



Capacity-Building and Institutional Strengthening for Standardization and Metrology Infrastructure

To facilitate trade within OIC Member Countries and Global Market
(2014-GAMTRADE-030)



Background

Project Owner Ministry/Institution

- ❖ Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment represented by the Permanent Secretary.

Project Contact Person:

- ❖ The Director General of The Gambia Standards Bureau

Project Coordinator:

- ❖ Mr. M. Krubally

The Subject of the Project

- ❖ Harmonization of standards and capacity-building for the facilitation of trade

Time Frame:



The Purpose of the Project

To develop the capacity and skills for the production of national Halal Standards that is harmonized with the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards in order to promote and facilitate trade among OIC and the global Halal community





Expected Impact and Results of the Project

- The project target and ultimate beneficiaries are the producers, traders, exporters and importers, the majority of whom are Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs) operating within the internal economy.
- Many of these currently do not adhere to any Halal standard and suffer from a lack of certification services for Halal in The Gambia.
- The other target group of the Project includes policy-makers, regulators and other stakeholders to enhance their awareness and understanding of halal issues in general and standards in particular.
- The capacity of the cross-cutting members of the Technical Committee on Halal will be improved
- Capacity-building for the Metrology Staff of the Bureau and Senegal through provision of training.
- Expert assessment and recommendation to improve the National Metrology Laboratory of the Bureau.



Activity 1

Conduct a high-level national workshop to enhance awareness of stakeholders on halal issues

- ❖ **The objectives:** To enhance the awareness of stakeholders on halal issues ranging from policy-makers in Government, members of parliament, government ministries and agencies, companies, chamber of commerce and professional associations, academia, private sector officials, consumers, media personnel
- ❖ **In attendance:** Representatives from Turkey (Turkish Standards Institution, TSE) and Senegal (Association Senegalese de Normalisation, ASN).
 - ▀ These representatives made presentations and shared experiences in their countries in the area of Halal and also gained a better understanding of the issues in Gambia



Activity 2

Review, adopt and publish all three (3) OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards as national standards

- ❖ A Technical Committee on Halal Issues was formed with membership of relevant stakeholders including public and private Institutions in the area of food and nutrition, associations, consumers and religious bodies
- ❖ The members of the TC were trained on standards development procedures including the SMIIC harmonized procedures, The TC reviewed and adopted the OIC SMIIC Halal Standards
- ❖ All the steps of the procedure were undertaken including public commenting and finally publication

Activity 3

Undertake a Study tour to Turkey

- ❖ **Objective:** To familiarize with and understand the implementation of the requirements of the Turkish Halal Standards and the Conformity Assessment Scheme
- ❖ The Study Tour afforded the participants the opportunity to appreciate the role of the relevant Institutions and learn best-practices
- ❖ **In attendance:** A four-member team composed of three (3) persons from Gambia and one (1) from Senegal undertook a Study Tour to Turkey
- ❖ The members from Gambia were staff from the Ministry of Trade (Responsible Authority) and the Bureau and Senegal (ASN)





Activity 4

A Metrology Expert assessment of the setup of and requirements to augment the capacity of the National Metrology Laboratory

- ❖ A Metrology Expert from the Turkish Metrology Institute (TUBITAK UME) visited The Gambia to assess the status of the National Metrology Laboratory of The Gambia Standards Bureau
- ❖ The assignment also included the review of the results of the survey of priority metrology service requirements of the country and conduct field visits to validate these needs
- ❖ He also provided training in specific areas notably on temperature and mass.
 - ❖ The results of this assessment and recommendations were contained in a report that he submitted A list of equipment needed and possible suppliers were also identified for the use of the Bureau

Activity 5

Information-dissemination on published Halal Standards

- ❖ In addition to the Workshops held, a nationwide sensitization tour was conducted in order to create greater awareness among the general public and technical personnel all round the country as well as politicians and local government officials

- ❖ About two hundred and fifty in total

- ❖ Publicity materials made use of during the tour included T-shirts, banners, presentations and face-to-face discussions

- ❖ A special forum was held for Imams and other religious scholars





Outcomes and Impact of the Project

- ❖ Greater awareness of policy-makers, religious leaders, and the general public on halal issues, including Halal standards was achieved through the interactive workshops and nationwide sensitization tours and reports in the newspapers and radio programmes
- ❖ An Expert assessment of the capacity and gap analysis of the National Metrology Laboratory was accomplished
- ❖ Areas for investment and equipment needs were identified
- ❖ Through the Expert's diagnosis of the breakdown of the main equipment at the Temperature Laboratory, the Bureau was able to fix the problem by acquiring the services of a local engineer
 - ❖ This allowed the Bureau to continue to use this equipment for the work of temperature calibrations



Outcomes and Impact of the Project Cont'd

- ❖ Through the study tour in Turkey, the participants gained knowledge on the operations of a Halal Conformity Assessment scheme and a better understanding of implementation of Halal standards by certified companies
- ❖ There was improved multilateral relations and mutual understanding of Institutions in the Quality Infrastructure fields in Turkey, Senegal, and The Gambia
 - ❖ Experts from Gambia and Senegal visited facilities of TSE in Turkey (Gebze campus)
 - ❖ Made several conducted tours of selected companies
 - ❖ Paid a courtesy call at SMIC Headquarters



Challenges

- ❖ Gazetting of the standards is the remaining activity
 - ❖ Cooperation of the Business community and all stakeholders to use the Halal Standards once officially Gazetted
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Recommendations

- ❖ COMCEC continued Support for the second phase.
 - ❖ Reinforce the integration of Halal standards by all relevant stakeholders
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Thank you!

