ITP: 304 MENA

Quality Infrastructure Development in Support of World Trade

September 4 – 30, 2016 in Sweden
March 2017 in one of the participating countries

Closing date for applications:
› April 21, 2016
Welcome

This International Training Programme is specially designed for persons qualified to participate in reform processes of importance on different levels and holds a position in the home organisation with mandate to run processes of change. It offers support to strengthen, adapt and maintain capacity over time in order for your organisation to define and achieve goals in both the short and long term. A participant will take part of the latest development in your area of work supervised by skilled Swedish colleagues and experts, develop a network of colleagues from other countries and enhance knowledge in new working methods. The methodology used is based on the assumption that your organisation wish to carry out changes and are willing to invest own resources to achieve these changes.

An essential, and often a basic, condition to reduce poverty is that trade between countries is functioning properly. This relationship has become even more obvious with the on-going and accelerating globalisation process.

One of the key features in the Swedish policy for global development is economic growth as a basis for development towards enhanced democracy and equality. A condition for sustainable economic growth is national and international confidence in the activities of both public authorities and economic operators.

A developed quality infrastructure is an essential prerequisite for developing countries to have access to international markets in accordance with modern principles. Even if many products and services produced in developing countries are of high quality, it is nevertheless difficult for developing countries to market their products and services internationally, if the national quality infrastructure is not functioning satisfactorily and according to international best practice.

In order to be able to benefit from the new global multilateral free trade system to achieve sustainable economic growth nationally, profound knowledge about rules and procedures, as well as access to information concerning on-going change processes, is necessary. The fundamental principles of the rules and confidence-building measures are found in the WTO agreements, which, in addition, strive for openness, with the aim of eliminating unexpected problems in connection with trade transactions. A strengthened quality infrastructure also implies enhanced transparency and accountability. Thus, the possibilities to fight fraud and corruption within the trade sector are essentially enhanced.

The Swedish strategy for development cooperation with MENA countries 2010 – 2015 indicates that the objective of the sector “Regional economic integration” is “more regional trade and the development of regional markets”. The strategy further says that “to achieve the objective, support shall be provided to develop harmonised structures and regulatory frameworks in the trade sector, focusing especially on international standardisation, including the climate area, mutual approval of products, competition issues, consumer protection and trade in food. The focus shall be on capacity development.”

Sida and Swedac hereby invite you to nominate candidates.

Lena Ingelstam
DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS
AND INNOVATION
Sida

Illede Malmqvist Nilsson
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
Swedac
Programme objectives

From the development perspective, the overall objective of the programme is to provide the training and support required to ascertain that:

- The quality infrastructure in the participating countries has been reform ed in accordance with international rules and best practice
- The work in the regional organisations on harmonisation in the quality infrastructure sector has been strengthened

The main objective is therefore to enable organisational change, where participants will be given the opportunity to use the knowledge and experiences provided by the programme to contribute to the development of the national and regional quality infrastructures. In addition, the programme focuses on strengthening sustainable development as well as protection and preservation of the environment.

The specific results that the programme aims to achieve for the participants are the following:

- Participants have gained increased knowledge about the different parts of modern quality infrastructure

Contents

The programme aims at providing the experience and the knowledge on how to develop, maintain and, in practice, work with national quality infrastructure systems, specifically focusing on:

1. WTO TBT Agreement, its principles, content and obligations. The principles for harmonisation of technical regulations, notification procedures as well as conformity assessment procedures in accordance with present rules. For information, a summary comparison with the WTO SPS Agreement will be made.
2. An introduction to the new WTO agreement on Trade Facilitation and its relation to the TBT agreement.
3. The relationship between technical regulations and standards as well as methods for reference to standards in regulations, or other ways of using standards to harmonise technical regulations.
4. Sustainable environmental development and environmental protection and relations to Technical Regulations.
5. Standardisation (on both national and international levels)
6. Accreditation and its principles, objectives and organisation, including international co-operation.
7. Certification, testing and inspection. Conditions, organisation and national and international co-operation.
8. Different forms of conformity assessment according to current rules and the principles for mutual recognition globally and within the EU
9. Primary metrology focusing on calibration and traceability, including international co-operation
10. Legal Metrology
11. Market Surveillance

The objective of the training is to contribute to create increased knowledge about how to adapt national rules and best practices to achieve a positive development in the trade sector and how sustainable development of the environment and environmental protection needs to be taken into account when working at bringing down technical barriers to trade. This, in turn, will form the basis for sustainable economic growth by means of access to the global market, which will benefit the national economic and social development towards democracy and equality.

In addition to the knowledge about the national quality infrastructure systems, Sida’s international training programmes are designed to encourage development and change processes within the organisations/institutions related to the sector. The objective of the programme is to contribute to such change processes in the countries.

With the aim to further support these processes, the training programme shall foster the establishment of networks between the participants. Former participants in similar training programmes shall also be invited to participate in these networks, as well as other interested individuals or organisations. The fostering of regional co-operation has been taken into consideration in all parts of the programme to the extent the programme can influence the development.

The basis is that there is strong interest in the countries to learn from experiences in other countries. Another point is that it is an advantage if there are several actors from the same country within different parts of society, who can establish know-how and experiences within the sector. It is therefore seen as an advantage if there are several participants from the same country in the programme.

