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# CPD QUARTERLY

## From The Editor's Desk

### CPD's Participation in the Cancun Process



Commerce Minister Mr Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP and Commerce Secretary Mr Suhel Ahmed Choudhury pay attention while Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director, CPD makes his note at the inaugural session of the Cancun Symposium.

The third quarter of 2003 left its mark as yet another eventful period for the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). One of the notable initiatives of CPD during this period was the organisation of a Symposium in Cancun, Mexico during the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the WTO.

A three member team from CPD participated in the Cancun Ministerial Meeting during September 10-14, 2003. The members of the CPD team were Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director, Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Research Director, and Dr Ananya Raihan, Research Fellow. The CPD team members took part in various activities which were organised in Cancun to advance LDC interest in the context of the WTO Ministerial. These included participation in events organised by global civil society organisations as paper presenters and discussants, organisation of a Symposium to discuss LDC concerns and interests in the context of the Cancun Ministerial, participation in various briefing sessions, and networking with partner organisations and media.

On September 12, 2003, the third day of the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun, the CPD organised a Symposium titled Post Doha Marginalisation of LDC Concerns. The co-organisers of the Symposium were the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva, Consumer Unity & Trust Society-Africa Resource Centre (CUTS-ARC), India, EU-LDC Network, Netherlands, Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS), Consumers International Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (CIROAP), and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu, Nepal. Bangladesh's Minister for Commerce Mr Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP, who headed the official Bangladesh delegation in Cancun, attended the Symposium as Chief Guest. Chaired by CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, the inaugural session was also addressed by Mr Suhel Ahmed Choudhury, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh, and Dr Tariq Banuri, Chairman, ICTSD.

The Hon'ble Minister, who was also one

of the Vice-Chairs of the Ministerial Meeting, shared his thoughts on the progress of the first two days of negotiations and deliberation on Bangladesh's priorities in the negotiations. He dwelt on major conflicts of interests amongst member countries in the WTO, mainly in the areas of agriculture and Singapore Issues, and shed some light on the LDC perspective on those issues. While giving his personal views on the direction and essence of the discussion in the negotiating rooms and the greenrooms, Mr Chowdhury presented his assessment about the likely outcome of the Ministerial Meeting.

The inaugural session of the Symposium was followed by four working sessions. Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Research Director, CPD presented a paper titled LDC Market Access Interests and Concerns: How far the Draft Cancun Ministerial Text Goes? CPD Research Fellow Dr Ananya Raihan presented a paper on GATS Negotiations: Some Gains but Long Way to Go. Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, Research and Information System (RIS) for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries presented a paper on Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) whilst Dr Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE) presented a paper on Accession of LDCs in the WTO. Mr Mahbubur Rahman, President, ICC, Bangladesh, Mr Murray Gibbs, Programme Director, UNDP, Vietnam, Dr Chandrakant Patel, Representative in Switzerland, SEATINI and Mr Padma Jyoti, President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) chaired the various sessions of the Symposium.

A number of delegation members from Bangladesh attended the various sessions of the Symposium. Members of the government delegations from some of the developing and least-developed countries, representatives from leading non-governmental organisations and advocacy groups, experts and members of the press assembled in Cancun for the Ministerial Meeting were also present at the Symposium.



# Integrated Trade-Environment Policy is a Must to Bolster Global Market Access

Experts at CPD's dialogue on environment



Environment and Forests Minister Mr Shajahan Siraj, MP looks on while CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan speaks at the dialogue on Environment. CPD Research Fellow Dr Fahmida A Khatun, Commerce Secretary Mr Suhel Ahmed Choudhury, Environment and Forests Secretary Mr Sabihuddin Ahmed, AL Lawmaker Mr Abdur Razzaq, MP and CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya are also seen in the picture.

Speakers at a national dialogue observed that Bangladesh is yet to give adequate attention to environmental issues although this could help Bangladesh make substantial gains through international trade. The need for mainstreaming domestic environmental concerns in the trade policy and involvement of the Ministry of Environment in this process was also highlighted by the participants.

Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests Mr Shajahan Siraj, MP was the Chief Guest at the aforementioned dialogue on Environmental Debates in the WTO: Defining Bangladesh's Interests, which was organised by CPD on August 07, 2003 at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. Mr Suhel Ahmed Choudhury, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Mr Sabihuddin Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests were present at the dialogue as Special Guests. CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan moderated the dialogue.

