

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment and Economic Regulation (CUTS CCIER)

Mini Retreat | 03 November 2009

Present: PSM, SM2, RSG, USM, RK2, VVS, AS5, NY, VB, RB2, RY, AK and SB5

Purpose: To take stock of the progress and outcomes of the CUTS Center for Competition, Investment and Economic Regulation (CUTS C-CIER) over the past year- analyze activities over the period, strategize its future activities and discuss new project ideas on outreach and advocacy. To allocate CUTS C-CIER projects year-wise for the next five years (2009-2014) was at the core of the meeting.

I. Discussion

At the outset, PSM was delighted by AK's presence at the meeting and RSG formally introduced AK to SB5 & RY who recently join CUTS C-CIER. USM & RSG concluded that the meeting agenda has been well planned advocating team-work and participation of attendees as well apart from the presenter.

1.1 RSG started-off with a write-shop presentation focusing on strengthening financial part of the programme areas e.g. availability of appropriate funds, balancing the cost/income ratio, along with designing the approach towards projects in pipe-line and delegation of the same. A detailed discussion was held on the projects in pipeline and scope for further extension of ongoing projects. A draft estimate of the potential project is given in the Annexure I.

1.2 RK2 made a presentation to highlight important enabling factors for the future work area of CUTS CCIER. It was presented that, amongst other, a good track record, adequate financial and human resources are the key enabling factors. The team should comprise of personnel's having experience in Social Science, Legal, Commerce and Engineering areas. There is also a need to continue reviewing the project progress. Some issues in donor mapping such as regular web surfing, monitoring and filling application etc. were also discussed during the session.

1.3VB listed major challenges arising in Research, Advocacy and Outreach campaign of the centre. VB concluded that there is a need to maximize the impacts of research on policy and practice. How to evaluate the impacts of research and advocacy on policy formulation process? It is also important to tailor research topics to the needs of donor agencies and/or policy makers by developing the research agenda accordingly. Adopting 'backward induction' was mentioned as an answer to deliver user oriented research and also the 'one-size-fits-all' approach should be neutralized with 'many-sizes-approaches' for addressing 'perception deficit'. On the Outreach front, core importance should be allotted to communicate research outcome to the wider community.

1.4 SM2 marked further suggestions leveraging on the need to pursue, in the next 5 years, such areas which were untouched as yet, consolidating unfunded projects, considering base research and funding as the key areas to be met with.

1.5 PSM stressed on quality of outcome along with the availability of adequate resources, meeting deadlines, assessing the donor's attitude and sustainable efforts towards donor satisfaction.

1.6 AK enquired about the current work allocation process of the on-going projects and details were provided of the same. AK also stated about work-profile design to be implemented in CUTS. E.g. In any given time, 50% of the available time should be devoted to regular projects and assignments, 20% of time be utilized for writing research or papers on individual interests and 30% time should be devoted towards own

interests within the ambit of CUTS International. AK also suggested C-CIER to work on Pharmaceutical sector which is an emerging area. AK can provide guidance from GRC on WTO Doha trade issues.

1.7 PSM mentioned that a paradigm shift has taken place from competition issues to sectoral regulation in research and we should plan our work accordingly.

1.8 SM2 clarified to cease approaching the same donor frequently in order to preserve CUTS repute and rapport. He also mentioned the need to know about the donors taste and identify the key persons from the BTOR for targeted approach.

1.9 Emphasis was laid by SM2 on framing the Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) properly. A project proposal should not just target on funding but also on proper monitoring and evaluation linkages with it.

1.10 While reacting to the point of assessment of donor taste, AK stated that more focus should be on the overall objectives of the organization rather than narrowly focusing on taste of donor agency. The policy changes proposed in the proposal should be defined properly so that it is easy to measure the impacts.

1.11 PSM suggested that review of the 7Up model should be done as a first priority.

II. Some important suggestions/Action points emerged during the meeting

- AK suggested for the CUTS work-force to write papers on issues in sectoral regulation, investment climate & consumer protection themes which should be published under their respective names.
- PSM pointed out to examine the relationship between CSR - Regulation - Competition & Corporate Governance in Indian context.
- AK suggested assessing what, how & when the donor wants to be done.
- RSG figured out to inculcate outcome mapping in project design.
- SM2 suggested only having a constant supervision and discussion can be helpful in achieving outcomes from the project.
- USM asked to include a cost component in the proposal for paying a reviewer to get a better review.
- RSG pointed out to have a defined and structured advocacy strategy of C-CIER.
- PSM suggested referring to Verity's presentation on Advocacy Strategy and introducing a dedicated desk for advocacy.
- PSM concluded to meet the outreach demands by availing social networking tools like Mob-cast, Face-book, and Twitter etc.

