

**Period of Performance:** April 1 – June 30, 2015

## INTRODUCTION

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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 second quarter (Q2) of 2015.

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

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This period of performance was dedicated to continuing implementation of activities described in the country-specific work plans, especially in Colombia and the Central America and Southern Africa regions. 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.

### Central America (CAFTA-DR, Guatemala)

- *Conducted a “Central America Conference on Textiles Standards and Customs Procedures” conference in Guatemala City*

In a response to a proposal from Guatemala’s Ministry of Economy (MINECO) in 2014 to provide an educational forum for Central American countries on U.S. standards and customs procedures for textiles, a conference was held on June 23-24, 2015 in Guatemala, City, Guatemala. The conference aimed to initiate dialogue between U.S. and Central American representatives on specific standards and procedures to provide participating countries with the necessary tools to foster continued harmonization trade

on textiles. The Association for the Textiles and Apparel Industry of Guatemala (VESTEX) served as a logistics coordinator and co-organizer for the conference. The conference was held at the Westin Camino Real in Guatemala City and was attended by approximately 90 participants from 5 Central American countries including Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic. Technical experts from the U.S. government and industry provided information and case studies on manufacturing and environmental sustainability, marking and labeling requirements and other relevant international standards procedures for textiles. Speakers included representation from the Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, ANSI and ASTM International. More information, including the agenda and presentations from the event, is available here:

<http://standardsalliance.ansi.org/Countries/Central-America/Conference-on-textiles-standards.aspx>

## ASEAN

- *Workshop on “U.S. Automotive Standards and Technical Regulations”*

On April 21, a workshop was held on the margins of the 22<sup>nd</sup> APEC Automotive Dialogue. The workshop highlighted the rigorous U.S. motor vehicle standard and regulatory process, the robust nature of the U.S. requirements, as well as the importance of the UN WP.29 Global Technical Regulation (GTR) development process. A representative of the U.S. Department of Commerce discussed the United States' private sector led standards development process, including the voluntary, consensus driven process and how it aligns with WTO international standards requirements. A speaker from the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration discussed his agency's automotive safety regulatory process, including the detailed, data driven, and transparent nature of the U.S. regulatory development process. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representative (retired) discussed the similarly rigorous nature of the EPA's regulatory process, and highlighted the primary differences between the two major UN WP.29 agreements. First, the 1998 Agreement requires cost analysis, while the 1958 Agreement does not. Second, the 1998 Agreement eliminates all administrative and political requirements, preserving the national Independence of each economy to adopt the administrative approach most acceptable to their systems. And, third, the 1998 Agreement's, regulatory effectiveness is maintained through harmonized performance and test requirements, absent the administrative and third-party costs of the 1958 Agreement. The speaker representing U.S. industry (American Automotive Policy Council) emphasized that while truly global auto standards and regulations are being developed under the 1998 Agreement, economies should accept vehicles certified to both UN ECE and the U.S. FMVSS/EPA standards, given that they deliver comparable safety and environmental performance and outcomes. The event was attended by government and industry representative from throughout the Southeast Asia region, including, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

## Colombia

- *Conducted a “Colombia: Code of Good Practice” conference in Bogota, Colombia*

Included in the work plan with Colombia's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (MinCIT) was an exchange on implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 of the TBT Agreement). Working with USAID's Facilitando Comercio, ANSI, MinCIT and ICONTEC hosted the conference on May 12-13 in Bogota, Colombia. The objective for the 2-day workshop was to share experiences on U.S. and Colombian implementation of the Code of Good Practice, and discuss opportunities for enhanced collaboration between stakeholders. Representatives from ANSI, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, A2LA, ASTM International, Cisco Systems, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) shared U.S. perspectives on the Code's implementation, while representatives of ICONTEC and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism did the same for Colombia. More information, including the agenda and presentations from the event, is available here: <http://standardsalliance.ansi.org/Countries/Colombia/Code-good-practice-workshop.aspx>

- *Prepared draft work plan for Colombia for 2015-2016*

Based on feedback from MinCIT and ICONTEC gathered in Bogota on the sidelines of the Code of Good Practice exchange, ANSI developed a draft work plan for 2015-2016 engagement in Colombia. The draft plan includes opportunities for partnership with the USAID Facilitando Comercio and was submitted to MinCIT for their review and comment in June. Once approved, the new work plan will be posted to the Standards Alliance website.

#### East African Community (EAC)

- *Worked with East African Trade and Investment Hub (EATIH) to draft work plan for 2015-2016*

ANSI and EATIH worked together on a draft work plan for the next year of engagement with the EAC on TBT issues. The draft work plan was submitted to the EAC Secretariat for their review and comment in June, and once approved, will be posted to the Standards Alliance website.

