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INTRODUCTION

The Standards Alliance is a public-private partnership between the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and USAID designed to assist developing countries in effectively implementing their commitments under the WTO's Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) agreement.

The main objectives of the overall Standards Alliance program includes increased understanding of WTO TBT principles, encourage transparency in the development and alteration of technical regulations, and improve implementation of the TBT Agreement's Code of Good Practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards, with the larger goal of promoting trade and economic development.

Vietnam's Directorate for Standards, Metrology and Quality (STAMEQ) has submitted a proposal for engagement under the Standards Alliance, and a joint assessment was conducted with STAMEQ and other stakeholders in Hanoi, Vietnam in April 2014. To the extent possible, Standards Alliance activities in Vietnam will address regional priorities and will be open to participation by other ASEAN countries. The results of those meetings, as well as consultations with stakeholders in both countries have informed this work plan.

The Standards Alliance looks forward to carrying out the Vietnam work plan in cooperation with USAID's Governance for Inclusive Growth (GIG) project. GIG will take the lead on several activities, as indicated.

The Standards Alliance has set the following as goals for its engagement with Vietnam:

1. More effective National Notification Authority (NNA) and Enquiry Point (EP).
2. Enhanced standards development process, especially through increased participation in standards activities.
3. Established relationships between US SDOs, certification and accreditation bodies and Vietnamese agencies/organizations.
4. Increased understanding about the implementation of regulatory schemes in sectors such as medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics.

These goals, and the activities listed below, are subject to change as our understanding of needs and capacities deepen.

ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ONE

GOAL 1: More effective NNA and EP

ACTIVITY	PROPOSED COUNTERPART	LEAD IMPLEMENTER	ASSISTANCE DETAILS
1. Develop TBT database (for standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing information system of TBT enquiry point - Assessing existing database 	STAMEQ TBT Office	GIG	Local and international experts to review current system and prepare proposal for upgrading and improving
2. Capacity building for TBT Vietnam Enquiry Point, TBT Vietnam Inter-ministerial Committee and TBT Vietnam network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminars in Hanoi and HCM city. 	STAMEQ TBT Office	GIG	Training seminars for: (1)TBT persons at GVN ministries; and (2) TBT Vietnam network

GOAL 2: Enhanced standards development process, especially through increased participation in standards activities

and

GOAL 3: Established relationships between US SDOs, certification and accreditation bodies and Vietnamese agencies/organizations

ACTIVITY	PROPOSED COUNTERPART	LEAD IMPLEMENTER	ASSISTANCE DETAILS
3. Capacity-building for technical committees and STAMEQ/VSQI staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder engagement and achieving balanced participation on technical committees - U.S. experience of ANSI's working relationship with SDO's - Target priority sectors for AEC standardization activities 	VSQI/STAMEQ	ANSI	Training will target secretariat staff and technical experts, and will include the opportunity for increased engagement with U.S.-based SDO's
4. Capacity building for certification and inspection bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training on ISO 17065 	STAMEQ Conformity Assessment Department	GIG	3-4 day training courses in Hanoi and HCM City conducted by lead auditor or other expert

GOAL 4: Increased understanding about the implementation of regulatory schemes, including in sectors such as medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics

ACTIVITY	COUNTERPART	LEAD IMPLEMENTER	ASSISTANCE DETAILS
5. Support for revising law on product and goods quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review impact of implementation of new law and share experiences from the U.S. and other international examples 	STAMEQ Conformity Assessment Department	GIG	Assess impact of legislation and provide input based on U.S. and other examples
6. Training/Information Exchange for the medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing international standards, international regulatory alignment efforts, and good regulatory practices for the three sectors - Regulatory alignment efforts and guidelines for the three sectors and examples or case studies of their implementation in the U.S. and/or Vietnam 	STAMEQ, Ministry of Health, others as identified	ANSI	Please see attached "Training" document
7. Training exchange program for Vietnamese laboratory professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90-day exchange for staff of STAMEQ/QUATEST at U.S. CPSC - Focus on hazard identification procedures and testing and evaluation 	STAMEQ/ QUATEST2	CPSC	CPSC will host Mr. Vo Khan Ha, Deputy Head of Division, QUATEST2 for 90 days

SCHEDULE

The schedule envisioned for the implementation of the activities described above is shown below.

	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sept-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15
Develop TBT Database												
Review existing information and database												
Prepare proposal for upgrading												
Agree on next steps for upgrade												
TBT Capacity Building												
Set date/location for exchanges in Hanoi and HCM City												
Agree on draft agendas												
Hold exchanges												
Standards Capacity Building												
Set date/location for												

	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sept-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15
training												
Agree on draft agenda												
Hold training												
Certification/Inspection Body Training												
Set date/location for training												
Agree on draft agenda												
Hold training												
Support for legal review and impact												
Review existing law on product and goods quality												
Provide report with input												
Training for health sectors												
Set date/location for training												
Agree on draft agenda												
Hold training												