

Roundtable on ‘Development Dimensions of India’s National Foreign Trade Policy’

29th November 2014, New Delhi



As the new foreign trade policy of India is around the corner, IPE Global Ltd, under its Knowledge Partnership Programme with DFID, in collaboration with CUTS International and FICCI organized a Roundtable on India’s Foreign Trade Policy on 29th November 2014 at FICCI, New Delhi. Mr. Pravir Kumar, Director General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Government of India was the Chief Guest and key note speaker at the event. More than 70 participants representing various industry bodies and other stakeholders participated in this Roundtable.

Delivering his welcoming address, Mr. Sunil Mitra, Director, IPE Global (Team Leader Knowledge Partnership Programme (KPP)) noted that the purpose of the Roundtable was to allow stakeholders to provide suggestions for the new foreign trade policy. Dr. Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director of CUTS presented the findings of the study titled ‘Development Dimensions of India’s National Foreign Trade Policy’ which was supported by KPP. He noted that a few gaps were identified in the previous trade policy and presented a few key recommendations to make new trade policy more effective and employment generation oriented. CUTS recommendations included: a monitoring and evaluation mechanism that distinguishes and juxtaposes export promotion and employment generation; increased engagement between national and sub-national actors in the formulation of India’s trade policy and its implementation; the implementation of a whole-of-government approach to tackling trade-related issues; and the strengthening of value chains. Delivering the keynote address, Pravir Kumar, Director General of Foreign Trade, explained measures such as government reforms; procedures that minimise interaction between trading community and customs officers; and increased transparency in various trade-related processes being considered to facilitate trade and improve the ease of doing business for traders. He concluded his address by calling for suggestions how to make the trade policy more effective and inclusive. The presentations were followed by a robust discussion between the audience and the presenters.