), in Hanoi, on August 13, 2007.

Alice made a presentation on 'The Role of Civil Society Organisations in Increasing Competition at the Regional Level'.

Farmers Perspective

Keya Ghosh, Prof Nabinanda Sen, Jayeeta Sarkar and Arnab Ganguly of CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre (CUTS CRC) participated in a

workshop entitled *'Agri-Exports in Eastern Region: Opportunities and Challenges'*, organised by the Department of Food Processing and Horticulture, Government of West Bengal, together with the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), in Kolkata, on July 28, 2007.

The workshop threw light on the problems being faced by the agri-exporters in the eastern region and how these can be addressed. Keya Ghosh made a presentation on 'Study on Agri-Export Zones (AEZ) in West Bengal: Farmers Perspective'.



Multilateralising Regionalism

Bipul Chatterjee of CUTS CITEE attended a two-and-a-half day conference on *'Multilateralising Regionalism'*, jointly organised by the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, the WTO Secretariat and the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), in Geneva, during September 10-12, 2007.

The conference explored how regional trade agreements might be tamed through a multilaterally-based approach to redefine trade cooperation.



SHORT CUTS

- Rahul Ranjan of CIRC attended a half-day meeting with the Consumer Advocacy Group (CAG), organised by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), in New Delhi, on September 08, 2007.
- Deepak Saxena of CUTS CART attended the Regional Meeting of Consumers International (CI) organised by CI Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), in Kuala Lumpur, during August 20-21, 2007.
- Shashi Shikha of CUTS CITEE attended the Management Development Programme on 'Livelihoods and Governance', organised by Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand during August 20-24, 2007.
- Amit Chaudhury of CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD) attended a 'National Level Convention on Legislative Co-ordination for Action on Women's Issues', organised by WomenPowerConnect, in New Delhi, during August 16-18, 2007.
- Masheta Musamai of CUTS ARC attended the 'Southern African Development Community (SADC) People's Summit', in Lusaka, during August 15-16, 2007.
- Gideon Rabinowitz of CUTS LRC attended a workshop on EPAs organised by the Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA), with support from the ODI, UK, in Uganda, during August 09-10, 2007.
- Alice Pham of CUTS HRC attended an 'Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Think Tank Forum', organised by the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), jointly with the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), in Singapore, during August 06-07, 2007.
- Arnab Ganguly of CUTS CRC attended a one-day roundtable conference entitled, *'Future Roadmap for Panchayats in West Bengal'*, organised by Lok Kalyan Parishad, in Kolkata, on August 03, 2007.

VISITORS

Name	Comments
Raymond Saner Director, Centre for Socio-Economic Development (CSEND), Geneva	I congratulate my colleagues at CUTS for high quality analysis and publications for their exemplary work in social field, trade and economics and openness to disclosure with all sectors of society in India and abroad.
S N Menon Former Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India	It was a wonderful experience to visit CUTS and participate in one of its training programmes. Over the last 20 years, CUTS has grown from strength to strength and is one of the premier CSOs of the country. Very professional with services of a high quality.

CUTS on CCPC Panel

CUTS has been nominated as a member in the newly formed Central Consumer Protection Council (CCPC). The organisation received the Gazette Notification dated September 14, 2007 constituting the new CCPC with only 35 members as against the past unwieldy structure of 150 members. The period is three years.

Glimpses of Ongoing and Future Projects of CUTS

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment

CUTS CITEE, with the support of EU (EC Programme on Environment in Developing Countries) & the German Federal Ministry for the Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has undertaken the Project, 'Enabling Developing Countries to Seize Ecolabel Opportunities'. The project will 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).



CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre

'Farmers Right to Livelihoods in Himalayan Mountainous Region of India' has been implemented with the support of Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands and The Ford Foundation, US, through South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal. The project aims to build the capacity of the stakeholders for devising the mechanisms to protect farmers' rights to livelihoods.



CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation

CUTS C-CIER has undertaken the Project, 'India Competition and Regulation Report (ICRR)' with the support of The British High Commission, New Delhi. Considering the important role played by the market process, there is a need to periodically review the competition and regulation scenario in the country. This review would highlight the various market-related distortions in the economy, and provide relevant inputs to the policy community as well as other stakeholders for taking necessary actions to ensure well-functioning markets. It is in this context that CUTS has brought out a Report, 'Competition and Regulation in India, 2007' which would be released by Dr C Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India followed by a Panel Discussion on 'The Political Economy of Regulation in India – What Do We Need to Do', in Mumbai, on October 16, 2007.



CUTS London Resource Centre

Soho to Soweto – 5 debates to connect you to today's development issues has been implemented with the support of the Department for International Development (DFID), UK to facilitate participatory and action-orientated learning amongst the UK public on international development issues, through organising a series of accessible public debates and disseminating the proceedings and related resources to educational institutions.



CUTS Africa Resource Centre, Lusaka

CUTS ARC, Lusaka has implemented the Project, 'Promoting African Women's Voice in the EPA negotiations' with support of the AWEPON-Uganda/Diaconia to conduct research on the likely impact of the EPAs on women and identify major issues in relation to EPAs.



CUTS Africa Resource Centre, Nairobi

The project entitled, 'Trade and Development Impact of ESA (SADC)-EU EPAs' has been implemented by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Kenya to identify the trade and development implications of the dual Eastern and Southern Africa-European Union and SADC-EU EPAs on the integration agenda of East African Countries.



CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training

CUTS CART, with the support of Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), Canadian High Commission, New Delhi, has undertaken a Project 'Promoting Greater Role of the PRIs in Rajasthan to Foster Rural Livelihood Opportunities: Meeting the Challenges of Globalisation and Economic Liberalisation'. It would build the capacity of the PRIs and rural artisans to effectively deal with livelihood issues in the non-farm sector in Rajasthan, India.



CUTS Centre for Human Development

CUTS CHD, with the support of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of Rajasthan, has undertaken a project, 'Consumer Help Line and Awareness' to generate awareness on consumer issues.



CUTS Hanoi Resource Centre

CUTS HRC, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development Co-operation (SDC), Berne, Switzerland, has implemented a project, 'The Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS): Addressing Development Challenges in the New Globalisation Era'. The project would contribute to the process of bridging the gap between the poorer countries of the GMS and their better-off neighbours of the ASEAN.

