IGAT *INSIDER*

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade

December 2002 (Issue #4)

In the standardization world, the arrival of autumn means a round of regional and international annual meetings. This issue highlights results of recent meetings, in particular, the work of the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and other organizations in providing technical assistance to developing countries.

Inside IGAT

• Around the World

25th ISO General Assembly (September 23-27, 2002)

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) General Assembly met in Stockholm, Sweden. Items of particular interest on the Agenda included discussion of a possible ISO standard for Corporate Social Responsibility, and increasing the participation of developing countries in international standardization activities.

Workshop - Participation of Developing Countries in International Standardization (September 24, 2002)

ISO is working closely with the WTO and standardization bodies to study the problems facing developing countries in their efforts to participate more effectively in international standardization activities. Prior to the international workshop held in Sweden to study this issue, five regional sessions (Bangkok, Belgrade, Bogotá, Cairo and Nairobi) were held to facilitate input from regional stakeholders. Common themes identified were improving awareness, building capacity and increasing national coordination.

Three-hundred participants in this workshop considered results of the regional sessions and proposed the preparation of a Programme of Action to assist developing countries in strengthening their standards infrastructures and enhancing their participation in international standardization activities.
Link for workshop presentations:
www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/presentations/wkshps-seminars/gawkshp/index.list

36th ISO/DEVCO Meeting (September 25, 2002)

Some issues of interest from the ISO Committee Developing Country Matters (CAC/DEVCO) meeting held in conjunction with the ISO General Assembly are:

Staff Insider

Mr. Hugh Krentz has been reappointed as Chair of the SCC for a three-year term. He has served as the SCC's Vice-Chair and has been a council member since 1977. Mr. Krentz also holds the positions of chairman and CEO of the Canadian Steel Construction Council and Executive Director of the Steel Structures Education Foundation.

New members to the SCC are **Mr. Charles Cipolla**, President of Rockwell Automation Canada; **Mr. David Fardy**, General Manager of Protrans Personnel Services Inc. of Dieppe, New Brunswick; **Mr. Daniel** Gagnier, Senior Vice-president, Corporate and External Affairs, Alcan Inc.; **Ms. Danielle** Laramée, Partner, Ernst & Young; and, **Mr. David MacKinnon**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Ontario Hospital Association.

Congratulations to **Elva Nilsen**, Director, IGAT who was appointed as Vice-Chair of International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and reappointed as Vice-Chair of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) for three-year terms.

David Shortall, Manager, IGAT has a feature article entitled, *Code of Practice for Conformity Assessment and the WTO-TBT Agreement* in the October issue of the *ISO Bulletin*. The article can be found at www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/isobulletin/articles/2002/Articlesindex.html

- Canada reiterated its support for the outcome of the Third Triennial Review of the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (WTO/TBT), and the continued commitment to the development of a technical cooperation program. Canada called on the Committee to co-ordinate its work with the overall work of the WTO and relevant international standardization organizations in an effort to develop future technical assistance activities related to international standardization and conformity assessment.
- The SCC was thanked for sponsoring the participation of delegates from INTECO (Costa Rica) and INNORPI (Tunisia) to attend the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO) Working Group 22 (Code of good practice for conformity assessment).
- The SCC and DIN (Germany) were thanked for the equipment and assistance provided through the MED 2000 Project, which provides assistance in upgrading standards information services of national standards bodies within the Mediterranean Basin and the Horn of Africa. (See the article on *Engaging Developing Countries in Standardization* for more information)

ISO General Assembly Meetings (September 25-27, 2002)

The General Assembly established a *Task Force on Developing Countries* to develop a Programme of Action to enhance developing country participation in international standardization. The suggestion to establish a Task Force was made by the *Canadian* delegation. Peter D. Clark, Executive Director of the SCC was appointed to this Task Force. Findings will be presented in March 2003 at the next Council meeting.

The ISO will continue to collaborate with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in recognizing the ever-greater role of international standards in helping to maximize the potential benefits of information and communication technology (ITC) development. As well, the ISO will continue to work with the World Trade Organization (WTO) in promoting international standardization to facilitate international trade and avoid unnecessary barriers to trade. www.iso.org

16th IAF Annual Meeting (September 21-26, 2002) and 6th ILAC General Assembly (September 22-26, 2002)

The following are the main outcomes from International Accreditation Forum (IAF) annual meeting in Berlin, Germany:

- Dr. Thomas Facklam (Germany) was appointed as Chair and Ms. Elva Nilsen (SCC, Director, IGAT) was appointed as Vice-Chair.
- New Accreditation Body Members, Korean Accreditation System (KAS) and Tunisian Accreditation Council (TUNAC) were welcomed along with new Association Members: the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority of India (APEDA), the Association of the Independent Certification and Inspection Bodies of Italy (AIOICI) and the Association of Independent Test Laboratories and Certification Bodies of Italy (ALPI).

