



Secretariat: Canada (SCC)

Secretary: A. Hussein

COMMUNIQUÉ

13th Annual Meeting of ISO/TC 207 on Environmental Management

ISO/TC 207 held its 13th plenary meetings in Madrid, Spain from 12th to 17th September 2005. Member bodies from 45 countries participated in the meetings, as well as several Liaison Organizations. Some 316 participants attended the sessions, which were held at the Intercontinental Hotel.

In addition to the working sessions, a Super Workshop was also held. This Workshop was well attended.

AENOR, the Spanish Standards Organization, hosted this ISO/TC 207 session with excellent facilities, arrangements, and friendly support.

ISO/TC 207 Opening Ceremony

The 13th ISO/TC Annual Meeting Ceremony was opened to the TC 207 delegates and several hundred Spanish interested participants. Mr. Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri, *Secretary General for Prevention of Contamination and Climate Change*, Mr. Ramon Naz, *DG AENOR*, and Mr. Haroldo Mattos de Lemos, *TC 207 Vice Chair* made opening presentations supporting the work of TC 207 specifically in the field of Climate Change.

Message from Alan Bryden, the ISO Secretary General to ISO/TC 207

Pauline Jones, representing ISO CS relayed a message from Mr. Alan Bryden, ISO Secretary General. Among other things, Mr. Bryden commended TC 207 for its initiative in organizing the ISO 14001 SME Survey. He pointed out that the world was waiting for the ISO 14064 family of standards (*on the quantification, monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions*). In addition to ISO 14064 series, ISO/TC 207 and ISO/CASCO, *Committee on conformity assessment*, were jointly developing ISO 14065 on *Specifications for validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation and other forms of recognition*. The ISO Secretary General elaborated that this is a striking example of how ISO's work can help provide practical tools for meeting the global challenges that the international community is wrestling with.

ISO/TC 207 Working Sessions

The 13th Plenary meeting of ISO/TC 207 addressed several issues. The plenary approved 24 resolutions, including:

- Endorsing the appointment of five Vice-Chairs for the SCs; All VCs are from Developing countries. This action is in response to the ISO/TMB and ISO Council direction regarding involving Developing Country representatives in TC leadership positions;
- Approving the new edition of the TC Business Plan.
- Congratulating ISO/TC 207 WG5 on Climate Change for moving the ISO 14064 series of docs to FDIS.
- Working with ISO DEVCO to secure funding for delegates from Developing Countries;
- Endorsing the translation process for several ISO 14000 docs into Spanish and Arabic;
- Accepting the reports of the ISO SIG (*Strategies Implementation Group*), and the JCG (*Joint Coordination Group*) regarding a path forward to ensure compatibility of ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 in their next cycle.
- Approving the CAG's (*Chair's Advisory Group*) Terms of Reference, which calls for openness, and transparency. The new TOR also ensures a balanced membership representation from all across the world.

Egypt raised the issue of a possible new work item proposal NWIP (on *Desert management*). The phenomenon of desertification is a real threat to the environment and economy in many countries in Africa. Several members supported this initiative. Egypt was requested to work with other P members to assess the feasibility of a NWIP.

NGO-CAG Task Force

The NGO-CAG Task Force met in Madrid to discuss and further implement Phase 1 of the NGO work plan. The work plan, which consists of the five proposals contained in the Interim NGO Report (207 N699a), was approved overwhelmingly by the TC 207 P membership by letter ballot ending in December 2004. While in Madrid, the TF membership worked to advance action items that have been established for each of the four actionable Proposals in the NGO work plan (Proposals 1-4). In terms of organizing the work, the group assigned leadership responsibilities to various TF members for carrying out specific elements and associated action items in the work plan.

The Developing Countries Contact Group (DCCG)

The DCCG Madrid meetings allowed members to inform others about their achievements in terms of environmental management in their respective countries, including an update on the implementation of the ISO 14000 series of standards. More information can be obtained from the Report of the meeting that will be made available to TC members.

The Twinning issue was again discussed and a recommendation was made that the TC leadership together with the DCCG Chair and the Vice-Chairs form a Task Group to investigate alternative funding mechanisms for the full participation of these Vice-Chairs in all the meetings held by their respective subcommittees. All members were in agreement that the implementation of Twinning by TC 207 was very well done and a positive step towards building capacity.

The usual support from the ISO/DEVT (previously ISO/DEVPRO) for developing country participation in the TC 207 plenary was not available for 2005. Many members expressed concern that the sustainability of participation would be at risk if funding can no longer be obtained.

