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# Quarterly Report

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

**April – June 2015**

# Quarterly Report

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

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# List of Abbreviations

ACTI	ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment
AHTN	ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature
AMS	ASEAN Member States
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASW	ASEAN Single Window
ERA	Economic Reform and ASEAN Integration Program
HS	Harmonized System
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ISO	International Standards Organization
IT	Information Technology
LWG	Legal Working Group
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NSW	National Single Window
PKI	Public Key Infrastructure
PLF	Protocol for the Legal Framework
RDMA	Regional Development Mission for Asia
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
T&I	Trade and Investment
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TWG	Technical Working Group
USABC	US-ASEAN Business Council
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
VPT	Virtual Project Team
WG	Working Group
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 increase economic engagement and cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). US-ACTI supports ASEAN in establishing the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in the areas of customs integration, 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 moves toward its goal to establish the ASEAN Economic Community and to deepen the ASEAN-U.S. economic relationship.

US-ACTI has established five work streams that Support ASEAN's efforts in the following areas:

- **ASEAN Single Window:** By establishing the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) and the contributing National Single Windows to electronically exchange trade transaction information, ASEAN is enabling accelerated cargo clearance and lowering trade costs. US-ACTI supports both 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, lowers costs, and boosts consumer confidence. US-ACTI supports efforts in standards harmonization, trade transparency, services liberalization, and investment facilitation in this area.
- **Small and Medium Enterprise Development:** ASEAN support for small and medium enterprise (SME) development encourages more inclusive economic growth. US-ACTI's support focuses on women and young entrepreneurs, particularly 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.
- **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.

**In the second calendar quarter of 2015,** US-ACTI's regional program accomplished the following major items:

- Completed the messaging guidelines and message structure for the exchange of certificates of origin under the ASW.
- Completed the “Protocol for the Legal Framework to Implement the ASW” Workshop in the Philippines.
- Conducted the Sub-Regional Medical Device Workshop in Vietnam and the In-Country Medical Device Workshop in the Philippines
- Completed drafts of the study on “Investment Provisions in ASEAN FTAs and Recommendations on Improvements” and the draft multi-year ASEAN investment facilitation work plan.
- Delivered two Advanced Training Workshops to support SME competitiveness in Ho Chi Minh and Bangkok.
- Launched the GREAT Women in ASEAN Initiative by bringing approximately 50 women SME owners to Kuala Lumpur for the ASEAN SME Showcase and Conference and Conducted GREAT Women in ASEAN Dialogue and the ASEAN SME Working Group – US Small Business Administration Roundtable on SMEs.
- Began the design and implementation of the ASEAN Online Academy platform.
- Completed the case study on the broadband TV White Space Pilot Project in Indonesia.

Under US-ACTI’s Economic Reform and ASEAN Integration program in Burma, the following activities were completed:

- Continued support in developing Burma’s national quality infrastructure, including two workshops promoting international best practices in the development of technical regulations.
- Launched support for Burma’s adoption of the ASEAN Medical Devices Directive that will simplify trade regulations for these key products.
- In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Commercial Law Development Program, supported the Ministry of Commerce in promoting consumer protection in Burma.
- In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Commercial Law Development Program, supported the Attorney General’s Office in promoting government procurement reform.
- Prepared a draft mapping of organizations supporting women’s economic empowerment in Burma.
- Supported the US ICT Council for Myanmar in a major workshop with the Government of Burma to promote ICT development in the country and facilitated greater collaboration between US and Burmese ICT firms.

# Status of Activities and Progress

This document summarizes the US-ACTI project's activities and progress during the second calendar quarter of 2015 (April through June) by Work Stream showing how these activities are fulfilling ASEAN's long-term objectives and generating results.

## Work Stream 1: ASEAN Single Window

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*The World Bank Doing Business Report 2015, published on 29 October 2014, reports that the average import clearance time in ASEAN improved slightly to 17.4 days but was still well below the global average.*

**The ASEAN Single Window (ASW)** is a central part 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 ex-

porting and importing countries.

The ASW consists of national electronic trade clearance systems, National Single Windows (NSWs), that will use a regional platform to exchange information on shipments and shippers. NSWs are now operational in six ASEAN Member States with NSWs under development or design 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 (soft launch ongoing)
Design	Cambodia, Laos
Pending	Burma

In 2014, intra-ASEAN trade totaled \$608 billion. The ASW will support accelerated imports and exports, improved enforcement of and compliance with regulations at the border, and reduced trade transaction costs. ASW will help to facilitate ASEAN's participation in global and regional supply chains using the ASW as an interface with trading partners' systems while potentially saving regional consumers billions of dollars through improved trade facilitation.

The value of trade between ASEAN and the United States is currently estimated at \$219 billion in 2014 to a region with GDP of over \$2.4 trillion. A more integrated ASEAN enhances U.S. business opportunities in Southeast Asia. ASEAN is enjoying a period of high growth and resilient economies. Foreign direct investment is pouring in, keen to capture the opportunity. The region attracted an estimated \$136 billion in foreign investment in 2014. ASEAN also has a strong manufacturing story, given that China is becoming increasingly expensive, and it has a strong and growing investment story in fixed assets such as infrastructure. In addition, foreign

companies are also attracted by the integration of ASEAN—the combination of 10 relatively small markets into one large one of 625 million people—through interventions such as the ASEAN Single Window and other features of the ASEAN Economic Community. By helping ASEAN to fully complete and operate the ASW, US-ACTI’s assistance will benefit all companies, whether from ASEAN or the United States, involved in import-export in Southeast Asia. In a rapidly integrating and growing region, such technical assistance has the potential to bolster U.S. investments and businesses while assisting ASEAN economies.

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

- Complete the basic ASW architecture and begin live operation by Q4 2015;
- 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 and working to establish the necessary legal environment for the ASW.

### **Development of the ASW Software System**

ASEAN is committed to commencing live operation of the ASW in 2015. US-ACTI is working with the ASW Steering Committee and its working groups to make this happen. US-ACTI has assisted the Working Group on Technical Matters for the ASW (TWG) in the design and now implementation of a work program to enable live operation by the end of 2015. The approach recognizes that not all ASEAN Member States (AMS) are prepared for live operation of the ASW. Moreover, even the AMS that are ready to exchange live data are only ready to do so for a limited number of trade forms. Thus US-ACTI has proposed and ASEAN has accepted a staged approach to the implementation of the ASW. Under this approach, the exchange-ready AMS will launch the ASW to exchange the ATIGA certificate of origin in 2015 while other AMS develop their NSWs. US-ACTI is working with all AMS to identify additional documents for exchange over the ASW beginning in 2016. Under this approach, it is expected that five AMS (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) will go live at the end of 2015 with two more AMS joining in the first half of 2016 (Brunei and the Philippines).

***Development of the ASW Environment:*** At the end of the first calendar quarter of 2015, US-ACTI hired Axway Pte. Ltd, Singapore, to design, develop, and implement the messaging software for the ASEAN Single Window. During this quarter Axway and US-ACTI worked with ASEAN Member States to complete the underlying ASW technical requirements, such as the revised XML schema for the ATIGA Form D, along with the message guidelines and process specifications. These documents will be used by ASEAN Member States in preparation for the August end-to-end testing phase.



An ASEAN Member State representative asks a question at the workshop on AMS readiness for the ASW.

In April, US-ACTI conducted a two-day AMS Readiness Workshop to support participating member states in reaching a common understanding on the planned enhancements and success indicators on the electronic ATIGA Form-D end-to-end process.

Additionally, Axway experts provided technical support to Mem-

ber States representatives attending the “Joint Workshop on OCP for e-ATIGA Form D” to finalize the ATIGA Operational Certification Procedures (OCP) to allow electronic exchange of ATIGA Form D. The scope of the different types of ATIGA Form D to be included for the testing phases, timing of the testing activities, and the acceptance criteria will be finalized during the 32<sup>nd</sup> TWG meeting in Manila on 7-10 July 2015.

