

# Chapter 5

## Capacity-Building Measures by Third Parties

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## 5. Capacity-Building Measures by Third Parties

The ASEAN has received capacity-building support in the area of standards and conformance from third parties – international organisations such as the ISO, countries with which ASEAN has a free trade agreement by way of a TBT chapter in the agreement, and other interested countries and regional blocs. The ASEAN has cautiously selected its partners from which to receive capacity-building support based on their experience and expertise on standards and conformance. In this regard, the ASEAN has received support from the European Union, the US, Australia-New Zealand, and Germany. This section provides details on these capacity-building activities, insofar as they are publicly available. Detailed information is currently lacking as the ASEAN and its partners do not regularly publish them.

### European Union

The ARISE program is a technical cooperation facility with €7.5 million in financial support. Implemented over a four-year period until 2016, the purpose of ARISE is to support the implementation of the ASEAN regional economic integration initiatives and cooperation, together with the Coordinating Committee on ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement, the Coordinating Committee on Customs, and the ACCSQ.

The recent support programs under ARISE, to the extent that they are made public, are summarised as follows:

- **ARISE Assists Myanmar on Safety Regulations for EEE**

ARISE held a two-day workshop on 10-11 March 2015 for government officials and industry representatives to discuss issues related to the updating of the electrical regulation and its impact on trade and safety in Yangon, Myanmar. ARISE has been assisting Myanmar in developing its regulations for electrical equipment safety with the twin objectives of improving safety and enabling Myanmar to remove trade barriers when trading in electrical products with other ASEAN member states. The assistance is directed at enabling Myanmar to participate in the ASEAN Sectoral MRA for Electrical and Electronic Equipment and the AHEEER.

This assistance from ARISE complements the efforts by Myanmar to improve its regulatory regime on EEE. The government enacted its Electricity Law in 2014 to replace the 1984 Electricity Law. The new law provides safety regulations of electrical equipment, which currently applies to 12 product types made in Myanmar.

- **Workshop for Lao PDR on Development of EEE Safety Regulation**

ARISE funded a workshop on the Development of Safety Regulations for Electrical & Electronic Equipment, held in Vientiane on 28–29 October 2014, for the country's policymakers, the prospective regulatory authority, government lawyers, and select representatives of Lao PDR as part of a set of capacity-development programs in

support of JSC EEE initiatives. The workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to discuss with the experts how Lao PDR can comply with the ASEAN Sectoral MRA for Electrical and Electronic Equipment and the AHEEER. The workshop resulted in recommendations for Lao PDR to develop its national regulations on EEE in a manner that will serve the twin goals of consumer safety and an enhanced integration with the ASEAN.

- **ASEAN Regulatory Agencies Deliberate on Harmonised Regulations for Cosmetics**

ARISE hosted a workshop on the AHCRS on 1–2 October 2014 in Jakarta. Workshop participants reviewed the implementation of AHCRS, considered the results of the evaluation, and developed recommendations to enhance the implementation of AHCRS. The workshop also focused on enhancing knowledge on post-market surveillance systems for cosmetic regulatory authorities in ASEAN member states.

- **Study Visit of Cosmetics Regulators to Malaysia and the Philippines**

ARISE invited regulators on 5–6 May and 8–9 May 2014 from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam to participate in a study visit to the National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau in Malaysia and to the Food and Drug Administration in the Philippines. The focus of these study visits was for the development of an ‘On-line Notification for the ASEAN Cosmetics Directive’. The study visits aimed to provide participants with an opportunity to study the systems that Malaysia and the Philippines have implemented for cosmetics regulators.

## **United States**

The US implements its capacity-building efforts for the ASEAN through programs by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), through its ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility (TATF). The TATF provides a central point through which USAID works with US government entities to support the ASEAN-US Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement and cooperation on standards. The TATF is housed in the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta and receives funding from USAID and the US Department of State. The recent support programs under TATF, to the extent that they are made public, are summarised as follows:

- **Medical Devices Regulatory Harmonization – Region-Wide Training**

The US Department of Commerce, in collaboration with USAID, funded the ASEAN’s standards-related measures on medical devices. Upon request of the Medical Device Product Working Group in 2012, USAID developed a training program for use in the ASEAN Medical Device Multiyear Training Program. The program objective is to enhance the capabilities of ASEAN regulators and the medical device industry in the interpretation and implementation of the AMDD during 2014–2015. The Medical Devices Regulatory Harmonization – Region-Wide Training was held in Singapore on

5–6 May 2014. USAID coordinated this workshop with the ASEAN Secretariat, the Medical Device Product Working Group, and the US Department of Commerce.

