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Quarterly Report

US-ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (US-ACTI)

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Quarterly Report

US-ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (US-ACTI)

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Submitted By

Timothy Buehrer
Chief of Party

Disclaimer:

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

List of Abbreviations

ABC	ASEAN Business Club
ACIA	ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement
AEC	ASEAN Economic Community
AMDD	ASEAN Medical Devices Directive
AMS	ASEAN Member States
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEC	ASEAN Secretariat
ASW	ASEAN Single Window
ASWSC	ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee
ATIGA	ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement
AWEN	ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network
CCI	Coordinating Committee on Investment
CCS	Coordinating Committee on Services
ERA	Economic Reform and ASEAN Integration Program
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GWAI	GREAT Women in ASEAN Initiative
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPM	Information Process Modeling
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NSW	National Single Window
OCP	Operational Certification Procedures
PLF	Protocol for the Legal Framework for the Implementation of the ASEAN Single Window
PMO	Project Management Office
RE-SSN	Renewable Energy Sub-Sector Network
SC-AROO	Sub-Committee on ATIGA Rules of Origin
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SMEWG	SME Working Group
T&I	Trade and Investment
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TELSOM	ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Senior Officials Meeting
TWG	Technical Working Group
US-ABC	US-ASEAN Business Council
US-ACTI	US-ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Introduction and Summary

US-ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (US-ACTI) is a five-year project of the U.S. government to support Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economic integration. US-ACTI supports ASEAN in establishing the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in the areas of customs modernization, trade and investment facilitation, small and medium-sized enterprise development, clean and efficient energy, and information and communication technologies. These are priority areas under the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement, Enhanced Economic Engagement (E3) Initiative, and the Enhanced Partnership Plan of Action. The project works with the ASEAN Secretariat, member states, U.S. government agencies, the private sector, and other stakeholders as the region expands the ASEAN Economic Community. At the same time the project works to deepen the ASEAN-U.S. economic relationship, with a particular emphasis on support for the US-ASEAN Connect.

US-ACTI supports ASEAN through five work streams:

- **ASEAN Single Window:** By establishing the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) and the contributing National Single Windows to electronically exchange trade transaction information, ASEAN is accelerating cargo clearance and lowering trade costs. US-ACTI supports the technical and legal development of the ASW, along with public outreach.
- **Trade and Investment Facilitation:** By facilitating trade and investment ASEAN establishes a more level playing field particularly for SMEs, lowers costs, and boosts consumer confidence. US-ACTI supports standards harmonization, trade transparency, services liberalization, and investment facilitation.
- **Small and Medium Enterprise Development:** ASEAN's small and medium enterprise (SME) development enhances the competitiveness of SMEs and thus promotes more inclusive economic growth. US-ACTI supports this effort by encouraging greater integration of SMEs in to regional and global supply chains, providing access to information, and expanding access to finance. US-ACTI's program has a special focus on women and young entrepreneurs, and firms in Cambodia, Laos, Burma, and Vietnam, to further bridge the development gap.
- **Energy:** By promoting the use of sustainable energy and energy efficient technologies, ASEAN improves the environment in the region and the wellbeing of ASEAN citizens. US-ACTI focuses on implementing the ASEAN-US energy work program. This work stream is now complete.
- **Information and Communications Technology for Development:** By promoting greater broadband access and implementing the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Master Plan, ASEAN seeks to bridge the digital divide and support more equitable development. US-ACTI is focusing on technical and financial issues related to broadband expansion in primarily rural areas as well as information security and e-commerce.

In the second calendar quarter of 2016, US-ACTI's regional program contributed to the following results:

- Singapore began sending live data Form D messages to Indonesia.
- US-ACTI completed the ACDD Message Implementation Guide and Process Specifications Preliminary Report.
- Cambodian traders are better informed about the ASW and Cambodia's plans for developing its NSW through a US-ACTI ASW Briefing for stakeholders and the launch of the Cambodia ASW Needs Assessment.
- Through a mapping exercise identified key challenges facing Cambodia and Laos in implementing the AMDD and helped the two countries to launch efforts to implement the AMDD.
- US-ACTI conducted Training on Improving SMEs Competitiveness for Access to Regional and Global Supply Chains in the Digital Economy in April 2016 in Vietnam.
- The ASEAN Online SME Academy was launched at the ASEAN SME Working Group in May 2016.
- Four SME access to finance grants were awarded and the grantees started conducting their research.

US-ACTI-ERA contributed to the following results:

- Burma is developing a third draft of a law to support its implementation of the AMDD.
- The Ministry of Commerce launched the Myanmar Trade Portal.

Status of Activities and Progress

This document summarizes the US-ACTI project’s activities and progress during the second calendar quarter of 2016 by work stream showing how these activities are fulfilling ASEAN’s long-term objectives and generating results.

Work Stream 1: ASEAN Single Window

The World Bank Doing Business Report 2016 states that the average import clearance time in ASEAN was 6.15 days.

The ASEAN Single Window (ASW) is a core component of ASEAN’s effort to stimulate the free flow of goods in the single market and production base of the ASEAN Economic Community. It allows the electronic exchange of shipment information between traders and governments and between exporting and importing countries.

The ASW links national electronic trade clearance systems, National Single Windows (NSWs), through a regional platform to exchange information on shipments and shippers. NSWs are now operational in six ASEAN Member States with NSWs under development, design or pending in the rest. NSWs enable a single submission of data and information, a single and synchronous processing of data and information and a single decision-making for customs clearance of cargo. This process helps expedite customs clearance, reduces transaction time and costs, and contributes to increased efficiency and competitiveness.

NSW Status	ASEAN Member States
Operational	Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam
Development	Brunei, Laos
Design	Cambodia
Pending	Burma

The ASW became operational in February 2016 with the exchange of live certificate of origin information by Indonesia with Singapore. Other countries and documents will be added over the next few years. The ASW provides a platform for accelerating imports and exports, improving enforcement of and compliance with regulations at the border, and reducing trade transaction costs. The ASW also facilitates ASEAN’s participation in global and regional supply chains.

Over the life of the project US-ACTI is assisting ASEAN to:

- Complete the basic ASW architecture and begin live operation;
- Provide assistance to expand the scope of the ASW over time;
- Finalize and adopt the necessary regional legal reforms to operate the ASW;
- Incorporate ASW-transferred information into risk management systems; and
- Expand the public-private dialogue on the ASW and trade facilitation.