**Public Key Infrastructure and Mutual Recognition of Digital Certificates:** Recognizing the importance of data security in the ASW platform, US-ACTI worked closely with the TWG to determine the best way to encrypt the system. Initially, the ASW will use standard internet encryption (https) but the RFP calls for the system to be designed to support the use of Public Key Infrastructure in the future as was decided through a series of workshops sponsored by US-ACTI. At the ASW 31<sup>st</sup> TWG Meeting in May 2015, US-ACTI provided Member States with a PKI requirement analysis paper, which provides a balanced analysis of which environment PKI for mutual recognition would be required. The PKI paper included the need for a mutual recognition agreement for the ASW PKI implementation, AMS challenges in implementing MRA for PKI, AMS readiness matrix for PKI implementation, and Axway’s PKI capability for secure cross-border exchange.

**ASW Expansion:** In September 2014, US-ACTI launched the Information Process Modeling (IPM) study for the ASW. This study aims to prepare the way for the addition of four priority forms to the ASW after live operation commences in 2015. The priority forms are: Ocean booking confirmation, Loading confirmation, Pre-departure cargo report, and Sanitary and phytosanitary certificates. A separate effort will be conducted to prepare for the exchange of export declaration information. Following workshop held in January, AMS have provided further input to the consultants on the proposed data elements of the priority forms and the consultants have prepared a revised proposal for both the data elements and the messaging guidelines for the priority documents for presentation at a workshop with the ASW TWG in early July.

**ASW Sustainability:** As part of the planning for live operation of the ASW, US-ACTI analyzed the ability of the ASEAN Secretariat to house the servers to be used for ASW regional services.

The study recommended that the servers not be hosted at the ASEAN Secretariat due to the inadequate level of infrastructure in the building. The ASW Steering Committee has agreed that the servers should be hosted in a data center in Indonesia. This quarter, US-ACTI submitted a revised “Assessment Study on the Viability of the ASEAN Secretariat to Host the ASW Servers” to the ASEAN Secretariat. It included three data center proposals for co-location and disaster recovery management services to Member States for their informed decision, which finally agreed to co-locate the ASW servers to data center providers.

### ***Results***

- Axway Pte. Ltd, Singapore developed proposals for the XML schema for the exchange of certificate of origin information and draft messaging guidelines for approval by the ASW TWG in July.
- US-ACTI conducted the two-day “AMS Readiness Workshop” in April 2015.
- US-ACTI provided Member States with a PKI requirement analysis paper, which provides a balanced analysis of which environment PKI for mutual recognition would be required.
- US-ACTI submitted a revised “Assessment Study on the Viability of the ASEAN Secretariat to Host the ASW Servers” to the ASEAN Secretariat.

### ***Next steps***

- Approval of the certificate of origin XML schema and messaging guidelines in July by the ASW TWG and the ASW Steering Committee.
- Launch end-to-end testing of the ASW messaging software in late August.
- The IPM consultants will come up with a preliminary ASEAN data set for the next four documents for a workshop in early July and then complete the XML schemas and messaging guidelines by the end of 2015.

### **Establishment of the ASW Legal and Regulatory Environment**

After the completion of the Protocol for the Legal Framework for the ASEAN Single Window (PLF) in 2014, US-ACTI has continued to support the Secretariat in its effort to have the PLF signed. Up to now nine of the ten AMS have signed and Vietnam is expected to sign the agreement shortly. US-ACTI is working with AMS to promote the adoption of necessary internal legal reforms to implement the PLF. US-ACTI is also supporting the Sub-committee on the ATIGA Rules of Origin (SC-AROO) to amend the Operational Certification Procedures (OCP) for the ATIGA certificate of origin to permit the electronic exchange of the certificate of origin through the ASW.

***Protocol for the Legal Framework:*** In June 2015, US-ACTI successfully conducted the “Protocol for the Legal Framework to Implement the ASW Workshop” in the Philippines for more than 70 participants from government and private sector. The goal of the workshop was to help the Philippines’ NSW participating actors understand the PLF supporting the Philippines in aligning their domestic laws with the ASW regional legal framework for the eventual ASW live operation in exchanging cross-border electronic messages.

*Operational Certification Procedures for the ATIGA Certificate of Origin:* ASEAN has been working for some time to modify the existing OCP to allow for the electronic exchange of certificates of origin through the ASW. US-ACTI has supported the SC-AROO at meetings in Vientiane and Siem Reap and in a joint meeting with the ASW TWG to better understand the changes needed the OCP to support the ASW. US-ACTI has provided a new approach to revising the OCP that minimizes the changes to the existing document but would permit the exchange of certificates under the ASW. This approach is gaining traction with SC-AROO and will be further explained in a joint meeting with the ASW TWG in July 2015. US-ACTI has been asked to provide additional support at the next SC-AROO meeting in Hanoi this October 2015. This assistance will help AMS finalize the OCP to allow acceptance of electronic ATIGA CO Form D.

### ***Results***

- US-ACTI completed the “Protocol for the Legal Framework to Implement the ASW” Workshop in Manila, Philippines in June 2015.

### ***Next steps***

- Continuing work with SC-AROO to support the adoption of a revised OCP in time to permit the live operation of the ASW by the end of 2015.
- Conduct PLF workshops with additional AMS as requested to support the implementation of the agreement.

## **Work Stream 2: Trade and Investment Facilitation**

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*With a population of over 620 million and a combined GDP of over \$2.4 trillion, ASEAN is the United State’s 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 three areas: Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, and Investment. 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.

In this reporting period, US-ACTI's Trade and Investment Facilitation work stream focused on medical device regulation, the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature, International Investment Agreements, and support for improving the ASEAN investment regime.

## Facilitating Trade in Goods

### A. Standards

***ASEAN Medical Device Directive (AMDD):*** US-ACTI's work on standards has focused on preparing ASEAN and its member states to adopt and then implement the ASEAN Medical Device Directive (AMDD), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the global medical devices industry. The AMDD has now been adopted. During this quarter, US-ACTI conducted the Sub-Regional Medical Device Workshop from 22-24 April 2015 in Hanoi, Vietnam and In-Country Medical Device Workshops for the Philippines from 15-19 June 2015.



*US-ACTI medical device consultant Michael Flood answers participant question in Vietnam.*

The sub-regional workshop in Vietnam brought together thirty-two (32) regulators from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam. The objective of the workshop was to enhance the capability of regulators from these countries in both the interpretation and implementation of the AMDD. The workshop was implemented in collaboration with US Department of Commerce, Ministry of Health of Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat, and representatives of private sector companies in the medical devices sector.

The Philippines in-country workshops were organized with the Food and Drug Administration of the Philippines and with the support of the USAID Philippines TRADE Project. The workshop for the regulators was attended by twenty medical device regulators and the industry workshop was attended by more than 120 participants. The cost of the industry workshop was borne by the participants. The workshop has helped to jump-start the implementation of the AMDD in the Philippines.



*Alfred Kwek leading part of the medical device directive training in the Philippines.*

## ***Results***

- US-ACTI conducted a Sub-Regional Medical Device Workshop for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam and an In-Country Medical Device Workshop for the Philippines to promote the implementation of the AMDD.

## ***Next steps***

- Support the Department of Commerce and the medical devices industry in the planned implementation of the medical devices curriculum under the 2015 work plan.
- Plan for transition toward reduced US-ACTI involvement in medical devices training in future years.
- Conducting a mapping exercise to identify key challenges facing Cambodia and Laos in implementing the AMDD.

## **B. Other Trade Facilitation Issues**

***ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN):*** The World Customs Organization Harmonized System (HS) Code for tariff classification is reviewed and revised every 5 years. The next version of the HS Code will be implemented in 2017. In line with this, the AHTN must be reviewed, revised and implemented before then. Previous USAID projects have assisted ASEAN in revising the AHTN as applied in 2007 and 2012. In that process, USAID helped to create significant regional capacity to revise the AHTN. US-ACTI is building on that regional capacity and providing far more limited support for the current revision by covering travel expenses but not LoE for an expert to participate in less than half of the meetings of the task force.

This quarter, US-ACTI provided technical support in the provision of an international customs classification expert to the 6<sup>th</sup> AHTN Task Force Meeting convened in Malaysia in May 2015. The AHTN Task Force has completed reviewing Chapters 1-84. However, there are still a few remaining items within these Chapters that will be resolved within the next two meetings of the Task Force. By the end of 2015, ASEAN will have completed the revisions to the AHTN so that member states can implement them by the beginning of 2017. US-ACTI has completed its support for the AHTN revision.

