



Published by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Issue No. 7 | April 2023

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 results. 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:

GENERAL

- » 4th Project Steering Committee Meeting
- » Consultative Workshop to Ensure Women's Economic Empowerment and Effective Cooperation at the Workplace

TRADE FACILITATION

- » 5th Expert Mission to Enhance Customs Risk Register Management in Cambodia
- » Private Sector Consultation Meeting on the Draft Prakas on Authorized Economic Operators
- » Consultative Workshop Regarding the Draft Prakas on Customs Procedures on Express Consignments and Postal Consignments

TRADE POLICY

- » Advanced Private Sector Training Series on Trade Policy and Negotiations

- » Capacity Building for GDCE Officials on International Merchandise Trade Statistics in Cambodia
- » Training on Non-Tariff Measures Identification and Classification

EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION OF SMES

- » Consultative Workshop: Best Practices on the Process, Procedure and Performance Management of the Public-Private Dialogue Mechanism under the Government-Private Sector Forum
- » Round Table Discussion: Process and Future Plan of the Government-Private Sector Forum and the Provincial Public Private Dialogue
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- » Joint Report – Making Regional Integration Work: Company Perspectives on Non-Tariff Measures in Asia-Pacific | UNESCAP
- » News – GDCE Reviews Efficacy of Trade Facilitations | KhmerTimes
- » New Study Finds: Trade Facilitation Agreement has Increased Trade by Over US\$ 230 Billion | WTO
- » World Customs Organization (WCO) News 100 – Issue 1 / 2023: Managing Knowledge | WCO

General

4th Project Steering Committee Meeting



Mr. Bryan FORNARI (left), Head of Cooperation of the European Union in Cambodia, H.E. Sok Sopheak (middle), Secretary of State of the Ministry of Commerce and Dr. Angelika Stauder (right), First Secretary and Deputy Head of Development Cooperation of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany chaired the meeting

On 1 December 2022, ARISE Plus Cambodia successfully convened its 4th Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting, with participation from representatives of relevant line ministries, the European Union (EU), the German Embassy in Cambodia, GIZ, and other relevant stakeholders.

During the meeting, key issues such as the project's progress, achievements, and a mid-term evaluation were presented and discussed. New milestones were agreed upon for the upcoming year's programme implementation and project extension.

The project team sincerely appreciates the great advice and immense effort from all the committee members and partners for working closely together to implement the project with remarkable progress and toward the project achievements.

Consultative Workshop to Ensure Women's Economic Empowerment and Effective Cooperation at the Workplace



Penal discussion during the workshop with the panelists from the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Ministry of Industry Science Technology and Innovation (MISTI) and Cambodia Women Entrepreneurs Association (CWEA)

On 14 March 2023, the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) hosted a successful consultative workshop on “Women’s Economic Empowerment and Effective Cooperation at Workplace”. ARISE Plus Cambodia is delighted to join efforts with the ministry and GIZ-ASEAN projects, under the leadership of Her Excellency Cham Nimul, MoC Secretary of State, to make such an important initiative happen.

During the event, we witnessed around 120 key stakeholders in gender empowerment-related roles from relevant line ministries, provincial departments of commerce, women empowerment associations, the private sector, and development partners came together to discuss the challenges and impacts that women face. Stakeholders also discussed knowledge-sharing opportunities to overcome those challenges, as well as policy measures and capacity-building programmes to support women’s economic empowerment and effective cooperation at the workplace.

[Read more »](#)

Trade Facilitation

5th Expert Mission to Enhance Customs Risk Register Management in Cambodia



The meeting between the ARISE Plus Team, the expert and the GDCE officials during the 5th expert mission on customs risk management in Cambodia

Following the success of the previous four missions to develop a customs risk register, the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) and ARISE Plus Cambodia completed their fifth expert mission on 20 January 2023.

During this mission, the GDCE and the project team worked together on building GDCE's capacity regarding risk treatment and risk profiling for maritime shipments. Analysing customs data and creating specific risk profiles will help the GDCE focus their examinations on high-risk consignments, while facilitating the trade and quick clearance of low-risk consignments. This training was also aimed at preparing the GDCE to conduct pre-arrival risk assessments while implementing Pre-Arrival Processing (PAP) of consignments in Cambodia.

The project will provide further technical assistance regarding risk treatment, risk profiling, and advising on improvements for selecting criteria in the ASYCUDA/ASYHUB systems within the context of future PAP implementation.

Later this year, pre-arrival processing for maritime shipments will be piloted in Cambodia, with a phased approach geared towards a fully electronic environment for customs clearance processes.

