

Although competition policy and law issues date back to the 1890s when Canada and the USA adopted competition laws, interest in and awareness of competition laws on an international level still remain far from satisfactory. Due to globalisation and international trade, competition policy and law issues should be given a global prominence, with an institution playing a central role in coordinating and generating awareness.



Assigning a World Competition Day would result in a milestone achievement in awareness generation on the need for competition reforms in markets – and garner stakeholder and public support for the same. It would provide a platform to allow meaningful and focused debate by stakeholders, including from those jurisdictions that still express reservations about the need for competition reforms. For competition authorities in developing countries, this would be an opportunity to learn from their more experienced counterparts from developed countries through technical assistance for evolution and implementation of competition legislation therein.

Policy Roundtable: Discussion on Competition Issues in Public Procurement (3rd December, 2014, Paloma Hotel, Accra 10am to 1pm)



Ghana is yet to have a functional competition regime. It has attempted in the past to draft a competition policy and law, but has not succeeded in introducing it in the national policy framework. Benefits of having a national competition law and policy in Ghana are far reaching as competition drives the market and stabilizes prices.

The aim of the roundtable is to explore how integrating principles of fair competition in public procurement could help in more efficient utilisation of government revenues.

This meeting would bring together a select group of experts and practitioners from academia, ministries, department and agencies, development partners, business associations, consumer organizations and regulatory authorities to discuss the theme. The aim is to have a discussion with people who are sensitized to the benefits of competition and can act as its 'ambassadors' in Ghana.

Theme for 2014 World Competition Day: Competition Issues in Public Procurement

Professor Samuel Kofi Date-Bah, (Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana, Chairman of University of Ghana Council) and Board Chair of CUTS Accra will chair the meeting. While the discussions would be broadly on the theme of "Competition Issues in Public Procurement", there would be a session dedicated to specifically discussing 'Infusing Competition Principles in Public Procurement for Transportation Services in Ghana' – an

issue on which CUTS has been implementing a project.

Governments in most countries are the largest spenders. Government spending comes largely through procurement and other forms of recurrent expenditure. In securing goods, the fundamental objective for any government is to get value for money at a very competitive rate from a wide supply base whilst promoting domestic capacity and innovation amongst sellers. The benefits derived from public procurement are however not realized by most governments world-wide, due to the plethora of anti-competitive practices in public procurement and the lack of effective institutions to monitor public funds used in making purchases of goods and services.

In using Public Procurement as a measure, the efficiency in managing the state funds of most of the governments around the globe can be characterized. This would also introduce better accountability to the tax payers' money as most of the times the government spending is attributed to corruption. A discussion on this subject is particularly relevant, given the current economic scenario in Ghana.

It has been estimated that about \$400 billion per annum changes hands through corruption in public procurement around the world.² In Sub-Saharan Africa, it is reported that corruption exists in about 70% of public contracts, which inevitably lead to a rise in 20-30% of contracts sums.³ In Africa alone, the cost of corruption is estimated at around \$ 148 billion a year⁴.

Date: **Wednesday 3rd December, 2014**

Time: **10:00am-1:00pm Arrival and registration: 9:30am**

Venue: **Paloma Hotel**

For more enquires regarding this event, please email:

apa@cuts.org or accra@cuts.org or call 024-392-0926 or 030-224-5652

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² Ameyaw, Collins, Sarfo Mensah, and Ernest Osei-Tutu. "Public Procurement in Ghana: The Implementation Challenges to the Public Procurement Law 2003 (Act 663)." *International Journal of Construction Supply Chain Management* 2, 2012. Accessed November 26, 2014. http://www.ijcscm.com/sites/default/files/issue/nid-180/ameyawc_1346280928.pdf.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.