



Published by



Issue No. 17 | July 2018

Connect Asia Newsletter

Information on trade, economic cooperation and integration in Asia

From the GIZ Programme Support for Economic Cooperation in Sub-Regional Initiatives in Asia (SCSI)



Editorial

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the latest edition of the GIZ SCSI programme newsletter, this time a bit delayed due to the implementation of the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information please follow this [link](#) to the GIZ website.

As for data protection, the last three months also held ready again new developments and progress in our programme work as well as in regional cooperation processes in Asia.

SCSI recently attended the 18th Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) Consultative Commission (CC) Meeting highlighting the longstanding and successful cooperation between GIZ and GTI. GIZ SCSI will continue to support the GTI Boards and Committees as well as cooperating closely with the GTI Secretariat. Furthermore, GIZ SCSI is deepening its cooperation with VIETRADE by following-up the successful introduction of the four [GIZ-VIETRADE Export Guidelines](#) with trainings in Viet Nam. More details on the GTI CC Meeting and the VIETRADE cooperation will be available in the next issue of our newsletter.

To find out more about our recent activities, I kindly invite you to browse this newsletter and visit our website www.connecting-asia.org for additional details. We are happy to provide you again with our reports as well as selected publications on Asian regionalism.

With all the best wishes from the SCSl Team,

Florian Miß
Editor

PROGRAMME NEWS

- » Fresh Fruit Export Guidelines Cambodia
- » Trade-related Online Learning Platforms
- » Preparatory Meeting for the 6th GTI NEA Local Cooperation Committee Meeting

RECENT TRENDS IN REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND TRADE

- » The Role of Asia and the Pacific in Global Governance and Multilateralism
- » Mainstreaming Trade to attain the Sustainable Development Goals
- » In-depth Study on Cross-border Trade Facilitation in twin-border provinces along EWEC
- » Increasing Benefits through Economic Corridor Development in the Lao PDR

NEWS ON DIGITAL TOOLS FOR TRADE FACILITATION

- » Digital Trade Restrictiveness Index
- » Single Window for Trade Facilitation: Regional Best Practices and Future Development
- » Addressing E-Payment Challenges in Global E-Commerce
- » What Sells in E-Commerce: New Evidence from Asian LDCs

Programme News

Consultation Workshop on Export Guidelines to China for Cambodian SMEs

Fresh Fruit Export Guidelines Cambodia



© GIZ SCSl

Jointly with the General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA) from the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (MAFF) Cambodia, the GIZ SCSl Programme introduced export guidelines for mango, banana

and longan on 27 March 2018 in Phnom Penh. The consultation workshop gathered participants from SMEs, business associations, and involved ministerial departments to give feedback on the content of the guidelines.

The recent workshop was opened by the GIZ Country Director of Cambodia and the General Director of GDA MAFF who both emphasised the importance and opportunities of agricultural trade for Cambodia. SCSl presented on good practice approaches to support agricultural export followed by an introduction of the drafted Cambodian export guidelines from the expert team. During intense group work, participants working within the banana, mango, and longan export sector gave their in-depth feedback and recommendations on the guidelines. Receiving a highly positive overall response, participants pointed out to clarify specific technical English

Dates and Events

10-12 August 2018

4th AFSA International Conference on Food Safety and Food Security
Siem Reap, Cambodia
AFSA, Royal University of Agriculture, Mekong Institute
afsa2018-cambodia.com

27 August 2018

Workshop on Promoting E-commerce in Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand
ADB & UNESCAP
unescap.org

11-12 September 2018

World Export Development Forum
Lusaka, Zambia
ITC
intracen.org

11-13 September 2018

World Economic Forum on ASEAN
Ha Noi, Viet Nam
WFF

terms in Khmer as well as to include certain certification templates in the guidelines.

After a fact-finding mission in March 2017, GIZ SCSI initiated the compilation of export guidelines with their Cambodian partners. In close cooperation with GDA MAFF, SCSI commissioned two experts to issue the guidelines in Khmer. The fruits were jointly identified with Cambodian partners due to their export potential and considerations of sustainability. In combination with desk research, the expert team utilised a participatory approach through seeking input from all involved stakeholders before the workshop.

