



# NATIONAL STANDARDS AND QUALITY



**Newsletter-1(May 2024)**

## **National Quality Infrastructure**

A National Quality Infrastructure System (NQIS) is a necessary condition for enhancing Myanmar's competitiveness in its path to export-led growth and a dynamic equilibrium of activities by, and interaction among, public institutions, operators and users, which enable a country to achieve quality objectives and requirements. These objectives cover both national quality and safety objectives as well as requirements imposed in international trade. The NQIS needs to be dynamic and evolve as necessary to meet the changing needs of Myanmar.

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) is the focal ministry dedicated to formulating and developing the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) in Myanmar. The Department of Research and Innovation (DRI) under the MOST has been implementing to strengthen the NQI and provide the development of economic and facilitation of trade. National Standards and Quality Department (NSQD) is one of the technical supporting departments of Department of Research and Innovation-DRI and it plays a vital role in standardization and overseeing the Quality Infrastructure System in Myanmar. It is composed of Standards Development Division, Accreditation Division and Metrology Division. All the technical divisions under NSQD are standing as National Standards Body (NSB), Myanmar Accreditation Body (MAB) and National Metrology Institute (NMI) in collaboration and cooperation with regional and international organization.

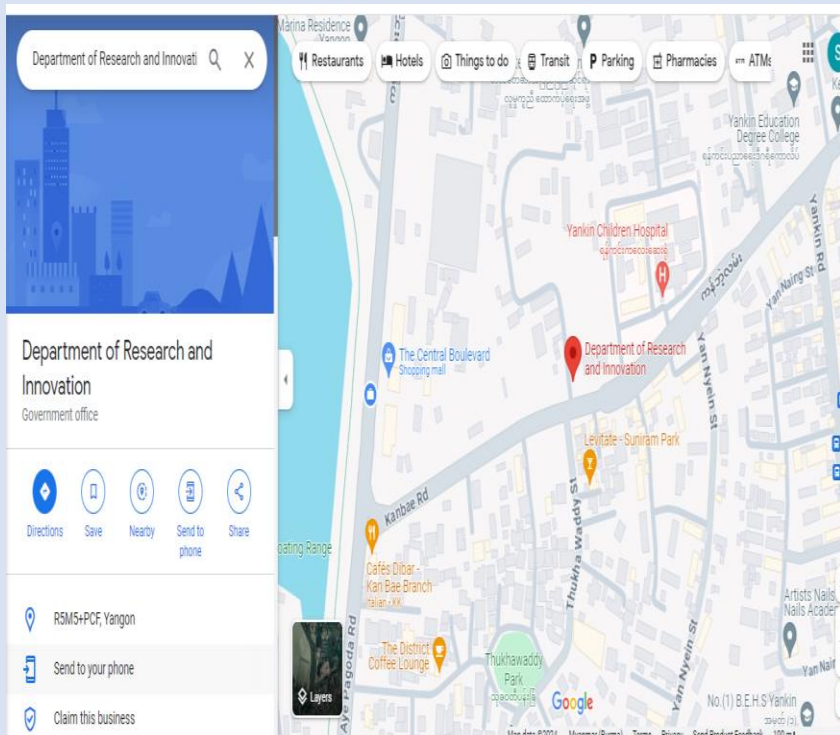


STANDARDS



## International and Regional Memberships

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)	Correspondent Member
International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)	Affiliate Plus
Asia Pacific Accreditation Co-operation (APAC)	Associate Member
Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP)	Full Member
ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ), WG 1, WG2 & WG3	



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## Strengthening National Quality Infrastructure

**Launching Ceremony of Project on Strengthening National Quality Infrastructure and Implementation of National Certification Body for Certifying Products, Processes and Services and Stakeholders Engagement Forum on Standards and Quality for Trade Facilitation and Industry Development** was held on 15 February 2024 at Mercure Hotel, Yangon. Ministry of Science and Technology, Union Minister H.E. Dr. Myo Thein Kyaw attended and delivered the opening speech, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Councillor Ms. Qiao Li told that the project will be very important for Belt and Road Initiative project, which is being implemented by the People's Republic of China, for trade facilitation and support the development of the industrial sector between LMC member countries.



