

Third Northeast Asian (China-Korea-Japan) Standardization Cooperation Seminar

JSA hosted the third Northeast Asian Standardization Cooperation Seminar on December 13 and 14, 2004 at the Toshi Center Hotel, Tokyo. This seminar, like the others in the series, was conceived as a forum for seeking common understanding of issues and discussing concrete content and means of cooperation through exchange of information regarding standardization among our three countries. The first seminar in the series was held in 2002 in Seoul, and the second in 2003 in Beijing. With this third seminar, then, we have completed one Northeast Asian circuit.



President Sakakura delivering welcome address

Following an address of welcome by JSA's President, Shogo Sakakura, a representative of each of our countries delivered a keynote address. The keynote speakers were Mr. Yasuhito Harayama, Director-General for Technical Regulation, Standards and Conformity Assessment Policy, METI; Mr. Zhang Lin, General Director, Standardization Administration of P. R. China (SAC); and Mr. Koh Seung Jin, Director of Standards and Design Policy Division, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy (MOCIE).

At the most recent seminar, reports on eight items on which agreement had already been reached were made by the secretariat country for each. These items included accessible design, T-11 palettes, and public information graphical symbols. The secretariat countries also proposed six new themes, including SR (social responsibility) and insurance and medical information system development.



All seminar participants assembled following agreement signing ceremony

In light of the ongoing diversification of cooperation fields, the three countries agreed to introduce a quarterly "progress management chart" and to strengthen cooperation in the field of standardization.

Part of what "strengthening cooperation" means in this context is that the principle was agreed that New Work Item Proposals, wherever possible, will be jointly developed and offered by the three countries. Now, the drive toward a common NWIP has particular urgency in the area of public information graphical symbols. China is very keen to have a well-defined and well chosen symbol system in place for the Beijing Olympics, and Japan and South Korea are eager to join in the work. Our three countries have agreed jointly to develop them simultaneously as domestic standard content and IS NWIP content.

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Publication of Revised ISO 14001

1. Revision of ISO 14001

In November 2004, ISO published ISO 14001:2004, a revised edition of ISO 14001:1996, following six and a half years of work.

The objectives of this revision were to clarify requirements and to increase compatibility with ISO 9001:2000. The main points are described below:

(1) Clarification of requirements

If an organization is registered as ISO 14001-certified, this may give the impression that the entire organization is included in the scope of certification, even if the organization has established a system that fails to take important environmental aspects into account. To prevent this misleading impression, the revised standard clearly requires that an organization define the scope of its environmental management system (EMS).

Under ISO 14001:2004, an organization is required to define the scope of its EMS and to consider all environmental aspects of its "activities, products and services" within the defined scope, as opposed to "activities, products or services" (the phrasing adopted in ISO 14001:1996).

Furthermore, the revised standard stipulates that in addition to those environmental aspects an organization can control directly, an organization should also consider aspects it can influence.

(2) Compatibility with ISO 9001:2000

As a result of this revision, ISO 14001:2004 is now more compatible with ISO 9001:2000 in many provisions,

such as those related to terms and definitions, training, documents, records, nonconformity, internal auditing and management review.

2. Revision of ISO 14004

ISO 14004, general guidelines on principles, systems and support techniques, was also revised and published together with ISO 14001 in November, 2004. It has long been considered necessary to provide users with more detailed guidance on environmental issues, environmental impact and pollution prevention. Through the clarification of concepts and addition of practical help boxes on these issues, the revised ISO 14004:2004 offers increased convenience and applicability.

3. Transition from ISO 14001:1996 to ISO 14001:2004

An organization whose EMS is certified by a certification body accredited by an IAF member body must conform with the revised standard within 18 months after the publication of ISO 14001:2004 - in other words, by May 2006. An IAF guideline document on the transition is available at the Publications page of the organization's website (www.iaf.nu).

4. Future developments

To increase further compatibility with the ISO 9000 series, ISO is planning to begin revising ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 in parallel in 2008.

ISO/TC207/SC1 and ISO/TC176/SC2 - responsible for the development of ISO 14001 and ISO 9001, respectively - have already established a joint working group and have begun studies in preparation for the next revision.

International Standardization Support Center

JSA has decided to establish the "International Standardization Support Center", which is due to start operations in fiscal 2005. This aim of the center is to foster and support a greater degree of collaboration between domestic organizations and experts in the field of international standardization, with the overall goal of raising the status of Japan on the international stage as regards international standardization activities.

