

Asia

Asia Pacific

# Digital Transformation of Accreditation in the Asia-Pacific Region

<b>Objective</b>	The objective of this project is to enable the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) and its members from developing economies to enhance their digital services and processes.	
<b>Approach</b>	The project takes a two-level approach, targeting both APAC as an organization as well as its member accreditation bodies in developing economies. It builds upon the foundation of over seven years of successful cooperation between PTB and APAC (and its predecessors), during which the focus was on strengthening accreditation within the region. The current project is now concentrating on facilitating advances in digitalization as a step towards the digital transformation of the accreditation process.	
	<p>Overall, the project aims to equip APAC and its members with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions on topics relevant to digitalization. APAC will be supported in its efforts to develop further digital formats for improving services and for cooperating with its members. The spotlight here will be on enhancing the digital management platform and digitalizing more processes used by the organization. The capacities of the member accreditation bodies from developing economies to use and benefit from digital services will be strengthened through the development of human capacities and improved processes. Customers and other accreditation stakeholders will benefit from the further digitalization of the communication channels in use, and processes will be digitalized to become more efficient. Targeted digitalization will also be applied to a small number of accreditation bodies that are willing to share in the development and digitalization of their management platforms.</p>	
<b>Impact</b>	<p>Asia Pacific is a fast-growing and heterogeneous region containing many economic alliances and free-trade areas. To fully exploit the potential of intraregional and interregional trade, a harmonized quality infrastructure is required. It is only through internationally accepted accreditation systems that trust in national conformity assessment activities and in the competence of laboratories and certification bodies can be established and maintained. The regional accreditation network, APAC, facilitates and multiplies this trust-building by acting as the connecting agent between the national accreditation bodies from the Asia-Pacific region and the international accreditation networks, ILAC and IAF. By intensifying and expanding the integration of developing economy accreditation bodies into the region, trust in their products and services is enhanced. At the national level, quality assurance for domestic products and services is strengthened, thus helping to ensure the protection of domestic consumers.</p> <p>Increasing the efficiency of how both APAC and its developing economy members operate, reducing information and capacity gaps, and enhancing effectiveness through digitalization is therefore vitally important. Achieving these aims will result in improved quality assurance services within the region and in turn reduce barriers to trade.</p>	
<b>Cooperation</b>	The project is being planned and implemented in close cooperation with the regional accreditation network APAC (Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation).	
<b>Financing</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	
<b>Term</b>	2022–2025	
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