Social Responsibility (SR), and the involvement of DCCG, was again discussed.

A request was raised to ask the TC to create a liaison with ISO/TC 228. Tourism, especially eco-tourism, is a major source of income for most developing countries.

Finally, Ernesto Bachtold was elected as a Chairman of the DCCG for 2006 and 2007.

SR Task Force

The CSR Task Force met on 2005-09-16, led by Dorothy Bowers and Oswald A. Dodds as Co-Convenors. Joe Cascio, who had attended the first meeting of the WG SR in Brazil, gave a brief summary of the meeting and advised that, in his opinion, there were no issues raised that were of concern to ISO/TC 207. Sara Ellström, the Assistant Secretary to the ISO SR WG, gave a presentation on the communications aspects and role of a liaison group.

As the documentation for the upcoming SR WG meeting had not been seen by all present, the SR TF did not have the opportunity to develop a position on them; therefore TC 207 will not be represented in Bangkok (but would reserve its position for future meetings).

ISO TC 207 was requested to nominate Dorothy Bowers and Oswald A. Dodds as the two ISO TC 207 liaison representatives to the ISO SR WG. TC 207 also called for a member from a Developing Country to join the leadership of the SR TF. Future meetings of the Task Force will take place at each plenary meeting of ISO/TC 207. TC 207 was asked to rename this Task Force as the ISO/TC 207 SR Task Force.

Spanish Translation Task Force

The *Spanish Translation Task Force* met in Madrid during four days to discuss and finally approve the translation into Spanish of greenhouse gases documents: ISO/FDIS 14064-1 (ES), ISO/FDIS 14064-2 (ES) and ISO/DIS 14064-3 (ES) (leader country Colombia). Throughout the entire week the STTF also worked on the translation of the document on environmental communications actually at DIS stage (ISO/DIS 14063).

The meetings were attended by representatives from Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, México, Spain and Venezuela, in addition to liaison members of the STTF.

The next meeting will be jointly held with other Spanish Translation groups (ISO/CASCO/STWG and ISO/TC 176/STTG) in Caracas (Venezuela) during May of 2006. The purpose of this next meeting will be to continue working according to the priority list of the work programme 2004-2006 of the STTF. Priority documents include ISO/FDIS 14063 and ISO/DIS 14065.

Joint Arabic Translation Working Group



The Joint Arabic translation-working group (JATWG) met for four days in Madrid. The meetings were attended by representatives from Kuwait, Libya, Tunis and Egypt. The group completed the translation of ISO 14001, ISO 14004, ISO 14020, and ISO 14050.

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UPDATE ON SUBCOMMITTEES, AND TC/207 WGS

SC1, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

SC1, Environmental Management Systems

ISO/TC 207/SC 1 met in plenary on 12 and 15 September 2005 in Madrid, Spain. The main items for discussion were the report and results of survey from the Strategic SME Group and the progress made by the Joint Task Group (JTG) on the Joint Vision for the future revision of ISO 9001 and ISO 14001. It was noted that a NWIP for a Guidance Standard concerning a staged implementation of EMS, submitted by the European Commission, had been initiated and that the ballot would close on 3 November 2005.

The subcommittee reported its success in the twinning programme with the appointment of a Vice-chair from Indonesia and a Vice-secretary from South Africa.

During the meetings, SC 1:

- established an SME Task Group (TG), co-convened by Sweden and Zimbabwe. The TG will assess the outcome of the Strategic SME report and to provide recommendation for future action. The TG will report at the next SC 1 meeting.
- established a liaison with ISO/TC 176/SC 3 to indicate its potential interest in their work programme.
- established a Task Group (TG) co-convened by the Netherlands and South Africa to review and evaluate the potential need for SC 1 involvement in the development of identified areas of work (ISO 10013, NWIP on customer satisfaction and the study group on people's aspects)
- accepted the report of JTG and the suggestions it contains with the exception of that related to drafting common elements.

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SC 2, ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING AND RELATED INVESTIGATIONS

ISO/TC 207/SC 2 "*Environmental auditing*" held its 13th plenary meeting on Tuesday 13 September with representatives from 18 P-members present.

The leadership of the Subcommittee is still in the process of finding candidates from developing countries for a twinned secretariat of the SC. P-members from developing countries were once more encouraged to nominate candidates.