While presenting the keynote paper, CPD Research Fellow Dr Fahmida A Khatun noted that the two concerned ministries, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, should coordinate the design of an integrated trade-environment policy. "There should be an impact assessment of trade policies and trade agreements on environmental sustainability", she observed. The need for more intensive monitoring of the WTO negotiations in the area of environment and participation in the procedures of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) were also highlighted in her presentation. The paper called for addressing the green issues on an urgent basis since this would facilitate global market access of Bangladesh's goods.

CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya stressed the need for identifying existing barriers which impede the listing of Environmental Goods and Services (EGSs). He also suggested that chambers should come up with detailed information about the extent of the problems related to environmental requirements. "Also, there is a need for cost assessment of environmental upgradation", he added.

The Minister said that the establishment of WTO is yet to result in positive outcomes for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). He underscored the need for initiating a national debate on the

possible implications of the WTO. He also emphasised the need for preparation of a list of Environmental Goods and Services (EGSs) by the commerce and environment ministries with the help of local experts.

Mr Mahfuz Ullah, Secretary General, Centre for Sustainable Development (CFSD), informed the audience that the Cancun Ministerial Meeting of the WTO to be held in September 2003 would discuss the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). The Ministry of Environment was not included in the negotiation process and the Ministry of Agriculture had no specific plan in that regard, he further said. "Though a coordination cell to study WTO development is expected to be put in place, it is yet to materialise", he noted.

The Environment Secretary also mentioned about the non-involvement of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the negotiation process in preparation for the upcoming Cancun WTO Ministerial Meeting. He underscored the need for appropriate initiatives to incorporate environmental issues in the design of the trade policies. "Environmental issues should not be addressed separately", he observed. He emphasised the importance of a comprehensive effort to deal with this issue. With regard to this, the Commerce Secretary informed the dialogue participants that the Ministry of Commerce has set up five working groups under the WTO advisory committee. If required, we can always set up another which would include the Ministry of Environment and Forests. He further informed the audience that the Commerce Ministry would launch an organisation to deal with Shrimp Seal of Quality (SSOQ).

The CPD study showed that intensive use of chemicals in agriculture, industrial pollution, deforestation, land degradation for shrimp culture, and dumping of wastes were major trade related environmental concerns for Bangladesh. The study suggested that Bangladesh should develop its own national and voluntary eco-labelling scheme to get access to niche markets with the help of domestic standard setting bodies, such as the Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI). One of the recommendations coming out of the dialogue was that a national committee should be formed on an urgent basis to address environmental threats which are likely to be harmful to Bangladesh's future trade interests.

Speakers at the dialogue were of the opinion that more people from the private sector and non-government experts should be engaged in negotiations on AoA, TRIPs, GATS, SPs etc. They underscored the need for enhancing the capacity of the Geneva Mission, which dealt with the WTO related issues and was involved in the negotiations. These suggestions were put forward when some of the participants opined that Bangladesh had been experiencing a scarcity of specialists in relevant areas.

Professor Rehman Sobhan summed up the dialogue by stating that it was high time to put concerted efforts in eliminating all environmental obstacles in achieving maximum benefit from international trade and ensuring Bangladesh's access to the global market. He also underscored the role of the civil society in assisting the government in this national endeavour.

The discussion was also participated, among others, by Dr Abdur Razzaq, MP, Secretary General of Centre for Sustainable Development (CFSD), Professor Nurul Islam of Dhaka University, Dr Mahfuz Haque from the Environment Ministry, and Mr Nurul Islam, President, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra.



## State of Governance Demands Urgent Attention

Concerns mount at CPD's dialogue on human security

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised a dialogue on Human Security in Bangladesh: Recent Trends and Responses at the CIRDP Auditorium on Monday, August 11, 2003. Moderated by CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan, the dialogue was attended by Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former Chief Justice and former Chief Advisor to the Caretaker Government, as the Chief Guest. Dr Kamal Hossain, eminent lawyer and former Minister, and Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, President of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association were present as Special Guests.

While welcoming the participants the CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya noted that existing socio-political scenario had induced CPD to put such an important governance issue on the table.

The keynote presentation by Dr Shahdeen Malik was built on the UNDP's publication Human Security in Bangladesh: In Search of Justice and Dignity. Dr Malik noted that innocuous acts have been defined as crimes and "It will be a Herculean task to try to make even a partial list of the acts defined as crime".

