



Tradequity

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Copenhagen: A Failure or Success For Humanity?

Of late, the world has been on an unsustainable path that threatens not only the environment but also the economy and security of a country as well. In the recent past, leaders all over the world have been convening at various platforms to come up with an operational accord on climate change that would eventually set the world on a new course. However, a consensus has not been reached since each country is inclined towards safeguarding its own interests.

These discussions have rippled consciousness around the world. People have increasingly become concerned over this issue and a huge amount of coverage is being allotted to it for further mobilisation. After several years of neglect symbolised in the US refusal to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, the new US President seems to have put climate change on top of his agenda. Despite all these developments signalling renewed political will and determination as well as the possibility of a new, more stringent, Kyoto-type agreement aimed at reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions worldwide, most industrialised nations which are at the apex as largest gross emitters of carbon dioxide have continued to show reluctance in resolving the climate change issue.

Most of the industrialised countries have just been mulling on their desire for practical commitments they can meet without damaging their economies. However, it is time that these countries stopped looking at their economic losses by first



addressing the overall effects that climate change is having on the world's environment.

The Copenhagen Summit on climate change thus provided a great opportunity for world leaders to address issues affecting the world and come up with solutions to curb the adverse effects arising from climate change.

However, it is sad to note that the summit failed to come up with a successful agreement. A successful agreement may have been possible, had all the major economies set forth strong national actions to be implemented. A consensus on having a transparent system to ensure implementation of national actions, would not have led the Copenhagen Summit to collapse.

The talks seemed to have only secured a bare minimum type of

agreement that fell well short of the original goals to reduce carbon emissions and stem global warming. All this seemed to have arisen after lengthy negotiations between the rich nations while the developing economies differed. This remains a missed opportunity to save the environment and reduce on all the adverse effects arising from climate change which is presently crippling all economies of the world.

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CUTS Africa

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Private Sector Participation

The Zambian government has of late realised that the participation of the private sector in national development can greatly help compliment government efforts in that area. This realisation has greatly benefited the country as more foreign and local companies are now participating in activities that are contributing to national growth.

One such private sector organisation that is coordinating the private sector is the Zambia Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI). ZACCI's role is to promote the development of trade, commerce and industry. The ACP trade facility recently allocated US\$269,618 to support ZACCI in order to strengthen its service delivery to its members. This allocation is to provide focused assistance regarding the building of institutional and analytical capacity of the organisation.

(ToZ, 23.12.09)

Piling Pressure for Speedy Sale

Kenya's trading partners in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) trading bloc are pushing for quick privatisation of state-owned sugar firms ahead of full liberalisation of the domestic sugar market in 2012. A team of experts agreed with COMESA saying that full privatisation of at least two government-owned firms by June 2010 is critical to their success in making a positive contribution to the competitiveness of Kenya's sugar sub-sector at the end of the safeguard period.

The government has yet to roll out a comprehensive timetable for the planned sale of sugar firms despite publication of names of state-owned companies earmarked for divestiture. *(BD, 02.12.09)*

Africa Pushes for Autonomy

The financing of a joint Africa European Union (EU) development initiative could be headed for an operational shift as leaders press for an independent Pan-African kitty to bankroll projects launched under it. African leaders want the Joint Africa-EU Strategy funded through a distinct scheme in place of the current system where it relies on contributions from other supporting kitties by the European Commission (EC).

EU's funding for international cooperation with Africa has over the years mainly come through three geographically-based financing instruments including the European Development Fund that caters to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. *(BD, 13.10.09)*

A Time for Transformation

Africa's economic growth and poverty reduction are closely linked with the quality of its infrastructure – its power, transport systems, water supply and sanitation, and its Information and Communication Technology networks. In the current economic climate, finding the financial resources for Africa's huge infrastructure needs is an enormous challenge.

Investments in infrastructure are now more important than ever. They can help stimulate the economy, remove bottlenecks to long-term growth, and create jobs.

Better infrastructure could increase productivity of business by as much as 40 percent. In the last decade the telecommunication revolution contributed to half of Africa's improved growth performance; however, during the

same period, deficiencies in power infrastructure impeded growth dramatically. *(TP, 22.12.09)*

Vital Implications for EAC

One of the most important event that is likely to shape things around this region for the better is the recent signing of the Common Market protocol for the East African Community (EAC) in Arusha, Tanzania, by all East African heads of state.