#### Indonesia

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

The second quarter of 2015 was a building quarter, coming off of the major action items completed at the first of the year. The focus of Q2 was on the scheduling for the next phase of meetings and programs that will be implemented in Q3. The schedule of work for the second quarter of 2015 centered on the continuing implementation of the newly released SNI 8153:2015, including constant communication and follow up with BSN and ground staff in Jakarta. The code development department focused expert resources throughout Q2 to translate the publication to English. The majority of the work is done, with 80% of the diagrams and content translated, with the goal for completion: August 1st.

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

Numerous meetings took place at the end of April with the Embassy, Ministries, and associated partners to continue discussions to implement the full suite of services. The ongoing development of the CSR project took shape, and the MoU has been drafted with hopes to be finalized at the meeting in Q3 with the Central Java Ministry. A huge highlight was the attendance and participation at the IndoWater Conference, and the ability to link plumbing with water treatment and sanitation attendees, and the marketing of the newly released SNI.

- *Develop a personnel training and certification program for installers and code enforcement officials on the UPC-ID*

In regard to the education and training deliverable, ongoing communication with Universities, development and revisions of requested curriculum, revisions to the SKKNI, and development of possible delivery methods for training programs was the focus for this department. The testing and certification deliverable included ongoing research and review of parameters and requirements for lab development within Jakarta. Overall, administration activities were the highlight of this quarter, gearing up for the visit scheduled for Q3 wherein five IAPMO staff experts will complete a five city tour to meet with all partners to implement the action items in regard to SNI implementation, education, and testing and certification.

#### Southern African Development Community (SADC)

- *Conducted “U.S.-SADC Exchange on Good Regulatory Practices with SADCSTAN and SADCTRLC”*

In conjunction with USAID’s Southern African Trade Hub, the Standards Alliance organized a June 1-2 workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa. The 2-day workshop included an exchange on good regulatory practice (GRP) between U.S. and SADC representatives. This entailed an overview of both the U.S. and SADC standards and regulatory systems coupled with a more detailed examination of the different aspects of GRP. This paved further discourse on how to successfully apply GRP principles to accomplish prosperous adoption and implementation. The U.S. government and private sector were well-represented with speakers from the Office of Management and Budget-Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OMB-OIRA), the United States Trade Representative (USTR), ASTM International, Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS) and Caterpillar. SADC participation included representatives from the SADC entity for regional work on standards, SADC Cooperation in Standards (SADCSTAN) and the SADC entity for regional work on technical regulations, SADC Technical Regulations Liaison Committee (SADCTRLC). All 15 SADC member states and the SADC Secretariat participated in the event. More information, including the agenda and presentations from the event, is available here:

<http://standardsalliance.ansi.org/Countries/SADC/US-SADC-exchange.aspx>

- *SATH-led re-launch of national enquiry point in Zambia*

USAID’s Southern Africa Trade Hub, along with its partners from the Zambian Bureau of Standards (ZABS), celebrated the formal re-opening of Zambia’s National Enquiry Point (NEP) in Lusaka on April 8. With the re-launch of the NEP, local exporters and importers now have an effective “one-stop shop” where they can receive crucial information on laws, regulations, and quality standards for doing business with other World Trade Organization member countries.

### 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 textiles standards and customs procedures training for 80 participants from 5 countries	Yes
5	Colombia	Conducted exchange on the Code of Good Practice for 75 participants in Bogota	Yes
6	Colombia	Drafted 2015-2016 work plan	Yes
7	EAC	Drafted 2015-2016 work plan with EATIH	Yes
8	ASEAN	Facilitated workshop on U.S. automotive standards and technical regulations for 4 ASEAN countries	Yes
9	Indonesia	Conducted translation of the recently published SNI to facilitate its implementation nationally	Yes
10	SADC	Completed training of 31 representatives from the 15 SADC member states and SADC Secretariat on good regulatory practices	Yes
11	SADC	Zambia national enquiry point re-launched with SATH	No

The successes of this period resulted mainly from completing many key work plan activities and from executing model programs that are likely to be replicated in the future.

The Code of Good Practice exchange in Colombia was the first of its kind, but ANSI expects this program to be relevant for many Standards Alliance partners. In addition to positive feedback from the participants, another success of the event is reflected in the high level of U.S. participation. Among the U.S. speakers that contributed their time for the activity were representatives of five private sector organizations and USTR. This was one of the strongest public-private delegations the Standards Alliance has offered, as was reflected in the quality of presentations and participation.

Similarly, the Central American textiles training and Southern African Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) exchange both represent model agendas that may be used in the future. The second GRP program to be conducted in the Standards Alliance, the Johannesburg event may be highlighted not just for the strong U.S. public-private representation, but for the success in achieving participation by the key experts from the 15 SADC countries and the SADC Secretariat. This was achieved mainly through the strong positive cooperation between ANSI and the Southern African Trade Hub (SATH).

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## CONCLUSION

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Key project deliverables began to be realized during this quarter, reflecting the potential impact of the Standards Alliance overall. ANSI looks forward to building off of these successes in the next period, carrying out planned activities with Colombia, ASEAN countries and other partners.