



# Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development | QuISP

A training course to enhance cooperation and trade in ASEAN



## Creating a network to build trust in trade

A well-established network in quality infrastructure and its actors is essential to enhance cooperation and trade in ASEAN.

The QuISP training course on Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development, developed and implemented by the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) for more than 10 years, uses a unique concept to do this: raising awareness of and providing an introduction to quality infrastructure for young trade professionals.

The course is led by international experts and encourages the exchange of information and experience for the continuous advancement of quality infrastructure systems in ASEAN. It also promotes the establishment of lasting professional relationships between course participants from different ASEAN countries and organizations.

## What is quality infrastructure?

Quality is the degree to which products or services comply with specified requirements. It ensures that products and services satisfy stated needs with features that can be objectively measured or verified and be legally or contractually defined. Proving that products and services are compliant with national and international requirements calls for a cohesive network known as the quality infrastructure (QI), consisting of metrology, standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation, and market surveillance. This network consists of various institutions which are active in these five elements of QI that provide services to government, industry, businesses, and consumers. An internationally recognized quality infrastructure provides a basis for trade and competitiveness in global markets, as well as for safety, healthcare, and environmental and consumer protection. It therefore contributes to sustainable economic, ecological, and social development.

## The QuISP training course

The overall purpose of QuISP is to raise awareness of what quality infrastructure is and how it can contribute to the development and growth of an economy.

In addition to introducing participants to the key pillars of QI and the QI “landscape” in ASEAN, the course aims to give participants a better understanding of the inter-connectedness of QI and trade (including helping to reduce technical barriers to trade), international and regional trade agreements, mutual acceptance of conformity assessment results, the link between QI and the UN SDGs, and the relationship between standards and technical regulations.

The course also highlights the relevance of networking between key QI stakeholders at the national, regional, and international level and provides a foundation for networking

between participants working in similar fields in different countries.

The QuISP course consists of a preparatory phase, a kick-off workshop, a twelve-week e-learning phase, and a one week in-person final workshop in Germany.

- Preparatory phase: 16 to 20 February 2026
- Kick-off workshop: 23 to 26 February 2026
- E-learning phase: 2 March to 29 May 2026
- Final workshop: 1 to 5 June 2026 (provisional)

The preparatory phase is designed to ensure that participants are able to access and feel comfortable using the platform that will be used during the e-learning phase.

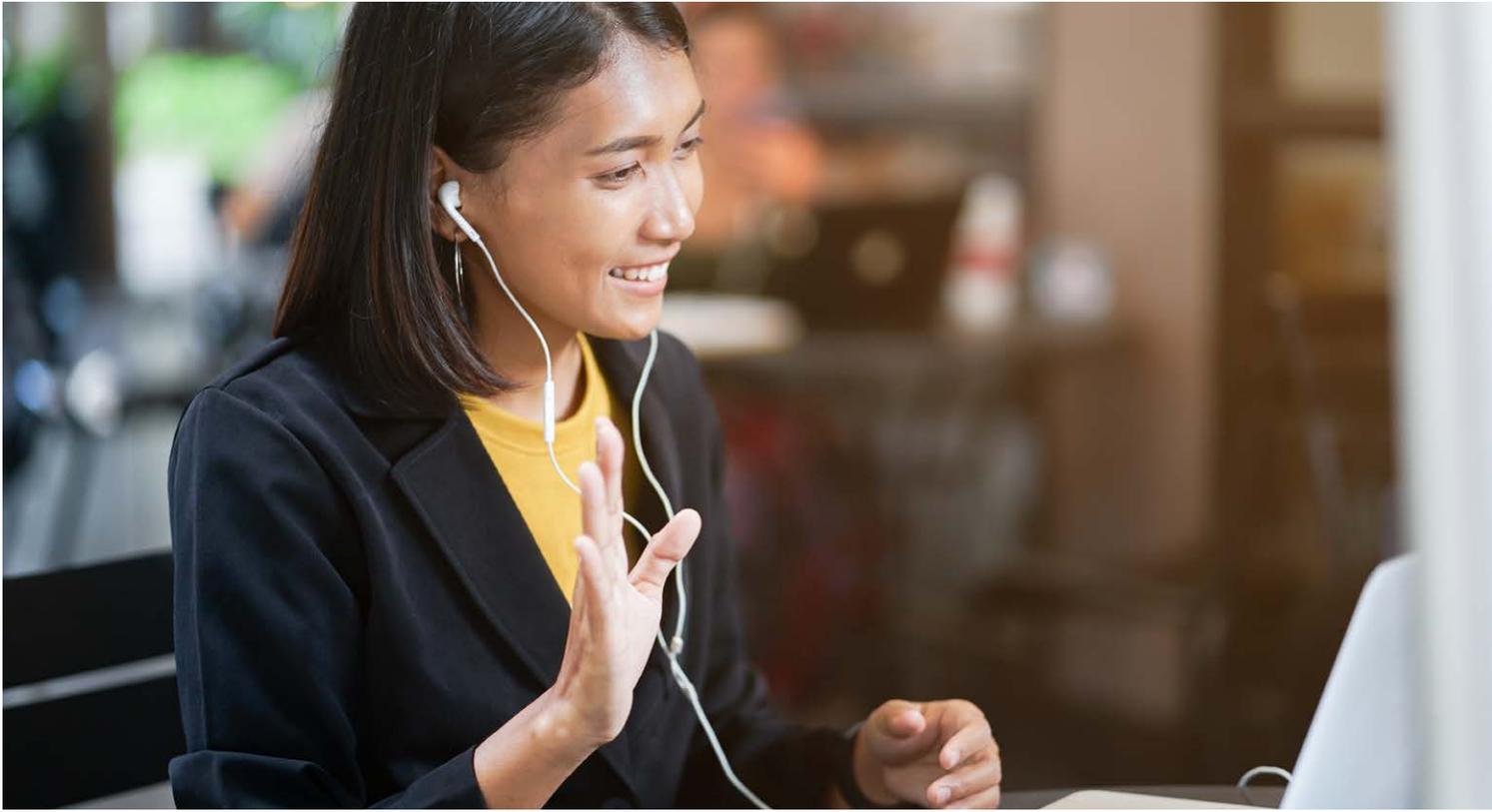
All selected course applicants will be invited to participate in a kick-off workshop consisting of several compulsory online meetings which will take place within one week. This kick-off workshop aims to introduce the topic of quality infrastructure, to explain the course-related requirements and expectations, and to prepare the participants for the e-learning phase.