The subcommittee decided to disband the Joint Working Group that developed ISO 19011, the standard on *auditing QMS and EMS*. At the same time SC 2 requested the secretary to start gathering and compiling information on the current application of ISO 19011 Specifically in regard to the systematic review process that is due for 2007. It appears that ISO 19011 has a much wider application than could have been foreseen during its development. It is e.g. referred to in ISO 22000 on food safety management systems and also in sustainable forestry certification schemes. On one hand this means that the generic guidance on auditing in ISO 19011 is accepted to other disciplines, on the other hand this wide application needs to be considered in the review process and may have consequences for the set-up of any revision process.

Although ISO 19011 is primarily intended to guide organizations on their internal auditing processes, it is also applicable to 3rd party auditing as conducted by certification/registration bodies. An ISO/IAF task force identified problems with the consistent application of ISO 19011 in this area, since ISO 19011 provides guidance and does not contain mandatory requirements. On a recommendation from this task force, ISO/CASCO (the ISO committee on Conformity Assessment) will develop a separate standard with requirements for 3rd party auditor competencies based on the guidance given in ISO 19011. This should enhance the quality and credibility of independent 3rd party certification/registration. ISO/TC 207/SC 2 decided to actively participate in this development, via nomination of SC 2 experts in the CASCO Working Group charged with the development of this new standard.

The Subcommittee also decided to start the 5 yearly systematic review process for ISO 14015, the standard on *Environmental Assessment of Sites and Organizations*, later this year. An ad hoc group will assist the secretariat in developing a list of questions that will accompany the formal review forms and that is intended to gather information on the experiences with application of ISO 14015.

The subcommittee also considered the opportunities for joint work with ISO/TC 176. The SC could not reach any conclusions because of late circulation of documents, lack of information on these projects and the consequent inability of timely consultation at the national level. Therefore it was decided to circulate additional information on the priority projects related to documentation (ISO/TR 10013), the NWIP on *Monitoring Customer Satisfaction* and the study group on *people's aspects*, to the members of SC 2 with



a request to respond within 4 months whether there is, in principle, interest in further involvement in these projects.

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SC 3, ENVIRONMENTAL LABELLING

ISO/TC 207/SC 3 met on 16 September in Madrid. This followed several days of meetings by ISO/TC 207/SC 3/WG 4 Type II Environmental declarations which was considering comments of ISO/DIS 14025 Environmental labels and declarations -- *Type III environmental declarations -- Principles and procedures*. This document was approved at the DIS ballot prior to the meeting and all of the comments were considered in Madrid. It will now go forward as an FDIS.

This was the first meeting following the election of the new vice-chair of the subcommittee, Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu of Zimbabwe, and he led a discussion of the needs of developing countries and what could be done to promote their involvement in the development of the standards.

ISO/TC 207/SC 3 has been endeavouring to coordinate its work with that of ISO/TC 59/SC 17 that is developing a sector-specific standard for environmental product declarations in the building sector. Several resolutions were taken aimed at improving that coordination which is made somewhat difficult by the generic standard and the sector specific standard being developed more or less in parallel.

ISO/TC 207/SC 3 looked at other aspects of coordination, including within the ISO 14000 series as well as with other groups such as IEC TC 111. The idea of a label embracing the environmental aspects as well as other aspects of a product such as safety and broader sustainability issues was considered.

The subcommittee decided to reconfirm ISO 14020 Environmental labels and declarations – General Principles and commenced a process to develop a strategic plan for the review of all of the standards under the subcommittee with that review tentatively scheduled to commence in 2008.

Once ISO 14025 is published, there will be no active work items under the subcommittee, so there was no immediate need for a further meeting in the near future. However, a workshop was proposed for next year as part of strategic review process to gather information about implementation issues.

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SC 4, ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

ISO/TC 207/SC 4 did not meet in Madrid.

ISO/TC 207 approved the nomination of Joe Cascio as the new Chair of ISO/TC 207 SC4.

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SC 5, ENVIRONMENTAL LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

ISO/TC 207/SC5 held its 15th meeting on 15th of September 2005, in Madrid.

The main topics discussed were:

- The revision of the 4 core standards on Life Cycle Assessment: ISO 14040, 14041, 14042 and 14043;
- The proposal for the revision of ISO/TS 14048 “Data documentation format”;
- The implementation of the twinning concept.

Revision of ISO 14040s

The boundaries of the revision are to improve the readability of the ISO 14040s series, while leaving the requirements and technical content unaffected, except for errors and inconsistencies.

