

MODELS FOR STANDARDIZATION BODIES IN SMALL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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By

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MODELS FOR STANDARDIZATION BODIES IN SMALL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- **Elements of a Measurement, Standards and Conformity Assessment Technical Infrastructure (MSC TI)**
- **MSC TI Bodies – Who Owns/Governs**
- **MSC – Options for Small and Developing Countries**
- **National MSC TI Option**
- **Examples from the Pacific Islands**
- **Options for the Pacific Islands**
- **Conclusions**

MODELS FOR STANDARDIZATION BODIES IN SMALL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- **Legal/Governmental Framework**, e.g.
 - Basic consumer protection
 - Fair Trading, competition
 - Reference to standards, metrology and accreditation
 - Obligations under WTO/TBT, SPS, Etc
- **Physical Standards/Metrology**
 - Length, Time
 - Traceability to primary (physical) standards

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- **Legal Metrology**
 - Weights and Measures
 - Certification (patent approval) of measuring equipment
- **Accreditation**
 - Laboratories, testing, inspection
 - Certification bodies, personnel

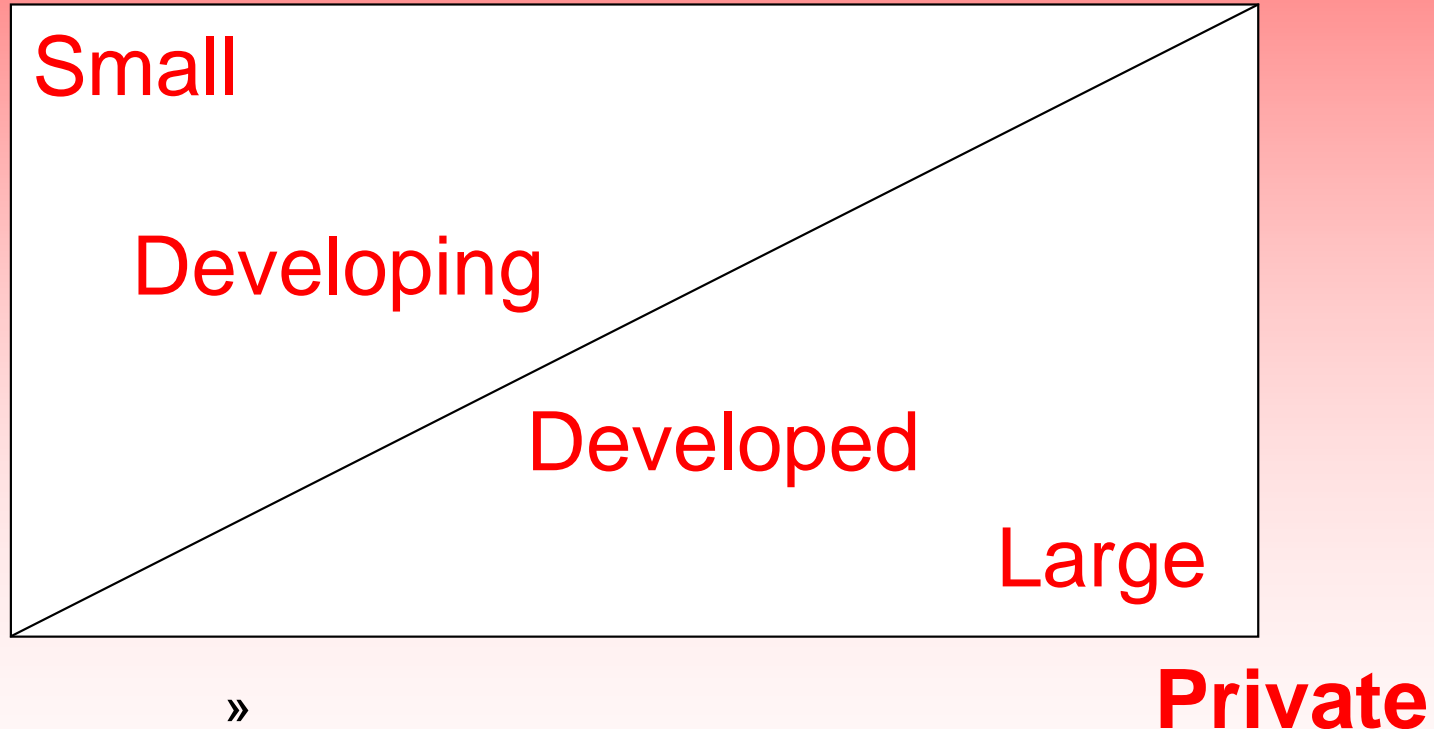
MODELS FOR STANDARDIZATION BODIES IN SMALL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- **Standards and Normative Documents**
- **Products, goods and services**
- **Technical regulation (= mandatory standards)**
- **Conformity Assessment**
- **Certification of systems and products**
- **Testing bodies**
- **Inspection bodies**

