IEC activities in developing and industrializing countries
March 2016 – June 2016

This report to the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee highlights the activities of the IEC, its Members, Affiliates and Regional Centres related to increasing the participation of developing and industrializing countries in IEC International Standardization and Conformity Assessment activities.

IEC Regional Centre activities

IEC Africa Regional Centre

The IEC Africa Regional Centre (IEC-AFRC), located in Nairobi, Kenya, is the focal point for the IEC in Africa, helping to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, and enhance participation and membership of countries in the region.

Continuing visits to African countries of the IEC

The IEC-AFRC Officers continued visiting IEC Members and Affiliates. Since our last report they met with the national committees of Tunisia and Morocco, both Associate Members of the IEC. While providing a training session to the Affiliate National Electrotechnical Committees (NECs) in Namibia and Botswana, they took the opportunity to visit the Southern African Development Community (SADC) headquarters in Gaborone. They then flew to South Africa to attend the annual Utility Week in Cape Town and went on to Pretoria to attend a strategic workshop of the South African National Committee, a Full Member of the IEC.

IEC-AFRC also took part in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Technical Management Meeting (TMC) and its Industry Ministers meeting where 30 IEC International Standards have been recommended for national adoption within the 15 ECOWAS Member States.

In the coming months, the IEC-AFRC Officers will continue to tour Africa in order to support the electrotechnical standardization work of countries in the region.

IEC Asia-Pacific Regional Centre

The IEC Asia-Pacific Regional Centre (IEC-APRC), located in Singapore, has a twofold mission: to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems as well as enhance participation of all countries in the region in the IEC work; and to provide additional staff support to IEC Technical Committees and Subcommittees in the same way the IEC Central Office does at present.

Dialogue with Indonesia and Thailand on IECEE – 29 and 31 March 2016

The Executive Secretary of the IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE) and the Regional Director of the IEC-APRC met with key stakeholders in Jakarta and Bangkok to promote the IECEE as well as to better understand the needs of key stakeholders. The dialogue set the tone for future collaboration to enhance the use of the IECEE CA System.

Enhancing capabilities of SARSO officials – Singapore, 22-24 March 2016

South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) senior officials were at the IEC-APRC in Singapore for training on standards development and the role of Technical Committee Secretary and Secretariat. The training provided capacity building on good standardization practices which is
essential as they take on the role of Technical Committee Secretary to develop regional standards or the harmonization of International Standards to meet the needs of the region.

**IEC President visit to Philippines – Manila, Philippines, 16-17 May 2016**

The Philippines National Committee of the IEC hosted a Round Table discussion with the IEC President to promote a better understanding of the IEC to stakeholders from both industry and government. Following the Round Table, a training session was organized for experts from the various national Technical Committees to provide them with the knowledge to participate even more actively in the future. The training was led by the Regional Director of the IEC-APRC.

**Sharing with regulators of electrical and electronic equipment – Hanoi, Vietnam, 25-27 May 2016**

The Regional Director of the IEC-APRC participated at an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional meeting of regulators responsible for the safety of electrical and electronic equipment. His participation was to share on the latest developments at the IEC-APRC, including its upcoming work relating to Smart Cities.

**Seminar on IEC International Standards and IECEx – Singapore, 13 June 2016**

To create more awareness among industry and government bodies, the seminar was held jointly with the IEC National Committee of Singapore, the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEx) and IEC-APRC. Case studies on how IEC International Standards have helped companies as well as the various Conformity Assessment Schemes under IECEx were shared.

**IEC Latin America Regional Centre**

The IEC Latin America Regional Centre (IEC-LARC), located in São Paulo, Brazil, is the focal point for the IEC in Latin America, helping to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, and enhance participation and membership of countries in the region.

**24th General Meeting of CANENA – Mexico City, Mexico, 24-25 February 2016**

The IEC-LARC Director represented the IEC in the 24th General Meeting of the Council for Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards of the Nations in the Americas (CANENA). The IEC reported on its activities and updated on its new Public Consultation Tool, Affiliate Country Programme and Young Professionals Programme. CANENA Member delegates were present from Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and US.

**COPANT General Assembly 2016 – Guayaquil, Ecuador, 17-21 April 2016**

The IEC vice-president, the IEC-LARC Director and the IEC Affiliate Leader took part in the COPANT, the Pan American Standards Commission, General Assembly 2016. They reported on the IEC activities since the previous year and held a discussion session on the IEC Masterplan. Following the General Assembly, COPANT provided an official document with suggestions for the new IEC Masterplan. The General Assembly included a Workshop on "The Use and Reference of International Standards in support of public policies": the IEC-LARC Director served as Moderator for the South America's Working Group, with participation of delegates from the European Committee for Standardization - the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CEN-CENELEC) / the Spanish Association for Standardisation and Certification (AENOR), Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) / Standards Australia, Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

The IEC Affiliate Leader also presented INACAL (the National Standards Body of Peru and a member of COPANT), highlighting the International Standardization Olympiad, where the Peruvian team won the Gold Medal. They have also developed a programme for other schools to participate at the national level. The IEC Affiliate Leader also updated the General Assembly on the IEC
Affiliate Country Programme, including new guides and forthcoming guidelines for the National Electrotechnical Committees.

