



Published by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Issue No. 8 | May-October 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, period of May-October 2023. 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

- » 5th Project Steering Committee Meeting
- » Official Launch of the “National Cashew Policy 2022-2027”
- » Dissemination Workshop on “National Cashew Policy 2022-2027”

TRADE FACILITATION

- » Awareness Training on “Applying for Import and Export Permit on National Single Window of Cambodia”
- » GDCE Gearing up to Accredite the first Authorized Economic Operator in Cambodia
- » 6th Steering Committee Meeting for the ASYCUDA Modernization Project
- » GDCE Officials Attended 2023 WCO Technology Conference in Hanoi, Viet Nam

TRADE POLICY

- » ASEAN-Cambodia Business Summit and Official Launch of White Book 2024
- » Workshop on “TTRI Strategic Business Plan 2024-2028”
- » Training on Digital Economy Framework Agreement Negotiation Preparation

EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION OF SMES

- » International MSME Day 2023
- » Partnership Establishment with Siem Reap - Oddar Meanchey Chamber of Commerce to Promote Public-Private Dialogue Mechanism
- » Public-Private Dialogue Consultation Workshop for SME Exporters in Siem Reap

REPORT AND RESOURCES OF INTEREST

- » EU-Backed Project to Boost Cambodia's Trade | Khmer Times
- » Newly Launched World Trade Report 2023: Re-Globalization for a Secure, Inclusive and Sustainable Future | WTO
- » Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation - Global Report 2023 | United Nations
- » New Government Body to Regulate Cambodia's Digital Economy | Khmer Times
- » World Customs Organization News, No. 101 - Issue 2 / 2023: Fragile Borders | WCO
- » Trade and Development Report 2023 | UNCTAD
- » Joint Publication: Moving Air Cargo Globally - Air Cargo and Mail Secure Supply Chain and Facilitation | WCO-ICAO
- » Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade, Second Edition | OECD

General

5th Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting of ARISE Plus Cambodia



Mr. Bryan FORNARI (left), Head of Cooperation of the European Union in Cambodia, H.E. Sok Sopheap (middle) Secretary of State of the Ministry of Commerce and Mr. Till Ahnert (right), Head of ARISE Plus Cambodia, chaired the meeting

On 27 June 2023, ARISE Plus Cambodia successfully hosted its **5th PSC meeting** to discuss the project's progress and achievements, as well as offer guidance for further implementation as we near the end of the project in March 2024.

Under the chairmanship of **H.E. Sok Sopheap**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce (MoC), and **Mr. Bryan Fornari**, Head of Cooperation, European Union (EU) Delegation to Cambodia, the meeting was joined by committee members and partners, including representatives from the MoC, Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), Ministry of Industry Science Technology and Innovation (MISTI), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE), the EU Delegation to Cambodia, Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC), EuroCham Cambodia and GIZ.

It was noted during the meeting that, as of 15 June 2023, the project has achieved over 80% of its implementation with great results. Participants acknowledged the commitment and immense effort made by all stakeholders and commended the project's outcomes over the past several years.

We take this opportunity to thank the Chair, the committee members, and partners for their participation and valuable input in guiding the implementation and strategic direction for future cooperation under the project.

Official Launch of the “National Cashew Policy 2022-2027”



H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, delivered his opening remark during the launching event

On 14 June 2023, ARISE Plus Cambodia joined the Ministry of Commerce and other partners to organize the **official launching event of the “National Cashew Policy 2022-2027”**, a governmental strategy that aims to transform Cambodia into a major producer and supplier of cashew products for the local, regional, and global markets.

[Click the link to download »](#)

Dissemination Workshop on “National Cashew Policy 2022-2027”



H.E. Reach Ra, the MoC Secretary of State, presided over the workshop

ARISE Plus Cambodia joined the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) to host **dissemination workshops on the “National Cashew Policy 2022-2027”** in Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, and Preah Vihear provinces, on 24-26 October 2023.

The workshops were organized to introduce the "National Cashew Policy 2022-2027" to stakeholders in the cashew sector at both national and sub-national levels to better understand the policy and its strategies, as well as to foster cooperation among stakeholders and institutions to promote the Cambodian cashew sector nationally and globally, expand cashew exports, and access new market opportunities.