The guidelines aim to improve Cambodian businesses to export agricultural goods to China and strengthen the public-private dialogue. They are currently updated with the final version being introduced in August 2018.

You can find further information at the SCSI website:

» [Fresh Fruit Export Guidelines](#)

Trade-related Online Learning Platforms

GIZ SCSI conducting Review Session



© GIZ SCSI

Online courses have become a popular and efficient way of learning or updating and exchanging knowledge. They are easy to access, have high flexibility, abundant resources, and – most importantly – are

often free of charge after registration. All what is needed, is a stable Internet connection.

To support capacity building of programme partners, policy makers and private sector actors – especially from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Viet Nam – SCSI introduces several providers that offer online courses on trade-related topics.

The listing mostly includes international institutions like ITC, WTO, UNESCAP and WCO, but also regional and national good practices from Caribbean Customs and MofCom China.

To learn more on areas like export procedures, standards, business process analysis (BPA), agricultural trade, trade facilitation policies, customs procedures or doing business in China, the platforms and certain courses are briefly introduced and can be accessed on the SCSI website.

Follow the link below for more details

weforum.org

20-21 September 2018
2018 SPECA Economic Forum
Almaty, Kazakhstan
UNESCAP
unescap.org

27-28 September 2018
6th International Conference on
WTO, Trade and Agriculture
New Delhi, India
Centre for WTO Studies
wtocentre.iift.ac.in

02-04 October 2018
WTO Public Forum 2018 "Trade
2030"
Geneva, Switzerland
WTO
wto.org

09 October 2018
13th Annual PICARD Conference
Malatya, Turkey
WCO
wcoomd.org

25-26 October 2018
12th World Trade Promotion
Organizations Conference
Paris, France
Business France & ITC
intracen.org

Online Courses

23 July 2018
Building a Trade Information
Service
ITC SME Trade Academy
intracen.org

20 August 2018
Helping SMEs Generate Export
Business
ITC SME Trade Academy
intracen.org

» [Introduction to Trade Related Online Learning Platforms](#)

Preparatory Meeting for the 6th GTI NEA Local Cooperation Committee Meeting

Working Meeting for the 4th LCC Logistics Sub-Committee Meeting



© GIZ SCSi

Delegates from local and provincial governments joined together on May 16 in Yingkou, PR China to prepare the 6th GTI Northeast Asia (NEA) Local Cooperation Committee (LCC) Meeting and the Working Meeting for the 4th LCC Logistics

Sub-Committee (LSC).

The delegates reviewed LCC activities since the 5th GTI NEA LCC Meeting and discussed the progress of preparations for the 6th GTI NEA LCC Meeting and the 4th LSC Meeting. The GIZ SCSi programme contributed to the event with a practical review session by conducting the “starfish retrospective” to engage the members in reflecting the role and opportunities of the LCC mechanism and to collect their ideas for further improvement.

The tool aims to gather data and foster re-thinking current practices. It supported LCC members to clarify different aspects of their work under the LCC and generated valuable insights on how to further develop the mechanism focusing on its core strengths while leaving out less successful approaches. The result of this session was analysed and shared with GTI Secretariat as well as all LCC members for further preparation.

GIZ has supported the LCC since its beginnings in 2010 providing advice on regional integration, policy coordination, and cross-border cooperation. With Yingkou City newly joining the LCC mechanism shows the growing importance of the platform for regional cooperation in Northeast Asia.

