Global Project Quality Infrastructure - India

Reducing Technical Barriers to Trade, Enhancing Product Safety, Strengthening Consumer Protection

Quality Infrastructure (QI) describes the system that ensures that user quality expectations and regulatory requirements are met. Well-functioning and internationally coherent national quality infrastructures are important in a world of global value chains. They reduce time, costs, and business uncertainty for firms.

The Global Project Quality Infrastructure (GPQI) of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) engages in technical and political dialogues with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and Mexico to reduce technical barriers to trade, enhance product safety, and strengthen consumer protection.

GPQI serves as a platform to improve the mutual understanding of policies and regulations, and to jointly develop positions and solutions for international technical harmonisation. Common bilateral interests are the basis for the cooperation on challenges and opportunities on standardisation, conformity assessment and accreditation, legal metrology, and market surveillance with a wide range of stakeholders. These include ministries, regulators, public agencies, standards and accreditation bodies, industry experts, associations, companies, and technical and scientific institutions.

BMWi has commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH – the German Agency for International Cooperation – to support the implementation of GPQI. The project coordinates stakeholder inputs on draft regulations and standards, expert exchanges, delegation visits, pilot projects, and releases technical publications.

> "Germany is amongst India's most important partners for trade, investment and technology. The Indo-German Working Group plays a significant role in further strengthening the ties by providing a platform for sharing technical knowledge and intensifying dialogue on standardisation, conformity assessment, and product safety."
>
> Surina Rajan, Former Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

Partner countries of GPQI: Brazil (Brasília), China (Beijing), India (Delhi), Indonesia (Jakarta), and Mexico (Mexico City); Head Quarter: Germany (Berlin)

The project in India

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Indian Ministry for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (MoCA&PD) have established the **Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure.** It brings together relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Power as well as experts from the Bureau of Indian Standards, industry, associations and accreditation bodies. The Indian country component of GPQI supports the implementation of the mutually agreed annual work plan of the Working Group. The work plan reflects key areas of the economic relations between both countries. It covers topics ranging from automotive, electromobility, machinery safety, Industry 4.0, energy, medical devices, chemicals, cybersecurity and data protection to market surveillance.

> "The project has enhanced interaction among German and Indian stakeholders, including with the Bureau of Indian Standards. Based on this, there is a growing orientation towards international standards like ISO/IEC in India. Over all, the project is immensely supporting the development of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures across sectors."
>
> Thomas Fuhrmann, Managing Director, TÜV Rheinland India Pvt. Ltd.

Implemented by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

> With the help of the project, the interaction among key stakeholders has been stimulated. We are guided to relevant Indian authorities to address concerns. I see that our industry inputs are considered more and more by Indian regulators."
>
> Manojkumar Belgaonkar, Head of Quality and Project Management, Siemens India

> We benefit from the project by receiving important information on technical market access conditions. We are able to build a good network for the exchange of experience and information concerning the Indian market and technical regulations. Our work in this project shall lead to a significant improvement of the legal certainty for our members' activities."
>
> Hermann Wegner, Mechanical Engineering Industry Association (VDMA)

GPQI-India at a glance

200+
Involved partners & stakeholders

100+
Average monthly advisory services for partners & stakeholders

800+
Participants in expert exchanges

8 Sectors covered: automotive, electromobility, machinery safety, digitalisation – cybersecurity and data protection, Industry 4.0, energy, medical devices, chemicals

5 Publications:
- India's Quality Infrastructure
- Making Safe Machines a Standard in India
- Automotive and Component Trade with India
- Securing the Internet of Things Together
- Quality Rules in India

25 Expert Workshops on:
- Market surveillance
- Automotive
- Electromobility
- Cybersecurity
- Industry 4.0
- Machinery safety
- Quality Infrastructure

32
Supported adoption of ISO standards in India for machinery safety

23 Indian policies and technical regulations commented
1. Indian National Strategy for Standards
2. Indian White Paper on data protection
3. Rules based on revised Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act 2016
4. National Automotive Policy
5. Electric vehicle charging standards
6. Automotive standards on emission and Safety
7. Scheme for recognition of Standards Developing Organisations
8. Technical regulations for medical devices

General | From June 2017 to present

> The Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure supports trade among Indian and German industry through an enhanced mutual understanding of regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures. We look forward to a continuation of this forum and the supporting GPQI project."
>
> Anupam Kaul, Principal & Head – QMS, Institute of Quality, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

> The project has helped to level the playing field for machinery safety in India. For the first time, comparable standards were introduced. This is actually a game changer since this opens up complete new market segments in India."
>
> Heinrich Bruellau, Former COO, Schmersal India Pvt. Ltd.

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SERVICES & ACHIEVEMENTS

ANALYSING policies, regulations and disseminating information

Published: studies on the Indian Quality Infrastructure landscape and other technical topics

- Companies have greater compliance clarity, saving them time and costs.
- Firms know better how to become involved in Indian standards development.

NETWORKING between industry and regulators for direct exchange

Organised: expert exchanges

A forum to share common experiences on technical barriers to trade has been established.

Arranged: delegation visits to Germany and India for policy makers & regulators

Understanding of standards development and reference models in Industry 4.0 are being enhanced by expert exchanges seeing German and European firms and regulations in action.

DEVELOPING solutions for technical and regulatory challenges

Researched: Technical challenges of German companies in India and solutions

- Challenges concerning automotive, machinery, medical spare parts, electrical equipment were identified and solutions proposed.

Proposed: Orientation towards international standards

- India's integration into global value chains, and consideration of international standards in the machinery, automotive and electromobility industry were supported.

Informed: Implications of implementation of technical regulations on short notice

- Complications arising through new regulations for power semiconductor converters were pinpointed. Industry benefited when their implementation was deferred by the Indian government.
- Regulatory compliance has become easier through timely information on upcoming regulations.
- Challenges related to regulations for energy efficient electric motors were identified and solutions proposed which will prevent the same regulatory challenges from reoccurring.

COORDINATING stakeholder inputs on policies, standards, and technical regulations

Commented: draft Indian Strategy for Standards (INSS)

International good practices, like industry involvement in standards development and a robust market surveillance system have been considered in the INSS.

Commented: White Paper on Data Protection in India

Proposals for a robust Indian data protection framework considering the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will reduce compliance costs for companies and increasing regulatory certainty for consumers.

Analysed: Indian and EU regulations on machinery safety

By bringing in expertise on international standards and good practices through a study and a guideline handbook, first steps have been taken towards enhancing machinery safety in India.

Assisted: creating a technical committee on machinery safety

32 Indian machinery safety standards have been aligned to international standards, protecting workers while ensuring Indian machine manufacturers can access international markets with more ease.

LOOKING AHEAD for trends, opportunities and new cooperation areas

Supported: developing an approach to standardisation in India for Industry 4.0

Standardisation needs are being identified that prepare the ground for new technologies such as Industry 4.0 and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Indian regulators have signalled openness to using elements of the Reference Architecture Model Industry 4.0.

Initiated: cooperation on electromobility standards

German and Indian standards bodies took up joint leadership role at IEC for the development of international electric vehicle standards.

India is considering its electric vehicle charging using elements of the Combined Charging System (CCS). Using CCS will improve electric vehicle and component trade between India and Germany.

Facilitated: expert exchanges on creating a robust Indian market surveillance and data protection system to protect consumers

A better understanding of EU risk-based approaches has been achieved among regulators.

Firms have been informed on how to comply to the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).