

## PROJECT UNDER THE ASIA TRUST FUND (ATF)

**Project title:** Upgrading selected ASEAN Member Countries' capability to implement the ASEAN Harmonized Cosmetic Regulatory Scheme

**Project number:** RAS/A1/01B

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### A. Background

ASEAN is moving towards an integrated market. However, market integration is not just about cutting or removing tariffs on trade. ASEAN countries have to make sure that non-tariff barriers including technical barriers created by standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment are removed.

Training activities and consultancy services have been provided for regulatory authorities and industries in ASEAN during the last two years. Some training modules regarding Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) have been developed under the programme, but no comprehensive, in-depth and advanced training on these areas has been provided due to time constraints. The Programme has ended in December 2005 and there are still a number of constraints to be overcome and challenges ahead for ASEAN to ensure that the single regulatory system for cosmetics is implemented by the agreed timeframe.

Cosmetic Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) has been identified by ASEAN under the harmonized cosmetic technical regulations as one of area which is in need of support. The constraints with regard to this issue can be summarised as follows:

- ASEAN Member Countries show weaknesses in their GMP implementation;
- Gap in terms of skills, knowledge and experience in GMP between the regulatory authorities and the cosmetic industries of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam and the other ASEAN Member countries;
- The SMEs in the cosmetic field in ASEAN, that account for 75% of the total cosmetic industries, are at this moment not ready to implement the ASEAN Cosmetic GMP Guideline;
- Lack of a strong network of experts in ASEAN to transfer their knowledge on GMP within their country and the region.

To assist ASEAN Member Countries in overcoming the above problem on GMP on 13 December 2005, the ASEAN Secretariat submitted an request for the Asian Trust Fund (ATF) to the EC Delegation in Jakarta, responsible for Indonesia. In this request, the Regional Organization solicits ATF support for upgrading selected ASEAN Member Countries' capability to implement the ASEAN Harmonized Cosmetic Regulatory Scheme.

The ATF assistance is designed to complement the EC regional and national programmes on Standards, Quality and Conformity Assessment. It will cover the gap in experience and expertise of regulatory authorities and the cosmetic industry identified by ASEAN, regarding the implementation of GMP ASEAN Member Countries.

### B. Programme objective(s)

The objective is to strengthen the technical competency of regulators and cosmetic industry personnel in ASEAN Member Countries on GMP and to increase

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their ability to transfer the acquired knowledge to stakeholders. This will contribute to ensure the continuity of the EC-ASEAN Regional Economic Cooperation Programme and other national projects on Standards, Quality and Conformity Assessment in improving the capability of regulators and the cosmetic industry in ASEAN Member Countries to implement the ASEAN Harmonized Cosmetic Regulatory Scheme (AHCRS).

The ASEAN Senior Expert will be responsible to work closely with the International Consultant in conducting five (5) training activities as follows:

- One four-day regional training on GMP in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 31 July- 3 August 2006.
- One two-day national follow-up training on GMP in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 31-31 October 2006.
- One two-day national follow-up training on GMP in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 6-7 November 2006.
- One two-day national follow-up training on GMP in Manila, Philippines on 9-10 November 2006.
- One two-day national follow-up training on GMP in Bangkok, Thailand on 13-14 November 2006.

The ASEAN Senior Expert will also work closely with the International Consultant in developing the needed training material to support the training activities as well as to identify recommendations to be reported to the ASEAN Cosmetic Committee arising from each training activity for follow-up actions. The ASEAN Senior Expert will also act as trainers for trainings based on arrangements between the ASEAN Senior Expert and International Consultant.

The ASEAN Senior Expert will also work with the International Consultant to deliver a summary report after each training activity.

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