The presentation by Dr Malik concentrated on a phase-wise chronology of the entire criminal justice system, i.e., prevention of crimes, investigation of crimes committed, trial of criminals and appeal process, and punishment of the convicted criminals. "This division is not water tight, but in some way I have tried to identify the players and institutions involved in each phase", said Dr Malik while accentuating functions of the legal institutions responsible for each phase of the justice system. He drew attention to some of the recent measures taken, and suggested recommendations to enhance efficiency in each of the phases. "Investigation and punishment are two of the most critically important initiatives, which need to be taken up as a matter of routine to ensure development", he observed.

Advocate Sultana Kamal of Ain-O-Shalish Kendra (ASK) described the prevailing state of human security as spectacularly bad. "The common people have no or little access to law and order because of corruption suffered by the judicial system", she said. President of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said, "There is a total lack of Human Security in Bangladesh".

In sharing his thoughts, Dr Kamal Hossain observed, "It is not the illiterate landless peasants who break the law and contribute to human insecurity. They are our productive partners. We need to overcome our inhibitions. The problem makers are those who protect the godfathers and are always busy appropriating the black money. We have to identify them and take appropriate measures." He further noted that in order to ensure human security in real sense, we have to find out the limitations in the institutions responsible for implementing the values of the constitution. Furthermore, he emphasised on empowerment of the common people to secure what they have aspired for.

"At the moment, the country is maliciously divided and the constitution is not being followed. We do not have organisational strength and people's participation. We,



Participants at the dialogue on Human Security: (From left to right) Mr Qazi Golam Mahbub, Mr GM Quader, MP, Mr Suranjit Sengupta, MP, Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, Professor Rehman Sobhan, Dr Kamal Hossain, Mr Jorgen Lissner, Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and Mr Asaduzzaman Noor, MP.

therefore, will have to work hard towards this desired goal", said Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman.

Speakers at the dialogue also voiced their concerns as regards the bureaucratic obstacles, which prevent smooth functioning of rule of law. Criminalisation of politics and politicisation of police were identified as most crucial issues responsible for the waning state of human security in the country. Undue involvement of politicians in judicial affairs came under strong criticism. Politics today is very confrontational and security has been marginalised because of this, said others. Participants also expressed deep concern over the invasive insecurity that has turned the society into a place of anarchy and lawlessness. Those who talk the most about democracy are after the most corrupted ones, some participants thought.

Concluding the session, Professor Sobhan noted that the aspects, which have been covered in the presentation, were very important, impinging on our daily lives and affecting the state of governance and the working of the polity in Bangladesh. He said that we have to think about what concerted efforts may emerge, from participation of groups like these, to go ahead and realise the elements which preserve human security in our society. At the end of the day it is our collective failure to effectively protect these rights which enable people who are usurping these to become the dominant force in the society, Professor Sobhan observed.

Members of the parliament, government officials, eminent academics, human rights and other civil society activists, politicians, representatives from international agencies and members of the legal institutions took part in the discussion. Former IG Dr Enamul Haq, former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Mr Qazi Golam Mahbub, former Home Secretary Mr Manzurul Karim, Resident Representative of the UNDP Mr Jorgen Lissner, Mr Suranjit Sengupta, MP, Advocate Salma Ali, Executive Director of Democracywatch Ms Taleya Rehman, Advocate Amirul Islam, Mr GM Quader of Jatiya Party and Professor Muntasir Uddin Khan Mamoon of Dhaka University spoke, among others, at the dialogue.



## CPD Hosts Launch of the Report on Human Development in South Asia 2002



Research Director of BIDS Dr M Asaduzzaman presents the Report on Human Development in South Asia 2002. Former Finance Minister Mr M Syeduzzaman, Professor Rehman Sobhan, and Director General of BIDS Dr Quazi Shahabuddin are also seen in the picture.

On Wednesday, August 20, 2003 the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) launched the Report on Human Development in South Asia 2002 published jointly by The Mahbubul Haq Human Development Centre, Pakistan and Oxford University Press Ltd. Research Director of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Dr M Asaduzzaman, who was also a member of the panel of experts contributing to the preparation of the report, presented the Report. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD moderated the event.

The panel of experts from five South Asian countries prepared the Report focusing on Agriculture and Rural Development and its interface with Human Development in South Asia. It was prepared by compiling data from seven South Asian countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The report discusses the past experience of South Asian countries with agriculture development and suggests policies and strategies to increase the productivity of the rural poor and improving the quality of their lives.

