

TRACIT shares global best practices against illicit trade with Indian government

Chennai, India, 22 January 2020 - Today, the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) addressed the seminar on *“Containing Counterfeiting and Smuggling - A Step Towards Prosperous Nation Building”* hosted by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries’ (FICCI) special initiative CASCADE. The event provided an opportunity to inform an audience mainly composed of law enforcement, senior government officers and IP practitioners about the importance of recognizing the interconnected nature of multiple forms of illicit trade while formulating policies that can effectively tackle trade in counterfeit goods.

The event featured a presentation on TRACIT’s recommendations to combat illicit trade which stemmed from TRACIT’s flagship report produced by The Economist Intelligence Unit, *“The Global Illicit Trade Environment Index.”* The Index evaluates 84 countries on their structural capability to guard against illicit trade, highlighting specific strengths and weaknesses. Noting that India scored below the global average in the Index, TRACIT Director of Programs Suriya Prabha Padmanaabhan, encouraged Indian policymakers to use the findings from the Index to make informed decisions and formulate effective strategies to address corruption, rationalize tax policies and increase the capacities of law enforcement – all of which can have a great impact in the fight against illicit trade.

In addressing the theme of the event, emphasis was placed on evaluating the impact that illicit trade in counterfeits has on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ms. Padmanaabhan presented findings from TRACIT’s recent publication, *“Mapping the Impact of Illicit Trade on the Sustainable Development Goals.”*

“While talking about ‘Prosperous Nation Building’ the pervasive impact that illicit trade has on the SDGs cannot be ignored. Illicit trade in counterfeiting and piracy poses the greatest threat across the 17 SDGs, directly impacting 9 of the SDGs, more than any other form of illicit trade. Consequently, this poses major obstacles to India’s goal of creating a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2025, fueling job creation, and poverty and hunger eradication.”

About TRACIT

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](https://www.TRACIT.org)) is an independent, private sector initiative to drive change to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across industry sectors most impacted by illicit trade.

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