COPANT 2018 WEEK - JAMAICA

From April 15 to 20, 2018, Montego Bay hosted our annual event

Under the slogan “One voice: regionally standardized, globally harmonized”, the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) celebrated its WEEK 2018 in the paradisiacal Bay of Montego, Jamaica, from April 15 to 20, 2018.

On this occasion, a new scheme for the meeting was launched, making it more interactive, with discussion sessions on current issues of interest to national standards bodies and their stakeholders.

In addition to the meeting of the General Assembly and Board of Directors of COPANT, the customary Speed Networking, a COPANT Workshop, a BSJ workshop and a ISO/COPOLCO workshop were held.

COPANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The COPANT General Assembly was attended by 90 delegates, representing 20 active members, 7 adherent members, 9 regional and international organizations, and 1 invited body.

The opening of the meeting was attended by the honorable Minister of Industry, Trade, Agriculture and Fisheries, Audley Shaw, who mentioned that, as a government, an environment must be created to ensure compliance with international standards, this is critical to ensure that the products and services meet the requirements for exports to international markets. For his part, Ricardo Fragoso, President of COPANT, said that the central focus of COPANT Week is to create strategies so that we can develop standardization through collaboration and consensus, in search of global competitiveness and urged members to be more proactive, sharing examples of successful cases of the use of standards to improve global aspects such as accessibility, climate change, corruption, food chain, health, safety, water and mobility.

Participants of the COPANT Week 2018, Montego Bay, Jamaica
Coming up next, **3 very interesting discussion panels** were held with our international, regional and technical cooperation strategic partners. In each session, the panelists answered related questions on how to improve the relationship with the COPANT region, what else we can do to collaborate better, and what possibilities of support can be generated for this region.

This panel placed great emphasis on the importance of working together, rethinking how to do it and being more effective in building capacities.

The association with key regional organizations for COPANT is very important to join forces in international positions and in the exchange of best practices.

Opportunity to learn more about the cooperation activities that are carried out, especially in our region and how to obtain greater benefit for capacity building and more effective participation at the international level.
The 3 Groups of the Strategic Priorities of COPANT also had the opportunity to work on the review of the activities carried out, according to the 2016-2020 COPANT Strategic Plan and to approve and propose activities for the work plan for 2018. COPANT strategic priorities are: Capacity Building, International Participation and Conformity Assessment.

Finally, 4 discussion sessions were held in parallel, with moderators and panelists representing the NSBs and invited organizations, which have excelled in the topics discussed. The topics were the following:

- **Stakeholders engagement:** Moderator Joe Tretler (ANSI); Panelists: Chantal Guay (SCC) and Anthea Ishmael (BNSI). Some of the conclusions of this discussion group are that stakeholder participation is a key element of the process and helps support the implementation and acceptance of standards; there are still challenges to involve affected stakeholders, especially for new technologies; and that new integrated tools, new approaches are the key to success as the next generation enters the market, we must consider focus less on fostering a process-driven and build a standard system environment based on strong global relationships.

- **Standards, Regulations and Public Policy:** Moderators: Yanira Colindres (OSN) and John Thompson (Chair of UL/USNC). Panelists: Jessica Roop (ANSI), German Nava (ICONTEC), Karen Watson Brown (BSJ) and Verne Emmanuel (SLBS). The conclusions of this group are summarized in: useful examples were given of how standards are mentioned in the regulations and have unique processes to address the need for standards; There is no central way to address the problems of the use of standards in regulation. Each country provides and maintains its own solutions that best suit its needs.

- **Financial sustainability of the NSBs:** Moderators: Mauricio Céspedes (INTECO) and Mkabi Walcott (SCC). Panelists: Javier García (UNE); Stephen Wedderburn (BSJ) and Roberto Montoya (ICONTEC). Three different financial models were presented from NSBs 100% self-financed, non-profit organizations, partially financed by the government. The risks for the financial models must be identified, and is important to generate alternative income opportunities such as solution services for the users of the NSBs.
- **Digitization of standardization**: Moderators: Steven Cornish (ANSI) and Claudia Sama (DGN). Panelists: Tony Zertuche (ANSI/USNC); Nelson Al Assal (ABNT); David Bell (BSI) and Claudia Cerda (INN). In this group it was mentioned that digital transformation is not just about IT tools and services; we must transform the process of developing standards and managing culture change stakeholders to achieve success, to lead to faster standards development processes, maintaining the principles and the high quality standards, and engaging new generations and the underrepresented stakeholders. Work must be done to harmonize solutions where organizations work together.

