



Asia

Cambodia

Strengthening Quality Infrastructure

Objective This project is designed to strengthen the quality infrastructure system in Cambodia, thereby contributing to the sustainable development of the country. Quality infrastructure is understood as a system of metrology, standardization, conformity assessment and accreditation wherein each element reinforces the others. The agricultural sector is used as an example of the interdependencies within the system.

Approach Although this is the first bilateral project between MIH (Ministry of Industry and Handicraft) and PTB, it is strongly connected with three regional PTB projects: MEDEA (metrology networks), SANAP (accreditation networks) and ASEAN (standardization, accreditation and legal metrology). This bilateral project consists of three interlinked components, all of which contribute to the improvement of quality infrastructure in Cambodia:
The first component is designed to intensify the exchange between the Cambodian quality infrastructure institutions, i. e., MIH, NMC, ISC, ILCC and DA. This component is also designed to enhance the way in which these institutions respond to the demand side of quality infrastructure services.
The second component deals with the expansion and improvement of the institutions' scope of services. This encompasses capacity development activities such as training courses for testing and calibration laboratories.
The third component focuses on matching the services offered by the quality infrastructure institutions with the expectations and requests of the demand side (i. e., industrial firms). Using the example of an agricultural value chain, the quality infrastructure institutions, together with their prospective customers, will analyze potential deficits related to quality infrastructure services. The aim in doing so is to increase awareness about demand-driven solutions to quality assurance issues.
All three components contribute to the overall objective by approaching different layers of the system.

Impact In the past few decades, Cambodia has been able to build a strongly growing economy from scratch. In order to engage in fair, free and reliable international trade with other economies and achieve more diversified and sustainable growth, Cambodia's quality infrastructure institutions need to intensify and institutionalize their interaction and adapt their service offer to the needs of their (potential) customers. By initiating a regular exchange with each other as well as with the demand side, the institutions create awareness about their customers' needs. Opportunities for cooperation among the institutions are identified.
Over the long term, a demand-oriented and holistic quality infrastructure system with effective quality-assurance services is beneficial not only for enhancing domestic consumer protection, but also for facilitating international trade.
The combination of customer-need-oriented technical training sessions for laboratories and broad-spectrum awareness-raising events helps to sustainably develop capacities within the individual institutions and allows them to get a better sense of how best to interact with industrial firms. This will allow Cambodia's quality infrastructure system to contribute to the country's economic competitiveness and regional integration.

Cooperation The project is planned and implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft (MIH) of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

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