- **Promoting Vehicle Fuel Efficiency in ASEAN**

USAID organised the workshop ‘US-ASEAN Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Workshop’ on 13 May 2013 in Jakarta, in collaboration with the US Department of Energy and Department of Transportation, and Indonesia’s Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. Of the ASEAN officials in charge of energy efficiency and conservation, 50 attended the workshop. Held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the ASEAN Energy Efficiency and Conservation Sub-Sector Network, the workshop covered a number of topics, including (i) US experience with transportation energy, (ii) removing old vehicles from US roads along with fuel efficiency standards for new vehicles, (iii) present and projected transportation energy demands in the ASEAN, and (iv) presentations by government officials on existing and planned vehicle fuel efficiency programs in ASEAN member states.

- **US Government Supports Improving Appliance Safety in the ASEAN**

USAID, in collaboration with ASEAN and Underwriters’ Laboratories (UL), jointly held on 29 May 2012 in Cambodia the workshop ‘Applied Safety Science and Engineering Techniques (ASSET)’. Fifty ASEAN electrical safety regulators attended the workshop in an effort to boost safety standards for EEE manufacturing in the ASEAN. The technical knowledge learned from the workshop is expected to benefit manufacturers, product designers, and representatives from conformity assessment bodies and national standards bodies who are directly involved in the design, manufacture, and testing of EEE.

- **ASEAN and US Promote Energy Efficiency for Everyday Appliances**

USAID and the US Department of Energy cooperated to assist ASEAN energy regulators in establishing energy efficiency standards and labelling programs. These programs were designed to improve energy efficiency without degrading performance, quality, and safety and without increasing cost. On 13–15 December 2010, the US-ASEAN Energy Efficiency Standards and Labeling Workshop took place in Ha Noi to develop, improve, and implement energy efficiency programs. The workshop was organised by the US Department of Energy, USAID, and the US Department of State in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam.

### **Australia and New Zealand**

The ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) provides for the Economic Cooperation Work Program (ECWP), which involves proposals submitted to the Working Group of Economic Cooperation. The ECWP outlines the assistance provided by Australia and New Zealand to AANZFTA Parties in eight components linked to different aspects of the AANZFTA. Among the eight components, the ECWP (i) supports joint efforts in the fields

of standards, technical regulation, conformity assessment procedures; (ii) assists in promoting mutual understanding of each party's Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures (STRACAP) measures; and (iii) strengthens information exchange and cooperation among the Parties. Under this component, experts from Australia and New Zealand, and in some cases, certain ASEAN Parties, will conduct the requisite workshops, seminars, and other training procedures; as well as develop other capacity-building activities. While all Parties will benefit from their cooperation on STRACAP, ASEAN Parties currently with less developed systems, e.g. Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar, will gain major benefit.

- **Australia Hosts AANZFTA Workshop**

On 19 February 2013, Standards Australia hosted a two-day workshop on International Standards Development Best Practices under the ECWP of the AANZFTA. Australian Standards provided a benchmark for technology, safety, interoperability, and trade. According to Australian special negotiator Michael Mugliston, Australia has a key role to play through AANZFTA in contributing towards capacity building and institutional strengthening across the region.

## **Germany**

As one of ASEAN's development partners, Germany is helping ASEAN member states address the challenge of harmonization especially on strengthening ASEAN's quality infrastructure on areas concerning standards and technical regulations, metrology, testing, quality assessment, certification, and accreditation. In this context, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), the National Metrology Institute of Germany, supports ASEAN's regional economic integration efforts towards harmonising the technical rules and standards and thus reducing TBTs. The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany finances the PTB projects.

- **PTB Assists the ASEAN on Regional and National Quality Infrastructure**

PTB assists the ASEAN in implementing the quality infrastructure project. The project, which runs from 2015 to 2018, marks the second phase of cooperation between PTB and ACCSQ. The project supports the ASEAN in facilitating the harmonization of national standards and in the integration process of standards, the enhancement of conformance, and in the implementation of MRAs on conformity assessment. The project aims to enhance national quality infrastructure, which includes accreditation bodies and conformity assessment bodies in each ASEAN member state, while enhancing the ASEAN regional integration process in standards and conformance.