Electromagnetic compatibility is new product category for IECEE

The 7th IECEE Certification Management Committee (CMC) General Meeting, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 24 to 25 June 2004, led to a number of actions and decisions of particular importance to manufacturers, national certification bodies (NCBs) and IECEE members.

Organized by the Japanese National Committee of the IECEE, its associated national certification bodies and the Japanese Standards Association, the meeting brought together approximately 100 international experts and representatives from some 33 member countries. Sixteen participants also attended the meeting as observers from five Asian countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. These countries are taking part in training sessions sponsored by the Japanese government for the Certification Body (CB) Scheme in Japan.

Among the many decisions taken during the meeting, five main ones stand out.

- **Declaration of adherence by member bodies**
  CB Scheme members must now declare adherence to relevant IEC standards so as to give industry essential information while it is designing its product and targeting specific markets. The CMC specified that such declarations should include not only new and consolidated editions of IEC standards, but also amendments because requirements for these can sometimes be more demanding in terms of testing and measuring.

  Members were encouraged to declare adherence in view of exceeding the scope of their associated national certification bodies (NCBs) if IEC standards and amendments are endorsed, used, or recognized at the national level by the relevant IEC national committee.

- **New product category: electromagnetic compatibility**
  With 92% of voting members approving the inclusion of EMC within the IECEE scope, the CMC formally approved this quasi-unanimous result. As a result of the voting, the CMC agreed to include non-safety related EMC to the IECEE’s scope as a new product category.

- **Recognized manufacturers’ testing**
  The IECEE is considering accepting recognized manufacturers’ testing, a procedure by which an NCB assesses on an on-going basis the capability and expertise of a manufacturer’s own laboratory (or laboratories) according to ISO/IEC 17025 and any other relevant IECEE operational documents. This includes the laboratory’s quality management system and testing processes. The IECEE secretariat intends to circulate a questionnaire to NCB members to see how many of them are willing to accept CB Test Certificates based on the new procedure.

- **Official signature of the Master Multilateral Agreement (MLA)**
  The IECEE’s Full Certification Scheme, commonly known as CB-FCS, was created by multilateral agreement (MLA) in 2003. Since this MLA has been subject to controversial interpretations, the IECEE has decided to revise it and re-issue a new version. Signatories to the MLA have agreed in principle to sign the new MLA for the CB-FCS. But until it is signed and enters into force, the 1995 rules of the IECEE will be applied.

- **Component recognition program**
  Now that comments from China, Spain, Switzerland an others have been taken into consideration, the IECEE about to move ahead with creating a component recognition program and expects to finalize a document to this effect and circulate it for voting in the third quarter of 2004. A database should be developed which will facilitate the administration and integration of all related information to the program.

The IECEE is the IEC’s Worldwide System for Conformity Testing and Certification of Electrical Equipment, which operates the well-known CB Scheme.
EMC Workshops in Asia-Pacific

By William A. Radasky, Chairman of the IEC Advisory Committee on Electromagnetic Compatibility (ACEC)

In June 2004, ACEC helped organize two electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) workshops in Japan and Malaysia. In October 2004 a third workshop is scheduled to be held in Seoul at the IEC General Meeting. The goal of the first two workshops was to tell local industry about the EMC standardization work in the IEC, while the upcoming conference in the Republic of Korea is aimed at letting IEC delegates know about the EMC resources available to perform their work in an efficient manner.

Sendai, Japan

On 4 June 2004 ACEC put on a four-hour workshop that highlighted the EMC work being performed in ACEC, CISPR, TC 77 and CISPR/A.* This workshop was organized by Masamitsu Tokuda, an ACEC member from Japan, and was held during a special session at the 2004 International Symposium on EMC in Sendai. For the convenience of the attendees, which numbered more than 100, the presentations were simultaneously translated.

