



Asia

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Improving Quality Infrastructure in ASEAN

Objective Regional and national Quality Infrastructure (QI) institutions take into account international good practices when implementing the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint in the fields of standards and technical barriers to trade.

Approach This project marks the second phase of cooperation between PTB and the ASEAN Sectoral Body under the purview of the ASEAN Economic Ministers: the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ). ACCSQ endeavours to facilitate the harmonization of national standards with international standards and implement mutual recognition arrangements (MRA) on conformity assessment to achieve its end-goal of “One Standard, One Test, Accepted Everywhere”, thus reducing non-tariff barriers to trade. The project supports ASEAN to reach that goal by targeting both the regional and national level.

At the regional level, ACCSQ and its working groups (i.e. the Working Groups on Standards and MRAs, on Accreditation and Conformity Assessment, on Legal Metrology and selected Priority Integration Sectors) are supported to implement quality-related provisions and move forward harmonization endeavours by strengthening technical skills, methods of strategic planning and following international good practices.

At the national level, political and technical decision-makers are advised on quality-related issues, as well as reforms and legislative initiatives; aiming to improve the institutional environment. In addition, individual QI institutions are advised how to enhance their services. Activities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam take into account the Initiative on ASEAN Integration (IAI) goals.

A further key element of this project is raising awareness for the relevance of Quality Infrastructure for ASEAN, especially among decision-makers from the private and the public sector.

Impact Thanks to improved capacities in the regional and national Quality Infrastructure, which includes accreditation bodies, conformity assessment bodies, institutions of legal metrology and selected industry sectors, the ASEAN regional integration process in the area of standards and conformance will be enhanced. As a consequence, the ASEAN member states will benefit more readily from the ASEAN Economic Community’s trade potential. In particular, small and medium-sized enterprises, which depend on locally available QI services to support their participation in the regional and international markets, will have access to better services. Ultimately, consumers in ASEAN benefit as well, gaining better access to services and improved product quality, overall better health and consumer protection.

Cooperation The project is a module of the German Development Cooperation Program “ASEAN Single Market”. Member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Financing Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Term 2015 – 2018

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