



Forum: Metrology – Trade Facilitator

25 October 2004, Berlin, Germany

OPENING

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Welcome

Prof. Manfred Kochsiek

Acting CIML President

Dr Hoffmann, dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you all to this Forum, Metrology – Trade Facilitator, which is being held in conjunction with the 12th International Conference on Legal Metrology. The aim is to provide a platform for developing countries to look for support and to come into contact with donor organisations and implementing agencies capable of offering support. The event will also stimulate the exchange of information among developing countries and will hopefully lead to actions for support in metrology.

In 1998, a similar seminar with the title *The role of metrology in economic and social development* which later on was classified by everybody, and especially by developing countries as very successful, has motivated us to bring together again international organisations of metrology and donor organisations.

What is needed and what is offered

I am happy to have gained high-ranking persons as speakers, chairpersons and also as participants. The poster exhibition can be visited for all week in the Eichen Saal, on the same level of the Conference Centre. Dr Seiler, from PTB, who is the Chairperson of the OIML's Permanent Working Group on Developing Countries has mainly prepared the Forum. He was supported by many colleagues and I especially wish to mention the colleagues from the OIML's office and to thank all those who prepared this Forum.

I especially want to welcome Dr Hoffmann as a representative of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development for the opening address. Please Dr Hofmann, the floor is open for your address.

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Welcome and opening address

Dr Michael Hofmann

Director General, Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ), Germany

Dear Prof. Kochsiek, dear Mr. Magaña, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to the “Forum: Metrology – Trade Facilitator” on behalf of the German Government and the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ.

Welcome to Berlin, too. I hope you will have time during these days to see something more of this beautiful and interesting city.

This **Forum** organised by the OIML provides an interesting platform for all of us - Developing Countries and Donors - to **exchange experience and identify needs** to implement and strengthen quality infrastructure in Developing Countries, particularly metrology infrastructure. I am very glad to see participants and representatives from about 100 countries. Your participation will bring together knowledge and experience on the subject of metrology from all over the world. This is the best precondition for a fruitful and exciting discussion during this Forum.

“Metrology – trade facilitator” is the title of the forum you are attending today. Why is this subject an important one in development co-operation?

Today the framework for development co-operation is set by **the Millennium Development Goals**. These goals were defined by the UN at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. The most well-known goal is to “halve poverty in the world by 2015”. One element of the Millennium Development Goals refers to the development of an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading and financial system.

The Doha Ministerial Conference in November 2001 started the ongoing negotiating round in the World Trade Organisation. The needs and interests of developing countries were placed at the centre of the negotiations, because Ministers saw the necessity for a rebalancing of the international trading system. As you know, the negotiations have been slow and difficult so far. The international trading system can only make its contribution to reaching the Millennium Development Goals if the negotiations come to results which **fulfil what is promised** by the name “**Doha development round**”.

When we focus on the link between trade and poverty reduction, we recognise that the **integration** in the **international economic system** bears **risks and challenges** for developing countries. It is of utmost importance to structure the international system in a way to ensure that countries can take advantage of their integration in this system and minimise risks.

Development co-operation has to take up the challenge of helping to shape and strengthen structures. Partner countries are to be enabled to fully benefit from the advantages of globalisation on the one hand and to be enabled to respond to globalisation risks effectively on the other hand. Trade liberalisation is not an end in itself, but it shall contribute to social and economic development and poverty reduction.

The importance of tariffs has been diminishing dramatically during the last decades. But **non-tariff-barriers** have made it more and more difficult for developing countries to enter the markets of industrialised countries. Especially those non-tariff-barriers related to standards and regulations.

This shows the increasing importance of **metrology and quality infrastructure**. Because this systems are needed to comply with standard and regulation requirements. Functioning metrology and quality infrastructure systems are a **precondition** for developing countries to be **able to cope with the demands** not only of developed countries **regulations**. They are also a precondition to be able to satisfy the **demands of consumers** which are more and more aware of and interested in issues of quality, but also of productions methods and their implications on the environment and on workers.

The availability of quality infrastructure - and metrology is a main pillar of the quality infrastructure - is therefore also a necessary precondition for the integration of developing countries in the international trading system. Metrology does therefore not just facilitate trade - as the title of the workshop says. Functioning metrology systems are therefore also important to achieve the goal of poverty reduction.