"Project on Strengthening National Quality Infrastructure and Implementation of National Certification Body for Certifying Products, Processes and Services" carried out by the Special Fund for Mekong-Lanchang Cooperation (2023) Project Opening Ceremony and Stakeholders Engagement Forum on Standards and Quality for Trade Facilitation and Industry Development) program is held with the following objectives:

- a. Standardization is the main process of strengthening the national quality infrastructure; Acknowledgment Issuance of quality certification; precision measurement technology; For the public to have a good understanding of laboratory testing,

- b. To know that Myanmar is implementing standards and quality processes at the international and regional levels.
- c. Facilitating trade in the establishment of ASEAN-Free Trade by strengthening national quality infrastructure; To understand how to provide quality assurance;
- d. To provide knowledge and support to be able to announce technical procedures for quality conformity according to their sectors by the relevant ministries that are Regulatory Authorities.
- e. To promote the development of the business sector of MSMEs and the emergence of necessary standards for micro, small and medium enterprises.
- f. Stakeholders and industries to standardize, recognize, to provide quality certification, precision measurement technology and laboratory testing services.

By being able to hold the opening ceremony and the forum, the main Pillars processes in developing national quality infrastructure, setting standards, Acknowledgment issuing quality certificates; precision measurement technology; Organizations that issue quality certifications in activities such as laboratory testing, Labs can be more collaborative; The public has a good understanding of standards and quality work and can follow them. International recognition and acceptance in the standards and quality sector will receive benefits. By holding the forum, all members of the public will understand and participate in the process of strengthening national quality infrastructure.



**The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Caucus Meeting for ACFTA WG STRACAP (30-1-2024) and**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> ACFTA WG STRACAP Meeting (31-1-2024)**

**The 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN CAUCUS for ASEAN CHINA FTA Meeting (14-3-2024) Online**

The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Caucus Meeting for ACFTA WG STRACAP (30-1-2024) and The 4<sup>th</sup> ACFTA WG STRACAP Meeting (31-1-2024) and were held to discuss about the WG STRACAP Chapter among ASEAN countries via hybrid mode in Hangzhou, China and The 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN CAUCUS for ASEAN CHINA FTA Meeting (14-3-2024) was held via online and the representatives from National Standards Quality Department(NSQD) attended. From the meeting we will get many benefits: harmonization of standards in the establishment of free trade between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China; mutual recognition of quality assurance programs; development of human resources by being able to coordinate the development of technical procedures; able to search the markets; able to comply with international good practices; facilitate trade, increase competitiveness, and promote economic development by trading with developed countries as developing countries. As for Myanmar, to follow and implement according to the agreement of ASEAN member countries and ASEAN member countries, depending on the answers from the Chinese side regarding the articles that have not yet been finalized, the next WG STRACAP Meeting will hold an internal consultation to reach an agreement, to attend and discuss the next WG STRACAP Meeting scheduled to be held in March, At the Next WG STRACAP Meeting, we aim to complete two-thirds of the entire chapter, and we will coordinate with the ASEAN countries and continue to negotiate with the People's Republic of China and implement them according to the ASEAN agreements.



## Technical Subcommittee Meetings

### Myanmar Rubies and Ruby Quality



Myanmar Rubies and Ruby Quality Standardization Working Group (2/2024) Business Coordination Meeting was held online on January 10, 2024 to implement the development of standards in order to set quality standards for Myanmar rubies. By holding the meeting, it will be possible to develop the export sector by producing and selling Burmese rubies of high quality according to the standards. Myanmar rubies and ruby quality standards can be widely used at local and international gem trade markets.

On 5th March 2024, Technical Subcommittee for Agro-based Products meeting (1/2024) was held at Ministry of Commerce, Department of Consumer Affairs (Yangon Region) via hybrid meeting. For the development of Agro-based Products Myanmar Standard, Standard for Chili Peppers has been discussed by the members until technical subcommittee stage agreement is reached. Benefices are to specify the quality level of standards for Chili Peppers, to Improve the transparency in market creation, increase in the production sector, reduce waste and costs, gain mutual understanding in business activities for trade. Standards for Chili Peppers(Draft) was agreed on technical subcommittee stage.