In this reporting period, US-ACTI focused its efforts on the development of the ASW software system.

ASEAN was committed to the live operation of the ASW by the end of 2015 but implementation issues delayed initial operation to the first quarter of 2016. While electronic exchange of data has commenced, until the Protocol for the Legal Framework for the Implementation of the ASEAN Single Window is ratified and the Operational Certification Procedures for the electronic exchange of the ATIGA certificate of origin are signed, paper certificates will still be required in addition to the exchanged electronic data. These legal issues should be resolved this year. US-ACTI is working with the ASW Steering Committee and its working groups as well as the Sub-committee on ATIGA Rules of Origin of the Coordinating Committee on ATIGA and the ASEAN Secretariat to accelerate their resolution.

Development of the ASW Software System

At the technical level, US-ACTI signed a contract in March 2015 with Axway Pte. Ltd, Singapore to implement the messaging infrastructure for the ASW and to provide support to ASEAN Member States in exchanging the ATIGA Form D. Five ASEAN Member States are participating in the initial ASW, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Installation of software gateways and initial testing of the basic system ran through the end of 2015.

Live Operation of the ASW: During this quarter, Singapore began sending live data Form D messages to Indonesia on a limited basis. The number is limited due to a requirement in Singapore that traders provide consent to the exchange of data. Indonesia continues sending large numbers of certificates to Singapore each day. Vietnam was able to resolve the data authentication issue on electronic certificates with the assistance from Axway. Vietnam has informed Member States it will shift to live environment when the AMS ratify the PLF. At the end of the quarter, Thailand was still resolving data exchange issues with the rest of the participating Member States,¹ while Malaysia is still resolving its internal technical issues.

US-ACTI established two monitoring and evaluation indicators relating to the operation of the ASW. Indicator 1.1.1 reports the number of AMS participating in the ASW. This indicator was unchanged this quarter as no new countries joined in live operation. The target for FY16 is 4 countries. This target should be met but depends on the willingness of Vietnam to connect before the PLF is ratified.

Indicator 1.1.2 reports the number of messages transmitted over the ASW. Given the slow adoption of the ASW by Member States and the limited use of the ASW by Singapore, the target of 6000 messages for 2016 is not likely to be met. US-ACTI is working with the ASEAN Secretariat to press countries to join live operation and more fully utilize the ASW.

ACDD Message Implementation Guide & Data Harmonization Workshop: In April 2016, US-ACTI launched its efforts to develop the “ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) Message Implementation Guide and Process Specifications” to exchange export declaration information to support Member States’ risk management. During this quarter, the US-ACTI consultant submitted the ACDD Preliminary Report for AMS review. Member states will

¹ Thailand began sending data to Indonesia in July but still has issues sending to Singapore.

submit their feedback by early July 2016, and US-ACTI will conduct an ACDD Data Harmonization Workshop to present the ACDD Preliminary Report on July 25, 2016, back-to-back with the 36th TWG Meeting.

Support for Exchanging e-SPS Certificates through the ASW: US-ACTI met with the ASEAN Sanitary and Phytosanitary Contact Points (ASCP) promote the use of the ASW messaging infrastructure for the exchange of electronic Sanitary and Phytosanitary (e-SPS) certificates. By exchanging the phytosanitary certificate electronically, it will help to reduce the risk of fraudulent certificates, expedite the clearance of these perishable commodities, and enhance the compliance with SPS measures.

ASCP has agreed that the ASW infrastructure should be used for this purpose and has asked for assistance from US-ACTI to develop the necessary rules and regulations for the exchange. US-ACTI will begin this support next quarter.

Cambodia Needs Assessment and ASW Briefing: US-ACTI hired a consultant to assist Cambodia's NSW/ASW team to plan and coordinate the development and implementation of its NSW. In June 2016, the consultant conducted face to face interviews with officials of government agencies and private sector representatives, in coordination with Cambodia Customs officials, to both gather information and promote the concept of the single window. After the interviews on June 17th 2016, a stakeholder briefing was held in Phnom Penh. There were 64 participants that attended from the government and private sector. A Preliminary Needs Assessment report is due on the 4th July 2016, which will be sent to Cambodian officials for their review and feedback. Then, on the 29th July, the Preliminary Report will be presented to key stakeholders.

Establishment of the ASW Project Management Office: US-ACTI worked closely with the ASEAN Secretariat to secure funding for the establishment of the ASW Project Management Office (PMO). Input was provided for Secretariat-supported presentations to both the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR). SEOM decided that funding for 2016 and 2017 should come from the Secretariat budget. This decision was communicated to the CPR, which is continuing to deliberate on how best to support the necessary hiring of staff, purchase of equipment, and hiring of services. US-ACTI will support the training of PMO staff once they are hired.

Results

- Singapore began sending limited live data Form D messages to Indonesia. Indonesia continues to send significant numbers of Form D's electronically each day.
- US-ACTI completed the ACDD Message Implementation Guide and Process Specifications Preliminary Report.
- US-ACTI commenced the Cambodia ASW Needs Assessment and conducted the ASW Briefing for stakeholders in Phnom Penh.

Next steps

- US-ACTI, through its ASW contractor Axway, will continue to support the implementation and expansion of the ASW enabling infrastructure to allow the participation of other Member States in the live data exchange of ATIGA Form D. The immediate focus is Thailand.
- US-ACTI will assist ASEAN Member States to establish the ASW Project Management Office in managing and implementing ASW-related projects within ASEAN.
- US-ACTI will provide capacity building activities to assist AMS in establishing a mutual recognition agreement that is technology-neutral for effective domestic and cross-border electronic authentication of cross-border messages.
- US-ACTI will complete its initial support for developing draft harmonized xml schema, message implementation guides, and process specifications for the exchange of export declaration data and then support ASEAN Member states in the implementation of the exchange of this information.
- US-ACTI will launch an effort to develop the e-SPS message implementation guide and process specifications, and operational certification procedures that are needed to exchange e-SPS certificates through the ASW. This information will then be provided to ASCP for its review and adoption.

