

March 27 Break Out Session: Ranking the Major Sources of Non-Tariff Barriers, Obstacles and Institutional, Capacity and Infrastructure Gaps

Group Discussion: In terms of institutional arrangements and activities, what do you think are the institutional capacity, and infrastructure gaps/shortfalls?

Instructions

- a. Discuss among the group what you think are the capacity gaps in each category provided in the matrix.
- b. List down the capacity short-falls and obstacles in column b.
- c. Please rank order of relevance (*0=not relevant; 1= somewhat important; 2= very important*) in column c.
- d. Give your reasons for the ranking in column d.

a. Category	b. What are the shortfalls and obstacles?	c. Ranking of importance*	d. Reasons for ranking
Dissemination of information on regulatory procedures, documentary requirements and other official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The access to the trade-related information is limited due to the lacks of the budget and resources - There is an difficulty to understand the trade-related information of the trading partners, which requires an additional service and generate more cost 	2	The trade information is important for the traders to understand how to start the trade. It is difficult to trade without the good understanding on trade regulation, documentary requirements and other official information
Cooperation between government entities: effectiveness and efficiency	-	0	
Cooperation with regional and international authorities and entities: effectiveness and efficiency	-	0	Lao PRD has ACFTA and bilateral agreement with PRC on the duty reduction for 8,000 items (ASEAN) and 459 items (PRC)
Human resources: knowledge and experience of core staff in relevant state agencies	Limitation of the human resources (both quality and quantity)	2	The core staffs play important role on the trade-related information and implementation. The core staffs needs to improve the communication skills (English/GMS local languages)
Operating budgets: in relation to what specifically?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limitation of the budget for all the trade supply chain from the dissemination of information, trade facilitation and implementation - Limitation of the budget for the human resources development & capacity building 	2	All trade-related activities require an optimum budget in order to perform the work effectiveness and efficiency
Facilities: what are the gaps, and what investments in physical infrastructure are needed to fill these gaps?	- Limitation of laboratory equipment for the inspection and analysis, warehouse, and ICT system	2	
Sanitary and phytosanitary: in terms of technical expertise, communication, policies, institutions and facilities	- Lack of capacity building and facilities	2	
Technical barriers to trade: in terms of technical expertise, communication, policies, institutions and facilities	No automated systems, all paperwork have to apply manually and have to deal with the multi-agencies	1	
Transit time and automated systems (or lack thereof)	-	0	

Public-private sector consultation mechanisms: effectiveness and efficiency	-	0	
Others	-	-	-

* Rankings: 0=not relevant; 1= somewhat important; 2= very important