Additionally, US-ACTI conducted the ASEAN-US Workshop on OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators in Cambodia in May 2015. The goal of the workshop was to convince ASEAN to adopt the OECD indicators for use in tracking the effectiveness of ASEAN trade facilitation measures. The workshop was attended by 31 representatives from all AMS except Burma. During the workshop the OECD explained the indicators that they have developed and the participants actively questioned the team on the details of their work and how it might fit in with ASEAN's own goals.

## ***Results***

- US-ACTI provided support to the 6<sup>th</sup> AHTN Taskforce Meeting in May 2015.
- Conducted the ASEAN-US Workshop on OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators in May 2015.

### ***Next Steps***

- US-ACTI will explore with ASEAN and OECD Secretariat on further collaboration in trade facilitation work.

### **Trade in Services**

No work was done on trade in services in this quarter.

### ***Results***

- None

### ***Next Steps***

- US-ACTI will launch the study on ASEAN Services Liberalization beyond 2015 that was completed in a previous quarter.

### **Investment Facilitation**

#### ***Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI)***

**Study on Investment Provisions in ASEAN FTAs:** With the consolidation of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, it can be expected that foreign investors will seek clarification from the ASEAN CCI on the relationship between the investment provisions of ASEAN-FTAs versus investments provisions in the bilateral investment treaties of each ASEAN Member States. To date, there has been little guidance on this matter, whether from the ASEAN Secretariat or from independent academic work. To address this, this quarter US-ACTI completed the initial draft of the study on “Investment Provisions in ASEAN FTAs and Recommendations for Improvements.”

The Study on Investment Provisions in ASEAN FTAs highlights three areas that are of immediate significance to the task of monitoring and implementing ASEAN’s regional investment treaties. The three areas are: i) public policy provisions within treaties that will necessitate more transparency and information coordination among the ASEAN Member States; ii) possible inconsistencies among the ASEAN regional investment treaties and individual ASEAN Member State bilateral investment treaties (BIT) or free trade agreements (FTAs); and iii) immediate actions necessary for the proper discharge of the monitoring, coordination and implementation functions of the ASEAN CCI. The study was presented to the CCI in June 2015 and the final version is being edited and will be submitted to the CCI next quarter.

**Draft Multi-Year Investment Work Plan:** In order to make ASEAN more attractive for investment, ASEAN Member States signed the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA) in 2012. At the international level, several multilateral organizations have active programs in support of strengthening facilitation practices as a part of broader investment promotion policies. Based on this work, AMS are interested in developing an ASEAN work plan on investment facilitation. This quarter, US-ACTI completed the initial draft of the Multi-Year Investment Work Plan for ASEAN CCI and presented it to the CCI in June 2015.

The study proposed that the ASEAN Investment Facilitation Work Plan 2016-2020 focus on the last two pillars of the ACIA: Facilitation and Promotion. For facilitation, the study proposes projects throughout the 5 years to sustain the continuous simplification and streamlining of administrative measures involving investment-related processes. Activities to support promotion are focused in the period from 2016 to 2018. The proposal includes adoption of smart regulation; ASEAN One-Stop Investment Center; ASEAN Investment Advisory Hub; and creation ASEAN Fund for Strategic Investments. During the last leg of the Work Plan, 2019-2020, it is proposed that the CCI begin a process to set viable ambitions for the following work program. The finalized version of the study is being edited and will be submitted to the CCI next quarter.

### **Results**

- US-ACTI has completed and presented the study on “Investment Provisions in ASEAN FTAs and Recommendations on Improvements” and the draft multi-year ASEAN investment facilitation work plan in June 2015.

### **Next Steps**

- Final editing of the “Investment Provisions in ASEAN FTAs and Recommendations on Improvements” and the draft multi-year ASEAN investment facilitation work plan and formal submission to the CCI next quarter.
- US-ACTI will identify activities within the multi-year work plan that can be included in future US-ACTI work plans.

## **Work Stream 3: SME Development**

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US-ACTI’s SME support activities aim 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 2010-2015 and in close collaboration with the ASEAN SME Working Group, US-ACTI’s SME support is focused on:

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

- Access to regional and international markets;
- Access to information, including improvement in IT skills; and
- Access to finance;

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. The Business Alliance will use training programs, mentorship opportunities, and cloud technology to support SMEs. US-ACTI is implementing USAID’s contribution to the Business Alliance.

During this quarter US-ACTI has focused on seminars to increase access to markets and access to information and technology tools through the implementation of the ASEAN Online SME Academy.

### **Access to Regional and International Markets**

As previously mentioned, the US-ASEAN Business Alliance is co-implemented by the USAID and US-ASEAN Business Council through its ASEAN Committee. US-ABC corporate participants offering expertise and/or financial support for Business Alliance activities so far included P&G, UPS, HP, Microsoft, Baker & McKenzie, Citibank, eBay, FedEx, Google, IBM, MasterCard, Motorola, Nike, PayPal, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Qualcomm, Seagate, and VISA. Several more corporate partners are expected to provide support for the activities.

A key component of the Business Alliance is the provision of information, training and mentoring services to develop ASEAN SMEs’ capacity to participate in inter-firm linkages and strategic supplier partnerships and, opportunities permitting, to integrate into U.S., regional and global supply chains. To this end, the Business Alliance is implementing a three-step program. The first step was to organize large workshops to transfer information, knowledge, and skills from MNCs to SMEs. This quarter, US-ACTI worked with the Business Alliance to begin transitioning to

more advanced sector-specific trainings.



Figure 1A participant asks a question at the garment and footwear workshop in Vietnam.

***U.S.-ASEAN Business Alliance – Advanced Training Workshop on Supply Chain Readiness – Garment and Footwear Sectors:*** This was US-ACTI’s first sectorally-focused workshop for SMEs under the US-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive SMEs. This workshop aimed to foster and expand ASEAN SMEs’ basic skills and capabilities to access external markets and to par-

ticipate in inter-firm linkages and strategic supplier partnerships and, opportunities permitting, to integrate into the U.S. and the regional and global supply chains in the garment and footwear sectors.

The 84 workshop participants included 65 SMEs, 46 of which are in the footwear sector. Many technical challenges have to be managed and overcome by SMEs in CLMV in if they are to move up the value-added ladder in footwear and garments. The current practices in these sectors have evolved well beyond strict compliance to key supply-chain performance indicators. Issues of eco-sustainability, health and safety of and in input uses, and especially constant product and process innovation have pushed the industries to new development frontiers. US-ACTI and the Business Alliance are reviewing the outcome of the workshop and the skills gained by participants to further refine the sector-focused model for future activities.



*A representative of Seagate offers advice to an SME owner at the electronics sector training in Thailand*

***U.S.-ASEAN Business Alliance – Supply Chain Readiness Training – Electronics Sector:***

This workshop was aimed to foster and expand ASEAN SMEs’ basic skills and capabilities to access external markets and to participate in inter-firm linkages and strategic supplier partnerships and, opportunities permitting, to integrate into the U.S. and the regional and global supply chains in the electronics sector.

Fifty-one (51) participants from 32 electronics-related companies plus nearly 50

speakers, company representatives, and resource persons from UPS, Seagate, the Office of SMEs Promotion in Thailand, US-ABC and US-ACTI attended the workshop. The workshop was the most interactive of all of US-ACTI’s event due to the presence of a large number of speakers and resources persons.

***GREAT Women in ASEAN Initiative:***

As part of US-ACTI’s efforts to promote women’s entrepreneurship through the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs’ Network (AWEN), US-ACTI began working with a group from the Philippines in late 2014 to explore replication of the GREAT Women initiative, initially in CLMV and then beyond to other AMS as well. The purpose of this initiative is to provide improved marketing opportunities as well as brand-



*Former Malaysia Deputy Prime Minister, YAB Tan Sri Dato’ Muhyiddin Yassin (center), with U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN, Ms. Nina Hachigian (right) officially launch the GREAT Women in ASEAN Initiative in Kuala Lumpur.*

ing and intellectual property right protection to a core and expanding group of women entrepreneurs.

This quarter US-ACTI supported a series of follow-up activities in the development and regionalization of the GREAT Women in ASEAN initiative in line with the discussion and agreements at the Business Alliance Meeting on GREAT Women—ASEAN Collection convened in Bangkok in March 2015. The premiere event was the launching by U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN Nina Hachigian of the four ASEAN Collection's core product groups during the ASEAN SME Showcase and Conference (ASSC) 2015 which was held in Malaysia in May 2015. In addition to the launch, US-ACTI supported the GREAT Women panel dialogue and the ASEAN SME Working Group – US Small Business Administration Roundtable on SMEs at the ASSC.

