



EVENTS

Launch of the COMPAD Project

CUTS Accra on September 25, 2014 launched the Competition Policy Advocacy Project (COMPAD) at the Coconut Grove Regency Hotel. The COMPAD Project is advocating for a well-enforced Competition Regime in Ghana. The launch was attended by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI), Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP), Private Sector Development (PSD), Public Utility Regulatory Commission (PURC), IMANI Centre for Policy and Education Ghana, Association of Ghana Industry (AGI), Institute for Financial and Economic Journalist (IFEJ), National Communication Agency (NCA) and Ghana National Chamber of Commerce (GNCC) etc.

Training Workshops on Climate Change, Food Security and Trade

Regional Training Workshop, under 'Promoting Agriculture Climate-Trade-Linkages in the East African Community (PACT EAC)' project from September 11-13, 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop focussed on key concepts of climate change, food security and trade discussions and the interrelationships of these key concepts in the policy processes and real life consequences; regional decision making and having policy frameworks in place. The agreements and institutions concerning agriculture, climate and trade linkages were also deliberated upon.

Review Meeting for the Indian Investments in Africa Countries Studies

CUTS Nairobi organised a Review Meeting for the Indian Investments in Africa Countries Studies (Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Zambia) during the period of September 11-12, 2014 in Nairobi. The aim was to bring to perspective the findings on the impact that current Indian investments have had on the sustainability of local communities, as a lesson for future policy-making and implementation at the national levels in select 'host' African countries. Practice by the Tata Chemicals Magadi company with Masaai community neighbouring member.

NRG Meetings and Training Workshops

The 6th National Reference Group (NRG) meetings and National Training Workshops, under the PACT EAC project were held on September 8-11 in Kenya; September 2-5 in Rwanda; September 2-5 in Burundi; August 25-28 in Uganda and August 19-22 in Tanzania. The meetings focussed on sustaining improvements on climate, food, trade policy coherence, based on the respective countries advocacy campaigns.

First Economic Forum on China-Africa Relations

CUTS Nairobi in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) organised the first Economic Forum on China-Africa Relations, under the theme "The Increased Trade and Economic Cooperation between China and Kenya: Implications for Sustainable Development" on August 14, 2014 at Sarova Stanley Hotel in Nairobi.

Media Meeting and Sharing of Scoping Study on Sugar

CUTS International Lusaka held a media meeting on July 30, 2014. The purpose of this meeting was to share the findings of the scoping study on the dynamics of the sugar industry in Zambia. Considering the role of the media in information dissemination and the awareness raising agenda, CUTS shared the findings of the study with the media in order to initiate economic debate. The scoping study on the project was undertaken with the aim of reviewing the

IN THIS ISSUE

Forthcoming Events 2

Representations 2

New Projects 3

Publications 3

Reflections From
Media 4

EVENTS

progress of research and the authenticity of the studies and also finding out the research gaps of these previous studies.

CUTS Accra CREW Projects NRG-II Meeting

CUTS Accra on July 25, 2014 held its CREW NRG-II Meeting under the CREW project at the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research, Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER) in Accra, Ghana. The sector experts who had conducted the research on the state of competition in the maize and the bus transport sectors of Ghana shared the findings of their research with the National Reference Group (NRG).

Impact Assessment of the Business Licencing Reforms

CUTS Lusaka launched the Project 'Launch of the Impact Assessment of the Business Licencing Reform on the Public Transport Sector' on July 24, 2014. The objective of the launch was to give a brief background of the project, to ensure that there is stakeholder buy-in to the project – from the onset and research methodology was presented.

FGD on Responsible Business Practice

CUTS Nairobi conducted a Focussed Group Discussions (FGD) on the Responsible Business Practice by the Tata Chemicals Magadi Company with Masaai community members on July 10, 2014 in Kajiado county.

