

## *Articles and News - July 1999*

### *Communiqué from the 7th Annual TC 207 Plenary in Seoul, Korea.*

ISO/TC 207 N357 1999-06-06

#### **COMMUNIQUÉ 7th Annual Meeting of ISO/TC 207 on Environmental Management**

ISO/TC 207 held its 7th Plenary meeting in Seoul, Korea, May 31st, 1999 to June 6th, 1999. Representatives from Standards organizations from 54 countries attended the meetings. In addition, 9 Liaison Organizations participated in the discussions. The Korean hosts were courteous and the staff were very well organized. The meeting arrangements were flawless, and professionally organized. The Chair's Advisory Group worked hard all through the week to coordinate issues. This was reflected by the high level of satisfaction achieved.

The plenary concluded with 36 resolutions. Five major items topped the discussions. These were captured in:

resolutions to assist developing countries in actively participating in the work of ISO/TC 207;

resolutions to assist NGO interaction with ISO/TC 207 standards, and to continue the dialogue with NGOs;

resolutions to continue the dialogue with UNFCCC on possible ISO standards related to climate change and climate technology, with TC 207 taking a lead role;

resolutions to note that France and Korea will issue a new work item proposal to develop a document on Design For the Environment; and

a resolution to create a Spanish Task Force to work on the translation of ISO

14000 standards into Spanish.

It was established that the main elements of compatibility between ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 had been achieved. This has been validated by the Strategies Implementation Group (SIG), who had met on May 28th, 1999. There appeared to be a feeling of general satisfaction among the delegates as a result of the SIG recommendation to the TMB, which was strengthened by the TMB's endorsement (TMB Resolution 37/1999). The Climate Change/Climate Technology initiative got a strong boost ahead as TC 207 declared its will to lead the ISO drive with coordination efforts continuing within the ISO structure and with the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The 7th meeting of ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, was a success. Delegates were happy that TC 207 continues to be a leader as it breaks new ground. TC 207 accepted the Swedish invitation to hold its 8th Plenary session, in Stockholm in June 2000.

*For more information contact Ahmad Hussein, CSA International, 178 Rexdale Blvd., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Tel: +1-416-747-2697, Fax:+1-416-747-2473, E-mail: [husseina@csa.ca](mailto:husseina@csa.ca)*

The ISO/TC 207 SCs and working groups (WGs) also had a productive series of meetings in between the two plenary sessions. Highlights from the SC reports presented to the final plenary follow:

### **SC 1, Environmental Management Systems**

ISO/TC207/SC1 held a two-day meeting in Seoul, along with a SME and a ISO 14001 Implementation workshops. In addition, ISO/TC207/SC1 Working Groups 1 and 2 each held one and one-half day meetings.

The main conclusions reached by ISO/TC207/SC1 were:

ISO/TC207/SC1 accepted the reports of the meetings of WG1 and WG2 held in London in April 1999. ISO/TC207/SC1 decided that the working groups should continue, at their Seoul meetings, the revision activities for ISO 14001 and ISO 14004, initiated in 1998.

ISO/TC207/SC1 accepted the reports of WG1 and WG2 held in Seoul and authorized them to further continue the revision activities for ISO 14001 and ISO 14004 at their next meetings scheduled for November 1999 in Washington D.C., USA.

ISO/TC207/SC1 requested WG1 and WG2 to continue to provide regular reports on their progress in this revision work and to supply proposals to the next meeting of ISO/TC207/SC1 for timescales for this activity.

ISO/TC207/SC1 considered the work of the ISO/TMB Ad Hoc Group developing Guidelines for Management Systems Standards and recommended that the Group provide an early draft of the Guideline to ISO/TC207/SC1 in sufficient time for circulation for review by, ISO/TC207/SC1 at its meeting in Stockholm in June 2000;

ISO/TC207/SC1 agreed to hold its eighth meeting in Stockholm, Sweden in June 2000 in conjunction with the next ISO/TC207 plenary meeting.

