

Asia



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

**Strengthening regional integration and cooperation
in the field of quality infrastructure in South Asia**

- Objective** The aim of the project is to sustainably improve access to trade- and demand-oriented quality infrastructure services through regional cooperation and division of tasks.
- Approach** The project focuses on capacity development in quality infrastructure by facilitating the exchange of expertise and information among SAARC Member States. In pursuit of this approach, four interrelated intervention areas are targeted: strengthening of the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) as a regional coordination structure; expanding regional cooperation in metrology; consolidating regional cooperation structures in accreditation and networking and awareness-raising to sensitize key stakeholders from the public and private sector. Envisaged activities include regional and sub-regional workshops, trainings, coordination meetings and consultancy visits.
- Impact** An improved access to quality infrastructure services such as measurement and accreditation will enable businesses to demonstrate compliance with regional and international market requirements. At the same time, regional approaches to capacity development in quality infrastructure are expected to help smaller economies to save scarce resources whereas larger economies could strengthen their role as know-how provider and regional network partners. Thus, the project strengthens the process of regional economic integration by reducing technical barriers to trade and promoting partnerships among institutions of quality infrastructure.
- Cooperation** The project is carried out in close collaboration with the network of national metrology institutes and national accreditation bodies within SAARC. On regional level, the project's main cooperation partner is the South Asian Regional Standards Organisation (SARSO).

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Contact	South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO)	Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt
	+880 28878130	Uwe Miesner
	dg@sarso.org.bd	+49 531 592-8511
	sarsosecretariat@gmail.com	uwe.miesner@ptb.de
	sarso@sarso.org.bd	Patrick Dolle
		+49 531 592-8264
		patrick.dolle@ptb.de