Under normal circumstances this should have caused excitement among our people, since life aboard this ship is going to get less monotonous in terms of business competitiveness, economic opportunity, capital inflows, foreign direct investment, donor finance and the long-term impacts like effects on prices of land, labour and size of government. *(NV, 07.12.09)*

Committed to African Development

Since the independence of many African nations, developed countries have poured in billions of dollars in development aid. This aid is usually given out on bilateral or multilateral agreements. Recently, the EC also reiterated its commitment to fund development projects in the African and Caribbean countries following consultations of the member states.

The European bloc will intensify efforts to bankroll development projects in the developing world with special focus on Africa and Caribbean Islands. This comes as the trading bloc surpassed its funding targets to the developing world by a massive US\$2.75bn.

The EU has of late been putting special emphasis towards funding climate change programmes in developing nations as the environment also constitutes a very important part of development.

(www.tralac.com, 22.12.09)

Hunger in Horn of Africa

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) sounded alarmed on the worsening humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa. Nearly five million children under the age of five in this region are hungry. There has been a reported increase in the number of hungry children while the number of people in need of emergency assistance in the region has also risen, climbing from 20 million earlier this year to 24 million, the agency said.

The food insecurity has largely triggered due to the prolonged drought conditions, which have led to enormous losses in livestock and surging food prices. *(UN News Services, 14.10.09)*



Call for Suspension of EPAs

With negotiations under the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between third world countries and the EU, pressure is mounting on trade ministers since civil society organisations (CSOs) are suspicious of the terms of agreement. CSOs from Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) demanded a ten-year freeze on the negotiations in light of the global financial crisis and its impact on some sector.

The cause behind CSOs demanding EPA suspension is the concern raised on EPAs by the governments of ESA. The EU has been slow to address these concerns, hence the need to delay the EPAs so that they can be harmonised and agreed upon well. *(ZDM, 09.11.09)*

Economic Blocs Boosting CBT

Everyday huge trucks loaded with all kinds of goods traverse the highways and entry border points as a sign of increased cross-border trade (CBT) in Southern Africa. Other than that, 25.4 percent of cargo rolls down the region's railway networks from seafront harbours to the dry ports of landlocked countries.

The creation of regional free trade zones for member countries of both the two trading blocs – Southern African Development Community (SADC) and COMESA have assisted in the rise of CBT. Increase in trade in Southern Africa can partly be attributed to the rise in non-traditional exports by almost 3.8 percent annually in the past 10 years.

(TEA, 26.10.09)

Training of Tacticians

The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) in conjunction with the Netherlands Centre for Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI) is training Rwandan commercial attachés and some diplomats on how to analyse information related to trade and exports.

The five-day training aims at strengthening the market research and marketing skills of commercial attachés as well as train them to upload researched data directly onto a trade information system. In doing so it will help to build the refractivity in rural areas by targeting certain exports to generate foreign

Trade Ties Defy Recession

The value of bilateral trade between Kenya and China is expected to defy the negative effects of the global financial crisis and drought conditions locally, thus raising prospects of stronger ties between the two nations in the New Year 2010, according to a latest data. A performance scorecard over the first 10 months of 2009 showed a firm run with the full year value of trade pacts between the two nation expected to remain unaffected.

Over the 10-month period the value of bilateral trade between Kenya and China stood at US\$1.02mn compared to US\$1.2mn realised over 2008. The performance over 2008 marked a 30.4 percent leap over the previous year. *(BD, 31.12.09)*



exchange and build the private sector, which in turn will increase revenues and help the balance of trade. *(TT, 25.11.09)*

Doha Agreement to End in 2010

“The Doha agreement which seeks to eliminate trade barriers among members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) may end in 2010”, Nigerian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Achike Udenwa, said.

He said the negotiations aimed at creating a level playing field for trade among the 153 member countries of the global trade body are on. The minister said that developed and developing countries should be able to come to an agreement on how to open up their markets to each other without any country being negatively affected as each nation takes steps to protect its economy.

The country has also entered into negotiations with the Government of Thailand on how to invest in rice farms and rice mills in Nigeria since it is the biggest buyer of rice from Thailand, he said. *(DT, 15.12.09)*

Govt Wins AGOA Reprieve

US President Barack Obama has handed local exporters of Kenya a New Year gift by extending trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), allowing them a chance to continue tapping in opportunities in the

vast American market in 2010. A raging diplomatic row between the US and Kenya over the pace of reforms had caused jitters among local exporters that President Obama could opt to deny the country eligibility under the AGOA initiative for 2010.

