

INDO-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM

Tokyo, Japan | January 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM JST

JOIN VIRTUALLY 7:00 PM EST (JANUARY 11) | 6:00 AM BST | 8:00 AM PHST

Hosted and
Sponsored By:



Co-Hosted By:



In Cooperation With:



INDO-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM

CUTS International Report

The fifth edition of the [Indo-Pacific Business Forum](#) was organised as a hybrid event in Tokyo on January 12, 2023. Over the course of multiple sessions, the Forum saw wide-ranging discussions on major issues around business and commerce in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as on the U.S.' vision for the region. This report captures the takeaways from the sessions held at the Forum.

2023 INDO-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM

CUTS International Summary

Introduction

The 2023 Indo-Pacific Business Forum, the fifth edition of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency's flagship event, was organised in Tokyo in hybrid mode on January 12, 2023. It is the first time that the U.S. and Japan were co-hosting this event.

The Forum presents an important platform for businesses and the private sector to better understand the political direction and policy approach of the U.S. Administration on diverse issues relating to and affecting the Indo-Pacific region.

Outcomes at the Indo-Pacific Business Forum will serve to advance high quality infrastructure and drive solutions on clean energy and decarbonisation in the region, based on shared understandings, high standards and value driven partnerships that support equitable growth and good jobs.

The event also demonstrates the U.S.' abiding commitment to work on shared priorities and create partnerships that work for all in the region.

Highlights

- ❖ Developments in the Indo-Pacific region will shape the global economy in the 21st century. It is the fastest growing region on the planet and accounts for a significant portion of the world's economic output and growth. The region has been impacted by challenges such as Covid-19, supply chain disruptions and geopolitical events, but has repeatedly demonstrated its resilience and ability to emerge stronger from such periods of crisis.
- ❖ The international economic order today faces risks which are too great for either governments or industry to solve alone. Like-minded countries must look beyond their borders, beyond their differences, and beyond differences between the public and private sectors to deepen cooperation and expand inclusive economic opportunities in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ A predominant theme of the Forum was the need for future-proofing economic growth and development in the Indo-Pacific region and making it more resilient and sustainable. The need for a rules-based economic order with adequate flexibilities, as is sought to be achieved through the innovative Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) was reiterated.
- ❖ The IPEF will be the foundation of such an order, and its success will not just contribute to the realisation of a free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), but also promote cooperation among countries in areas such as carbon neutrality, digital economy and resilient supply chains. With adequate support from businesses, the IPEF can help create a high-standard, inclusive framework to advance economic growth and promote sustainability in the Indo-Pacific region.

- ❖ 2023 will be a milestone year for the Indo-Pacific region. The U.S. will hold Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Presidency, India will hold G20 Presidency and Japan will hold the G7 Presidency. Coordinated action through a revitalised Quad, further progress on IPEF negotiations, and a fresh impetus to sustainable infrastructure in the region are expected to be the highlights of the coming months.
- ❖ Active participation and cooperation from businesses is indispensable to maximise the potential of all these positive and forward-looking initiatives in the region. This is an opportune moment for public and private sector representatives, along with civil society in the Indo-Pacific, to expand their overall involvement and commitment to the region.

Opening Ceremony

- Enoch T. Ebon, Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency
- Ambassador Rahm Emanuel, U.S. Embassy in Tokyo
- Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State
- Yoshimasa Hayashi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- Gina M. Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
- Shigeru Hayakawa, Vice Chair of the Board of Councillors, Chair of the Committee on U.S. Affairs, Keidanren

Takeaways

The Centrality of the Indo-Pacific Region

- The Indo-Pacific region is this century's main engine of global growth and is home to some of the most dynamic economies in the world. However, unless a rules-based economic order is maintained, the full potential of the region cannot be unleashed.
- The world today recognises that prosperity to the world will come from the union of “two free and open oceans and continents” – a philosophy first mentioned by late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The number of countries that have developed their own Indo-Pacific strategies in the past few years reaffirms the growing importance of the region.
- 2023 will be a milestone year for the Indo-Pacific region. The U.S. will hold Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Presidency, India will hold G20 Presidency and Japan will hold the G7 Presidency.

