

CUTS HRC Activity Report

February-April 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.



During the reporting period, the 12th issue of the Newsletter on 'Standards and Quality' (also the 1st issue of 2016) has been prepared and distributed to the relevant stakeholders.

CUTS HRC, in partnership with the Vietnam Standards and Consumers Association (VINASTAS) will be organising a series of seminars for consumer representatives in Vietnam on 'Consumers, Standards and Food Safety in Vietnam' within the framework of this programme.

Geneva Trade and Business Connexion

CUTS International, Geneva (GRC) is implementing a project entitled "Geneva Trade and Business Connexion – South and South-East Asia", with the overall objective to improve the capacity of private sectors in the participating countries to input 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 absolutely aligned with the on-the-ground conditions faced by their business communities. This leads to improved private sector development at the national-level. During the reporting period, CUTS HRC prepared a *Country Update Note* under the theme "Agricultural Products' Exports: Sanitary and PhytoSanitary (SPS)



Barriers Faced by Exporters in Vietnam" to service the first Forum meeting convened by GRC, under this project.

REPRESENTATIONS

- During March 07-08, 2016, Hoang Duyen of CUTS HRC participated in a gender training workshop held in Colombo, Sri Lanka within the framework of the SESA programme.

