

S. Joe Bhatia President and CEO American National Standards Institute	ISO TC 229 Nanotechnologies Plenary Seattle, WA Opening Remarks – June 8, 2009 8:10 a.m.
--	--

Good morning, everyone.

My name is Joe Bhatia, and I am president and CEO of the American National Standards Institute. As the U.S. member body to ISO, ANSI is pleased to welcome you to the United States and the 2009 Plenary of ISO Technical Committee 229, *Nanotechnologies*.

Nanotechnology is important to global industry, to governments, and to consumers worldwide. In fact, as of May 2008, the Woodrow Wilson Center has listed over 800 nanotechnology-based products that are currently on the market. And more and more products are incorporating this emerging technology each day.

But as an emerging technology, additional research and development are required to increase viability and practical application . . . R&D dollars that will, in turn, diversify industry and promote global job growth.

That is why International Standards are key to the continued development and success of this technology.

Dr. John Marburger, formerly science advisor to the President of the United States and the director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, wrote a letter to ANSI that underscored this need very well.

Five years ago, he said, “As new materials, structures, devices, and systems are developed that derive their properties and function due to their nanoscale dimensions, it will become increasingly important to the researchers, manufacturers, regulators, and other stakeholders to have an agreed upon terminology, specifications, and tests that are not only consistent, but recognized globally.”

We have indeed come a long way in those five years. Today, International Standards for nanotechnology terminology aid in establishing a common language and understanding among individuals, organizations, and disciplines.

International Standards for nanotechnology help to assure that engineered nanoscale materials and processes have limited risk and do not adversely impact the health and safety of both human beings and the environment.

Finally, International Standards for nanotechnology bring us one step closer to our collective vision of “one standard – one test – accepted everywhere.”

In 2005, ISO/TC 229 held its inaugural meeting to begin work on:

1. nanotechnology terminology and nomenclature;

2. metrology and instrumentation;
3. test methodologies;
4. modeling and simulations; and
5. science-based health, safety, and environmental practices.

In just four short years, much has been accomplished.

1. Four working groups have been established,
2. thirty-two countries participate actively and eight countries are observers, and
3. two significant documents have been published:
 - ISO Technical Specification 27687, *Terminology and definitions for nano-objects: nanoparticle, nanofibre and nanoplate*, and
 - ISO Technical Report 12885, *Health and safety practices in occupational settings relevant to nanotechnologies*, which was developed under U.S. leadership.

There is much to celebrate.

Many thanks are due to Dr. Peter Hatto for his leadership as chairperson, and to the British Standards Institute for their work as secretariat.

In particular, I would also like to acknowledge the strong and significant work effort of the ANSI-accredited U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to ISO/TC 229. Because of the TAG's valuable contributions to the Committee's work, several U.S. members were offered and accepted leadership roles:

- Dr. Steven Brown of Intel Corp leads Working Group 3 on *Health, safety, and environment*;
- Dr. Alan Rae leads the Task Group on Nanotechnology and Sustainability; and finally
- Dr. Clayton Teague leads the Task Group on Consumer and Society Dimensions of Nanotechnology.

Dr. Teague also chairs the ANSI-accredited U.S. TAG to ISO/TC 229, and is head of the U.S. delegation to this meeting. He has been incredibly supportive of U.S. efforts and works diligently to promote the development and implementation of International Standards for nanotechnology. He has provided solid leadership and guidance at both the domestic and international levels, and we are very appreciative of his efforts.

Please join me in thanking all of those whose diligence and hard work has aided in the success of ISO/TC 229.

During this week's sessions I urge all the international delegates in attendance to aggressively pursue their ambitious and important work.

As always, we rely upon the active participation of subject matter experts. It is your knowledge, your experience, and your contributions that continue to move this effort forward.

At this time, I would like to take a moment to say a special thanks to our Platinum sponsor organizations for their significant support of this week's event:

- Siemens,
- NIST, and
- RTI International

In total, thirty-four organizations stepped forward to sponsor this Plenary meeting. This level of support underscores that government and industry alike understand the critical importance of this Committee's work.

Many thanks to all of you for coming, and for your attention.

Next, you'll hear from Diane Mooney, director of the Seattle Export Assistance Center with the U.S. Department of Commerce. Ms. Mooney, the floor is yours.

Thank you.

[END]