

An aerial photograph of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, during a boat race festival. The foreground shows numerous long, narrow boats filled with people racing on the Tonle Sap river. In the middle ground, the Royal Palace of Cambodia is visible, surrounded by a large crowd of people. The background shows the city skyline with several tall buildings under a hazy, orange-tinted sky.

# **Streamlining NTMs in Cambodia: Challenges and Way Forward**

**Department of Economic Integration and ASEAN, General  
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# Research Team

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# I. Overview

- The kingdom has remarkably experienced robust growth since the 1990s. One among the fastest growth in the region, GDP growth rate of Cambodia is approximately **7% in average** for almost two decades.
- There are at least four key driving sectors in Cambodia economy, such as garment and textile industries, agricultures, tourism and construction. In the short and medium terms, the garment sector, together with construction and services, continues to propel growth.
- Cambodia has admitted itself into the regional grouping known as Association of Southeast Asian Nations since 1999 and the World Trade Organization in 2004.



## II. Potential of ASEAN

- Combined GDP: **US\$2.6 trillion** in 2014, ASEAN Economy was the **7<sup>th</sup> largest economy** in the world and the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest** in Asia.
- ASEAN was the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest market** in the world with 622 million people in 2014, behind only China and India
- Total trade increased nearly US\$1trillion between 2007 and 2014 with intra-ASEAN trade comprising the largest share of ASEAN's trade by partners.
- ASEAN **attracted US\$136billion in FDI** in 2014 accounting for 11% of global FDI inflow, up from only 5% in 2007.
- Annual tourists were up from 62 million in 2007 to **105 million** in 2014, almost half of which were intra-ASEAN.

(Source: ASEAN Economic Community at a Glance, ASEAN States)





# III. ASEAN Member States' Obligation

- In pursuing the goal of establishing a single market and production base with free flow of goods by 2015, the ASEAN Economic Ministers agreed in August 2007 to enhance the Common Effective Preferential Tariff for ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (*CEPT-AFTA*) into a more comprehensive legal instrument.
- ATIGA was signed in February 2009 and entered into force on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 with transitional period of 180 days.
- ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement

## **Art.13, Chapt.1 on *ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR)***

1. An ASEAN Trade Repository containing trade and customs laws and procedures of all Member States shall be established and made accessible to the public through the internet.



# III. ASEAN Member States' Obligation

2. The ASEAN Trade Repository shall contain trade related information, such as: (i) Tariff Nomenclature; (ii) MFN Tariffs; (iii) Rules of Origin; (iv) Non-Tariff Measures; (v) National Trade and Customs law and Rules; (vi) Procedures and documentary requirements; (vii) administrative rulings; (viii) best practices and (ix) list of Authorized Trader.

## **Art. 40, Chapt.4 on *Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs)***

1. Each member state shall not adopt any non-tariff measure on the importation of any good of any other member states or the exportation of any good destined for the territory of any other member state.
2. Those measures shall be transparent and its database shall be further developed and included in ATR





## IV. Cambodia's Obligation

- The Royal Government has simultaneously issued at least two Sub-decrees (hereinafter called Anuket) in the sense of building a room for dealing with non-tariff measures.
- The first Anuket **(N° 257 HNKR.BK)** was made and issued on 19 Sept 2014 to establish the National Committee of Non-Tariff Measures.
- Meanwhile, the latter **(N° 258 HNKR.BK)** was made and issued on the same date to form the National Trade Repository in the sense of publicizing trade related legal documents, non-tariff measures, and other information.





## IV. Cambodia's Obligation

- The National Trade Repository of Cambodia ([www.cambodiantr.gov.kh](http://www.cambodiantr.gov.kh)) was officially launched on 23 Nov 2015.
- This NTR also linked with the ASEAN Trade Repository ([www.atr.asean.org](http://www.atr.asean.org)) in order to emphasize on non-tariff measures, to enhance transparency and to facilitate regional trade as well.

