

# CUTS HRC Activity Report

October-December 2014

## ONGOING PROJECTS

### **Competition Policy and Law in ASEAN Competition Assessment in Lao PDR**

**T**his is a three-year regional project (2012-2015) entitled 'Competition Policy and Law in Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN)' with a total budget of •2mn undertaken by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

During the reporting period, CUTS HRC undertook an External Review of the Vietnam Competition Regime and prepared a post-2015 Competition Action Plan for the ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC). The Plan will be submitted to the ASEAN high-level meeting in January 2015

### **SESA Programme: Trade Promotion through Standardisation**

**T**he Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) is 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 programme's partner organisation for the South-east Asia region. The Programme has been extended by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and SIS through April 2016.

During the reporting period, the following activities were undertaken: (i) The Guidebook on Carbon Foot-printing of Products for Vietnam (in both English and Vietnamese) was published in electronic format and disseminated, (ii) The 7<sup>th</sup> issue of the Newsletter on Standards and Quality was published and disseminated to relevant stakeholders and (iii) A report (based on desk research) on stakeholder engagement in Vietnam was prepared.

In addition, CUTS HRC participated in a number of training sessions organised, under the framework of the programme.

### **Competition Distortions in Vietnam**

**T**his is a research project supported by the Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for Freedom (FNF-Vietnam). During December 2014, the year-end analytical report for 2013-2014 was completed and disseminated to relevant stakeholders.

FNF and CUTS HRC signed a cooperation agreement in which FNF agrees to fund the project activities for next three-years (1/1/2015-30/12/2017). Accordingly, a subsidy agreement was signed between two sides for the implementation of the project during the period 1/1/2015-30/11/2015. CUTS HRC prepared necessary documents to be submitted to FNF and the first dossier of 2015 is to be prepared by the end of February.