The GREAT Women in ASEAN Dialogue was attended by 104 participants, mostly women entrepreneurs and representatives of a variety of women-related organizations in Malaysia. The discussion among the Malaysian stakeholders was constructive and proactive in future collaboration. In particular, the Women Entrepreneur Network Association Malaysia (WENA), as the focal point of ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network, will be the focal contact in organizing the stakeholder meeting for the replication in Malaysia of the GREAT Women in ASEAN initiative. Malaysia will therefore be the pilot country for the replication exercise. In addition, the timeline for showcasing the products of the GREAT Women in Malaysia together with those of other ASEAN countries will be at the Women Entrepreneurs Conference and trade fair in November 2015. Through the US-ACTI support and facilitation of the above activities, collaborations among women entrepreneurs in ASEAN have expanded. As a result, the women entrepreneurs from Philippines and Malaysia have formed a strategic alliance commercially to expand



Figure 2 Ambassador Nina Hachigian speaking on women's economic empowerment at the GREAT Women in ASEAN Dialogue.

the GREAT Women Brand in those product groups. This achievement would not have been possible without the foundation laid by US-ACTI in its effort to promote greater gender equality in business, women entrepreneurs' participation in the ASEAN integration, and ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network activities.

The ASEAN SME Working Group – US Small Business Administration Roundtable on SMEs was conducted during the ASEAN SME Showcase and Conference. The discussion at the Roundtable was informative and interactive. The exchange of views covered four issues as stated in the agenda – namely (i) industry clustering, (ii) helping start-up through alternative financing, (iii) e-learning, and (iv) participation of women in business. The Roundtable was attended by the representatives of SMEWG from Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore and from the ASEAN Secretariat, USAID and US-ACTI.

## ***Results***

- US-ACTI and the Business Alliance successfully conducted two workshops to support SME competitiveness in Ho Chi Minh and Bangkok.
- Women entrepreneurs from Philippines and Malaysia have formed a strategic business alliance in promoting the GREAT Women Brand. US-ACTI conducted the GREAT Women in ASEAN Dialogue and the ASEAN SME Working Group – US Small Business Administration Roundtable on SMEs during the ASEAN SME Showcase and Conference in Malaysia in May 2015.

## **Next Steps**

- US-ACTI will use participant feedback to identify issues and priorities for future programming to target the needs of SME exporters in specific markets, as well as to identify SMEs that are ready to participate in more advanced training on supply-chain linkages.
- Development of a multi-sector work plan in support of the GREAT Women in ASEAN initiative.

## **Access to Information**

***ASEAN Online SME Academy:*** Last year, US-ACTI launched its effort to develop an online resource to support SME development in the region under the umbrella of the Business Alliance. In this quarter, US-ACTI continued the development and design of the ASEAN On-line SME Academy and moved forward with plans for its launch in August 2015.

Discussions with US-ABC members regarding the planned ASEAN Online SME Academy have resulted in offers of technology and content support. The final documents on Academy Vision and Scope, and Functional Specifications were shared with US-ABC and its corporate members. The catalogue of topics and contents is being compiled by the US-ABC. A number of US-ABC corporate members have offered to contribute contents for the Academy. For example, Microsoft has offered the Enhancing ICT Skills of Small Medium Enterprises in ASEAN curriculum project to the Academy while Baker & McKenzie will provide the legal-related contents. IBM has expressed interest in contributing resources from their existing SME Toolkit. These contributions build upon the generous launch offer of access to HP Life from Hewlett Packard. During the quarter, US-ACTI hired a US-based company to design and implement the Academy platform. The draft mock-up of the Academy home page for desktop and mobile viewing was sent by US-ACTI through the ASEAN Secretariat to the ASEAN SME Working Group with a request for comments and suggestions, especially with regard to its look and feel. Meanwhile, US-ACTI has been working with the developer to complete the Academy in time for a November launch.

## ***Results***

- None

### *Next Steps*

- The platform will be completed by November for launch during the ASEAN Summit.

### **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.

During this quarter, USAID and the ASEAN Business Club (ABC) signed an MoU to launch a public-private partnership to identify actionable solutions to the problem of SME access to finance on a regional level. US-ACTI developed the concept and will implement the partnership for USAID. Working with the ASEAN SME Working Group and the ASEAN Working Committee on Financial Inclusion, US-ACTI and ABC will 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. The grant competition program will be launched next quarter.

### ***Results***

- USAID and the ASEAN Business Club signed a MoU to cooperate to improve SME access to finance in the region.

### ***Next Steps***

- US-ACTI will continue working with the ASEAN Business Club to implement the proposed research grant program.
- US-ACTI is providing input to the ASEAN Secretariat for the establishment of the ASEAN Working Group on Financial Inclusion.

## **Work Stream 4: Energy**

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*ASEAN energy use per capita has increased by nearly 35% over the past 10 years*

While ASEAN strives towards accelerating the consolidation of an ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015, it is important to ensure that development is sustainable through, among others, mitigating greenhouse gas emission. ASEAN has emphasized the

need to strengthen energy efficiency, renewable energy development, such as bio-fuels, and promote open trade, facilitation and cooperation in the renewable and clean energy sector and

related industries as well as investment in the requisite infrastructure for clean power development.

ASEAN-U.S. energy cooperation aims to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies in the region. To this end, US-ACTI, working closely with the Department of Energy, supports implementation of the U.S.-ASEAN Energy Cooperation Work Plan 2012-2014 and ASEAN institutional capacity-building.

In this reporting period, US-ACTI worked to finalize the tool to examine the impact of climate change and hydropower projects.

### **Renewable and Clean Energy**

***Study Impact of Climate Change on Hydropower:*** At the request of ASEAN, the Study of Potential Climate Change Impacts on Hydropower and Policy Implications was conducted and completed by March 2015 when the Study was presented to the 22nd RE-SSN meeting in Yangon, Myanmar. Prior to the presentation, 3 pilot assessments on HPPs in the Philippines, Vietnam and Lao PDR were also conducted. The results of the pilot tests and the application of the assessment framework from the Philippines and Vietnam were presented in a workshop in Myanmar.

During the workshop, participants indicated their interest in being trained on the Framework, in order to raise their own awareness of the climate risks. The stakeholders who participated in the application and training workshop identified several key additional functionalities that the Framework could incorporate that would benefit users of the screening tool. This quarter US-ACTI is finalizing the paper.

In addition, as an outcome of the RE-SSN meeting mentioned above, the ASEAN Centre for Energy requested that US-ACTI conduct additional analyses of hydropower projects in other countries. During this quarter, US-ACTI prepared to conduct two more climate change impact assessment on HPPs in Thailand and Malaysia. They will be completed next quarter.

### ***Results***

- None

### ***Next Steps***

- Conduct two more assessments in Malaysia and Thailand
- Dissemination of the final study and the assessment framework to ASEAN member states

## Work Stream 5: ICT and Development

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In support of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan, 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.

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

US-ACTI is focusing its support on expanding broadband access in underserved areas, particularly rural areas. Support will be provided to address technical and financial issues. This quarter, US-ACTI attended the Telecommunications Senior Officials Meeting Joint Working Group meeting in Rangoon and presented the proposed 2015 work program. This work program was endorsed by the working group. Work also continued on the case study of the Indonesia pilot program for the use of TV white space technology.

### **Increasing Broadband Access**

#### ***Study of the Indonesian Pilot of the Use of TV White Space for Broadband Access:***

Providing broadband access in rural areas has traditionally been difficult and costly. One innovative solution to this problem is to use underutilized parts of the radio spectrum, in this case ultra high frequency television frequencies, to transmit data long distances at low cost. The technology to do this is relatively new but has been pilot tested in a number of countries around the world, including the Philippines. Indonesia is implementing its own TV White Space pilot with assistance from the USAID Global Broadband Initiative and Microsoft, among other organizations. During the quarter US-ACTI completed the evaluation of the Indonesia pilot. The pilot found that the benefits of accrued by the private sector, schools, and health units substantially exceeded the cost of the program.

The study will be used as part of a workshop on TV White Space for the TELSOM in the next quarter.

#### ***Results***

- The TV White Space study was completed and turned in to USAID and ASEAN.