Establishment of the ASW Legal and Regulatory Environment

After the completion of the Protocol for the Legal Framework (PLF) for the ASEAN Single Window in 2014, US-ACTI has continued to support the Secretariat in its effort to have the PLF ratified. In December 2015, Myanmar completed its ratification of the PLF. Since then Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam have ratified the agreement.

US-ACTI supported the Sub-committee on the ATIGA Rules of Origin (SC-AROO) in amending the Operational Certification Procedures (OCP) for the ATIGA certificate of origin to permit the electronic exchange of the certificate of origin through the ASW. With support from US-ACTI, the 20th SC-AROO Meeting finalized the amended OCP for e-ATIGA Form D, which was endorsed by the CCA. By the end of the quarter, all ASEAN Member States except Singapore and Vietnam had signed the OCP.

US-ACTI's monitoring and evaluation indicator OC2 counts the number of AMS implementing guidelines, policies, or directives reflecting ACTI inputs. The ratification of the PLF by three additional countries and the signing of the OCP by seven more countries has resulted brought this indicator to its target of 12 for the year. This indicator should be exceeded by the end of the fiscal year.

US-ACTI's indicator OC1 reports the number of guidelines, policies, or directives adopted by ASEAN reflecting ACTI inputs. There were no guidelines, policies or directives adopted this quarter.

Results

- The PLF has now been ratified by four ASEAN Member States.

- The amended OCP for e-ATIGA Form D has been signed by all AMS except for Singapore and Vietnam.

Next steps

- US-ACTI continues to work with the ASEAN Secretariat to support ratification of the PLF and the signing of the OCP.
- US-ACTI will provide funding support in the conduct of national level workshop on the Protocol for Legal Framework in Lao PDR next quarter.

Work Stream 2: Trade and Investment Facilitation

With a population of over 620 million and a combined GDP of over \$2.4 trillion, ASEAN is the United States' third largest export market in Asia.

The Trade and Investment Facilitation work stream of US-ACTI is designed to boost economic growth and regional integration through the provision of technical assistance to reduce trade and investment barriers. US-ACTI focuses its interventions in four

areas: Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, and Financial Inclusion. US-ACTI's support to ASEAN to liberalize trade in goods supports increased transparency in regulations, increased cooperation on standards, improved operation of rules of origin, and closer cooperation on trade nomenclature. In the area of services, US-ACTI provides support to ASEAN to adopt a new ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement with a special focus on the adoption of modern negotiation methodologies. In the area of investment, US-ACTI is helping ASEAN better understand its existing commitments and to develop a long-term plan for investment liberalization. US-ACTI is working with ASEAN's new Working Group on Financial Inclusion to develop a work program in this area.

Facilitating Trade in Goods

ASEAN Medical Device Directive (AMDD): Over the past six years the U.S. supported ASEAN's effort to develop the ASEAN Medical Device Directive, which was completed at the end of 2014. With the adoption of the Directive, US-ACTI's assistance has shifted to providing assistance in the implementation of the Directive, particularly in the CLMV countries.

From 18-27 April 2016, US-ACTI conducted a mapping exercise to develop roadmaps for implementation of the AMDD for Cambodia and Laos. The US-ACTI team met medical device regulators of the respective countries to learn about their present medical device regime and their plans for the future. Based on these interviews and the experiences of other countries, sets of recommendations were prepared for the two countries identifying the steps needed to revise their medical device regimes to ensure conformity to AMDD. The countries agreed to establish drafting committees for a new set of medical device regulations consistent with the AMDD. Cambodia planned to complete the draft medical device regime by end 2016 and to have a complete medical device regulation by end 2018. Laos aimed to have their medical device regulations completed in 2020. They both requested continuous US-ACTI's assistance to review the drafts at

a later date and further capacity building support, particularly in the form of a study tour for regulators to Thailand to learn from its medical device practices.

The workshops in Lao and Cambodia to discuss the roadmap contribute to US-ACTP's M&E indicator OT3 that tracks the number of completed activities implementing agreed U.S.-ASEAN work programs and objectives raising the total to four for the fiscal year. The target of five activities will likely be met or exceeded.

With limited traction on implementing the AMDD in FY2016, it is unlikely that US-ACTI will reach its target for indicator OC2 that tracks the number of countries implementing supported ASEAN policies.

Results

- Completed the mapping exercise to identify key challenges facing Cambodia and Laos in implementing the AMDD, including holding two stakeholder consultations on the implementation of the AMDD.

Next steps

- Follow-up activities on transposition of AMDD into medical device regulations of Cambodia and Laos

Work Stream 3: SME Development

SMEs account for between 30 and 53% of the output of ASEAN and account for between 50 and 85% of employment.

SMEs account for over 90% of all firms in the region and more than one-half of employment in all ASEAN countries. The health of SMEs is of critical importance to the growth and welfare of the region.

US-ACTP's SME activities are designed to improve the capacity of ASEAN entrepreneurs, especially women and youth, to create and operate SMEs and thus promote equitable, inclusive development. In accordance with the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016-2020 and in close collaboration with the ASEAN SME Working Group, US-ACTI's SME support is focused on:

- Access to regional and international markets;
- Access to information, including improvement in IT skills;
- Access to finance; and
- Support for women and youth entrepreneurs

Support is tailored to meet the needs of the less-developed ASEAN Member States at the national level to help bridge the regional development gap and promote greater integration and participation in the ASEAN Economic Community. US-ACTI support leverages expertise and resources from "ASEAN-helps-ASEAN" sources, public-private engagements, and other development programming.

To support ASEAN SMEs, USAID and the ASEAN Committee of the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC) in March of 2014 formed a partnership called the U.S.-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive SMEs. The Business Alliance combines the efforts of USAID and major U.S. corporations to develop the capacity and boost competitiveness of SMEs in the ASEAN region. US-ABC corporate participants offering expertise and/or financial support for Business Alliance activities so far include P&G, UPS, HP, Microsoft, Baker & McKenzie, Coca-Cola, Citibank, eBay, Facebook, FedEx, Google, IBM, MasterCard, Motorola, Nike, PayPal, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Qualcomm, Seagate, and VISA. The Business Alliance uses training programs, mentorship opportunities, and cloud technology to support SMEs. US-ACTI is implementing USAID's contribution to the Business Alliance.

