



**ASEAN**

# Strengthening the Quality Infrastructure in ASEAN

<b>Objective</b>	The project aims to support ASEAN Member States to take concerted action to address development gaps in the field of Quality Infrastructure (QI), with a focus on countries of the <i>Initiative of ASEAN Integration (IAI)</i> .	
<b>Approach</b>	Quality Infrastructure (QI) services are essential for promoting economic integration and supporting regional integration within ASEAN. Currently, neither the harmonization of QI at the regional level nor the development of QI at the national level is sufficient to meet the requirements of full regional economic integration in ASEAN. As a result, the national and regional trade potential for the global market cannot be fully realized.	
	<p>The project takes a multi-level approach and complements the goal of economic integration in the <i>ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)</i>, as well as the measures identified in the <i>AEC Blueprint 2025</i> to reduce or eliminate technical barriers to trade (TBT), facilitate standards and conformance, strengthen regulatory frameworks and practices, and promote policies on global megatrends and emerging trade-related issues.</p> <p>This project marks the fourth phase in providing support to the <i>ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ)</i> and its related working groups on 1) Standards, 2) Conformity Assessment and Accreditation, 3) Legal Metrology, and 4) <i>ASEAN Food Testing Laboratory Committee (AFTLC)</i> under the <i>Prepared Foodstuff Product Working Group (PFPWG)</i>.</p> <p>The key outputs of the project will support ASEAN in its efforts to achieve regional integration and harmonization, for example, by developing regionally harmonized guidelines and sharing good practices, as well as using results from regional benchmarking activities to improve performance at the regional and national level according to international good practices. Further, it will enable standards and accreditation bodies as well as legal metrology authorities to extend their services in line with identified needs, as well as raise awareness of policy makers, regulatory authorities, and industry of the role and benefits of QI. Finally, it will identify and address gaps in national food control systems in the IAI focus countries.</p>	
<b>Impact</b>	<p>Thanks to supporting improved regional economic integration, the project contributes to the ASEAN region being more able to unleash its potential for trade in global value chains. Increased harmonization of regulations and the development and harmonization of QI processes in line with international standards helps reduce TBT at both the regional and nation levels.</p> <p>National QI capacities are more improved with targeted capacity development of technical and managerial staff from regional bodies, national ministries, QI institutions and business associations. Further, consumers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) benefit from harmonized and improved QI services.</p> <p>The project helps to promote national competitiveness and thus sustainable growth by improving the local availability of QI services in line with international best practices.</p>	
<b>Cooperation</b>	The project aims to identify and leverage synergies with other donors and projects to promote economic integration and reduce trade barriers in the ASEAN region, including EU programs, the GIZ project <i>ASEAN AgriTrade</i> , and complementary PTB projects on regional and bilateral level.	
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