Overview of Process for Participation in ISO

Standards Alliance National Mirror Committee Training

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AGENDA (09:15-10:00)

• About ISO

• Participation in ISO meetings

• Twinning arrangements
The ISO story began in 1946 when delegates from 25 countries met at the Institute of Civil Engineers in London and decided to create a new international organization:

‘to facilitate the international coordination and unification of industrial standards’.

In February 1947 the new organization, ISO, officially began operations.
ISO is the world's largest developer and publisher of voluntary International Standards.
ISO in figures

More than:

- 165 members,
- 100,000 experts
- 238 technical committees (521 SCs)
- 19 meetings everyday
- 4700 active projects (1852 new)
- 1468 publications in 2014
- 20,493 standards in catalogue
Why are we unique?

**Our global network.** ISO members come from virtually every country in the world.

**Our brand.** ISO is recognized globally and associated with confidence.

**Our integrity.** We have been publishing the standards the world needs since our creation in 1947. Today the ISO brand is recognized globally.

**Our commitment to consensus.** We work with more than 700 organizations and over 100,000 experts from different industries and sectors.

**Our partnerships.** We work closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). We also have a strategic partnership with the World Trade Organization (WTO) to promote free and fair trade.
How does ISO work?

ISO only develops a standard if there is a market need for it.

International standards are created by the people who will use and be impacted by them. We call them EXPERTS and they come from industry, government, consumer organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations, and more.

It is the MEMBERS role to identify the experts and ensure an active voice for their country.

The ISO Central Secretariat - ISO/CS - coordinates the development process and publishes the standards.
The main players in the process are members, experts and ISO/CS.

- **ISO Members**: 165 national standards bodies
  - Represent ISO in their country
  - Enable national experts and stakeholders to participate and **have a say** in standards development
  - Help manage technical committees where the standards are written
  - Strengthens relationship with partners

- **Experts**: More than 100,000 in the world
  - Write the standards
  - Facilitates participation in standardization
  - Provides a neutral platform for the experts to get together and achieve consensus

- **ISO/CS**: 136 full-time staff
  - Coordinates the standards development process and makes standards available
  - Increases awareness around International Standards and ISO

- **Members**: Are nominated by members but can also come from partner organizations like the United Nations and other key players
  - Propose new standards
  - Approve standards by voting
Participation in ISO meetings

**Selection criteria**

- Technical knowledge and expertise
- Member and active participant in work of NMC
- Awareness of national positions
- Time and resources (available for continuous participation)
- Sufficient language skills

**Funding issues:** is the process only open to those who can afford it?

- Funding mechanisms...
- Transparency
Guidance to delegates and experts

The NSB/NMC can provide useful guidance to its delegates and experts:

**Preparation:**

- Provide training on ISO rules and procedures
- Ensure they have access to all relevant documents
- Brief delegates on national positions - including the degree of flexibility of the national position around which to negotiate (be clear about the mandate)
- If new/unexpected business is raised at the meeting, instruct delegates to defer the decision to allow for national consultation
Guidance to delegates and experts 2

Meeting protocol:
• Each delegation must nominate a head to act as the spokesperson in each meeting. This person is formally recognised to speak

Communication:
• Instruct experts to give regular progress reports to their NSB or NMC
• Instruct delegates/experts to provide a de-briefing to NSB or NMC after the meeting
Twinning arrangements
Twinning arrangements

• Partnership between a developed country and a developing country

• The developed country provides training, guidance and assistance to build the capacity of the developing country partner

Aims:

• Improve participation of developing countries in ISO

• Improve standardization infrastructures and capacities of developing countries

• Promote exchanges of experience and strategic partnerships between ISO members
4 types of Twinning arrangements

- **P-members**
- **Convenors & Co-Convenors**
- **Chairs & Vice-Chairs**
- **Secretaries & Co-Secretaries**

**The aim**

- increase participation of developing countries in ISO
- improve standardization infrastructures & capacities
- promote exchange of experience
- develop long-term strategic partnerships
4 types of Twinning arrangements

Each type requires different resources and leads to the acquisition of different skills.

To learn more:

Guidance document on ‘Twinning’:
http://www.iso.org/iso/PUB100341.pdf
Any questions?

Thank you.....!!!