- New signatories to the IAF Quality Management Systems (QMS) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) are the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS - Philippines), Chinese National Accreditation Board (CNAB - Chinese Taipei) and the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB - India). This brings the number of signatories to 32.
- The European Cooperation for Accreditation and the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) are currently undergoing evaluations by IAF as regional applicants to the IAF MLAs for Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and Product. PAC members are being processed jointly by PAC and IAF for the Product MLA as there are currently an insufficient number of applicants to the PAC process to form a PAC MLA at this time.
- A Code of Conduct is being considered for IAF Accreditation Body members.
- The implementation of an international accreditation mark and preparation of common rules with ILAC for a protection of a mark were discussed.

Outcomes of the 6th International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) General Assembly included:

- New signatories to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement are the Instituto Portugues da Qualidade (IPQ - Portugal) and Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Arbeit (BMWA - Austria).
- The following organizations were welcomed as Associate Members: Ecuadorian Accreditation Body (EAB), the International Accreditation Registry (IAR - USA), Uzbek State Centre for Standardisation, Metrology and Certification (Uzgosstandard), Ministry of Industry, Trade, Energy and Mines, State Inspectorate for Standardization and Metrology (Krgyzstandard – Kyrgyzstan), Quality Management Program – Laboratory Services (QMP LS - Canada), and Assured Calibration and Laboratory Accreditation Select Services (ACLASS - USA). The Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAECL) was admitted as a Stakeholder Member.
- ILAC is exploring the matter of having a common or joint mark with the IAF to indicate ILAC signatory status on accreditation certificates.

The Joint Committee for Closer Co-operation between ILAC and IAF (JCCC), which is co-chaired by the Chairmen of IAF and ILAC, reviewed strategies for the implementation of international accreditation marks and the preparation of common rules for protection. Also considered were a number of different proposals and alternatives for future IAF and ILAC Annual General Assemblies.

The Joint IAF-ILAC General Assembly, the IAF General Assembly and the ILAC General Assembly decided that members of both organisations should be asked to select from a number of alternatives for the development of a MLA Mark ranging from the design of a combined IAF/ILAC Mark to separate individual IAF and ILAC Marks. Members will select options for designs by letter ballot.

The next annual meeting will be held in Bratislava, Slovakia from September 15-26, 2003. www.iaf.nu www.ilac.org

ILAC-IAF Conference on Accreditation in Global Trade (September 23-25, 2002)

Conformity assessment forms the basis for mutual recognition and the removal of technical barriers to trade, and the ILAC-IAF Conference provided a platform for experts to discuss global trade issues. David Shortall, Manager, IGAT focussed his presentation on the role of voluntary Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLAs), and how Canada is engaged in efforts to promote these partnerships around the world. Presentations are available by clicking on www.ilac-iaf-2002.de/indconf.html.

WTO/TBT Meeting (October 15-17, 2002)

The WTO/TBT held informal consultations on October 15, 2002 and a formal meeting on October 17, 2002. The workshop on technical assistance to be held on October 16 was postponed to March 2003. The meeting marked China's first anniversary as a WTO member, and a good part of the meeting was spent reviewing the implementation by China of the TBT Agreement. Labelling, technical assistance and outstanding implementation issues continue to dominate discussions.

Members were presented with a summary of the survey responses received on assisting developing country members in identifying and prioritizing their TBT requirements. General findings are that developing country members require training

and assistance in the preparation of standards and technical regulations, as well as stronger coordination within each country to develop national standards. Results can be found by going to the WTO Documents Online site (docsonline.wto.org/gen_search.asp), and enter in the document number G/TBT/W/186. www.wto.org

- ## Regional Organizations

APEC – Conference on Standards and Conformance (August 13-14, 2002)

Held in Acapulco, Mexico, the themes of this Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference were *International Standardization and Current Challenges* and *Mutual Recognition and Conformance*, which attracted some 65 participants. David Shortall, Manager, IGAT presented a paper outlining the principles underlying confidence in accreditation and third party certification and the role of accreditation-based conformity assessment systems in promoting regulatory and trade benefits. The next conference will be in Chile in 2004. www.apecsec.org.sg/

