

Asia



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Strengthening Accreditation Networks in Asia-Pacific (SANAP)

Objective	The aim of the project is to support two Specialist Regional Bodies – the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) – in their ability to promote the establishment of accreditation systems in their member organisations from developing economies in order to increase regional trade and economic development.	
Approach	The project supports these two regional accreditation networks in extending their range of services that are of particular relevance to developing economies. To this end, it cooperates with the subdivisions of APLAC and PAC that are linked to capacity building and the needs of developing economies, e.g. the Training Committee of APLAC and the Capacity Building Committee of PAC. APLAC and PAC maintain mutual recognition arrangements that provide the means for accreditation bodies from developing economies to achieve international recognition.	
	The project is composed of four components. These are: (1) strategy and policy development for determination and handling of needs of member organisations from developing economies; (2) introduction and establishment of innovative instruments which are particularly useful for new or emerging accreditation bodies; (3) development of services related to new standards in the fields of environment, food safety or health; and (4) assisting possible new members in their integration with APLAC and PAC. Types of services provided by the project include technical and management training and seminars, consulting, workshops, policy advice, awareness-raising measures and attachment learning.	
Impact	In the Asia-Pacific region, economic interconnection is growing rapidly. Regional and global markets are increasing their quality requirements, posing tremendous challenges, for developing economies in particular. Similar to industrialised countries, developing economies are required to ensure that their conformity assessment activities are internationally accepted and that their laboratories and certification bodies have been accredited by internationally recognized accreditation bodies. The regional networks in accreditation are an important source of assistance for their member institutions in dealing with these challenges, as they facilitate international recognition and confidence among their members. The resources provided by APLAC and PAC will assist member bodies of developing economies in providing recognised accreditation services to conformity assessment bodies, thus expanding export markets and improving consumer safety. Ultimately, increased economic growth will spur competitiveness and reduce unemployment and poverty. As the project particularly focuses on areas that are likely to grow in the coming years, such as environmental protection and health, as well as food safety, developing economies will be well equipped for future challenges in trade and economic relations.	
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