



Project Information

Regional Cooperation in the Area of Metrology in Asia

(“Metrology: Enabling Developing Economies within Asia”: MEDEA)

Version 3

7 July 2015

Background

Economic development in Asia is characterized by the rapid growth of some economies and the emergence of new economic areas. Especially the less developed economies are confronted with the challenge to meet the increasing quality requirements of regional and global markets. At the same time, the pressure to harmonize their technical regulations with international standards is growing. For example, this is the case with the WTO agreements on technical barriers to trade (TBT) and on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). Both trends underline the need to establish an internationally recognized quality infrastructure (QI).

In this context, metrology is of particular importance, because it forms the basis for all conformity assessment procedures. The lack of access to internationally recognized metrology services in the developing economies in Asia particularly reduces the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, as they are not in a position –unlike large companies– to make use of service providers abroad, or to build up their own laboratory structure.

The networks of APMP (Asia Pacific Metrology Program) and APLMF (Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum) assume crucial functions regarding the development of metrology in the developing economies of the region. An active participation in these networks is of considerable importance in order to keep up with the latest developments and to ensure internationally recognized certification procedures, especially for developing economies with limited bilateral specialist contacts. APMP and APLMF can significantly contribute to the development, harmonization and international recognition of the national metrology systems (potential) by providing specific offers for National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) and Legal Metrology Authorities (LMAs) in the developing economies in Asia.

Scope of the Project

The scope of the project is as follows:

1. **Assigned Budget:** 2 million EUR
2. **Project Duration:** January 2014 to December 2017
3. **Project Partners:** Asia-Pacific Metrology Program (APMP) and Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF) act as implementing agencies.
4. **Objective of Project:** “The ability of the regional metrology specialist networks in Asia to promote the metrological systems of developing economies has improved.”
5. **Key Activities and Intervention Areas:**

There are many possible ways and combinations for implementing the project. The following are examples of possible activities:

- i. Strengthening of inter-regional cooperation
- ii. Regional capacity development for developing economies in cooperation with more advanced institutions

- iii. Bilateral cooperation between institutions from developing countries
- iv. Development of strategies to integrate new members from Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- v. Development of methods and manuals for specific technical topics
- vi. Realization of inter-laboratory comparisons
- vii. Implementation of Train-the-Trainer activities
- viii. Measures to raise awareness
- ix. Organization and implementation of coaching and training programs
- x. Strategic dialogue with APMP and APLMF
- xi. Introduction of a monitoring system that reflects the quality and quantity of services offered by the members of APMP and APLMF
- xii. Implementation of internships and training courses
- xiii. Development of harmonized technical procedures
- xiv. Planning and implementation of joint activities between the relevant networks

6. Expected Outcomes of the Project

Outcomes	The ability of the regional metrology specialist networks in Asia to promote the metrology systems of developing economies has improved
Output 1	APMP and APLMF have developed and implemented capacity development instruments geared to the needs of developing economies.
Output 2	NMIs and LMAs (Legal Metrology Authorities) from developing economies are able to meet the criteria for international recognition and to implement international good practices.
Output 3	The mutual support and cooperation between the members of APMP and APLMF for the development of metrology systems in developing economies has been strengthened.
Output 4	The cooperation between APMP and APLMF as well as the cooperation with other regional networks has increased.

7. Project Indicators

The following project indicators will be continuously monitored to assess the sustainability and success of the project:

- a) APLMF and APMP have established mechanisms to continuously monitor the level of development and potential of developing economies.
- b) Number per year of participants from developing economies that participate in training and make use of consultancy offered by APLMF and APMP increases by 50 % in average compared to 2013.
- c) 80% of the representatives of specialized institutions in at least 10 selected developing economies indicate in surveys that they increasingly improve their services by using the capacities built through the measures offered by APMP or APLMF.

- d) The specialist regional networks have gained a total of three new members from developing economies.

Target Groups and Intermediaries

Target groups of the project are national metrology institutes and legal metrology authorities (e.g. verification offices and regulatory authorities) from the Asian developing economies, including their staff. Since the project is carried out in cooperation with the regional metrology organizations, the offers are open to all members from developing economies in Asia. Particularly, the following focus countries are to benefit from the project:

1. LDCs which have only very rudimentary metrology systems and which are not yet members of the regional organizations.
2. Countries whose metrology systems are currently being developed and which are not yet internationally recognized.
3. Emerging economies whose metrology systems have already been so far developed that they themselves want to offer technical cooperation.

Project Coordination Group

A Project Coordination Group comprising of three representatives of APLMF, three representatives of APMP and the PTB Project Coordinator responsible for the project was formed.

Current members of the coordination group are as follows:

APMP:

Abdul Rashid Bin Zainal Abidin – APMP Coordinator

Toshiyuki Takatsuji – APMP Technical Committees (TCs) Focal Person

Charun Yafa – APMP MiC (Metrology in Chemistry) Focal Person

APLMF:

Tsuyoshi Matsumoto –APLMF WG (Working Group) Chair Rice Moisture Measurement

Marian Haire- APLMF WG Chair Training

Su Guo – APLMF Secretary

PTB:

Kristin Kiesow – PTB Project Coordinator

Contact Persons for the Project

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