# National Trade Repository in Cambodia



## CAMBODIA NATIONAL TRADE REPOSITORY



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# National Trade Repository in Cambodia

## Welcome to National Trade Repository of Cambodia

This website provides access to the **National Trade Repository of the Kingdom of Cambodia**, the official source for all regulatory information relevant to traders who wish to import goods into Cambodia or export to other countries.

Click on the links on this page to look for the tariffs relating to each commodity, any special measures, the procedures and forms for applying for permits, licenses and Customs clearance and much more. [Click here](#) if you want to know more about the National Trade Repository and the future ASEAN Trade Repository.

### Search Commodities

Click here to search the commodity classification and the tariffs



### Search Legal Documents

Click here to search laws, regulations and other legal texts



### Search Measures, etc.

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Announcement on procedure of issuing Certificate of Origin Form "A" through automatic system

Announcement on procedure of issuing Certificate of Origin Form "A" through automatic

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# National Trade Repository in Cambodia

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## Search Measures, Standards and Special Requirements

### Measures

A measure is a specific import or export requirement that applies to a commodity or to certain types of products. Typically, a measure requires permits or licenses to be obtained from the relevant government agency prior to importing or exporting the goods. You can also find out what measures are currently in force in Cambodia by utilizing the searching feature below.

### Standards

Here you will find information on Cambodia's own standards that businesses and traders operating in Cambodia can choose to apply to the products they deal in. You can see the products to which standards apply and the relevant legal documents by searching for 'National Standards' below. Procedures for applying the National Standards are provided for in the Law on Standards.

### Special Requirements

By using the search facilities below you will also be able to look up any generic requirements associated with specific commodities or products, such as the need to register to import certain products.

Keyword	Agency
<input type="text"/>	All agencies ▼
Measure/Standard Type	Validity From
All Types ▼	<input type="text"/>
	Validity To
	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Search"/>	

Displaying 1-10 of 369 result(s).

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Email *	<input type="text"/>
Password *	<input type="text"/>
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# National Trade Repository in Cambodia

Name	Enforced By	Type	Validity From	Validity To
<a href="#">Import Prohibition</a>	Ministry of Economy and Finance	Prohibition	31-12-2007	31-12-9999
<a href="#">Export Prohibition</a>	Ministry of Economy and Finance	Prohibition	31-12-2007	31-12-9999
<a href="#">Requirement to obtain phytosanitary certificate to export, import, or transit of quarantine plants and plant products</a>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	SPS Regulations	13-03-2003	31-12-9999
<a href="#">Requirement to obtain license when importing chemical substances and products, except where the substance or product is for medical or pharmaceutical purposes</a>	Ministry of Industry and Handicraft	Certificate Requirement	13-02-2012	31-12-9999
<a href="#">Requirement to obtain permission to export, import, transit and transport of animals and animal products</a>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Permit Requirement	18-05-2009	31-12-9999
<a href="#">Requirement to obtain Business License as Importer/Exporter of Livestock</a>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Licensing Requirement	18-05-2009	31-12-9999
<a href="#">Requirement for Inspection of Goods subject to Phytosanitary Control</a>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Inspection Requirement	18-05-2009	31-12-9999
<a href="#">Requirement to obtain Customs Permit</a>	Ministry of Economy and Finance	Permit Requirement	31-12-2007	31-12-9999
<a href="#">Requirement to obtain Import Permit for Petroleum Products (Project Use)</a>	Ministry of Economy and Finance	Permit Requirement	31-12-2007	31-12-9999
<a href="#">Requirement to obtain Import Permit for Import of Duty Free Goods</a>	Ministry of Economy and Finance	Permit Requirement	31-12-2007	31-12-9999