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) and the U.S. Vision for a Free, Open, Connected and Prosperous Indo-Pacific

- The Biden Administration's Indo-Pacific strategy articulates the U.S. vision for a free, open, connected, prosperous and secure region. Complemented by the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) - with 14 members representing 40% of the global economy – these will together lay out the vision and roadmap to help the region's economies grow faster and fairer. When it comes to the economic strength and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific, the region has to be more prepared for the future. The U.S. will work with its Indo-Pacific partners to realise a resilient and sustainable future.
- The IPEF is an innovative architecture towards this end, and one that brings in ingenuity. The focus will be to lead a race to the top, finding innovative solutions to the issues facing the 21st century economy to ensure a fair digital economy, fair trade, supply chain resiliency, and increasing reliance on clean energy and sustainable infrastructure. IPEF negotiations are expected to enter full scale activity this year.
- Active participation and cooperation from business leaders is indispensable to maximise the potential of the IPEF. This is an opportune moment for public and private sector representatives in the Indo-Pacific region to exchange ideas on future prospects in these fields, and the Indo-Pacific Business Forum provides this platform.
- The Indo-Pacific Business Forum will work through the mechanisms under a reinvigorated Quad and other groupings like the APEC and Just Energy Transition Partnerships to implement the outcomes and execute infrastructure projects in the region.

The U.S.-Japan Partnership – The Fulcrum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region

- Major events such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and climate change are altering the global landscape. It is impossible for one country or one region alone to overcome these historical crises. Trust in the international community is foundational to tackle these and similar issues.
- A close U.S.-Japan partnership is indispensable for economic prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. Ensuring peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region has been a priority for Japanese diplomacy. To further accelerate diplomatic efforts towards a free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), Japan has announced a new FOIP plan with emphasis on areas including maritime law enforcement, cybersecurity, digital trade, green economy and economic security.
- Japan will play a leading role in trust-based collaborationism. It is fully committed to advancing the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and hopes for an early return of the United States into its fold.
- The vision of a FOIP cannot be achieved by governments alone. The active participation of a vibrant private sector is imperative. Businesses have recently been given a boost through economic stimulus measures by governments, and this has provided an avenue for them to expand their investments. For instance, semiconductor cooperation between Japan, the U.S. and like-minded countries has been enhanced. The Japanese government will continue to encourage more private investment in trustworthy countries.

- In times of crisis, more cooperation than fragmentation is the need of the hour. Greater synergy and higher levels of cooperation among like-minded countries, regardless of their development status, is required.

Expanding Trade and Investment Opportunities in the Indo-Pacific Region

- The international economic order today faces risks which are too great for either governments or industry to solve alone. Like-minded countries must look beyond their borders, beyond their differences, and beyond differences between the public and private sectors to deepen cooperation and expand trade and investment opportunities in the region.
- Pandemic-induced global supply chain vulnerabilities have made businesses in the region realise the risk of excessive reliance on any single country for the procurement of essential goods.
- An open and fair economic order is the basis for fostering innovation and opportunity. The IPEF will be the foundation of such an order, and its success will not just contribute to the realisation of FOIP, but also promote cooperation among countries in areas such as carbon neutrality, digital economy and resilient supply chains. With adequate support from businesses, the IPEF can help create a high-standard, inclusive framework to advance economic growth and promote sustainability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Keynote

- Ambassador Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative

Takeaways

- The Indo-Pacific region has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to emerge stronger from periods of economic crisis. This was evident throughout the pandemic, just as in previous such periods of hardship such as the Asian financial crisis.
- The IPEF will herald a new era of cooperation in trade in the Indo-Pacific region. The Framework and its trade and related pillars are indicative of the U.S.' commitment to raise the tide for all, by doing trade in the right way and putting workers and the planet front and centre.
- There is a realisation that economic opportunities need to be based on fairness. The IPEF will work on these lines, crafting a framework which can help in tackling the climate crisis, ensuring that rights of workers are upheld, building resilient supply chains and creating an inclusive digital economy which delivers for all.