### Agro-based Products Meeting



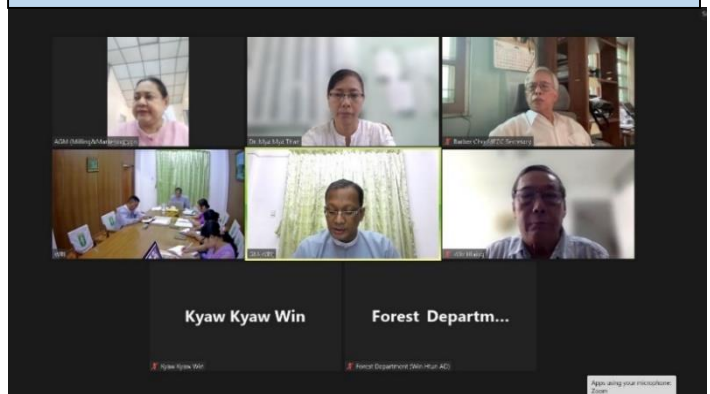
### Boiler Technical Sub-Committee Meeting



16th Boiler Technical Sub-Committee Meeting was held on 5th January 2024 to confirm ISO 9229-3:2017, ISO 9328-7:2018 and ISO 9329-4:1997 as Proposal Standards into Myanmar National Standards. In the meeting, all TC members discussed about the stainless steel grade, chemical composition, tolerance, mechanical properties and tensile properties which can use for boiler construction. ISO 9328-7:2018 Steel flat products for pressure purposes Technical delivery conditions: Part 7: Stainless steels has been confirmed and reached consensus as a proposal standard in technical sub-committee stage.

On 5th April 2024, Technical Subcommittee for Wood-based Products meeting was held at Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar Timber Enterprise by Zoom Application. Chairman of Technical Subcommittee for Wood-based Products, U Tint Zaw Nyunt, General Manger, Myanmar Timber Enterprise delivers the opening speech. Members from Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC), relevant ministries and officer from Myanmar Timber Enterprise, totally 12 participants have been attended the meeting. They discussed on the draft Standard for Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System- MTLAS (2023).

### Wood-based products Technical Sub-Committee



## Associate Member of Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)

Myanmar Accreditation Body (MAB) became an Associate Member of Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and continue to strive to be an internationally recognized accreditation body by attaining full membership of APAC.

## Accreditation Services

As part of the joint assessment services, the Myanmar Accreditation Body collaborates with the Singapore Accreditation Council and Thailand's Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation-Department of Science Service (BLA-DSS) to perform accreditation services for conformity assessment bodies in Myanmar.

In 2023, the Myanmar Accreditation Body (MAB) successfully granted ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation to SGS Myanmar Ltd., the Agricultural Products Analytical Laboratory (APAL) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and OMIC Inspection & Surveying Co.,Ltd., Myanmar for the scope of mercury, arsenic, lead and cadmium in rice and bean, pesticide residues in pulses, aflatoxins in corn, lead, cadmium, copper and nickel in rice, aflatoxins in beans and pulses respectively.



## Development of Conformity Assessment Activities

### Awareness Training Course on "ISO/IEC 17024"

To enhance the quality of personnel certification bodies, the Myanmar Accreditation Body conducted the awareness training course on "ISO/IEC 17024: General Requirements for Bodies Certifying Persons" at the Myanmar Engineering Council on March 28, 2023 and a total of 60 participants attended the training course.





### Laboratory Risk Management

The Myanmar Accreditation Body conducted a Laboratory Risk Management Training course at the pharmaceutical factory in Insein on November 2, 2023, for 30 quality inspection laboratory staff.

### ISO/IEC 17025 Awareness Training

To strengthen the competence of laboratories in Myanmar and in line with international standards, Myanmar Accreditation Body organized awareness training on ISO/IEC 17025: General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories on September 13 and 14, 2023. The training took place in person at the Department of Research and Innovation, a total of over 72 participants from relevant ministries and private organizations attended this training.



### Awareness Training on ISO/IEC 17025 (Online)

The Myanmar Accreditation Body held the online awareness training on ISO/IEC 17025: General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories from March 19 to March 20, 2024. Over 110 participants from the laboratories and research centers from the departments under the Ministry of Science and Technology attended this training.





## China-Myanmar Cooperation in Metrology

Union Minister of Science and Technology Ministry, H.E Dr. Myo Thein Kyaw addressed the opening ceremony of the China-Myanmar Cooperation in Metrology Symposium on 21st September 2023 at Melia Hotel in Yangon. The Symposium was jointly organized by National Institute of Metrology (Myanmar), NIMM, the National Standards and Quality Department under the Department of Research and Innovation and the National Institute of Metrology-China. The Symposium was held from 21st - 22nd September 2023. On 21st September 2023, there were 63 participants attended and on 22nd September 2023, there were 50 participants attended.