#### ***Next steps***

- Implement a seminar on TV white space and other broadband technologies.

# Implementation Issues and Recommendations

In the last quarterly report, it was noted that US-ACTI needed additional staff to effectively implement the SME work stream. These staff were hired this quarter and have allowed the project to accelerate the work in that work stream. The project also hired an IT specialist to support the office and major IT activities. As those activities wind down, US-ACTI will evaluate the need to continue employing a full-time IT specialist.

No new implementation issues have arisen this quarter.

# **Appendix 1 – M&E Indicator Reporting**

## Annual Reporting

Indicators	FY14 Target	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 YTD Actual	FY15 Q1 Actual	FY15 Q2 Actual	FY15 Q3 Actual	Comments
<b>Work Stream 1: ASEAN Single Window</b>								
<b>Indicator OC1:</b> Number of guidelines, policies, or directives adopted by ASEAN reflecting ACTI inputs (custom)	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	Expected changes in ASW documentation were delayed. At least one will be completed in FY15 Q4.
<b>Indicator OC2:</b> Number of AMS implementing guidelines, policies, or directives reflecting ACTI inputs (custom)	2	0	10	0	0	0	0	Delays in OC1 have resulted in delays of OC2.
Indicator 1.1.1: Number of AMS participating in the ASW (custom)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Assume ASW operational by late 2015
Indicator 1.1.2: Number of messages transmitted over the ASW (custom)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Assume ASW operational by late 2015
Indicator 1.2.1: Number of AMS integrating ASW data into risk management systems (custom)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Assume ASW operational by late 2015
<b>Work Stream 2: Trade and Investment Facilitation</b>								
<b>Indicator OC1:</b> Number of guidelines, policies, or directives adopted by ASEAN reflecting ACTI inputs (custom)	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	Medical Device Directives adopted

Indicators	FY14 Target	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 YTD Actual	FY15 Q1 Actual	FY15 Q2 Actual	FY15 Q3 Actual	Comments
<b>Indicator OC2:</b> Number of AMS implementing guidelines, policies, or directives reflecting ACTI inputs (custom)	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	
<b>Indicator OT3:</b> Number of completed activities implementing agreed U.S.-ASEAN work programs and objectives (custom)	6	7	5	5	2	1	2	Q1: 1. Workshop on Medical Device 2. Trade in Services Workshops Q2: 1. Workshop on Medical Devices Q3: 1. Workshops on Medical Devices in Hanoi and the Philippines
<b>Work Stream 3: Small and Medium Enterprises</b>								
Indicator 3.1.1: Number of women entrepreneurs obtaining investors or financial services from financial institutions participating in ACTI activities (custom)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Activity will begin in FY2016
Indicator 3.1.2: Number of SME owners and SME enablers receiving BDS training (custom)	Total: 400	Total: 1,008	Total: 500	Total: 78	Total: 78	Total: 0	Total: 0	Multiple events will be held in FY15 Q4
	Female: 200	Female: 657	Female: 250	Female: 62	Female: 62	Female: 0	Female: 0	
Indicator 3.1.3: Number of individuals completing ASEAN Online	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Activity will begin in early FY2016

Indicators	FY14 Target	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 YTD Actual	FY15 Q1 Actual	FY15 Q2 Actual	FY15 Q3 Actual	Comments
Academy courses (custom)								
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: 812	Total: 600	Total: 554	Total: 0	Total: 440	Total: 114	On track
	Female: 300	Female: 412	Female: 300	Female: 300	Female: 0	Female: 248	Female: 52	
<b>Work Stream 4: Energy</b>								
<b>Indicator OT3:</b> Number of completed activities implementing agreed U.S.-ASEAN work programs and objectives (custom)	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	Additional studies on the impact of climate change on hydropower plants delayed to FY16 Q1.
<b>Work Stream 4: ICT</b>								
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	0	0	0	0	Two workshops are planned for FY15 Q4.

Indicators	Work Stream	FY14 Target	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 YTD Actual	FY15 Q1 Actual	FY15 Q2 Actual	FY15 Q3 Actual	Comments
<b>Crosscutting Indicators Applicable to All Work Streams</b>									
<b>Indicator OT1:</b> Person hours of training in trade and investment capacity building supported by U.S. government assistance (Foreign Assistance F standard indicator 4.2.1–19)	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,660</b>	<b>17,452</b>	<b>19,560</b>	<b>11,724</b>	<b>5,310</b>	<b>4,482</b>	<b>1,932</b>	Will likely fall short of target. Some major activities were postponed
	ASW	700	672	800	840	408	432	0	
	T&I	7,000	5,250	7,000	3,858	2,610	0	1,248	
	SME	3,600	12,400	10,800	6,852	2,292	3,876	684	
	Energy	360	216	360	174	0	174	0	No activity in FY15 Q3
	ICT	0	0	600	0	0	0	0	No activity in FY15 Q3
<b>Indicator OT2:</b> Percentage of workshop or training participants whose capacity has increased as a result of ACTI training/workshops (custom)	<b>Average</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>63%</b>	ACTI is reviewing its training programs to better target improved capacity
	ASW	80%	84%	80%	63%	85%	40%	N/A	
	T&I	80%	89%	80%	88%	91%	N/A	84%	No activity in FY15 Q2
	SME	80%	89%	80%	70%	82%	86%	41%	
	Energy	80%	93%	80%	47%	N/A	47%	N/A	No activity in FY15

Indicators	Work Stream	FY14 Target	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 YTD Actual	FY15 Q1 Actual	FY15 Q2 Actual	FY15 Q3 Actual	Comments
									Q1 and Q3
	ICT	80%	N/A	80%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No activity in FY15 Q1, Q2 and Q3
<b>Indicator IT1:</b> Number of days of technical assistance (TA) on trade and investment environment provided to counterparts or stakeholders (Foreign Assistance F standard indicator 4.2.1–20)	<b>Total</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>1108</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>403</b>	ACTI under estimated available inputs in the SME, energy, and ICT activities for FY15. Future targets will need to be revised.
	ASW	340	486	340	280	113	86	81	
	T&I	250	314	300	208	89	48	71	
	SME	250	369	250	468	121	156	191	
	Energy	50	52	50	81	38	15	28	
	ICT	50	84	50	71	14	25	32	
<b>Indicator IT2:</b> Number of studies completed on trade and investment related issues (custom)	<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	4	
	ASW	6	2	6	1	0	1	0	FY15 Q2: Cambodia Legal Gap Analysis. Information Process Modeling report delayed to FY15 Q4 or FY16 Q1.
	T&I	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	FY15 Q3: ASEAN Multit-year Investment Facilitation

Indicators	Work Stream	FY14 Target	FY14 Actual	FY15 Target	FY15 YTD Actual	FY15 Q1 Actual	FY15 Q2 Actual	FY15 Q3 Actual	Comments
									Work Plan, ASEAN CCI Study
	SME	4	5	2	2	2	0	0	FY15 Q1: 1. Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Mainstreaming – Post-2015 Policy in ASEAN: Part 1. 2. Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Mainstreaming – Post-2015 Policy in ASEAN: Part 2.
	Energy	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	FY15 Q3: ASEAN Hydropower Study
	ICT	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	FY15 Q3: Case Study on TV White Space in Indonesia

## Appendix 2 – Overall Project Reference Indices

Indicators	Baseline (October 2013)	October 2014
<b>Reference Index 1:</b> Overall Project Reference -Ranking of the ASEAN Member States in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business index (Source: World Bank Doing Business 2014 and 2015)	Avg. ASEAN Rankings 2013 - 2014: <b>88.9/189 countries</b>  CLMV: <b>144.3/189 countries</b>	Avg. ASEAN Rankings 2014 - 2015: <b>89.3/189 countries</b>  CLMV: <b>134.5/189 countries</b>
<b>Reference Index 2:</b> ASW – World Bank Doing Business “Time to import” indicator (Source: World Bank Doing Business 2014 and 2015)	Avg. Time to Import: <b>17.5 days</b>  CLMV: <b>24.5 days</b>	Avg. Time to Import: <b>17.4 days</b>  CLMV: <b>23.3 days</b>
<b>Reference Index 3:</b> Trade and Investment (Source: ASEAN Community in Figures – Special Edition, ASEAN Statistics)		
a. ASEAN total volume of trade	(US\$ billion 2012) <b>\$2,476.4</b>	(US\$ million 2013) <b>\$2,511.5</b>
b. ASEAN Foreign Direct Investment	(US\$ billion for 2012) <b>\$114.3</b>	(US\$ billion for 2013) \$122.4
<b>Reference Index 4:</b> Energy –Total Primary Energy Supply/Real GDP	<b>0.457</b> toe/1000 2005 USD 2012 <sup>1</sup>	<b>0.442</b> toe/1000 2005 USD 2013 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Reference Index 5:</b> Fixed and Wireless Broadband Subscriptions per 100 population	<b>21.3</b> per 100 population 2012 <sup>3</sup>	<b>29.8</b> per 100 population 2013 <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Key World Energy Statistics, as of 2013 by International Energy Agency. (Data exclude Lao PDR as it is not listed by IEA)