BENEFITS

- Informal networks have been established between present and former participants
- Participants have finalised their change projects
- Heads of departments and central decision makers have been informed about the benefits of modern quality infrastructure
- Decisions on necessary reforms have been taken
- Co-operation between national and regional actors has been enhanced
- National actors’ roles and functions have been strengthened in relation to modern quality infrastructure and best practice
The programme is composed of five interrelated phases.

Phase I
The first preparatory phase takes place before the participants arrive in Stockholm. The phase includes the invitation process and selection of institutions and participants besides identification of problem profiles that shall form the basis for the change processes the participants shall work on throughout the programme to benefit the respective country and institution. The phase further includes visits by the programme organisers to the invited countries to establish the necessary commitment towards the programme and the upcoming change process. It will be emphasised that a precondition for participating in the programme is that the necessary commitment towards the programme and the change projects is well established amongst the relevant decision-makers.

Phase II
Phase II takes place in Stockholm and Borås and lasts four weeks. The participants will be provided with information on issues related to international trade principles and national quality infrastructure development and operation, based on the principles and practices embedded in the WTO TBT Agreement. Additionally, the phase will cover further elaboration on the problem profile and design of the change process that is to take place during Phases III – V.

Phase III
Phase III is of six months duration and covers project work at home base where the change process is developed with support from the programme experts. The projects shall be need driven and developed in close co-operation with the relevant institutions nationally and regionally. Co-operation with former participants and co-operation across borders with participants from other participating countries is encouraged. Particular emphasis will be given to regional co-operation.

Phase IV
Phase IV is a one week workshop, where all participants meet in one of the participating countries to present their projects and the progress of implementation and where experiences will be exchanged.

Phase V
Phase V is the final phase of the programme. The participants shall then continue the work on developing the projects but shall emphasise on the implementation of the projects. The programme experts will finally visit each of the countries to support in the final implementation and assess the results of the change process.

The total duration of the programme will be 14 months, Phase I not included.

TEACHING
Lectures, seminars and group work will take place daily within the framework of 40 hour working week. Lectures during Phase II will be given by professionals from Swedac and other relevant Swedish and international institutions and companies. Study visits will be organised to all key institutions. Participants are strongly encouraged to contribute actively in the training and discussions. Participants will be provided with literature according to the structure of the programme. The number of participants is limited to 25 in order to ensure a close working relationship between the participants and the lecturers.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
The programme is planned and implemented by the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment.
Application process

The application process consists of three steps in order to be completed:

1. Fill in the attached application form:
   a) The applicant must be nominated by a relevant organisation/institution or authority.
   b) The nominating organisation is required to explain reasons for nominating the participant.
   c) The supervisor of the applicant must give her/his signature to confirm that the applicant can participate in the whole programme, five weeks away from home.
   d) Include a recent photograph.
   e) Fill in required information and documents.

2. Fill in the attached Project Information Sheet, in accordance with the instructions in the form.

3. Submit the application form and Project Information Sheet to a Swedish Embassy or Consulate in the applicant’s country or, if there is no Swedish Embassy or Consulate, send it electronically to the Program Secretariat at itp-tbt.application@swedac.org. Both men and women are encouraged to apply, as the programme aims at equal gender representation. Due to the character of the programme, family, relatives or friends are not allowed to accompany participants to either phase of the program. Selected participants will be contacted for an in-depth interview with a member of the selection committee, in order to ensure the relevance of the participants’ organisations and that the language requirements are met. Once final selections have been made, all applicants will be notified of the outcome of the process. Once accepted the applicant must confirm participation.

Closing date for applications: April 21, 2016.
As part of Sida’s work with capacity and institutional development Sida offers international training programmes (ITP) for participants from low- and middle-income countries in priority areas. ITP’s methodology takes account of the desire to develop and reform that the participants’ organisations have expressed in their application to the program. The programmes cover areas of strategic importance to the social, environmental and economic development of co-operating countries and are based on identified priorities and needs. In the long-term perspective, the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the co-operating countries.

The Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (Swedac) is a Swedish government authority for quality and safety. Swedac is directly under the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and also reports to the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.

Swedac’s work, nationally and internationally, lays a foundation for the trust between countries that is needed for a functioning global free trade and economic growth. Swedac has the following functions as a government authority:

- National accreditation body and notifying authority under the EU harmonized technical legislation.
- GLP-authority for chemicals.
- Regulator for legal metrology and precious metals.
- Coordinator of market surveillance in Sweden.
- Advisory authority in the area of conformity assessment for all Swedish regulators and the Swedish government.

In all of its areas of responsibility Swedac is active in international cooperation with the aim to promote free trade without technical barriers to trade and to contribute to quality and safety of products and services all over the world.

Within its area of core expertise and knowhow, Swedac actively supports other countries throughout the world through training programmes, technical assistance projects and study visits.

In this programme Swedac cooperates with AQS AB, which is an independent enterprise providing consultancy services in international development cooperation. AQS AB has carried out several national quality infrastructure programmes and also designs and delivers training programmes in World Trade Conformity, Food Safety and National Quality Infrastructure. Many of these have been developed and delivered in cooperation with Swedac.