

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/W/28/Suppl.1

1 October 1981

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Note by the Secretariat

Supplement

A factual paper describing technical assistance being given to developing countries in the field of standardization was circulated in document TBT/W/28. The present document includes supplementary information or corrections made available to the secretariat by the signatories for purposes of the second annual review of the operation of the Agreement.

A. Bilateral assistance

A.1. Governmental

Brazil

As regards other signatory countries, Brazil has already had recourse to Article 11 of the Agreement and has requested from Japan a technical assistance programme covering standardization, industrial quality and metrology. The Brazilian Government hopes that this technical assistance can be furnished by Japan.

Canada

5. The Standards Council of Canada, with financial assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), arranged a four-week seminar in May/June 1980 for a number of invited participants from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore. The purpose of the seminar was to assist participants to find solutions to standardization problems in their own countries by demonstrating how standards are prepared and applied in Canada. Another seminar, supported by the Canadian International Development Agency is being planned for 1982.

France

The principal official bodies in regard to metrology, standards and quality control for industrial products have jointly set up the Inter-Laboratory Centre for Studies and Realization (CERLAB) to better satisfy requests received from abroad for technical assistance, advice, training and services.¹ Trainees from many countries have already attended study sessions in the various member organizations that make up CERLAB and experts from those organizations have been sent abroad for counselling sessions.

Norway

Norwegian authorities have not received any request for technical assistance.

United Kingdom

The National Weights and Measures Laboratory of the Department of Trade receives numerous requests every year for training courses. To meet demand, it has provided a course on Weights and Measures in April 1981. The course, lasting five weeks, was highly successful and is to be repeated later in 1981. It is expected that it will be offered again either once or twice, depending on demand, in 1982.

¹ Details of the services available from CERLAB are given in a CERLAB leaflet which the French Delegation has communicated to the secretariat in English and French. These documents may be consulted at the Centre William Rappard, Office 1073.

United Kingdom (cont'd)

A separate course, lasting five-and-a-half weeks, was provided by the British Standards Institute in July 1981 on the organization of standards work. It is proposed to offer the course again in either 1982 or 1983.

United States

The following paragraph should be added to supplement the section on the United States document TBT/W/28.

In addition to the activities of the National Bureau of Standards, other United States federal agencies provide a variety of technical assistance. The Federal Aviation Administration, in the United States Department of Transportation, has developed Model Civil Air Regulations that are made available to any country with as need for such assistance. Thus far, the Model Regulations have been sent to Chile, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Jordan, South Korea, Mexico, New Guinea, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has provided a range of technical assistance and information on environmental regulations and standards. Working through the Pan-American Health Organization, assistance has been provided to Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela; and, through UNIDO to Yugoslavia. Technical assistance has also been provided directly to the People's Republic of China, India, Kuwait, Portugal, Spain and Thailand. EPA also makes a range of experts available to collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO) in the revision of the international standards for drinking water. The Food and Drug Administration, in the United States Department of Health and Human Services, provides training in the areas of biologics, food sanitation control, drug analysis and techniques, pesticide analysis, food micology, animal study inspections and microbiology and chemical analysis of foods. Thus far, training has been provided to Australia, Brazil, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the People's Republic of China, Egypt, India, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and Thailand.

A.2. Non-Governmental

France

France has notified that the French private sector furnishes technical assistance in various forms and through various ways; by way of example, the "Association Française de Normalisation" (AFNOR) (French Standards Association), an association under private law concerned with standards, has for a number of years been pursuing an international co-operation policy with developing countries.

This co-operation takes various forms that can be grouped in three main areas:

Documentation: AFNOR communicates French standards to its correspondents in developing countries, and replies to any requests received for information on French standards and technical regulations.

Training: AFNOR organizes training courses on standardization, certification and quality control. A study session organized from 4 May to 5 June 1981 was attended by seventeen participants from fifteen countries (Algeria, Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey and Venezuela).

In addition, AFNOR is visited by many officers or engineers from standards organizations of developing countries seeking information on national and international activities (on average seventy each year).

Advice on standards and quality control: AFNOR sends experts for short or long missions at the request of developing countries wishing to set up or develop a standards structure or to organize a product certification system (testing procedures and laboratories). In 1980 AFNOR organized twenty co-operation missions to developing countries.

B. Multilateral Assistance

The Brazilian enquiry point receives continuing technical assistance from the secretariat in respect of notifications from signatory countries that could be of interest to the Government.

ANNEX I

Quality Control and Standardization

Correction on page 9: Delete reference to quality control seminar on "Certification and inspection system" by Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Japanese Standards Association in collaboration with Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA).

Correction on page 10: Organizer; Venue for Metrology quality assurance and standardization seminar on "Training in metrology and quality assurance" should read:

"National Weights and Measures Laboratory,
Department of Trade,
Metrology, Quality Assurance and Standards Division,
26 Chapter Street,
London,
SW1P 4NS,
United Kingdom

in association with the British Standards Institution and the Cranfield Institute of Technology."

ANNEX II

Courses in Standardization and Related Activities
to be Run in 1981

Correction on page 13: The last line in the language column against "Japan International Cooperation Agency" should read "English".