[Related reading »](#)

Private Sector Consultation Meeting on the Draft Prakas on Authorized Economic Operators



The AEO Private Sector Consultation Meeting was held virtually via Zoom

As another step moving forward to establishing a fully functional and recognized Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) program in Cambodia, the GDCE organized a “Private Sector Consultation Meeting on the draft Prakas on AEO” on 27 January 2023 to present, discuss, and gather input on the draft Prakas on AEO and plot a path forward for implementing the programme.

The Prakas was now signed and put out for the implementation on 1 May 2023. [Click here](#) for [full press release](#).

Full implementation of the AEO program is a win-win for both Customs and businesses in Cambodia. In the AEO programme, highly compliant traders would benefit from faster processing times at borders, via reduced documentation and data requirements, less inspections, and rapid release times.

ARISE Plus Cambodia applauded this progress and looks forward to continuing to support the GDCE in establishing an AEO program for Cambodia's compliant traders.

Consultative Workshop Regarding the Draft Prakas on Customs Procedures on Express Consignments and Postal Consignments



Group photo of all participants during the meeting

We congratulated the GDCE for successfully organizing a consultative meeting with postal and express operators regarding the Draft Prakas on Customs Procedures on Express Consignments and Postal Consignments on 28th February 2023. The meeting took place in the context of the growing trend and importance of cross border e-Commerce, with support from ARISE Plus Cambodia and Swisscontact Cambodia.

Presided over by H.E. Dr. Kun Nhem, Minister Attached to Prime Minister and GDCE Director General, the meeting was attended by 70 participants from the Ministry of Commerce, the Cambodia Post, express operators, and development partners. The participants, including 34 representatives of postal and express operators, jointly reviewed and provided inputs for the improvement of regulations and procedures related to customs clearance and ICT solutions to facilitate effective and secure cross-border e-commerce.

[Read more »](#)



Trade Policy

Advanced Private Sector Training Series on Trade Policy and Negotiations



Some photos of various activities during the training sessions

Hosted by ARISE Plus Cambodia and EuroCham Cambodia, the “Advanced Private Sector Training Series on Trade Policy and Negotiations” concluded on 5 April 2023.

The six-day training course provided an opportunity for participants to learn more about the various aspects of trade policy and negotiations in Cambodia. The training enabled them to engage better with the government to tackle trade-related challenges and reap the benefits from Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and trade preference schemes.

The training gathered around 60 participants from private companies and business associations who actively partook in workshops by studying trade data and delivering presentations.

[Event summary »](#)

[Part I press release »](#)

[Part II press release »](#)

Capacity Building for the GDCE Officials on International Merchandise Trade Statistics in Cambodia



Expert mission and trainings on IMTS for the GDCE officials

ARISE Plus Cambodia continues to support the capacity development of the GDCE on the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in Cambodia.

As part of the support-activity series, two virtual trainings on the IMTS were jointly conducted by the

GDCE and ARISE Plus Cambodia for the officials from the GDCE and the Preah Sihanoukville International Autonomous Port.

On 9-10 January 2023, a two-day virtual training was held to familiarize official on the new IMTS policy and procedural guidelines which were developed by our experts to assist the GDCE and other relevant entities to produce IMTS in line with international standards. It is essential for the GDCE to perform its duties such as correcting, compiling, analyzing, and disseminating data on cross-border trade for goods and customs revenues in Cambodia.

[Training detail »](#)

Another important IMTS training took place on 13-14 February 2023, focused on IMTS classifications. The training aimed to introduce the trainees on the international IMTS classifications and how the GDCE can adopt them to improve the quality of its trade statistics. The training covered a broad range of topics, including the different types of classifications, data sources, and the development of conversion tables and correspondence tables.

