



# IGAT *insider*

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade



Standards Council of Canada  
Conseil canadien des normes

## Winter 2006-2007

### Highlights:

- ISO General Assembly, Ottawa, Highlights
- The first SCC Standardization in Academia Conference, Ottawa, Highlights
- Update on federal Smart Regulation Initiative
- Updates on recent International meetings
- Recent work of SCC Advisory Committees
- New publications
- Coming events

### Inside IGAT

#### International Organization for Standardization (ISO) General Assembly

The 29<sup>th</sup> ISO General Assembly was hosted by the SCC in Ottawa from 2006-09-10/16. In addition to plenary meetings, attended by ISO members from around the world, an Open Session on Healthcare was held on 2006-09-14. For more information on the successful ISO GA, please see the 'Around the World – What we are doing' section below or visit:

<http://www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/events/2006/canada2006.html> .

#### Standardization in Academia Conference

SCC hosted the Standardization in Academia, in Ottawa on 2006-11-20. The event brought together over 50 members of the academic community, standardization professionals, and think tanks who are researching a wide variety of issues, some with a standardization-related component. It also allowed for more rigorous discussion of the potential for a Canadian Centre for Standardization Research (CCSR), a key initiative identified in the Canadian Standards Strategy Update 2005-2008.

The conference agenda included a keynote address by SCC Chairman Mr. Hugh Krentz, and three panels on each of the following cross-cutting issues:

- Deepening North American Linkages - The Role of Standardization
- Social Responsibility (SR) and Standardization
- A Canadian Centre for Standardization Research - Lessons & Opportunities

Although there was no clear consensus to immediately pursue the creation of a CCSR, participants were grateful for the opportunity to meet and discuss these important topics. Attendees also urged the cultivation of existing research relationships, and noted that the SCC should strengthen its contacts with the two federal granting councils, the social sciences and humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

For more information, contact Stephen Head, ACT Secretary - ([shead@scc.ca](mailto:shead@scc.ca)).

### • **Current Policy and Trade Issues**

#### Smart Regulation

SCC continues to promote the greater application and use of standardization by regulators by participating in the Government of Canada (GoC) Smart Regulation process. An important focal point for SCC efforts to promote the use of standardization in a regulatory capacity has been the development of the Government Directive on Regulating (GDR) slated for completion in 2007. Other important projects have been the corresponding development of the International Regulatory Cooperation (IRC) Framework and the Trilateral Regulatory Cooperation Framework (TRCF), the latter developed under the umbrella of the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) Initiative of North America . These documents will help to ensure that GoC regulatory activity strikes an appropriate balance amongst trade, business, environmental and safety considerations.

The implementation plan for Smart Regulation can be viewed at:  
[http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/media/ps-dp/2005/0324\\_e.asp](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/media/ps-dp/2005/0324_e.asp).

The draft Government Directive on Regulating can be viewed at:

[http://www.regulation.gc.ca/default.asp?Language=E&Page=smartregint&doc=GDR2\\_e.htm](http://www.regulation.gc.ca/default.asp?Language=E&Page=smartregint&doc=GDR2_e.htm).

For more information, contact Allan Wilson - ([awilson@scc.ca](mailto:awilson@scc.ca)).

### **Costa Rica Development Fund**

In April of 2004, CIDA identified the SCC as the potential lead Canadian partner for capacity building assistance and transfer of expertise in standards, conformity assessment and technical regulations projects to Costa Rica through the Costa Rica Competitiveness Development Fund, an initiative funded through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The SCC put forward three proposals that would facilitate a reduction in technical barriers to trade, a knowledge transfer to assist in improving standards, regulations and conformity assessment procedures. These projects are as follows:

#### **Organo de Reglementación Técnica (ORT) Project**

This project is well underway and has resulted in the review of the ORT Technical Regulations Manual and the drafting of a manual on Good Regulatory Practice.

To facilitate an increased understanding of substantive obligations under the WTO/TBT Agreement a series of workshops has been conducted. In addition, in March 2006 a Gap Analysis on existing Costa Rica operations/systems/tools was completed along with training on National Notification Authority -Interaction with Domestic Stakeholders and Technical Barriers to Trade Notification Authority Best Practices.

#### **Instituto de Normas Técnicas de Costa Rica (INTECO) project**

A gap analysis for INTECO's Information Services was completed including a needs evaluation meeting in Costa Rica in March 2006 for the review of INTECO operations. A training plan, training material and action plan, based on this analysis, has since been developed. An Operational Manual for the ISONET Information Centre and WTO Enquiry Point: Canadian Model has also been created for INTECO as a reference document for future development.

