



Period of Performance: July 1 – September 30, 2014

INTRODUCTION

The following report contains a summary of the major activities completed and outcomes achieved of the Standards Alliance, a public-private partnership between the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The enclosed report contains a summary of all activities completed in the third quarter (Q2) of 2014.

The [Standards Alliance](#) was announced by USAID in November 2012 as a new funding facility designed to provide capacity building assistance to developing countries, specifically related to implementation of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement. In May 2013, USAID and ANSI entered into a public-private partnership which will coordinate subject matter experts from throughout the private sector-led U.S. standardization system in the delivery of training and other technical assistance to interested Standards Alliance countries.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This period of performance under the initiative was dedicated to beginning implementation of activities described in the country-specific work plans. A general summary of these activities, according to their country or region is listed below.

General Program Management/Promotion

- *Outreach to engage partner agencies, organizations, and countries*

ANSI updated the Standards Alliance website including the dates and locations of project activities and trainings conducted in partnership with other agencies and organizations; as well as materials from past events. ANSI also regularly updated its members and U.S. government stakeholders through email communication.

- *Issued public call for proposals for 2015-2016 work plans*

In order to incorporate broad private sector input into future Standards Alliance work plans, ANSI announced a public call for proposals on September 3. The announcement included a background document and template for concept papers to be submitted by interested organizations. Initially listed as a 30-day open period, ANSI has since extended the deadline for submissions until November 30, and will review proposals on a rolling basis.

Central America (CAFTA-DR, Panama)

- *Proposal and planning for a textiles program with Guatemala*

ANSI received a proposal from Guatemala's Ministry of Economy and Apparel and Textile Industry Association (VESTEX) for technical assistance and training on standards, regulations and U.S. customs requirements for the export of textile products. In consultation with USAID, U.S. regulatory agencies, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and private sector standards developers and industry, ANSI began developing a program for the training to be conducted in Guatemala. The target dates are tentatively set for May 2015 in coordination with VESTEX' annual conference, but more information will become available as planning progresses in Q4 2014.

- *Planning for food additive regulation program with USDA*

ANSI received a proposal from USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) for "Regional Export Development of Food Additive Regulations in Latin America". The main objective of the proposed initiative is to engage in a dialogue and educate representatives from Latin America and in the future, include other countries so that unnecessary risk management actions may be prevented and globalization and harmonization of food additive regulations may be furthered. Initial discussions in Q2 2014 encountered delays in identifying appropriate logistical partners to host the program. However, USDA has since reached out to the International Life Sciences Association of Central America (ILSI), who has confirmed interest in working together with ANSI and USDA on the program. Further discussions will take place to confirm the details, but planning can begin in earnest in Q4 for a program early in 2015.

Colombia

- *Beginning implementation phase for Colombia work plan*

As described in the work plan for the Standards Alliance in Colombia (available [here](#)), one of the first activities is a seminar on the WTO Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. Initial planning for this activity began, including outreach to USTR and other U.S. stakeholders that would be involved. In consultation with the Colombian point of contact in MinCIT, the proposed date for this exchange was postponed until February 2015. ANSI re-established contact with staff of the newly awarded Facilitando Comercio USAID project, and looks forward to implementing work plan activities together with the Facilitando staff.

East African Community

- *"Electronic Notification Systems and Public Consultation" Workshop with the EAC*

As described in the work plan for the Standards Alliance in the EAC, a training and information exchange on public consultation in the regulatory and standards development processes took place August 6-8, 2014 in Arusha, Tanzania. The 3-day event addressed notification requirements under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, including the recent launch

of NotifyKenyaTBT, an electronic notification system modeled off the U.S. system Notify U.S. Participants also exchanged best practices for public consultation in the regulatory and standards development process. EAC participants included representatives from each country's national standards body, foreign affairs and international trade ministries, and private sector trade associations. The U.S. delegation consisted of representatives from the Office of Management and Budget -- Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, ANSI, and ANSI members ASTM International and the International Association for Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO). More information is available [here](#).