Access to Regional and International Markets

A key component of the Business Alliance is the provision of information, training and mentoring services to develop ASEAN SMEs' capacity to participate in U.S., regional and global supply chains. One training workshop was held this quarter.

Training on Improving SMEs Competitiveness for Access to Regional and Global Supply Chains in Digital Economy: In April 2016, US-ACTI and the Business Alliance conducted the Training on Improving SMEs Competitiveness for Access to Regional and Global Supply Chains in the Digital Economy. 81 SME representatives from Vietnam, of which 32 were female and 48 were male, attended the training. In total, there were 129 participants including speakers and representatives from industry associations, the participating companies, the media, and the organizers. The SMEs who participated in the training were members of the Ho Chi Minh City Young Business Association (YBA), who was the key local partner for this training; the Ho Chi Minh City Association for Women Executives & Entrepreneurs (HAWEE); and other industry associations invited by the US-ASEAN Business Council – Vietnam. The welcoming remarks were delivered by Mr. Nguyen Van Tuat, Director of the Assistance Center for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the South; and Mr. Stephen Berlinguette, USAID Section Chief, HCMC. Ms. Pham Thi Bich Hue, Vice President of the YBA HCMC, also represented the association at the training.

Speakers and resource persons shared their insights with the participating SMEs. The discussions covered: (i) an update on the rules of origin in Vietnam's new FTAs (TPP in particular) by MOIT Vietnam; (ii) Microsoft cloud services and its solutions for business, specifically on the benefits of Office 365 and Yammer, a private social network that help bring team members in one company together, anytime and anywhere, for conversations, collaborate on files, and more; (iii) the benefits of digitizing payments and collections for SMEs and MasterCard Mobile Point of Sale (POS) and e-commerce solutions; (iv) key factors driven purchasing decision of online shoppers or e-commerce customers and leveraging logistics to drive back-end efficiency and online sale by UPS; (v) using digital means for sales team and customers to create huge advantage for a business by Coca-Cola; and (vi) managing key legal risks in cross-border contracts, exporting to the U.S., data protection and management, and other key risks in the digital economy by Baker & McKenzie.

Although not all the speakers delivered their presentations in Vietnamese, there was a high level of interaction between speakers and participants, especially during the Q&A sessions. There were a lot of questions from participants in every session, and they received some tips and insights from the speakers concerned, for example, on (i) which particular FTAs would benefit their trade and how to deal with the rules of origin for those FTAs; (ii) how their companies could benefit from using business cards for company expenses in term of cash flow management; (iii) how to speed up delivery and ensure timely delivery of products which have become a key factor in purchasing decisions of customers; (iv) ways and means of adopting technology to increase sales; (v) how to handle business disputes and what are the key factors that SMEs should bear in mind when conducting the business online.

Results

- US-ACTI conducted a Training on Improving SMEs Competitiveness for Access to Regional and Global Supply Chains in the Digital Economy in April 2016 in Vietnam.

Next Steps

- US-ACTI through the Business Alliance will continue its support for market integration through smaller, sectoral based programs and mentoring.

Access to Information

Access to relevant and useful information and use of ICT and technology tools are the prerequisites in today's business. In this focus area, US-ACTI and the Business Alliance are jointly developing the ASEAN SME Academy (Academy). The Academy provides regional SMEs and their enablers with training materials (such as how-to guides and interactive e-learning modules) and business information and tools developed by Business Alliance firms and other partners. It adds value to existing resources through the customization of uploaded information and training materials to better meet the specific development needs of ASEAN SMEs and their enablers, including trade and business associations, business development service providers and SME support agencies in ASEAN.

In 2015, US-ACTI began the development and design of the ASEAN SME Academy and moved forward with plans for its launch. By late 2015, the basic software for the Academy was completed and US-ACTI was focused on loading content from Business Alliance partners.

During this quarter, US-ACTI continued to load content. Over 50 training courses have been uploaded on the Academy. These courses cover 6 subjects – finance/accounting, management, marketing, operation, technology, and trade/logistics. They are provided by Baker & McKenzie, Facebook, Google, MasterCard, Microsoft, PayPal, International Labour Organization, HP, and Procter & Gamble. The Academy also contains some 350 web-links to business and entrepreneurs' associations, domestic and international corporate initiatives, private financial and business development services, and government activities and services of direct interest and rele-

vance to SMEs in ASEAN. Many of these links are to sites relating to women-owned and/or operated enterprises and to the promotion of women entrepreneurship.

The ASEAN SME Academy <<http://www.asean-sme-academy.org>> was launched during the 6th Meeting of the ASEAN SME Advisory Board in Singapore. The launch was attended by some 50 guests representing the ACCMSME country delegates, ASEAN SME Advisory Board members, the ASEAN Secretariat, the US-ASEAN Business Council, USAID, ASEAN dialog partners, and representatives from Baker & McKenzie, eBay, HP, KPMG, MasterCard, Microsoft, PayPal and Procter & Gamble. The forty-five minute ceremony featured welcome remarks by Dr. Wimonkan Kosumas (Deputy Director General of OSMEP Thailand), Ambassador Michael W. Michalak (US-ABC Senior Vice President and Regional Managing Director) and Ms. Rebecca Acuna from USAID/RDMA. This was followed by the honorary guests officiating the launch of the Academy by pressing a button to play a video featuring participants and key features of the Academy. After the group photo sessions, the launch ceremony was declared closed by Mr. Nguyen Hoa Cuong, Chair of the ACCMSME. Over 1500 participants in Business Alliance events have been automatically registered to use the Academy.

US-ACTI's M&E indicator 3.1.3 tracks the number courses completed on the Academy. Given the late launch of the Academy in the quarter only 10 courses were completed. With training of trainers for the Academy being launched in the upcoming quarter, that figure should increase in the future.

Results

- The ASEAN SME Academy launch event was held at the ASEAN SME Working Group in May 2016.

Next Steps

- US-ACTI will conduct a training of trainers in the use of the Academy contents for five AMS.
- More content will be uploaded and US-ABC will reach out to more U.S. companies for content contribution.

Access to Finance

SMEs throughout ASEAN often list access to finance, particularly lending from banks, as one of their most serious obstacles to expansion and growth. At the same time banks in the region state that they are interested in making loans to SMEs but that they find it difficult to significantly expand their lending while meeting their own lending criteria. ASEAN has expressed a desire to support SME development and, in particular, to facilitate greater SME access to finance.

