

<p>S. Joe Bhatia President and CEO American National Standards Institute</p>	<p>Action and Reaction: Developing a sustainable approach to emerging chemical issues Baltimore, Maryland – August 9-10, 2007 Welcoming and closing remarks from ANSI</p> <p><i>Welcoming remarks: 1,055 words, approximately 8.5 minutes</i> <i>Closing remarks: 417 words, approximately 3.3 minutes</i></p>
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Welcoming remarks

August 9, 2007, 12:40 – 12:50 p.m.

Thank you very much for the warm welcome, Nina.

Good morning everyone. It is my pleasure to welcome you to our 2007 annual conference.

We’ve come together today to address the impact of chemical controls and regulations on U.S. industry. This is a huge issue that has the potential to disrupt billions of trade dollars. It’s clear that *something* must be done... but there is no consensus yet on what that action should be.

During the course of the next two days we’re going to examine chemical controls from all angles: what’s already been done, what’s happening now, and what can still be influenced.

So far, we have been in more of a reactionary role than a proactive one.

Moving forward, our goal must be to strike a balance between the efforts that protect health, safety and the environment with a long-range view of business planning. This is especially important since many of you from industry are already sourcing the parts and supplies that you will need in 2011 and beyond.

(pause)

In her opening remarks, Nina talked about the need to determine how we can be more deliberate, coordinated, and strategic in anticipating key chemical-related challenges that affect U.S. industry... in short, she introduced the need for a collaborative network.

I feel confident that you’ll hear that theme repeated several times today. I also know it will be a major emphasis during tomorrow morning’s breakfast.

But the need for collaboration extends beyond the manufacturing sector. Industry must partner with government . . . as well as with SDOs and conformity assessment bodies, trainers, academics, consumer representations, and other stakeholders.

The establishment of a panel or an open forum to address emerging chemical issues may well be identified as one of the main outcomes from this conference.

If so, ANSI will be prepared to help. We are firmly committed to addressing domestic and global priorities. This is one of the key points that is emphasized in the *United States Standards Strategy* that you received when you arrived today.

(pause)

ANSI's standards panels are one of the primary means for addressing emerging issues:

- The first of our standards panels helped to develop the information superhighway.
- Our Homeland Security Standards Panel supported a special project on private-sector emergency preparedness that had been requested by the 9-11 Commission and continues today in support of the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies.
- At the request of Dr. Marburger, today's keynote speaker, we launched the Nanotechnology Standards Panel to facilitate the development of standards for the burgeoning nanotechnology industry.
- Our Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel is moving at an incredibly rapid pace to support the Department of Health and Human Services in establishing a national health IT network for the United States.
- Last fall, ANSI partnered with the Better Business Bureau to launch a panel to address the need for standards in the area of identity theft prevention and ID management.

Talk about a topic that has broad impact . . . more than 18 million Americans have been the victims of identity-related fraud over the past two years, crossing all aspects of their personal and financial life.

- And earlier this year, we turned our attention to alternative energy resources with a new coordination activity in the area of biofuels.

(pause)

No matter the topic, we can provide the neutral forum where stakeholders work together to:

- identify existing and emerging regulations, requirements and supporting standards and compliance programs,
- define where gaps exist, and

- recommend where additional work is needed.

As appropriate, we will facilitate the development of the necessary deliverables.

And we will help to forge a strong partnership between the private and public sectors.

(pause)

One of the best examples of this strengthening partnership is the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act.

For those of you who are not already familiar with the Act, this law directs federal agencies to use wherever possible technical standards that have been developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies. This is in lieu of developing government-unique standards. The same holds true for compliance solutions.

The NTTAA also makes it clear that government should participate as a partner in private-sector led standards development activities.

Since the law was passed in the mid-1990s, voluntary consensus standards have helped the government by:

- increasing operational efficiency,
- reducing regulatory compliance and procurement costs,
- avoiding duplication of effort caused by having separate private sector and government-unique solutions,
- enabling the government to take advantage of private sector technology and expertise in establishing standards and compliance programs that serve national needs, and
- contributing to economic prosperity and growth.

If the Europeans had relied more heavily on an open, standards-based process rather than a purely regulatory approach, we might not be having this conference.