*For more information contact Ashok Ganesh, British Standards Institute (BSI), 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL, England, United Kingdom, Tel: +44 181 996 7259, Fax:+44 181 996 7249*

## **SC 2, Environmental Auditing**

ISO/TC 207/SC 2 met on Thursday June 3rd in Seoul with 37 P and O members and 1 liaison organization present. The meeting was Chaired by John Stans, assisted by the Secretary Dick Hortensius.

The ISO 14015 progress report was provided by Robert Power (Canada), Convenor of WG 4. WG 4 met during three days before the SC 2 Plenary

meeting and reviewed comments received on ISO/CD 14015.1 . They reached consensus on the text of the 2nd Committee Draft that will be circulated for review and ballot in due course after the meeting.

Progress on the activities of the ISO/TC 176/SC 3-ISO/TC 207/SC 2 Joint Working Group on Auditing (JWG) was given by its Convenors Andrew Griffiths (Germany) and Alister Dalrymple (France). The JWG met for five days in Seoul and achieved the first full Working Draft stage of the future ISO 19011, the common standard for quality and environmental auditing. This project is the follow-up of discussions between ISO/TC 207 and ISO/TC 176 on enhancing the compatibility between the ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 standards. For the auditing standards it was agreed to develop a common standard, applicable to both the auditing of environmental and quality management systems. It was reported that cooperation in the JWG between members with an environmental and quality background was good and that progress made was satisfactory. The subcommittee expressed some concerns on the very tight timelines for the project. It requested that the leadership of the JWG reconsider the time schedule and subsequently communicate the concerns of ISO/TC 207/SC2 and any proposed changes in the time schedule to ISO/TC 176/SC 3.

The subcommittee was updated on the workshop addressing experiences gained through the use of the auditing standards ISO14010-14012. This workshop was held on May 30th. Presentations were provided by experts from Colombia, Netherlands, Canada, Australia and United States and Andrew Griffiths. These provided examples of the state-of-the-art application of experiences in joint auditing. Noting the success of this workshop in exchanging information it was decided to organize another workshop together with the next meeting of the subcommittee.

SC2 was informed on the activities of the TC 207 Climate Change Task Force. It expressed its willingness to support the proposed cooperation between ISO and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The subcommittee decided to meet again in June 2000 in Stockholm together with the next meeting of ISO/TC 207.

*For more information contact, Dick Hortensius, Nederlands Normalisatie-instituut (NNI), Kalfjeslaan 2, P.O. Box 5059, 2600 Gb, Delft, Netherlands, Tel: +31 15 269 0115, Fax:+31 15 269 0190, E-mail: Dick.Hortensius@NNI.NL*

### **SC 3, Environmental Labelling**

ISO/TC 207 Sc3 held a one day meeting in Seoul along with a Type 3 Practitioner Workshop. In addition WGs 1 and 2 held their own sessions.

ISO/TC 207/SC 3 made major strides towards achieving its goals. Two of the four projects on the SC 3 work program have reached publication and the other two are at the final voting stage.

*ISO 14020 Environmental labels and declarations - General principles* was published in August 1998. At the SC 3 plenary in Seoul there was a decision to produce a minor amendment to remove some duplication in the document.

*ISO 14021 Environmental labels and declarations - Self-declared environmental claims (Type 2 environmental labelling)* was submitted for DIS ballot in September 1998 and was approved by a substantial majority. At present, FDIS 14021 is at ballot and this closes on 27 July. This standard is generating considerable interest, with bodies such as EC DG XXIV studying it as they review their regulatory framework. There has been some discussion about the need for some sort of implementation plan or interpretation process for ISO 14021; however it was decided in Seoul that it is probably too early to judge the exact needs in this regard and we will consider these matters at next year's meeting.

*ISO 14024 Environmental labels and declarations - Environmental labelling Type I – Guiding Principles and Procedures* was published on 1 April 1999. It is now being actively promoted by the Global Eco-labelling Network.