As part of the action plan entitled "JISC Action Plan for International Standardization Promotion", which was formulated by the Standards Board of the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee, the center will be involved in strategic promotion of the international standardization of new technologies - an area in which Japan leads the world - such as nanotechnology, photocatalysts, home digital appliances and fuel cells. Specifically, this center will engage in support, human resource development, and collection of information, such as know-how related to international standardization activities. Its activities will include the following.

(1) Support for international standards development

Conduct research on standardization subjects of the government's standardization research project. Provide support through education on significance of standardization activities for corporate management, sharing of know-how related to international standardization activities, and payment of travel expenses for those proposing international standards.

(2) Support for international secretariat work

Directly support Japanese participants serving as international chairs or secretaries, based on the international secretariat coordination system. Expand the secretariat work of JSA itself.

(3) Collection and transmission of information

Collect information on developments in ISO/IEC (TMB, SMB, etc.) and standardization in Europe, the US, China, South Korea, and other countries through the JETRO Geneva office, CAS, KAS, and elsewhere, and provide such information to national ISO/IEC mirror bodies, chairs, secretariats, and WG conveners through publicity events, the JSA home page, and other means.

(4) Human resource development and training

Offer training for international secretariats, and special training (for server operation, etc.) and general training for international standardization. Reorganize training materials and conduct development of e-learning on standardization.

(5) Collaboration with foreign organizations

Provide technical cooperation to regional standardization activities of APEC, ASEAN, etc. through dispatch of instructors and acceptance of trainees. Actively promote standardization activities in the Asia-Pacific region through participation in the North-East Asia Standards Cooperation Seminar, the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC: general meeting will be held at Nagoya, in June), and a Twinning Program with the Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI).

Report on the First Meeting of ISO/TMB WG on SR (Social Responsibility)

The 1st ISO Social Responsibility plenary meeting took place in Salvador, Brazil from March 7 to 11 (Mon-Fri) 2005, drawing around 225 experts from 43 ISO member countries (including 21 developing countries), and 24 organizations with liaison status, including the United Nations, the OECD, the ILO and the European Commission. The participants consisted of representatives of stakeholders in six categories (industry, consumers, government, labor, NGOs, and others) selected by ISO member bodies. They were joined by many observers from ISO members or international organizations, for a grand total of more than 300 delegates.

There were 14 participants (including 6 experts) from Japan.

During the meeting, three ad-hoc groups were set up to discuss the terms of reference and structure of WG, the structure of international guidance documents, and WG operation procedures.

- Ad Hoc Group 1 (Terms of reference and structure of WG)
- Ad Hoc Group 2 (Design and structure of SR guidelines)
- Ad Hoc Group 3 (Operation of WG)

The following were approved after three days of discussions. There was much debate about the structure of the guidance document on SR, a subject that has received much attention of late. At this meeting, however, no consensus was reached on this question; the participants agreed only to set up three interim task groups which will begin substantive discussions at the next general meeting, scheduled for this autumn.

- Establishment of Chair's Advisory Group and its terms of reference, membership composition, member selection procedures, and policy regarding disclosure of member information.
- Establishment of Task Group 1 (Funding and stakeholder engagement) and its terms of reference and appointment of its Convenor, Co-Convenor and interim Secretary.
- Establishment of Task Group 2 (Communication) and its terms of reference, and appointment of its Convenor and Secretary.
- Establishment of Task Group 3 (Operating Procedures) and its terms of reference, and appointment of its interim leaders (Convenor, Co-Convenor and Secretary).
- Establishment of three interim standard setting task groups (Interim Task Groups 4 to 6) and their tasks of exploring the issues set out for the task group and making suggestions on how these issues might be reflected in a Design specification and how these issues might be worked on thereafter.
- Interim Task Group 4 (stakeholder identification/ engagement/ communication) — allocation of tasks and appointment of its interim leaders (Convenor, Co-Convenors, Secretary and Co-Secretary)
- Interim Task Group 5 (Social responsibility core context: issues, definitions, principles (differing types) — interface of organization and society, allocation of tasks, and appointment of its interim leaders (Convenor, Co-Convenor, Secretary and Co-Secretary)
- Interim Task Group 6 (Guidance appropriate for organizations) — allocation of tasks and appointment of its interim leaders (Convenor, Co-Convenor, Secretary and Co-Secretary).