Let's learn from experience and work together to mitigate unnecessary burdens in the future.

We can be mindful of the NTTAA's success and work towards balancing those issues that must be addressed by regulation with those that would be best-served by a standards and conformity assessment-based solution.

(pause)

Maybe this conference will identify opportunities for us to recommend standards and conformity assessment programs as solutions for regulatory issues. Maybe we'll agree to form a new standards panel or some other type of collaborative structure. Or maybe there will be some other outcomes.

Whatever the outcome may be, ANSI – and the federation of members that we represent – is pleased to be engaged with you.

(pause)

Before I turn the podium back to Nina, I'd also like to take a moment to acknowledge those organizations, companies, and agencies that contributed to the planning and financial support of this conference. Please join me in thanking:

- our diamond sponsors: ASTM International and General Motors,
- our platinum sponsor: Deere & Company,
- our gold sponsors: NSF International, Bergeson & Campbell, and Bureau Veritas, and
- our general sponsors and friends: the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Council of Independent Laboratories, the American Chemical Society, and Synapsis Technology.

Thank you very much for your generous support. *(lead applause)*

(pause)

On behalf of the ANSI team that is assembled here, let me say that we appreciate your participation and look forward to working beside you for the next two days.

This is an opportunity for leaders in government, industry and the standardization community to share common issues, to learn from one another and to make connections for future cooperation and collaboration.

My best wishes for a productive and successful conference.

Day Two – Lunch Remarks

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention for a moment please?

(pause)

Thank you very much for joining us on day two of Action and Reaction.

Today's luncheon has been organized in part by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. As we enjoy our coffee, Sean Heather will give us his perspective on emerging chemical issues.

Sean is the executive director for Global Regulatory Cooperation at the Chamber. Prior to his current position he led the Chamber's strategic forecasting initiative that was tasked with identifying emerging public policy issues of concern to the business community. Before that, Sean was part of Congressional and Public Affairs where he helped oversee the day to day operation of the division and coordinated the Chamber's lobbying efforts, its grassroots initiatives and its regional offices.

Sean, we are so pleased to have you with us.

(lead applause)

Closing remarks

August 10, 2007, 3:30 p.m.

Thank you very much, Nina.

Over the past two days, we have heard two thoughts shared again and again:

The first: there is no one size fits all approach to managing chemical issues.

The second: we need to focus on building collaborative networks that function across sectors and across national borders.

In his keynote address, Dr. Marburger stressed the need for strategic global information-sharing networks that can keep all of us informed. We've already gotten started and made some connections this morning during our networking breakfast.

But I know we can do even more. Going forward, ANSI stands ready to provide a neutral forum for all stakeholders – public and private sector alike. Let's work together to be more deliberate, coordinated, and strategic in anticipating key chemical issues that affect us all.

(pause)

As we consider how everything we learned over the past two days will help us to strengthen our various organizations, I encourage each of you to “lead with vision” ... Work with us to help develop or advance innovative and proactive solutions that address both current and future chemical issues.

- 1) Help strengthen relationships between partner organizations in government and industry. As we heard yesterday, a lot is going on in U.S. government agencies and other institutions. Industry interaction is essential.
- 2) Help pursue a level playing field that will strengthen U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace. Existing regulations and future guidelines and proposals should not impede market access... nor, as Dr. Marburger suggested yesterday, should they hamper technological innovations in the chemical area.
- 3) Finally, help push for standards and compliance programs that take into account the interests of all stakeholders, including environmental, safety, and consumer representatives.

(pause)

Before concluding, I'd like to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to Nina McClelland, without whose determination, passion, and vision, we would not have had such an excellent conference this week. Nina, you have been a wonderful conference chair, and I thank you for all of your efforts.

Thanks are also due to Mike Taubitz and David Schutt, both of whom were actively involved on the conference planning committee.

Thank you also to all of our speakers, panelists, and moderators – your presentations were very informative, and we appreciate your perspectives and enthusiastic participation.

(pause)

Your ongoing and active engagement will be invaluable as we work to develop innovative and proactive solutions to both current and future chemical issues.

Thank you all for joining us. I wish you all safe travels and a wonderful weekend.