<sup>2</sup> Key World Energy Statistics, as of 2014 by International Energy Agency. (Data exclude Lao PDR)

<sup>3</sup> International Telecommunications Union Data as of April 2014

<sup>4</sup> International Telecommunications Union Data as of October 2014



## **Appendix 3 – Success Story**

## **Building Common Understanding to Prepare for ASEAN Single Window Launch**

As Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) leaders envisioned an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) that is globally integrated and a competitive economic region, they needed a tool that could be used by all its member nations that would improve the process of conducting trade. One of the most important tools to support the AEC is the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), an electronic platform that allows trade, transport, and commercial data and documents to be exchanged electronically among government agencies or the trading community to support a faster process of cargo clearance. Electronic cross-border data exchange through ASW, as a regional mechanism, complements data submission and processing through a National Single Window and potentially provides the missing link to efficient supply chain management.

The implementation of the ASW will improve current trade practices and thus benefit the trading community. The ASW will accelerate the release of cargo and reduce trade transaction costs and times to facilitate the free flow of goods. The ASW will also improve coordination and partnership among custom administration and other government agencies.

With an estimated \$200 billion in trade between the United States and ASEAN, ASEAN remains to be one of the U.S.'s largest trading partners. US companies as well as regional traders have a significant interest in ASEAN's efforts to promote trade facilitation.

The U.S. Government-funded ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (US-ACTI) is providing support for the establishment and the launch of the ASW. The launch the ASW by the end of 2015 is a major milestone in ASEAN's program to establish national single windows in member states and then connect them through the ASW. In the years prior to the start of US-ACTI in 2013, as part of the ASW program seven ASEAN Member States, primarily with their own funds, developed their national single windows which have improved coordination of cargo clearance at the national level. The U.S. government has focused its support on coordinating the regional sharing of trade transaction information through the ASW. The previous ASEAN Single Window Project supported the design of the ASW messaging system and a limited pilot implementation while also working with ASEAN Member States to lay the legal foundation for the ASW.

By way of background, while designed to support the exchange of any type of trade information, the ASW will start with the exchange of electronic ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATI-GA) Form D Certificate of Origin among exchange ready ASEAN Member States. Preferential Certificates of Origin allow goods from the originating country to benefit from reduced duties under trade agreements and arrangements, such as the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement. While ASEAN Member States have been exchanging these documents in hard copy for many years, exchanging them in electronic form requires that there be agreement on many procedures that had traditionally been left to the discretion of individual Member States. For instance, there needed to be an agreement as to how an existing certificate could be amended or rescinded. Moreover, once this data is exchanged electronically, it must be integrated into Customs systems.

US-ACTI is building on the foundation laid by the ASW Project. The legal basis for the ASW has now been finalized through the adoption of the Protocol for the Legal Framework for the Implementation of the ASW which was adopted in late 2014 and will be fully ratified in time for the live operation of the ASW in 2015. Further in the legal area, US-ACTI is supporting the Sub-committee on ATIGA Rules of Origin (SC-AROO) in its effort to amend the official rules for the recognition of regional certificates of origin to permit the use of electronic certificates.

To facilitate that effort and to ensure that there was a common understanding of the types of messages that will need to be exchanged by the NSWs and the ASW to fully implement the electronic exchange of certificates of origins, US-ACTI sponsored a workshop on exchanging the certificates of origin. Attended by more than 20 government officials, the workshop featured a panel of expert consultants, each with specific expertise in areas including Single Window, paperless trade, multi-platform and diverse integration, and cross border IT projects. The speakers presented their view on the electronic ATIGA Form D business process, flows, acknowledgements and schemas, based on current, and planned capabilities and preferences of each participating AMS, and summarized AMS capabilities and enhancements required, including key milestones. Based on the consultant's report and input from ASEAN Member States, US-ACTI prepared a revised XML schema, the format for the electronic data, and a detailed messaging guidelines for adoption and then implementation by all Member States. These recommendations were then reviewed, revised and adopted by the ASEAN Single Window Technical Working Group. Moreover, these recommendations will form the basis for the revisions to the regional regulation for recognizing the validity of electronic certificates of origin.

One of the biggest challenges discovered through the workshop and subsequent discussion with ASEAN Member States was that no participating AMS had a Customs system that could utilize and process the e-ATIGA Form D. Participating Member States will have to enhance their system to enable them to handle the agreed e-ATIGA Form D process and information elements. Participating Member States, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, have now made those enhancements in time for the start of testing of the ASW messaging system.

Despite many challenges that lay ahead for the ASW launch at the end of this year, the preparatory workshop and the follow up of the ASEAN Member States forging a common understanding and agreement on the business process flow and underlying technical fundamentals to for the exchange of the certificate of origin bring them one step closer to a functional ASW that supports the vision of an integrated ASEAN Economic Community.

# Appendix 4 - 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.

Over this quarter, US-ACTI-ERA worked with the Ministry of Commerce, the Union Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Health's Food and Drug Administration, and the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology to support improvements in Burma's economic governance. Key accomplishments included:

- Continued support in developing Burma's national quality infrastructure, including two workshops promoting international best practices in the development of technical regulations.
- Launched support for Burma's adoption of the ASEAN Medical Devices Directive that will simplify trade regulations for these key products.
- In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program, supported the Ministry of Commerce in promoting consumer protection in Burma.
- In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program, supported the Attorney General's Office in promoting government procurement reform.
- Prepared a draft mapping of organizations supporting women's economic empowerment in Burma.
- Supported the US ICT Council for Myanmar in a major workshop with the Government of Burma to promote ICT development in the country and facilitated greater collaboration between US and Burmese ICT firms.

## **Work Stream 1: The National Single Window and Technical Assistance to Customs**

The Department of Customs leads the development of Burma's National Single Window (NSW) and the integration of the NSW into the ASEAN Single Window (ASW). The NSW is being developed as part of the automation of the customs clearance system (Burma Automated Customs

Clearance System, or MACCS), with major support from JICA and Japan's Customs Office. The current Government plan is for the design phase of MACCS to be completed by the end of 2015, with pilot implementation during the first six months of 2016 moving into full implementation into 2017. MACCS will initially be applied to checkpoints in Rangoon and the nearby Japanese-developed Thilawa economic zone. MACCS will include software that will allow implementation of the NSW, but the Japanese project will not support automation, streamlining, or training for implementing nontariff measures applied to trade at the border by other government agencies outside of Customs nor provide support to extend MACCS to border checkpoints beyond of Rangoon and Thilawa.

No work was completed in this area in this quarter.

### ***Results***

- None

### ***Next Steps***

- Provide follow-up TA to support legislative reforms by Customs.

## **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. While progress has been made, newly approved legislation and improvements in practice were slower than many expected – a number of draft legislative reforms were developed in 2014 but not yet approved by the Government nor Parliament.

US-ACTI-ERA in this work stream focuses on training about best practices for government and non-government officials involved with key trade and responsible investment policies, and on developing processes and approaches (including webpages) that create a culture of transparency that will hopefully provide a foundation well into the future 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.

At the end of last quarter, US-ACTI-ERA with support from the USAID-funded LUNA II project and the Lao Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) began a week-long study mission to Vientiane, Laos for 10 Burmese participants led by the Director General of Trade in the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) to better understand the development and operation of the Lao Trade Portal (LTP).

This quarter to follow up on the study mission, USACTI-ERA met with the Ministry of Commerce to move forward key next steps on developing the Burma Trade Portal and Trade Repository, including plans for customizing the software to be more effective in Burma and plans for the purchase of equipment for running the Portal. Additionally, US-ACTI-ERA worked to finalize scopes of work for software customization service for Myanmar Trade Portal.