#### **Ente Costarricense de Acreditación (ECA) project**

The ECA project is in the last stages of finalizing activity details. Initial efforts including the creation of a gap analysis and the compiling of relating documentation has been undertaken in conjuncture with the first training session on ISO/IEC 10011 (title - name?) which took place in Costa Rica, 2006-10-16/17

For more information, contact Amélie Malenfant - ([amalenfant@scc.ca](mailto:amalenfant@scc.ca)).

### **• Around the World – What We Are Doing**

### **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**

#### **Highlights – 29<sup>th</sup> ISO General Assembly, Ottawa, 2006-09-10/16**

The 29<sup>th</sup> ISO General Assembly (GA) and associated meetings were held in Ottawa from 2005-09-10/16.

#### **Items of Interest:**

##### **Open Session on Healthcare - Global Challenges and Opportunities for Healthcare Standards**

Speakers discussed the role of standards and how they have contributed to advances in healthcare, and what some of the challenges as well as opportunities might be for international standardization.

The panel of speakers included representatives of the World Health organization (WHO) as well as national policy, regulatory, service, homecare and e-health experts.

ISO expects to have “Good Regulatory Practice” as the theme for the 2007 Open Session during the GA in Geneva, Switzerland in September.

The 2006 ISO General Assembly Press Release can be viewed at:

#### **Highlights – ISO/DEVCO Plenary, Ottawa, 2006-09-11/12**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ISO/DEVCO was held in Ottawa, Canada on 2006-09-11/12. Developing countries and countries making the transition from a centralized to a market economy comprise three quarters of ISO's membership.<sup>1</sup> The ISO Strategic Plan also urges ISO members to:

- enhance and support participation of developing countries in ISO technical work through twinning and technical assistance,

<sup>1</sup> According to ISO membership as of December 2004: 65% full members are from developing countries; 94% correspondent members are from developing countries; 100% correspondent members are from developing countries. ISO currently (2006) has 156 members.

- strengthen support for using ICT tools and ISO e-services in standardization and relations with ISO, and
- cooperate with ISO/CS on assistance projects.

Canada was recognized at the ISO/DEVCO for its support for standardization-related technical assistance capacity building efforts.

Canada continues to participate in the ISO/DEVCO Chairman's Advisory Group (CAG) which was formed at the request of ISO Council to assist with the monitoring, planning and implementation of Action Plan for Developing Countries. The DEVCO CAG is comprised of nine members, two-thirds members from developing countries and one-third from developed countries.

#### **ISO/DEVCO Website:**

<http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/comms-markets/developingcountries/iso+developingcountries-03.html>.

For more information, contact Leanne Wright, CAC/DEVCO Secretary - ([lwright@scc.ca](mailto:lwright@scc.ca)).

### **Highlights – ISO/CASCO Plenary, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2006-11-02/03**

The Canadian delegation for the 2006 ISO/CASCO Plenary, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 2006-11-02/03, included Mr. William Cunningham (CAC/CASCO Chair), and Ms. Anneke Olvera (SCC, Senior Policy Analyst).

#### **Items of Interest:**

The CAC/CASCO Chair (Mr. Bill Cunningham) continued his role as Convenor of ISO/CASCO WG 27, revising ISO/IEC Guide 7 to become ISO/IEC 17007 *Conformity Assessment – Guidelines for drafting standards and specified requirements for conformity assessment applications*. By retaining this role, Canada also maintains a seat at the ISO/CASCO Chairman's Policy and Coordination (CPC) Group, an important ISO/CASCO governance committee.

Mr. Eugene Marotta (Director, Fire Protection Services Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and CAC/CASCO member) continued to serve as the Canadian representative on the ISO/CASCO Regulators' Interface Group (RIG). The RIG provides a forum for regulatory consideration and promotion of technical activities of ISO/CASCO.

ISO/CASCO has agreed to revise ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 and called for a Working Group to draft a proposal for the scope and structure of the future standard ISO/IEC 17065.

#### **ISO/CASCO Website:**

<http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/comms-markets/conformity/iso+conformity.html>.

For more information, contact Anneke Olvera CAC/CASCO Secretary - ([aolvera@scc.ca](mailto:aolvera@scc.ca)).

### **World Trade Organization (WTO)**

As a member of the Canadian delegation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee, the SCC supported the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) by contributing to the development of several papers in 2006 including, "*Counterfeiting of Certification Marks Affixed to Goods where There Exists a Health and/or Safety Concern and Advancing the Discussion on Instrument Choice*," provided technical support as a member of the Canadian Delegation to WTO/TBT meetings, and contributed significantly to the drafting and successful completion of the *Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Triennial Review of the WTO/TBT Agreement*.