- Establishment of an Editing Committee and its terms of reference, and appointment of interim Project Editor.
- WG operation procedures: no voting in the WG, no limit to the number of task group members.
- Establishment of a translation taskforce; Establishment of a Spanish Translation Taskforce (STTF) and its terms of reference, and appointment of its Convenor and Secretariat.
- Implementation and operation procedures of MoU between ISO and ILO.

Key events related to ISO/SR

2001

- Apr. ISO Council requests ISO/COPOLCO to conduct a study of CSR (corporate social responsibility) standard development.
- May ISO/COPOLCO General Assembly (in Norway) approves the request from ISO Council and establishes a working group for studying CSR (on the need for standard development and its practicability at ISO).

2002

- Jun. Report from ISO/COPOLCO Working Group (on the need for standard development at ISO).
- Sep. ISO/TMB sets up ISO Advisory Group on Social Responsibility (SAG) in response to the report from ISO/COPOLCO. Study of CSR standardization by members from countries in Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa, North and Latin America, as well as international organizations and NGOs (five meetings in total since the first meeting in January 2003).

2003

- Feb. "CSR" is changed to "SR" at ISO/TMB/SAG.
- Sep. 28th ISO/TMB Meeting (Buenos Aires) Resolution 59/2003

2004

- Apr. ISO/TMB/SAG submits reports and recommendations to ISO/TMB.
- Jun. 21, 22 ISO/SR International Meeting (Sweden): stakeholders (from industry, labor, consumer, NGO, and government) approve standardization of SR at ISO.
- Jun. 24, 25 30th ISO/TMB Meeting (Sweden) resolution 35/2004 (Decides that an SR standard will be developed at ISO, and that this standard is intended not for certification but to provide guidance.)
- Sep. 3 Nominations for WG leadership and secretariat countries.
- Sep. 13, 14 31st ISO/TMB Meeting (Geneva) resolutions 72, 73/2004: selection of WG leaders (Brazil - Sweden).
- Oct. 7 NWIP (New Work Item Proposal) is distributed to ISO member bodies.

2005

- Jan. 7 Deadline for voting on NWIP (approved: 32 to 4).

SPAB Meeting

The Standards Publishing Advisory Board Meeting 2005 (SPAB Meeting 2005), sponsored by the US company Information Handling Services (IHS), was held from February 6 to 9, 2005 in Phoenix, Arizona. The SPAB Meeting has been held annually since 1976, marking its 30th anniversary at this year's meeting. Many standards development organizations (SDOs) attend this meeting to discuss issues related to their activities.

Approximately 90 participants, drawn mainly from international organizations and SDOs in the United States, Canada, and various European countries, participated in this year's meeting. Attending on behalf of the JSA was Mr. Yoichi Ueno (Managing Director, Customer Services). This year's meeting, moderated by Mr. Will Willems (SAE International), consisted of numerous sessions, during each of which three people

from separate SDOs gave presentations, followed by questions from the audience. Major sessions included the following:

- Global Update
- Global Harmonization
- SDOs-Lessons Learned Panel
- Rapid Changes to Standards and Speeding the Development Process
- Legal & Technical Protection of Copyright
- Customer Viewpoint Panel
- SDOs-the Next 100 Years

The SPAB Meeting 2006 is scheduled for approximately the same time next year. In connection with next year's meeting, the JSA received requests to encourage increased participation from SDOs in various Asian countries.

JSA's First Intern

My name is Yanti. I am from Indonesia. An important part of my masters program in Sustainable Resources Management, at Technische Universitaet Muenchen, is a two-month internship for practical study and contact-building in a professional organization.

I am interested in gaining some experience in a certification body. When I found JSA during my online research, I sent an application to JSA. Two weeks later, they gave me a positive answer.

So, I am now doing my internship in JSA, Tokyo. I have been here since January 26th, 2005. My internship will end on March 24th, 2005. I really love the people here, who have been very kind to me. In the first week of my internship, they held a welcoming party for me. The internship program itself, involving an outline of JSA activities/departments, standardization lectures, attending seminars, ISO 14001 auditing training, and visits to ISO 14001 certified companies, has been excellent. In addition, I have been able to increase my knowledge of standardization, auditing procedure, implementation of ISO 14001, and Japanese law on promotion of green purchasing.

JSA has not only provided lectures, training, and so forth, but has asked me to write a report, which I will present at the end of my internship. I have picked "standards needed in Asian developing countries" as my main topic.

I will never forget my experiences in Japan. I thank JSA for having me as the first intern in their organization.



Yanti(center), joined AOTS training course on international standardization

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