

CUTS HRC Activity Report

August-October 2016

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 SESA programme's partner organisation for the South-east Asia region. The programme has been extended by SIDA and SIS till December 2016.



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During the reporting period, the 14th issue of the newsletter on 'Standards and Quality' (also the 3rd issue of 2016) has been prepared and distributed to the relevant stakeholders.

Geneva Trade and Business Connexion

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (GRC) is implementing a Project entitled "Geneva Trade and Business Connexion – South & South-East Asia", with the overall objective to improve the capacity of private sectors in the participating countries to provide inputs into their World Trade Organisation (WTO) delegates positions. Connecting these stakeholders contributes to South and South-east Asian developing and least-developed country negotiating positions more fully aligned with the on-the-ground conditions faced by their business communities. This will ultimately leading to improved private sector development at the national-level.



During the reporting period of the project, CUTS HRC prepared two Country Update Notes under the themes: "Manufactured Products' Exports: Technical Barriers to Trade Faced by exporters from Vietnam and their Solution" and "Textile Articles Exports to the US Market: Technical Barriers to Trade Faced by Exporters in Vietnam and their Solution" to service the 4th and 5th Forum meeting convened by CUTS GRC.

REPRESENTATIONS

- On August 22-23 and August 29-30, 2016, CUTS HRC in partnership with Vietnam Standards and Consumer Association (VINASTAS) organised two capacity building workshops for consumer associations in North and South Vietnam on "Consumers, Standards and Food Safety in Vietnam" in Thanh Hoa City and Kien Giang City, Vietnam respectively.
- On October 07, 2016, CUTS HRC in partnership with VINASTAS organised a workshop on "UNEP Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information" in Hanoi City, Vietnam.