**IEC Affiliate Country Programme**

The **IEC Affiliate Country Programme** is aimed at developing countries that do not yet have the necessary infrastructure and technical expertise to participate in IEC activities as a Member. Participants join the Programme free of charge on invitation by the IEC General Secretary and CEO.

**IEC Mentoring Programme for Affiliates**

The IEC is pleased to report the establishment of a new partnership in the Mentoring Programme for Affiliate Countries between **Ecuador** and **Mexico**. The IEC Affiliate country and its respective mentor have committed for a period of 2 years to reinforce the National Electrotechnical Committee (NEC) through a number of activities, including identifying and reaching out to relevant stakeholders, increasing the national adoptions of IEC International Standards and establishing mirror technical committees.

This partnership adds to those previously established between **Afghanistan–Malaysia**, **Bhutan–Sweden**, **Côte D’Ivoire–France**, **DR Congo–France**, **Ethiopia–Germany**, **Mongolia–Germany**, **Peru–Mexico**, **Rwanda–Austria**, **Uruguay–Norway** and **Zambia–Austria**.

**Update on participation**

In May 2016, **Tanzania** reported to the Affiliate Secretariat the establishment of their NEC. The NEC President comes from the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Dar es Salaam, whereas the NEC Secretary is from the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), the National Standards Body (NSB). Besides the NSB, the NEC regroups electrical and electronics companies, the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology, Ministry of Energy and Minerals, utilities, renewable energy association, regulators, etc.

IEC Affiliate countries are showing further interest in the IEC work through the national adoptions of IEC International Standards. Since our last report, **Burkina Faso, Guinea** and **Namibia** have declared their very first national adoption, and 7 countries have declared additional adoptions: Bhutan, Botswana, Dominican Republic, DRC, Mongolia, Senegal and Zambia. To date, over 5 700 IEC International Standards have been adopted under the terms of the IEC Affiliate Country Programme.

With the declaration of over 50 national adoptions and having already established a NEC, **Guinea** and **Namibia** have met both criteria to be granted the **IEC Affiliate Plus Status**. Out of the 84 developing countries that participate free of charge in the IEC Affiliate Country Programme, 47 have now established their NEC and 26 have been granted the IEC Affiliate Plus Status.

**IEC Conformity Assessment activities**

**IEC Affiliate Conformity Assessment Status**

As part of its commitment to involve developing countries in all aspects of IEC work, including Conformity Assessment Systems, the IEC is pleased to report that Ecuador has requested the IEC Affiliate Conformity Assessment Status (ACAS). Furthermore, under the terms of the IEC ACAS, **Ecuador** and **Mongolia** have declared that they accept IEC Certificates and Reports issued within the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems related to nationally adopted IEC International Standards.
ACAS events

**IEC EASC ACAS Regional Seminar – Baku, Azerbaijan, 20-21 April 2016**
The IEC collaborated with the Euroasian Interstate Council (EASC) to hold an IECEE ACAS seminar on 20-21 April 2016 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The seminar was on the topic of the IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE). It began with a general overview of the IEC and its Conformity Assessment Systems before going into detail on topics such as its CB Scheme, the application of IEC International Standards in a laboratory setting, and preparing a laboratory for operation in the IECEE CB Scheme. Around 30 delegates with a background in certification and conformity assessment testing came from the EASC region, including Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

**Ecuador ACAS Webinar – 12 May 2016**
The IEC and Ecuador’s National Standards Body (INEN) held a webinar on the topic of the IEC ACAS. Subjects included the IEC’s e-Learning modules on IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, and how those Affiliates who have committed to recognizing IEC Certificates and Reports through the ACAS, can benefit from facilitated access to relevant information, such as IEC Test Reports and Certificates information. Following this webinar the IEC received a list of INEN personnel that are to follow the ACAS online course.

Regional collaboration

**IEC expands collaboration with Arabic speaking countries**
IEC Affiliate Country Programme Executive Secretary and African Regional Centre Director attended AIDMO 46th meeting of the High Consultative Committee for Standardization (HCCS) held in Rabat, Morocco, 21-22 April 2016. AIDMO is the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization, in charge of implementing the Regional Arab Quality Infrastructure for 2014-2018. 17 Countries are part of the IEC, either as Members (12) or Affiliates (5). Following IEC-AFRC previous visit to the Moroccan National Committee, it was decided to invite the IEC to present its activities, in particular its programme for developing countries. The objective is to encourage all AIDMO members to take an active part in IEC work and to invite Djibouti, Somalia and Syria to join free of charge the IEC Affiliate Country Programme. In June, AIDMO signed a Collaboration Pledge with the IEC to encourage its members that are also IEC Affiliates to participate actively in the Affiliate Country Programme.