Click the link below for the full GTI report:

» [Preparatory GTI LCC Meeting](#)

10 September 2018

Meeting Standards in the Agrifood Sector
ITC SME Trade Academy
intracen.org

09 October 2018

Cross-Border IT and ITES Outsourcing
ITC SME Trade Academy
intracen.org

15 October 2018

Building Competitiveness in Trade in Services
ITC SME Trade Academy
intracen.org

More on GIZ SCSi Programme

The GIZ SCSi Programme supports regional stakeholders with the aim to strengthen selected core processes of regional economic cooperation and Integration and to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive economic development in the region. Visit our website: connecting-asia.org

Stay up to date with GIZ SCSi

If you have not signed up for our newsletter yet and would like to continue receiving it, please refer to the SCSi website and subscribe [here](#)

Follow GIZ SCSi

[SCSi Twitter](#)

[SCSi Slideshare](#)



Recent Trends in Regional Integration and Trade

The Role of Asia and the Pacific in Global Governance and

Multilateralism

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

This report highlights the benefits that globalisation has offered the Asia-Pacific region as well as the challenges and risks the region faces. Overall the region has embraced multilateralism in three areas: trade and financial integration as well as climate change. Regarding trade and regional integration the report argues that the case for globalisation in Asia-Pacific is strong in terms of increased total wealth. Furthermore, comprehensive regional agreements addressing economic, social and environmental, trade and investment issues provide a useful basis for the development of better multilateral trade rules in support of sustainable development. Asia-Pacific is likely to continue expanding its role in support of a new multilateralism, while concurrently deepening regional integration of trade, investment, labour and transfer of technology. The positive contribution of the multilateral trading system over the past seven decades is a compelling argument for preserving both the system and the benefits it has brought.

Access report here:

» [The Role of Asia and the Pacific in Global Governance and Multilateralism](#)

Mainstreaming Trade to attain the Sustainable Development Goals

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The paper argues that trade and the WTO will play a key role in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 on ending poverty as well as several of the other goals in the 2030 Agenda. Integration into the multilateral trading system, as embodied by the WTO, helps the long-term growth prospects of developing countries by providing them with access to new market opportunities for sustainable development. However, in order for countries to fully claim the benefits of trade, it is necessary to make careful adjustments which aim to mainstream trade into their national sustainable development strategies. This report identifies challenges as well as steps which would help to ensure that international trade contributes to accelerating progress in achieving the SDGs - with special regards to least developed countries (LDCs), support of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the full utilisation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

Access the full study here:

» [Mainstreaming Trade to Attain the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

In-depth Study on Cross-border Trade Facilitation in twin-border provinces along EWEC

Mekong Institute (MI)

This study assesses cross-border agricultural trade within the three pairs of twin provinces along the East West Economic Corridor (EWEC) of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) between Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR and Vietnam. Previous activities are evaluated based on various empirical data, literature reviews and workshop deliberations. The report finds that in order to further promote cross-border trade along the EWEC it is imperative to improve the efficiency of the implementation of existing non-tariff measures (NTM) on the local level along the selected border crossings with regards to agricultural commodities. Individual action plans were developed in dialogue with local stakeholders and feature 10 parameters in order to tailor the interventions for each twin province as the challenges, needs and priorities are locally specific. In addition, eight recommendations are made on how to utilise the

various options presented in the action plans.

Read the full publication here:

» [In-depth Study on Cross-border Trade Facilitation in twin-border provinces along EWEC](#)

Increasing Benefits through Economic Corridor Development in the Lao PDR

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The in-depth ADB Working Paper analyses to what degree Lao PDR has used the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) initiative for development. It assesses characteristics specific to Lao PDR based on which opportunities for inclusive economic development are evaluated. These opportunities range from niche and specialty agriculture products, tourism and light manufacturing, to transport and logistics services. The paper offers detailed recommendations on how to make better use of GMS infrastructure and services through improvements in the business environment, a focus on basic skills development, and improving agriculture productivity through better linking to regional value chains. Finally, the paper also calls attention to some institutional constraints that hinder coordination and require a concentrated effort by all stakeholders.

Access the full paper here:

» [Increasing Benefits Through Economic Corridor Development in the Lao People's Democratic Republic](#)

News on Digital Tools for Trade Facilitation

Digital Trade Restrictiveness Index

European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE)

The European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE) has launched the Digital Trade Restrictiveness Index (DTRI). The DTRI measures policy restriction to digital trade in 64 countries. The index covers many trade policy restrictions in the digital economy that increase the cost of doing cross-border business, including tariffs on digital products, restrictions on digital services and investments, restrictions on the movement of data, and restrictions on e-commerce. As the first index of its kind, it measures the degree to which governments restrict digital trade on a scale from 0 (completely open) to 1 (virtually closed). With a score of 0.70, China has the most restrictive policy environment for digital trade. China employs a wide range of measures across all policy areas covered in the index. The restrictions do not only impose higher costs for trading digital goods and services, they can also block digital trade altogether in certain sectors.