*TR 14025 Environmental labels and declarations – Type III environmental declarations.* As agreed at the San Francisco meeting of SC 3, the draft Technical Report on Type III declarations was circulated to SC 3 members for a final approval vote in March, with a closing date of 28 June 1999. It is worth noting that ISO Central Secretariat has made a special provision to allow the project to be completed according to the work plan developed at the San Francisco plenary and published as a Type 2 Technical Report, even though this type of product is being phased out by ISO. The associated stipulation was that the ballot needs to be concluded before 1 July 1999 in order to take advantage of this special provision.

In order to give guidance to the Project Leader and his editing group about how to deal with the comments submitted with ballots on ISO/DTR 14025, recognizing that the editing group will not be able to finalize the consideration of comments until the ballot has closed and all the national comments are available. This involved two activities:

establishing criteria (which were subsequently endorsed by SC 3) on the types of changes that might be made to improve the clarity of the document without compromising the integrity of ballots already cast; and

considering how those criteria might be applied to some of the issues that have already been identified in early comments on DTR 14025.

*Issues identified in national comments on ISO/DTR 14025 that seek substantive technical change to the document and which do not fit within the criteria will be addressed in the next stages of the work of SC 3 on Type III environmental declarations that may eventually lead to the development of an International Standard. The process for handling comments will be explained in a letter to be circulated to SC 3 members straight after this meeting.*

SC 3 decided to elevate the Task Group to the level of a working group.

SC 3 welcomed the input given by SC 5 via its liaison group; and in particular, the participation of the SC 5 Chairman at the SC 3 plenary where he advised of five proposals to improve the TR 14025 document. SC 3 is keen to work on these points and believes that these can be substantially addressed by the editing group between now and when the document is published.

*For more information contact, John Henry, Environment and Consumer, SAA, 1 The Crescent, Homebush, N.S.W. 2140, Australia, Tel: + 612 9746 4810 , Fax:+ 612 9746 4766*

#### **SC 4, Environmental Performance Evaluation**

ISO/TC 207/SC 4 began its series of events and meetings in Seoul, Korea with a one-day workshop on Environmental Performance Evaluation (EPE) held on June 1, 1999. This workshop featured:

presentations by 6 organizations on their experiences implementing EPE;

a presentation on a German pilot program regarding implementation of EPE in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs);

a presentation on other international environmental performance measurement and reporting initiatives; and

breakout discussion sessions focusing on the main stages of the EPE process as detailed in ISO 14031.

This workshop was attended by approximately 100 people and was very well-received by all. ISO/TC 207/SC 4 will be planning a similar EPE workshop for the June 2000 ISO/TC 207 meetings in Stockholm, Sweden.

At their working sessions on June 2 & 3, 1999 ISO/TC 207/SC 4 and ISO/TC 207/SC 4/WG 3:

Noted that ISO/FDIS 14031 (Environmental management - Environmental performance evaluation - Guidelines) is expected to be issued for voting by early August 1999 and published in the late fourth quarter of 1999;

Noted the positive voting results on ISO/DTR 14032 (Environmental management - Examples of environmental performance evaluation), which is expected to be published by ISO in the late fourth quarter of 1999, and agreed on revisions to this document based on the comments received during the voting process;

Agreed to encourage the ISO Central Secretariat to advance the publication of ISO TR 14032 prior to the availability of the French text (noting that the French version will take considerably longer to produce and would be published later) in order to ensure concurrent publication of ISO 14031 and ISO TR 14032;

Agreed to disband ISO/TC 207/SC 4/WG 1, ISO/TC 207/SC 4/WG 2 and ISO/TC 207/SC 4/ WG 3, noting that these working groups have completed their work as of the end of the meetings in Seoul, and expressed its sincere appreciation to Mr. Ross Stevens, Mr. Per Arne Syrrist, Mr. Einar Bache and Mr. Kristian Loekkegaard for their outstanding dedication and service to the subcommittee in leading these working groups.