SME Finance Grant Program: In 2015, USAID and the ASEAN Business Club (ABC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch a public-private partnership to identify actionable solutions to the problem of SME access to finance on a regional level. Throughout the year, US-

ACTI worked with the ASEAN SME Working Group and the ASEAN Business Club to launch a grant competition for policy studies on key aspects of the SME access to finance puzzle. The studies must be designed to lead either to concrete proposals for action at the ASEAN level to address access to finance issues, including those relating to financial literacy, or to implementable pilot programs by financial institutions in the region.

During this quarter, from the five revised grant proposals reviewed by the grant review committee and based on the US-ACTI Chief of Party's decision, four proposals were selected for funding. The funded proposals are: (1) an individual proposal by Tulus Tambunan, which will explore best practices of credit guarantee schemes in selected ASEAN Member States and two institutional proposals; (2) an institutional proposal from Asia Growth Research Centre conducting a study on how ASEAN SME Private Investor Networks can promote ASEAN SME start-up and equity finance; (3) an institutional proposal that will seek the possibility of applying a warehouse-receipt concept in SME lending in Cambodia by Nuppun Institute for Economic Research; and (4) an institutional proposal from the International Islamic University of Malaysia to undertake a study to assess investors preferences of equity crowd funding in Malaysia. The four grants were issued this quarter.

Study on Equity Crowd Funding: US-ACTI has prepared a TOR for a study of the necessary legal environment to support equity crowd funding. The TOR is being reviewed by the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSMEs (ACCMSME) through its access to finance lead shepherds. If approved, the study will be launched next quarter.

Handbook/Portal on Alternative Financing for SMEs: US-ACTI has worked with the ACCMSME and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN BAC) to develop a TOR for a publication on alternative financing opportunities in ASEAN for SMEs. If approved by ACCMSME, the study will be launched next quarter.

Results

- Four grants were awarded and the grantees started conducting their research.

Next Steps

- Monitor and provide guidance to the access to finance grantees.
- Upon the approval of ACCMSME of the concept note and detailed TOR for the study on Policy Options and Good Practices for Equity Finance and Alternative Financing for SMEs and Start-Ups, US-ACTI will start engaging the consultants in consultation with the Taskforce Committee as appointed by ACCMSME.
- Upon the approval of ACCMSME of the concept note and detailed TOR for the portal/handbook, work with ASEAN BAC and ACCMSME to develop the material for the portal/handbook.

Work Stream 4: Energy

US ACTI has completed its work in this area and USAID is now supporting collaboration on energy issues with ASEAN through other mechanisms.

Work Stream 5: ICT and Development

ASEAN had over 160 million wireless broadband connections in 2013, a 48% increase over 2012

In support of the AEC Blueprint 2025 and the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2016-2020, US-ACTI provides technical assistance at the regional level to achieve an improved enabling environment for ICT, broadband, and emerging technologies as well as improved accessibility, affordability, and utilization of broadband in ASEAN Member States.

Digital Economy and Digital Trade in ASEAN and APEC: During this quarter, US-ACTI hired a consultant to develop a targeted paper on “*Key Issues: Promoting the Digital Economy and Digital Trade in ASEAN and APEC*” in order to inform USAID’s efforts in the digital economy space and identify areas where USAID might be able to carve out a specific technical role in this discussion. This paper is being developed jointly between US-ACTI and US-ATAARI.

Workshop on Dynamic Frequency Allocation:

Results

- US-ACTI launched work on a targeted paper on Digital Economy and Digital Trade in ASEAN and APEC.

Next steps

- Develop a program to promote sharing of information on frequency utilization among ASEAN Member States to promote dynamic frequency allocation.
- Implement a coalition to promote e-commerce in collaboration with the private sector

Implementation Issues and Recommendations

Delays in obtaining sign off from the Telecommunications Senior Officials for US-ACTP's ICT work have significantly delayed the project's work in this area. In addition, PROGRESS' need to postpone workshops with the judiciary and disaster management officials, the latter covering TV White space, have also delayed implementation of parts of the project's activities.

Appendix 1 – Monitoring and Evaluation Indicator Reporting: FY16 Q3

FY 16 Q3 Report

Indicators	FY14 Target	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	FY16 YTD Actual	FY16 Q1 Actual	FY16 Q2 Actual	FY16 Q3 Actual	Comments
Work Stream 1: ASEAN Single Window										
Indicator OC1: Number of guidelines, policies, or directives adopted by ASEAN reflecting ACTI inputs (custom)	1	1	3	3	3	2	0	2	0	No additional guidelines, policies or directives were adopted by ASEAN this quarter.
Indicator OC2: Number of AMS implementing guidelines, policies, or directives reflecting ACTI inputs (custom)	2	0	10	10	12	11	1	1	9	So far this year 4 ASEAN Member States ratified the PLF and 7 AMS have signed the OCP.
Indicator 1.1.1: Number of AMS participating in the ASW (custom)	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	2	0	To date, no other AMS joined, only Indonesia and Singapore are actively exchanging information in the live environment.
Indicator 1.1.2: Number of messages transmitted over the ASW (custom)	0	0	0	0	6,000	1,953	0	525	1,428	As of July 14, 1950 e-ATIGA has been exchanged by Indonesia, and 3 for Singapore. Given the slow adoption of the ASW, we are likely to miss this target.
Indicator 1.2.1: Number of AMS integrating ASW data into risk management systems (custom)	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	AMS using ASW data to support their risk management system might happen by FY18Q1, exchanging e-ATIGA Form D through the ASW platform is not enough.
Work Stream 2: Trade and Investment Facilitation										