Indonesia

- *Development of a Uniform Plumbing Code specific to Indonesia (UPC-ID) through an open, consensus process*

The first of the four major targeted deliverables, to develop a Uniform Plumbing Code specific to Indonesia (UPC-ID) through an open consensus process, continues to be well on the way toward completion. The draft SNI has just recently been submitted for review to BSN, and the target date for release is March 2015. To date, IAPMO has worked with BSN on the following steps:

- Four IAPMO staff visited Indonesia (August 2014) to further the goals of the project, including to assist in the development of the SNI (National Plumbing Standard) to ensure that the applicable international standards necessary are referenced, along with providing ongoing technical expertise and resources.
- IAPMO identified, interviewed, and hired a business development consultant within Jakarta
- BSN reviewed and cataloged current standards in use in Indonesia, and IAPMO outlined available U.S. standards for the Indonesian market.

The BSN Technical Committee will review and revise the code and work with the IAPMO team to draft a publication for public review and comment.

- *Create a personnel certification program to train installers and code enforcement officials on the UPC-ID*

IAPMO representatives within Jakarta met with LPJK, along with the Department of Labor in August 2014 to continue the review and revisions necessary to the SKKNI and to discuss implementation possibilities and procedures. IAPMO signed MoU's with 5 major Universities throughout Indonesia – in Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Central Java (Semarang), Surabaya, and Bali to deliver training programs. The signing ceremonies that took place throughout August include:

1. *Sepuluh November Technological Institute (ITS) Surabaya, Province of East Java;*
2. *Islamic University of Indonesia (UII) Jogjakarta, Province of SR (Special Region) of Jogjakarta;*
3. *Trisakti University of Jakarta, Province of SCR (Special Capital Region) of Jakarta;*
4. *Muhammadiyah University of Jakarta, Province of SCR of Jakarta;*
5. *Mahasaraswati University of Denpasar, Province of Bali.*

- *Develop a third party testing laboratory and certification program for the testing and certification of plumbing products for the Indonesia market to ensure that they meet the standards set forth in the UPC-ID*

IAPMO technical staff conducted the initial research and market analysis, and identified correspondence with manufacturers interested in testing their products for this region. Potential lab sites have been identified and inspected, and IAPMO's Sr. Lab Director attended the BSN TC meeting in Bandung in August to continue to assist in the development of the SNI and to outline the demands of the forthcoming lab.

Mexico

- *Planning for North American Conference on Good Regulatory Practices and Regulatory Cooperation*

According to the work plan agreed by Mexico, the referenced conference will be organized jointly between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Following agreement to the work plan in Q2, during this quarter, ANSI and USTR established the organizers' stakeholder group and established points of contact in each of the three countries. Bi-weekly planning calls were arranged and an early draft agenda developed for circulation. The conference will take place December 10-11 in Mexico City, and will be jointly organized by ANSI, the Secretariat of Economy of Mexico, the Federal Regulatory Improvement Commission (COFEMER), and the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD).

- *Planning for Training in Conformity Assessment for COPANT member countries*

According to the work plan agreed by Mexico, the referenced training will be organized jointly between the Standards Alliance and COPANT. Following agreement to the work plan in Q2, during this quarter, DGN prepared a draft agenda and ANSI provided comments. The date and location for the training was set as November 3-7 in Mexico City, and COPANT provided invitation and information to its members. The training is open to all member countries of COPANT and will focus on principles of conformity assessment for young professionals entering the field for the first time.

Peru

- *Planning for Training for Peruvian regulators on analytical tools for rule-making*

Addressing Peru's stated priority of training on good regulatory practices, and analytical tools for rule-making in particular, planning began for a training to take place in October in Lima. Working with MINCETUR in Peru, and USTR and OMB in the U.S., a draft agenda was prepared and initial interest from these key stakeholders established. A date for the training was set for October 29-30 in Lima. ANSI also worked with OMB to identify additional speakers from U.S. regulatory agencies including USDA and EPA.