Agreed to hold the next meetings of the subcommittee in conjunction with the June 2000 ISO/TC 207 meetings in Stockholm, Sweden.

In order to further advance the efforts of the subcommittee, it was also agreed to:

Recommended that ISO/TC 207 encourage the ISO Central Secretariat and member bodies to explore alternatives for pricing and the timing and form of

distribution of ISO 14000 series documents in order to provide these documents at lower cost to encourage greater world- wide access to and use of them;

Support the recommendation of the ISO/TC 207/SC 1 and ISO/TC 207/SC 4 leadership to defer consideration of an ISO/TC 207 project on environmental reporting until ISO/TC 207/SC 1 had reached consensus on addressing issues related to external communication in the review and revision of ISO 14001 and ISO 14004;

Charge the ISO/TC 207 communications and outreach group to work with the Swedish hosts to organize a roundtable discussion, on environmental management focusing on performance evaluation and reporting, with other leading international initiatives at the June 2000 ISO/TC 207 meetings in Stockholm;

Recommend the establishment of an open forum on the ISO/TC 207 website for the collection and exchange of information and opinions on practical experience with environmental reporting.

Not establish a formal interpretations mechanism for ISO 14031. Parties with questions on the content of ISO 14031 should be directed to their ISO member body for response in a timely manner, and responses will indicate that they are not official ISO/TC 207/SC 4 interpretations of ISO 14031. ISO member bodies are encouraged to provide copies of all questions and the answers given to them to the ISO/TC 207/SC 4 secretariat who will collect and present them on the ISO/TC 207/ website.

Form an ad hoc editing group to edit additional examples of EPE and the use of ISO 14031, which will be posted to a section of the ISO/TC 207/SC 4 website with access to the general public to foster greater understanding and implementation of EPE and ISO 14031;

Form an ad hoc group dedicated to promoting ISO 14031 and ongoing outreach, including the delivery of workshops, assisting the subcommittee Chair and Secretary in:

(a) Coordinating information exchange efforts of the subcommittee with other international initiatives;

(b) Developing tools, as needed, to assist in these information exchange efforts;

(c) Developing tools, as needed, to assist member bodies in promoting the implementation of ISO 14031;

(d) Developing a structure for workshops on ISO 14031 tailored for an audience of business managers and other interested parties that can be presented in any country or region;

(e) Developing a set of presentation materials on ISO 14031 and the work of ISO/TC 207/SC 4;

(f) Organizing an EPE workshop, according to the agreed structure, to be held in conjunction with the June 2000 ISO/TC 207 meetings in Stockholm;

(g) Working with the ISO/TC 207 Communications and Outreach Group, the Swedish hosts, and other ISO member bodies on the marketing and promotion of the EPE workshop and the roundtable in Stockholm to the business community and general public; and

(h) Supporting the ISO/TC 207 Communications and Outreach Group by conducting outreach with other relevant international initiatives to encourage their participation (as either presenters or attendees) at the EPE workshop and the roundtable discussion in Stockholm.

*For more information contact, Steve Cornish, American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 11 West 42nd Street, 13th Floor, New York, New York, USA 10036, Tel: +1-212-642-4969, Fax:+1- 212-398-0023, E-mail: [scornish@ansi.org](mailto:scornish@ansi.org)*

## **SC 5, Environmental Life Cycle Assessment**

About 29 countries and 40 experts attended the meetings of SC5 on Monday, May 31st and Friday, June 4th.

The following Working Groups met during the week :

WG2 - "Impact Assessment", (Covenor S. O. Ryding) The group reviewed comments received on ISO/DIS 14042 "Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Life cycle impact assessment". The positive vote on the DIS (38 approvals, 2 disapprovals and 2 abstentions) allows

WG5 – "Interpretation", (Convenor H. Lecouls – France) The group reviewed comments received on ISO/DIS 14043 "Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Life cycle interpretation". The positive vote on the DIS (37 approvals, 1 disapproval and 4 abstentions) allows the document to proceed to the FDIS stage.

