



Biography of Mr. Robert Steele

Robert Steele was the Chief Executive Officer of Standards New Zealand until 2007. He is a Chartered Accountant, a member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors and a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Management.

Mr. Steele joined Standards New Zealand in 1999 and oversaw a programme to improve customer service, increase strategic value to government and key stakeholders, increase the profile of the organization in the development of standards both nationally and internationally, and restore the organization to financial health. Use of project management in prioritising work resulted in a significant improvement in performance.

Internationally, Mr. Steele was a member of the ISO Council from 2001-2002, represented Standards New Zealand, on the ISO Technical Management Board (TMB) from 2003-2005, and was Secretary of the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) from 2002-April 2007. As a member of the ISO TMB he was involved in developing policies on the global relevance of International Standards and led an ad hoc group to develop recommendations on ISO's strategy on management system standards.

Prior to joining Standards New Zealand, Mr. Steele was Chief Executive of an electricity distribution and retail company in New Zealand. He oversaw a significant improvement in business performance and customer satisfaction, and established a vibrant and competitive construction and maintenance business.

Prior to that, Mr. Steele worked for 15 years at Touche Ross (now Deloitte) in New Zealand and Canada in financial audit and corporate advice.

Since leaving Standards New Zealand, Mr. Steele has provided advice to organizations both in New Zealand and overseas on strategic business and standards issues, assisted regulators and standards organizations in several countries to develop strategies in public policy and standardization, and worked with a United Nations specialized agency in three countries on energy efficiency systems and an international standard for industry.

Mr. Steele holds New Zealand and Canadian nationalities.