Expectations and Future Prospects for Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

Panel

- Matt Murray (U.S. Senior Official for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State)
- Nora Todd (Acting Senior Director for International Economics and Labor, National Security Council)
- Sarah Ellerman (Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Acting), U.S. Trade Representative)
- Sharon H. Yuan (Counselor and Chief Negotiator, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, Office of the Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce)
- Takanari Yamashita (Senior Negotiator, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan)

Introduction: This session was an opportunity for the U.S. and Japanese chief negotiators to give updates on the latest Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) discussions between all 14 partners. The negotiators discussed the contours of the IPEF, what it will mean for businesses, and about expectations for negotiations moving forward. The panelists touched upon the IPEF vision, and where and how the private sector can engage.

Takeaways

- The IPEF is a White House priority and the centrepiece of economic engagement in the region. The framework is seen as an essential way of driving deeper trade ties and sustainable economic growth with all partners.
- The framework aims to be inclusive, with its expansion over time. This means that getting the standards, policies and the ambition right in these negotiations from the outset is important. It also means working closely with the private sector to make sure that IPEF appropriately tackles issues such as supply chain vulnerabilities and the climate crisis in a coordinated manner.
- Japan has played a pivotal role in helping move towards consensus on key shared priorities and driving support for the framework since the beginning. Continued engagement with and feedback from private sector stakeholders will be crucial to ensuring that IPEF provides reciprocal economic benefits to American workers and to businesses and workers across the Indo-Pacific region.
- The IPEF is addressing new issues that traditional trade agreements haven't fully covered. The statement adopted in September 2022 referred to promoting responsible development and use of emerging technologies, along with advancing resilient and secure digital infrastructure and platforms. The governments are discussing what substantive obligations should be included based on those references, and would benefit if they get timely inputs and suggestions on such new issues from businesses. The Japanese government has been exchanging views on the IPEF agenda items with some leading economic organisations in Japan and overseas, bearing in mind the confidentiality of information related to negotiations.

- The framework also emphasises the inclusiveness of partner countries, especially developing countries. Overall, the IPEF is not a zero-sum game, but a framework for co-prosperity. Under the leadership of the United States, the IPEF will strive to create tangible benefits commensurate with high standard rules.

Keynotes

- Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation
- Scott Nathan, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)
- Tadashi Maeda, Chairman, Japan Bank for International Cooperation and Special Advisor to the Cabinet of the Government of Japan

Takeaways

- The U.S. welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Indo-Pacific nations to deliver sustainable, resilient infrastructure. As part of the partnership for global infrastructure and investment, the U.S. Department of Transportation launched an initiative called ‘Momentum’, a two-way exchange of best practices with international partners on transportation and infrastructure development.
- A partnership with the Pacific Islands on sustainable transportation infrastructure is underway, and the U.S. is also working with the ASEAN nations on an integrated EV infrastructure ecosystem.
- The race against climate change is not just a question of what will be lost if it fails, but what can be gained along the journey towards that success. Transforming legacy systems to create quality, sustainable and resilient infrastructure is a project that will itself help to drive new-generation jobs and economic growth. The U.S. is hence proud to deliver that kind of infrastructure, and committed to expanding engagement in the Indo-Pacific region with a spirit of partnership and teamwork.
- The Indo-Pacific region is central to global prosperity. It is home to more than half the world’s people; accounts for nearly 2/3rd of global economic growth; and will continue to drive global growth in the years to come. With a huge opportunity like this come obvious challenges in realising the economic growth potential - a persisting global pandemic, food insecurity, climate change, and the possibility of a debt crisis.
- Partnering to seize such opportunities will be a continuing priority. The DFC offers debt and equity financing, political risk insurance and technical assistance, all aimed at funding private sector opportunities. The Indo-Pacific region is of core priority to the DFC, with US\$ 6 billion committed towards the region. The DFC announced over US\$ 100 million dollars investments in this region, including affordable housing support and expanding access to electrical vehicles and support to innovative technology companies in the field of health, education and financial services, among others.