BUSAC Advocacy Training on 'Concept and Practice of Effective Advocacy'

CUTS participated in a four day residential training, which was organised by the Business Sector Advocacy Challenge Fund (BUSAC Fund) from July 7-11, 2014. The training aimed to build the capacity and sharpen the skills of BUSAC grantees of which CUTS Accra is one.

NEW PROJECTS

Impact of Excessive Sugar Pricing

CUTS Lusaka will be undertaking a detailed study which seeks to understand the impact of excessive sugar pricing on the downstream market players and house-hold consumers. This project will build on the scoping study that was undertaken under the project.

Regulatory Effectiveness of Healthcare in Zambia

CUTS Lusaka in collaboration with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) launched a study to look at competition and consumer protections dynamics in the health care sector. The overall objective is to understand the health care issues and the regulatory effectiveness of the healthcare system in Zambia.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Enhancing Health Service Delivery

Dissemination and Advocacy workshop will be organised by CUTS Nairobi under the Empowering Marginalised Community Groups for Inclusive Governance in Kenya's Health Service Delivery. (EMECIGHES) Project: "Improving Health Service Delivery through Community Participation in Kenya: Case for Kisumu County" will be organised on October 16, 2014 in Kisumu County.

Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries

CUTS Accra on October 29, 2014 will organise the third NRG Meeting for the CREW Project (CREW NRG-III) at Paloma Hotel, Ring Road, Accra. The purpose of this NRG Meeting is for the NRG Members to aid in the identification of key issues from both the Staple Food and Transport Sector that will be carried out in the advocacy plan.

Need for Competition Policy Regime in Ghana

CUTS Accra will organise its quarterly Roundtable discussion in November 2014, to discuss the need and benefits of a Competition Policy Regime in Ghana. The objective of this policy roundtable discussion will be to adequately begin informing Ghanaians on the need for support and demand from Ghanaians for a Competition Policy & Law (CPL) in the country.

Advocating a Functional Competition Regime/Framework

CUTS Accra with funding support from The Business Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund is implementing a project entitled "Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime/Framework", referred to as the (COMPAD). The main objective of the project is to advocate for a well-enforced Competition Regime in Ghana.

Integrating Consumers' Voice in Regional Integration

CUTS Accra with funding support from West African Regional Integration Programme (SWARIP) is implementing a project entitled "Integrating Consumers' Voice in the Regional Integration process: a pilot in select West African countries". The main objective of the project is to assess the prevailing state of engagement of consumer groups/civil society in the issue of regional integration in select West African countries.

REPRESENTATIONS

Faith Mwamba attended a workshop on Capacity Building on Online Legal Research held on September 26, 2014. The workshop was organised by the Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF) in collaboration with Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR).

Katandula Chitika and **Alfred Chitalu** of CUTS Lusaka attended an assessment meeting of the National Regulatory System for Medicines and Allied Substances held on September 25, 2014.

Alfred Chitalu represented CUTS at the Zambia Tax Platform (ZTP) third Quarter Steering Committee meeting held at Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) on September 24, 2014.

Simon Ng'ona of CUTS Lusaka and Alfred Chitalu attended a meeting at the World Bank offices on September 19, 2014.

Susanne Rabisch of CUTS Nairobi presented preliminary findings of the EAC Synthesis research report on the status of implementation of the EAC Competition Act at the Annual EAC Secretary General's Meeting in Entebbe, Uganda, on September 12-13, 2014.

Annie M Siame attended the review meeting for the Critical Dimensions of Indian Investment project held in Nairobi, Kenya from the September 11-12, 2014.

Appiah Adomako and **Edayatu Lamptey** met with the representatives of Institute of Finance and Economic Federation- IFEF on August 27, 2014 to update about CUTS' work and introduce same to the COMPAD Project.

Appiah Adomako and **Edayatu Lamptey** met with Osei-Bimpeh of SEND-Ghana on August 18, 2014 to discuss the collaboration between the two organisations and also introduce the Advocating for a Functional Competition Policy and Law (COMPAD) Project.

