PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION IS IN GOOD PATH WITH A TRAINING FOR NSBs IN CHILE

The National Standards Institute of Chile (INN) organized jointly with COPANT the first version of the Internship in Participation in International Standardization on July 26-28, 2016 in Santiago.

This internship is added to the ongoing training program that COPANT offers to its members to develop the necessary capabilities to enable our region to have the tools to carry out standardization activities at national, regional and international levels, as well as other activities related to training their stakeholders and provide conformity assessment services.

23 delegates representing 17 countries attended the course, among which we can mention: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, United States, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

The course was issued by the expert Mario Wittner and included the participation of specialists who shared their experiences and best practices, namely,

- María del Carmen Fernández (IRAM/Argentina),
- Luisa Fernanda Pallares (ICONTEC/Colombia),
- Claudia Cerda (INN/Chile),
- Paloma García (AENOR/Spain via WebEx),
- María Isabel Barrios (ASTM International/United States) and
- Luis Iván Hernández (ANCE/Mexico via WebEx).

Participants of the Internship in Santiago, Chile (Photo courtesy of Emma Bulnes, OHN)
The objective of the program of the internship was to provide the tools and experiences needed for those responsible for standardizing and standardizers’ technicians of the NSBs members of COPANT to have the ability to participate in international standardization processes effectively and efficiently. It was aimed to professionals for standardization of NSBs, with experience and knowledge in standardization processes at the national level, or who are starting their participation at the international level.

Participants also shared presentations on the current situation of their international participation, their standards national strategies and managing their national mirror committees.

INN of Chile, PTB, COPANT and ANSI from the United States sponsored the training.

Mario Wittner, invited professor teaching classes in Santiago (Photo courtesy of Jimena Pimentel, INN)

Paloma Garcia from AENOR (Spain), sharing their experiences and best practices in developing standards national strategy and managing national mirror committees. Virtual connection via WebEx
The main conclusions and recommendations of the training were the following:

a) Periodically conduct these internships, to assess the degree of progress achieved in the participation of Latin American NSBs in international standardization;

b) Schedule meetings of the Focal Group of COPANT, such as CASCO, to share experiences of participation in specific activities of developing international standards;

c) Analyze the possibility of holding a meeting of the COPANT NSBs for presenting their Rules for Standardization, deciding about the appropriateness of having a harmonized Rules for the Spanish speaking NSBs and, if so, establish a work plan to reach the harmonization.