Business Roundtable: Building Economic Resilience in the Indo-Pacific Region

Panel

- Yulia Toyokawa (Managing Executive Officer, MUFG Bank)
- Toshiaki Tanaka, (Representative Director, Executive Vice President, Executive Officer, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.)
- Victor Osumi, (Managing Director and President of Japan, Delta Airlines)
- Hans Klemm, (Japan Representative, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA))

Introduction: This session focused on the opportunities and challenges for economic resilience in the Indo-Pacific region. The panel highlighted several U.S. efforts to improve supply chain resiliency, including implementation of new U.S. government funding under the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act and how the private sector could engage meaningfully with such governmental initiatives. A distinguished panel of executives representing the finance, shipping, travel, and pharmaceutical industries participated in the discussion.

Takeaways

- The Indo-Pacific region is important for shaping the global economy in the 21st century. It is the fastest growing region on the planet and accounts for a significant portion of the world's economic output and growth. The region has been impacted by challenges such as Covid-19, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical events. There is consequently a need for greater global economic resilience.
- The U.S. has been working through initiatives such as the IPEF, Mineral Security Partnership, and the CHIPS Act to ensure more diverse, sustainable, secure, and transparent supply chains. The U.S. is also hosting the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum in 2023, to build consensus on the best ways to create a resilient and sustainable future for all.
- In all the efforts to address these challenges, the private sector will be critical and crucial. The private sector highlighted the importance of investment in terms of scale and duration, partnerships across the industry and across the globe, and the need to be prepared for supply chain disruptions in the future.
- Different industries are addressing resilience in a holistic manner by integrating production and transportation, and rapidly deploying new technology into the global value chains. Further, for addressing similar challenges and maintaining a robust innovation ecosystem in the region, the Panel of executives emphasised upon the importance of sharing best practices between governments in the region to increase efficiency and dynamism in regulation.

Cooperation in Digital Sector

Panel

- Hiroshi Yoshida, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan (MIC)
- Mayuko Tatewaki (Senior Vice President, NEC)
- Stephen Lang (Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State)
- Eric Handa (CEO & Co-Founder, APTELECOM)
- David Katz (Managing Director of Public Affairs, Asia Pacific, KKR)

Introduction: With the growing social and economic needs across the world, the digital economy becomes all the more important for its ability to impact productivity, economic growth and data flows. This makes it imperative to ensure security and privacy along with connectivity. This session focused on the theme of digital connectivity and cooperation between governments, civil society and the private sector. It also focused on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure such as 5G/Open Radio Access Network (RAN), submarine cables, and data centers and how openness, security and reliability can be ensured.

Takeaways

- Open RAN architecture brings a diverse range of people in competition with each other, which ensures innovation. However, with the current digital atmosphere being either monopolised or duopolised; the role of governments becomes important in levelling out the playing field and ensuring accessible ICT infrastructure and investments.
- Around 99% of international communication traffic flows through submarine cables. But these are susceptible to damage by fishing, ship and trawler activities. The panellists noted that Public Private Partnerships could ensure physical protection, restoration and punitive policies in case of damage of ICT infrastructure.
- Data security and privacy are prime issues in 5G deployment. The private sector with its innovation and dynamism can ensure effective data privacy protection. The governments along with support from academia and civil society can formulate policies to foster secure free flows of data and connectivity. The panellists argued for following a sandbox model in ensuring consumer protection.
- It was also recognised that there are certain challenges in ensuring free data flow and security. These were controlling rogue players in the field, geo-political issues like national security and mistrust between governments, authoritarian regimes, need for a balanced patent protection regime, and disruptions in ICT field due to evolving technologies.
- Digital technologies and connectivity are becoming core of the economic realm. In conclusion, the panellists supported a model of three-way cooperation between governments, private sector and operators in promotion of Open RAN architecture, digital inclusivity, and ensuring data security and reliability.

