

**CREW International Conference**

**Speaking Notes of Pradeep S Mehta (SG, CUTS International)**

**Reception Dinner, 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014**

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Dear Madam Kate Kohsuwan, Chair of the ASEAN Expert Group on Competition or the AEGC) and all other AEGC Members – representing the Competition Agencies of the ASEAN countries. Delegates from the CREW International Conference...

I am happy to welcome you all to this reception dinner which we are gladly hosting with our friends, the GIZ team!

Before we start the informal interactions amongst us in the later part of this event, we would like to use this opportunity to briefly share with our friends from the AEGC, some of the highlights of the CREW project. Something that we are discussing over these two days here in this hotel.

The CREW project aims to raise the visibility and highlight the significance of competition reforms across various organs of developing country governments.

My colleague, Rijit Sengupta has already made a presentation about this project at the AEGC meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov – so, you have some idea, broadly of what this project is about. It is about enhancing the visibility of competition reforms within the policy circuit in developing countries. And developing a process and a methodology for gathering evidence to be able to do that. It would be great to hear from some of you, about your views of the project and its relevance to your countries/sectors.

As I had mentioned in the morning in the CREW International Conference today and would like to reiterate for our friends from the ASEAN Expert – we feel this project is very opportune and relevant now. Focus on competition, nature of markets and impacts on beneficiaries are issues that are likely to take greater space and time in discussions, given two recent developments at the international level.

**Firstly** – the **breakthrough** in the discussions between US and India on treatment of ‘food security’ clause in the WTO that is likely to help materialise a multilateral agreement on Trade Facilitation. **Secondly**, the declaration emerging from Brisbane – G20 Leaders Summit, which highlights the

commitment of the G20 countries on removing obstacles to trade and competition, for stimulating growth and creating jobs.

CUTS and its partner from across the developing countries of Asia and Africa have worked tirelessly to promote the need for competitive markets in the developing world. The CREW project is an endeavor of CUTS in this area, and it is relevant for ASEAN also, as one of the countries being covered is a member state – The Philippines.

### **Invite Shyam**

Let me invite my friend and the Adviser of the CREW project and a former point person on Competition Policy and Law at the World Bank – Shyam Khemani to highlight some of the broad lessons emerging from the CREW project.

### **Invite Madam Kate, Chair of AEGC**

I would now like to invite Madam Kate, AEGC Chair to say a few words.

### **Invite Frank**

We are pleased to request our colleague from GIZ, Frank Tibitzl to share some of his thoughts, especially to share with us some highlights about the current and future scenario of competition policy and law in the ASEAN region – given his and GIZ deep and long experience on this.

### **Begin Floor discussion**

Let me thank you once again and now open the floor for our friends from the ASEAN Expert Group on Competition (AEGC), and others to share some of their thoughts.

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