Reports of the Day One Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session Track One
Standardization, Market Access and Company-to-Company Assistance

Options for Action Summit
Gaithersburg, Maryland
July 18-19, 2006
Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Central America, South America, Central and Southeast Asia, China and the Pacific Rim

Discussion topics:

- What was the range of organizations, agencies, companies and sectors that were represented in your breakout session?

- What were current individual activities identified in your session?

- Were there any areas of overlapping or duplicative efforts identified in your session?

- What opportunities for coordination/ harmonization/partnering were identified in your session?

- What current activities were identified that must be unique, even if they are overlapping/duplicative of another effort, due to specific or mission-critical needs?
Range of participating organizations, agencies, companies and sectors

☑ Broad balance of all stakeholders – industry, trade associations, SDOs, government agencies, donor agencies, and foreign standards developers.
Range of current individual activities

- What’s working well: diverse U.S. participation in standards development that actually represent the industry and broad stakeholder groups
- FTAs (WTO+) / MRAs are good first steps (support trade)
- Building and sustaining relationships with other countries
- Incorporate regulatory info in training (sometimes difficult to include)
- MOU programs, workshops, open houses, training modules, outreach / friendship agreements, trade shows
- Involve representatives from developing countries on boards, policy and technical committees
- DOC/NIST Standards in Trade Workshops
- DOC/ITA/FCS standards attachés and commercial staff training
Range of current individual activities

- SDO & professional society liaison
- ANSI meetings with foreign NSBs and outreach meetings
- USNC liaison with other national committees (IEC members)
- bilateral and multilateral meetings at IEC meetings; regional offices
- committee meetings in foreign countries
- invite representatives from other countries to annual/special meetings
- assist other associations in exporting using standards
- involved in government employee training
- regulatory vs. standards process outreach
- still large need for US standards in foreign countries
- targeting countries who want US assistance / tied to trade
Areas of overlapping or duplicative efforts

- Meeting with counterparts when overseas without common message
- Airing of U.S. dirty laundry abroad is counter to US interests
- No coordination of money and resources
Opportunities for coordination, harmonization and partnering

- Make staff available for visits, workshops, meetings, etc. in the US and abroad
- Identify opportunities for participation in FTA/MRA discussions;
- Coordinate with FCS/standards attaches
- Regardless of sector-specific standards strategy approaches – remember common developing country practices and the importance of maintaining US participation within traditional ISO/IEC/ITU processes when possible (and the perils of not)
- Coordination of US standards system-wide technical assistance efforts
- Stronger US participation (experts) in important international areas
- Funding needed (education/training can help & shared funding)
- Recruiting new people – new generation of standards and CA experts
- Education (benefits of standards) at all levels
- Create and maintain a central resources of information on US technical assistance
- Create and maintain a database/process of experts/resources to talk on standards
Opportunities for coordination, harmonization and partnering

- Use same message about standards/regulations system/process
- Create simple overview of US standards system (3 slides)
- Support subject matter experts support (manage within co.)
- Orgs need to determine strategic direction (what to accomplish)
- Government/non-government partnership/support
- Reach out to counterpart trade associations
- Regulatory harmonization/alignment/compatibility between countries
- Use standards process to minimize regulatory impact
- Remember that some economies are users more often than developers of standards
- Look to reduce costs of participating in intl stds development
- Work with local associations to leverage resources
Activities that must remain unique

- None specifically identified - Several proposed actions and/or mechanisms may be unique
Actions for consideration

- Mechanism/Database of funding, opportunities, and method to link them
- Education of US donor agencies on international and US standardization – link funding and strategies to existing efforts (similar to relationship between APEC and APEC Specialist Regional Bodies) – show how helpful to development needs.
- Innovate ways for private-sector interests to be involved in public-sector programs
- Expand DOC/NIST Standards in Trade Workshops and SABIT programs
- Expand (or reinstate) DOC/ITA/FCS Training funding
- Within the Americas, examine opportunities for cooperation (especially training) between OAS/CITEL and other related efforts in the region
- Three slide presentation for executive/board elevator speech
- Clearly identify US and foreign market access requirements
- Encourage increased industry involvement in foreign standards development
- Increased regulatory cooperation between governments
- Within US, find mechanism to increase coordination and cooperation between
  - Standards Community
  - Regulators
  - Trade-related government agencies
- Use ‘if you can’t beat-em / join-em’ strategies (eg. TIA / ETSI)