**SPEED NETWORKING**

This was the third version of our Speed networking, which is already very successful and accepted. It is an opportunity for members and special guests to hold their bilateral/multilateral business meetings in an environment suitable for it. The Speed Networking this year was held on Tuesday, April 17 in the afternoon, and about 70 individual meetings were held.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COPANT**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of COPANT was held on April 17 in the afternoon, the meeting was chaired by Ricardo Fragoso (ABNT), who was accompanied by the officers, Jesús Lucatero (DGN) as vice president and Osvaldo Petroni (IRAM), as treasurer.

The Members of the Board of Directors are the following, ANSI (USA) and SCC (Canada), representing North America; OSN (El Salvador) representing Central America; SLBS (Santa Lucia) and NC (Cuba), representing the Caribbean; and IRAM (Argentina), ABNT (Brazil), INN (Chile), ICONTEC (Colombia) and INACAL (Peru), representing South America.

Some of the topics discussed are the importance of the presence of COPANT in other regional and international forums to strengthen the key associations for the region and maintain the visibility of our organization, on the other hand one of the main concerns is to maintain and increase the pace of COPANT cooperation activities for its members, and we must find ways of funding, especially for capacity building and increasing participation in international standardization.

**COPANT WORKSHOP**

COPANT Workshop in Jamaica, was opened with a keynote presentation by the new **Secretary General of ISO, Sergio Mujica**, who emphasized his satisfaction to participate in the meeting of COPANT, being he of Chilean nationality. He mentioned how ISO is working and contributing to the various topics that were discussed during the workshop, introducing the various topics, which were the following:

- **Twining and mentoring programs**: Moderators: Steven Cornish (ANSI - ISO/TMB) y Jesús Lucatero (DGN); Panelists: Joe Tretler (ANSI); Javier García (UNE); Carlos Amorim (ABNT), Pascale Mienville (AFNOR) and Mauricio Céspedes (INTECO). The main conclusions of this session were:
- ISO Twinning Program: Program aimed at developing capacities in relation to leadership roles and/or participation in specific ISO standards development activities, which is currently being reviewed by the ISO Technical Management Board (ISO/TMB) for strengthen their intent and successful implementation. ABNT, UNE, AFNOR and ANSI presented very positive experiences.

- IEC mentoring program: Aimed at capacity building and performance of national committees in IEC in general. Very positive experiences were presented by representatives of the National Committees of Costa Rica, USA and Peru and the regional representative of IEC.

**Recommendations**

- COPANT must share information online about the ISO twinning programs and the IEC mentoring activities that involve its members, in order to encourage more such agreements among its members.
- Any such arrangement must carefully identify needs and have the backing of solid communication lines.

**How can standards support the silver economy and disabled people:** Moderator: Claudia Cerda (INN); Panelists: Pablo Benia (UNIT - Video); Catherine Dunkerley (SA - Video), Andia Persad Maharaj (TTBS); and Bernardo Vidal (INDOCAL). Conclusions:

- The speakers commented on the existence in their countries of standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment processes in the field of accessibility to the physical environment, however, on an economy around the needs of people, still not much information is handled, for example, there are cases in which the government subsidizes a large part of public transport, but in other cases where the user pays for it.
- COPANT members are encouraged to use the available conversation and information exchange platforms and to participate through the ISO structure, either in the new ISO/TC 314 and COPOLCO, in order to acquire enough knowledge to make the proper promotion at the country level and influence Public Policies.

**Service economy - methodology for standardization:** Moderators: Claudia Sama (DGN) and Germán Nava (ICONTEC); Panelists: Carlos Amorim (ABNT); Renae Ferguson (BBSQ); Mónica Vivas (ICONTEC); and Anthea Ishmael (BNSI). Conclusions:

- There is a growing need to regulate the sector and the standards for service represent more quality and better conditions for users.
- The market requires the development of standards for services, providing more information for consumers to measure and improve services.
- Efforts should be made to find ways to involve stakeholders and take into account the difference between quality systems and service quality, the latter focusing on consumers.

