



Period of Performance: January 1 – March 31, 2015

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 first quarter (Q1) of 2015.

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 was dedicated to continuing implementation of activities described in the country-specific work plans, especially in the Central America and Southern Africa regions. 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.

- *Reviewed and solicited private sector proposals for 2015-2016 work plans*

In order to incorporate broad private sector input into future Standards Alliance work plans, ANSI initially announced a public call for proposals in September 2014. The announcement included a background document and template for concept papers to be submitted by interested organizations. Since the original posting, ANSI has met with organizations that expressed interest in submitting a proposal, discussed potential projects. During Q1, ANSI met with five interested organizations and reviewed two proposals for the next work plans. Further proposals are expected as the work plans are developed in the next quarter, demonstrating continued support and engagement from the private sector for the Standards Alliance.

Central America (CAFTA-DR, Panama)

- *Conducted a “Food Additives: A Global Perspective on Safety Evaluation and Use” conference in El Salvador*

In response to a proposal from USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to engage Central American countries on food additive regulations, a conference was organized on January 26, 2015 in San Salvador, El Salvador. The main objective was 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. The International Life Sciences Association of Central America (ILSI) served as logistics coordinator and co-organizer for the conference. The workshop was held at the Real InterContinental Hotel in San Salvador, and was attended by approximately 30 experts from 8 Central American countries. The purpose of the event was to share information on safety regulations surrounding food additives found in processed foods to ensure consumers that the food is safe for consumption. Technical experts from U.S. government and industry provided information and examples of science-based regulations, international standards, and global harmonization efforts for regulations of food additives. USDA coordinated U.S. input on the agenda, which includes participation from six U.S. private sector representing the Calorie Control Council, International Food Additives Council, International Association of Color Manufacturers, Glutamate Association of the USA, and others. More information, including the agenda and presentations from the event, is available here:

<http://standardsalliance.ansi.org/Countries/Central-America/food-additives.aspx>.

- *Planning for the “Central America Conference on Textiles Standards and Customs Procedures”*

Following a proposal from Guatemala’s Ministry of Economy (MINECO) in 2014 for training on U.S. standards and customs procedures for textiles, ANSI has worked with MINECO and the trade association VESTEX to organize the training. The dates were set for the week of June 23rd, 2015 in Guatemala City, Guatemala and initial interest was confirmed from key U.S. stakeholders such as CPSC, FTC, ASTM, NSF and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). In February and March, ANSI also coordinated with the USAID Regional Trade and Market Alliances project based in El Salvador. The project will support the textiles training by funding the travel for participants from other Central American countries and consulting with stakeholders in those countries to further refine the technical content of the training workshop. The project is moving forward with VESTEX and MINECO coordinating logistics and communication locally in Guatemala, working with ANSI and RTAM as needed. The call for speakers from the U.S. was issued in February and ANSI expects to finalize the agenda for the workshop early in Q2.

Colombia

- *Planning for a Code of Good Practice exchange*

Included in the work plan with Colombia's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (MinCIT) is an exchange on implementation of the WTO Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 of the TBT Agreement). With the renewal of USAID's Facilitando Comercio project in Colombia, engagement began again in earnest in late 2014, and in February ANSI, MinCIT and ICONTEC agreed on dates and location for the conference to take place in May 2015. The call for speakers was sent in February and ANSI expects to finalize the agenda early in Q2. Initial interest from the U.S. included organization such as ASTM International, NEMA and A2LA.

East African Community

- *Follow-on discussions with Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)*

Following Uganda's submission of a detailed proposal for technical assistance, the Standards Alliance continues to work with Uganda, Thompson Consulting and the East African Trade and Investment Hub to explore the proposed areas for cooperation with a particular emphasis on supporting Uganda's participation in the WTO TBT Committee's 7th Triennial Review. The Ugandan representative to the TBT Committee met with the U.S. representative from USTR for a second time on the sidelines of the March 2015 TBT Committee meeting to carry forward these discussions.

Indonesia

- *Published 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, was officially completed with the publication of SNI8153:2015, released on March 18th at an event for World Plumbing Day titled "Plumbing Standardization for a Better Future." After vigorous technical committee meetings and review, the development of the SNI was able to meet the established timeline and go through the necessary reviews and approvals by BSN necessary to be released on time. The launch event was a huge success. With over 300 attendees, the full day event brought multiple ministers and high-level government officials out in support of the release of the SNI. The press conference was attended by the US Deputy Chief of Mission Bauer, and the Indonesian Minister of Manpower, who both spoke in support of the SNI and the need for implementation at all levels to ensure the health and safety of Indonesian citizens. The event also highlighted the support of international manufacturers eager to enter the marketplace, with certification requirements, including TOTO, Delta, EcoOne, Viega and others showcasing their commitment to the market, and speaking in a panel session to reiterate the importance of this SNI.

Following on the success of this event, a meeting was held with a focus on the next steps and phases for utilization of the SNI in a dedicated province, Bali. The meeting was attended by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for Bali Province, BAPPEDA (Badan Perencanaan dan Pembangunan Daerah / Regional Planning and Development Agency) for Bali Province, the Ministry of Public Works for Bali Province, the Ministry of Tourism for Bali Province, representatives from BSN, and IAPMO staff. The meeting was very promising, with all members committing to work towards implementing applicable portions of the SNI as a pilot in the province of Bali, including certified products, and workers. Building off of an MoU that the Province has with BSN, the Province representatives agreed to work towards adding in budgetary requirements to work towards implementation, and progressing forward with next steps to put the SNI into real world applications.

