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Communauté de travail
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Expert meeting on the bilateral free trade agreement EFTA-India:
Voices from the Indian Civil Society

7 October 2008, 9:30-12:30
Kultur-Casino, Bernerstube, Herrengasse 25, Bern

Speaker's biographies

David Kadam

David Kadam is an enthusiastic and politically conscious development professional with a heart for the most disadvantaged people. His passion is travelling to the most remote tribal areas in India to understand the people and the grassroots context. He is an advocate for Indian's rural poor, adivasi and dalit communities and disadvantaged women. He is 49 years old and has been working with SWISSAID for the past eight years in the function of the Country Director of the SWISSAID India Office. Before, he worked as project officer in Oxfam and earlier in an Indian NGO.

KM GopaKumar

K M Gopakumar is working as Legal Advisor and Senior Researcher with Third Work (TWN), based in New Delhi, India. Since 1997 he has been working on intellectual property and development issues with special focus on TRIPS and its impact on access to medicines (as Research Officer at the Centre for Trade and Development (Centad) and Advocacy Officer for "Affordable Medicine and Treatment Campaign (AMTC)" in India). He is the co-author of several publications: - A Study on the Use of international Non Proprietary Names in India, WHO India (forthcoming); Post-2005 TRIPS Scenario in Patent Protection in the Pharmaceutical Sector: The Case of the Generic Pharmaceutical Industry in India (ICTSD-UNCTAD); Data Exclusivity in Pharmaceuticals: Little Basis, False Claims, *Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)*, December 9 2006. Seeds Bill: For Whom? *Journal of Indian Law Institute (JILI)*, December 2005, TRIPS Implementation and Public Health Safeguards, *South Asian Year Book of Trade and Development 2005*, Centre for Trade and Development, Patents Amendment Bill 2005: A Critique, *Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)*, April 8, 2005

Smitu Kothari

Smitu Kothari is the co-founder of Lokayan and Intercultural Resources, two action-research centres in India that work on the issues at the intersection of development, democracy,

culture and justice. Trained in physics and sociology, he is also a visiting professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai and at Princeton University in the US. For the past three decades, he has also been active in collective efforts to strengthen social policy and to democratise the national and the global economy and economic institutions.