[Read More »](#)

Trade Facilitation

Awareness Training on “Applying for Import and Export Permit on National Single Window of Cambodia”



Opening session of the awareness training on “Applying for Import and Export Permit on National Single Window (NSW) of Cambodia”

On 9-10 May 2023, an awareness training on “**Applying for Import and Export Permit on NSW for Manufacturers and Pharmaceuticals**” was held.

The event was co-organized by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and ARISE Plus Cambodia, in collaboration with the NSW Secretariat and GUUD – the developer of the NSW, and presided over by **H.E. Or Vandine**, the MoH Secretary of State.

Throughout the training, participants were equipped with knowledge of the regulatory requirements for permit applications as well as the NSW and its operational and functional specifications. Participants also learned about the efficiency and effectiveness in applying for import and export permits through this online system.

[Read more about the training »](#)

[Find out more about the NSW »](#)

GDCE Gearing Up to Accredite the First Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) in Cambodia



Opening session of the workshop on the implementation of the AEO program

Following the promulgation of the **Prakas on the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program** earlier this year, the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia (GDCE), together with ARISE Plus Cambodia, organized a **full-day workshop for private companies** in Cambodia on the implementation of the program, on 12 June 2023.

The event aimed to raise awareness of the program and provided guidance on the application process, its intended benefits among business associations, and the current best trader companies in Cambodia.

Capitalizing on the progress since the official launch of the AEO program, ARISE Plus Cambodia has been assisting GDCE to further develop Standard Operating Procedures for the program.

[Read more about the workshop »](#)

[Find out more about the AEO Prakas »](#)

[Check out the instructions for the AEO application »](#)

6th Steering Committee Meeting for the ASYCUDA Modernization Project



H.E. Dr. KUN Nhem, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and the GDCE Director General, chaired the meeting

On 6 October 2023, the ARISE Plus Cambodia team participated in the **6th Steering Committee Meeting for ASYCUDA Modernization**, which was held under the chairmanship of **H.E. Dr. KUN Nhem**, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Director General of the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia (GDCE).

The meeting was organized by the GDCE and gathered representatives from relevant development partners to review the progress of modernizing the ASYCUDA system and implementing Pre-Arrival processing (PAP). The strategic direction for further implementation was set, including parameters for maritime consignments under the Digitizing Global Maritime Trade (DGMT) project and express consignments under the Digitizing Global Trade (DGT) project.

[Read more \(in Khmer\) »](#)

GDCE Officials Attended 2023 WCO Technology Conference in Hanoi, Viet Nam



Group photo of the GDCE officials participated in the World Customs Organization (WCO) Technology Conference and Exhibition, led by H.E. PHA Eng Veng, the GDCE Deputy Director General

ARISE Plus Cambodia recently supported the Cambodian delegation from the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE), led by **H.E. PHA Eng Veng**, the GDCE Deputy Director General, to attend the **World Customs Organization (WCO) Technology Conference and Exhibition** held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 10th to 12th October 2023.

During the conference, which was held under the theme “Embracing the Digital Age: Leveraging Technology, Fostering Innovation, and Nurturing the Next Generation of Customs Professionals”, the delegates joined over 1,200 attendees from 95 countries. The participants explored how innovation and technology can support Customs in trade facilitation, protection, revenue collection, and prioritize people in the digital transformation process.

[Read more about the event »](#)





Mr. Bryan Fornari, the Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Cambodia, delivered his welcome remarking during the summit

The two-day **ASEAN-Cambodia Business Summit**, held under the theme of “**Connectivity is Growth in the Mekong Region**”, successfully concluded on 29 September 2023. The summit was organized in collaboration with EuroCham Cambodia, European Union Delegation to Cambodia and ARISE Plus Cambodia.

Experts and leaders from the public and private sectors, including high-level guests from the Cambodian government, specifically **H.E. Dr. AUN Pornmoniroth**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance and **H.E. CHAM Nimul**, Minister of Commerce, European Union (EU) officials, business representatives from Europe and the Mekong region, and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat, came together to present and discuss on various topics related to economic challenges and opportunities, as well as to foster economic integration within the region and beyond.

