

Rethinking Business Responsibility in India

18th November 2013, (1815 to 2000 hrs)

Hotel Metropolitan, New Delhi

Background Note

Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), would be organising a meeting on 18th November, 2013 during evening in New Delhi to discuss the findings of a report entitled “*Rethinking Business Responsibility in India*” developed under the project “Exploring Interplay between Business Regulation & Corporate Conduct in India” (the BRCC project- <http://www.cuts-ccier.org/brcc/>). This project has been implemented in the pharmaceutical & private healthcare sectors across four states in India with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway over the period 2011-13.

The report highlights issues that can help stimulate better business for achieving sustainable development goals in India. Two sectors i.e. Pharmaceutical and Private Healthcare were selected to carry out the research in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh & West Bengal. Evidence from both the sectors has been gathered through extensive primary research and secondary analysis involving key stakeholders from these two sectors.

Further, the framework and methodology, developed to conduct the entire study is based upon the “*National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental & Economic Responsibilities of Business in India*” (NVGs). These guidelines contains a framework of Principles and Core Elements to be adopted by companies to be more responsible towards the society in which they operate.

The main objective behind organising this event is to share the findings of the BRCC project with relevant stakeholders related to pharmaceutical and private healthcare sector and especially scholars with rich experience and interest on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)/Business Responsibility (BR) issues in India.

The event would also provide an opportunity for the participants to delve upon recent developments regarding the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) regime in India. Government through the Companies Bill; 2012 has made it compulsory for companies beyond a certain threshold to spend a certain portion of their profits on CSR activities. This has also been retained in the draft CSR Rules, 2013 developed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The event is expected to help improve clarity among key actors on how CSR/BR can be promoted in the pharmaceutical and private healthcare sectors given the above regime in the country.

Draft Agenda

Rethinking Business Responsibility in India

(A discourse on the current state and the future course of Business Responsibility in India)

Date: Monday, 18th November, 2013

Venue: Conclave I & II, Hotel Metropolitan, Bangla Sahib Road, New Delhi

PROGRAMME

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| 1815hrs | Welcome by Pradeep S Mehta, CUTS |
| 1825hrs | Opening Remarks by Mr. Eivind S. Homme, Norwegian Ambassador to India* |
| 1835hrs | Remarks by Arun Maira, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India |
| 1900hrs | Observations by Bhaskar Chatterjee, CEO, IICA* |
| 1910hrs | Floor Discussions |
| 1945hrs | Summary and Closing, Rijit Sengupta, CUTS |
| 1955hrs | Reception followed by Dinner ¹ |

[Note: * - to be confirmed]

¹ All participants of this evening event (***Rethinking Business Responsibility in India***) are cordially invited to a Reception and Dinner hosted by CUTS, where delegates from an international conference organised by CUTS on 18-19 November entitled, ***Competition Reforms: Emerging Challenges in a Globalising World*** (see details at: <http://www.cuts-ccier.org/BiennialConference/index.htm>) will also join. Shri Shashi Tharoor has been invited to speak at this Dinner and we await his confirmation.