

CUTS HRC Activity Report

April-June 2015

ONGOING PROJECTS

SESA Programme *Trade Promotion through Standardisation*

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) has been supporting a two-year programme (January 2013-December 2014) implemented by the Swedish Standards Institute (SIS) to build institutional capacity within the South-east and South Asia (SESA) regions on 'Standard Setting and Standard Implementation'. CUTS HRC is the Programme's Partner Organisation for the South-east Asia region. The Programme has been extended by SIDA and SIS to April 2016.

During the reporting period, the reports, which were based on desk research on stakeholder engagement in Laos were prepared. These reports, together with the Vietnam and Cambodia reports, will form the basis for a comparative study to be undertaken shortly. Regarding the quarterly newsletters, the eighth issue and the ninth issue of the Newsletter on 'Standards and Quality' have been prepared and distributed to the relevant stakeholders. Lastly, preparation for the two capacity-building workshops for Consumer Associations in Vietnam on 'Standards and Standardisation' in July and August 2015 are currently in progress.



Competition Distortions in Vietnam



This is a research project supported by the Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for Freedom (FNF-Vietnam Office). FNF and CUTS HRC signed a cooperation agreement in which FNF agrees to fund the project activities for next three years (01.01.2015-30.12.2017). Accordingly, a Subsidy Agreement was signed between two sides for the implementation of the project during the period 01.01.2015-30.11.2015. Moreover, the second

Dossier of 2015 was prepared by CUTS HRC and submitted to FNF.

Case Study on the Vietnam Telecom Sector (H/P7)

As part of its 'Support to Enhance Development of Trade in Services Negotiations' Project, CUTS International Geneva (CUTS GRC) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with CUTS HRC for undertaking a Case Study on 'Vietnam Telecom Sector: Best/Good practices in Regulatory Reforms' as they relate to Competition Policy and Law issues.

The main objective of this Case Study is to outline the 'steps' and the 'how' to undertake regulatory reforms as they relate to Competition Policy and Law in order to increase trade in services benefits/competitiveness. The total Budget for this activity is US\$5,000. Based on the comments received from CUTS GRC and partners, the Case Study will be finalised.

REPRESENTATIONS

- On April 16, 2015, the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) hosted an Annual Conference to launch the 2014 Provincial Competitiveness Index Report in Hanoi. To Tam and Hoang Duyen took part in the Conference.
- On April 23, 2015, Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations, Vietnam Standards and Consumer Associations (VINASTAS), Vietnam Competition Authority (VCA) and O2TV, altogether organised a workshop on 'Healthy Diets and Right to Information of Consumers' in Hanoi. Alice Pham and To Tam took part in the workshop.
- The Embassy of Sweden's Regional Workshop 'Partner in Rights – Promoting Regional Environmental Sustainability and Human Rights through Innovative Relationships between Businesses, Civil Society and Governments' was organised on May 27-28, 2015 at Hotel Plaza Athénée, Bangkok. Alice Pham represented SIS in the event.
- On June 20, 2015 Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised the Announcement Ceremony of Ministerial Efficiency Index 2014 (MEI 2014) in Hanoi. To Tam participated in the event.
- A training session on stakeholder's engagement for Southeast Asia countries (Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia) was organised in Bangkok, Thailand. Alice Pham and Hoang Duyen took take part in the training session on June 24-25, 2015.