

# CUTS HRC Activity Report

No. 4/2010

## ONGOING PROJECT

### Strengthening the Competition Authorities in Vietnam

CUTS Hanoi Resource Centre (CUTS HRC) has been, in cooperation with the Vietnam Competition Authority (VCA), implementing a project, entitled “Strengthening the Competition Authorities in Vietnam”, since February 2008. Through the strengthening of the Vietnam Competition Administration Department (Ministry of Trade – [www.vcad.gov.vn](http://www.vcad.gov.vn)) and through a better understanding of the benefits of competition among public officials, the private sector and civil society, the Project will contribute to the establishment of a business environment that is conducive to the development of the private sector. This will lead to a strengthened international competitiveness of the Vietnamese economy, as well as better products and services and increased exportations. All immediate objectives of the Project aim at deepening the application and the implementation of Vietnamese competition policies.

CUTS HRC, with the support of VCA, successfully organised a course to train lecturers in select universities throughout Vietnam on competition and consumer protection law issues on September 21-24, 2010. There were 24 participants from different Universities in the Northern, Central and Southern areas. These people would be the ones who would disseminate knowledge about competition to others when they are back to their Universities. The reports as well as full proceedings of the course are being prepared and will soon be uploaded onto the official website.

Touching upon consumer protection and professional services, the final article on competition/consumer protection issues has been written and published for VCA’s bulletin.

## FORTHCOMING PROJECT

### Study on Unfair Trade Practices in Select ASEAN Countries

The project entitled “Study on Unfair Trade Practices in select ASEAN countries” aims at generating and promoting substantive discussions/dialogues in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on issues related to unfair trade practices (UTPs). The project proposal has been officially approved by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada in early November with Official Request signed, scanned and sent to IDRC. The project will be implemented in Vietnam and four project countries, which are Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, with the support of local partners in each project country. The launching of the project should take place in either end of February or early March 2011. Preparatory works were ongoing during the final quarter of 2010: drafting of an Operational Strategic Note (OSN), establishment of a Project Activity Chart/ Action Plan, drafting of Service Contracts with country partners, including the Terms of Reference (ToRs) and preparation for the Launch Meeting.



## REPRESENTATIONS

Nguyen Thanh Ha attended the conference entitled “Capacity Building on Consumers’ Complaint Handling for Vietnam Standards and Consumer Association”, organised by the EU – Vietnam MUTRAP III in Meliá Hanoi Hotel, on October 13, 2010. More than 30 participants attended the conference, including VINASTAS, local consumer associations, Vietnam Competition Authority as well as representatives from the media and press. From MUTRAP III, Claudio Dordi and Lucette Defalque attended the conference. From VINASTAS, Doan Phuong, Do Gia Phan and Dinh Thi My Loan were also present.