



Period of Performance: October 1 – December 31, 2014

INTRODUCTION

The following report contains a summary of the major activities completed and outcomes achieved of the Standards Alliance, a public-private partnership between the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The enclosed report contains a summary of all activities completed in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2014.

The [Standards Alliance](#) was announced by USAID in November 2012 as a new funding facility designed to provide capacity building assistance to developing countries, specifically related to implementation of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement. In May 2013, USAID and ANSI entered into a public-private partnership which will coordinate subject matter experts from throughout the private sector-led U.S. standardization system in the delivery of training and other technical assistance to interested Standards Alliance countries.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This period of performance under the initiative was dedicated to beginning and continuing implementation of activities described in the country-specific work plans. A general summary of these activities, according to their country or region is listed below.

General Program Management/Promotion

- *Outreach to engage partner agencies, organizations, and countries*

ANSI updated the Standards Alliance website including the dates and locations of project activities and trainings conducted in partnership with other agencies and organizations; as well as materials from past events. ANSI also regularly updated its members and U.S. government stakeholders through email communication.

- *Reviewed and solicited private sector proposals for 2015-2016 work plans*

In order to incorporate broad private sector input into future Standards Alliance work plans, ANSI initially announced a public call for proposals in September 2014. The announcement included a background document and template for concept papers to be submitted by interested organizations. Since the original posting, ANSI has met with organizations that expressed interest in submitting a proposal, discussed potential projects, and promoted the opportunity through presentations at more than five meetings of ANSI member committees held during October 2014. As a result, ANSI expects increased involvement in and ownership of Standards Alliance activities by the private sector in 2015.

Central America (CAFTA-DR, Panama)

- *Planning for food additive regulation program with USDA*

ANSI received a proposal from USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) for “Regional Export Development of Food Additive Regulations in Latin America”. The main objective of the proposed initiative is to engage in a dialogue and educate representatives from Latin America and in the future, include other countries so that unnecessary risk management actions may be prevented and globalization and harmonization of food additive regulations may be furthered. After securing partnership from the International Life Sciences Association of Central America (ILSI) in Q3, the program came together very quickly and is scheduled to take place January 26, 2015. USDA has coordinated U.S. input on the agenda, which includes participation from the Calorie Control Council, International Food Additives Council, International Association of Color Manufacturers, Glutamate Association of the USA, and others.

East African Community

- *Engagement with Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)*

Following the training and information exchange on public consultation in the regulatory and standards development processes that took place August 6-8, 2014 in Arusha, Tanzania, ANSI received a detailed proposal from UNBS for additional technical assistance. One of the immediate areas covered in the UNBS proposal was support for Uganda’s participation in the WTO TBT Committee’s 7th Triennial Review, which takes place during 2015. ANSI connected the Ugandan TBT representative with the U.S. representative from USTR, who met on the sidelines of the TBT Committee meeting in November 2014 to discuss options for future cooperation and/or support. In addition, ANSI will work with the USAID East African Trade and Investment Hub (EATIH) to examine possible responses to the remaining activities in Uganda’s proposal.

- *Participation in Geneva workshops on Building institutional capacity in the use of trade-related International Support Measures (ISMs)*

Following communication from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regarding potential projects focused on electronic notification systems (ENS), the Standards Alliance (Enquiry point consultant) participated in a workshop in Geneva in November 2014. The Standards Alliance promoted the recent success of the launch of the NotifyKenyaTBT ENS, as well as heard from participants from the Gambia, Lesotho, Nepal and Uganda. UNDESA presented on pilot projects underway for an ENS called “ePing” that would deliver TBT and SPS notifications to stakeholders in participating countries.

