

CUTS HRC Activity Report

July-September 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 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, CUTS HRC has prepared three reports, which are based on desk research on stakeholder engagement in standardisation in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam. These reports will form the basis for a comparative study to be undertaken shortly in near future.

The tenth issues of the Newsletter on 'Standards and Quality' (also the 3rd issue of 2015) have been prepared and distributed to the relevant stakeholders.

Furthermore, CUTS HRC, in partnership with the Vietnam Standards and Consumers Association (VINASTAS), organised a capacity-building workshop for Consumer Associations in Northern Vietnam on 'Standards and Standardisation: The Role for Consumers and Consumer Organisations' during August 20-21, 2015 in Hai Phong, Vietnam. Preparations for the 2nd capacity-building workshop for Consumer Associations in South Vietnam in early October 2015 are currently in progress.

Competition Distortions Dossier in Vietnam

Competition Distortions Dossier in Vietnam 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 the coming three-years (01.01.15-30.12.17). Accordingly, a Subsidy Agreement was signed between the two sides for the implementation of the Project during the period 01.01.15-01.11.15.

During the reporting period, third Dossier of 2015 has been submitted to FNF and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders. CUTS HRC is preparing the last Dossier of 2015.



REPRESENTATIONS



- Alice Pham participated and spoke in a seminar on 'Consumers' Interests in the Urban Transportation Market' organised by VINASTAS on September 08, 2015 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
- On August 20-21, 2015, CUTS HRC, in partnership with VINASTAS, organised a capacity-building workshop for consumer associations in North Vietnam on 'Standards and Standardisation' in Haiphong, Vietnam.