### ***Results***

- None

### ***Next Steps***

- Customize the MTP software and purchase equipment
- Begin to populate the MTP database

**Economic Reform and Inclusive Growth Dynamics Studies** – The USAID-Burma mission has asked US-ACTI-ERA to support a comprehensive series of studies of economic reform and inclusive 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 will be the primary activity of US-ACTI-ERA for the rest of 2015 and the beginning of 2016.

During this quarter, US-ACTI-ERA brought three consultants on board to begin work on the studies. The lead consultant for the overall exercise will be Ms. Lynn Salinger, who has a strong background on labor and agriculture issues and who will prepare a study on labor. She is joined by Sean Turnell, who will prepare a study on the financial sector, and Jarred Bissinger, who will prepare a study on local economic governance in Burma. US-ACTI-ERA also conducted several meetings with experts on the legal/judicial and the ICT sectors impact on development in Burma, furthered development of the approach for the studies, and planned for a series of meetings in Boston, Washington and the Bay Area with relevant experts on economic and political development issues for Burma. Additional experts in macroeconomics, trade, investment, and economic modeling will be added, among others.

## ***Results***

- None

## ***Next Steps***

- Finalize a concept note for a series of economic growth and development dynamics studies.
- Identify additional consultants to contribute to the overall analysis of the Burmese economy

**Providing Support to Modernize Burma’s Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) System and National Quality Infrastructure** – Burma has accelerated its development of the legislation, institutional capacity and public awareness needed to create a modern National Quality Infrastructure in line with international requirements and best practices. A strong NQI provides a backbone of well-known product standards, accredited labs and conformity assessment procedures, efficiently implemented technical regulations, and reliable measurements. These combine to provide the foundation for businesses and to provide consumers with a wider array of safe and reliable products. The NQI backbone facilitates a better-functioning domestic market and greater integration into regional and global markets, thus creating jobs and economic opportunities as well as better health and safety for the people of Burma.

Parliament passed Burma’s first Law on Standardization in July 2014, which provided the legal authority to develop the National Standards Council (NSC), the National Metrology Institute (NMI) and the National Accreditation Body (NAB), forming the core elements of a NQI. The practical operation of these will be guided by regulations to implement the Standardization Law that are currently being developed (on standards development and the operation of the accreditation body) and by draft revisions to the Law on Metrology that have been submitted to the Union Attorney General’s Office for review and notified to the WTO/ISO.

The Ministry of Science and Technology’s Department for Research and Innovation (DRI), formerly the Myanma Scientific and Technology Research Department (MSTRD), leads these processes. It takes the technical lead on legislative development, with engagement among private-sector stakeholders in drafting processes; they work to raise public understanding of the core principles and procedures for implementing a modern NQI; and they provide training to its staff, the staff of other government agencies, and representatives of the private sector on key elements of NQI development.

ACTI-ERA has provided intensive TA support to MSTRD/DRI and through DRI to other relevant government agencies and private-sector stakeholders, focusing on trainings on international best practices, comments and recommendations on draft legislation, and developing a functional TBT Enquiry Point with contact points in around 10 ministries.

This quarter, US-ACTI-ERA’s TBT/NQI expert Ed Nemeroff worked with the DRI to make revisions to the draft Regulation on the Law on Standardization in line with comments by the

Union Attorney General's Office and from our previous stakeholder meeting, in preparation for another stakeholder meeting that reviewed DRI's reorganization and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Regulation on June 2, 2015. US-ACTI-ERA met with representatives from the German Metrology Institute (PtB) to coordinate activities on developing metrology capabilities. Following the stakeholder meeting, US-ACTI-ERA worked to move forward the draft Law on Metrology based on inputs from the Attorney General Office, to review the update of the Standards website and to facilitate communications for a MOU with the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM International), which would provide free access to around 12,000 widely recognized product standards.

On 2 June, US-ACTI-ERA supported the DRI to organize a one-day consultation workshop in Rangoon to introduce the recent re-organization of the MSTRD into the DRI followed for most of the day with a review of international best practices in standard development and then chapter-by-chapter review of a key draft regulation to implement the Law on Standardization. Around 50 participants attended, including a large cohort of private-sector stakeholders. Many valuable inputs were received, and considerable improvements were made to the translation of an array of international technical terms to the Myanmar language. This regulation will more effectively incorporate international best practices, especially from the WTO's Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement, into Myanmar law, and will provide the basis for establishing a National Standards Body and National Accreditation Bureau.

Finally, US-ACTI-ERA supported the DRI to organize a technical workshop with around 20 participants from the TBT contact points among various relevant ministries to review a draft Code of Practice for Technical Regulations and to brief participants of changes in the DRI organization. The Code, which will serve as a guideline for developing and implementing technical regulations (mandatory standards to protect the health and safety of citizens) among an array of ministries, is mandated by the Law on Standardization and incorporates key international best practices from the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement and various ASEAN Economic Community Agreements, including the ASEAN Good Regulatory Practice Guide and ASEAN Policy Guideline on Standards and Conformance.

### ***Results***

- Organized two workshops to promote the Department of Research and Innovation's role in technical regulation development to stakeholders in the private and public sectors, and to gain stakeholder feedback on a key draft regulation on standardization and government contact point feedback on a draft Code for Technical Regulations.

### ***Next Steps***

- Finalize the Code of Practice for Technical Regulations and support its implementation.

### **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 medi-

cal 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, US-ACTI-ERA supported the Ministry of Health's Food and Drug Administration to organize a 2-day consultation workshop in Nay Pyi Taw with around 70 participants to kick-off a process for implementing the AMDD in Burma. US-ACTI-ERA Medical Device Expert, Mr. Michael Flood, who has supported ASEAN for nearly ten years to develop the AMDD, reviewed the core elements of the AMDD and related international best practices, while private and public stakeholders made presentations supporting the need for such a regulation while highlighting key challenges in the Burmese context. Including input from a follow-up technical meeting the day after the workshop, a plan was generated to develop a Law and regulations to implement the AMDD over the next 2-3 years, with full implementation by 2020, taking into account time for phasing in application of the new regulation in practice.

### ***Results***

- Conducted a 2-day consultation workshop to kick-off a process for implementing the AMDD in Burma.

### ***Next Steps***

- US-ACTI-ERA will begin to assist the Burma FDA in developing the laws and regulations needed to implement the ASEAN Medical Devices Directive.

**Advance Consumer Rights in Burma** – Consumer rights have been long neglected in Burma, but there is hardly any other issue of greater relevance to the people of Burma – everyone throughout the country are consumers and stories of consumer problems abound. During this quarter, US-ACTI-ERA, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), supported the Ministry of Commerce's new Consumer Affairs Division to organize a day and a half workshop in Rangoon with around 110 participants to raise awareness on the new Law on Consumer Protection and to provide exposure to how the U.S. and other countries protect consumer rights.

This included presentations by the private sector and consumer groups, as well as an overview of the Law and presentations on U.S. and international best practices by Katherine Porter, Professor from University of California at Irvine and Lindsey Scannell, senior legal advisor for CLDP. There was active discussion throughout the program, especially focusing on food safety issues and counterfeit products.

Continuing from the awareness workshop in Rangoon, US-ACTI-ERA supported the Ministry of Commerce's Consumer Affairs Division to organize a similar public awareness program in Mandalay, Burma. With around 100 participants from local civil society and business stakeholders and government officials, the workshop focused on the new rights and responsibilities relat-

ed to consumer rights in the new Law on Consumer Protection, with energetic discussion about existing problems and recommendations for improvement – many of the issues related to food products.

Prof. Katherine Porter from the University of California at Irvine Law School and Ms. Lindsey Scannell from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Commercial Law Development Department (CLPD) presented on how consumer rights are protected in the United States while a group of local experts presented on the current situation in Myanmar. This was followed the next day with a presentation on the core principles of consumer rights by Prof. Porter at the U.S. Jefferson Center in Mandalay with a full house of around 70-80 participants ranging from university students to professors and local writers, again with active discussion.

Lastly, a half-day technical roundtable was conducted with around 15 judges at the Union Supreme Court in Nay Pyi Taw to review the role of the courts in enforcing the Law on Consumer Protection. These programs were done in effective cooperation with the CLPD. Building from these programs, US-ACTI-ERA is developing a strategic approach with the Ministry of Commerce and business and consumer groups to continue to build the awareness, legal foundations, institutional capacities and processes needed to strengthen consumer rights in Burma, reflecting what is clearly a large pent-up interest among Burmese in this area.