Indonesia

- *Development of a Uniform Plumbing Code specific to Indonesia (UPC-ID) through an open, consensus process*

The first of the four major targeted deliverables, to develop a Uniform Plumbing Code specific to Indonesia (UPC-ID) through an open consensus process, continues to be well on the way toward completion. The draft SNI was officially released for public comment on December 24, 2014, and the comment period will end on February 23, 2015. The SNI is on target for publication on March 28, 2015 during the World Plumbing Day event in Jakarta. Key accomplishments in this quarter included the BSN Technical Committee reviewing the code and working with the IAPMO team to draft a publication for public review and comment. Most importantly, the final draft included reference to applicable international standards, a crucial element to the ongoing success of the program.

- *Work with BSN, the Ministry of Public Works, and the Ministry of Industry to have the code implemented and adopted nationally*

Once the SNI is released, and in regards to the implementation and enforcement of the SNI, it is imperative to show Indonesian citizens that the new Indonesian national plumbing standard can be fully implemented. To assist with this mission, IAPMO has developed a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project. The local government agency in Semarang (Central Java) has identified a location where they will host the build out of a public restroom that is in compliance with the newly revised standard. The goal is to complete the schematics of this CSR project by the World Plumbing Day event. Numerous manufacturers have come forward in support of this project, offering material and assistance as required.

- *Develop a third party testing laboratory and certification program for the testing and certification of plumbing products for the Indonesia market to ensure that they meet the standards set forth in the UPC-ID*

IAPMO technical staff conducted the initial research and market analysis, and identified correspondence with manufacturers interested in testing their products for this region. The potential building to house the laboratory has been identified, and specifics are underway to secure the space and begin the build out of the lab and certification listing program. The certification program is expected to be available soon after the SNI is released in March.

Mexico

- *Training in Conformity Assessment for COPANT member countries*

In collaboration with the General Bureau of Standards of the Mexican Ministry of Economy (DGN) and the Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT), ANSI organized a November 3-7 workshop at the Mexican Entity of Accreditation (EMA) in Mexico City on best practices in conformity assessment. The five-day event provided training and guidance to representatives of standardization organizations from across Latin America looking to increase their knowledge of quality testing processes,

accreditation, and related areas of standards and conformity assessment. International conformity assessment experts from the public and private sectors provided in-depth information on accreditation programs, answered attendees' questions, and encouraged engaged dialogue among the group. Feedback from both U.S. speakers and COPANT participants was extremely positive, and DGN expressed interest in following up on the topics covered in relation to conformity assessment in Mexico. DGN will host the next COPANT General Assembly meeting in Mexico City in April 2015, which may provide an opportunity for follow-up. The ANSI news item on the workshop is available [here](#).

- *North American Conference on Good Regulatory Practices and Regulatory Cooperation*

In conjunction with the Secretariat of Economy of Mexico, the Federal Regulatory Improvement Commission (COFEMER), and the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), the Standards Alliance held a "North American Conference on Good Regulatory Practices and Regulatory Cooperation" in Mexico City, Mexico on December 10-11, 2014. Over 150 people attended, including representatives from regulatory agencies, private sector representatives and government negotiators. The robust U.S. delegation of speakers and attendees included representatives from agencies such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and from ANSI members NSF International, the American Chemistry Council (ACC), General Electric Co. and A2LA. More information about the conference, including the agenda and presentations, is available [here](#).

Peru

- *Training for Peruvian regulators on analytical tools for rule-making*

Addressing Peru's stated priority of training on good regulatory practices, and analytical tools for rule-making in particular, The Standards Alliance co-hosted a workshop with the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Commerce and Tourism (MINCETUR) from October 29-30, 2014 in Lima, Peru. The 2-day event focused on analytical tools for regulatory decision-making and regulatory impact assessment (RIA). Over 70 representatives of Peruvian regulatory agencies attended the workshop, including the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), the Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) and the Ministry of Health – General Direction of Environmental Health (DIGESA). The U.S. delegation comprised representatives from ANSI, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) – Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition to laying the foundation for possible follow-on work on RIA, a key outcome of the workshop was supporting Peru's political goals of achieving membership in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). One key area of OECD review before approving membership is an examination of regulatory practices, and officials at the workshop stated that it helped them secure broader buy-in for instituting RIA practices that will ease the path of OECD membership.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

