

Trade, Development and Poverty Linkages: Lessons and Future Directions

Country Inn, Jaipur, Tuesday 23 June 2009

Agenda

- 0830-0900** **REGISTRATION**
- 0900-0915** **Welcome**
Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International, India
- 0915-1030** **Inaugural Panel: *Two Decades of Trade Liberalisation: The Links with Development and Poverty Reduction***
- Moderator**
Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International, India
- Panelists**
Anwarul Hoda, Former Member, Planning Commission of India, India
M. Supperamaniam, Adviser, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, Malaysia
Posh Raj Pandey, President, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment, Nepal
Mukasa Misusera, Director of Programmes, Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations, Uganda
- 1030-1100** **TEA/COFFEE BREAK**
- 1100-1315** **Regional Case Presentation: *Trade Openness and Poverty - The Missing Links***
- Moderator**
Siddhartha Mitra, Director (Research) CUTS International & Head, CUTS CITEE, India
- 1100-1120 **Presentation on *Africa***
Miriam Omolo, Trade Programme Officer, Institute of Economic Affairs, Kenya
- 1120-1135 **Remarks**
Kibre Moges Senior Researcher, Trade & Industry Research Division, Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute, Ethiopia
- 1135-1155 **Presentation on *South Asia***
Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asia Network on Economic Modeling, Bangladesh
- 1155-1210 **Remarks**
M. Supperamaniam, Adviser, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, Malaysia
- 1210-1230 **Presentation on *South-East Asia***
Seiha Neou, Senior Researcher, Economic Institute of Cambodia, Cambodia
- 1230-1245 **Remarks**
Alice Pham Thi Que Anh, Director, CUTS Hanoi Resource Centre, Vietnam
- 1245-1315 **Floor discussion**

1315-1415	LUNCH
1415-1815	Impact Analysis - Project Outreach
1415-1440	Speaker cum Moderator <i>S.V. Divvaakar</i> , Managing Director, Ace Global Private Limited, India
1440-1600	Country Analysis (10 minutes each)
	South Asia
	Bangladesh: <i>Mohammed Abu Eusuf</i> , Assistant Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
	India: <i>Purnima Purohit</i> , Assistant Policy Analyst, CUTS International, India
	Nepal: <i>Shree Krishna Shresth</i> , President, Forum for Protection of Public Interest Pro Public, Nepal
	Pakistan: <i>Shakeel Ahmed</i> , Agricultural Economist, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan
	Sri Lanka: <i>Dharshani Premaratne</i> , Research Assistant, Institute of Policies Studies, Sri Lanka <i>Anushaya Collure</i> , TDP Project Officer, Law & Society Trust, Sri Lanka
	South-East Asia
	Cambodia: <i>Seiha Neou</i> , Senior Researcher, Economic Institute of Cambodia, Cambodia
	Vietnam: <i>Ngo Huong</i> , Co-founder, Board of Advisors, Center for Development and Integration, Vietnam
1600-1630	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
1630-1730	Africa
	Kenya: <i>Miriam Omolo</i> , Trade Programme Officer, Institute of Economic Affairs, Kenya
	Tanzania: <i>Donaltila Kaino</i> , Economic and Social Research Foundation, Tanzania
	Uganda: <i>Kimera Henry Richard</i> , Chief Executive, Consumer Education Trust of Uganda, Uganda
	Zambia: <i>Angela Mulenga</i> , Center Coordinator, CUTS Africa Resource Centre, Zambia
	Perspective on North-South and North-North Linkages <i>Gijsbert van Liemt</i> , Independent Consultant, Sweden
1730-1800	Floor Discussion
1800-1815	Way Forward <i>S.V. Divvaakar</i> , Managing Director, Ace Global Private Limited, India
	Vote of Thanks <i>Sibylle Kuhn</i> , CUTS International
2000	RECEPTION CUM DINNER

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Background

Objective

The conference would explore the issues on: the role of trade liberalisation for poverty alleviation; the use of trade policy to foster external discipline for insulating economies against shocks; and finally the equitable distribution of gains from trade.

Background

Under its programme area on developmental issues, CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (www.cuts-citee.org) has implemented a multi-country project on the dynamic relationship between international trade and poverty reduction at the national as well as international levels. This TDP project analyses the linkages among trade, development and poverty reduction over a period of four years (January 2005 to August 2009) and has been implemented with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINBUZA), The Netherlands and the Department for International Development (DFID), UK.

It examines the policy relevance of international trade for poverty reduction and helps in articulating the policy coherence between the international trading system and national development strategies. It looks into the aspects of integration and synergy among different stakeholders and departments needed to establish a positive linkage between trade and development, especially from the perspective of poverty reduction. An overarching aim of the project, which covers 15 countries from Asia, Africa and Europe, has been to bridge the link between Southern and Northern civil society and policymakers.

One of the outcomes of the project has been to contribute to the policy debate on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly in examining the partnership among different stakeholders for achieving the MDGs (MDG 8 – Global Partnership for Development). The research finding of the TDP project that CUTS highlights through its advocacy activities in this project can simply be stated as: *For trade liberalisation, whether multilateral or unilateral, to assuredly result in economic development and poverty alleviation the following flanking measures are required, with detailed attention given to sectoral realities: suitable infrastructure and regulatory policies, redistributive measures and safety nets for social groups prone to destabilisation.*

Context

While the benefits of trade liberalisation for economic growth and poverty alleviation have been widely documented, there are strong suggestions that trade liberalisation might not by itself lead to economic development. Indeed if improperly managed, there is reason to believe that it may be associated with economic regress and deepening of poverty.

Countries can only benefit from trade if they have something to offer to the rest of the world by way of marketable products. Crucial in this case are supply side factors – infrastructure and human capital. Without these being adequately developed a country cannot hope to gain from international trade. Regulatory aspects are important too as anti-competitive practices often prevent economies from benefiting from the potential savings in input costs. Similarly, social safety nets and stabilisation measures need to be part of the policy package that accompanies trade liberalisation for the sustained realisation of its benefits.

The TDP research volumes illustrate the above facts through a rigorous exposition whereas the advocacy outputs not only carry forward the message to broader groups of stakeholders but also dwell on how aid and foreign direct investment can help countries in putting together the policy package needed to complement liberalisation.

The Event

This event, designed as the final meeting under the project titled 'Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction Linkages', will review the project's achievements and non-achievements and chart out a way forward, focussing on research outputs project countries. It will be held on 23 June, 2009 at the Country Inn in Jaipur.

Expected Outcome

A set of strategic messages and recommendations on trade-development-poverty linkages will be placed to shape the future debate on this subject. In addition, certain systemic issues that were dealt with during project implementation by partners would also be addressed for more successful partnership and effective outcomes in the future.

CUTS would continue to facilitate research, advocacy and networking activities on domestic preparedness and policy response mechanisms that could complement international trade, thereby making it work better for development and poverty reduction.

Participants

All project partners and members of the Project Advisory Committee are invited. Participation from the media, academics, government officials and representatives of international and inter-governmental organisations and the donor community is also expected.

For further information, please contact

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