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Dear Reader,

At the start of the "second halftime" of 2006 we can already present two PTB-made premieres: Premiere number one you are either holding in your hands or seeing on your monitor: the new layout of our Candela. Premiere number two: The PTB is, on the 11th and 12th of September, inviting, for the first time, representatives of the Development Cooperation, politicians and economic experts to a mutual exchange of information on the development of quality infrastructures (QI) in the developing and threshold countries. The QI conference bears the title "angeMESSEN!" ("FITTING!") and is to, in future, take place every year. Herewith we would like to contribute to a still more efficient networking of all participating special experts. By the way: The environment of the event also has something to offer. After all, Braunschweig has been selected as the "Stadt der Wissenschaft" (City of Science) and perhaps the multifaceted research activities will also fascinate you. We are in any case looking forward to your visit.

Your

Dieter Schwohnke

With certainty into the future

The *Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit* (BMZ – Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) intends to support the work of the Department of Technical Cooperation of the PTB in future with a project-independent lump-sum promotion. "We would like to herewith increase the planning certainty and decrease the administrative effort", Dr. Evita Schmieg of the BMZ explains. This promotion is to aid the adaptation of units of measurement and product qualities to international standards in the developing and threshold countries as quickly as possible. Reliable standards facilitate free trade, thereby strengthening the businesses and enterprises in the developing countries and thus providing more jobs. The "Aktionsprogramm 2015" (Programme of Action 2015) is the foundation for the BMZ promotion. Numerous governments, international organizations, businesses and social groups had declared their intention in the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in the year 2000 to halve the number of extremely poor people worldwide by 2015.

The *Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt* (PTB) belongs to the pioneers in the field of establishing quality infrastructures in the developing and threshold countries. PTB scientists advise institutions in situ, train specialists and provide the necessary measurement technology. The PTB has already been working together with the *Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung* (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) for more than forty years.

Briefly

Maghreb states

A new PTB project supports the establishment of common quality infrastructures in the Maghreb states of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Capacities are thus to be combined and sufficiently large markets created which could also form a lasting bond with foreign investors. By means of the cross-national quality infrastructures the states are to be made fit enough for the free-trade zone of the Mediterranean countries planned by the European Union for 2010.

http://www.ptb.de/de/org/q/q5/q52/maghreb_95048.pdf

Syria

The starting signal for the planned project activities in Syria has been given. The quality infrastructure of the country is to be adapted to international standards. The background is the planned free-trade zone of the EU and Syria's aspiration to be accepted as a member by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

http://www.ptb.de/de/org/q/q5/q52/syrien_95047.pdf

"angeMESSEN!" ("FITTING!")

The PTB conference for the establishment and extension of quality infrastructures in developing and threshold countries will be held in Braunschweig on 11th/12th September 2006.

<http://www.ptb.de/de/org/q/q5/angem.htm>

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