In order to know the points that need to be considered in expanding the capabilities of the National Institute of Metrology (Myanmar), NIMM, we were able to collect the survey forms of the needs related to measurement services from the stakeholders who attended the meeting. With the heartfelt support of NIM-China, the two-day symposium was successfully held. All participants and NIMM's staff had the opportunity to learn the knowledge and experience from the experts of the National Institute of Metrology-China



## Participating & Signing of “The Action Plan for Enhancing Metrological Advancement and Mutual Recognition in Lancang-Mekong Countries (2023-2028) Ceremony” and “The 4th Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Symposium in Metrology”

The 4th Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Symposium in Metrology and related activities was held at Beijing, China in 29th – 30th August 2023. Dr. Phyu Phyu Win, Director General of the Department of Research and Innovation, Dr. Mar Lar Win, Director of National Institute of Metrology (Myanmar), as the representatives of Myanmar who were participated, including all member countries of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC), representatives from Guangxi Research Institute of Metrology and Test (GXIMT), and representatives from Yunnan Institute of Measuring and Testing Technology (YNIMTT) at this Symposium.



## Signing ceremony of the Action Plan

The signing ceremony of Action Plan for Enhancing Metrological Advancement and Mutual Recognition in Lancang-Mekong Countries (2023-2028) was held on 29-8-2023 at Beijing, China and Six high-ranking officials from organizations related to Metrology in the Lancang-Mekong countries [NMC, NIM, DOSM, DRI (NIMM), NIMT and VMI] participated. H.E By Pitou, President of NMC (Cambodia), Mr. Xiang FANG, Director of NIM-China, Mr. Boudsakone LUANGLATH, Deputy Director of Metrology Center, DOSM, Dr. Phyu Phyu Win, Director General of DRI(NIMM), Pol. Lt. Gen. Pornchai Suteerakune, Director of NIMT and Dr. Pham Anh TUAN, Deputy Head of Physico Chemical Parameters and Reference Materials Lab of VMI representing each country attended the ceremony and signed the Action Plan for Enhancing Metrological Advancement and Mutual Recognition in LMC countries.



## Implementation and undertaking of the “China-Myanmar Joint Research on Key Measurement Standards in Food and Mechanical Processing Industries”

“China-Myanmar Joint Research on Key Measurement Standards in Food and Mechanical Processing Industries” is classified into China-Myanmar Inter-Governmental Science & Technology Cooperation. On China’s side, National Institute of Metrology (China) is undertaking organization and the main responsible for this project and Guangxi Research Institute of Metrology and Test (GXIMT) and Yunnan Institute of Measuring and Testing Technology (YNIMTT) are also cooperating organizations, as provincial metrology institutes in China which are respectively located in Guangxi and Yunnan Province. On Myanmar’s side, National Institute of Metrology (Myanmar), NIMM is the undertaking and responsible organization for this project.

Both food and mechanical processing industries are of strategic importance to the economic development of Myanmar. As is known, the continuous and stable temperature measurement and control is crucial to food safety in food industry, and the accurate value of quantity of measuring instruments are also pivotal to product quality in mechanical processing industry.

For the implementation of the project “China-Myanmar joint research on food and industrial standards in Food and Mechanical Processing Industries”, 3-month joint research and technical training were attended by the (4) participants from NIMM in which spent (2) months at NIM-China, (2) weeks at Guangxi Research Institute of Metrology and Test (GXIMT), and Yunnan Institute of Measuring and Testing Technology (YNIMTT) for (2) weeks.(two visiting scholars each in temperature measurement and length measurement technology)



**Dr. Aung Zay Ya, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology visiting the National Institute of Metrology (Myanmar) from the Research and Innovation Department and giving an encouraging speech**

Dr. Aung Zay Ya, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology had a friendly meeting with the staff of the Department of Research and Innovation on 19th March 2024. Moreover, the Deputy Minister visited the National Institute of Metrology (Myanmar) and the Mass Laboratory, which has already received the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation for the 3rd time from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), and gave a congratulatory speech. After that, he kindly remarked about the need to upgrade the Pressure Laboratory to become an accredited laboratory very soon.