7th IAAC Plenary Meeting (October 19-25, 2002)

Held in Salvador, Brazil, the Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) met for its 7th Plenary Meeting. Major outcomes of the meeting were:

Signing of the IAAC MLAs – **David Shortall of SCC, and Maribel López, Chair of IAAC**

- The SCC, the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) and Brazil's National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (INMETRO) signed the IAAC MLA for Testing Calibration Laboratories. The SCC, INMETRO and the Mexican Accreditation Entity (ema) signed the IAAC MLA for Quality Management Systems (QMS). This is an historic milestone with the formation of the first regional accreditation cooperation agreement in the Americas.
- Two new Full Members, Guatemalan Accreditation Bureau (OGA) and the International Conference of Building Officials Evaluation Services (ICBO ES United States) were welcomed along with two Associate Members, Nicaragua's National Accreditation Bureau (ONA) and the Guatemalan Standardization Council (COGUANOR). Current IAAC affiliation is 19 Full Members and 10 Associate Members from 21 countries in the Americas.
- The IAAC adopted a new organizational structure consistent with other international and regional accreditation bodies.
- A new Web site will be launched in December. The new address is www.iaac-accreditation.org.

9th PAC Annual Meeting (August 4-9, 2002)

The 9th annual meeting of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) was held in Acapulco Mexico. Major outcomes of the meeting were:
- Membership has grown to 22, as America National Standards Institute (ANSI) was welcomed as a Full Member. BAS (Philippines), CNAB (Chinese Taipei) and NABCB (India) signed the PAC MLA for QMS, which brings the number of PAC members to join this MLA to 14.
- Six peer evaluations are in progress for the PAC MLA for EMS. JAS-ANZ (Australia and New Zealand) has successfully completed the process. The SCC is an applicant.
- The SCC and JAS-ANZ are also applicants to the PAC MLA for Products. Three signatories are required to launch an MLA.
- The PAC Chair, Mr. Xiao Jianhua (China) and the Vice-Chair, Ms. Elva Nilsen (SCC, Director, IGAT) were both re-elected for three year terms.

- An APEC-sponsored workshop to train QMS, EMS and Product peer evaluators was held in conjunction with the PAC annual meeting. Richard Lesieur, Department of National Defence was a presenter, and Joan Brough-Kerrebyn, Manager, QMS with the SCC coordinated the workshop.

The 2003 annual meeting will be held June 1-6 in India. www.apec-pac.org/

- **Committee Activities**

ACT (October 30, 2002)

At the ACT meeting, Kirsten Goodwin, a trade lawyer, was appointed as Vice-Chair. The committee discussed *hot topics* including food labelling, corporate social responsibility, and climate change issues. Kernaghan Webb, Senior Legal Policy Advisory, Industry Canada, provided an update on the ISO initiative on Corporate Social Responsibility and the establishment of an ISO advisory group to examine the feasibility of CSR standards. The ACT supported the establishment of the ISO advisory group. The ACT established a Working Group to identify strategic issues with standardization and trade implications.

Secretary: David Shortall (dshortall@scc.ca)

PTAC (September 5-6, 2002)

The 24th meeting of PTAC resulted in the endorsement for a new Inspection Bodies Conformity Assessment program; and the ongoing development of the PTAC-SCC standardization policy survey. The intent of the survey is to identify common standardization issues and priorities among provinces and territories, and provide input into the SCC's strategic planning activities.

Secretary: Allan Wilson (awilson@scc.ca)

Engaging Developing Countries in Standardization

Standardization plays a significant role in the evolution of the global marketplace and the promotion of economic growth and trade. Standards open new markets and help to level the playing field among developed and developing countries. The implementation of international standards and conformity assessment practices provides an excellent means of technology transfer to developing countries, assisting them to overcome technology gaps and to become better integrated in the world economy. International standards are keys to improving developing country access to international markets and to strengthening their ability to implement international trade obligations.

Developing countries face many trade-related standardization challenges. They require a well developed standardization infrastructure to engage in the global trading system. As a result, this has significantly raised the profile of the need to address trade-related technical assistance and capacity building within the context of development. At the international level, the number of developing countries within international and regional standardization organizations exceeds the number of industrialized nations.