### **WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 2006-10-3/4 and 2006-11-01/02**

SCC staff (J. Westgarth-Taylor) participated in informal meetings of the TBT Committee which were held 2006-10-3/4 in Geneva to advance the progress of the 4<sup>th</sup> Triennial Review towards consensus among all members of this WTO Committee. He also participated in WTO-TBT meetings held 2006-11-7/8/9 in Geneva to conclude the 4<sup>th</sup> Triennial Review and to address regular Committee business.

Topics under discussion for inclusion in the review were:

- Implementation/Administration of the Agreement;
- Good Regulatory Practice;
- Conformity Assessment;
- Transparency;
- Technical Assistance and Special and Differential Treatment; and
- Intellectual Property Rights Issues in Standardization, Terms and Definitions.

The next meeting of the WTO-TBT Committee are scheduled for 2007-03-21/22.

WTO/TBT Meeting Minutes can be viewed at:  
[http://www.wto.org/English/tratop\\_e/tbt\\_e/tbt\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/English/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm).

For more information, contact Jeffery Westgarth-Taylor - ([jwtaylor@scc.ca](mailto:jwtaylor@scc.ca)).

## **International Accreditation Forum (IAF)**

### **IAF Executive Committee Meeting, Cancun, Mexico, 2006-11-06/14**

SCC Staff (E. Nilsen – in her role as Vice-Chair of IAF –, J. Brough-Kerrebyn, P. Paladino, S. Cross, J. Dupont) attended the annual IAF / ILAC General Assembly 2006-11-06/14 in Cancun, Mexico. Key items for discussions included updating of the IAF Strategic Plan, the European Commissions (EC) Revision of the New Approach, progress on the Joint IAF-ILAC Inspection Body MLMRA, implementation of ISO/IEC 17021 (requirements document to accredit management systems certification bodies), progress regarding implementation of the Cross Frontier Accreditation policy, and the workplans of the various committees.

For further information, contact Anneke Olvera - ([aolvera@scc.ca](mailto:aolvera@scc.ca)) or Elva Nilsen - ([enilsen@scc.ca](mailto:enilsen@scc.ca)).

**IAF Website:** <http://www.iaf.nu/>.

## **• Regional Organizations**

## **Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)**

### **PAC Executive Committee Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2006-10-1/2**

SCC staff (E. Nilsen – in her role as PAC Chair) attended the PAC Executive Committee meetings held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2006-10-1/2, and in Mexico, November 4-5, 2006 as a follow up to the PAC Plenary held in June. The PAC Executive Committee agreed to pursue incorporation of PAC, and closer cooperation with the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation

(IAAC). An MOU was also signed with APLAC during the November IAF/ILAC meetings in Mexico.

For further information, contact Anneke Olvera - ([aolvera@scc.ca](mailto:aolvera@scc.ca)) or Elva Nilsen - ([enilsen@scc.ca](mailto:enilsen@scc.ca)).

**PAC Website:** <http://www.apec-pac.org/home.htm>.

## **• At the SCC: Committee Activities**

IGAT provides the Secretariats for four Advisory Committees that provide advice to the SCC Board. The committees are the Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT), the Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC), Canadian Advisory Committee on ISO Conformity Assessment Matters (CAC/CASCO) and the Canadian Advisory Committee on Developing Country Matters (CAC/DEVCO).

### ***Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT)***

ACT provides strategic advice to Council on key trade issues and developments, which impinge on voluntary standardization.

#### ***ACT Teleconference Meeting 2006-09-25***

Members met via teleconference to review membership, receive updates on both internal and international trade and finalize the 2007-2008 Workplan.

#### ***ACT Meeting 2006-11-21***

ACT members met in Ottawa following the Standardization in Academia Conference (2006-11-20) to discuss the results of the conference and potential next steps.

For more information, contact Stephen Head, ACT Secretary - ([shead@scc.ca](mailto:shead@scc.ca)).

### ***Canadian Advisory Committee on ISO Conformity Assessment Matters (CAC/CASCO)***

CAC/CASCO coordinates and provides Canadian input into ISO/CASCO document development activities and represents Canada at annual ISO/CASCO plenary meetings.

#### ***CAC/CASCO Meeting 2006-10-13***

CAC/CASCO members held their annual in-person meeting on 2006-10-13. Discussion items included a review of the ISO/CASCO Plenary Agenda, a review of the EC Accreditation Initiative and a review and approval of the 2007-2008 Workplan.

For more information, contact Anneke Olvera, Secretary - ([aolvera@scc.ca](mailto:aolvera@scc.ca)).

