

CUTS HRC Activity Report

October 2015-January 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, CUTS HRC has prepared three reports, which were based on desk research on stakeholder's engagement in standardisation in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. These reports will form the basis for a comparative study to be undertaken shortly in the coming times.

The 11th issue of the newsletter on 'Standards and Quality' (also the last issue of 2015) has been prepared and distributed to the relevant stakeholders. A feedback evaluation on the 'Standards and Quality' newsletter survey is being undertaken for evaluating the quality of the newsletter before proceeding with the 12th issue (the first of 2016).



Lastly, CUTS HRC in partnership with the Vietnam Standards and Consumers Association (VINASTAS) organised a capacity building workshop for Consumer Associations in Southern Vietnam on 'Standards and Standardisation: The Role for Consumers and Consumer Organisations' during October 01-02, 2015 in Nha Trang City, Vietnam.

Competition Distortions Dossier in Vietnam

Competition Distortions in Vietnam is a research project supported by the Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for Freedom (FNF, Vietnam). FNF and CUTS HRC signed a cooperation agreement in which FNF agreed to fund the project activities for the following three years (January 01, 2015-December 31, 2017). Accordingly, a Subsidy Agreement was also signed between the two sides for implementation of the project during the period January 01, 2015-November 30, 2015.



During the reporting period, last Dossier of 2015 was submitted to FNF and disseminated to relevant stakeholders.

REPRESENTATIONS

- During October 01-02, 2015, CUTS HRC, in partnership with VINASTAS organised a capacity building workshop for consumer associations in South Vietnam on 'Standards and Standardisation' in Nha Trang City, Vietnam.



- During November 16-19, 2015, Hoang Duyen of CUTS HRC participated in a gender training workshop held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia within the framework of the SESA programme.

- During December 21-23, 2015, Alice Pham, Centre Coordinator of HRC participated in a Training of Trainers workshop on 'International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) Standard 14001:2015 on Environmental Management System' in Colombo, Sri Lanka within the framework of the SESA programme.