

IFAN Newsletter

December 2013

Dear IFAN members and friends, this Newsletter has been drawn up in order to inform in between the Members Assemblies on current standardisation topics of special interest to standards users, related positions and actions of IFAN.

IFAN International Conference

IFAN held its 14th International Conference following World Standards Day 15/16 October 2013. The event took place in central London in the Centre Point Tower.

IFAN Conferences take place every three years. These conferences are aimed at all those who are interested in and use standards, as well as have an interest in standardisation and related matters.

The motto of the IFAN Conference 2013 was: **Standards make the world go round: When users and standardisers work together.**

The keynote addresses were given by Dr Scott Steedman, Director of Standards, BSI, on 'Standards Landscape' and by Rob Steele, Secretary General, ISO, on: 'International standards ensure positive change'.

The four main sessions covered:

- 1 Getting involved in standards,
- 2 Global legal issues around standards and standards information for global markets,
- 3 Standards, innovation & technology,
- 4 Inter-active standard development, inputting SME/User experience to the standard amendment.

The closing address was given by David Bell, Head of the external policy team, BSI.

What did we learn? We learnt that clearly the future for the world of standards is going to be different.

In short: The world is getting increasingly more complex and changes occur more rapidly and there is need to respond.

Innovation cycles get shorter, accordingly new fields of standardisation pop up; systems standardisation becomes more important; legal issues affect ever more businesses as regulators more and more involve in standardisation; fragmentation increases, but also consolidation; changes in culture and key players occur and enterprises need to adjust their standards strategies.

On the other hand: Participation and engagement in standardisation and information on standards, e.g. for SMEs, gets increasingly easier by new web technologies and tools. SDOs invested meantime a lot expecting keen use.

Standards users must be aware of and respond to the changes. Those who participate shape the system of standardisation, its products and market relevance and user friendliness.

Presentations are publicly [available here](#).

Please note: Already now, we are looking for a host for the 15th Conference 2016 which may occur in conjunction with a national or regional standards conference. Inquiries, offers: ifan@ifan.org

Georges Garel Award

The Georges Garel Award was instituted by IFAN in 1979 in commemoration of its first President Mr. Georges Garel. The award is bestowed upon persons who in the opinion of the Board of IFAN have rendered exceptional service to the international community of standards users. This is the sole IFAN award and has been granted 16 times so far.

During its 14th Conference, IFAN held a special ceremony in which the Georges Garel Award was presented to Laura Hitchcock, Boeing, on 16 October 2013.



Laura Hitchcock, Boeing, and Ross Wraight, IFAN President

40th Members Assembly 2013

The annual IFAN Members Assembly took place this year in London, on Thursday 17 October 2013, hosted by the British Standards Institution (BSI).

IFAN members from around the world gathered to settle all the necessary formal Agenda items concerning the federation. On top of it, the Assembly provided an opportunity for the members to meet and discuss current issues and matters of mutual interest, in addition to the IFAN 14th International Conference 2013 preceding the Assembly.

The minutes will be available after preparation via the members section.

Normative References

Standards are mostly applied by users who are not familiar with standardisation procedures and rules. Therefore, when

applying standards in their business they can encounter problems due to misunderstanding.

One of those problems is the question how to deal with referenced standards. The introductory text to the element 'Normative References' in International Standards (ISO & IEC) and in European Standards (EN) is rather misleading. It says:

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document.

In fact, not all of the referenced standards are indispensable for a specific application of the standard! As almost each of the referenced standards references other standards, a user would have subsequently to buy a great number of all existing standards. Therefore, the first sentence should be amended for clarity. Proposal of IFAN:

The application of this document determines whether any of the following referenced documents are needed in addition.

Another aspect creating confusion results from the placement of the element 'Normative References' almost at the beginning of an International Standard or a European Standard and not at its end, where references are usually placed. Only after the user has knowledge of content can decisions be made on which referenced standard is needed for an application.

Hence, IFAN suggests moving the element 'Normative References' to the end of standards, as users are familiar with from other places.

A corresponding IFAN Position has been drafted concerning clause 2 'Normative References' in International Standards (ISO & IEC) and in European Standards (EN) and the placement of the element 'Normative References' in the standards.

This IFAN Position document, IFAN EG No. 07-2013, has been forwarded to ISO with regard to a future amendment of the ISO/IEC Directives.

IFAN International Standards Paper Writing Contest

Since its foundation in 1974, IFAN has always been dedicated to increasing awareness in the benefits of International Standards. Being aware that many share the same objectives and that the use of standards needs to be extended throughout the world, IFAN has sponsored related competitions from time to time.

In the past IFAN organised two competitions for posters illustrating the theme: Standards make the world go round. For the first time this year IFAN held a standards paper writing contest on the role of standards in a changing economy. We received 14 entries the majority of which were of a high standard.

The members of the IFAN Board read all the papers, and with great difficulty, reduced them to a short list of 5 papers, all of which scored highly in the first round of the competition.

After much deliberation, the Board has been pleased to announce at the IFAN Conference in London that the winners of the 3 prizes are:

First Prize:

[The Role of Standards in Reviving Zimbabwe's Economy](#)

by Elizabeth Strydom

Second Prize:

[Standards at the Crossroads of Converging Industries: Computer, Television and and Telecommunications Display Interconnectivity](#)

by Joe Bocchiaro

Third Prize:

[Standardization and Norms within Financial Processes](#)

by Martine Brachet, Pierre Epailard

We were pleased and grateful that Pierre Epailard read his paper at the end of the first day of the IFAN Conference in London on the 15 October 2013.



Participants at the 40th IFAN Members Assembly



Winning Poster 2008
Ms Patricia Dind (Germany)



Winning Poster 2010
Mr Adi Baskoro (Indonesia)