The AGOA Act authorises the US President to annually designate countries eligible for benefits under the pact. Countries are eligible if they are identified as having established or making progress towards setting up market-based economies; the rule of law and political pluralism and eliminating barriers to US trade and investment. *(BD, 28.12.09)*

US\$27mn Free Trade Zone

Rwanda will launch a US\$27mn free trade zone in an attempt to diversify exports and redress its widening trade deficit. The 100-hectare zone will be funded by a public-private partnership and will be the first of its kind in Africa's Great Lakes region.

The Rwanda government hopes to complete a new rail link to Tanzania's main port Dar es Salaam, a new international airport, and a fibre-optic broadband link to neighbouring Uganda. The free trade zone project will create 3,000-5,000 new jobs and help Rwanda capture more market share in a region.

(COMESA News, 20.11.09)

Trade Deals in Danger

The ACP countries are being warned of overlapping trade regimes because of lack of a standard timetable for the signing of new economic pacts with Europe. And it is the ACP secretariat raising the alarm, saying the situation could interfere with ACP-EU trade ties. Statistics show that so far only 25 ACP countries have either signed full or interim EPAs with the EU while 11 others, including Kenya, had initialled the deals but not signed a framework on the agreements.

Another 42 countries from the bloc are yet to make any steps in landing new deals with Europe – nearly 20 months after the expiry of the previous pacts that guided trade between the blocs.

(TEA, 14.10.09)



Harsh Global Trade Practices

Trade at international level has been characterised by stringent rules, market restrictions and many trade barriers which have in most cases worked well for developed economies. But for the developing economies, the foreign exchange base has tremendously been affected by these harsh trade practices, which have further undermined their economies and worsened external debt situations.

Zambia's Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister, Felix Mutati also stated that fair trade policies address sustainable economic and human development. These policies present the most realistic framework necessary to correct trade imbalances and give the poor and developing countries greater economic growth potential and a more effective capacity to defeat poverty.

(ToZ, 04.12.09)

Removing Trade Barriers

Kenya and South Africa are going to set up a joint secretariat to ease trade between them, giving local investors easier access to the Johannesburg market. The two institutions are expected to rev up investment between the countries that is currently skewed in favour of South Africa. Official data indicate imports from South Africa are currently 20 times the value of Kenya's exports to that country, a clear signal that South African investors are reaping more from trade between the two countries.

Kenya exported goods worth US\$0.047 to South Africa in 2008 while it received goods worth US\$0.60 from the country. This has been attributed to tariff barriers and the advancement of the

South African economy compared to Kenya, which has seen it sell high value goods such as vehicles, machinery and computers to Kenya.

(BD, 28.10.09)

Simplified Trade Rules

Joint efforts by the EAC and COMESA to implement the simplified trade regime have been lauded for spurring expansion in small-scale CBT of cereals in the region. The simplified trade regime focuses on customs and rules of origin.

The changes have also opened a large market to both member and non-member countries. Small-scale cereals traders within the EAC are expected to reap the benefits of this union which will facilitate trade by reducing barriers.

Of late, there has been a remarkable rise in the volume of informal trade across East African borders, according to the Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN) reports.

(BD, 29.12.09)

One Stop Border Post Launched

Faster border clearance is one issue that can help commerce people trade faster with reduced time and expenses. On most of the African borders, traders spend more time moving from one office to another on both the sides of the border for clearance. With the coming in of the One Stop Border Facility, business at border posts has gained momentum since unnecessary procedures have been cut off.

On December 01, 2009, the Chirundu One Stop Border Post became operational. It was characterised by harmonised procedures at both sides of the Zambia – Zimbabwe borders. On December 05, 2009, the presidents of Zambia and Zimbabwe officially launched

the facility at their shared border. With this launch, all border agencies from the two countries are being incorporated to reduce on time and improve trade facilitation.

(TP, 03.12.09)

Trade Facilitation on Cards

Trade between Zambia and China has grown in the past five years culminating in huge investments by Chinese companies in mining, agriculture and the construction sectors. The booming trade between the two countries has also seen an exchange of visits of both politicians and business delegations from either side. Zambian firms have also been taking part in Chinese business exhibitions while Chinese companies seeking investment opportunities; have also been making trips to Zambia.

