

<p>S. Joe Bhatia President and CEO American National Standards Institute</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">HIMSS '08 Orlando, Florida Introductory Remarks – 1 p.m. February 26, 2008</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>688 words – approximately 5.5 minutes speaking time</i></p>
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Conference title: Innovation with shared vision

Thank you Joyce. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Joe Bhatia, and I am president and CEO of the American National Standards Institute.

I am pleased to join you today to introduce my colleague and friend, Alan Bryden, secretary general of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

(pause)

ANSI is the national member body to ISO and many other international and regional organizations. We also serve as the coordinator of this nation’s private-sector led and public sector-supported voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment system. ANSI accredits standards developers in dozens of industries. In a similar fashion, we accredit organizations that are engaged in conformity assessment . . . also known as compliance . . . activities.

ANSI speaks as the U.S. voice in standardization forums around the globe. Through our network of members, we represent the interests of more than 125,000 companies and 3.5 million professionals worldwide.

(pause)

Since joining ANSI as an organizational member in 2002, HIMSS has become actively engaged in the work of the standardization community. Your organization understands the strategic value and critical importance of voluntary consensus standards. You provide leadership and focus for the healthcare information technology field, and you work tirelessly to promote the critical role of information and management systems in ensuring quality patient care.

The relationship between our organizations is a very special one. In 2005, ANSI came together with HIMSS and 16 other organizations to form a strategic partnership and launch the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP), a group that is working together to achieve a widely accepted and useful set of standards that will enable and support widespread interoperability, accurate use, access,

privacy and security of shared health information.

The pace has been hectic – but extraordinarily productive. Just last month, Secretary Leavitt formally recognized interoperability specifications for electronic health records, biosurveillance, and consumer empowerment. On behalf of ANSI, I congratulate HITSP on this important milestone, and look forward to more exciting developments from the group.

(pause)

Before turning the program over to Alan, let me also explain how the ANSI-HIMSS relationship extends to ISO . . .

In 1998, ISO formed a new technical committee to focus on Health Informatics. The U.S. has held the secretariat of this committee, known as TC 215, since its inception, and HIMSS has performed the secretariat duties since 2003.

HIMSS also serves as the Administrator of the ANSI-accredited U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to TC 215. In this capacity, HIMSS coordinates the development of all U.S. positions on matters coming before the TC, which are then submitted via ANSI to ISO.

Over the past ten years, TC 215 has published 44 International Standards that help to achieve compatibility and interoperability between independent information and communication technology (ICT) systems.

What International Standards for healthcare ICT will come next? The future is always hard to predict. But this morning's keynote speaker has his finger on the pulse of global standardization trends and he'll be sharing his insights with us . . .

(pause)

Alan Bryden is Secretary General of the International Organization for Standardization.

Since his arrival in March 2003, Alan has helped ISO forge innovative standards and conformity assessment work in new and existing areas such as safety, security and social responsibility.

Before relocating to Geneva, Alan served for four years as Director General of the French national standards body, AFNOR, and for nearly 20 years as Director General of the French national testing laboratory (LNE). He founded the European Federation of Measurement, Testing and Analytical

Laboratories and chaired the Laboratories Committee of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). He was also Vice-President of the first Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade in GATT (now the World Trade Organization).

(pause)

I think it's worth noting that Alan began his career in standards and metrology here in the U.S. at the National Bureau of Standards – known today as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST.

[to Alan Bryden] Alan, I'm sure you'll agree that it was your time here in the States that laid the foundation for your successful career in standards and conformity assessment.

Ladies and gentlemen, please help me welcome my colleague and friend, Alan Bryden.

(lead applause)