The revision is to:

- gather all requirements in one new standard, keeping the structure of "goal and scope", "inventory", "impact assessment" and "interpretation" as separate chapters;
- maintain 14040 as a framework document, while transferring all requirements to the new standard; and
- add to 14040 a general requirement of compliance section.

ISO/TC 207/WG 6 met in January 2005 in Mexico and succeeded in producing the two DISs in March 2005, five months ahead of target dates. WG 6 met on 11th, 12th, 13th of September 2005, to review the comments received on ISO DIS 14040 and ISO/DIS 14044.

Due to a translation matter, the official target date for voting on these 2 DISs was delayed to September 26th. However, most of the comments were analyzed during Madrid meeting and it was agreed to advance ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 to FDIS stage following completion of the official DIS ballot (September 26).

Any further comments received prior to the formal closure of the DIS vote (September 26) will be resolved by the Chair and secretariat of SC5 in cooperation with the 3 WG 6 co-chairs and secretariat.

Revision of ISO 14048 “Data documentation format”

In 2004 a NWIP for the revision was circulated within the SC 5. The results of this enquiry did not show a broad consensus for the transformation of the TS to a full IS.

(23 P-members voting of 42, 6 negative votes but 18 in favour and 12 nominations of experts, SVAT=16.4).

Consequently, ISO/TC 207/SC5 took a resolution 6/2004 during the Buenos Aires meeting creating a task force under Swedish leadership, with the task to:

- Prepare the scope for the revision of ISO/TS 14048, based on the current scope, taking into account recent key developments, (e.g. data quality criteria, relevance to the market, usability)
- Prepare the resulting NWIP

The TF met once in 2005 and further conducted at least 4 telephone meetings. A stakeholder consultation was organised – directed to software suppliers and data providers – to in general terms assess market relevance of an ISO-standardised format.

Following this survey, the TF decided that the preferred publication form would be a technical specification.

The TF then prepared a new scope for the NWIP. Though most of the stakeholders indicated that the new scope is an improvement compared to the existing standard, the TF did not reach consensus on the market relevance for a new standard.

In order to clarify the situation and to follow the ISO rules, some explanations were necessary. The NWIP distributed in 2004 was accepted. However it was pointed out that now that a limited scope is being supported, a SC resolution would be sufficient and there would be no need to issue a second NWIP. Consequently it was decided during the Madrid meetings to keep ISO/TS 14048:2002 as is. To delete the AWI for the revision and to decide in 2008 whether the TS should be withdrawn or transformed into an IS.

Implementation of twinning

SC5 reaffirmed its willingness to facilitate the participation of Developing Countries in its work and agreed to create a position of Vice-Chair. SC5 supported the appointment of Dr Reginald Tan as SC 5 Vice-chair.

Future of LCA standardisation

ISO/TC 207/SC5 agreed to hold an LCA workshop during next plenary session to discuss the strategy for future LCA standardisation.

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TCG, TERMINOLOGY COORDINATION GROUP

The TCG met in Madrid on September 11 and 15 2005, with ad hoc meetings being held Monday to Friday. On Wednesday, Håvard Hjulstad, TCG Chair, gave a basic “course” in principles of terminology.

Eleven tasks for the TCG had previously been identified. During the Madrid meeting two more tasks were identified, giving a total of thirteen tasks. Coordinators have been assigned to each task. Most of the TCG members are working on more than one of these tasks.

Close cooperation with all groups within ISO/TC 207 is a great concern for the TCG, since the TCG has an advisory function only. Once the TCG has identified terminology items that may need coordination, it is for the other technical groups of TC 207 to ensure the implementation by considering the suggestions from the TCG.

Coordination and cooperation with external groups, in particular ISO/TC 176/SC 1 and ISO/CASCO, is also a great concern for the TCG. Thus, the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) has been revitalized. ISO/TC 207/TCG has four representatives in the JAG: the Chair, the Vice-chair, the secretary, and the liaison officer to ISO/TC 176/SC 1. The JAG had its first meeting in February this year in Paris. Most of the work in the JAG will be done by correspondence.

Relating to the issue of twinning of leadership positions, the TCG appointed a Vice-Chair, Ms. Carolina Popp, Argentina, who Chaired the TCG opening plenary on September 11.

The ISO/TC server is being used for all document distribution. No documents are henceforth distributed as hard copies or through email attachments. It is therefore for everyone interested in the work of the TCG to be registered on the ISO/TC Server and assigned to the "ISO/TC 207 TCG member group".