Some ongoing and potential work areas/project of CUTS CCIER

I. COMPETITION POLICY & LAW ISSUES

- 1.1. Competition issues in the Indian agriculture sector – RSG confirmed the approach to IDRC Canada for the project.
Budget Allocated - INR 25, 000, 00/-
Total duration - 2009-2010
Action: - SM2 & VVS to do the needful.
- 1.2. Malpractices in the health sector in India –
Budget Allocated – INR 50, 00,000
Total Duration – 12 Months
Action: - SM2 to lead while AS5 and RY to coordinate. AK concluded he can provide guidance on WTO Doha Issues.
- 1.3. ICRR – III
Budget Allocated – INR 50, 00, 000
Total Duration – 2009-2010
Action: - SM2, VVS & USM to do the needful.
 - 1.3.1. ICRR - IV
Budget Allocated –
Total Duration – 2012-2013
Action: - SM2, VVS, USM & VB to work accordingly.
- 1.4. Biennial publication with UNCTAD – RSG suggested approaching DFID, UK research department for UNCTAD publication.
Budget Allocated – INR 2 crore
Total Duration – 2010-2011 --- 2011-2012
Action: - VB/AK to coordinate and do the needful.
- 1.5. FunComp Bangladesh –
Budget Allocated – INR 3, 00,000
Total Duration – 2010-2011
Action: - RSG & USM are to prepare a CN of 4-5 pages.
- 1.6. 7Up MENA –
Budget Allocation -
Total Duration – 2010-2011
Action – RSG, PSM, RK2 & CD to do the needful
- 1.7. FunComp Indonesia –
Budget Allocation –
Total Duration –2010-2011 ---- 2011-2012 ---- 2012-2013
Action– USM & VB to work upon the task
- 1.8. Competition project in Ghana
Budget Allocation –
Total Duration –2010-2011

Action– RSG, PSM, CD & RK2 to work upon the task

- 1.9. Africa-led Competition Forum –
Budget Allocation – INR 2, 50,000
Total Duration – 2010-2011
Action – PSM & RSG to do the needful
- 2.0 Examining Contribution of Competition Policy Reforms to Economic Development in Developing Countries:
Budget Allocation – INR 60, 00, 000
Total Duration – 2012-2013
Action: - SM2 & CD to coordinate.

PSM also emphasized on issues discussed with Arun Maira of PC as below:

- i. Closed loop of bidders for big infra projects e.g. HSIDC case and Highways.
- ii. Purchase preferences. E.g. BHEL over others, particularly foreign ones.
Budget Allocation – INR 20, 00, 000
Total Duration –2010-2011
Action– RK2 & USM to work upon the task

II. **SECTORAL REGULATION**

- 1.0 Capacity building for Competition in Electricity & Telecom sector in India
Budget Allocation –
Total Duration –2012-2013
Action: - RK2, USM & SM2
- 1.1 CDRF-III
Budget Allocation -
Action: SM2, VVS, USM, VB
- 1.2 Transparency and Accountability in Electricity sector, Zambia
Budget Allocation -
Total Duration – 2010-2011
Action: -RK2, USM, AMM
- 1.3 RESA Kenya
Budget Allocation -
Total Duration – 2010-2011
Action: - RK2, USM to lead.
- 1.4 Extension of RESA Project
Budget Allocation - 4.5 Crore
Total Duration – 2010-2011
Action: - RK2, USM to work.
- 1.5 RIA in select sectors in India
Budget Allocation – INR 7, 00, 000
Total Duration – 2010-2011
Action: -SM2, VVS, RK2 and USM

- 1.6 Regulatory Framework in School Education Sector in India
 - Budget Allocation –
 - Total Duration –
 - Action: -

III. INVESTMENT CLIMATE

- 1.0 Business Regulation and Corporate Conduct in India
 - Budget Allocation - 5 crore
 - Total Duration – 2010-2011 --- 2011-2012 --- 2012-2013
 - Action - RSG, SM2, VVS
- 1.1 Investment policy of Zambia
 - Budget Allocation – INR 60, 00, 000
 - Total Duration – 2009 - 2010
 - Action – VVS, AMM to deal with
- 1.2 SSA Africa project to address Contemporary Economic Problems
 - Budget Allocation -
 - Total Duration –
 - Action –
- 1.3 Informality in Competition & Growth in India
 - Budget Allocation -
 - Total Duration –
 - Action –

IV. CONSUMER PROTECTION

- 1.0 Consumer Protection Regimes in the World (CPRW) – AK suggested to RSG to publish small volume on CPRW e.g. Volume 1.0 of 20 Countries etc.
 - Budget Allocation -
 - Total Duration –
 - Action – RSG and RY to work accordingly
- 1.1 Consumer Impact Assessment studies in select sectors
 - Budget Allocation -
 - Total Duration – 2010-2011 --- 2011-2012
 - Action – VVS to lead