Although South Asia has achieved commendable progress in

human development as well as in agricultural development, this progress has neither been adequate nor equitable in terms of lifting the region's half a billion people out of poverty, the report said. The Maldives ranked top in the region with Bangladesh and Nepal being at the bottom. The improvement of Human Development Index (HDI) Ranks during the 1990s was most prominent in the cases of Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The report ranked South Asia above Sub-Sahara Africa, but below Latin America and the Caribbean and East Asia. It also discusses issues like employment generation, food security and land reforms. However, some of the speakers viewed the report as a confusing one and criticised it on the ground that it failed to document the inter-linkages between HDI and rural development.

The Human Development Report 2002 indicated that South Asia still remains home to the largest number of poor people in the world. The number of poor in South Asia was about 515 million. This was despite an annual growth in per capita income of 5 per cent during the 1990s. The report underscored that poverty in the region is mostly a rural phenomenon.

The paper found that as many as 78 per cent of the region's population has access to health services while the region is engraved with the highest proportion of underweight and stunted children in the entire world.

The report identified limited area of cultivable land as well as overdependence on chemical inputs as major obstacles in attaining agricultural development in South Asia. It further highlighted the importance of advanced agricultural research, technology upgradation and extension services for future agricultural productivity increases.

Among others, the discussion was participated by noted economists and agriculture experts including former Finance Minister Mr M Syeduzzaman, Former Agriculture Secretary Dr AMM Shawkat Ali, Director General of BIDS Dr Quazi Shahabuddin, Senior Research Fellow of BIDS Dr Binayek Sen, Visiting Fellow of BIDS Dr Mustafa Mujeri, and Deputy Chief of Agriculture Ministry Ms Nilufar Begum.



CPD - Prothom Alo - The Daily Star Reception-Dinner celebrating successful completion of the National Policy Review Forum 2003





## Extensive Research on Biotechnology is Vital for Food Security

Experts observe at CPD dialogue

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised a dialogue on Sustainable Agricultural Growth in Bangladesh: Should We Go for Biotechnology for Rice Improvement? as part of its ongoing agricultural policy research and advocacy activities undertaken by the CPD with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) under the Poverty Elimination Through Rice Research Assistance (PETRRA) project. The dialogue was held at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium on September 8, 2003. Agriculture Minister Mr M K Anwar, MP and State Minister for Agriculture Mr Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, MP attended the dialogue as Chief Guest, and Special Guest, respectively. The CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan moderated the dialogue. Dr Mahabub Hossain and Dr S K Datta of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila and Prof A M Muazzam Husain of BRAC University presented the keynote paper on Rice Biotechnology: Opportunity, Perceived Risks and Potential Benefits to Bangladesh.

The paper highlighted both technical and economic aspects of biotechnology and reported the results of a perception survey carried out on members of the Bangladesh's civil society about the use of biotechnology for rice improvement. The survey revealed that a large majority of the respondents support biotech research on rice and import of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) if their food safety and environmental effects are properly assessed and the field-test is done and supervised under proper bio-safety regulations. The paper further explained the opportunities of science of biotechnology and highlighted how vitamin A-enriched genetically modified rice could address the problems of anaemia and vitamin deficiencies among the malnourished children in Bangladesh, as is being done elsewhere in the developing world.

Agricultural scientists, teachers, researchers, foreign representatives, high officials of the government and lawmakers took part in the discussion. The Agriculture Minister said that the government would encourage agro-biotechnological research to expand food production in Bangladesh but taking due precautions as regards any adverse fallout and associated risk factors. He called on the scientists and the researchers to conduct more experiments on the issue and argued that given the reality of scarcity of arable land and increasing size of the population, higher risk-taking might be a better option than letting people starve. Director General of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) Dr Nurul Islam Bhuiyan informed that BRRI had applied, through the Agriculture Ministry, to the science and technology ministry for permission to pursue adaptive research on vitamin A enriched BRRI Dhan-29.

Opposition lawmaker and Agriculture Secretary of Awami League Dr Abdur Razzak, MP was of the opinion that rice biotechnology should be implemented in the country for ensuring food security. Dr Razzak added that his party would support the Bio Safety Act if placed in the parliament. He further said if Bangladesh fails to take timely measures to ensure tapping benefits of crop biotechnology, it would continue to lag behind in achieving food sufficiency.