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- **Standards and Conformance Bodies –
Who Owns/Governs – Country**

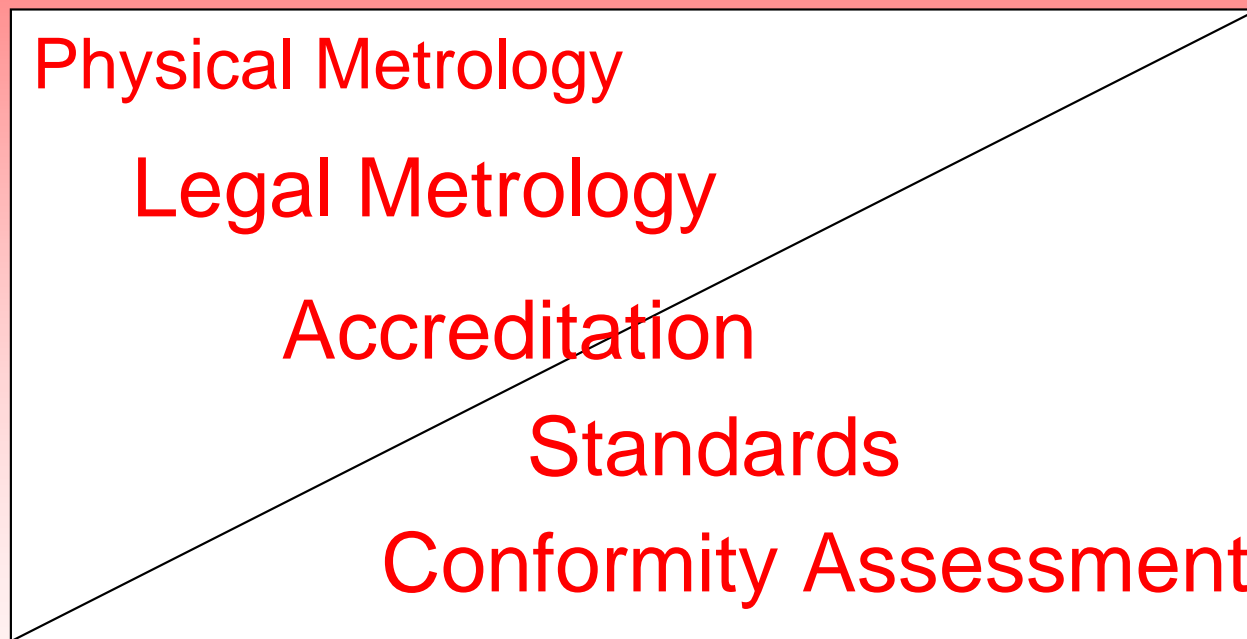
Government



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- **Standards and Conformance Bodies –
Who Owns/Governs – Functions**

Government



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Private

MODELS FOR STANDARDIZATION BODIES IN SMALL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- **Small and Developing Economies**
 - Physical and Legal Metrology, Accreditation and Standards : government owned and controlled
 - Conformity Assessment : Mixture government and private
- **Large and Developed Economies**
 - Physical and Legal Metrology : Government
 - Accreditation : mostly government
 - Standards : majority private
 - Conformity Assessment : mostly private

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MSC TI OPTIONS (1)

1. Setting up Own

- Lack of technical skills
- Diseconomies of scale
- Economically unviable

2. Set up Regional MSC TI

- Loss of sovereignty
- Different economic development rates and political ambitions