Development co-operation has to **support** developing **countries' integration in the international trading system**. This can be made at different levels:

- to strengthen developing countries' **capacity to negotiate** multilateral trade agreements,
- to strengthen developing countries' **capacity to implement** existing international trade rules, and
- to strengthen developing countries' **capacity to trade**.

It is in this last area which deals with the problems of countries to deliver products which are demanded on the world market, the issue of "supply capacity". This does also comprise the support to the necessary institutions dealing with trade infrastructure.

In the field of the **German bilateral co-operation** more than 100 M€ a year are destined to trade related assistance in a wider sense. Today about 30 bilateral and regional projects are under implementation, with the objective to strengthen quality infrastructures in Developing Countries - including metrology. This projects have an estimated average implementation period of five to six years and signifies a total amount of 40 M€.

This is part of the fulfilment of our commitments, but we are aware, that still much more work has to be done. We will continue our support to developing countries in the field of quality infrastructure.

The idea of this forum is that we can learn from each other sharing experiences. You will discuss how to confront in an effective and efficient way the existing needs with regard to the objective of facilitating access to competent, internationally accepted and demand oriented metrology and quality infrastructure and services.

I wish you good success for these discussions and a productive day as well as a pleasant week in Berlin. Thank you!

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Introductory remarks

Eberhard Seiler

Chairman, OIML Permanent Working Group on Developing Countries

Thank you Dr Hoffmann, and thank you Prof. Kochsiek for your welcome greetings and for addressing the audience. We feel honoured by your presence and we also hope that the Forum will be a success.

Dr Hoffmann, special thanks also for the continued support that your Ministry has given the projects of metrology, standardisation, testing, quality, accreditation and certification which the PTB is able to carry out with your financial resources. Also thank you very much for the important background information on what is going on in the international arena with regards to trade facilitation and institution building.

Before the first sessions starts, let me give some important information about this Forum. As you may know, the OIML created a new Permanent Working Group on Developing Countries last year and I was asked to be its Chairman. The aim of this Group is to support developing countries in their efforts to strengthen legal metrology. The problem is, how could we achieve this goal with a small working group? Working on this problem, the idea was born to find out what is needed and what is offered. We thought that it was a good opportunity to do so during the forthcoming 12th Conference of the OIML. We realised that the participation of many of the 110 or so Member States and Corresponding Members of the OIML would be a good chance to reach our objective, so we proposed to devote one day to this event.

Looking for a common denominator faced by developing countries and OIML activities, we identified trade, because one the OIML's main tasks is to facilitate trade and one of the major problems faced by developing countries is that of competing in international markets. The close relationship between economic growth, trade and poverty reduction has been noted time and again. The integration of developing countries into the global market is seen as a major prerequisite in achieving the UN's Millennium Goal of halving extreme poverty worldwide by 2015. The Doha Development Agenda recognises technical cooperation and capacity building as essential elements to enable developing countries to benefit from the world trade system. Indeed, adequate technical infrastructures for metrology, standardisation, testing, quality, accreditation and certification, which are necessary for the conformity assessment of products and services, bar developing countries from taking full advantage of market potentials. Having this in mind, we will discuss the role of metrology as a trade facilitator, and bring together developing countries looking for support and donors, organisations and implementing agencies capable of offering support, and thus facilitating the adjustment of offers to needs.

To reach this objective, the Forum will consist of two parts: the oral statements and the posters. The statements presented by invited speakers during the first session will focus on the importance of technical infrastructures in the area of conformity assessment and with the elements of metrology, standardisation and accreditation. In the second session, we will listen to general problems faced by developing countries and their needs,

presented by resource persons with special experience representing different regions of the world. During the third session "*What is offered?*" we will be informed about support programmes and projects. Since time is always restricted, we created the possibility of presenting posters illustrating what is needed and what is offered. You may have seen already these posters, which have been prepared by the BIML and the PTB in the Eichen Saal. The poster session will start following the first break and they will be exhibited for the whole week, giving you the opportunity to see how the needs may be matched by the offers. The Forum will be closed by presenting some results and recommendations for actions which will be proposed to the OIML Permanent Working Group on Developing Countries for follow-up. It is our expectation that the Forum will raise awareness about metrology as a trade facilitator, and will contribute to solution of problems. Furthermore, the event should stimulate the exchange of information amongst developing countries, the so-called "South-South dialogue" and encourage the inter-regional and intra-regional cooperation. I am sure that we will reach these ambitious goals with your valuable contributions.

Thank you.