International collaboration

**ARE-RECP Off-Grid Investment Forum 2016 – Amsterdam, Netherlands, 12-15 April 2016**
IEC participated in the International Alliance for Rural Electrification - Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (ARE-RECP) Off-Grid Investment Forum 2016 held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, back to back with the ARE General Assembly. The IEC was part of a panel discussion on the theme of “Talking Business and investment in Asia with hybrid mini-grids” and on facilitating rural electrification in developing countries through the use of IEC International Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems. It was also the opportunity for the IEC to meet with regulators, private companies and investors, to understand the challenges faced by some and offer tailored advice on how to make best use of what the IEC has to offer in solutions for rural electrification.

**Quality standards for energy access – UN-IEC collaboration**
The United Nations Foundation’s Energy Access Practitioner Network, in partnership with the IEC and the Clean Energy Solutions Center, hosted on 11 May 2016 a no-cost webinar on "How international electrotechnical standards can support decentralized electrification in developing countries", facilitating rural electrification programmes.
The webinar introduced the IEC System approach to evaluate the status of standardization in Low Voltage Direct Current (LVDC) applications as well as non-conventional distribution networks (i.e. mini-/micro-grids) in order to facilitate access to electricity in developing countries and economies in transition.

The webinar also discussed how such standards can be used to facilitate rural electrification programmes in developing countries, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa.

- The Convenor of the IEC System Evaluation Group for LVDC Applications, Distribution and Safety for use in Developed and Developing Economies (SEG 4), presented the relevance of LVDC for mini-grids/micro-grids for electricity access.
- The Secretary of the IEC System Evaluation Group on non-conventional Distribution Networks and Microgrids (SEG 6) showed the relevance of the System approach in the standardization work of the IEC and in particular in the field of microgrids.
- The Executive Secretary of the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC) showcased AFSEC’s efforts to support and catalyze energy access across Africa.
- The technical lead for the Lighting Global Quality Assurance programme, also an active member of IEC Technical Committee 82: Photovoltaics, presented about Lighting Global and the IEC work to support the development of the off-grid solar market through the management and implementation of quality standards.

The webinar was followed by a Q&A session, with many questions forwarded to IEC experts to follow up.

- Webinar: https://cleanenergysolutions.org/training/energy-access-quality-standards

**Workshop for industrializing countries 2016 in collaboration with PTB**

This year, back to back with the IEC General Meeting in Frankfurt, the Workshop for Industrializing Countries will be held in Braunschweig on 12 October, in collaboration with the German National Metrology Institute PTB (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt). It will consist of a workshop on quality infrastructure and renewable energy and will be followed by technical visits.

Improving access to energy for people in rural or remote areas is a key concern for many developing economies. Given the costs of grid-extension and possible geographical constraints, off-grid or micro-grid systems based on solar, wind or biomass energy present a promising option to address this challenge. Similarly, covering electricity demand of households and small communities with locally produced renewables is becoming more widespread in industrialized countries, as the establishment of energy self-sustaining communities – for instance in Germany - demonstrates.

The reliability and efficiency of micro-grids based on renewable energy (RE) depends to a large extent on the application of International Standards. However, the effective functioning of the “energy chain” requires the availability of additional core elements of the technical infrastructure such as measurements, conformity assessment and accreditation – in short: quality infrastructure. Developing adequate competences, interlinking expertise and transferring international good practices in this area is therefore indispensable to facilitate a successful strengthening of RE systems.

The technical tour will provide a forum to facilitate exchange and knowledge-sharing on the role and contribution of quality infrastructure services to RE systems with a focus on solar energy, as well as on the question how interoperability and safety are realized through utilizing common standards. In addition, the tour will offer the opportunity to gain insights into RE-related activities of a National Metrology Institute such as PTB which ranks among the leading metrology institutes in the world. Besides, the tour will include a visit to a demonstration project in the area of RE, i.e.
Germany's first self-sustaining “bio village”. The ultimate objective of the tour is to encourage the use of International Standards and recognized Conformity Assessment Schemes for (decentralized) RE systems for rural electrification.

For information please contact IEC Affiliate Country Programme Secretariat: affiliates@iec.ch

About the IEC

The IEC is the world leading organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies – collectively known as “electrotechnology”. The IEC also administers 4 global Conformity Assessment Systems, IECEE, IECEx, IECQ and IECRE. They cover testing, certification and approval of equipment, systems, components and in selected areas services and personnel to its International Standards.

IEC NC (National Committees): 83
Full Members: 60
Associate Members: 23

IEC Affiliates: 84
With adoption: 39
With NEC: 47

IEC TCs and SCs: 177
Technical Committees: 100
Subcommittees: 77

IEC Publications: over 9 000
(as per 2016-05-25)

IEC Conformity Assessment Systems:
Over 1 000 000 issued certificates
### ANNEX A

#### 83 IEC National Committees (as per 2016-05-27)

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### ANNEX B

**84 IEC Affiliates** (as per 2016-05-27)

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