The event also saw the launch of **the White Book 2024**, authored by EuroCham Cambodia with financial support from the EU and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This year's White Book contains 78 policy recommendations, including new, updated, and retained recommendations from previous versions. The recommendations cover a wide range of sectors with the aim of improving the business environment and attracting quality investments to Cambodia.

The **2023 Business Confidence Survey (BCS)** was also released by EuroCham Cambodia. The survey offers an overview of Cambodia's business landscape to both current and potential investors. It also provides valuable insights for decision-makers regarding the private sector's overall perception of the business environment.

[Read more about the event »](#)

[Click here for the White Book »](#)

[Click here for the Business Confidence Survey »](#)

Workshop on “TTRI Strategic Business Plan 2024-2028”



Workshop on “TTRI Strategic Business Plan (SBP) 2024-2028”

In cooperation with ARISE Plus Cambodia, the Trade Training and Research Institute (TTRI) of the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) concluded two **consultative workshops on the “Strategic Business Plan (SBP) 2024-2028”**.

The first workshop was organized at the national level on 16 August 2023 in Phnom Penh. Another workshop was conducted at the sub-national level on 29 August 2023 in Siem Reap province.

The two workshops gathered key officials and relevant stakeholders, including representatives from the MoC’s central and provincial departments, the private sector, and development partners, to discuss key inputs for the plan’s formulation. This included setting strategic goals, defining business models and strategic actions, as well as identifying implementation mechanisms.

[Read more about the workshop »](#)

[Learn more about TTRI »](#)

Training on Digital Economy Framework Agreement Negotiation Preparation



Training on Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) Negotiation Preparation led by Mr. Sven CALLEBAUT, Trade Policy Adviser

The **ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) training** for Ministry of Commerce (MoC) officials and relevant line ministries has begun.

The much-anticipated DEFA negotiations were launched by the ASEAN Economic Ministers during the 23rd ASEAN Economic Community Council (AEC) meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, in September 2023.

According to the ASEAN Secretariat, DEFA would be the world's first regional digital economy agreement to enable and protect a digital trade ecosystem that aims to enhance ASEAN's digital transformation and make it a leading digitally connected community and economic bloc.

The ASEAN DEFA Negotiating Committee (NC), chaired by Thailand, consists of lead negotiators from the 10 ASEAN Member States. The first meeting is planned for late 2023, followed by subsequent meetings in 2024 and 2025. The NC is aiming to finalize ASEAN DEFA negotiations by 2025. Read more about the DEFA launching: <https://bit.ly/3FkjpWw>

In preparation for the Cambodian negotiators to get ready for their role in the upcoming negotiations, ARISE Plus Cambodia is collaborating with the MoC to conduct a three-part DEFA training for MoC officials and relevant line ministries.

The training will serve to: (1) introduce Cambodia's stance on commitments made in different forums and ongoing e-commerce negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) under the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) and review previous commitments made at ASEAN and bilateral levels; (2) evaluate progress in Cambodia's areas of interest; (3) identify areas where laws and regulations need to be updated for DEFA compliance, and; (4) addressing topics without existing dedicated laws or regulations.

The first part of the training for the secretariat concluded on 4 September 2023 with 12 participants. The two-day training covered various recurrent topics of Digital Economy Agreement (DEA) negotiation. The second part of the training is planned for 8 and 10 November 2023 with the same number of participants.



Export Diversification of SMEs

International MSME Day 2023



Panel discussion during the conference of the International MSME Day

On **International MSME Day on 27 June 2023**, ARISE Plus Cambodia joined the global community in celebrating the crucial role that Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) play in

driving the economic prosperity of countries. Contributions from this sector include innovating industries, creating jobs, and helping to create a strong economic ecosystem.

We joined our partners in co-organizing an MSME-Day conference under the theme of “**Resilience and Rebuilding: MSMEs for Sustainable Development**” on 27-28 June 2023.

The event provided a platform for discussions and exchanges on challenges surrounding post-pandemic recovery and key inputs to help boost the economy and businesses in the new normal and beyond. In addition, local SMEs had opportunities to match with potential partners, showcase their products and services, and network to expand their business to new markets.