The TC 207 TermBank is being maintained, and terms and definitions in other languages will be included as provided by National Member Bodies (as well as TC 207/STTF and TC 207/JATWG). In the TCG folder of the ISO/TC server a zipped version of the MS Access database is available.

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WG 4, ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION

The ISO/TC 207 WG 4 document, ISO 14063, was circulated as a DIS in December 2004 for comments and ballot by May 19, 2005. ISO/DIS 14063 was approved, almost unanimously, with 56 in favour, out of the total of 57 P-members voting. In total some 260 comments were received.

WG 4 held a three-day meeting in conjunction with the ISO/TC 207 plenary meeting in Madrid, starting September 13 and ending on September 18, 2005. Altogether 37 delegates from 23 countries and liaison organizations attended the meeting where the received comments were discussed.

It was agreed that the revised document would be submitted for FDIS ballot to the ISO Central Secretariat. ISO/FDIS 14063 will then, after proofreading and translation, be circulated for a two-month



ballot. Thereafter the ISO 14063 will be published as an international ISO standard. The timetable allows for publication by mid-April 2006. This meeting therefore concludes the work of ISO TC 207/WG 4.

At the Madrid meeting, the task group that was formed during the last meeting to handle the earlier German proposal for Annex A, which later became a proposal for a website, presented its work and was complemented for its effort. The task group will continue developing the content of the website which will present cross-references to ISO 14000-documents dealing with communication issues, and will also comprise a bibliography on environmental communication. The website will be published under the domain www.iso.org/14063.

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Working Group 5 on Climate Change

ISO TC207 Working Group (WG) 5 on Climate Change held its 8th meeting over 4 days (September 12, 13, 15, 16). Some 64 participants from 23 member bodies and 3 liaison organizations participated. WG 5 is developing ISO 14064, a new ISO Standard in 3 Parts:

- Greenhouse gases - Part 1: *Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals* (ISO 14064-1).
- Greenhouse gases - Part 2: *Specification with guidance at the project level for quantification, monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reductions and removal enhancements* (ISO 14064-2).
- Greenhouse gases - Part 3: *Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of greenhouse gas assertions* (ISO 14064-3).

ISO 14064 was approved for registration as a Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) in mid-2005. It is expected that the ISO 14064 will be published in early-2006. WG5 organized and hosted three workshops in Madrid to explain FDIS requirements and share experience in applying the draft standards. At its closing plenary, ISO TC207 decided to retain WG5 to encourage and facilitate the use of the ISO 14064, share information and build capacity on the application of ISO 14064, and develop and implement a structured feedback process to systematically assess the strengths and weaknesses of ISO 14064.

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Working Group 6 on Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification Bodies

The joint ISO TC207-CASCO Working Group (WG) 6 on Greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies held its 4th meeting over 4 days (September 13, 14, 15, 16). Some 45 participants from 21 member bodies and 3 liaison organizations participated. WG 6 is developing ISO 14065 *Greenhouse gases - Specification for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation and other forms of recognition*. ISO 14065 was approved for circulation as a Draft International Standard (DIS) in mid-2005. WG6's 4th meeting focused on the consideration of some 300 Committee Draft comments and the preparation of DIS text. It is expected that the ISO 14065 DIS will be distributed to ISO member bodies for comment in late-2005.

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WG 7, WORKING GROUP 7 ON THE INCLUSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS IN PRODUCT STANDARDS

(REVISION OF ISO GUIDE 64)

ISO/TC 207/ Working Group (WG) 7 on the *inclusion of environmental aspects in product standards* held its 2nd meeting over 2 days (September 13, September 15). About 30 experts from 18 member bodies and 5 liaison organizations participated. WG 7 is currently working on the revision of ISO Guide 64.

After the first meeting in Berlin in May 2005, the first Working Draft was distributed with a request for comments by September.

At the meeting in Madrid comments received were discussed in the first session. The session on the second day was dedicated to fill the remaining gaps in the document. At the end of the meeting it was agreed not to adopt a CD- Committee Draft, as it was originally planned, but to rather issue a second Working Draft. Since the main aim of the revision of ISO Guide 64 was to create a more user-friendly document, WG 7, did their best, to develop a new lean and understandable structure with a precise content.

The WG 7 part of the super-workshop held on September 14 contributed to informing the delegates about the important work on the integration of environmental aspects in product standards done in WG 7.

The next meeting of WG 7 will take place in February 2006 in Colombia.

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