The State Minister for Agriculture Mr Alamgir said that ensuring food security for all is the major problem of the



Agriculture Minister Mr M K Anwar, MP makes his note while Dr Mahabub Hossain of IRRI, State Minister for Agriculture Mr Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, MP, Professor Rehman Sobhan and Professor A M Muazzam Husain of BRAC University look on.

country. Therefore, we have to ensure food security through new technological advances without impinging on the interests of biodiversity and ecology. He urged scientists to give due attention to the proper risk management practices.

Responding to the discussion, the Agriculture Minister said, "Technology which would expand our food production should be implemented if it has no adverse effect on human health and environment." He then went on to say that since the size of agricultural land is shrinking, owing to the ever increasing population, we have to find alternatives to increase and ensure food production. In this regard, he called upon scientists and researchers of the country to conduct more experiments on biotechnology to improve rice production. As regards the risk involvement in biotech research, the minister said, "We are not discouraging this type of research in our country. However, scientists have to work together with farmers." He informed the audience that the government is aware of the element of risk in application of biotechnology in rice research and stated that a decision in this regard would be taken only after examining whether such an initiative is safe for our ecosystem and environment.

CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan urged scientists to take advantage of the advancement in biotechnology in a manner which would ensure that there would be no adverse impact on the country's agriculture and environment.

Amongst others, Prof Zeba Siraz and Prof Abu Ahmed of Dhaka University, Prof Mofazzal Hossain of Bangabandhu Agriculture University, Ms Loretta Pague, Rural Livelihoods Programme Coordinator, CARE, Dr M Shahidul Islam, Director General, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute, and Dr S I Khan of BUET took part in the open floor discussion.



## From the Research Division

### Trade Policy Analysis (TPA)

CPD has recently completed a study on Market Access Issues in the Context of the Doha Development Round: Bangladesh's Interests and Concerns which was carried under CPD's TPA programme. Four other studies were also prepared under the TPA Programme which dealt with various issues to be considered by the Fifth WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun. These were: (a) Trade and Environment: Flying into Controversy or to Cancun?; (b) Post Doha Negotiations on Agreement on Agriculture: Issues of Concerns and Interests to Bangladesh; (c) GATS and Ongoing Negotiations in the WTO: Implications and Strategies for Bangladesh; and (d) Singapore Issues in the WTO.

A study titled "Trade Facilitation Negotiations in the WTO: Implications for Bangladesh and Other Least Developed and Developing Countries" was also completed during this period by the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL), CPD's collaborating institute in Ottawa.

### Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development 2003 (IRBD 2003)

The IRBD team at CPD is currently working on the analysis of Macroeconomic Performance of the Bangladesh Economy during FY2003. The thematic component of IRBD 2003 will put under critical scrutiny Bangladesh's experience with aid in the 1990s and analyse the various dimensions of aid including its use, the political economy of aid, impact and efficacy of aid, nexus between aid and development of key sectors in the economy. This thematic part of IRBD 2003 will include studies on Macro-economic Dimension of Aid Dependence; Political Economy of Aid Dependence; Composition of Aid and Sectoral Dependence; Aid Absorption; Aid and Policy Reforms; Aid and Trade; Aid and Private Sector Development; Aid and Poverty Alleviation; Aid and NGOs; and Aid and Changing Donor Perspective. The reports are being prepared by experts working on relevant areas both within CPD and outside.

### Study for SANEI III Research Programme

CPD has completed a research study titled The Trade Potentials of South Asian Economies under New Global Trade Regimes: The Role of Some Non-Price Factors. This research was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata and Centre for Social Studies, Kolkata. The research was initiated by the South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI) under the Third Round of its Research Programme. The final Study Report was presented at the Fifth SANEI Annual Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka during August 15-17, 2003.

### Study for SANEI IV Research Programme

CPD is now conducting a study under the SANEI Fourth Round Research Programme titled Trade Liberalisation and Bangladesh Agriculture: Impacts on Cropping Pattern, Resource Use Efficiency and Effective Incentives. The proposal was presented at the Fourth SANEI conference held in Dhaka. The study is being conducted by Dr Uttam K Deb and Dr Ananya Raihan, Research Fellows at CPD. The draft of the study was presented at the Fifth SANEI Annual Conference held in Colombo.