As a result of this evolving relationship between the two nations, the Zambia-China Business Association (ZCBA) is in the process of establishing a trade facilitation service that will enable Zambian entrepreneurs access to authenticated machinery from China.

(TP, 03.11.09)

High Prices Hurt Grain Trade

High cereal prices continue to resist volume of grain traded in East Africa as the menace of informal CBT also takes a beating. The regional trade market said the drop in volumes of grains traded across the borders "might have been contributed by the fact that prices of grains were unseasonably quite high in 2009".

Cross border statistics maintained by RATIN indicate that the volume of beans in September 2009 fell to 14,277 metric tones from 19,732 metric tones for the month of August 2009.

(BD, 15.10.09)

Aid for Trade

The EU is giving a total of US\$898.88mn to the COMESA member countries to finance projects that will help them develop capacity in trade with other countries. The funds are to benefit companies investing in warehouse receipt systems, road construction, agriculture improvement projects and government departments among other things.

It is aimed at developing the least developed countries' capacity to trade. It includes support to building new infrastructure, improving ports or customs facilities and assistance in helping factories meet European health and safety standards for imports. (EA, 15.11.09)

Increasing Trade Threefold

COMESA has announced a number of measures to increase intra-regional trade threefold. According to the bloc, it will step up efforts to reduce non-tariff barriers, address communication and transport problems, improve customs procedures and charges, and improve access to market information. COMESA had launched its Customs Union in June 2009 to realise its desire to raise intra-regional trade levels from seven percent currently to 25 percent.

The programme is developing sector strategies for key priority sectors that have been identified by the COMESA. Additionally, COMESA is undertaking a "comprehensive" industrial audit to identify supply-demand gaps in addition to supporting member states in developing their industrial policies, strategies and master plans in line with the regional industrial strategy. (www.Bilaterals.org, 16.11.09)

EAC Agrees on Common Market

EAC Common Market Protocol that paved way for the free movement of goods, labour and capital becomes operational from July 01, 2010. To this effect the Heads of State of the EAC member states have directed the council of ministers to oversee and approve institutional arrangements that will support the management of the Common Market. They also urged the partner states to ensure that the protocol is ratified quickly in order for it to become operational starting July 01, 2010.

Leaders took note of the progress in the consolidation of the EAC Customs Union. They approved the review of the common external tariff and rules of origin

but on condition that the council of ministers report to the summit on decisions taken on any of the approved reviews. (EABW, 01.12.09)

Blocs Face Acid Test

The proposed merger of three regional economic blocs is soon expected to face an acid test when member states give views on recently released work plans that seek to guide the process. SADC, EAC and COMESA are eyeing a free trade area (FTA) covering more than 527 million people with an estimated combined gross domestic product of US\$624bn.

The partners had created a roadmap to guide the proposed grand FTA process. The roadmap sets out the overall justification for the FTA and includes a memorandum of understanding to be approved by the heads of state, as well as a draft agreement for the eventual establishment of the area. (BD, 09.12.09)

Positive Outlook Forecast for SSA

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecast a positive recovery in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) despite the negative effects of the global economic crisis. Commenting on the main findings of the IMF's '2009 Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa' report, Monsio Sayeh, Director of the IMF's African Department noted that many regional member states have been hard hit by the crisis, reducing economic growth

to just one percent in 2009 following a period of sustained high economic growth.

Scaled-up financial support from the IMF has supported countries' policy response. Sayeh said that the doubling of lending limits and more flexible policies have facilitated a rapid response to countries' needs. The new IMF commitments to SSA have reached over US\$3bn so far in 2009, compared to some US\$1.1bn for the whole of 2008 and only US\$0.1bn in 2007. (BuaNews, 08.10.09)

Revenue Share Increase

Members of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) have submitted a proposal to South Africa to increase annual revenue shares for each member state. Botswana's Minister of Finance and Development Planning Kenneth Matambo said that although member states have accepted the formula used to divide the tax revenue, their individual shares are insufficient to support their 2010-11 national budgets.

