Thank you Andy.

Good morning everyone. On behalf of the American National Standards Institute, it is my pleasure to welcome you to *Global Standard Setting 2007: An Interactive Discussion*.

This is the third Open Forum that ANSI has hosted for standard setting organizations . . . .and the second to be convened here in Boston. This one is nearly twice as large as the first with almost 70 attendees and more than 50 organizations represented.

(pause)

When we first met in early 2005, our purpose was very specific . . . consortia and other forums came together with representatives of traditional standards developing organizations to provide input that would help to shape the developing *United States Standards Strategy*.

A copy of the *USSS* can be found at your seats. You will see in its pages a recognition that the U.S. standards system is built upon a wide variety of standard setting organizations.

Understanding the needs and issues of ALL standard setting organizations that comprise this system is one of ANSI's utmost concerns.

We know that the paths of SDOs and consortia intersect on a regular basis. Each has competencies that others may lack and experiences that peers could benefit from sharing. We all have far more in common than we once thought.

Making sure that we have an opportunity to come together on a regular basis is a necessity if we are to avoid conflict and duplication in the future.

Providing an open and neutral forum where all voices can be heard is a top priority of ANSI. This is why we have made a commitment to host an annual event where all types of standard setting bodies can gather to network and share information and best practices. We hope that the spirit of interaction and cooperation behind this event will extend beyond just a yearly meeting.

(pause)

This year's event will be highly interactive. Each panel session will begin with brief presentations that set the stage and analyze some of the issues that are faced by all types of standards bodies.

S. Joe Bhatia	Global Standard Setting 2007: An Interactive Discussion
President and CEO	2007 Open Forum for Standards Developers
American National Standards Institute	Boston, Massachusetts
	Welcome remarks – 8:45 a.m.
	June 20, 2007
	766 words, approximately 6 minutes

On our agenda today are topics such as IPR, member recruitment, governance, and the marketing of the work products our organizations produce. The latter is especially important for those products that we want to portray as <u>global solutions</u> to <u>global issues</u>.

Plenty of time has been set aside for open discussion.

This is an opportunity for us to interact, exchange ideas, and learn from one another.

<u>If you're in this room, we want to hear from you!</u>

(pause)

Every single organization represented here today – including ANSI – is a global entity . . . whether in membership . . . or scope . . . or reach . . . or impact.

During lunch, Bob Noth, ANSI's chairman – whose full time job is heading up all the engineering standards activities at Deere and Company – will share his observations about the "internationalization" of standard setting. He will address the international aspects of ANSI's work and how the Institute can be of service to U.S.-based standards bodies.

(pause)

With two Open Forums behind us, it's time that we take today's discussions to a new level. Our collective goal should be to identify the key issues and actions that we can work on together.

Not every need and every concern will require action by the group – but there may be some partnerships that result from the individual discussions that occur here today.

Of course, I have a very specific interest in learning how ANSI and its broad-based constituencies – both here and abroad – can utilize our competencies and connections to support what your respective organizations are trying to accomplish.

(pause)

To those who are attending this event for the second or third time . . . you're the pros. I'll look to you to start the discussion.

To those of you who are attending your first Open Forum . . . don't be shy.   We don't want anyone to go home regretting that they let a question go unasked or a comment left unsaid.

S. Joe Bhatia	Global Standard Setting 2007: An Interactive Discussion
President and CEO	2007 Open Forum for Standards Developers
American National Standards Institute	Boston, Massachusetts
	Welcome remarks – 8:45 a.m.
	June 20, 2007
	766 words, approximately 6 minutes

Before we go around the room for a brief round of introductions, I'd like to take a moment to express our appreciation to Bob Noth and to Deere and Company for sponsoring last night's reception at Legal Seafood.

This was a wonderful networking opportunity . . . I think we all enjoyed catching up with old friends and getting to know new ones.

And again, my thanks go to [Ron Silletti of IBM, who chairs the ANSI Board Ad Hoc on Extended Outreach and to] Andy Updegrove for his ongoing efforts as chair of the Consortia Outreach Group and as a representative voice of the consortia community.

Andy, I turn the floor back over to you . . .