

International Conference on
Political Economy of Competition & Regulation in Developing Countries
Wednesday, 24 June 2009, Jaipur, India

Programme

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| 0830 - 0900 | Registration |
| 0900 - 0930 | Welcome by Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International Keynote Address: <i>tbc</i> <u>Session I:</u> |
| 0930 - 1130 | Theme Session: Identifying and Overcoming Political Economy and Governance Constraints to the Effective Implementation of Competition and Regulatory Laws |
| <i>Speaker</i> | Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International |
| <i>Panellists</i> | V K Mathur, Inapex Limited, India Matthew Morris, DFID India Rohit Singh, ODI, UK |
| <i>Moderator</i> | M A Razzaque, The Commonwealth Secretariat, UK |
| 1130 - 1145 | TEA BREAK <u>Session II:</u> |
| 1145 - 1330 | Curbing Regulatory Capture by Vested Interests through Institutional Reforms |
| <i>Speaker</i> | Stephen Thomas, PSIRU, The University of Greenwich, UK |
| <i>Panellists</i> | Kibre Moges, Ethiopian Economics Association, Ethiopia Payal Malik, University of Delhi, India Fouzul Kabir Khan, North South University, Bangladesh |
| <i>Moderator</i> | Matthew Morris, DFID India (<i>tbc</i>) |
| 1330 - 1430 | LUNCH BREAK <u>Session III:</u> |
| 1430 - 1600 | Institutional determinants of poor interface between regulatory and competition agencies |
| <i>Speaker</i> | Cezley Sampson, Privatisation & Regulatory Consultant, Jamaica |
| <i>Panellists</i> | David O'ngolo, Spellman & Walker Co. Ltd., Kenya Selim Raihan, Dhaka University, Bangladesh Kasturi Moodaliyar, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa |
| <i>Moderator</i> | Stephen Thomas, PSIRU, The University of Greenwich, UK |

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| 1600 - 1615 | TEA BREAK |
| 1615 - 1730 | Roundtable on the Way Forward & Closing |
| | Rapporteur's Presentation Siddhartha <i>Mitra</i> , <i>CUTS International</i> |
| <i>Moderator</i> | Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International |
| | Closing Remarks Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International M A Razzaque, The Commonwealth Secretariat, UK |

* *To be confirmed (tbc)*

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Objective

To sensitise a select groups of civil society organisations (CSOs) from Africa and Asia about political economy constraints in enforcing competition and regulation in order to enable these to act as pressure groups in their own countries to catalyse the reforms process

Background

Most developing countries have adopted market-oriented reforms as part of the globalisation and liberalisation process. However, due to various reasons, distortions have often been observed in the working of the market process

Developing countries, particularly in Africa and Asia pose unique challenges for competition and regulatory law enforcement. Their low level of economic development, which is often accompanied by peculiar political-economy considerations, such as institutional design problems and complex government regulation and bureaucracy, creates real world challenges that influence the working of regulatory institutions. These challenges need to be recognised for successful implementation of competition and regulatory policies.

Existing evidence suggests that other dimensions of governance, such as government's commitment to growth as a political objective, political maturity and overall political climate in a country are often key determinants of success in implementation of competition and regulatory reforms (**refer CUTS Policy Briefs at <http://www.circ.in/PolicyBriefs.htm>**)

There are a host of political economy and governance constraints that frustrate successful implementation of regulatory laws in developing countries. For example, 'political will' turns out to be a key determinant of effective implementation of such laws. There is thus a strong need to address these problems and overcome challenges faced by developing countries, especially for engaging multiple (and relevant) stakeholders in the process.

Context

Against this backdrop, *CUTS International* (www.cuts-international.org) is organising an International Conference **on 24th June 2009 in Jaipur (India)** with the support of *The Commonwealth Secretariat, UK* to develop the capacity of a select group of Afro-Asian stakeholders in dealing with political economy and governance constraints that hamper effective implementation and enforcement of competition and regulatory laws.

Venue

Country Inn & Suits By Carlson
Khasa Kothi Circle, MI Road, Jaipur 302001
Rajasthan (India)

For more information, please contact:

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