### Study for SANEI VI Research Programme

Under the SANEI Sixth Round Research Programme, CPD has undertaken a study titled Bangkok Agreement in the Context of China's Membership: How the Three South Asian Members Could Benefit? The study will be jointly implemented by CPD and the South Asian School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

### Dynamics of Rural Livelihood Systems (PETRRA Project)

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) is partnering with the Dynamics of Livelihood Systems (DoLSys) sub-project in implementing the Poverty Elimination Through Rice Research

Assistance (PETRRA) Project. As part of this project CPD took part in PETRRA Communication Fair 2003 held at Hotel Sheraton, Dhaka during August 10 - 11, 2003. Other members of DoLSys subcomponent IRRI, BIRRI, BIDS, BRAC and Socio Consult Ltd., also took part in the Fair. Six posters, highlighting issues related to rice seed delivery system, rural non-farm economy, liberalisation of crop sector, adoption of improved rice technology, rural poverty and demand for new technology, were displayed at the fair. Four Policy Briefs were also distributed. These were on: (1) Rice Seed Delivery System and Seed Policy in Bangladesh; (2) Rice Research and Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh; (3) Promoting Rural Non-farm Economy of Bangladesh; and (4) Liberalisation of the Crop Sector: Can Bangladesh Withstand Regional Competition? These policy briefs were published as CPD-IRRI advocacy materials to support agricultural policy reform in Bangladesh.

### CPD Study on Trade Liberalisation and Bangladesh's Marine Fisheries Sector

CPD has recently completed a study titled Environmental Impact of Trade Liberalisation and Trade-Related Policies on the Marine Fisheries Sector in Bangladesh. The study was carried out by CPD Research Fellow Dr Fahmida A Khatun, Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya and Research Director Professor Mustafizur Rahman. The study has been prepared in collaboration with the Economics and Trade Unit (ETU) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

The study seeks to examine the interface between trade-related policies and exploitation of marine fisheries resources in the context of Bangladesh and to identify policy measures to promote sustainable use of Bangladesh's marine resources. The study has estimated sustainable production level in the marine fishery sector of Bangladesh by applying the Schaefer model based on catch and effort data for the period 1984-1998. The study concludes that incentive package initiated under the trade liberalisation programme, until now, has not had any negative impact on the country's marine fishing capacity and that marine fisheries sector could be further exploited in an environmentally sustainable way. The study shows that Bangladesh's marine fishery sector is in need of support in terms of both financial and infrastructural assistance. Finally, the study puts forward a set of measures which needs to be undertaken to optimally exploit the substantial potential of this particular sector, on a sustainable basis, to the benefit of the people whose livelihoods depend on the sector.

### CPD Study on Child Labour Policy

CPD has completed a study titled Child Labour in Bangladesh: A Forward Looking Policy Study. Conducted by Dr Sumaiya Khair, Fellow, CPD and Associate Professor, Department of Law, University of Dhaka and commissioned by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the study has received professional inputs from Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Research Fellow, CPD and was prepared under the overall guidance of Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director, CPD and Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Research Director of CPD.

The study aims to explore various dimensions of the issue of child labour in the context of Bangladesh, particularly from a policy perspective. The study undertakes a review of the relevant literature and examines the efficacy of public policies and plans that relate particularly to children. The study also collated relevant empirical data on state of child labour in Bangladesh. The study highlights conceptual issues pertaining to children and labour in particular contexts and also examines international legal standards on child labour including extra national action and assesses their impact on working children in Bangladesh. The study also reviews state plans, policies and legislation impinging on child labour and puts under scrutiny the enforcement measures.



## CPD Professionals Overseas

Professor Rehman Sobhan

The CPD Chairman attended the following international events during July-September, 2003 period:

- Seminar on Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building in South Asia: What Needs to be Done? held at the Wilton Park South Asia Forum 2003. Professor Sobhan was a designated discussant at the Forum that took place during July 28-31, 2003 at Wilton Park, UK.
- The Sixth National Development Planning (NDP) Review Meeting of the Ministry of National Planning and Development (MNPD), Maldives held during August 24-28, 2003 in Male.
- Professor Sobhan presented a paper titled Challenging the Injustice of Poverty: Rethinking Aid Strategies at the dialogue on Aid Impact: The Political Economy of Poverty Reduction. The event was jointly organised by the Centre for Development Research (CDR) and the Institute for International Studies, Denmark in Copenhagen during September 30 - October 01, 2003.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya

During the third quarter of 2003, the CPD Executive Director attended the following events:

