



MALAWI BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Promoting Standardization and Quality Assurance in Malawi

ISO MIRROR COMMITTEE IN MALAWI – THE BIG PICTURE

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Introduction

- Malawi became full member of ISO in January 2014.
- Before this Malawi has been a correspondent member and in some way or the other was able to participate in some committees through ISO funding and also through active stakeholders in the Tea sector.

Introduction.....

- Currently Malawi is actively participating in ISO/TC 285 on Cook stoves and clean cooking technologies.
- Malawi established its first Mirror Committee of ISO/TC 285 in 2014 and it had the first meeting in September 2014 just before the ISO TC face to face working group and task force meetings that took place in Guatemala in October 2014.
- The Committee also convened in February 2015 where the mirror WGs and TASK GROUPS were established.
- The mirror committee has only been established under the ISO TC 285.

THE BIG PICTURE

- Malawi is also an O member of ISO TC 34 on food products and ISO TC 68 financial services.
- *Malawi is planning to participate in the following ISO TCs as a start based on National priorities.*

ISO/TC	TITLE	
82	Mining	P-MEMBER-
34	Food products	P MEMBER
SC 6-	Fish	PMEMBER
SC 4	Cereals	O MEMBER
SC 8	Tea	O MEMBER
SC 14	Fresh, Dry And Dried Fruits and Veg	O-MEMBER
38	Textiles	P-MEMBER
285	Clean cook-stoves	P MEMBER
207	Environmental Management	O MEMBER
223	Societal security	O MEMBER

CHALLENGES

- Malawi faces a number of challenges that have negative impacts on their participation in the International Standards Development one of which this training is trying to solve.
- Malawi is undergoing a change process where the Technical Committee chairmanship is being transferred to the stakeholders.
- Because of the mentality that standards development is for the national standard body, stakeholders require training on roles of chairpersons of the TCs.

CHALLENGES.....

- Standards Development activity has been mainly on National level and therefore the stakeholders of Malawi don't actually know the ISO process of Standards Development and the level of commitment required from them.
- This calls for a General Training need for all the stakeholders to understand the ISO process.
- We have however tried to include this as an agenda in all the Technical Committees that are being undertaken.
- 90% of ISO TC meetings take place online and Malawi finds it a challenge to actually cope with this because of Lack of appropriate tools to effectively participate in the TC meetings.

FUTURE GOALS

- Malawi to participate in all ISO TCs that are critical to Malawi.
- Stakeholders of Malawi to be the drivers of the Standardisation process as is being done in many countries.
- Malawi to train its stakeholders on the same