

RECENT TITLES

TRADE & DEVELOPMENT



Hanging By a Thread: Perspectives on the WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong

The year 2006 is going to be very crucial for World Trade Organisation (WTO), as three deadlines are to be met: April 30, July 31 and December 31.

Trade negotiators, in 2006, will be asked to do in one year what they could not do in the previous four years of the Doha Round. What is required, at this stage, is to know how to speed up the negotiation process. Besides, one needs to understand and be up-to-date with the important issues that were solved or unanswered at the Hong Kong Ministerial in December 2005, as George Santayana, the Spanish philosopher advocated

in his 'The Life of Reason', "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it".

This book is a valuable collection of 59 precious and forceful articles by renowned experts, commentators and men in the helm of affairs on WTO issues published in leading newspapers and journals around the world before, during and after the Hong Kong Ministerial. CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment (CUTS-CITEE) collected these articles, compiled them in a logical order and published it with three distinct headings: Pre-Hong Kong; Hong Kong; and Post Hong Kong. The book aims to assist trade negotiators, trade policy officials and the trade community at large while conducting research and advocacy on WTO.

Book

Suggested Contribution: Rs.300US\$20

COMPETITION AND INVESTMENT



The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2006: What needs to be done?

The Competition Act, 2002 was enacted to replace the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969, which was found to be inadequate in the

changed economic environment. However, the Act was challenged in the Supreme Court on the grounds that it did not adhere to the doctrine of separation of powers between judiciary and the executive as recognised by the Constitution of India.

Pursuant to the litigation, the India Government has proposed to amend the Competition Act, 2002 and split the competition authority into two: the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and a Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT). Though the overall direction of the Bill is good certain areas need to be reviewed by the Parliament before giving its consent on it.

This Bill Blow-up aims to provide inputs to the Parliamentarians to discuss the pros and cons of the Bill.

Bill Blow-up

Suggested Contribution:Rs.20US\$5

CUTS
International

Consumer Unity & Trust Society

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SPS Standards and Developing Countries – The Skeleton in the Closet for the Doha Round

(TDP No.1/2006)

There has been a long history of consumer pressure for food safety across Western Europe. However, this pressure has reached new levels in recent years

following a number of high profile food safety scares, which have heightened fears amongst consumers that farmers and the food industry are not doing enough to protect consumer health. This pressure has led to significant changes to the way food safety is governed, with a substantial shift of responsibilities from ministries of agriculture and industry to ministries of health and consumer affairs within European Union (EU) member states. This reform process has also taken place at the European Commission (EC) level with food safety

matters being handed over to the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General (DG SANCO) and supported by the establishment of a European Food Safety Authority in 2002.

Together with these institutional reforms, a wide range of legislative reforms has also been introduced to create a more secure system of accountability in relation to food safety. This, in turn, has led to an explosion of standards for producers to meet, in order to make sure that food safety is maintained at all levels of the supply chain.

This briefing paper analyses the standard-setting process, the impact of private SPS standard and the way forward for developing. Besides, it sets recommendations for both developed and developing countries, which include the Northern civil society.

*This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/tdp-1-2006.pdf>*



Global Partnership for Development: Contextualising Trade, Aid & Poverty Reduction

(TDP No.1/2005)

In 1990, there were more than 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty. These were the poorest of the poor, struggling to make ends meet on less

than a dollar a day. Under this scenario, the member states of the United Nations (UN) in 2000 committed themselves to a series of time-bound targets, most of which are to be achieved by 2015. They are known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and represent a framework for achieving human development and broadening its benefits. Numbered one to

eight, each Goal covers a specific issue. The Goals have quantified targets to address extreme poverty in its varied dimensions ranging from income, poverty, disease, illiteracy, lack of shelter and water etc.

Moreover, even though achieving the MDGs is the responsibility of the developing nations, they need external help, especially in the case of least developed countries (LDCs) that cannot internally raise resources needed for the purpose. This briefing paper explores the linkages between trade, aid and poverty in the context of MDGs for actualising human development.

*This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/tdp-1-2005.pdf>*



TrAid: What Future for Developing Countries?

(TDP No.2/2005)

The Developing countries (DCs) are involved in a number of trade-related international negotiations with potentially significant implications for future development. Drawing a parallel with the liberalisation talks at bilateral and regional levels, the most important is the WTO Doha Round and, for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with EU.

Many fear that with these new waves of liberalisation the abstract long term gains for DCs will come at high short term costs, with possible loss of fiscal revenues and other restructuring costs, loss of policy space for national development strategies,

loss of preference margins, and expensive requirements to implement regulatory harmonisation in areas of standardisation and trade facilitation.

This briefing paper discusses the concerns that have spurred a debate, increasingly at the core of broader international discussions on aid and North-South relationships and on what is required to make trade liberalisation an acceptable instrument for development. Adopting a broad definition of 'aid for trade' (Aft) as the required trade-related donors' assistance and institutional support across a range of areas, this paper focuses on Europe and its economic relations with the ACP and the lessons that can be drawn from this case for the multilateral debate on Aft.

This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/tdp-2-2005.pdf>



The TDP Project and Links with MDGs

(TDP No.3/2005)

The MDGs adopted by the world's governments at UN in 2000 followed by the launching of Doha Development Agenda (DDA) under the aegis of WTO at Doha in 2001 are the two international agendas that have dominated much of the developmental debates from the year 2000 till date. These initiatives seem to govern and frame the possibilities of achieving a world where equal opportunities for a decent livelihood exist for all people. Unfortunately, it seems that both these agreements – despite their promising and optimistic start

– are experiencing a lack of political will on the global level. A lot remains to be done, if this decade is not going to be termed as the 'decade of broken promises'.

This briefing paper highlights the possible synergies and Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP) project and the MDGs, by looking at how international trade intersects with the global MDGs agenda, as well as pointing to operational aspects of providing for coherence between trade rules and policy, on the one hand, and the achievement of the MDGs, on the other.

This Briefing Paper can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/tdp-3%20-2005%20.pdf>

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