- Workshop on Trade in Health Services and GATS during July 9 - 11, 2003 in Ottawa, Canada. The event was jointly organised by WHO and the Canadian Public Health Association.
- Annual Conference of the South Asian Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues (SACSNITI) titled South Asian Agenda for the Cancun Ministerial. The conference was organised by the South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal and Consumers Unity Trust Society (CUTS), India during 24 - 25 July, 2003 in Kathmandu.
- Meeting of the Bangladesh-Japan Business Forum in Tokyo, Japan during July 30-31, 2003. Dr Bhattacharya presented a paper titled Taking Stock of Policy Reforms in Bangladesh at the conference.
- The Fifth WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun, Mexico during September 10 - 14, 2003.
- Symposium on Post Doha

Marginalisation of LDC Concerns, held in Cancun on September 12, 2003. Dr Bhattacharya presided over the meeting organised by CPD, in association with ICTSD, Geneva, CUTS-ARC, India, EU-LDC Network, Netherlands, RIS, CIROAP, and SAWTEE, Kathmandu.

Professor Mustafizur Rahman

The July - September, 2003 period for the CPD Research Director was marked by the following events:

- Completion of his tenure (May - August 2003) at the Yale University, USA as a Visiting Fellow under the Fulbright Scholarship Programme. While at Yale, Professor Rahman conducted research on the Impact of US Trade and Development Act 2000 on Bangladesh's Export-oriented Apparel Sector.
- Participation at the Cancun WTO Ministerial Meet in Mexico.
- Professor Rahman presented the keynote paper titled LDC Market Access Interests and Concerns: How Far the Draft Cancun Ministerial Text Goes? at the Cancun Symposium on September 12, 2003.

Ms Anisatul Fatema Yousuf

• CPD's Head of Dialogue and Communication Division Ms Yousuf participated at a workshop on Knowledge Sharing in South Asian Human Development held during July 16 - 18, 2003 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The event was jointly organised by South Asia Partnership (SAP)-Nepal, SAP-Canada and Bellanet.

Dr Ananya Raihan

Dr A Raihan, a CPD Research Fellow, attended the following programmes:

- Regional Consultation on Movement of Natural Persons and Human Development held in New Delhi, India during July 21 - 22, 2003. Dr Raihan presented a paper on Movement of Natural Persons and Human Development: the Bangladesh Perspective at the seminar jointly organised by UNDP-Delhi and UNDP-Vietnam.
- A seminar on South Asian Agenda for the Cancun Ministerial held on the occasion of the Annual Conference of

South Asian Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues (SACSNITI) during July 25 - 26, 2003 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr Raihan presented a paper titled Mobility of Labour: How to Push Forward the Issue.

- The Fifth Annual Conference of the South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka during August 15-17, 2003.
- Dr Raihan presented a paper titled GATS: Some Achievements and Long Way to Go at the Symposium on Post Doha Marginalisation of LDC Concerns, held in Cancun on September 12, 2003.

Dr Uttam Kumar Deb

CPD Research Fellow Dr Deb participated at the Fifth Annual Conference of the South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He also presented the draft of the study titled Trade Liberalisation and Bangladesh Agriculture: Impacts on Cropping Pattern, Resource Use Efficiency and Effective Incentives which is being conducted under the SANEI Fourth Round Research Programme.

Dr Fahmida A Khatun

Dr Fahmida A Khatun, Research Fellow, CPD participated in the following events:

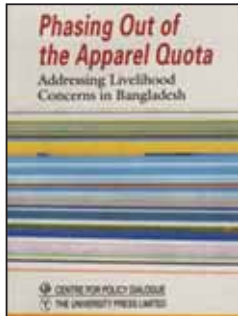
- Annual Conference of the South Asian Civil Society Network on International Trade Issues (SACSNITI) held during 24-25 July, 2003 in Kathmandu.
- Sub-regional Brainstorming Work-shop on the Specific Trade and Environment Issues in Paragraphs 31/32 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration in Preparation of the Cancun WTO Ministerial Conference, Bangkok, Thailand during 30 July - 1 August, 2003. The Workshop was organised by UNCTAD, Geneva.

Mr Wasel Bin Shadat

The CPD Research Associate Mr Shadat attended the Fifth Annual Conference of the South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka during August 15-17, 2003.