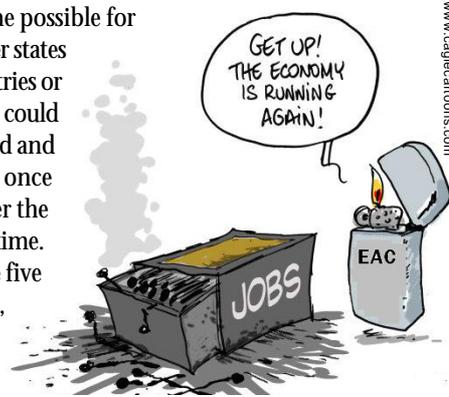
Matambo revealed that increased government expenditure and huge national budget deficits are the reason why member states are calling for an increase in their revenue shares. He observed that SACU members were not spared the effects of the global recession, thus proposing increments in light of their budgetary status. (BOPA, 17.12.09)

EAC to Facilitate Jobs and Trade

By the end of 2009, it could become possible for a citizen of any of the EAC member states to get employed in any of the five countries or set up a business. Except for Tanzania, it could also be possible for Kenyans to buy land and settle in any of the East African states once the common market is established after the signing of the protocol in three weeks' time.

EAC minister Jeffah Kingi said the five heads of state will sign the protocol, which will then kick off the process for the establishment of the common market. He said the key benefits of the common market would be the free movement of services, labour and the right of establishment.

Goods originating from the member states would also have had zero rating on tariffs, allowing traders to export their products without having to pay prohibitive taxes. The full establishment of the common market is intended to be complete by 2012. (DN, 29.10.09)



www.cartoonists.com

Farmers Receive FAO's boost

The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) is to provide Tanzania with advisory support for farmers that will help them better respond to market opportunities and thus heighten food security. They will get technical assistance in farm management and marketing and will be encouraged to join producers' groups.

Farmers will be trained in business management and marketing, said FAO, adding that the programme will result in better extension services capable of giving small farmers a market orientation.

If greater emphasis is given to good practices in both production and marketing, decision-makers at all levels in Tanzania will be in a better position to ensure that wherever possible agricultural production will respond to the demands of consumers and not just to that of the individual household. Training materials will be distributed and coaching and monitoring will also be part of the package designed. *(www.afrolnews.com, 28.12.09)*

Kenya to End Power Shortages

Kenyan authorities have declared an end to future power shortages in the East African state, saying the government will move into solar, wind and geothermal power generation to put an end to blackouts.

The Energy minister, Kiraitu Murungi, said new rules on power management will soon be gazzetted to force all buildings within the city and other major towns to install solar water

heaters. There will private sector involvement in this project due to high cost involvement.

(www.afrolnews.com, 24.11.09)

Cracking the Whip

Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has clamp down about 800 scam e-mail addresses and nabbed 18 people high profile syndicates who specialise in cyber crime. According to EFCC statement, the latest crack down, is to get tough on Internet fraudsters through an initiative tagged "project eagle claw".

It is expected that the project to fight cyber fraud would be in full force in the coming months and will take Nigeria out of the top 10 list of countries with the highest incidence of fraudulent e-mails.

The EFCC is fine-tuning security modalities with Microsoft to take down fraudulent e-mails. The EFCC structure for combating cyber crime revolved around cyber raids and investigation of petitions. *(www.afrolnews.com, 23.10.09)*

AIDS Prevention Threatened

Over 50 Ugandan and international organisations are warning government that the "repressive" HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Bill, soon to be voted on in the Kampala parliament, could destroy Uganda's earlier successes in fighting back the pandemic.

The controversial bill would, if approved, criminalise the willful transmission of HIV, the failure to "observe instructions on prevention and

treatment," and misleading statements on preventing or controlling HIV. It includes mandatory testing for HIV and forced disclosure of HIV status.

And it further strengthens penalties related to homosexuality and prostitution. It is important to have a law that protects the rights of people with regard to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

(www.afrolnews.com, 06.11.09)

Increased External Deficit

The IMF has commended Zimbabwe's recovery progress, but has however warned on the large external current account deficit and increased credit as well as liquidity risks in the banking system. The government has broadly adhered to cash budgeting, achieved a significant improvement in budget revenue, established a multi-currency system, and largely liberalised prices and the exchange system.

The fund also noted that resolving the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governance problems and restructuring its balance sheet would be key, while also the government should enforce the property rights, and maintain the rule of law.

The Fund has also said access by Zimbabwe to IMF lending facilities would require a sustained track record of sound policies and donor support for the clearance of arrears to official creditors.

