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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



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Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

WTO COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE
SIDE EVENT

GOOD GOVERNANCE IN DEVELOPING MODERN QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS

20 JUNE 2018 | 13:15 - 14:30

THE EVENT

In the framework of UNIDO's trade capacity-building activities, a side event will be held on setting the good governance foundations for a modern quality infrastructure system for an effective integration to the global trading system.

The event is being organized in cooperation with the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). It will take place at the WTO on the margins of the TBT Committee meeting on 20 June 2018 from 13:15 to 14:30.

Panelists include representatives from International Network for Quality Infrastructure, in particular the quality infrastructure governance organizations for accreditation (ILAC, IAF) and standardization (ISO), as well as representatives from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), WTO Secretariat, and UNIDO.

CONTEXT

To integrate successfully in the global trading system, countries need to comply with international quality requirements for goods and services. Quality infrastructure (QI) helps domestic and global producers and consumers fulfil their mutual quality goals. It also stimulates industrial development, trade competitiveness, innovation and efficient use of resources, while ensuring protection of the environment. At the same time, QI components may evolve in isolation and overlap in functions and responsibilities, resulting in policy gaps and lack of synergies. This may lead to operational and cost inefficiencies. As such, proper interventions at policy level are usually critical to address these challenges and to ensure good governance.

In today's global trading system, conformity assessment schemes and standards, metrology, accreditation, good regulatory practices, and quality policy form an indispensable foundation to ensure the good governance and efficiency of any modern quality infrastructure system.