The Ninth Internship COPANT-ICONTEC-ANSI took place in Bogotá, Colombia on October 26-29, 2015. This event is aimed to train new staff from the National Standards Bodies and had the following objectives:

- Present the operation of a National Standards Body (ICONTEC) and international standardization activities of a National Standards Body (ANSI)
- Exchange knowledge and experiences of all participants of National Standards Bodies
- Create a network between the different Standards Bodies Members of COPANT

This training was attended by 19 delegates from 13 countries in America, namely: Bahamas, Paraguay, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, St. Lucia, Cuba, Suriname, Ecuador, Venezuela, El Salvador and Colombia. The training program was conducted by several ICONTEC collaborators addressing the totality of all the services of the institute, as well as the processes that support the management of these services; on the other hand the participation for the first time of representatives from ANSI and ASTM from the United States, through the Standards Alliance Program (administered by ANSI/USAID), allowed to convey the experience and importance of the participation in the international standardization.

There were also spaces for presentation from the different standards bodies so that it was possible to learn from the different experiences.
During the closing session a feedback was obtained from the participants of the internship, based on which the following conclusions and recommendations have been identified:

- Importance of being linked to ANSI and likewise seek involvement of ISO in the upcoming internships in order to have two positions for standardization with which our countries must coexist in their activities and know in depth the US standardization system.
- Participants reported that ICONTEC as standards body is a leader in the region and many of their practices can be replicated in their bodies.
- The internship helped to build relationships with their peers in other national standards bodies in order to obtain mutual support.
- Attendees indicated that it would be very useful to have a space in which the different countries can have a forum for exchange on successful and unsuccessful experiences.
- In addition, they expressed their interest in the existence of a practical component on the internship where they can for example attend a committee meeting.

Source: ICONTEC