

Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social & Economic Welfare in Developing Countries (CREW Project)

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment and Economic Regulation (CUTS CCIER) in association with CUTS Institute for Regulation and Competition (CIRC) has undertaken a project titled 'Consumer Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social & Economic Welfare in Developing Countries' (CREW Project). The project is being executed in four countries: **India, Philippines, Ghana and Zambia** and across two common sectors, i.e. *staple food and passenger transport*. This project has been undertaken with the support from DFID (United Kingdom) and BMZ (Germany) facilitated by GIZ (Germany).

Through this project we aim to develop an approach, which would help in assessing benefits of competition reforms on consumers and producers in staple food and passenger transport sectors. One of the main goals of this project is to demonstrate the benefits of competition reforms for consumers and producers, so that greater attention and support can be provided to this issue by the policymakers.

The project has been implemented with the following objectives:

1. To enhance international understanding of the benefits from, and the best practices in, effectively implementing competition regimes in developing countries;
2. To develop and test a methodology (with indicators) for assessing the efficacy of competition regimes in achieving impacts on developing country consumers and producers;
3. To advocate to national stakeholders and international development partners for according greater importance to competition policy and law issues, in the national development agenda;
4. To sustain the momentum on fast tracking competition reforms, gained from stakeholder awareness, understanding about the benefits and participation in related process in developing countries.

The first *National Reference Group Meeting* (Phase I) was organised recently at IIC, New Delhi, wherein stakeholders from various cabinet ministries, central/state departments, regulatory institutions, legal fraternity and media made their respective representations on the project objectives, output and outcomes. Furthermore updates on progress of country specific work, conceptual framework of Phase I and DCR methodology were outlined.