Indicators	FY14 Target	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	FY16 YTD Actual	FY16 Q1 Actual	FY16 Q2 Actual	FY16 Q3 Actual	Comments
Indicator OC1: Number of guidelines, policies, or directives adopted by ASEAN reflecting ACTI inputs (custom)	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	GMP Guidelines for Traditional Medicines and Health Supplements expected to be signed off in second half of 2016
Indicator OC2: Number of AMS implementing guidelines, policies, or directives reflecting ACTI inputs (custom)	0	0	5	0	14	0	0	0	0	Implementation of AMDD requires ratification of AMDD and transposition of AMDD into national legislation. Only Singapore has ratified AMDD. Laos ratified but has yet to submit instrument of ratification to ASEAN Secretariat. Malaysia has transposed AMDD into national legislation. Ratification and transposition of AMDD is still on-going in the rest of member states.
Indicator OT3: Number of completed activities implementing agreed U.S.-ASEAN work programs and objectives (custom)	6	7	5	5	5	4	1	1	2	AMDD workshops were held in Lao and Cambodia.
Work Stream 3: Small and Medium Enterprises										
Indicator 3.1.1: Number of women-owned SMEs obtaining financial services from investors or financial institutions participating in ACTI activities (custom)	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	Because of the many legal and commercial issues in the establishment and registration in Singapore of the GREAT Women Regional Holding Company (GWRHC), as reported earlier, it has been decided to register the Holding Company in Manila,

Indicators	FY14 Target	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	FY16 YTD Actual	FY16 Q1 Actual	FY16 Q2 Actual	FY16 Q3 Actual	Comments
										with the GREAT Women teams of Philippines, Malaysia and Myanmar being first-mover shareholders. GREAT Women teams from other ASEAN countries can join in as shareholders when they are ready.
Indicator 3.1.2: Number of SME owners and SME enablers receiving BDS training (custom)	Total: 400	Total: 523	Total: 500	Total: 160	Total: 400	Total: 710	Total: 335	Total: 296	Total: 79	Improving SMEs Competitiveness for Access to Regional and Global Supply Chain in Digital Economy
	Female: 200	Female: 365	Female: 250	Female: 91	Female: 200	Female: 503	Female: 271	Female: 201	Female: 32	
Indicator 3.1.3: Number of individuals completing ASEAN Online Academy courses (custom)	0	0	0	0	200	10	0	0	10	The Academy was launched on 31 May 2016 during the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSME (ACCMSME) meeting hosted by SPRING Singapore. There are 41 courses available to 1587 students.
Indicator 3.1.4 Number of people benefitting from U.S. government-supported Public-Private Partnerships (Foreign Assistance F standard indicator PPP 2)	Total: 600	Total: 1116	Total: 600	Total: 1925	Total: 300	Total: 350	Total: 93	Total: 178	Total: 79	
	Female: 300	Female: 567	Female: 300	Female: 966	Female: 150	Female: 169	Female: 43	Female: 94	Female: 32	
Work Stream 4: Energy										

Indicators	FY14 Target	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	FY16 YTD Actual	FY16 Q1 Actual	FY16 Q2 Actual	FY16 Q3 Actual	Comments
Indicator OT3: Number of completed activities implementing agreed U.S.-ASEAN work programs and objectives (custom)	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	No Energy workshops are planned during FY16 Q3
Work Stream 4: ICT										
Indicator 5.1.1: Number of workshops or trainings presenting information on technologies and policies that allow for expanded rural broadband (custom)	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	No ICT workshops were held during FY16 Q3

Indicators	FY14 Target		FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	FY16 YTD Actual	FY16 Q1 Actual	FY16 Q2 Actual	FY16 Q3 Actual	Comments
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Indicators	FY14 Target		FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 Actual	FY16 Target	FY16 YTD Actual	FY16 Q1 Actual	FY16 Q2 Actual	FY16 Q3 Actual	Comments
											[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Appendix 2 – Reference Data: FY16 Q3

Reference Data	Baseline (October 2013)	October 2014	October 2015
Reference Data 1: Overall Project Reference -Ranking of the ASEAN Member States in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business index (Source: World Bank Doing Business 2014, 2015, and 2016)	Avg. ASEAN Rankings 2013 - 2014: 88.9/189 countries CLMV: 144.3/189 countries	Avg. ASEAN Rankings 2014 - 2015: 89.3/189 countries CLMV: 134.5/189 countries	Avg. ASEAN Rankings 2015 - 2016: 88.2/189 countries CLMV: 129.5/189 countries
Reference Data 2: ASW – World Bank Doing Business “Time to import” indicator (Source: World Bank Doing Business 2014, 2015, and 2016) ²	Avg. Time to Import: 17.5 days CLMV: 24.5 days Avg. Time to Export/Import: 17.4 days	Avg. Time to Import: 17.4 days CLMV: 23.3 days Avg. Time to Export/Import: 17.1 days	Avg. Time to Import: 6.15 days CLMV: 7.5 days Avg. Time to Export/Import: 6.09 days
Reference Data 3: Trade and Investment (Source: ASEAN Community in Figures – Special Edition, ASEAN Statistics)			
a. ASEAN total volume of trade	(US\$ billion 2012) \$2,476.4	(US\$ million 2013) \$2,511.5	(US\$ million 2014) \$2,528.9
b. ASEAN Foreign Direct Investment	(US\$ billion for 2012) \$115.5	(US\$ billion for 2013) \$117.9	(US\$ billion as of June 2015) \$138.2
Reference Data 4: Energy –Total Primary Energy Supply/Real GDP	0.457 toe/1000 2005 USD 2012 ³	0.442 toe/1000 2005 USD 2013 ⁴	Update not Available
Reference Data 5: Fixed and Wireless Broadband Subscriptions per 100 population	21.3 per 100 population 2012 ⁵	29.8 per 100 population 2013 ⁶	33.4 per 100 population 2014 ⁷

² The World Bank changed the methodology for calculating this indicator in 2016 and has not provided a mechanism to compare old and new results.

³ Key World Energy Statistics, as of 2013 by International Energy Agency. (Data exclude Lao PDR as it is not listed by IEA)

⁴ Key World Energy Statistics, as of 2014 by International Energy Agency. (Data exclude Lao PDR)

⁵ International Telecommunications Union Data as of April 2014

⁶ International Telecommunications Union Data as of October 2014

⁷ International Telecommunications Union Data as of October 2015

Appendix 3 – Success Story

Success Stories/Lessons Learned Template

One Story Per Template

Please provide the following data:

***Headline (Maximum 300 characters):** A good headline or title is simple, jargon free, and has impact; it summarizes the story in a nutshell; include action verbs that bring the story to life.