Clean Energy and Climate Resilience for Small Island States

Panel

- Nicholas J. Davis (CEO, Gridmarket)
- Julinette Bayking (Senior Financial Advisor, Papua New Guinea Electrification Partnership)
- Dr. Lakmal Fernando (Managing Director, Regen Renewables)
- Hazeen Ashby (Deputy Chief of Staff & White House Liaison, Export-Import Bank of the United States)

Introduction: Small Island nations are the first to bear the negative impacts of climate change despite having barely any contribution in historic carbon emissions. They are dealing with some very difficult issues, such as remote location, isolated population, weak tourism-based economies, high vulnerability to the effects of climate change, limited fiscal space, and high levels of debt. These island countries mostly import fossil fuels, which has a negative impact on their national budget. As a result, they are working to solve their energy problems and promote sustainable economic growth. In this context, this session focused on building clean energy capacity and climate resilience in Small Island States.

Takeaways

- The clean energy transition in small island nations can be accelerated through technical and financial cooperation, utility and private sector capacity building, access to information and knowledge sharing platforms, improved policy, regulatory, and advisory services, and investments in project bankability, which in turn draws more investors to fund energy transformation.
- The requirement for capability development should focus on overcoming major obstacles to market preparedness for solar energy deployment and quicker uptake of solar energy projects in small island countries. Lack of necessary skills in installers and system designers leads to systems that function poorly, produce less, cost more to operate and maintain, and provide investors with a lower return on their investment.
- Multilateral power trading can bring various benefits like reduced system costs, improved energy security, and the opportunity for small island nations to integrate bigger proportions of variable renewable energy. It may lead to improved system security, greater economic effectiveness, and assistance in achieving renewable energy targets.
- Access to finance, innovative financing mechanisms and community-based mechanisms are key to improve flow of finance in solar and renewable deployment in small island states. There are also some untapped resources like carbon credits which can be beneficial for island states in the long run.

Building Resilient Semiconductor Supply Chains for Semiconductors and Critical Minerals in the Indo-Pacific

Panel

- Alfredo Pascual (Secretary, Philippines Department of Trade and Industry)
- Jose Ma. Clement “Joey” Salceda (Representative, Philippine House of Representatives)
- Jacqueline Briones Badoo (Site Manager, Teradyne Cebu)
- Ambassador Delia Domingo Albert (Former Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs)

Introduction: The session focused on the Philippines’ contribution to building resilient supply chains for semiconductors and critical minerals in the Indo-Pacific region. Philippines’ semiconductor industry has become highly developed and it is endowed with some critical natural resources such as silica and nickel ore. The country’s strategically important location in the Indo-Pacific region, rich youth human resources, the government’s business-friendly industrial, monetary, fiscal, and FDI policies, and successful PPP model in infrastructure development help it become a competitor to China in semiconductors. The U.S.-China trade war has further encouraged the U.S. to raise its support for the Philippines’ semiconductor industry.