[Read more »](#)

Partnership Establishment with Siem Reap - Oddar Meanchey Chamber of Commerce to Promote Public-Private Dialogue Mechanism



Group photo during the visit of ARISE Plus Cambodia team at the Siem Reap Chamber of Commerce

ARISE Plus Cambodia has recently established a **partnership with the Siem Reap - Oddar Meanchey Chamber of Commerce (SROCC)** as part of its continued support for the implementation of the **Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) Mechanism** under the **Government-Private Sector Forum (GPSF)** in Cambodia.

The main objectives of the partnership are to streamline the G-PSF mechanism within a provincial business chamber and strengthen its capacity, especially concerning SME export related issues.

Within this partnership, the project's support for the SROCC included providing administrative and technical support for PPD trainings and workshops for SMEs in Siem Reap province. The project equipped the chamber with ICT equipment and trained stakeholders on relevant ICT skills for virtual meetings, while offering technical and advisory support for documenting and submitting SME export issues in coordination with national level counterparts.

This is the fourth collaboration with business associations in Cambodia that aim at promoting the G-PSF and enhancing a strong business-enabling environment in Cambodia, following the partnership

Public-Private Dialogue Consultation Workshop for SME Exporters in Siem Reap



SME participants presented the results from the group discussion on the issues and challenges that they are facing in doing business

On 26 October 2023, ARISE Plus Cambodia and the Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Chamber of Commerce (SROCC) jointly organized the **“Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) Consultation Workshop for SME Exporters in Siem Reap”**.

Approximately 55 representatives and members of the SROCC and other business associations in Siem Reap came together to learn from our experts on PPD and the Government-Private Sector Forum (G-PSF) mechanism in Cambodia. Participants also discussed the issues and challenges that they are facing in doing business.

[Read more »](#)



Reports and resources of interest

EU-Backed Project to Boost Cambodia's Trade | Khmer Times

A recent meeting between EU representatives and H.E. Sok Sopheak, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Commerce, on the continued support to promote sustainable trade and strengthen the private sector in Cambodia, following the activities and results achieved under the ARISE Plus Cambodia project. Read full article: <https://bit.ly/3MGOWXg>

Newly Launched World Trade Report 2023: Re-Globalization for a Secure, Inclusive and Sustainable Future | WTO

"The 2023 edition of the WTO's World Trade Report presents new evidence of the benefits of broader, more inclusive economic integration as early indications of trade fragmentation threaten to unwind growth and development." Check out the full report here: <https://bit.ly/469ucxY>

Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation - Global Report 2023 | United Nations

"This report presents the results of the fifth UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. It brings together information from countries worldwide pertaining to the implementation of a wide range of trade facilitation measures, going beyond the scope of measures included in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)." Check out the full report:

<https://bit.ly/3rR75dj>

New Government Body to Regulate Cambodia's Digital Economy | Khmer Times

"The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has issued a sub-decree to establish the General Department of Digital Economy that will exclusively function under the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) to direct, regulate and develop the digital economy in the country after the Deputy Prime Minister Aun Pornmoniroth made a proposal to Prime Minister Hun Sen." Read full article:

<https://bit.ly/46PVxG6>

World Customs Organization (WCO) News, No. 101 - Issue 2 / 2023: Fragile Borders | WCO

The latest edition of #WCO News is available now. Check out full publication: <https://bit.ly/3ZVXuP1>

UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2023 | UNCTAD

The report covers: the current trends and challenges in the global economy; international markets: trade, capital flows, commodities; and food commodities, corporate profiteering and crises: revisiting the international regulatory agenda. Check the full report here: <https://bit.ly/47u0iFu>

Joint Publication: Moving Air Cargo Globally - Air Cargo and Mail Secure Supply Chain and Facilitation | WCO-ICAO

"The World Customs Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) have released a revised brochure titled "Moving Air Cargo Globally - Air Cargo and Mail Secure Supply Chain and Facilitation". The brochure aims to assist air transport regulators and operators in mitigating security threats associated with air cargo activities." Check out the full publication here:

<https://bit.ly/3ufaluj>

Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade, Second Edition | OECD

"The Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade sets out a conceptual and measurement framework for digital trade which aligns with the broader standards for macro-economic statistics. It aims to help statistical compilers to address policymakers' needs for statistical evidence on digital trade." Check out the handbook here: <https://bit.ly/3G3lgPG>

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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