Now Available, an Online Learning Tool to Help ASEAN Businesses Grow

***Body Copy (maximum 1.5 pages Times New Roman 12pt font):** The first paragraphs should showcase the challenge encountered and the context of the foreign assistance program. Presenting a conflict or sharing a first person account are two good ways to grab the reader's attention. Continue by describing what actions were taken and finally describing the end result. What changed for the person or community? What was learned? How did this make a difference in the community or to the country overall? If this story is relating to a "best practice", what were the innovations in planning, implementation or partnering that made it different? If this story is about an evaluation, what program adjustments were made?

Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) have always driven the economy in Southeast Asia but until recently, they lacked an adequate source of information on how to sustain, expand and access regional markets. From street-food vendors supporting a family to manufacturers employing dozens, these businesses account for as much as 50 to 85 percent of employment and 58 percent of GDP in member economies of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Increasing MSMEs' competitiveness, stability and endurance to ensure their sustainability and growth has therefore become a priority for the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) as outlined in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025.

Now, by simply logging in to one website from a desktop computer, tablet, or even smart phone, registered users can have access to an array of information. The ASEAN SME Academy (or the Academy in short) is an online learning resource to training opportunities, materials, and tools, designed to specifically meet the ASEAN MSMEs' needs. The online material in the Academy is a collection of learning materials and presentations, contributed by Fortune 500 companies, members of the US-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC). These include companies like Baker & McKenzie, Facebook, FedEx, Google, HP, ILO, MasterCard, Microsoft, PayPal and P&G. In partnership with the US-ASEAN Business Council and ASEAN, USAID supported the launch of the ASEAN SME Academy in Singapore on May 31.

The availability of such an online learning resource marks the new beginning for the ASEAN MSMEs in developing and expanding their businesses. It not only provides a virtual one-stop shop for MSMEs that caters to the specific ASEAN needs, it also provides convenience in accessing important information for busy entrepreneurs. The Academy provides the boost needed by the entrepreneurs to learn from the best and connect

with opportunities that will provide them access to regional and global markets.

In the past, the ASEAN entrepreneurs have always had a difficult time to access information that is specific to their needs. Aside from the sheer volume of online information, there is also an equally overwhelming number of MSMEs in the region, making it more difficult to reach all the entrepreneurs effectively. Additionally, while there are a lot of online information that covers SME-related topics, there are hardly any that is designed specifically to meet the needs of ASEAN entrepreneurs.

Modern technology has proved to be a game-changer for many people, including entrepreneurs in Southeast Asia, who are counting more and more on their portable smart devices to connect to the world of online information. Therefore, the need to provide entrepreneurs with a useful information source that they can bring with them anywhere is greater now than ever before.

The Academy can be a force multiplier for U.S. business efforts to support SMEs in ASEAN through the US-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive SMEs—a three-year partnership between USAID and US-ABC to support the development of ASEAN MSMEs. “The Academy is a one-stop, online resource for learning about regional and international markets, latest technologies, and for access to service providers and more financing opportunities, and its online presence will substantially expand the reach of US-ABC programs to support SMEs,” said Ambassador Michael W. Michalak, US-ABC Senior Vice President and Regional Managing Director, speaking at the launch.

"We look forward to working with ASEAN and our business partners to expand and promote this unique resource," said Rebecca Acuña, ASEAN Team Lead, General Development Office, USAID's Regional Mission for Asia.

For more information, please click www.asean-sme-academy.org to explore and learn about ‘the Academy’.

***Pullout Quote (one sentence):** Please provide a quote that represents and summarizes the story.

“The launch of the Academy is a key component of the United States government strategy to support SME development in the region in cooperation with the private sector.” **(Rebecca Acuña – ASEAN Team Lead, General Development Office, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Mission for Asia)**

***Background Information (one paragraph):** If relevant indicate whether this story is about a presidential initiative, Key Issue(s). Please in one or two sentences explain why this is important to the intended beneficiaries and addresses USG priorities.

***Project Name and Point of Contact:** Please Provide the Project Name and the Individual

who can be contacted to provide additional information about this story if required.

ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI) Project,
Mr. Tim Buehrer (Chief of Party): Tbuehrer@nathaninc.com and
Ms. Thitapha Wattanapruttipaisan (SME Development Lead): thitapha_watt@yahoo.com

**Appendix 4 - Summary Report on the Value
to Support to the Government of Burma:
FY16 Q3**

Assistance to the Government of Burma

Reporting Period	Awardee/Recipient	Number of Recipients	Summary and Justification	Type of Assistance to GoB	*Value	Percentage of GOB Assistance to Activity Amount
Burma Specific Support						
4/1/16-6/30/16	Ministry of Health, Food and Drug Administration	25	<i>Workshop on Implementing the ASEAN Medical Device Directive</i> - US-ACTI-ERA hired Mr. Michael Flood to support the implementation of the ASEAN Medical Device Directive in Burma and supported a drafting meeting for the new medical devices law.	Technical Assistance/ Training	██████████	100%

Appendix 5 – Quarterly Project Financial Report

[REDACTED]

Costs for April – June 2016

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				
			[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]						
						[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]							
[REDACTED]							
[REDACTED]							
[REDACTED]							
[REDACTED]							
[REDACTED]							

Appendix 6 - Burma Economic Reform and ASEAN Integration Program

The US-ACTI Economic Reform and ASEAN Integration (US-ACTI-ERA) program seeks to accelerate inclusive, private-sector-led economic development in Burma, to build stronger U.S.-Burma economic relations and to facilitate integrating Burma into regional and international markets. Although the program must remain flexible to address opportunities for reform, it focuses on supporting legal and regulatory reforms, capacity building and training in the Government and private sector, and enhancing the effectiveness of policy dialogue between the Government and business and civil society. Its activities are driven by Burma's commitments to the ASEAN Economic Community, U.S.-ASEAN Expanded Economic Engagement and the U.S.-Burma Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), as well as broader international best practices where applicable.

This quarter, US-ACTI-ERA worked with the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Health's Food and Drug Administration to support improvements in Burma's economic governance. Key accomplishments included:

- Launched the website for the Burma Trade Portal and Trade Repository.
- Supported a drafting workshop on the second draft Law on Medical Devices.

