

# ISO Scene

## Road traffic safety management well on track

The ISO committee developing a standard for road traffic management systems, ISO/PC 241, held its second meeting in Shah Alam, Malaysia, in February 2009. To coincide with this event, the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM) hosted an international workshop on road traffic safety.

ISO/PC 241 reported progress on the number of members joining the committee, as well as the contribution of a large number of international organizations, including UN agencies.

The future ISO 39001 will provide a holistic approach to road traffic safety. This internationally harmonized tool will be useful for organizations involved in auditing the effectiveness of road traffic programmes. A first draft will be submitted for enquiry in June 2009, and the result will be discussed at the next ISO/PC 241 meeting to be held in Canada, in September 2009.



Panel at ISO/PC 241's second meeting, Shah Alam, Malaysia.

Participants were reminded of a message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urging UN member states and global road safety partners to cooperate actively. This included ISO, which is a member of the UN Road Safety Collaboration.

Fruitful exchanges took place on how ISO member bodies can help, such as by setting up national mirror committees to ISO/PC 241 or promoting traffic safety through the application of the future ISO 39001.

## ISO Secretary-General meets key USA stakeholders

The first official visit of the new ISO Secretary-General, Rob Steele, to ANSI (ISO member for the USA) took place in March 2009.

During his visit Mr. Steele met with ANSI President Joe Bhatia as well as ANSI board officers, governance leaders and members of the management staff. As ISO works to develop its strategic plan for 2011-2015, Mr. Steele urged ANSI to actively participate in helping shape the priorities for action during the coming years.

Mr. Steele also visited several US government agencies, including the office of the US Trade Representative, the US Department of Commerce International Trade Administration and the US Department of Energy.

These meetings offered a valuable opportunity to discuss the alignment of ISO standards, development directions and activities with the strategic and technological priorities of the USA from a number of different perspectives.

Mr. Steele also met with staff from the National Institute of Standards and Technology and was invited to tour their facilities.

"International standardization is all about people, and I'm thrilled to be here to meet with many of the key stakeholders from the US standardization community," concluded Mr. Steele.

## First ISO Secretaries' Week



From left to right, S. Joe Bhatia, ANSI President and CEO; Rob Steele, ISO Secretary-General; and Art Cote, Chairman of the ANSI Board of Directors.

Organized by the Development and Training Services of the ISO Central Secretariat (ISO/CS) in Geneva, Switzerland, in February 2009, the ISO Secretaries' Week was the first of its kind.

The event aimed to provide newly-appointed secretaries from ISO committees and subcommittees, with a full week of intensive training focused on a range of topics vital to carrying out their roles – among them, ISO processes and policies, electronic tools and the drafting of International Standards.

The Secretaries' Week also provided an opportunity to meet with key contacts at ISO/CS, as well as to network with other secretaries and share experiences.

Participants included secretaries from Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden and Switzerland.

Two further Secretaries' Weeks are planned in 2009. Details of how ISO technical committee and subcommittee secretaries (including their support staff) can participate in future courses may be found on ISO Online.

The first ISO Secretaries' Week was held at the ISO Central Secretariat's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

## Members reach record 160

ISO has achieved a new record membership, which now comprises the national standards institutes of 160 countries.

Four new "correspondent" members (a category for countries that do not yet have a fully-developed national standards activity) from West Africa enabled ISO to set the new record:



- Gambia Standards Focal Point (GAMSFP)
- Liberia Division of Standards (LDS)
- Direction de la Normalisation et de la Promotion de la Qualité (DNPQ) of Mauritania
- Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB).

Welcoming the new members, who join a network that covers all regions of the world and includes 122 developing economies, ISO Secretary-General Rob Steele said: "It's significant that even in these times of global financial crisis, the ISO family is growing."

"The benefits that ISO standards can deliver to business, government and society as a whole are increasingly recognized. Through membership of ISO, countries can contribute to and influence the standards that are most important to their economies and receive early warning of forthcoming standards."