Vietnam

- *TBT IT project with STAMEQ and Vietnam GIG*

According to the work plan agreed in Q2, the Standards Alliance and USAID's Vietnam GIG project will work with STAMEQ to improve the capacity of the TBT enquiry point and upgrade its IT database resources. During this quarter, ANSI and the GIG team worked together to identify appropriate consultants (local and international) to work with STAMEQ on the project. The first stage will involve a local IT consultant conducting a review of the existing resources and recommended next steps to improve. The subsequent stage will involve both local and international consultants for IT and TBT working with the enquiry point to implement upgrades. The project is expected to begin in Q4 and will hopefully be complete by April 2015.

- *Training on standards and regulations for the medical devices, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics industries*

According to the work plan agreed in Q2, the Standards Alliance and USAID's Vietnam GIG project will work with STAMEQ to organize a training on existing technical requirements and best practices for these three priority sectors. ANSI has taken the lead to identify the U.S. experts from each industry who will participate and conducted initial meetings with representatives of industry associations and government representatives. Initial support for the training program was achieved, but it has been difficult to achieve consensus on an appropriate date when enough experts can be available to travel. Initially planned for Fall 2014, the training has been postponed until early 2015 and planning will continue with broader circulation of a draft agenda and call for speakers among the U.S. stakeholders.

Yemen (and GSO)

- *Beginning of implementation phase for work plan with Yemen and follow-up for integration of GSO priorities*

Following the assessment meetings conducted in Riyadh in January 2014, the GSO agreed to provide input to ANSI collected from all of its members related to the priority topics for discussion with the U.S. In September, ANSI staff met with GSO representatives on the sidelines of the ISO General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and discussed progress on this. Following the meeting, GSO provided feedback on its members' priorities and shared interest in holding joint activities beginning as soon as possible. ANSI has proposed that the first activity include training for Yemen's TBT enquiry point; opportunity for enquiry point networking among GSO members and the U.S.; and related topics such as public consultation. In Q4, ANSI will work with YSMO and the GSO to solidify dates and logistics for this activity.

EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES

The primary outcomes for the period of performance are outlined in the table below.

#	Country	Definition	Required in Work Plan?
1	United States	Provided regular project updates and communication to government and private sector stakeholder groups outlined in the project plan	Yes
2	United States	Posted project news and activities to the Standards Alliance website	Yes
3	United States	Issued open call for proposals	No
4	CAFTA-DR	Began implementation of textiles and food additives programs	Yes
5	Colombia	Began implementation of work plan – Code of Good Practice activity	Yes
6	EAC	Completed activity on ENS and public consultation	Yes
8	Indonesia	Review of existing standards in Indonesia and available standards in U.S. complete	Yes
9	Indonesia	Signed MoU's with 5 universities in preparation for development of professional certification program	Yes
10	Mexico	Began implementation of conformity assessment training and GRP conference	Yes
11	Peru	Began implementation of work plan – GRP activity	Yes
12	Vietnam	Began implementation of work plan – health sector training and TBT IT project	Yes
13	Yemen	Began implementation of work plan – inquiry point training and coordination with GSO	Yes

The successes of this period resulted mainly from moving from developing the work plans to implementing them with several partner countries. As the second year of the project began, more concrete activities were initiated, including one completed with the EAC.

One characteristic of Q3 activities that indicates future positive trends is the inclusion of more private sector and public sector expertise from the U.S. For example, the workshop with the EAC included speakers from ANSI, USTR, OMB/OIRA, ASTM and IAPMO. This broad representation of the U.S. system is one of the biggest strengths of the Standards Alliance, and an area that ANSI will focus on expanding in future activities.

Finally, more outcomes from specific project activities were realized in this period. With the Indonesian technical committee for water sanitation established and drafting underway for a uniform plumbing code for Indonesia, progress was made on the next phase of the project, which will include implementing the consensus-based standard through training and professional certification.

CONCLUSION

This period of performance represented an important shift in focus toward project implementation, and included a lot of foundational planning that will support outcomes in future periods. As the Standards Alliance moves into the implementation phase of work plan activities, the primary stakeholder group and resource pool established throughout the first year will become even more active. In the next quarter, ANSI looks forward to adding to project resources such as the website, and initiating and planning even more activities from the individual work plans for Peru, Mexico and Indonesia.