



Press Release

2016-04-27

GUAYAQUIL WAS THE VENUE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY COPANT 2016

The *Servicio Ecuatoriano de Normalización*, INEN, was the host to conduct the COPANT General Assembly meeting and other related activities. The Executive Director of INEN, Cesar Diaz and the entire team that accompanied him showed great resilience when they decided to continue with the activities as planned, despite the terrible earthquake that struck the country on Saturday, April 17; but also demonstrated incredible efficiency in the organization and great friendliness with visitors.

The meeting was attended by 80 delegates representing 23 active members, 7 adherent members, 5 international and regional organizations and 2 guests bodies. Follow the posts of the event at [@COPANTNormas](#) & [#COPANT2016](#).



Delegates who attended the 2016 COPANT week at the gala dinner hosted by INEN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In his opening remarks, the President of [COPANT](#), Joe Bhatia, started expressing his sympathy to the Ecuadorian people that suffered a devastating event on Saturday 17 April, which affected the country. He requested a moment of silence in honor of those affected or who had perished during the earthquake.

He continued by mentioning the efforts that COPANT has been doing in order that our members can be more involved with the organization and may obtain more value to their membership. Among the areas of work, we can mention the following categories: training, technical work and international participation, conformity assessment and regional cooperation and collaboration.



Joe Bhatia, President of COPANT

During the meeting, the working groups that administer the four strategic priorities of COPANT presented their reports of the activities during 2015 and the plan for this year. The four working groups are focused on the following strategies: Capacity Building, International Participation, Conformity Assessment and Regional Cooperation.

The activities deserve to be highlighted planned for 2016 are the following:

- Internship in Participation in International Standardization (Chile)
- Internship in Conformity Assessment (systems management) (Mexico)
- Training workshop for participation in the ISO/TC 207 (PTB Project)
- Support to National Mirror Committees ISO/CASCO (PTB Project)
- Workshop awareness of the importance of participating in IEC Affiliate countries (PTB Project, and IEC-LARC) (Argentina)
- Implementation of the Communication Plan of COPANT
- Meetings of the technical committees of COPANT TC 151 and TC 152 (Argentina)



Rosario Uria, [INACAL](#) (Peru) and Leader of IEC Affiliate Country Program. She presented an interesting experience of participating in the Olympics Standards in Seoul, Korea, by a team of teenagers from Cusco, who won the gold medal!

COPANT also facilitated some discussion sessions that allowed collect the contributions and impressions of our members regarding the following topics, the same that will be shared with the respective organizations:

- Review of the Master Plan for [IEC](#) (the International Electrotechnical Commission)
- Relationship and presence in the region of [ISO](#) (the International Organization for Standardization)
- Relationship and topics to be discussed at the joint meeting in 2017 with [PASC](#) (the Pacific Area Standards Congress)



Beverly Monroe, [TTBS](#) (Trinidad and Tobago), and Co-Leader WG # 4, who prepares and presents the new Communication Plan for COPANT

The Board of Directors was partially renewed and [INEN](#) (Ecuador) and [OSN](#) (El Salvador) were welcomed to be part of the Board of Directors for the first time.



Welcoming OSN to the Board of Directors, in the picture from left to right, Kory Eguino, Executive Secretary of COPANT, Yanira Colindres, CEO of OSN, and Joe Bhatia, President of COPANT.



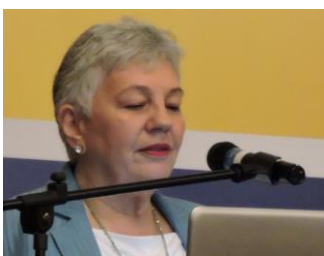
Cesar Diaz, Executive Director of INEN, now integrate the Board of Directors of COPANT

SPEED NETWORKING

During the week COPANT 2016, we facilitated that members can conduct their bilateral meetings of collaboration and cooperation, more appropriately. For this purpose, a room was enabled with the comfort and privacy needed to conduct these meetings and a whole afternoon was dedicated to a Speed Networking, which was very well received and used not only by our members, but also by our special guests.

In the Speed Networking took place over 50 bilateral meetings, among which participants exchanged experiences, discussed possible mechanisms for cooperation and signed several memorandums of understanding.

WORKSHOP TRADE FACILITATION THROUGH THE QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE



Ileana Martínez, President of IAAC introduces the WTO TBT Agreement

On Thursday, April 21, was held the Workshop “Trade Facilitation through the Quality Infrastructure” organized by the Quality Infrastructure Council for the Americas ([QICA](#)). The objective of the event was to share successful examples of applying the provisions of the Technical Barriers to Trade agreement of the World Trade Organization (TBT-WTO) by using the pillars of quality infrastructure: regulation, standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment, to facilitate trade.

The workshop featured two keynote presentations that allowed introducing the issues to be analyzed. The first presentation, by Ileana Martínez ([NIST/USA](#)), President of [IAAC](#), introduced the concepts and provisions of the WTO TBT Agreement. Kevin McKinley, Acting Secretary General of ISO, who presented the best practices governing international standardization processes, followed her.



Kevin McKinley, ISO Secretary General ag, talks about the Standards Best Practice

The workshop consisted of three different panels where the speakers shared their experiences and best practices to promote trade and advance the protection of citizens in their countries and regions, using tools that facilitate the Quality Infrastructure, in particularly with standardization, regulation, certification, accreditation and metrology.



Interesting panel on the use of standards and regulations to facilitate trade: CEN, PASC, Canada and USA. From left to right: Javier Garcia ([AENOR/CEN](#)), Sylvie Lafontaine ([SCC](#)), Amaury Santos ([IEC LARC](#)), Bronwyn Evans ([SA/PASC](#)) and Joe Tretler ([ANSI](#))

Exchange of experiences of NSBs from Latin America and the Caribbean. From left to right: Héctor Laiz ([SIM](#)), Mauricio Céspedes ([INTECO](#)), Germán Nava ([ICONTEC](#)), Claudia Cerda ([INN](#)) and Maurice Lewin ([BSI](#))





Representatives of accreditation ([IAAC](#)) and metrology ([SIM](#)) also shared their best practices. From left to right: Mkabi Walcott ([SLBS](#)), Gabriela de la Guarda ([CENAMEP](#)), Héctor Laiz ([INTI](#)), Beatriz García (representing [ECA](#)), Ferney Chaparro ([ONAC](#)), Estuardo Riuz ([SAE](#)) and Rafael Nava (representing [EMA](#))

WORKSHOP RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

COPANT 2016 Week concluded with the Workshop on “Automotive Standards and Regulations in the Americas”, organized by the standards body of the United States, ANSI, through its Standards Alliance Program. Issues addressed related public safety and environment, as well as technological advances for the prevention of accidents, cybersecurity, electrical and autonomous vehicles, in the automotive sector.

The workshop featured presentations by representatives of regulatory and standards bodies of the United States, as well as Colombia, Mexico and industry representatives.



Martin Koubek, NHTSA - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



Jim Blubaugh, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Jessica Roop, ANSI