Once both the above two documents have been published , the family of ISO 14040 on Life cycle assessment is now completed.

Additional updates on the SC5 activities are as follows:

Document ISO/TR 14049 "Illustrative examples on how to apply ISO 14041 – Life cycle assessment – Goal and scope definition and inventory analysis", which had been approved during 1999 will be published by the end of the year 1999.

The Task Force on LCA data documentation of WG2&WG3 "Inventory General Specific (convenor K. Saur - Germany) is producing a document to facilitate the

communication between different LCI data suppliers, practitioners and/or commissioners. This TF has established a work plan and schedule which has committed to the publication of the document by the second quarter of 2001.

The Project Group on examples for ISO 14042 of WG2 "Impact assessment" (convenor A. McGuire - U.K.) is producing a document to give examples illustrating the use and the implementation of the ISO standard ISO 14042 "Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Life cycle impact assessment". This TF has established a work plan and schedule which has committed to the publication of the document by the last quarter of 2001.

SC5 voiced some concerns regarding document ISO/DTR 14025 on Type III environmental claims. Resolution 14/1999 lists these concerns.

A workshop was held during the week to explain the ISO 14040 series. It also gave examples of implementation of ISO 14040. One example covered an industry in the Republic of Korea.

SC5 launched its own website, located within AFNOR website.

SC5 decided to hold its next meeting in Stockholm in June 2000.

*For more information contact, Corrine del Cerro, Association française de normalisation (AFNOR), Tour Europe, F-92049 Paris La Defense CEDEX, France, Tel: + 33 1 4291 5516, Fax:+ 33 1 4291 5656*

## **SC 6, Terms and Definitions**

The 12th plenary meeting of ISO/TC 207/SC 6 was held in two sessions, an opening plenary on Monday May 31, 1999 and a closing plenary on Friday June 4, 1999. Between the plenary sessions two ad-hoc groups worked on issues defined at the opening plenary session. In addition, a successful seminar on terminology was also held during the week.

In concert with decisions taken at the San Francisco meeting in 1998, ISO/TC 207/SC 6 developed a website "ISO/TC 207 Termbank" containing terms and definitions used in the various ISO/TC 207 drafts, issued standards and technical reports. Both a term register and a document register are available to enter the database. The terms and definitions in the database are in English language and French when this language is available.

ISO/TC 207/SC 6's New Work Item Proposal for the first amendment to ISO 14050 has been approved and a Committee Draft containing 93 terms and definitions has been circulated for voting. P-members have agreed to circulate the draft as a DIS in accordance with 2.6.1 of part 1 of the ISO/IEC Directives.

At its meeting in Seoul ISO/TC 207/SC 6 resolved to include the terms and definitions from this amendment in a second version of ISO 14050 once the ISO/DIS 14050 A1 is approved by the member bodies. The arrangement of the terms and definitions in this second version of ISO 14050 will be represented in a classified order by concepts according to guidelines in ISO 10421.

One of the ad-hoc groups worked out comments to definitions of terms in drafts for 4 Standards and one Technical Report. The other ad-hoc group handled issues related to compatibility of terminology between ISO/TC 207 and ISO/TC 176.

The issues that were discussed in the ad hoc groups were reported to the SC 6 closing plenary, and the reports were approved. In order to improve the effectiveness of the compatibility effort ISO/TC 207/SC 6 recommended that ISO/TC 207 encourages the use of concept diagrams and other recognized ISO terminology practices in the analysis of terms and definitions to facilitate harmonization with other ISO/TCs.

*For more information contact, Einar Bache, Sivilingenior, Oscars gate 20,  
Postboks 7072, Homansbyen, 0306 OSLO, Norway, Tel: +47 22 59 6711,  
Fax:+47 22 59 6734*