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ARISE Plus Cambodia Newsletter



Latest news and upcoming project activities

A service by ARISE Plus Cambodia

Dear Reader,

The ARISE Plus Cambodia Project is delighted to update you on our most recent project activities and upcoming events. We also offer a curated selection of news and publications relevant to the Cambodian trading environment in the context of ASEAN regional integration as follows:

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

TRADE FACILITATION

- » Assessment of Cambodian National Single Window (CNSW) Implementation
- » Second Committee Meeting of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF)
- » Developing Operational Risk registers with the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia (GDCE)
- » Cambodia Delegation Participated in the 10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF)
- » Official Launch of the Digitizing Global Trade (DGT) Project in Cambodia
- » Second Private Sector Workshop on the Digitizing Global Maritime Trade (DGMT) Project

TRADE POLICY

- » Capacity and Institutional Strengthening Initiative for Cambodia Trade Negotiation
- » Official Launch of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Potential Study and Trade Analysis Handbook

EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION OF SMES

- » Sixth SME Export Talk: "SME Need to Know: Certificate of Origin (CO) & Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)"
- » Publication of the Latest Topical Brochure "Certificate of Origin"
- » Consultation Workshops on Export-Related Issues for Cambodian SMEs through a Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) Mechanism
- » Consultation Workshop on Promoting Exports for SMEs
- » Success stories from our supported Cambodian SMEs

REPORTS AND RESOURCES OF INTEREST

- » Updated ARISE Plus Cambodia Fact Sheet
- » ASEAN Economic Integration Brief Volume June 2022 Number 11
- » ASYCUDA Compendium 2022
- » Cambodia Economic Update June 2022

UPCOMING PROJECT EVENTS

- » SME Export Information: "Getting Cambodian Fisheries Products to Export Markets"

Assessment of Cambodian National Single Window (CNSW) Implementation



Consultation discussion during workshop

Implementing the CNSW is one of the Government's key trade facilitation commitments to help the country comply with its international trade agreements. The project pertains specifically to the ASEAN Protocol to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window and the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement.

CNSW implementation has been conducted in phases. Phases 1 and 2 are complete, and five key ministries and agencies have been onboarded to issue licenses, certificates, and permits, according to Sub Decree No. 17 on prohibited and restricted goods. The exchange of electronic documents with ASEAN Member States (AMS), including eCO Form D and ASEAN Customs Declaration Documents (ACDD), was implemented in July 2019 and December 2020, respectively.

Under the project workstream for CNSW and as per an agreement with the GDCE, ARISE Plus Cambodia conducted an Assessment of CNSW Implementation to help improve the current system and prepare for the next phase of its implementation.

As part of the assessment, the GDCE, the CNSW Secretariat, and ARISE Plus Cambodia co-organized a CNSW Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on 28 April 2022. The event brought together 50 representatives from 13 governmental ministries and agencies as well as 17 representatives from port authorities, the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC), and other private sector actors. The parties met to discuss ideas about the various challenges within the CNSW, focusing on inter-agency coordination, ministry-specific issues, legislative issues, regulatory issues, and IT aspects around electronic LPC documents. The meeting aimed to explore opportunities and areas for further improvements and the implementation plan.

The inputs collected at the workshop, along with survey and interview responses provided by 14 government agency representatives and nine business community representatives from 7 to 20 March 2022, fed into the development of the assessment report. The final report was delivered to the GDCE on 21 September 2022.



Second Committee Meeting of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF)



The committee meeting with participants from line ministries, development partners and other relevant stakeholder

As a continued joint effort of ARISE Plus Cambodia and the Kingdom to improve customs and trade procedures, we were pleased to support the NCTF in successfully organizing its second committee meeting on 19 July 2022. The meeting was held to review work progress and achievements, particularly on the nine working targets which were set during the first meeting. The overall goals were to promote the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in Cambodia, prepare a notification to the WTO on a specific date concerning the implementation of Category C provisions, and set the strategic direction for further implementation of the agreement provisions.

[Read More](#)

Developing Operational Risk Registers with the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia



The meeting between ARISE Plus team and GDEC official during second mission at Hong Leng Huor Dry Port



In response to the increasing volume of cross-border trade, the GDCE – the government body mandated to facilitate trade through a transparent, effective, and efficient customs clearance process – has undertaken significant efforts to reform its operations, systems, and processes. One of these efforts has been to enhance the effectiveness of its risk management system.

At the request of the GDCE to provide technical assistance in drafting risk registers, the project provides support to closely co-develop these registers with relevant customs officials at key border checkpoints in Cambodia. Operational risk registers at the GDCE headquarters will also be developed and these registers will identify, evaluate, and prioritize risks. Risk registers are essential documentation tools that help the GDCE better monitor and target customs and trade-related risks while facilitating cross-border trade of low-risk shipments. Arise Plus will continue to support GDCE in improving risk management procedures to facilitate cross-border trade.

[Related Reading](#)

Cambodia Delegation participated in the 10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF)



Representatives from different countries during the forum

As part of the project's workstream to support Cambodia in improving customs and trade procedures, ARISE Plus Cambodia facilitated a delegation from the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) and the GDCE to attend the 10th APTFF held in Singapore from 29 August to 1 September 2022.

