

# CUTS LATEST PUBLICATIONS

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



## SAARC and BIMSTEC: *Understanding their Experience in Regional Cooperation*

(CITEE No 12/2008)

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) are forms of regional arrangements in Asia. While BIMSTEC was established in 1997 with a clear economic agenda, SAARC had its origin much earlier in 1985 that included economic agenda. Later both are influenced by politico-strategic factors.

This Briefing Paper examines the significance of economic cooperation between the two regional organisations – SAARC and BIMSTEC. It observes that though both have an undeniable relevance, they have failed to implement the elaborate programme of regional cooperation agreed upon.

The Briefing Paper also argues that adopting the less formal process of sub-regional cooperation would give positive results as the focus is on specific projects covering smaller growth-oriented zones with emphasis on infrastructure which increases connectivity and reduces costs of transporting goods and people.

*This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:  
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-REC-02.pdf>*

**CUTS**  
International

**Consumer Unity & Trust Society**

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D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India, Ph: 91.141.228 2821, Fx: 91.141.228 2485  
Email: [cuts@cuts.org](mailto:cuts@cuts.org), Website: [www.cuts-international.org](http://www.cuts-international.org)

## Do India's AEZs Need a Fresh Start?

(CITEE No 11/2008)



Agricultural exports from developing countries are facing stringent barriers in the form of sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures as well as technical barriers. The need of the hour, therefore, is to develop robust Agricultural Exporting Zones (AEZs) to promote organic cultivation of exportable produce. The future growth potential of AEZs in India is based on two planks: a theoretical cost benefit analysis and a case study approach.

The theoretical cost benefit analysis highlights the tradeoff between factors that enhance profitability on the one hand and others that lead to a reduction in profitability. The case study approach complements this theoretical analysis by looking at the ground reality of AEZs in the Indian state of West Bengal.

This Briefing Paper examines the AEZs in India, particularly CUTS finding from AEZs of West Bengal. It provides cost-benefit analysis of organic farming to show whether a switch from conventional to organic cultivation is beneficial for farmers.

*This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:  
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-11.pdf>*



## Designing A Consumer Policy Framework For Small States

(C-CIER No 9/2008)

**C**onsumer concerns in states of all sizes and at all levels of development span wide issues of access, pricing, safety, quality and choice of goods and services. The increasing fluidity of borders and influence of technology means that the design and implementation of a robust consumer policy has become increasingly problematic. However, consumers in small states are particularly affected by limited choice of goods and services, poorer quality and safety of goods produced by larger countries solely for export, unenforceability of manufacturer warranties

and lack of availability of repair services and spare parts.

This Briefing Paper evaluates that consumer policies need to temper free market attitudes with specific considerations arising out of the implications of small size, human resource scarcity, excessive vulnerability, inadequate financial and physical resources and social and cultural peculiarities. It argues that these considerations also imply that the design of regulatory and enforcement agencies cannot be based completely on that in large or developed economies.

*This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:  
<http://www.cuts-international.org/pdf/CCIER-6-2008.pdf>*



## The Basics of Bid Rigging

(C-CIER No 10/2008)

**A** bidding process is one by which a government or company seeks and receives quotes from various firms for a particular project (such as a construction job) that is to be contracted out. The award of contract is based on quality and price considerations.

The bidding process can only work when competitors make their bids honestly and independently. However, the competitive system in bidding process can be tailor-made for anti-competitive conduct. The most prevalent anti-competitive practice in bidding is bid rigging that essentially refers to a situation in which bidders for a particular contract or tender collude to pre-arrange the outcome of the bid or more specifically to pre-determine the winning bidder.

This Briefing Paper endeavours to explain the concept of bid rigging with representative examples of cases which have been handled by competition authorities and makes policy recommendations.

*This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:  
<http://www.cuts-international.org/pdf/CCIER-7-2008.pdf>*



## Cross-Border Mergers and the Experience of Developing Countries

(C-CIER No 11/2008)

**C**ross-border mergers often test the mettle of any national competition agency (NCA) due to their transactional complexity that is heightened by commercial presence in multiple jurisdictions. While even experienced and well developed NCAs like those in the EU and US have come to conflicting decisions or have taken protracted periods to investigate cross-border mergers, it is anyone's guess how complicated such mergers can be for less experienced NCAs in developing countries.

This Briefing Paper aims to examine the experience from developing countries in dealing with cross-border mergers by studying the possible constraints they have faced and their response in various cases. It also discusses international guidelines and efforts to address some of these constraints.

*This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:  
<http://www.cuts-international.org/pdf/CCI-8-2008.pdf>*



## Comparative Study of Regulatory Framework in Infrastructure Sector: Lessons for India

(C-CIER No 12/2008)

**M**any developing economies have adopted competition laws as a follow up to their market-oriented economic reforms. Most of them have also adopted regulatory laws in several sectors as they were opened up for private players.

However, developing countries pose unique challenges for competition and regulatory law enforcement, which are inspired mostly by similar regimes in developed and industrialised countries.

This Briefing Paper analyses and compares the regulatory framework in seven selected countries in respect of institutional and governance aspects and identifies lessons for India.

*This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:  
<http://www.cuts-international.org/pdf/CCI-9-2008.pdf>*