## Canadian Advisory Committee on Developing Country Matters (CAC/DEVCO)

CAC/DEVCO continues to represent Canada and to support various technical assistance projects aimed at helping developing countries improve their capacity to participate in standardization activities.

### **CAC/DEVCO Meeting 2006-08-31**

The CAC/DEVCO met in Ottawa on 2006-08-31 to discuss technical assistance strategies designed to engage developing countries in international standardization. In addition the FY 2007-2008 Workplan, and project proposals were reviewed. Other items included:

### **Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) Update 2005-2008 Activities**

CAC/DEVCO is completing CSS objective 3.1(a) *Develop a vision statement for CAC/DEVCO to guide it in future standardization-related development assistance activities.* Members reiterated their view that a vision statement should address the connection between Canada and developing countries, convey support for sustainable development in developing countries through the improvement of national standards infrastructure (metrology, standards development, conformity assessment, and accreditation), and support developing country integration into the multilateral trading system.

## Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)

PTAC advises and make recommendations on matters related to voluntary standardization and to promote cooperation and communication between the provinces, the territories and the Council.

### **PTAC Meeting - 2006-08-30**

PTAC met on 2006-08-30 in-person at the Standards Council of Canada. The PTAC Workplan for 2007-2008 was reviewed and updated in preparation for December's upcoming Council Meeting. In addition, a review of action items from the previous meeting, upcoming council meeting papers and a members' discussion regarding the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) was also undertaken.

### **PTAC Meeting - 2006-11-30**

PTAC met on 2006-11-30 in-person at the Standards Council of Canada. The primary item at this meeting was finalization of the 2007-2008 PTAC Workplan which was subsequently approved at the 93rd meeting of Council on 2006-12-07. Other items which PTAC examined at its 41st meeting included a review of its Terms of Reference and discussion of a research project to identify inter-provincial trade barriers and standardization-based solutions for their resolution.

For more information, contact PTAC Secretary, Jeffrey Westgarth-Taylor - ([jwtaylor@scc.ca](mailto:jwtaylor@scc.ca)).

## • Enquiry Point and Export Alert!

The SCC continues to expand the implementation of *Export Alert* in WTO countries.

Staff (A. Spencer & L. Wright) met with the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Standardization (SADCSTAN) Chairperson & SADCSTAN Regional Coordinator in Ottawa (September 2006) to discuss the development of a project proposal to implement Export Alert! in 14 countries and provide a 5-day workshop on the establishment and operation of an Enquiry Point.

SCC staff (P. Clark, P. Paladino, M. Bourassa, A. Spencer, L. Wright) met informally with officials from the Government of India and the Bureau of Indian Standards in Ottawa (September 2006) to discuss a potential MOU regarding standardization activities between the two organizations.

For more information please contact Andrea Spencer, SCC Enquiry Point Coordinator - ([aspencer@scc.ca](mailto:aspencer@scc.ca)).

## Recent Publications of Interest

A selection of recent reports, papers, etc. of interest to our subscribers:

- 8-10 November 2006 TBT Committee Meeting Fourth Triennial Review adopted:

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tbt\\_e/meeting\\_nov06\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/meeting_nov06_e.htm)

- Canada Health Infoway Newsletter, Interchange: [http://www.infoway-inforoute.ca/Admin/Upload/Dev/Document/Interchange\\_Fall%2006\\_EN.pdf](http://www.infoway-inforoute.ca/Admin/Upload/Dev/Document/Interchange_Fall%2006_EN.pdf)
- *Arnaud Costinot and Ivana Komunjer, What Goods to Countries Trade? New Ricardian Predictions*, October 2006: <http://www.econ.ucsd.edu/~acostino/research/wp061001.pdf>
- ISO/PAS 28003 gives requirements for auditing and certification of supply chain security management systems: <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/pressreleases/2006/Ref1035.html>
- Fact Sheet Creation of the U.S.-China Strategic Economic Dialogue: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp107.htm>
- Economics and International Trade Breaking the Doha Deadlock: <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=18946&prog=zgp&proj=zted>
- Regional agreements: the 'pepper' in the multilateral 'curry': [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/sppl\\_e/sppl53\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/sppl_e/sppl53_e.htm)

## Coming Events

### February

### March

21-22

WTO TBT. Geneva, Switzerland

### April

12

PTAC Meeting  
SCC Council 94<sup>th</sup> Meeting & Strategic Session

18-19

CASCO CPC Group, Geneva Switzerland

26-27

### May

### June

5

SCC Council 95<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### July

## *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 up to two times per year. The newsletter can be found on the IGAT Web page at [http://www.scc.ca/en/news\\_events/subscriptions/index.shtml](http://www.scc.ca/en/news_events/subscriptions/index.shtml).

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

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