This year's forum was conducted with a focus on "how trade facilitation should evolve to enhance the resilience of international supply chains in times of pandemic and to better support sustainable economic recovery and development in the Asia-Pacific region."

[Read More](#)



Official Launch of the Digitizing Global Trade (DGT) Project in Cambodia

The DGT project was officially launched in July 2022 to introduce pre-arrival processing for express shipments and simplifying and digitalizing export procedures in Cambodia. The initiative will reduce the time and cost of imports and exports. This will ultimately promote an enabling environment for small and medium-sized enterprises to access global value chains.

The project is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Deutsche Post DHL Group (DPDHL). It is jointly implemented by DPDHL and GIZ, with facilitation support from ARISE Plus Cambodia.

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Second Private Sector Workshop on the Digitizing Global Maritime Trade (DGMT) Project



Group photos of workshop participants from relevant line ministries, development partners and private sector

The workshop took place on 29 November 2022 as part of a series of public-private outreach activities to introduce pre-arrival processing and export digitization, and the use of electronic documents in Cambodia. This is in line with the GDCE's adoption of the action plan for implementing pre-arrival processing of maritime consignments under the DGMT project. As part of the project's activities, detailed processes and procedures will be developed in preparation for the pre-arrival processing pilot phase.

The DGMT project is implemented with ARISE Plus Cambodia's coordination support on pre-arrival processing.

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Capacity and Institutional Strengthening Initiative for Cambodia Trade Negotiation



Launching ceremony

On 1 July 2022, we congratulated the MoC for the successful launch of the project “Strengthening Capacity of Officials and Enhancing Capability of the Trade Training and Research Institute (TTRI) towards Accreditation, Development of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Knowledge Center, and Establishment of Trade Negotiation Secretariat.”

Speaking during the launching ceremony, His Excellency SOK Sopheap, Secretary of State of the MoC, stated that this project implementation is in line with Cambodia’s prerogatives as a member of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) and its bilateral agreements with China and South Korea. This project will provide maximum benefits regarding capacity building for officials of the MoC and inter-ministerial institutions related to free trade negotiations. It will also serve as a center for sharing information and knowledge related to free trade negotiations.

In the context of Cambodia participating in and exploring bilateral and regional trade deals, ARISE Plus Cambodia supports this important initiative to build human resource skills and the institutional capacity of the Cambodian negotiating team.

Official Launch of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Potential Study and Trade Analysis Handbook



His Excellency Sok Sopheap, MOC Secretary of State, delivered opening remark during the event



On 8 September 2022, ARISE Plus Cambodia and the MoC successfully launched the FTA Potential Study and Trade Analysis Handbook, two tools that were developed to assist Cambodia in FTA trade negotiations. The study was conducted to identify areas of economic gain through FTAs and estimates the impact of potential FTAs in the year 2030. The goal of the handbook is to offer a user-friendly guide to help improve Cambodia's analytical and negotiation skills regarding FTAs in sensitive sectors.

[Read More](#)

Export Diversification of SMEs

Sixth SME Export Talk: “SME Need to Know: Certificate of Origin (CO) & Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)”



Expert panel discussion during event

We continue to raise awareness of export-related issues and offer tips that can support Cambodian SMEs to improve their business and export performance. The sixth SME Export Talk workshop was successfully conducted on 17 June 2022. Organized by EuroCham Cambodia with support from

ARISE Plus Cambodia, the workshop brought together relevant government officials, business representatives, entrepreneurs, and interested stakeholders to provide insight and discuss COs and FTAs.

COs are important documents for SMEs to obtain if they wish to export products. A CO certifies that goods in a particular export shipment are wholly obtained, produced, manufactured, or processed in a particular country, i.e., the country of origin. To have the mark “Made in Cambodia”, SMEs must apply for a CO. It also determines whether goods can be exempted from import duties and quotas because of trade agreements or preferential schemes in destination countries.

The workshop familiarized the participants with the ideas behind what exactly a CO is, how to obtain one, and how they can provide benefits for exporters. Some reduced tariffs provided by the RCEP are only available with COs, making this complex topic a very important one for SMEs hoping to benefit from RCEP and other FTAs.



Publication of the Latest Topical Brochure “Certificate of Origin”

We are pleased to share with you the latest “Certificate of Origin” brochure. The brochure was published as part of the series of “SME-Export Talk” events conducted by EuroCham with the support of ARISE Plus Cambodia. It provides an overview of the existing COs in Cambodia and the procedures required to obtain them. It also indicates what trade agreements have been ratified by the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia to date.

[Click here](#) to download the brochure!



Brochure: Certificate of Origin

Consultation Workshops on Export-Related Issues for Cambodian SMEs through a Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) Mechanism



Virtual participants of the workshop

To promote an enabling environment for Cambodian SMEs to gain market access and export products worldwide, ARISE Plus Cambodia worked closely with the CCC to conduct two consultation workshops on Export-Related Issues for Cambodian SMEs through a PPD Mechanism.