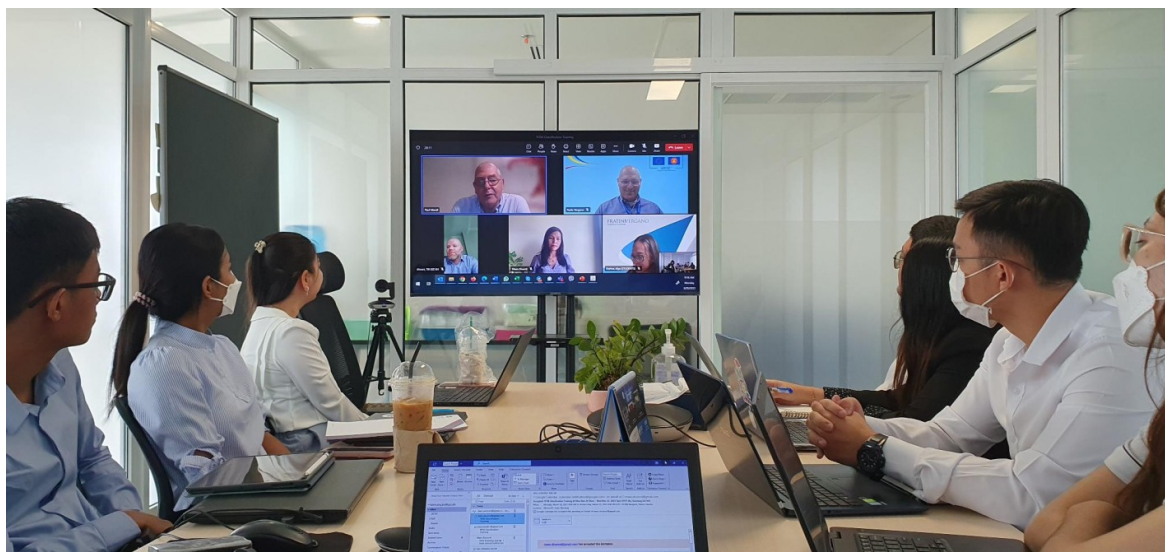
[Training detail »](#)

Following the two trainings, a follow-up mission of our expert was conducted in early April 2023 to discuss the “IMTS Policy and Procedural Guideline” that was developed for the enhancement of IMTS data at the GDCE and other relevant agencies.

During the mission, updates, progress reports, and challenges related to data processing systems were presented and discussed among expert, GDCE officials, representatives from relevant government agencies, and IMTS data users. Several recommendations were raised and collected for further implementation.

[Mission detail »](#)

Training on Non-Tariff Measures Identification and Classification



Training session at the office of ARISE Plus Cambodia

In collaboration with the Department of Economic Integration and ASEAN of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), ARISE Plus Cambodia, the Cambodia National Trade Repository (NTR), and Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) secretariats successfully co-organized an NTM identification and classification training, which was held on 20-22 March 2023.

This training aimed to equip and strengthen the capacity of the NTR and NTM secretariats to identify, collect, classify, package, and validate NTMs, based on the 2012 version of UNCTAD's classification, while also drawing attention to key changes in the 2019 version.

[Read more »](#)



Export Diversification of SMEs

Consultative Workshop: Best Practices on the Process, Procedure and Performance Management of the Public-Private Dialogue Mechanism under the Government-Private Sector Forum



Group photo of all participants during the workshop

ARISE Plus Cambodia continued promoting the Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) between the Cambodian government and the business sector on issues related to enhancing the prosperity and growth of the private sector, especially related to SMEs and exports.

On 31 October 2022, the project and the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce jointly organized a consultative workshop on “Best Practices on the Process, Procedure and Performance Management of the PPD Mechanism under the Government-Private Sector Forum (G-PSF)”. The event welcomed over 100 participants, including government representatives, municipal and provincial chambers of commerce, private companies, and other relevant stakeholders.

The workshop provided an opportunity for all participants to learn more about the PPD Mechanism under G-PSF through insightful presentations, experience-sharing and interactive discussions on the progress, structure, roles, and benefits of the G-PSF. It also provided insights into the process, implementation procedures, and the role of the G-PSF coordinating secretariat.

The G-PSF is the government's mechanism to provide an efficient platform for dialogue between the government and the private sector on issues related to investment, economic development, legislation, tax, etc. ARISE Plus Cambodia supports this initiative as part of its objective to promote effective PPD on issues related to SMEs and exports. This includes an enabling environment for Cambodian SMEs to access international markets worldwide.

Round Table Discussion: Process and Future Plan of the

Government-Private Sector Forum and the Provincial Public Private Dialogue



Discussion session among all participants from government, private and development organization/institution

On 3 November 2022, ARISE Plus Cambodia and the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC) jointly organized a “Round Table Discussion: Process and Future Plan of the Government-Private Sector Forum (G-PSF) and the Provincial Public Private Dialogue (PPPD)”.

The meeting was held to:

- Review and analyze current PPPD processes in Cambodia, e.g., G-PSF, business associations i.e. (national, provincial, sectoral) relevant to SMEs and exports;
- Share PPD experiences from other countries in similar contexts with a focus on impact, ownership, outreach, and sustainability;
- Discuss the future of PPPD in Cambodia, the way forward in 2023 and beyond, suggestions, recommendations.

The meeting gathered high-level chairpersons of the G-PSF working groups and around 100 physical and virtual participants, including heads of provincial chambers of commerce, private companies, and business associations in Cambodia.