Access the information on the Digital Trade Restrictiveness Index here:

» [Digital Trade Restrictiveness Index](#)

Single Window for Trade Facilitation: Regional Best Practices and Future Development

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

This study reviews the implementation of Single Window (SW) mechanisms in 46 countries in Asia and the Pacific as a main digital trade facilitation measure. 10 ESCAP member states (31.61%) were found running fully or partially developed SW systems. About 60% of the SW in operation are publicly funded, while 40% are established as public-private partnerships. The existence of regional initiatives promoting SWs appear to have played an important role in building the necessary political support and policy environment for SW at the national level, as demonstrated in the case of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Single Window. In addition, the study also provides a detailed analysis of the Hong Kong SAR SW, the Japan SW, the Republic of Korea SW and the Singapore SW as four “best practice” cases, that could be used as benchmarks for other SW implementers elsewhere. The study identifies key features and characteristics of modern SW, as well as key recommendations for SW implementers in the region.

Access the full paper here:

» [Single Window for Trade Facilitation: Regional Best Practices and Future Development](#)

Further information on Cross-border SW Interoperability can be found here:

» [Cross-Border Single Window Interoperability: a Managerial Guide](#)

Addressing E-Payment Challenges in Global E-Commerce

World Economic Forum (WEF)

E-payments make e-commerce possible and practical. Emerging markets in particular were transformed by new payment options via mobiles (m-payments) that allowed easier market access for consumers and merchants, who would not qualify for bank accounts and would have previously been unable to engage in e-commerce. However, problems associated with cross-border payments remain a major barrier: e-services exporters reported issues with international e-payments as the largest bottleneck in the process chain. Therefore, e-commerce opportunities could be further boosted by addressing some of the regulatory issues with e-payment, such as safety and reliability, interoperability of bank and nonbank financial service providers, or divergence between 'know your customer' and anti-money laundering processes. This white paper addresses the challenges of e-payment, and calls for cross-policy work and stakeholder consultations to pursue an open environment. The effort could have significant benefits for inclusive growth in a digital age.

Access the website here:

» [Addressing E-Payment Challenges in Global E-Commerce](#)

What Sells in E-Commerce: New Evidence from Asian LDCs

International Trade Centre (ITC)

Least developed countries (LDCs) can benefit from cross-border e-commerce by diversifying their exports and becoming more competitive – this is especially true for the Asia-Pacific region, the most dynamic region in global e-commerce. To capture that potential, this paper offers some market intelligence insights for small businesses in these countries. This was done by using market data from Alibaba.com to identify which products from five Asian LDCs– Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Nepal – can generate the most demand abroad. The number of registered sellers and active buyers from these countries on Alibaba's B2B platform grew by over 30% per year in 2015-2017, indicating a rapid expansion and growing interest in e-commerce.

Read the full paper here:

[Contact](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Recommend this newsletter](#)

www.giz.de



**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
(GIZ) GmbH**

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36 + 40
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 228 44 60-0
F +49 228 44 60-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Registered at

Local court (Amtsgericht) Bonn, Germany: HRB 18384
Local court (Amtsgericht) Frankfurt am Main, Germany: HRB
12394

VAT no. DE 113891176
Tax no. 040 250 56973

Chairman of the Supervisory Board

Martin Jäger, State Secretary

Management Board

Tanja Gönner (Chair)
Dr Christoph Beier (Vice-Chair)

In charge of this newsletter:

Magnus C. M. Brod, magnus.brod@giz.de

Editor(s):

Florian Miß, florian.miss@giz.de

With contributions from:

Aya Adachi, ayaadachi@protonmail.com
Magnus C. M. Brod, magnus.brod@giz.de
Florian Miß, florian.miss@giz.de
Weijia Yuan, weijia.yuan@connecting-asia.org