ISO/TC 285 TWINNING

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How it all Begun

- February 28-29, 2012, in The Hague, Netherlands an International Workshop on Cookstoves
- 85 Stakeholders attended and Kenya was represented by 3 people.
- IWA (International Workshop Agreement) 11-2012, Guidelines for Evaluating Cookstove Performance was developed
- Informal side meeting held between KEBS and ANSI

Why and how twinning was defined (1/2)

Kenya Bureau of Standards
Standards for quality life

- A number of online email exchanges were done between KEBS and ANSI
- A rough idea of working together in a twinned secretariat was floated by ANSI. *How could we work together and there was no ISO?TC working on the subject?*
- The first step was to engage our CEOs for the them to support the idea
- Luckily, the two CEOs had met somewhere and were looking and how to work together. Therefore the idea was receptive by both.
- The conversation continued during the Clean Cooking Forum 2013, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

A special session entitled " International Standards and Next Steps for Clean Cooking " included speakers representing ISO, ANSI (ISO member for the USA), UNBS(ISO member for Uganda) and WHO

Prof. Nigel Bruce *from the University of Liverpool (representing WHO);* ***Zacharia Lukorito*** *from KEBS (proposed co-secretary for the new Cookstoves committee);* ***José Alcorta*** *from ISO;* ***Joseph Tretler Jr.*** *from ANSI (ISO member for the USA);* ***Richard Ebong*** *from UNBS (ISO member for Uganda) and* ***Ranyee Chiang*** *from the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Facilitator).*

Why and how twinning was defined (2/2)

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- In 2013, we proposed the formation of a TC with a proposal for twinned secretariat and TMB approved it.

- There was no clear definition of the roles and therefore at the start ANSI did everything. But due to personal initiative, I engaged my ANSI colleague to be assigned some roles.

  - Role 1: During online meetings to welcome members and present the agenda
  - Role 2: Set up WebEx call
  - Role 3: Develop a draft Agenda for the meeting

- First Plenary meeting was held in Nairobi, February 2014

Twinning Scope

- Work jointly as Secretaries of ISO/TC 285
- Have online trainings on using the eCommittee platform
- Trainings on the role of the Secretary in ISO/TC
- Training on Good Standardization Practices
- Share roles in managing the committee

Main Benefits

- Developed personal skills on managing ISO/TC work as the Secretary: Sending notifications, tracking project progress, posting documents on eCommittee platform, promptly responding to members questions and offering support.

- Developing institutional capacity – Technical skills in managing ISO/TCs

- Opportunity to host ISO/TC meetings (Kenya hosted the 1st plenary session, 2nd plenary session was held in Ghana, 3rd Plenary Session was held in Nepal and the 4th Plenary session will be held in Kenya).

- Bring on board other developing countries

- Creates confidence amongst developing countries – part of the international standardization community

Main challenges and problems (1/5)

- Coordination, dealing varying interests, cultural differences, internet connectivity issues

Main challenges and problems (2/5)

Kenya meeting, Feb. 2014

Handling a large group: meeting organization nightmares and reaching consensus is not easy

Main challenges and problems (3/5)

Ghana Meeting, Oct. 2015

Main challenges and problems (4/5)

Guatemala Meeting, Oct. 2014

Main Challenges & Problems (5/5)

- At the start there was no clear common interest and approach towards the sector. Varying interests between the twinning partners

- Role clarification/allocation
- Financial & travel constraints to attend all the meetings as scheduled (As Co-Secretary – Missed two meetings

    - Guatemala WG meetings in October 2014 due to visa
    - Nepal Plenary meeting – due to Government ban of all officers not to travel outside the country
- Geographical differences between the twinning partners
- Language barrier

Other challenges and problems (1/2)

Required a lot of self drive and initiation. What was the co-secretary's role?

- Document preparation
- Excellent project management
- Meeting Preparations
- Good advice on ISO processes
- Connecting and networking.
- Proactive follow up of actions
- Good with IT.

Recommendations to others

- Clarify roles for each secretary from the onset
- Take self initiative and pick up roles appropriately. Be willing to learn
- Identify a twinning partner with whom you share aspirations
- Locate a partner within your geographical area whenever possible
- Communicate, communicate, communicate - keep in touch always

Conclusion

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. “

Henry Ford