

CUTS CRC Activity Report

January-March 2018

ONGOING PROJECTS



Building Capacity of Grassroots Consumers on Energy Conservation

CUTS and West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (WBERC) are jointly implementing a project to build the capacity of grassroots consumers and increase their awareness about the existing regulations of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission in the districts of Jalpaiguri and South 24 Parganas. This is aimed towards building the consumer capacity on their rights and responsibilities, educate consumers about the frequently applicable and used parameters of the Standard of Performance (SoP) regulations of the Commission, including the complaint mechanism, new connections, metering and other relevant issues. Focus will also be on building capacity of common consumers on energy conservation and renewable energy systems, especially rooftop solar systems.



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International

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Also at Jaipur, Delhi and Chittorgarh (India); Lusaka (Zambia); Nairobi (Kenya); Accra (Ghana); Hanoi (Vietnam); Geneva (Switzerland); and Washington DC (USA).

Advocacy & Networking

- 37 meetings have been successfully conducted in districts of Jalpaiguri and South 24-Parganas during January 2018.
- A Quick Guide in local vernacular language for the electricity consumer at the grassroots has been published and distributed the same in each meeting.
- CRC is working on preparing a consolidated list of complaints received from consumers during the consumer interface meetings conducted so far. It will be submitted to WBERC to help them undertake informed interventions.



Creating an Enabling and Inclusive Policy and Political Economy Discourse for Trade, Transport and Transit Facilitation

CUTS International is implementing a project to facilitate trade and transit among four countries, viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) by enabling the implementation of the BBIN MVA through evidence-based advocacy, facilitative dialogues and capacity building. Under the project, CUTS has undertaken extensive field study across 11 trade corridors among these countries to understand the infrastructural and political economy challenges that can adversely affect effective implementation of the MVA and also to identify probable policy interventions to overcome the challenges. To facilitate effective implementation of the project, CUTS have partnered policy advocacy groups/CSOs in each of the five countries. Based on the recommendations, CUTS will be organising a series of stakeholder consultations in the select countries along corridors.



Advocacy & Networking

- A series of National Policy Dialogues were held during January-March 2018 among five countries in their respective national capitals. These dialogues were attended by representatives from the government, academia, private sector, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the media in each country to disseminate the information gathered throughout the course of the project.
- The National Policy Dialogue in India was organised in New Delhi on February 27, 2018. There were four sessions: an opening session; regional connectivity through the political economy and gender lens; infrastructure challenges to connectivity and possible solutions; and procedural challenges to connectivity and possible solutions. The panellists were from various government departments, multilateral donor agencies, academia and CSOs.



- Roshan Iyer attended a round table conference on 'India-China Mutual Understanding' organised by Observer Research Foundation (ORF) January 06, 2018.
- Roshan Iyer attended a conference on 'Natural Allies: A Retrospective of US-India Relations' organised by US Consul General Kolkata on January 08, 2018.
- Debalina Mukherjee attended a conference on 'India's Maritime Connectivity: Importance of Bay of Bengal' organised by ORF on February 19-20, 2018.
- Debalina Mukherjee attended an interactive session with the US Ambassador to India Kenneth I Juster organised by Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Kolkata on February 07, 2018.
- Prithviraj Nath and Sayantan Sengupta attended an event on 'Solar on Renewable Energy' organised by West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission and Forum of Electricity East & North East India at Kolkata on February 22, 2018. He made a presentation on '*Policies and Bottlenecks for Promoting Solar in East and North East India*'.