

Acknowledgements

While tariffs have been reduced, the number of non-tariff measures (NTMs) is increasing and is often blamed to be a source of the lack of integration in ASEAN. For NTMs, disciplines on transparency are the key, and regional and multilateral NTM mutual recognition and harmonisation are the answers. Turning back to 2013, when we started the project to develop an NTM database for all 10 ASEAN countries within one year was a kind of 'mission impossible'. With dedication of national teams and government officials, we have successfully developed the NTM database; above all, we have likewise developed NTM expertise in this region.

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