The speakers included ACEC Chairman William Radasky, who discussed the organization and activities of ACEC; CISPR President Peter Kerry, who discussed the overall treatment of EMC within the IEC; Diethard Moehr, Secretary of TC 77, who presented an overview of the activities of TC 77; and Donald Heirman, Chairman of CISPR/A who presented newly-published work dealing with EMC measurement uncertainties.

The question and answer period at the end of each presentation allowed time for questions concerning the applications of EMC standards in Japan and throughout the world.

Shah Alam, Malaysia

The Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM) and SIRIM Berhad (formerly known as the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia and now a government-owned company under the Minister of Finance), co-hosted an EMC workshop for industry in the city of Shah Alam, Malaysia, from 10-11 June 2004. The workshop organization was supported by Dennis Chew of the IEC Asia-Pacific Regional Centre in Singapore. Roslee Saad was the DSM contact in Malaysia, and Robiah Ibrahim represented SIRIM at the workshop.

The two-day workshop consisted of 14 separate presentations with considerable time allotted for questions, answers and discussion. The speakers included Heinrich Kunz of Schaffner (Chairman of TC 77), William Radasky of Metatech Corporation (Chairman of ACEC) and Rémy Baillif of the IEC (IEC Technical Officer). For this two-day workshop, it was possible to discuss many of the specific IEC EMC basic test standards in TC 77 and CISPR in addition to the usual informational briefings dealing with the IEC technical committees producing basic EMC standards.

More than 150 attendees were present during the workshop, and they were enthusiastic in their participation. There were questions dealing with power quality impacts on motor drives and other equipment, impacts of wideband power line communication (PLC) on radio reception, and railway EMC aspects. Several questions from industry were directed toward Malaysia’s EMC participation in the IEC, and DSM and SIRIM indicated that they would review Malaysia’s future participation in specific IEC EMC committees in the future.

Seoul, Republic of Korea

On 18 October 2004 an evening EMC workshop is scheduled from 17h30 to 19h30 at the General Meeting of the IEC in Seoul. As in the past, this workshop is aimed at IEC Product Committee delegates who are looking for support from the horizontal EMC committees in developing their product standards. The registration for this meeting is still open, and it is hoped that those who are interested will attend. William Radasky, ACEC Chairman is organizing the workshop, and he will be pleased to answer any questions in advance of the workshop.

Future EMC Workshops

ACEC continues to offer IEC EMC workshops to National Committees and industrial organizations that are interested. Anyone wishing to schedule a workshop should contact the Secretary of ACEC, Rémy Baillif.

A schedule of EMC events can be found in the EMC Zone on the IEC website at http://www.iec.ch/zone/emc/emc_entry.htm. The EMC Zone provides a full overview of the subject of electromagnetic compatibility and the IEC’s work in this field.

*TC 77 (Electromagnetic compatibility); CISPR is the French acronym for International Special Committee on Radio
Interference. CISPR/A handles measurements and statistical methods.

(August 2004)

**IEC visits Latin America**

Brazil is a Full Member of the IEC, Colombia is an Associate Member and Costa Rica participates in the IEC Affiliate Country Programme. While that signals some difference, the similarity is that all three use electrical power and are involved one way or another in the world of the IEC and international standardization.

IEC Head of Strategic Development Jack Sheldon visited the three countries at the start of June 2004 partly to explain the IEC and its work to various audiences (primarily industry and government) and partly to motivate locals who are involved in IEC work.

In Colombia, Sheldon spoke to the National Committee, encouraging it to take an active role in the four technical committees allowed to all Associates under the new rules voted in October 2003. “We've given them everything they wanted,” Sheldon said, “now it’s up to them to get involved.”

In Costa Rica he visited the Sylvania, Schneider, BTicino and Eaton facilities and came away with the impression that the country has a well-developed economy with a well-educated and motivated workforce. “Having had a look at Costa Rica,” he said, “I think there is a strong case for Costa Rica to become an Associate Member of the IEC.” Speaking to industry, standards experts and regulators, he explained the advantages of using global standards to help develop an already-flourishing economy. He also met representatives of academia at the Colegio de Ingenieros Electricistas, Mecánicos e Industriales to explain the importance of international standards.