(www.afrolnews.com, 29.10.09)

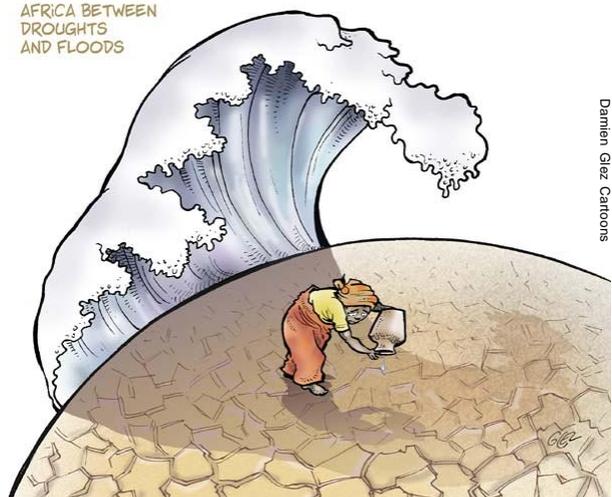
Looming Catastrophe

Recent scientific predictions have shown that most parts of Africa are going to be dry because of lack of enough rain and poor distribution of rainfall. There is a need of drought-tolerant crop varieties which are accessible to farmers. Most communities in Africa are dependent on farming and this bleak picture could be devastating to their livelihoods.

Thousands of square kms of arable land is slowly being engulfed by the Sahara Desert. This too is causing catastrophic consequences on both African farmers, their livestock and welfare. In Kenya, thousands of cattle have been dying due to drought and this can only be reversed if world leaders commit to a binding climate change treaty.

(www.allafrica.com, 13.11.09)

AFRICA BETWEEN DROUGHTS AND FLOODS



Damien Glez Cartoons

Competition Policy and Regulations in Kenya's Energy Sector

CUTS in collaboration with Investment Climate and Business Environment Research Fund (ICBE-RF) created by Trust Africa, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Foundation for Sustainable Enterprise and Development (FSED) has conceived a research project on 'Competition Policy and Regulations in Kenya's Energy Sector' to review and assess the Competition Policy and Regulation *vis-à-vis* the Energy Sector reforms in Kenya.

It is in this regard that a dissemination workshop on 'Regulatory and Competition-related reforms in Kenya's Power and Petroleum Sector' was held in Nairobi on October 21, 2009. This event attracted 23 participants from the energy sector, research institutions, private sector, academia, Kenya electricity generating company and the civil society.



The study was envisaged to:

- assess the institutional framework of the national competition policy and the regulatory structures;
- review and evaluate the competition policy and regulatory framework of the energy sector in light of energy sector reforms; and
- undertake a comparative analysis of competition and regulatory framework in energy sector in other countries.

For more details, please visit:

http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/Competition_in_Energy_Sector/event-dissemination_workshop_on_Regulatory_and_Competition_related_reforms_in_Kenya.htm

Building Trading Capacity for Poverty Reduction

CUTS ARC, Lusaka in partnership with Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), Zambia and with the assistance of Finnish Embassy, Zambia is supporting civil society groups to respond to ongoing policy discussions in Zambia on productive capacity building and trade development taking place through the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). During the second half year of the project, a number of activities and research was undertaken to supplement work by the Government of Zambia to benefit from the EIF support.

EIF Sensitisation Workshop

CUTS held the fourth sensitisation workshop under the EIF project in Chipata, on November 02, 2009.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- sensitise and engage various stakeholders on the EIF process so that they could assess the opportunities of the EIF to lease developed countries (LDCs), such as Zambia;
- assess the feasibility of incorporating the EIF in the Fifth National Development Plan; and
- provide recommendations that would feed into the successful implementation of the EIF in Zambia.

Research Findings Dissemination Workshop

CUTS held a research dissemination workshop under the EIF in Lusaka, on November 27, 2009. The objective of this workshop was to disseminate the two research studies: *A Study on the Rice Value-chain in Zambia* and *An Assessment of the Zambian Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study* to various stakeholders which included government, donor communities and CSOs and media in the hope that the two study reports should contribute to the successful implementation of the EIF process in Zambia.