Let's use the ISO as an example. ISO has 143 members, of which developing countries represent approximately 75%. ISO members from developing countries hold 3.3% of secretariats on ISO technical committees (TCs) and sub-committees (SCs), which is where standards are developed and approved. Also, developing countries, who are Participant members of TCs, have higher than average voting failure rates (25%) compared to industrialized countries (7.4%).[1]

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1 These figures are from a presentation by Mr. Gene Hutchinson, Chair, ISO/Committee on Developing Country Matters (DEVCO) at the National Standards System Conference on March 26, 2002. (www.scc.ca/nss/conference_e.html)

International Standardization Activities

ISO

ISO has a Committee on Developing Country Matters (ISO/DEVCO) to assist developing countries in increasing their participation in standardization activities. Over 100 members from developing and developed countries, including the SCC, participate in this forum. DEVCO plans and monitors the ISO program for developing countries (DEVPRO). DEVPRO's plan concentrates on the preparation of development manuals and training programs as well as increasing developing countries participation in ISO technical work through fellowships and enhancing the information and communication (ICT) capabilities of members. Further info on ISO/DEVCO can be found at: www.iso.org/iso/en/aboutiso/isostructure/DEVCO.html.

Specific activities include:

▪ **Twinning Arrangements –** Twinning initiatives between developing and developed countries have been recognized as a concrete way to build capacity and are recognized as an avenue to increase developing country participation in ISO technical work. The principles of twinning support institutional capacity building through their extension to national standards bodies, national accreditation bodies, and national metrology institutes.

 The training of technical officers for the ISO TC secretariat functions prepares recipients to undertake ISO Secretariat functions, thereby facilitating involvement in ISO technical work. ISO TCs, SCs and Secretariat twinning involves areas of specific regional/economic interest to developing countries, and facilitates practical 'hands-on' TC and SC operational skills in relevant economic areas.

▪ **MED 2000 Project -** The MED 2000 Project is a 3-year capacity building program to contribute to the economic and social development in 10 developing countries in the Mediterranean Basin and the Horn of Africa. The intention is to stimulate the growth and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which will allow them to participate in global markets. This is a $5 million fund with cooperation from ISO, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Specific standards related projects include:

 - *Standards Work on the Net* – a development of a manual for national standards bodies regarding the use of information technology to further standards development.
 - Provisions of personal computers and hardware for five developing countries to participate electronically in ISO activities.
 - Training and assistance in designing and structuring national standards databases.

IEC

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Affiliate Country Programme offers developing countries a form of participation in the IEC without the financial burden of actual membership by making full use of information technology (IT) tools to reduce costs of participation. The programme encourages greater awareness and use of IEC international standards and helps these countries understand and participate in the work of the IEC. Further information may be found at: www.iec.ch/affiliates/affiliates-e.htm.

Joint Committee on Assistance to Developing Countries in Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization (JCDCMAS)

This committee is a cooperative initiative of the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) and the Comité International des Poids et Mesures (CIPM), the Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale (OIML), UNIDO, ISO, IEC, IAF, ILAC and International Telecommunications Union (ITU), whose aim is the coordination of assistance to developing countries and those in transition in the areas of metrology, accreditation and standardization (MAS). The SCC is a participating member. The JCDCMAS mandate is to:

- Promote the JCDCMAS as the primary international source of advice and expertise in relation to MAS for all relevant parties, and in particular, for the WTO and to facilitate the work of developing countries in meeting WTO requirements in MAS.

- Provide a co-ordinated approach to MAS for developing countries and those in transition thereby eliminating duplication of effort and ensuring consistency in the expert advice provided to countries and other international or donor bodies on MAS-related activities.

International Funding Activities

The newest fund to be announced is the *Standards and Trade Development Facility*, a joint initiative of the World Bank and WTO. The fund will provide grants and loans for standards-related technical assistance projects in developing countries. More information may be found at: www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres02_e/pr314_e.htm

SCC Activities

The SCC has assumed an active role in ISO/DEVCO through the Canadian Advisory Committee on Development Country Matters (CAC/DEVCO). Its role is to develop positions for ISO/DEVCO; to provide policy advice to the SCC on developing country issues; and to promote an interest in, and an awareness of, developing country matters among national and international trade and development agencies.

The Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) also directs the SCC to engage developing countries in international standardization processes. To support the implementation of this item, the CSS identified the actions required of CAC/DEVCO with a focus on two areas:

- Provision of assistance to developing countries in establishing their technical and administrative infrastructure, which improve their capacity to meet international trade obligations.
- Leveraging trade benefits for Canada.

Outlined in the side bar are some SCC activities that support of these aims. The SCC continues to seek support for cooperative initiatives with other agencies such as the Canadian International Development Agency (www.acdi-cida.gc.ca).