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## View Measure

Name	Requirement to obtain Customs Permit
Description	For all the following categories of goods it is necessary to obtain a Customs Permit from the Customs Procedures Department of the General Department of Customs in advance of importation: Customs Permit (CP) issued for: Import for Private and Public Sector Investment Export for Private and Public Sector Investment Temporary Admission (goods and vehicles) Transport from Borders to Dry Docks Temporary Export for Vehicles from Cambodia All goods listed in Sub-decree No. 209, 31 December 2007
Comments	For control
Validity From	31-12-2007
Validity To	31-12-9999
Reference	
Technical Code	
Agency	Ministry of Economy and Finance
Created Date	2014-08-26 04:15:15
Updated Date	2015-03-20 12:49:32
Status	Active
Measure Type	Permit Requirement
Legal/Regulation	<a href="#">Sub-Decree No. 209 on the Enforcement of the List of Prohibited and Restricted Goods</a>

## Procedures

Procedure Name	Description	Category	View Procedure Detail with Relevant Forms
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No results found.

This measure applies to commodity/s

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## IV. Cambodia's Obligation

- Classifying NTMs based on the Classification of Non-Tariff Measures in 2012 version organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
- At least **123 trade related legal documents** have been collected for analyzing and classifying.
- **369 NTMs and 52 procedures** that have been found out and uploaded into the National Trade Repository
- Although it is true that a bunch of NTMs have been already classified, but in closer inspection there are still lots of tasks to undertake further in this sense.



# V. Research Problems and Scope of Study

- Although it is true that Cambodia and other countries have come together to liberalize region trade for greater opportunities, but beside the tariff reduction and elimination there is a wide range of **behind-border issues** which are potentially effecting trade as well.
- These behind-border issues and administrative technical issues are appearing to be the **next target for regional cooperation and collaboration** for addressing on it.
- Particularly, Non-Tariff Measures have been tremendously drawing attentions from the entire economies to set up practical measures in addressing on it for greater trade facilitation.





# Research Questions:

- What are the challenges of Cambodia in an attempt to streamline the NTMs?
- What are the best practices undertaken by neighbors? How does NTMs streamlining benefit the traders, businesspersons, and economic community?
- How to shape the future direction of NTMs in consistent with the regional and global trend?



# Research Objectives

The Objectives of this policy research are:

- To determine the guidelines for streamlining NTMs in Cambodia
- To identify the challenges and means of addressing on it
- To obtain the policy inputs to make sure NTMs are on track
- To seek for a future direction of NTMs in the region





# VI. Methodology and Data

The policy research will uphold the methodology as follows:

- Examines the existing NTMs that have been put in place and continues to identify the unnecessary NTMs
- Studies and reviews on the best practices undertaken by other countries in streamlining NTMs in way that does not compromise the equality of people living standard and environment condition
- Deliberates and studies on the regional and global tendency on NTMs and its future direction
- Discusses with focal points from line ministries, relevant institutions, and other stakeholders on the impacts, feasibilities, challenges, and opportunities in streamlining NTMs



The policy research will utilize:

- Administrative data and information
- Primary and secondary data, in both soft and hard, by collecting from line ministries, relevant institutions, and stakeholders
- Data from National Trade Repository, ASEAN Trade Repository and relevant official websites





## VII. Expected Research Outcome and Policy Relevance

- The policy research will become the key potential inputs for the Royal Government's policy on actual streamlining NTMs in order to improve the effectiveness of trade liberalization and trade facilitation.
- Systematically, the finding challenges, which Cambodia is confronting, will be expected to deduct since the policy research will indeed provide a package of practical recommendations, constructive ideas, and best practices.
- As consequences, the streamlining will cut down the unnecessary and unwanted measures to trade.



An aerial photograph of the Angkor Wat festival in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The image shows the Angkor Wat temple complex in the center, surrounded by a large crowd of people. In the foreground, several long, narrow boats filled with people are on the water. The background features a dense urban landscape with many high-rise buildings under a hazy, orange-tinted sky. The text "Thanks You," is overlaid in a large, black, serif font in the upper center of the image.

**Thanks You,**