Martha Getachew of CUTS Nairobi participated in a meeting on Climate Change Policy and Bill organised by Kenya Association of Manufactures (KAM) at the Stanley Hotel on July 23, 2014.

Munu Martin participated in the Public Forum on Rail Transport Policy in Kenya organised by Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) on July 22, 2014.

Rosebella Akinyi of CUTS Nairobi participated in the sixth KECOPAC full committee meeting on July 15, 2014 at the Utali House Board Room in Nairobi.

PUBLICATIONS

Tradequity

A quarterly newsletter which covers news and analysis on trade and sustainable development issues relevant to the African countries. The July-September issue encompasses a cover story entitled 'Does the US-Africa Leaders' Summit Reflect a Shift in America's Strategic Thinking'. The newsletter carries news on Economics and Development, Trade, Consumer and Environment etc. Besides, it also carries a special feature 'Implementation of the EAC Fair Competition Regime'.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/pdf/Tradequity14-Does_the_US-Africa_Leaders_Summit_Reflect_a_Shift_in_Americas_Strategic_Thinking.pdf



BRICS-TER Newsletter

BRICS Trade & Economics Research Network (BRICS-TERN) was established as a platform for non-governmental organisations from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to assist in furthering South-South cooperation through network-based policy research and advocacy on contemporary and developmental issues. In line with networks' agenda, every quarter BRICS-TERN publishes a four page newsletter that provides an overview of the most recent BRICS trade and investment-related activities and provides information on the research and networking activities that are being undertaken by BRICS-TERN partners.

This newsletter can be accessed at: cuts-international.org/BRICS-TERN/publications.htm

Africa Publications Digest 2013

CUTS Africa (Lusaka, Nairobi and Accra) produces this document for informing the relevant stakeholders its major publications in 2013.

Sugar Prices Are Too High in Zambia

Times of Zambia, August 30, 2014

Research findings by the Consumers Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) Lusaka show that the prices of sugar in Zambia are higher than expected and do not reflect the high productivity in the sector.

The result confirms findings of other studies by other organisations, including the market regulators, which show that sugar prices are relatively higher than expected.

Unveiling the report to the local media in Lusaka, CUTS International Lusaka Board Chairperson, Mike Muleba, said that the prices of sugar in Zambia do not reflect the cost advantages and high levels of productivity in the market.

www.allafrica.com/30.07.14

CCPC Links High Sugar Prices to Lack of Competition

The Post Zambia, September 03, 2014

Sugar producers in Zambia are taking advantage of consumers to overprice their commodity, said the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC).

CUTS Lusaka said that the government's goal of combating vitamin A deficiency in the country through sugar fortification will not be achieved if sugar prices remain too high.

Speaking at a discussion held in Lusaka on sugar fortification and the controversy surrounding pricing, the CCPC said that the producers were taking advantage of consumers to overprice their commodity due to lack of competition.

www.postzambia.com/03.09.14

Short Licencing Process Good for Business

Daily Mail, July 31, 2014

The business licencing reform programme (BLRP), which is aimed at shortening the process of licencing will promote growth in the transport sector, a senior Government official has said. The Ministry of Transport, Works, Supply and Communication permanent Secretary Charles Sipanje said that the reforms, which are being undertaken under the Private Sector Development Reform Programme (PSDRP), will encourage more players in the transport sector.

CUTS Lusaka was contracted to do research in the country's licencing procedure in the transport sector. The project will be implemented over a period of seven months with support from the German technical organisation, GIZ.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka

CUTS Warns Women over Counterfeit Beauty Products

The Post, 21.09.14

Rising desire by most Zambian women to enhance their beauty is increasingly making them vulnerable targets for counterfeit products, a consumer watchdog said. CUTS Lusaka, advised that it was important that women become cautious of the products they consume. "Women ought to be careful; there are a number of fake female dominated or consumed products on the market produced by those with ill-intentions", CUTS Lusaka Co-ordinator Simon Ng'ona said.

www.postzambia.com/21.09.14