



ITEC SPECIAL COURSE ON COMPETITION POLICY & LAW (For African Countries)

**Under Aegis of Ministry of External Affairs,
Government of India**



16th February – 1st March, 2015

New Delhi, India

BRIEF REPORT

CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC) under the aegis of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India organised an ITEC special course on Competition Policy & Law spanning over a period of two weeks, in association with National Law University and CUTS International. The National Law University, Delhi acted as a host for the participants. The training programme which commenced on 16th February, 2015 witnessed the presence of over 25 delegates representing competition authorities of various African nations. The inaugural session was presided over by Mr. Ashok Chawla, Chairman, Competition Commission of India in the presence of Mr. Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International & Chairman, CIRC, Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi, Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Bajpai, Registrar, National Law University, Delhi and Mr. Arun Talwar, Chief Operating Officer, CIRC.

While welcoming the course participants, Dr. Ranbir Singh traced the development of legal education in India. Emphasising upon the need of capacity building in this area of law, Dr. Singh welcomed this initiative by CIRC & the Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. Pradeep S. Mehta in his inaugural address sketched the journey of CUTS International & its various research & capacity building initiatives especially for African countries. Mr. Ashok Chawla, delved upon the development of competition law & policy in India & the jurisprudence evolved so far. While touching upon the issue of sectoral regulators & the Competition Commission, Mr. Chawla took participants through distinct roles played by the regulators & the Commission. While emphasising upon the need of greater cooperation not only amongst the regulators but also international competition authorities, Mr. Chawla highly appreciated this initiative of the Ministry & the organisations involved. Mr. Bajpai thanked the organisations & the participants & welcomed them all on behalf of NLUD. Mr. Kumar Tuhin, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, government of India also joined during reception dinner and met every participant individually.

The two week long training programme provided a platform to the best 'antitrust' minds of India for sharing their expertise on several issues of national and international importance. The programme was structured on theoretical & practical case exercises where participants argued on both sides of the case. Each session was steered by distinguished panellists who guided the participants in solving the problem and enlightened them with the technical concepts involved. About 40 rigorous sessions spread over the period of fourteen days witnessed the presence of nearly 25 resource persons representing law firms, economic consultancy firms, the CCI & the Academia. The participants were exposed to diverse aspects of competition law & market economics in this training. Some of the experts included Mr. Pradeep. S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International, Mr. Rijit Sengupta, CUTS International, Mr. Amitabh Kumar, Partner, J Sagar Associates, Mr. Paku Khan, Executive Director, Khaitan & Co, Mr. Manas Chaudhuri, Partner, Competition Practice, Khaitan & Company, Mr. G.R. Bhatia, Partner, Competition Practice, Luthra & Luthra Offices, Mr. K.K. Sharma, KK Sharma Law Offices, Ms. Nisha Kaur Uberoi, Partner, Amarchand Mangaldas, Ms. Geeta Gauri, former Member, CCI & many more.

Apart from regular class room sessions, the participants also got an opportunity to visit the Competition Commission of India, where they got an insight into working of the Commission & the Indian experiences so far. The participants also enlightened the commission officials with the antitrust developments in their respective regions. It provided a great platform for international experience sharing.

The session culminated with vote of thanks & the distribution of certificates & mementos to the course participants at NLUD. In the presence of Professor Bajpai, Registrar, NLUD, Mr. Arun Talwar, COO, CIRC and Mr. Rijit Sen Gupta, Regional Director – Africa, CUTS International. The two week training programme was a splendid affair, where the fusion of countries, cultures & knowledge sharing were experienced at its best.

The Agra & Jaipur visits were also organised for the participants to get a sneak peek into the Indian culture. The same was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The concluding sessions were organised in Jaipur, where the CUTS working experience in India & Africa on diverse aspects of competition, consumer & trade reforms were shared by Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS, Mr. Rijit Sengupta, Mr. George Cherian & Mr. Suresh P. Singh.

During their stay in India, CIRC officials like Ms. Arvinder Kaur, Mr. Saket Sharma, Mr. Sarda Prasad Das and NLUD officials like Prof, Harpreet Kaur took great care of the participants.

The participants also participated enthusiastically in the training programme and in different sessions, they asked intelligent questions which resource persons answered in their versatile and witty styles. Almost all of them rated this programme as excellent / very good and found it useful for their work. They also understood the culture, food and lifestyle in India. Just to mention a remark from one of the participants:

“Thank you so very much for the warm hospitality extended to us, all the effort spent in making our stay as comfortable as possible ... and for your delightful company during our trips. The Course on CL & P represents a treasure trove of knowledge, experience sharing and practical skills for our authority (and developing competition agencies) and this is, by far, one of the best courses on CL that I have attended so far. I have truly enjoyed every bit of a course that has been delivered at the hands of experts very aptly chosen by CUTS-CIRC and NLUD. “ (Ms. Noor Eydatoulah, Mauritius)



Study Tour - Agra



Study Tour - Jaipur