

BIEAC PROJECT PHASE II ACTIVITIES: UPDATE

July 2010

In the months of April - June, 2010, BIEAC phase II research activities were completed. The first drafts of the research papers were presented during national workshops in the respective countries from 30 March to 26 April 2010.

A second regional workshop titled “Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Deepening EAC Regional Integration: Perspectives from the BIEAC Project” was held on 27-28 May 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss the research findings. The workshop was officially opened by **Hon. Amason Kingi**, Kenya’s minister of EAC. The following research papers were presented:

- Burundi: Accession of Burundi and Rwanda into ERAC: Implications for private sector development.
- Kenya: (a) State of Informal cross-border trade and implications on implementation of the EAC growth and integration.
(b) Harmonization of EAC tax regimes: proposals for a SME’s friendly taxation system.
- Rwanda: Integration Migration with Development in EAC: Policy challenges and Recommendations.
- Tanzania: Non-Tariff Barriers in trading within EAC: status, challenges and way forward in 2010 and beyond.
- Uganda: National competition policy and law versus the regional competition law ACT: Status and way forward in 2010 and beyond.
- CUTS-GRC: Analysis of policy challenges for EAC integration.

Details of the workshop are available at http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/Regional_Workshop_on_Strengthening_the_Role_of_Civil_Society.htm.

CUTS was also represented in the EAC Regional Workshop at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania on 14-15 June 2010 through Atul Kaushik, Director, CUTS GRC, where he made presentations on the Enhanced Integrated Framework and on South-South Cooperation and contributed to the finalization of recommendations for the governments.

Seven policy briefs papers are being prepared based on the research findings and comments in the next quarter. These will be disseminated in the national workshops to stakeholders which are scheduled for the months of July and August 2010. Country partners will also prepare Civil Society position papers on the issue of regional integration for submission to their governments in September 2010.