



Consejo de Armonización de Normas Electrotécnicas de las Naciones de las Americas
Council for Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards of the Nations of the Americas

**Address given by Sr. Rafael Nava, CANENA Ambassador-at-Large
COPANT General Assembly Meeting, May 11-14, 2009 Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**

On behalf of the members of CANENA, thank you again for your invitation to take part in the COPANT General Assembly Meeting. I welcome the opportunity for the next few minutes, to update you on our most recent activities.

It is important to remind COPANT members that CANENA is not an accredited standards development organization in any country. It is an industry driven process dedicated to enhancing free trade through the harmonization of standards and other technical requirements in the countries of our members. Membership in CANENA is individual and not by country. CANENA Technical Harmonization Committees have defined scopes and the documents they produce are taken into the separate national approval processes by the participating accredited Standards Development Organizations. Through separate agreements and procedures established between the participating SDOs, harmonized national standards are then published. CANENA's published Cooperation and Communication Strategy ensures transparency of the process and is our commitment to acting in a complementary manner with each official national, regional and international standardization entity, including COPANT.

In 2009, CANENA for the first time offered company and association memberships. Now, all individual members from the same company, regardless of their country of residence, can join CANENA under one membership. Recognizing the essential contributions of our industry trade associations, association membership in CANENA provides a seat for a representative of member associations on the newly formed Sustaining Company and Association Advisory Committee (SCAAC), along with representatives from sustaining company members. This new advisory committee will help the CANENA Executive Committee to provide strategic guidance for CANENA.

CANENA once again was pleased to welcome Mr. Peter Clark, COPANT President and CANENA member from Canada, to our 17th Annual Council Meeting in Orlando, Florida on February 25-26, 2009. Mr. Clark briefed our members on the current activities in COPANT. Our members were particularly interested to hear that COPANT has "changed the organization's mandate to broaden the focus from one that zeros in on standardization, to one that also incorporates cooperation between regional and international bodies". This change is evident in the cooperation that is taking place between our CANENA THC61C, *Household Appliances for Refrigeration*, and AMN with respect to IEC 60335-1. CANENA believes the changes in the COPANT statutes even more closely align with our objectives and that this may be the point in time where a Memorandum of Understanding between COPANT and CANENA would add value. We have a formal liaison agreement with CENELEC since 2003 and a cooperation agreement with IEC since 2000 that was just renewed and updated in 2007. The theme of the 2009 CANENA Annual Council Meeting in Orlando, Florida, "Putting Harmonized Standards to Work", centered on strategies for connecting the demand in developing countries for relevant standards, with the portfolio of more than seventy harmonized electrotechnical standards that have been developed through the CANENA process. And even more, to invite those countries to explore the CANENA process and how it can be adapted as an integral part of a national standards system. There are now nearly as many active IEC standards based work programs in CANENA as not, a trend we expect to continue to grow.

The message of CANENA's successful model for voluntary standards harmonization is being carried to the nations of Central America and the Caribbean. As a participant in the three-year program of seminars being conducted by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), CANENA is extending a personal invitation to the industries and standards bodies in these countries to become involved in CANENA.

Multi-national experts who are intimately familiar with the electrical systems throughout our region populate our Technical Harmonization Committees. Through their experience in CANENA they understand that legitimate national differences do exist and must be considered in the resulting standards. As I have mentioned, CANENA's members have initiated many work programs based on IEC standards in recent years. CANENA's members have no bias against IEC standards but do insist that any international standard is inclusive of globally relevant test methods.

CANENA plans to take our annual meeting to San José, Costa Rica the week of March 1, 2010. Initial plans are to develop a surrounding program that focuses both on energy efficiency and electrical safety, two very important priorities for our region. We hope that many of you will join us as we continue to seek broader cooperation and a complementary relationship in standardization.

Thank you once again for inviting CANENA to participate in the COPANT 2009 General Assembly.