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MSC TI OPTIONS (2)

3. Accept Other Country's MSC TI

- No sovereignty
- Outcomes set too high/low
- No account of local conditions

4. Mixture of Options

- Metrology & Legal – National
- Standards and Accreditation – Other Country/International
- Conformity Assessment - International

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PROGRESSIVE INTRODUCTION MSC TI (1)

- Phase 1

Basic consumer protection and business competition law. Some protection re safety and fair competition

- Phase 2

Basic Legal Metrology. Weights and measures to complement consumer protection/business competition law. Tertiary physical standards calibrated in other country

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PROGRESSIVE INTRODUCTION MSC TI (2)

- Phase 3

Recognition of international and other national standards e.g. public health safety, traded goods.

- Phase 4

Recognition limited number of other national and/or regional accreditation bodies

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PROGRESSIVE INTRODUCTION MSC TI (3)

- Phase 5

Recognition of other national physical metrology to calibrate secondary physical standards

- Phase 6

Introduction of Local trade specific testing laboratories

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BASIC MODEL (1)

- **Consumer protection and business competition law**
- **Simple legal metrology system for consumer protection and trade, using secondary or tertiary physical standards calibrated in another country**
- **Method of recognizing standards developed by others (international and other national), with some possibility of local differences**

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BASIC MODEL (2)

- **Basic test laboratories and inspection services to aid exports**
- **Rely on accreditation by bodies in other countries**
- **Rely on conformity assessment provided by the international private sector companies**

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EXAMPLES – THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (1)

- **Contract with the Pacific Islands Forums to review MSC TI needs of 14 PIF Islands**
- **NISIT – Papua New Guinea (population 4 million) has reasonable MSC TI**
 - **Consumer/Business law**
 - **Secondary calibration against National Measurement Institute (Aust)**
 - **Mostly adopts AS, BS and ISO/IEC Stds**
 - **Provides Accreditation with assistance from NATA (Aust)**

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EXAMPLES – THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (2)

- **TSC – Fiji (population 900,000) fits basic model described earlier**
 - **Consumer/business law**
 - **Basic secondary/tertiary calibrated weights and measures system**
 - **Recognises AS,NZS, ISO/IEC Standards via web based system provided by Standards Australia**
 - **Accreditation and certification direct from Aust and NZ + few local test labs**

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EXAMPLES – THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (3)

- **Other Islands – population 1,200 up to 450,000**
- **Virtually no standards and accreditation infrastructure**
- **Some government and private inspection and testing – often “accredited” by trading partners**
- **MCE TI is an issue as many PIF island companies want to join the WTO**

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2005 PACIFIC ISLANDS CONSULTANCIES

- **CaSServ (Aust) – Metrology; Accreditation Certification, Inspection and Testing**
- **KVA Consult (Samoa) – Legal, Standards**
- **Difficult to get single recommendations as elements of MSC TI are interconnected**
- **12 Islands visited by one team or the other**
- **2 were interviewed by phone**
- **Generally understanding of MSC TI was minimal in Islands**

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RECOMMENDATIONS (1)

- **Individual country consumer protection and business competition laws**
- **Regional Body to be holder of secondary physical standards with tertiary weights and measures units in 2 or 3 countries**
- **Mechanism to recognise other standards (Fijian model) - either individually (KVA Consult) or regionally (CaSServ)**
- **Regional Accreditation Body with international acceptance (PNG NISIT)**

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RECOMMENDATIONS (2)

- **Regional Body to provide accreditation at regional level for conformity assessment at regional level and for bilateral trade (where other party accepts)**
- **Regional body to provide advisory services in conformity assessment**
- **Support for some local calibration and testing laboratories, especially at the University of the South Pacific**
- **No further FIC action at present time**

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IMPEDIMENTS TO COLLECTIVE ACTION IN MSC TI IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

- Sovereignty of independent nations
- Ethnic tension – Melanesian/ Polynesian
- Collective dis-economies of scale
- Non participation of New Caledonia (France) and American Samoa
- Reported ineffectiveness of other regional initiatives
- Regional shortage of professional engineers and scientists

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