



## ANSI India Mission – Delegation Information

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### American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

Founded in 1918, ANSI is a U.S. not-for-profit membership organization that brings together organizations from both the private and public sectors dedicated to furthering U.S. and international voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessments. ANSI accredits national standards developing organizations and approves American National Standards. It is the sole U.S. representative to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), via the U.S. National Committee. ANSI is the coordinator of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment systems.

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### National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC/NIST)

Founded in 1901, NIST is a non-regulatory federal agency within the U.S. Commerce Department's Technology Administration. NIST's mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

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### International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC/ITA)

ITA's mission is to create prosperity by strengthening the competitiveness of U.S. industry, promoting trade and investment, and ensuring fair trade and compliance with trade laws and agreements.

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**Steven Bipes**  
**Director – International Policy – Regional and Bilateral Programs**  
American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

Steven Bipes is director of regional and bilateral policy in the International Department with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), headquartered in Washington DC. In this role, Mr. Bipes is responsible for the coordination of ANSI policy and participation with other regional and national standardization and conformity assessment bodies, including the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) and its Board of Directors, the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) and its Standing Committee, and the European Standardization Organizations (ESOs) of CEN, CENELEC and ETSI and their Joint Presidents Group. He is also responsible for coordinating Institute education and outreach efforts with the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service and foreign stakeholders on the impact of standards and conformity assessment programs to global trade.

Prior to joining ANSI in 2003, Mr. Bipes worked in the telecom, manufacturing, and software industries for more than 10 years. He served as a member of U.S. delegations to the NAFTA Consultative Committee for Telecommunications (CCT) and the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) under the Organization of American States. He was previously a member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Brazil (AMCHAM) in São Paulo. Mr. Bipes participated in the Telecommunication Industry Association's (TIA) Regulatory Engineering Committees, coordinating with the U.S. Federal Communication Commission (FCC) in the deregulation of its various programs, and participated in the harmonization of Canadian and U.S. technical telecommunications and electrical safety requirements.

Mr. Bipes started his professional career working in the Quality Assurance Department for Siemens-Nixdorf in Paderborn - Germany. He has since worked with multinationals in the United States and Brazil. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University and is currently earning his Masters Degree in Public Policy at Georgetown University.

**Elise Owen**  
**Representative for Priority Markets**  
American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

Elise Owen established and now runs a very active China Program for ANSI. She has been responsible for building and maintaining relations with ANSI's counterparts in China, and for instituting high-profile initiatives such as [www.standardsportal.org](http://www.standardsportal.org). Moving forward, Elise will be drawing on her program development experience to implement similar initiatives between ANSI and India.

Previously Ms. Owen was employed by the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, where she worked to increase U.S. trade to foreign markets. She was responsible for carrying out capacity building projects in China and India, and for resolving individual and systemic bilateral concerns on standards and related areas. Prior to this, Ms. Owen worked as School Director with American Educational Services, inc., establishing and operating an English language school in Dalian, China.

Ms. Owen is proficient in Mandarin Chinese and Japanese, graduating with honors and certified by the Defense Language Institute and Foreign Language Center, where she served in the United States Army. She holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and earned her undergraduate degree at Regent's College, graduating with honors from both.

**Ajit Jillavenkatesa**  
**Senior Standards Specialist**

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Dr. Ajit Jillavenkatesa is a Senior Standards Specialist with the Global Standards and Information Group (GSIG) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). In this role, he tracks and analyzes standards and conformity assessment related policy issues in South Asia, Asia-Pacific and the Mid East Asia regions. His primary responsibilities include providing standards and conformity assessment related policy and technical expertise to customers at NIST, the U.S. Department of Commerce, other US Government agencies and the private sector. He thus interacts extensively with standards experts in addressing the role of standards and conformity assessment in enabling trade and commerce, and the manifestation of standards and conformity assessment procedures as technical barriers to trade. Dr. Jillavenkatesa also participates in standards development in emerging areas such as nanotechnology and radio-frequency identification (RFID) and tracks these issues and their global impact.

Dr. Jillavenkatesa is a materials scientist by training, having come to NIST in 1997, with a Ph.D. in Ceramics from Alfred University in New York. He has authored and co-authored books and peer reviewed publications related to physical and chemical characterization of materials.

**Kelsey Burns**  
**Standards Specialist**

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Kelsey Burns is a Standards Specialist in the Global Standards and Information Group (GSIG) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). In this capacity, her current portfolio includes supporting the Iraq reconstruction effort as it relates to rebuilding the country's standards and conformity assessment infrastructure. In addition, she works to cover policy issues and technical aspects of standards and conformity assessment in the larger Middle East, Asia-Pacific, and South Asia.

Ms. Burns received her Master of Arts in Communication, Culture and Technology from Georgetown University in 2005. Prior to joining NIST, Ms. Burns worked in the Energy department at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C.

**Erol Yesin**  
**International Trade Specialist**  
International Trade Administration (ITA)

Erol Yesin is an international trade specialist in the Office of South Asia and Oceania in the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration. He is the regional desk officer for India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. He is responsible for advising departmental officials on matters pertaining to bilateral and multilateral trade policy development and implementation, market access and trade agreements compliance. Mr. Yesin previously worked in the Commerce Department's Import Administration.

Mr. Yesin holds a Master of Arts degree in International Commerce and Policy from George Mason University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies from California State University.