The first workshop was held on 8 July 2022 with over 100 participants from private companies and business associations in Cambodia to identify common export-related issues. During the session, participants raised numerous issues related to quality infrastructure for obtaining internationally accredited lab-testing services and product certifications (e.g. HACCP and ISO22000). These issues included difficult customs processes for imported/exported products and access to finance, among others.

The second workshop took place on 30 September 2022 to (1) Follow up on the process to find solutions for common export-related issues raised by SMEs at the 1st consultation workshop, and (2) To discuss and gather additional issues which the CCC will then further coordinate with relevant government agencies through respective Private Sector Working Groups (PSWGs). During the workshop, several additional issues were collected.

[Read More](#)

Consultation Workshop on Promoting Exports for SMEs



Panel discussion on "SMEs processing for Export's Challenge and opportunity"

As part of the project's activities to promote an effective PPD on issues related to SMEs and exports, the project and the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce jointly organized another consultation workshop on "Promoting Exports for SMEs" on Friday, 14 October at Hotel Cambodiana in Phnom Penh. The workshop brought together relevant stakeholders to identify and discuss export-related issues (case studies) that were to be documented and submitted to the PSWGs of the Government-Private Sector Forum (G-PSF).

[Read More](#)



Success stories from our supported Cambodian SMEs

We are excited to share a successful milestone achieved by several of the Cambodian SMEs we support through the Export Development Strategy (EDS) to obtain international standard certificates. These certifications will enable them to start, expand, or diversify their exports. After more than a year of working closely together with our experts on preparatory tasks, these companies achieved the following:



Congratulates KGC for obtaining the certificate

Khmer Green Charcoal (KGC): successfully obtained the ISO9001:2015 certification for Quality Management. This accreditation will enable KGC to explore more international markets, especially those that require the exporter to have a product quality standard certification (including the European Union) for exports. This will help the company expand and attract more investment.

[Click here](#) for KGC's full press release.

[Click here](#) to explore their product.

BODIA - Cambodian Apothecary: successfully obtained the ISO 22716:2007 international standard certification for natural cosmetics. International certifications are compulsory for the import of natural cosmetics and BODIA will now be able to export its products to the international market. BODIA has already sent product samples to prospective international clients in ASEAN and the EU and is confident that substantial export contracts will soon follow.

[Click here](#) to read more about the audit process.

[Click here](#) to explore their products.



Congratulates BODIA for obtaining standard certification



Expert consultant and KFP's staffs worked together during final audit

Kirirom Food Production (KFP): Completed the final audit of the British Retail Consortium (BRC) – the global standard for food safety. This puts the company one step closer to obtaining the ISO 9001:2015 International Quality Standard Certification. Once the final audit report is finalized and sent back to the company, the certificate will be then awarded.

[Click here](#) to read more about the final audit process.



Reports and resources of interest

Updated ARISE Plus Cambodia Fact Sheet

We are pleased to share our latest updated fact sheet of the ARISE Plus Cambodia project, which provides a brief overview of the project and selected results achieved by the project. [Click here](#) to download!

ASEAN Economic Integration Brief Volume June 2022 Number 11 | ASEAN

This insightful brief covers the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) upgrade and the potential for the ASEAN Economic Community post-2025. [Click here](#) to download!

ASYCUDA Compendium 2022 | UNCTAD

The third ASYCUDA Compendium 2022 features success stories from developing countries that participated in its Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) programme, including Cambodia. In Cambodia, with the support of ARISE Plus Cambodia, the GDCE fully integrated the latest version of the customs clearance software, ASYCUDAWorld. [Click here](#) to check the full report!

Cambodia Economic Update June 2022 | World Bank

The World Bank recently released its Cambodia Economic Update - Weathering the Oil Priceshock: Special Focus - Post-Pandemic Supply Chain Disruptions: Strategies to Reduce Logistics Costs. [Click here](#) to check out the full report!

Upcoming Project Events

SME Export Information Event Series – Event 8: “Getting Cambodian Fisheries Products to Export Markets”

- » [Date: 1 December 2022](#)
- » [Venue: TBC \(Stay tuned to our social media channels for further updates\)](#)

We hope you have a stimulating reading and find this useful. Should you have any feedback or suggestions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours,
Till Ahnert
Head of the Project



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

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36
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

Chairperson of the Supervisory Board

Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary

Management Board

Thorsten Schäfer-Gümbel (Chair)
Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven

In charge of this newsletter:

Till Ahnert, till.ahnert@giz.de

Editor(s):

Sovannary Ky, sovannary.ky@giz.de

With contributions from:

Maren Bremer, maren.bremer@giz.de
Sovanrotha Sok, sovanrotha.sok@giz.de
Kamrang Ke, kamrang.ke@giz.de
Kha Sok, kha.sok@giz.de
Molyaneth Heng, molyaneth.heng@giz.de
Udo Gaertner, Udo.Gaertner@gopa.de
Youssef Lak, Youssef.Lak@gopa.de
Heng Dang, Heng.Dang@gopa.de

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