Work Stream 2: Trade and Responsible Investment Reform and Facilitation

Burma moved forward to advance efforts to liberalize, streamline, and increase awareness of trade and responsible investment policies, and to develop processes and capacity to facilitate more effective implementation of such policies. It is stepping up its commitment to meet requirements in international treaties, including the WTO and AEC that will require a range of legal reforms and implementation capacities, many of which are not well known among government officials, parliament or the private sector.

US-ACTI-ERA focused on training in best practices for government and non-government officials involved with key trade and responsible investment policies and in developing processes and approaches that create a culture of transparency that will hopefully provide a foundation for more open policy making and access to information on policy implementation.

Support Development of the Myanmar Trade Portal: US-ACTI-ERA continued to support the Ministry of Commerce in developing the Myanmar Trade Portal and Trade Repository, two related priority initiatives to increase the transparency of trade procedures and regulations in Burma. Given the difficulty in Burma to find and understand procedures for exporting and importing goods, one of US-ACTI-ERA's highest priorities is to support the development of a Myanmar Trade Portal website as a breakthrough in transparency by making such information readily available to traders and the public.

In 2015, US-ACTI-ERA and the USAID-funded LUNA II project organized a study mission to Vientiane, Laos for 10 Burmese participants from the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) to better understand the development and operation of the Lao Trade Portal (LTP). USACTI-ERA's consultants custom-

ized the software trade portal software to be more effective in Burma and began the process of purchasing equipment for running the portal.

During last quarter, US-ACTI-ERA consultant, Steve Creskoff, worked with the Ministry of Commerce to prepare content materials and create flow charts and work on improving web design to move forward the building of a Myanmar Trade Portal and Trade Repository. This included an extended meeting with the web design team.

On May 26, the Burma Private Sector Development Activity supported the official launch of Myanmar Trade Portal and Trade Repository website, the development of which was primarily supported by US-ACTI-ERA, led by the Ministry of Commerce. It was opened by H.E. U Henry Van Thio, Vice President of Burma and H.E. Scot Marciel, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy. Ms. Win Min Phyo, Deputy Director, Department of Trade, gave a presentation of the key elements and functions of the National Trade Portal and Trade Repository before over 70 participants from a range of relevant government ministries. H.E. Dr. Than Myint, Minister of Commerce, gave closing remarks.

The launch of the Myanmar Trade Portal is a major step forward to increase transparency in general and to enhance trade facilitation in particular. The Portal breaks long-standing barriers to providing laws, regulations, processes and templates to the public in a fully accessible manner. The Private Sector Development Activity will continue to support the Ministry of Commerce in improving and updating the portal. No further work on the Trade Portal is planned under US-ACTI-ERA at this time.

Results

- Official launch of the Myanmar Trade Portal and Trade Repository Website.

Support Burma's Application of the ASEAN Directive on Medical Devices - ASEAN finalized its Directive on Medical Devices in late 2014, and Burma has agreed to implement it on a timely basis. This will require the development of a technical regulation on medical devices by Burma's Ministry of Health, in line with the ASEAN Directive. This will be the first detailed technical regulation developed in Burma and the regulation's development process be fully in line with the WTO-TBT Agreement and international best practices.

During this quarter, the Ministry of Health's Food and Development Administration (FDA) with the support of US-ACTI-ERA consultant, Michael Flood, continued to implement the AMDD in Burma. During his previous work, Mr. Flood reviewed the draft Law on Medical Devices noting that it had many strengths and provided a good general foundation for more detailed implementing regulations in line with the AMDD. But he also described in his report that several additional "enabling" articles should be added to the draft to cover all required processes needed to create a strong regulatory framework for the use of medical devices in Burma in line with the AMDD. A second draft of the Law was completed in early March 2016, including several new articles suggested by Mr. Flood. In June 2016, US-ACTI-ERA and the Private Sector Development Activity supported the Ministry of Health's Food and Drug Administration to supported a drafting meeting. Later this year the Private Sector Development Activity will support a stakeholders' consultation workshop in Rangoon to review the second draft and to provide stakeholder inputs. US-ACTI-ERA will not be providing any more support in this area. The activity will be taken over by the Private Sector Development Activity.

Results

- US-ACTI-ERA organized a stakeholder’s workshop to review the second draft Law on Medical Devices.

Economic Reform and Growth Dynamics Studies: The USAID Mission to Burma has asked US-ACTI-ERA to support a comprehensive series of studies of economic reform and growth dynamics in Burma, including economic, governance and political dynamics. The studies, as currently conceived, will systematically benchmark the current state of the economic and political environment and then assess the driving forces underpinning the dynamics of change in Burma over the next 5-10 years, concluding with the key issues constraining development and recommendations for reforms and capacity building needed to spur strong, inclusive growth. This exercise was the primary activity of US-ACTI-ERA for the past nine months.

During this quarter, US-ACTI-ERA consultants continued to work to finalize drafts of the papers, developing policy briefs around each paper, furthering consultation with stakeholders, and pulling together a summary economic reform paper for engagement with the new government. Specifically, Lynn Salinger returned to Burma to further coordinate the overall development of the paper series and complete the capstone paper while David Roland Holst furthered his work on macroeconomic scenarios and presented his work to a range of audiences. Vu Quoc Huy returned to Yangon to work with the team on the trade analysis, and John Arnold extended his work on logistics and transport. Papers on the macroeconomy and banking by Bruce Bolnick and Sean Turnell were formatted for publication while other papers were edited and readied for publication. The agriculture white paper prepared by a group of local agriculture experts that was supported by US-ACTI-ERA and the Private Sector Development Activity has been presented to the new government and is receiving significant attention. Through the Private Sector Development Activity five-hundred copies were published and are being distributed throughout the government and private sectors. Next quarter should see the final publication of a number of the papers.

Results

- Drafts of all papers except the macroeconomic modeling paper are complete and are in various stages of preparation for publication.

Next Steps

- Complete and publish the full set of studies and present them to USAID.

Work Stream 3: Small and Medium Enterprise Development

Return Visit to the Self Employed Women’s Association: In collaboration with the Private Sector Development Activity, US-ACTI-ERA is supporting a visit by Burmese women to India to learn more about India’s Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) and its activities. This follows up on a visit by SEWA to Burma earlier this year. Planning for the trip was completed this quarter with travelers scheduled to leave Yangon on 1 July. US-ACTI-ERA contracted with SEWA to organize this activity. The Private Sector Development Activity is covering all travel costs.