## Publications



**Phasing Out of the Apparel Quota: Addressing Livelihood Concerns in Bangladesh**  
 Publisher: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and the University Press Limited (UPL)  
 Published in: 2003  
 Price: Tk. 300.00

With the phase-out of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) to be completed by January, 2005 the least developed countries, such as Bangladesh, are expected to face a formidable challenge. Whilst critical dependence of these countries on export of readymade garments is set to be put under severe test, Bangladesh, with three-fourth of its total export earnings and the livelihood of more than one and a half million workers directly depending on this single sector, is most likely to experience the negative implications of the phase-out. CPD published a volume on Phasing Out of the Apparel Quota: Addressing Livelihood Concerns in Bangladesh to highlight the emergent concerns.

Part A of the volume is the Strategy Paper that focuses on the possible impact of the MFA phase-out and comes up with suggestions to address the emerging challenges. It is argued in the paper that the overarching approach to any strategy that aims to address these challenges must have the objective of poverty reduction at its heart. Part B is a compilation of proceedings from various CPD Dialogues

which were organised to exchange information with, and have inputs from various stakeholder groups such as workers and trade union leaders, entrepreneurs, academics and NGOs as regards strategies for coping with post-MFA challenges. This publication was brought out in connection with Oxfam's Global Campaign to make trade work for the poor.

### Dialogue Reports

**Energy Sector of Bangladesh: What are the Knowledge Gaps?**  
 Report No. 58 (July 2003)

**Full Float of Taka: is Bangladesh Ready for It?**  
 Report No. 59 (July 2003)

**Child Labour Policy of Bangladesh: What are We Looking for?**  
 Report No. 61 (July 2003)

**Health System and Women's Health: Priorities for the Next Programme**  
 Report No. 60 (September 2003)

### Occasional Paper

**Deceleration in the Export Sector of Bangladesh and Working Women: Assessing Impacts and Identifying Coping Strategies**  
 Author: Dr Kaniz Siddique, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, North South University, Dhaka.

Based on extensive sample survey, the paper provides insights into the impact of the deceleration experienced by Bangladesh's RMG sector during 2001. The study attempts to capture the impact on the livelihood concerns of women workers particularly in terms of family-poverty, women's employment and women's empowerment. It further identifies coping strategies of

the women in the face of the emerging hardship and makes recommendations to address the attendant challenges with a view to creating employment opportunities, particularly for working women in the context of Bangladesh.

### SACEPS Paper

**A SACEPS Dialogue on Policies for South Asian Region: SAFTA, WTO, Energy and Investment Paper No. 4 (September 2003)**  
 Price: Tk. 70.00

The paper is a resume of the national dialogue in which SACEPS Task Force Reports on SAFTA, WTO, Energy and Investment were presented. Drawing upon the Geneva talks, a common stand for the South Asian countries was outlined in light of which some modalities for advancing a South Asian interest in the subsequent WTO negotiations were suggested.

The Report on SAFTA shed light on emergence of a regional grouping in South Asia which concluded with some preferences for SAFTA. The presentation on Investment Cooperation covered fiscal, regulatory, judicial and banking reforms, investment in infrastructure and Intra-SAARC investment. Defining a South Asian energy context characterised by poor consumption and reform efforts, the presentation on energy cooperation underscored the relevance of energy cooperation in the ground of its far reaching benefit to South Asian countries. The report also contains a summary of the discussions that followed the presentations.

### Upcoming Activities

- A dialogue on Cancun WTO Ministerial: An Ex Post Assessment will be organised by CPD, in association with

the Economic Reporters' Forum, on October 02, 2003 at the CIRDP Auditorium.

- The In-house Press Briefing on Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) 2003 will be held on October 30, 2003 at the CPD Dialogue Room.

- CPD, in collaboration with the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), will hold a dialogue on SACEPS Social Charter during January 13 - 14, 2004 at the CPD Dialogue Room.

- CPD Annual Retreat 2003 is due to be held during January 08 - 10, 2004 at the Jamuna Resort Area.

- CPD, in association with the UN-ESCAP/UNDP, is going to organise Sub-Regional Workshop on Disseminating the First Regional MDG Report. The event will take place during January 19 - 20, 2004 at Hotel Sonargaon, Dhaka.

- A group of 55 study fellows from the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM), Manchester University, UK will visit CPD on January 25, 2004.

- A dialogue on WTO Rules will be jointly organised by CPD and the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL) Ottawa, Canada. The dialogue will take place at the CIRDP Auditorium on January 26, 2004.

- The Trade Policy Appreciation Workshop - IV is going to be held at the CIRDP Auditorium during January 27-29, 2004. The event will be jointly organised by CPD and the CTPL, Ottawa, Canada.