Business Matching Event: Promoting Cambodian SMEs Products for Export Processing



Group photo of participants during the forum

As part of promoting SME exports, ARISE Plus Cambodia and the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC) hosted a business matching hybrid event on “Promoting Cambodian SMEs Products for Exports Processing” on 19 January 2023. The event gathered around 100 SMEs participants, both physically and virtually.

During the half-day event, participants learned more about a newly launched business matching online platform called “Business Matching Hybrid Platform”. This online platform provides market linkage opportunities for SMEs to be able to find business partners or explore import/export opportunities with trusted sources in a timely fashion. This online platform will also play a key role in promoting and fostering import/export activities for Cambodian SMEs within global and regional markets.

The 10th SME Export Talk Concluded



Some activities of the Talks

On 28 February 2023, ARISE Plus Cambodia and EuroCham concluded its ten-event “SME-Export Talk” series, covering the final topic “SME Export of Services: Understanding How Services Can Be Exported”. The event aimed to provide a general understanding of the services export market for Cambodia today.

During the event, participants were familiarized with the current background and trends of the export service market in Cambodia. This included the national strategy towards promoting the export of services, in particular those provided by SMEs, and a prospective future outlook.

The event also gave the floor to SMEs sharing their success stories and lessons learned from successfully exporting services from Cambodia. Those SMEs represented various industries, including dentistry (medical tourism), website and application development, tourism, and a nascent digital marketing and consulting services business.

At the end of the session, there was also an interactive Q+A discussion between participants, government experts, international development partners, and representatives from the private sector.

[Full press release »](#)

Since 2021, the series of ten SME Export Talks were conducted and related topical brochures were published and disseminated. There were around 937 participants in total who were mainly SME owners or managers, both online and in-person. A wide range of topics related to SME and export was covered that aimed at providing better access to trade information, raising awareness, and offering support Cambodian SMEs to improve their business- and export performance.

A visit to Enhance Provincial Public Private Dialogue at Siem Reap Chamber of Commerce



Group photo of the participants during the meeting

On 21 March 2023, ARISE Plus Cambodia organised a visit to the Siem Reap Chamber of Commerce at their office in Siem Reap province. The discussion was held with chamber management, regarding the enhancement of the Provincial Public Private Dialogue (PPPD) through the Government-Private Sector Forum (G-PSF) mechanism.

The chamber demonstrated great interest in collaborating with ARISE Plus on strengthening the PPPD mechanism with a focus on SMEs and exports in Siem Reap. The chamber team stressed on export potential for SMEs, especially in agriculture (e.g. cashew nuts, cassava, etc.), handicrafts (e.g. natural cosmetics, chocolate, handmade products for tourists, etc.), and services (e.g. tourism services, among others).

As a next step, it was agreed that ARISE Plus Cambodia, together with the chamber, will organise a consultation workshop on SMEs and Exports in Siem Reap.



Reports and resources of interest

Compendium of Good Practices in Implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: Experiences from Developing and Least Developed Countries | UNCTAD

December 12, 2022 – The United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released a “Compendium of Good Practices in Implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: Experiences from Developing and Least Developed Countries”. Check out full publication: [Click here](#)

Joint Report – Making Regional Integration Work: Company Perspectives on Non-Tariff Measures in Asia-Pacific | UNESCAP

February 24, 2023 – The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and International Trade Centre (ITC) launched a joint report: "Making regional integration work: company perspectives on non-tariff measures in Asia-Pacific". Check out full report: [Click here](#)

News – GDCE Reviews Efficacy of Trade Facilitations | KhmerTimes

March 2, 2023 – The General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE), with representatives of ministries, technical officials, and members of express delivery companies discussed priorities such as the promotion of the cross-border e-commerce sector and the use of risk management mechanisms, as well as enhancing the effectiveness of tax collection from cross-border e-commerce and pre-arrival form filling. Read full article: [Click here](#)

New Study Finds: Trade Facilitation Agreement has Increased Trade by over US\$ 230 Billion | WTO

March 22, 2023 – The World Trade Organization (WTO) released an article on trade facilitation. The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) led to a US\$ 231 billion increase in trade, particularly in agriculture, according to estimates for the first couple of years of its implementation presented to the Committee on Trade Facilitation on 22 March. Developing members and least-developed country (LDC) members that have made commitments under the landmark agreement posted the most gains, estimates find. Read full article: [Click here](#)

World Customs Organization (WCO) News 100 – Issue 1 / 2023: Managing Knowledge | WCO

In this issue: some best practices related to knowledge management, automating the measurement of release and clearance times at the border, controlling inputs of cigarette production, supporting mental and physical health, shifting focus from risk management to a decision intelligence approach and more. Check out full publication: [Click here](#)

We hope you found this an informative and enjoyable read! 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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