

CUTS LATEST PUBLICATIONS

COMPETITION AND INVESTMENT



Competition and Regulation in India, 2007

This Report is the result of a series of trade and regulatory projects that CUTS has undertaken since mid-1990s, especially those on competition regimes in India and elsewhere, as a natural progression in the quest for an orderly market, which could add to economic growth and create more jobs for the people.

Two catalysts for this Report are worth highlighting: first, the analysis of the competition scenario in India through the 7Up Project (2000-02), which did a comparative study of the competition law regimes in seven developing countries, supported by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK. This gave us an insight into how the regime functions (or not) under a variety of political economy constraints.

The second catalyst is the present Government's resolution to promote competition as a means of economic development, which was articulated in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), and the President's address to the first sitting of the Parliament in 2004.

This Report contains research-based analyses that will certainly stimulate a healthy debate on how the issues of competition and regulation policy are perceived. It also examines the present and future scenario in the context of competition and regulation in India. Sectoral studies of telecommunications, electricity and two social sectors, i.e., education and health, help to show the need for methodological flexibility – not just in analysis but also in implementation.

One unique feature of the Report is India Competition Perception Index that measures the state of affairs in competition and regulation in India.

Report
Suggested Contribution: Rs 285/US\$20

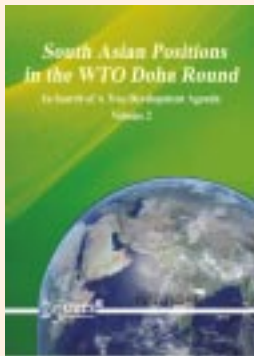


Consumer Unity & Trust Society

October 2007

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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



South Asian Positions in the WTO Doha Round: In Search of a True Development Agenda Volume 2

The Hong Kong Ministerial offered some more crucial issues for future

research and advocacy. Hence, based on this Ministerial Declaration, five cross-cutting core issues have been selected for further research work under phase II of WTO Doha Round: Linking Civil Society with International Trade Negotiations (SAFIT-II). They are: agriculture; special products (SPs) and special safeguard measures (SSM), non-tariff barriers (NTBs) on industrial products

(as part of the NAMA negotiations), services; operationalisation of LDC modalities and Article IV of GATS; developmental implications of duty-free and quota-free (DFQF) market access for LDCs; and preference erosion and aid for trade.

The Book is a well researched effort by a group of civil society organisations (CSOs) in South Asia, and authored by experts in the field of trade and WTO issues. The increasing demand for a better understanding and the lack of a readily accessible single source of information on these five specific topics have been the motivating force for the creation of this book. The core focus of the book is to provide state-of-the-art information on trade issues that are of vital importance within the South Asian region. Hence, the book would surely appeal to policy makers and others interested stakeholders on the policy options in the South Asian region.

Book

Suggested Contribution: Rs 200/US\$20

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



Hong Kong Duty-Free Quota-Free Market Access Decision: Implications for South Asian LDCs

(SAFIT II No 4/2007)

The least developed countries (LDCs) had put forward the proposal of DFQF market access for their exports in the first WTO

Ministerial Meeting, held in Singapore, in 1996. It took about a decade for WTO Members to address the demand of the LDCs, with less than 0.6 percent collective share in world exports, of DFQF market access. The Ministers agreed to provide DFQF market access in December 2005, in the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference.

Although the Declaration obliges the Members to take steps to progressively

achieve the obligation of providing DFQF market access to LDCs, because of the lack of clarity on the term 'progressively' and the missing deadline for achieving full obligation, the value of the proposal has become dubious. Regarding DFQF market access in developing countries, the decision urges them to provide such preferences on voluntary basis and without any legal effect. Against this background, the Briefing Paper aims to analyse the value and utility of the proposal of DFQF access, agreed to in the Hong Kong Ministerial meeting, from the perspectives of South Asian LDCs, in particular Bangladesh and Nepal, and recommends the negotiating position for these countries in the process of defining the modalities for the initiative.

This Briefing Paper can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP07-WTO-12.pdf>

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



Negotiations on Non-Tariff Barriers under NAMA: *The Major South Asian Concerns*

(SAFIT II No 5/2007)

Since the inception of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947, average tariffs on manufacturing imports have fallen from around 40 percent to 4.7 percent. Meanwhile, when tariffs were being cut through successive rounds of GATT agreements, the countries began to resort to another form of administered protection known as Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB). They consist of all barriers to trade, other than

tariffs, and have effects similar to those of tariffs.

The future export expansion of South Asian countries depends upon how meaningfully and comprehensively NTBs are addressed in the present Doha Round of trade negotiations.

This Briefing Paper analyses that no real progress has been made on NTBs under NAMA negotiations except vertical and horizontal proposals by WTO member nations. However, these negotiations are not yet sufficiently advanced to propose either the adoption or rejection of modalities for specific proposals.

This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP07-WTO-13.pdf>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Community-based Ecotourism for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Mekong Region

(HRC No 1/2007)

The tourism sector is a major contributor to the socio economic development of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS). The 11 flagship programmes of the GMS, therefore, include the tourism sector in its sub-regional development plan. If managed strategically, tourism has the potential for employment and economic benefits for people across the sub-region.

The improvement of the tourism infrastructure and the elimination of the impediments in the tourism sector will enhance the development of the industry, which, in turn, would promote GMS as a single tourist destination.

This Policy Brief analyses that Community-based Ecotourism (CBET) offers both an opportunity and a threat to communities. A new correlation of the social forces, a move towards broad-based democratic participation in all the aspects of life, within each country and in the concert of nations, is required to overcome these obstacles. Strategies to face these challenges must respond to the dual challenges of insulating these communities from further encroachment and assuring their viability.

In a positive note, the strategy for GMS tourism development for next 20 years forecast that the GMS will be one of the world most important ecotourism and cultural tourism destination by 2018.

Policy Brief
Suggested Contribution: Rs 20/US\$5

REGIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION



Review of the Energy Sector Integration in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region: A Focus on the Electricity Sub-Sector

(HRC No 2/2007)

There is a strong international support, both within and outside the

GMS region, for the development of a regional approach to the GMS energy sector. While a significant focus of current efforts is the creation of an interconnected regional transmission grid and electricity market, there is recognition of the additional benefits that are expected to arise from increased

co-operation and co-ordination in other aspects of the GMS energy sector.

This Briefing Paper provides a brief overview of the ongoing co-operation and co-ordination in the energy sector in the GMS. It focuses on the electricity sub-sector and provides a review of the history and the rationale for co-operation and the development of integrated energy strategies in the GMS and highlights some of the key challenges that need to be addressed.

Policy Brief

Suggested Contribution: Rs 20/US\$5

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



The Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam (CLV) Development Triangle: Opportunities, Challenges and Options for Future

(HRC No 3/2007)

The Development Triangle, including Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and

Vietnam (CLV) was initiated in 1999, when the Prime Ministers of these three countries agreed upon development co-operation among themselves. It aims to promote prosperity among the people in the Member countries.

This Briefing Paper addresses that the establishment of the Development Triangle not only promotes multi-faceted relations, mutual

understanding and trust among the CLV countries but also contributes to peace, stability, co-operation, friendship and development in the GMS.

Overall, the GMS programme will also help the CLV region, through the facilitation of trade and tourism, by the development of the infrastructure, information and communication technology, increased cross-border trade and investment in agriculture.

Policy Brief

Suggested Contribution: Rs 20/US\$5

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