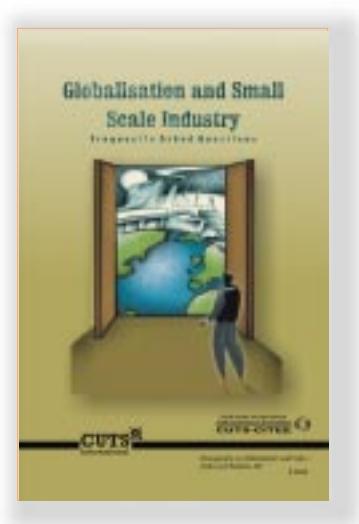


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Consumer Unity & Trust Society

April-May2006

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Cost of Non-Cooperation in South Asia

(RECSA No.6/2005)

Most countries have long abandoned the 'beggar-thy-neighbour' policy. However, the ghost of mistrust, misunderstanding and misgiving still persists in the South Asian region. Indeed, the benefits of regional cooperation that are foregone are the cost of non-cooperation in South Asia. When the global economy is benefiting from different types of regional cooperation, South Asia lags behind in this regard due to the existence of numerous challenges within the countries of the region.

The potential gains from regional cooperation in South Asia look fragile and nondescript, and therefore leaders must put their minds together to look inward for a more dynamic South Asia. In principle, regional cooperation in South Asia must be both pragmatic and realistic, which should be intended to grow step by step in the economic, social and cultural spheres. For economic growth and stability, customised policies and development agreements among different countries of South Asia are essential.

This briefing paper examines the impeding bottlenecks and ineffectiveness of SAARC to formulate regional cooperation. It presents the potential losses due to non-cooperation *vis-à-vis* potential benefits and provides suggestions and steps for creating regional cooperation in South Asia.

*This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:
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Competition Law and Intellectual Property Rights in Vietnam (No.3/2006)

The interaction between competition law and intellectual property rights (IPRs) raises a vexed issue, which has received various legislative solutions and has been the subject of debate around the world. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) permits Member states to apply appropriately their national competition laws to prevent (i) abuse of IPR by intellectual property (IP) holders; (ii) practices which unreasonably restrain trade; and (iii) practices which adversely affect international technology transfer, particularly the anticompetitive licencing practices [Art. 8(2) & Art. 40, TRIPs]. However, determining the balance and interaction between competition law and IPRs as well as formulating IPRs-related competition rules is still a highly complex and difficult task, not only for developing countries, but also for the developed countries.

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