

# CUTS HRC Activity Report

May-July 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 develop 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 13<sup>th</sup> issue of the Newsletter on 'Standards and Quality' (also the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of 2016) has been prepared and distributed to the relevant stakeholders.

CUTS HRC, in partnership with the Vietnam Standards and Consumers Association (VINASTAS), is planning to organise two seminars for consumer representatives in Vietnam on "Consumers, Standards and Food Safety in Vietnam" within the framework of this programme in August 2016. Moreover, preparatory tasks, which include selection of participants, preparation of training documents and other logistics tasks, are in progress.



### Geneva Trade and Business Connexion

CUTS International, Geneva is implementing a Project entitled "Geneva Trade & Business Connexion – South & South-East Asia", with the overall objective to enhance 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 & South-east Asian developing and least-developed countries negotiating positions completely aligned with the on-the-ground conditions faced by their business

communities. This ultimately leads to improved private sector development at the national-level.

Under this project, CUTS HRC prepared two Country Update Notes under the themes: "The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement – Main Issues Faced by Small and Medium Sized Economies (SMEs) in Vietnam and their Solution" and "WTO Agreements on Trade in Services – Main Issues Faced by SMEs in Vietnam and their Solution" to service the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum meeting convened by CUTS International, Geneva.

## REPRESENTATIONS

- Alice Pham of HRC took part in the training workshop on "ISO14001:2015 and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)" held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on June 06-08, 2016. The event was held within the framework of the SESA programme.