- *Training on referencing standards in regulations*

The Southern African Trade Hub, a USAID-sponsored project working with ANSI on Standards Alliance programming in the region, organized training on referencing standards in regulations with the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) in Lusaka, Zambia from December 11-12, 2014. The training focused on the various methods and best practices for referencing standards and conformity assessment in technical regulations. U.S. experts from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) – Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) contributed their expertise and the U.S. perspective to help develop the training materials. The training was preceded by 2-day training, also with ZABS, on annex 3 of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application for Standards. The Trade Hub organized similar trainings on referencing standards in regulation in Lesotho and Malawi earlier in the 2014.

- *Training on referencing standards in regulations*

The Southern African Trade Hub also completed the successful launch of Lesotho and Malawi's National Enquiry Points (NEPs). Under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, WTO members are required to establish a NEP to facilitate the exchange of information on TBT measures. The Trade Hub worked with the Lesotho Ministry of Trade and Industry, Cooperatives and Marketing and the Department of Standards and Quality Assurance to launch Lesotho's NEP on November 18, 2014. Several months prior, in September 2014, the Trade Hub worked with the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) to successfully launch Malawi's NEP and conduct two NEP awareness-building seminars. The Trade Hub is currently working with Zambia to launch its NEP by mid-2015.

EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES

The primary outcomes for the period of performance are outlined in the table below.

#	Country	Definition	Required in Work Plan?
1	United States	Provided regular project updates and communication to government and private sector stakeholder groups outlined in the project plan	Yes
2	United States	Posted project news and activities to the Standards Alliance website	Yes
3	United States	Reviewed submissions from open call for proposals	No
4	CAFTA-DR	Conducted planning and facilitation for food additives program	Yes
5	EAC	Promoted NotifyKenyaTBT at UNDESA workshop	No

6	EAC	Facilitated engagement with and support for Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)	No
7	Indonesia	Initiated CSR project to support nationwide implementation of the new plumbing standard	Yes
8	Indonesia	Issued draft SNI for public comment, including reference to relevant international standards	Yes
9	Mexico	Conducted training for over 30 COPANT member experts on conformity assessment principles	Yes
10	Mexico	Conducted North American GRP conference attended by over 150 people	Yes
11	Peru	Completed training for over 70 Peruvian regulators on analytical rule-making	Yes
12	SADC	Supported completion of workshop on referencing standards in regulation	Yes
13	SADC	Supported launch of 2 national enquiry points	Yes

The successes of this period resulted mainly from completing many key work plan activities. Significant milestones were reached in the work plan with IAPMO and Indonesia, and the work plan with Mexico is now 2/3 complete.

The North American Conference on Good Regulatory Practices should be highlighted as a major success of Q4, representing the strongest public-private demonstration of interest from the U.S. of any Standards Alliance activity to date, and securing continued buy-in from the Mexican government to cooperate under this forum. ANSI is optimistic about continued cooperation with Mexico and the opportunity to address both general and specific areas of interest. The December conference was also highlighted in the recently issued High Level Economic Dialogue Fact Sheet on Regulatory Cooperation: http://trade.gov/hled/initiative_fact_sheets/regulatory-cooperation.asp.

Finally, the African projects showed progress in Q4 that will allow for much more sustained enquiry point engagement in 2015. The Standards Alliance consultant for enquiry points will work with all eight of the national enquiry points in East and Southern Africa (including the newly established enquiry points in Lesotho and Malawi) on targeted capacity building designed to boost notifications and transparency in the countries.

CONCLUSION

This period of performance included a mix of project implementation and completion, as well as a lot of foundational planning that will support outcomes in future periods. As the Standards Alliance moves into the implementation phase of work plan activities, the primary stakeholder group and resource pool established throughout the first year will become even more active. In the next quarter, ANSI looks forward to adding to project resources such as the website, and initiating and planning even more activities from the individual work plans for Central America, Vietnam, and SADC.