The e-learning part will be provided on a dedicated learning platform. Active and continuous usage of the platform is essential. Five online chapters provide the content for e-learning during the course:

- Chapter 1: Quality infrastructure: the system and its elements
- Chapter 2: Quality infrastructure and trade
- Chapter 3: A closer look at standardization
- Chapter 4: Conformity assessment
- Chapter 5: Metrology

Throughout the e-learning phase, participants will work in virtual teams engaging in a series of collaborative assignments specially designed to translate the course content into practical applications of the know-how gained. Regular online team meetings with the international experts will also be held. During the entire e-learning phase, participants will be accompanied and supported remotely by facilitators and experts.

Completion of the chapters as well as having actively contributed to the team assignments and passing short assessments during the e-learning phase is a pre-requisite for any participant to be invited to attend the final workshop. There, participants will present the results of their assignments and explore the elements and systemic organization of quality infrastructure through expert lectures and visits to quality infrastructure institutions. There will also be group exercises such as role play and simulated discussions to learn from the different perspectives and experiences.



Participants receive a certificate to confirm that they have successfully completed the course elements (introduction to QI, the e-learning part with its assessments, and active participation in the final workshop).

After the training course, participants are invited to join the QuISP Alumni Network that has been established to continue the discourse on QI among participants of all QuISP courses implemented around the globe.

#### **Who can participate?**

The QuISP course is offered to 25 young professionals working in fields related to regional and international trade from regulatory authorities, ministries of trade, trade promotion organizations, and entities supporting trade and commerce in ASEAN Member States, including those involved in trade negotiations and trade agreements, national quality policy staff, and staff from private sector associations involved in industrial development and trade.

Participation is sponsored by PTB and offered free of charge. However, participants are expected to dedicate the time and effort necessary to successfully complete the training course and they must have the support of their superiors to participate. A support letter from their employing organization must be submitted at the time of application.

#### **Eligibility criteria**

The pre-requisites for applicants to be able to apply to participate in the course are as follows:

- Participants must be proficient in English; the level expected is at least Europass Level B1.
- Participants must have experience of using electronic tools for communication, virtual meeting tools, online whiteboards, synchronous and asynchronous discussion tools, and online document collaboration platforms.
- Access to a stable Internet connection is required at all times.
- Participants must have access to a laptop/PC as the screen size of mobile devices such as phones or small tablets will be insufficient due to the nature of the online tools used.
- There is a minimum academic qualification of a higher diploma or bachelor's degree.
- It is expected that participants will have a minimum of 2–5 year's work experience in a position of responsibility within their organization.
- Participants will ideally have experience with institutional cooperation.
- Participants should be younger than 35 years old.
- Participants must personally commit themselves to full participation in the course, provide a letter of motivation, and have written support from their parent organization.
- Participants must be available to participate in all scheduled meetings and adhere to principles of timeliness.
- Participants must be in a position to invest the required time for learning and collaboration during the e-learning phase. This can range from 2 up to 6 hours per week, depending on the course phase and individual needs.

## **PTB – the national metrology institute of Germany**

In Braunschweig and Berlin, researchers and scientists work at PTB to let time be taken from atomic clocks, lengths be measured far into the nano-world, and conduct research on fundamental questions concerning the physical units; laboratory workers calibrate measuring instruments, meeting the most demanding requirements. Taken together, these activities place PTB among the top names in metrology worldwide. As Germany's national metrology institute, PTB has been Germany's highest authority when it comes to correct and reliable measurements since 1887. It is the supreme technical authority of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and employs a staff of approx. 2100.

## **International Cooperation of PTB**

Since 1960, PTB has been sharing its core competence in international cooperation. It supports developing and emerging economies in the field of quality infrastructure. These efforts contribute to sustainable economic, social, and ecological development. PTB is committed to carrying out the development policy of the German government and pursues the achievement of the UN Sustainable Goals and the Paris Declaration in its partner countries.

The QuISP training course was developed by PTB in cooperation with DIN e.V. – the German Institute for Standardization – and is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

## **Applications**

Applications for the QuISP training course ASEAN 2026 must be handed in by 24 November 2025.

Please apply through your country's representative to the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ).

## **Contact**

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