

CUTS CRC Activity Report

July-September 2019

ONGOING PROJECTS



BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement Regains Momentum

CUTS International implemented a project entitled 'Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement: Facilitating implementation and stakeholder buy-in in the BBIN sub-region' with support from US State Department. The aim of the study was to facilitate trade and transit among four countries by enabling the implementation of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (BBIN MVA).

An extensive field study was conducted across eight corridors among these countries to understand the infrastructural and political economy challenges that can adversely affect the effective implementation of the MVA. Following that, series of awareness generation meetings and National Policy Dialogues were organised in four BBIN countries to deliberate on the research findings, articulate specific solutions and probable policy interventions to overcome identified challenges. The National Advocacy in India was organised in New Delhi on August 13, 2019.

A Regional Policy Dialogue was organised in Dhaka, Bangladesh on September 04, 2019 as a concluding event under this project. The dialogue deliberated on possible implementation challenges of the BBIN MVA by drawing insights from various stakeholder groups and charted out specific and prioritised solutions and action agenda for these countries to adopt individually as well as collectively. There was particular emphasis on the participation of the private sector in this process, and the inclusion of women, who would directly and/or indirectly be impacted by the implementation of the BBIN MVA.



Regional Policy Dialogue at Dhaka, Bangladesh

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(Kenya); Accra (Ghana); Hanoi
(Vietnam); Geneva (Switzerland);
and Washington DC (USA).

Implementation of Supreme Court Guidelines on Road Safety in West Bengal

ONGOING
PROJECTS



CUTS International, in association with Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur (IIST) conducted a study in West Bengal, with support from Global Road Safety Programme, to assess gaps in the existing Motor Vehicles Rules, State Road Safety Policy, road safety action Plan and to bring in new legislations to make the road safety framework more effective in the state.

It is in this context, a consultation was organised in Kolkata, West Bengal on August 07, 2019 to present findings from the study and gather perception of stakeholders on what needs to be done to facilitate greater safety for road users by plugging in policy/regulatory gaps and/or bringing in new policies/legislations.

The consultation registered participation from government officials and experts coming from diverse fields. This was instrumental in identifying some key areas of further research and advocacy. As a way forward, CUTS and IIST documented crucial feedbacks from experts and those suggestions will be reflected in final draft of the report.



A view of the Consultation meeting



Regional Security in a Digital Era

The US Consulate, Kolkata in association with CUTS International, India and East-West Center organised a two-day workshop entitled 'Regional Security in the Era of Digital Media' in Kolkata on August 29-30, 2019 for prominent mid-career journalists, online editors, social media practitioners, bloggers and think-tank commentators from the US, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.



Workshop on Regional Security in the Era of Digital Media

The objective of the workshop was to understand trend of news, ways to counter fake messages, reinforce positive counter-narratives, promote media literacy, strengthen investigative journalism across border in the era of digital media, address regional security issues in the region for promoting an open and stable Indo-Pacific region and create a strong network of informed media professionals.

The workshop covered trends and technologies to discern and respond to deceptive, biased or false news and to combat disinformation across borders. Media professionals from the US, Eastern and North Eastern India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka shared their insights, learned from experts and educated the public to counter all forms misinformation across borders and encouraged professional and responsible journalism and promoted freedom of the press.

The workshop highlighted the serious threat that mis- and disinformation poses to democracies and domestic publics, across borders in the era of digital and social media and focus on the importance of fact checking and myth-busting, as well as assess the response from the government, law enforcement and security officials, non-profits, and other relevant sources and media.