### ***Results***

- Conducted public awareness programs in Rangoon and Mandalay on the new Law on Consumer Protection in Burma.
- Conducted a half-day technical roundtable in Nay Pyi Taw to review the role of the courts in enforcing the Law on Consumer Protection.

### ***Next Steps***

- US-ACTI-ERA will continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Commerce to improve understanding of consumer rights under the new Law on Consumer Rights in Burma.
- Provide technical assistance and training to the Ministry of Commerce in implementing the new law.

**Government Procurement** – This quarter, US-ACTI-ERA, in collaboration with CLDP, supported the Union Attorney General’s Office in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development to organize an intensive 2-day workshop that reviewed international best practices in procurement and procurement practices currently being applied in Burma to provide a grounding for developing a Law on Government Procurement in Myanmar. CLDP’s lead expert Professor Christopher Yukins from the George Washington University Law School provided a detailed explanation of the U.S., EU and other relevant procurement systems, followed by a careful and comprehensive review of the core elements of the U.N. Model Law for Government Procurement. A final afternoon “breakout” session led by CLDP’s Lindsey Scannell generated comments and recommendations from the participants about how best to move forward with drafting a law, with essentially a consensus that it

is important to move forward with drafting this law. The workshop was opened by the Attorney General and included the Vice-Minister of Finance and a number of other high level officials at the opening. There were around 35 core participants in the workshop, including a senior representative from advocate general offices in each of the 14 states and regions, as well as participants from a range of other key agencies. A “Key Findings” memo with a draft set of core principles (in the form of key articles) will be developed and distributed, with the UAGO and US-ACTI-ERA continuing to push for assigning a lead agency to initiate the drafting process.

### ***Results***

- Conducted an intensive 2-day workshop on the international best practices government procurement and the practices currently being applied in Burma to provide a grounding for developing a Law on Government Procurement in Myanmar.

### ***Next Steps***

- Work with the Attorney General’s office and other government agencies to develop a law on government procurement.
- Collaborate closely with the World Bank which is providing significant support to the Government of Burma in this area.

## **Work Stream 3: SME Development in Burma**

**Mapping the Ecosystem for Women’s Economic Empowerment in Burma** –During the quarter, US-ACTI-ERA completed a draft Mapping of Burma’s Ecosystem for Supporting Women in Business for initial comment. This mapping follows a format used by all APEC economies, which includes the majority of ASEAN countries, and aims to provide a systematic overview of institutions and activities to support women entrepreneurs, serving as a basis for ongoing analysis of priority constraints and recommendations for policy and institutional reforms and initiatives to facilitate women-owned businesses. This working document will be updated regularly and will support thinking on most effectively supporting women economic empowerment in Burma.

To advance this effort, US-ACTI-ERA conducted a series of meetings with women’s groups in Rangoon and with a group of USAID-supported experts.

### ***Results***

- Completed the draft Mapping of Burma’s Ecosystem for Supporting Women in Business.
- Conducted a series of meeting with women’s groups to discuss and refine the draft report.

### ***Next Steps***

- Finalize the report for use by women’s organizations in Burma.

## **Work Stream 5: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Development**

A half century of isolation has left Burma far behind in ICT, the backbone of a modern, dynamic economy and society. The successful award of two major contracts to build a wireless system reaching throughout the country was a major step forward early in 2014. The World Bank has committed to a reported \$31.5 million grant to support the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in developing a modern, independent telecommunications regulatory environment, a universal service fund, and rationalize the state-owned telecommunications company. These advances provide an opportunity for ACTI-ERA to support U.S. private-sector input into this massive ICT modernization effort and to explore ways to use the rapidly improving ICT environment to advance inclusive development.

**Development of U.S. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Council for Burma** – As the ICT sector continues to grow and new policy issues come into play, US-ACTI-ERA supported the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, the U.S. ICT Council for Burma and the Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) to conduct a one-day high-level workshop in Nay Pyi Taw with around 100 participants to provide perspectives on a range of key ICT policy issues for Burma. The program was opened by the MCIT Minister and the U.S. Embassy’s Deputy Chief of Mission and included presentations by experts from the Council (Cisco, Google, HP, Microsoft and Qualcomm) and the Myanmar Computer Federation on issues related to privacy, spectrum management, cyber security, the cloud, infrastructure and broadband, and human resource development. The ICT Council met the next day in Rangoon with a group of new Burmese ICT business leaders to discuss constraints to ICT development and potential for partnerships with the U.S. ICT firms with the U.S. Ambassador participating in this discussion. And the Council met with MCF leadership to discuss coordination issues. A similarly ambitious program will be organized again around August in 2015.

### ***Results***

- Conducted a one-day high-level workshop between the US-Burma ICT Council and key Government of Burma officials on ICT policy issues and the constraints to ICT development in Burma.
- Supported a one-day meeting between US and Burmese ICT companies to explore partnership and discuss ICT development

### ***Next Steps***

- Collaborate with the US ICT Council for Burma on one or two more Council visits during 2015 to promote Burmese ICT development.

# **Appendix 5 – Summary Report on the Value to Support to the Government of Burma**

## 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
<b>Regional Support</b>						
1/1/15-3/31/15	SOME, ACE, Re-SSN		<b>RE-SSN Meeting and Presentation on Hydropower Study</b> - ACTI conducted a workshop to share the findings of the Study of Potential Climate Change Impacts on Hydropower and Policy Implications and the Pilot Test of the Assessment Tool/Framework and presentation to the RE-SSN.	Technical Assistance	\$1,160	10%
1/1/15-3/31/15	ASW		<b>ASW Software Development</b> - ACTI contracted Axway Pte. Ltd, Singapore to design, develop, and implement the messaging software for the ASEAN Single Window. This activity will continue through December 2016 and benefits all AMS.	Technical Assistance	\$58,852	10%
<b>Burma Specific Support</b>						
1/1/15-3/31/15	MSTRD		<b>National Quality Infrastructure</b> - ACTI-ERA hired Mr. Edward Nemeroff to provide ongoing technical assistance and training to the MSTRD to support the modernization of Burma's Technical Barriers to Trade system and National Quality Infrastructure and to conduct a one day training workshop on TBT Enquiry Point and a consultation workshop on the draft Law on Metrology.	Technical Assistance	\$52,400	100%
1/1/15-3/31/15	Ministry of Health, Food and Drug Administration		<b>Food Policy Consultancy</b> - ACTI-ERA hired Mr. Digby Gascoine to provide technical assistance to support the modernization of Burma's Food Law through providing intensive support for modernizing the Food Law and developing a plan for upgrading the institutional and human resource capacities in the government and non-government sectors. ACTI-ERA also conducted a two day Consultation Workshop to assess the need and key principles for revisions to the Food Law.	Technical Assistance	\$29,000	100%
1/1/15-3/31/15	Central Bank of Myanmar		<b>Financial Markets</b> - ACTI-ERA hired consultants to support the Central Bank of Myanmar in the formulation and enactment of a new Law on Banking and Non-Banking Financial Institutions, which will provide the institutional regulatory and market access foundations for more modern financial market, which is critical to advance sustained and inclusive growth in Burma.	Technical Assistance	\$26,000	100%
1/1/15-3/31/15	Mr. Hla Maw Oo, Mr. Minn Minn, Dr. Htain Lynn, Ms. Win Min Phyo, Mr. Myo Khine Win, Ms. Cho Cho Mar, Mr. Aung Than Htoo, Ms. New Ni Win	8	<b>Burma Trade Portal Study Tour</b> - ACTI-ERA hired Mr. Anousa Souannavong and Mr. Bournma Phavong to provide training and technical support for the transfer of the software of the Laos Trade Portal to the Myanmar Trade Portal. Additionally, ACTI-ERA conducted a study tour for 8 MOC officials and 2 software experts from Burma to Lao PDR.	Technical Assistance/ Travel	\$24,300	100%
1/1/15-3/31/15	Ms. Nilar Kweye	1	<b>4th Meeting of the ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture</b> - ACTI-ERA supported 2 Burmese participants to attend the 4th Taskforce meeting in Jakarta. One from the GOB and one from the private sector.	Travel	\$1,400	50%