Capacity Building of Media on WTO

CUTS in coordination with Caritas Zambia held a capacity building workshop for the media on WTO issues in Lusaka, in November 2009. The aim of the workshop was to enlighten media personnel on the WTO and the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. An overwhelming number of business reporters and editors drawn from both the print and electronic media attended the workshop which gave them insights of the global trading system.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- enhance understanding among the media practitioners in Zambia in order for them to effectively understand and be able to report on the WTO issues as they relate to development and poverty reduction in Zambia;
- provide an update on the key issues for analytical reporting on the Doha negotiations;
- discuss the national priorities for the 2009 WTO Ministerial Conference; and
- provide recommendations that would feed into the successful implementation of WTO negotiations.

NEW PROJECT

Raising Awareness at the Grassroots on Competition Policy and Consumer Protection Issues in Zambia

CUTS is currently implementing a project to raise people's awareness of their consumer rights and prevailing unfair trade practices across Zambia. The project is funded by Capacity Building for Private Sector Development (CBPSD), a programme implemented by the European Commission (EC). The project aims to establish the 'missing link' between competition enforcement on one hand and achieving desirable impacts for common Zambian consumers on the other. The project will enhance the capacity of consumers to better comprehend consumer protection and competition policy issues and engage with policymakers to facilitate relevant policy reforms. This six-month project was formally launched in Lusaka, Zambia, on October 21, 2009.

The objectives of the project are to:

- Increase awareness and understanding among various stakeholders, especially the consumers at the grassroots on the relevance and benefit of competition for consumers;
- Empower consumers with information about their rights and how they can mobilise others to generate advocacy responses that would help address their challenges and needs; and
- Strengthen the capacity of the consumer groups to take up action-oriented research and advocacy on competition and regulatory policy issues.

For more details, please visit: www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/CBPSD/

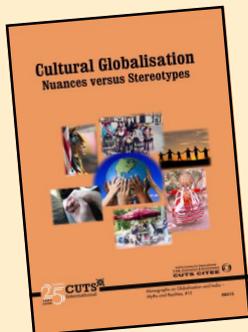
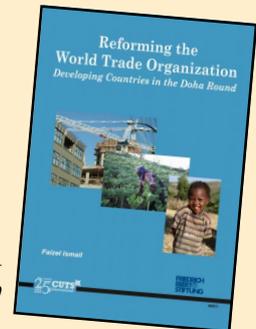
PUBLICATIONS

Reforming the World Trade Organization: *Developing Countries in the Doha Round*

This book is ambitious in its attempt to not only tell a story, but also draw on the existing academic literature to conceptualise some of the key issues that developing countries have been engaging with in the Doha round. It attempts to review some of the conventional wisdom in the academic literature about the role of developing countries in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) until the launch of the Uruguay Round, provides evidence to rebut the arguments presented by these mainstream writers.

Book

Suggested Contribution: Rs 200/US\$20



Cultural Globalisation: Nuances versus Stereotypes

This monograph tries to breathe fresh air into the discourse/debate on cultural globalisation which has suffered from stereotypical characterisation as Americanisation and more broadly as Westernisation. This monograph tries to incorporate this hitherto unmentioned element using a down-to-earth conversational style that is easy to follow and an approach relying on illustrations from real life. This method enhances the practical utility of this monograph.

This monograph can be viewed at:

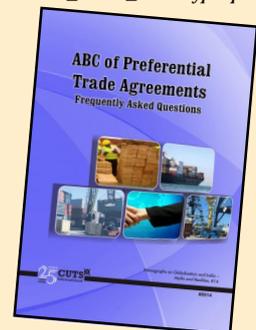
http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/monograph09-Cultural_Globalisation-Nuances_versus_Stereotypes.pdf

ABC of Preferential Trade Agreements

This booklet starts with a brief on the different types of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) and why countries enter into such an agreement. It goes on to outline the evolution process and point out why PTAs may be inconsistent with GATT rules. This monograph serves to inform and guide the reader on the basics of a PTA, as well as various concerns and issues enveloping such preferential agreements.

This monograph can be viewed at:

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/monograph09-ABC_of_Preferential_Trade_Agreements.pdf



Sources

BD: Business Daily; BoPA: Botswana Press Agency; DN: Daily Nation; DT: Daily Times; EA: East African; EABW: East African Business Weekly; NV: New Vision; TEA: The East African; ToZ: Times of Zambia; TP: The Post; TT: The Times; ZDM: Zambia Daily Mail

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