In Brazil, Sheldon spoke at COBEI, the national standards body, to people involved in technical committees that form the IEC National Committee, giving them an introduction to technical standards development work in the IEC. He called the Brazilian NC a “phoenix” that had been newly resurrected starting about 18 months previously. While there are only three people in the offices of the National Committee, he said, “what impressed me was their pragmatism: they’re very good people who are concentrating only on those technical areas that are relevant to Brazilian industry.”

**Uruguay**

While in South America, Sheldon also had the chance to speak to Mercosur representatives during a three-day event in Montevideo, Uruguay. He talked about the value of international standards used at the regional level, how they can be adopted by regions and why it’s better to adopt international standards than to develop national ones.

**Republic of Korea looks to develop wind turbines as energy source**

With a National Energy Plan to ensure that 5% of total primary energies is provided by renewable energies by 2012 (representing 7% of total electricity power production), the Republic of Korea has designated wind power as one of the three high-priority renewable energy projects in which to invest, along with photovoltaic energy and fuel cells. In particular, the government plans to develop wind farms to supply the country with more than 2 000 MW within 10 years.
As part of this plan, the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS) held a seminar on 14 June 2004 covering international standardization trends and certification systems of wind turbines. It took place in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in conjunction with the plenary meeting of IEC Technical Committee 88 (Wind turbines). KATS plans to introduce a certification system for wind turbines in Korea and establish a technical regulation for connecting these turbines to the national energy grid.

The meeting saw about 70 Korean experts attending from the government, universities, research institutes and companies. The seminar’s objective was to provide Korean industry with information on certification systems in major industrialized countries, along with technical regulations or references to grid connections in this field. To that end, KATS invited experts from Germany, the USA, Denmark and from the IEC to speak about various topics relating to wind turbine technology and national certification systems.

Christian Nath, Managing Director of Germanischer Lloyd WindEnergie in Germany, spoke about type certification and project certification according to international standards.

Sandy Butterfield, Chief Engineer of the National Wind Technology Center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in the USA, outlined the status of wind energy development in the US and related international standards development activities.

Søren Rise, Project Manager for Wind turbines at the Danish Standards Association, gave an overview of certification of wind turbines in Denmark with a focus on offshore wind turbines and regulator’s rules for grid connection.

IEC Technical Officer Charles Jacquemart provided an update on the International Electrotechnical Commission, concentrating on recent developments and technologies.

The IEC website has a special zone dedicated to renewable and alternative energies, including wind turbines. It is accessible at: www.iec.ch/zone/renergy/renergy_entry.htm

(August 2004)

Nominations for IEC 1906 Award bring 87 names

A total of 87 experts have been nominated to receive the IEC’s new 1906 Award, which recognizes exceptional and recent achievement — a project or other specific contribution — related to the activities of the IEC and which contributes in a significant way to advancing the work of the Commission.

For this first edition, TC chairmen were invited to send their lists of best candidates for the prize by the end of March 2004. Nominees from 26 different technical committees (TCs) and subcommittees (SCs) were chosen by TC officers, who could also take into account advice from subcommittees officers. TC officers could nominate up to five experts per TC, including project leaders and working group convenors. Each year, a maximum of five awards will be granted per TC, including its SCs.

Recipients of the award will receive a special pin and a certificate signed by the IEC General Secretary and the SMB Chairman. Awards will be presented by the relevant National Committee president at an appropriate occasion at the national level.

Created in 2004, this award was established in commemoration of the IEC’s year of foundation and honours IEC technical experts around the world whose work is fundamental to the IEC.

For more information on the 1906 Award please contact Gisèle Pomel, Assistant to the IEC Technical Director.

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