



*Mark Johnson
ABAC Chair 2007*

15 December 2006

Mr Joe Bhatia
President and CEO
American National Standards Institute
1819 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036 USA

Dear Mr Bhatia

YOUR ASSISTANCE PLEASE

I am writing to you on behalf of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), an organisation of senior business representatives which reports directly to the Leaders of the twenty-one APEC economies. ABAC is keen to have your views on the hurdles to be overcome with respect to:

- Harmonisation of Standards between economies
- Harmonisation of national Standards with international Standards
- Conformance to and assessment of compliance with those Standards

The twenty-one free trade agreements, both bilateral and multilateral, that have come into existence in the past two to three years, together with seventeen currently being negotiated, highlight the political will of the respective Leaders of those economies to removing barriers to trade. The commercial reality, however, is that despite the presence of these FTAs, there is more work to be done to achieve the harmonisation of Standards across the region.

ABAC is committed to making capacity building in standards a priority, and to assist this program would you please complete the attached survey and return it by **THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2007** to –

Mr Mark Johnson
Chairman
APEC Business Advisory Council
Macquarie Bank Limited
Level 9, No. 1 Martin Place,
Sydney, Australia

The aim of the survey is to identify collective difficulties confronting APEC economies in aligning standards.

The responses to the survey will remain confidential in that no National Standards Bodies will be individually identified. This report will be forwarded to you when completed.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Johnson

Chair

SURVEY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS BODIES

Please circle the appropriate response.

Please add any comments you wish to make.

General

1. How many national standards do you have in your economy?

_____ national standards

2. Is your organization responsible for the development of all national standards in your economy? If not, what is the scope of national standards of your organization?

Alignment with the International Standards

3. What percentage of national standards developed by your organization are based on or aligned with international standards?

_____ %

List the three most important barriers to alignment of national standards with international standards

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. What is the total number of staff involved in standards development in your organisation?

_____ staff

5. Does your economy have a target to align national standards to international standards?

YES / NO

IF YES, PERCENTAGE TARGET= %

6. If you answered yes in Question 4, how many years does your economy expect it to take to reach this target?

_____ years

7. Identify the top three priority areas that you would like to see as the focus of international standards alignment efforts (for example food, health, energy, security, automobile, electric / electronics equipment, etc.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Involvement of Industry

8. In your organisation what percentage of committees does industry actively participate in for the development of standards?

100%

75%

50%

25%

0%

Comment

9. Is it difficult to attract industry support and technical expertise to standardisation activities?

Never Occasionally Sometimes Often Always

Comment

10. Do you have sufficient involvement by industry in the development of your economy's national standards?

YES / NO

If you answered no, how could this be improved?

Relationship with Government

11. What assistance would be the most valuable to your organisation in strengthening the skills base of your organisation and committees?

12. In your organisation what percentage of committees does Government actively participate in the standards development process?

100% 75% 50% 25% 0%

Comment

13. What proportion of your standards are developed to meet Government requirements (example, reference in legislation or special orders)?

100% 75% 50% 25% 0%

What are the main sectors in which this occurs?

Funding for Standardization

14. Some national standards bodies receive little or no funding from their respective governments but rely on links to industry and society. Is this applicable to you?

YES / NO

Comment

15. Are you constrained by a lack of industry or government funding?

YES / NO

Comment

Collaboration with National Standardization Bodies

16. How often would you be involved with, or contribute to, an informal collaboration arrangement between national standards bodies of other economies, particularly the smaller national standards bodies?

Frequently Regularly As needed Rarely Almost never

17. Would you like to see additional opportunities for collaboration between national standards bodies?

YES / NO

If you answered yes, what form should this collaboration take?

Infrastructure for Conformity Assessment

18. In order to assess conformity against standards, our economy has an adequate number of fully trained auditors across all sectors

Strongly agree Agree No View Disagree Strongly disagree

Comment

19. Our economy has laboratories capable of testing to all relevant standards

Strongly agree Agree No View Disagree Strongly disagree

Comment

20. Imported products are required to be retested or re-certified to enter our economy

Strongly agree Agree No View Disagree Strongly disagree

Comment

Other Comments

21. Do you have any other comments on how APEC can assist your organisation in harmonising to international standards?

Comment

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Comment

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Date: _____