SCC Assistance Activities

The Mediterranean (MED) 2000 Project Extension

The SCC is involved in a pilot project with Bolivia to improve their Information and Communication Technology capacity in standardization.

Export Alert! Project with Bolivia

To strengthen and enhance the capacity of developing economies of the Asia-Pacific and American regions and their ability to implement the disciplines of the WTO/TBT and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreements, the SCC is using Export Alert!, now available in Spanish, as a model for dissemination of notifications. Bolivia, through its national standards body, IBNORCA is the first country to partner with Canada in this activity.

Sponsoring Participation

To engage developing countries in international standardization activities, the SCC has provided funding to Columbia, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tunisia to participate in ISO technical committees and working group meetings.

Workshops and Seminars

In collaboration with National Standards System partners, the SCC provides its expertise for various workshops. One example is a partnership with the SCC and the Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) to provide two-weeks of in-depth training in Canada for a representative of Cameroon.

For more information on these activities see the Information Brief on the SCC Web site entitled Engaging Countries in International Standardization (www.scc.ca/igat/online/briefs/trta_e.pdf) or contact Leanne Wright, Secretary, CAC/DEVCO by telephone at (613) 238-3222 or by e-mail at lwright@scc.ca.

News

World Standards Day: One standard, one test – accepted everywhere

Every year on October 14, the day is set aside to celebrate the importance of international standardization. This year's theme was *One standard, one test – accepted everywhere*. ISO devoted its monthly bulletin to this theme; see: www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/isobulletin/bulletin.html

In conjunction with World Standards Day, the SCC published a special edition of *Consensus – Canada's Magazine of Standardization*. The issue features articles highlighting the power of standards and innovation. www.scc.ca/consensu/index_e.html

SCC Approves New Inspection Bodies Accreditation Program

Inspection Body accreditation is the process of assessing and publicly recognizing the integrity and reliability of inspection services. Inspections ensure the safety and fitness for use of products and materials, and ensure the safety of plant, equipment and systems.

The Inspection Body Accreditation Program, based on ISO/IEC 17020:1998 *General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection* was approved by the SCC at the September 5, 2002 meeting of Council. The Inspection Body Accreditation Program will provide accreditation to organizations that conduct various types of inspections of equipment or facilities, and provide them with global recognition. The first fields of inspection for this new program will be electrical safety, and medical gas delivery systems in hospitals. The program will be launched in 2003. More information will be provided on the SCC Web site: www.scc.ca

Merger of Chinese Accreditation Bodies

The China National Accreditation Council for Registrars (CNACR), the China National Accreditation Council for Product Certification Bodies (CNACP), the China National Accreditation Board for Import & Export Enterprises CNAB) and the China Accreditation Committee for Environmental Management System certification bodies (CACEB) have been merged into the China National Accreditation Board For Certifiers (CNAB). The CNAB has applied as a new entity to join the PAC MLAs for QMS and EMS. This application will supersede the previous membership of CNACR and CNAB, and also the application from CACEB.

Coming Events

ISO Networking Conference (Ottawa, Ontario, May 15-16, 2003)

The SCC is hosting the second ISO Networking Conference in Ottawa at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier. This conference is for information, marketing, public relations, training professionals and managers from ISO members and other standards related organizations. Program information will be posted to www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/events/2003/networkingconference.html. In conjunction with the conference, ISO will be providing an International Classification System (ICS) training workshop on May 14th. We encourage all interested parties to attend this event. Contact info@scc.ca for more information.

January
27-28 ISO, Technical Management Board (Geneva, Switzerland) www.iso.org

February
12-21 APEC SOM I (Chiang Rai, Thailand) www.apec2003.org

March
18-20 WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee (Geneva, Switzerland) http://www.wto.org
19 WTO/TBT Workshop on Technical Assistance

Next Issue

The April 2003 will focus on Conformity Assessment – What it is, whom it benefits, and the roles of ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO and the Canadian Advisory Committee (CAC/CASCO).

IGAT *Insider*

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade (IGAT) is a branch of the Standards Council of Canada. Our role is to strengthen Canadian policy development and strategic participation with respect to international standardization, international trade and intergovernmental cooperation. The *IGAT Insider* is an electronic newsletter published three times a year. The newsletter can be found on the IGAT Web page at http://www.scc.ca/igat/index_e.html.

We appreciate all suggestions, feedback and questions. Questions and suggestions should be directed to:

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