Takeaways

- Philippines’ economic recovery after Covid can be a good learning exercise for any economy. Philippines experienced one of the world’s longest lockdowns, which led to a massive economic slowdown. The government enacted and amended several laws to make the Philippines a business-friendly field for both local and foreign participants, such as the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act (CREATE), which lowers corporate income tax rates and rationalises fiscal incentives.
- Philippines’ strategically important location helps the country to become a hotspot for foreign investors. Philippines is an island country in the Western Pacific Ocean, sharing maritime borders with China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Palau, Vietnam, and Taiwan. The most critical for the Philippines semiconductor industry’s advancement is the country’s close proximity to the silicon-rich producer Taiwan.
- Philippines is endowed with plenty of silica, but high energy costs make it economically not feasible to produce silicon. The government is going to adopt new policies for energy sector reform. It could be possible for Philippines to be self-reliant in production of silicon and be able to add more value to make resilient semiconductor supply chains.
- Philippines’ educated youth workforce also makes it a sustainable production hub for semiconductors. The average level of education of Philippines’ youth labour force is above that of its close competitors India and Vietnam.
- One of the world’s longest lockdowns in Philippines led to Filipinos becoming more digitally inclusive and tech-savvy, which has had a spillover effect on both supply and demand for semiconductors.
- After the U.S.-China trade war, Philippines is one of U.S.’ major alternative sources of semiconductors. The U.S. is expanding its support – it is the largest foreign investor in the Philippines’ semiconductor industry and is providing grants which are directly or indirectly helping in the development of Philippines’ semiconductor industry.

Charting the year ahead: U.S. and Japanese Leadership in APEC and G7

Panel

- David Katz (Managing Director of Public Affairs, Asia Pacific, KKR)
- Akihiro Okochi (Deputy Director-General, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)
- Matt Murray (U.S. Senior Official for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State)

Introduction: This session covered the way forward for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to step up economic engagements in the region. As two of the most important players in APEC, Japan and the United States will have a tremendous role in defining its trajectory. The panelists discussed the possible contributions of the two countries to shape the agendas of APEC and G7, in a bid to drive growth in the Indo-Pacific region. They also laid thrust on the emergent need to find new and different ways to promote infrastructure in the region, in which the private sector will have a prominent role to play.

Takeaways

- The G7 will have to play a very important role to maintain global stability, which stands threatened in the aftermath of the Russian aggression in Ukraine. The responsibility to maintain a rules based international order assumes even greater responsibility now. The G7 is working on addressing food security challenges, which have arisen due to the war in Ukraine.
- The private sector will have a critical role to play in advancing the agenda of the APEC. Governments of G7 countries must play a more proactive role to step up engagement with the private sector, as the latter could be the most important driver of regional economic growth.
- There is a need for substantial investments in the Indo-Pacific region. The G7 is working on new and different ways to promote infrastructure in areas like clean energy, decarbonisation and digital infrastructure. Japan plans to mobilize \$65 billion over the next five years, as part of its global infrastructure push.
- Japan's relationship with China has grown into a major strategic issue over the years. However, there is realisation in Tokyo of the need to engage in a dialogue with Beijing. The United States, too, doesn't intend to decouple with China. However, Beijing must respect international rules and operate within a level playing field, to be on the same page as other members of the international community.

Closing Remarks

- Akihiro Okochi, Deputy Director-General, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- Enoch T. Ebong, Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)

Takeaways

- The discussions at the 2023 Indo-Pacific Business Forum were rich and engaging. The wide-ranging deliberations spanned diverse areas relevant to the Indo-Pacific region. The sessions dwelled on the IPEF, digital economy, clean energy and climate resilience, U.S.-Japan ties, APEC, trilateral cooperation, among others. All these issues are of utmost importance and required for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
- The year 2023 is going to be a crucial year for the U.S. and Japan across all sectors and more so as Japan takes on the presidency of G7 this year. The role played by the private and government sector would be pivotal for strengthening the economic growth of this region. The importance of partnerships between the public and private sectors and the crucial role played by civil society organisations were also highlighted.
- The officials thanked the organisers and panelists, including those from the Philippines, Dhaka and Tokyo who had demonstrated the work done for the growth of this region, along with the USTDA, the U.S. State Department and the logistics support team for a seamless event.
- The U.S. remains committed to overall development of the Indo-Pacific region. It looks forward to forging and strengthening partnerships with countries across the region and working with all to ensure a free, open, stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.



Established in 1983 as a non-governmental organisation for rural development, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) is now at the cutting edge of the consumer movement in India as well as across the globe and has become a leading Southern voice on trade, regulation and governance.

More information about the organisation and its centres can be accessed here:

<http://www.cuts-international.org>.