**Shared use of quality infrastructure:** Moderators: Mauricio Céspedes (INTECO) and Carlos Amorim (ABNT); Panelists: Stephen Wedderburn (BSJ), Yanira Colindres (OSN); José Durán (IBNORCA); Rosario Uria (INACAL); and Sharonmae Shirley (QICA). Conclusions:

- CROSQ members are small countries with limited resources, so sharing resources has become an important issue, an example was the definition of reference laboratories in the Caribbean for members of CROSQ.
- In Central America, attempts have been made to develop regional standards, however, more synergy and communication as a region is needed. It is important to complement the infrastructure weaknesses that other countries may have. In Central America there are 2 accreditation bodies (CR and GUA) that provide services in the region.
- It is important to promote public-private partnerships to strengthen the quality infrastructure, taking into account all parties when developing strengthening projects.
- APEC developed a Guide with 21 economies on successful cases of MSMEs to make them more competitive.
The Quality Infrastructure Council for the Americas, QICA developed a strategic roadmap to promote and orchestrate that the parts of the quality infrastructure work together.

- **Public policies for energy systems (energy efficiency, energy management, renewable energy)**; Moderators: Luis Iván Hernández (ANCE/DGN) and Amaury Santos (IEC-LARC); Panelists: Osvaldo Petroni (IRAM); Richard Lawrence (BSJ); Edgar Arias (DGNTI) and Fabián Yaksic (FINCA). Conclusions:
  - Joint work between government and industry.
  - The standards of the NSB establish the methods and the ministries establish the limits.
  - Collaboration between countries or regions.
  - Economic incentives for replacement of more efficient equipment or fiscal incentive.
  - The lack of an energy efficiency policy may allow the marketing of inefficient products that are not allowed in other countries or regions.

- **ISO 37001 Anti-bribery management system**; Panelists: Julia Bonner Douett (BSJ), Roberto Montoya (ICONTEC) and Rosario Uria (INACAL). Conclusions:
  - Very important for corporate governance and sustainability
  - The non-implementation of the standard generates consequences of great impact.
  - Clarify to the media, the public and interested parties the meaning of the certification (without absolute guarantee)
  - Cultivate the culture of transparency and openness
  - Leads to stronger economic progress

- **Sustainable development goals**; Moderators: Yanira Colindres (OSN) and Mkabi Walcott (SCC); Panelists: Deryck Omar (CROSQ); Niklas Cramer (PTB); Sergio Mujica (ISO) and Pascale Mienville (AFNOR). Conclusions:
  - CROSQ mentioned examples where they have references to the SDGs include: Regional quality, energy efficiency building code, and a potential natural disaster management.
  - PTB noted the importance of the Quality Infrastructure in the attainment of the SDGs, as such there are direct links of many of the PTB projects to a number of SDGs.
  - RNF (Network Standardization and Francophonie) leverages SDGs in their Women and Youth in Standardization project, which provides tools to NSBs to raise awareness on standardization, strengthen networks, and encourage participation. The project promotes gender equality, poverty elimination, innovation and infrastructure amongst other SDGs.
  - ISO encouraged the group to reflect why the SDGs are important to each NSB and as an international community. ISO is developing communication materials to promote how standards further economic and social development, and mapping how ISO standards support the SDGs; and will produce guidance for SDG consideration in standards development.

**BSJ NATIONAL WORKSHOP**

The theme of the National Workshop of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ), held on April 19, was "THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE" Natural Products – Medicinal Cannabis in Support of Good Health.

The workshop featured keynotes from representatives of ASTM International, the Standard Council of Canada (SCC) and the Canadian Health Office. The day ended with two discussion panels on the work that Jamaica is carrying out to regulate the medicinal use of Cannabis and on Market Access in global economies.
ISO/COPOLCO, The ISO committee for consumer affairs, organized a workshop held on April 19, which addressed the theme: "Building consumer confidence through standards and innovation", whose goal was:

- Raise awareness of standards as a means to safeguard consumer interests.
- Enhance the role of consumer representatives in the standards-setting process at the national, regional and international levels.
- Promote dialogue between representatives of National Standards Bodies (NSBs), consumer organizations and consumer protection agencies from ISO member countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America regions, so that they may work together effectively on consumer protection issues.

The workshop was attended by representatives of consumer organizations and NSB from the countries of the COPANT region. Among the speakers, it is worth mentioning the presence of Guillermo Zucal (IRAM) who is the current Chair of ISO/COPOLCO, Carlos Amorim (ABNT), Sadie Homer (BSI), Antonino Serra (Consumers International), Dana Kissinger-Matray (ISO/COPOLCO), Chantal Guay (SCC), Linda Golodner (ANSI), Michaela Miller (USA) and David Bell (BSI).