

PTB in brief

A globalized international economy calls for globalized metrology. This is why the orientation and impact of PTB, the national metrology institute of Germany, is not restricted to the national borders.

PTB with its 2,000 staff members is rather a „global player“ in the world of metrology and faces the responsibility involved for society, economy and science.

The international tasks of PTB include cooperation in all kinds of metrological organizations (the Meter Convention being the most prominent example) and cooperation with national metrology institutes all over the world. Furthermore, the PTB International Technical Cooperation advises and supports the conceptual design and practical implementation in the establishment of the quality infrastructure in developing and transition countries.

The clients of the Technical Cooperation projects are above all the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which finances the majority of projects with PTB participation, but also the European Union, the World Bank and other organizations. For the implementation of projects a network of strategic partners is available.

All in all, the global networking of PTB has one major objective: the international harmonization of quality infrastructure and its mutual acceptance.



Project Data

Promotion of Metrology and Testing in Ethiopia

Source of finance

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Commission value

1,000,000 EUR

Implementing agency

Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)
National Metrology Institute, Germany

Term

October 2012 until June 2015

Contact

Mr. Abdissa Yilma Tiky
NQI-Program Focal Person
Ministry of Science & Technology
Phone: +251-911-743573
www.most.gov.et

PTB Project Coordinator

Tobias Diergardt
Phone: +49 531 592 8228
Fax: +49 531 592 8225
tobias.diergardt@ptb.de
<http://www.ptb.de/q5>

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Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt
Bundesallee 100
38116 Braunschweig, Germany
www.ptb.de



Promotion of Metrology and Testing in Ethiopia

Background

The Ethiopian Growth and Transformation Plan sets itself ambitious aims for the economic growth of the country, especially to develop the industrial sector and to extend the export sector. The existence of a well-functioning quality infrastructure system - consisting of public and private laboratories, a metrology institute, a conformity assessment body, an accreditation body and a standards institute - is one of the basic preconditions to achieve these aims.

Within the scope of the reform of the national QI system, these institutions were created at the beginning of 2011. However, they do not yet have the institutional, technical and staffing capacities to fulfil all tasks in accordance with their mandates and to fully cover industry's demand for services.



Calibration at the NMIE

The project strengthens especially the provision of QI services. These services also include the sovereign tasks of the government in the fields of metrology and consumer protection and in the field of quality assurance of critical products.

At the same time, the cooperation between all stakeholders of the QI system is intensified, so that synergy effects between training sites (universities and vocational schools), private laboratories and national QI institutions are achieved.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen consumer protection and to meet the expectations of a growing and export-oriented economy by improving the range of services in the fields of metrology and testing.

Components of support

Industrial metrology: Building capacities and expertise to enable industrial metrology to provide calibrations in more measuring ranges and with an improved quality.

Legal metrology: Training qualified staff (inspectors), revising verification instructions, and introducing a uniform system of units.

Political consultation: Promoting the development and implementation of QI legislation.

Laboratory Association: Strengthening of the institutional framework of the Association and qualifying the members in the fields of quality management and quality assurance.

Capacity development for the labour market: Specialist mentoring of the vocational training courses for laboratory technicians and of the university courses on quality infrastructure.



Verification of road tanker



Students at General Wingate College

Project Partners

The project is an integral part of the German development program "Quality Infrastructure".

Political counterpart is the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The main implementing partners are the National Metrology Institute (NMIE), the Ethiopian Laboratory Association, General Wingate College and the Directorate for regulatory affairs of the Ministry of Trade.