- *Work with BSN, the Ministry of Public Works, and the Ministry of Industry to have the code implemented and adopted nationally*

The presence of government officials and ministries at the SNI event have given a strong message to the public that the SNI must be implemented as a specific necessity to better the health and safety standards of Indonesian citizens. The Province of Bali opportunities show an immediate action opportunity to put the wheels in motion for implementation, and see real world impacts. BSN must continue to advocate for implementation, and meetings will be scheduled in Q2 with the Ministry of ManPower Director to ensure the momentum continues, and appropriate actions are put into place.

- *Develop a personnel training and certification program for installers and code enforcement officials on the UPC-ID*

IAPMO developed a curriculum for a Plumbing Education to Employment Program to provide a framework for plumbing education and training, and submitted this curriculum to LPJK and partner Universities for review. With the partnerships with universities in place and the SNI completed, all parties are eager to move forward and this deliverable will become a high priority in Q2.

Middle East/North Africa

- *Met with JSMO and other stakeholders in Jordan to move forward work plan*

ANSI and IAPMO traveled to Amman, Jordan in January 2015 to meet with JSMO, USAID and other stakeholders in the Standards Alliance engagement with Jordan. IAPMO joined the meetings to discuss a proposal it submitted under the Standards Alliance for an activity surrounding water and plumbing codes with Middle Eastern countries.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

- *Workshop on ISO National Mirror Committees*

From March 30 – April 1, the Standards Alliance, in partnership with the Southern African Trade Hub (SATH) carried out a workshop in Maseru, Lesotho on ISO national

mirror committees. The training was led by a representative of ANSI’s ISO team and the leaders for the U.S. national mirror committees for the ISO/TCs on mining, food products and energy management. The workshop focused on the formation and operation of mirror committees, as well as the work plans and dynamics of the focus ISO/TCs. At least 15 representatives from the national standards bodies and national mirror committees of Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia participated in the training. In addition to ANSI staff, three U.S. experts representing the relevant ISO TCs participated in the training. All participants rated the event very highly and outlined next steps for applying knowledge gained through the exchange.

- *SATH-led activities on standards writing and enquiry point operations*

The USAID Southern African Trade Hub (SATH) continues to lead activities identified under the joint ANSI-SATH Standards Alliance SADC work plan. In Q1, these include 2-day training sessions on “Writing of Standards for Standards Technical Committee Chairperson and Secretaries” in Blantyre, Malawi from March 4-5 and Maseru, Lesotho from March 9-10. SATH also worked with the Zambia Bureau of Standards to re-launch their national enquiry point on April 8-10.

Yemen/GSO

- *Met with GSO, SASO and other stakeholders in Riyadh to move forward work plan*

ANSI and IAPMO traveled to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in February 2015 to meet with GSO, SASO and other stakeholders in the Standards Alliance engagement with Yemen and the GSO. ANSI and GSO discussed possibilities for rescheduling the planned enquiry point training for Yemen, as well as future opportunities. IAPMO joined the meetings to discuss a proposal it submitted under the Standards Alliance for an activity surrounding water and plumbing codes with Middle Eastern countries.

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	Reviewed submissions from open call for proposals	No
4	CAFTA-DR	Conducted food additives regulation program training over 30 representatives of 8 countries	Yes
5	CAFTA-DR	Conducted planning and facilitation for textiles training workshop	Yes

6	Colombia	Conducted planning and facilitation for exchange on the Code of Good Practice	Yes
7	EAC	Facilitated engagement with and support for Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)	No
8	Indonesia	Completed publication of the UPC-ID as an Indonesian national standard	Yes
9	Indonesia	Initiated pilot project with the province of Bali for implementation of the SNI	Yes
10	MENA	Met with JSMO, USAID and contract staff to discuss opportunities for work plan with Jordan	No
11	SADC	Completed training of 15 representatives from Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia on ISO national mirror committee operations	Yes
12	SADC	SATH completed training on standards writing and enquiry point operations	Yes
13	Yemen/GSO	Met with GSO and SASO to discuss opportunities for work plan and rescheduling TBT enquiry point engagement	No

The successes of this period resulted mainly from completing many key work plan activities. Significant milestones were reached in the work plan with IAPMO and Indonesia, and a successful training in Lesotho could provide a model for many future Standards Alliance activities.

The publication and launch of the Indonesian national standard for the UPC-ID should be commended as a major achievement of Q1. The standard development efforts that led to this point reflect the principles that form the foundation of the Standards Alliance – reliance on international standards; industry participation and engagement in standards development; and best practices such as the WTO Code of Good Practice. IAPMO’s efforts to promote the standard through the public launch event included high level support from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Embassy staff, and many Indonesian partners and officials. The event highlighted the important health and safety implications of the new standard, and the necessity of its implementation. The significant media attention surrounding the event reflects the overwhelming impact these efforts expect to yield.

Finally, the mirror committee training conducted in Lesotho provides an excellent example of the unique value-add the Standards Alliance can provide. The model now exists to respond to direct requests from partner countries related to international standards participation by leveraging the exact experts in the U.S. that should be engaged. ANSI hopes to use this model in future activities with other partners.

CONCLUSION

Key project deliverables began to be realized during this quarter, reflecting the potential impact of the Standards Alliance overall. ANSI looks forward to building off of these successes in the next period, carrying out planned activities with Central America, Colombia, and other partners.