



Consejo de Armonización de Normas Electrotecnicas de las Naciones en las Americas
Council for Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards of the Nations in the Americas

**Address given by Sr. Rafael Nava, CANENA Ambassador-at-Large
COPANT General Assembly Meeting, April 12-17, 2015 - Mexico City, Mexico**

On behalf of the members of CANENA, thank you 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.

The 2015 CANENA Annual Meeting with the theme “Electrical Installation Codes and their Influence on the Harmonization of Regional Standards” builds upon the strong cooperative efforts exemplified in the prior three-year series of Mexico, Canada and USA events by expanding the outreach to the host country of Costa Rica. Attendees had the opportunity to hear first-hand the intention of greater development of technical standardization and its usefulness within the national regulatory framework pertaining to product certification requirements directly from Costa Rican industry regulators, producers and other key marketplace stakeholders. The expansion of programs mandating certification of manufactured or imported products is consistent and in alignment with CANENA’s harmonization programs targeting electrical safety. The attendance of a broad cross-section of Latin American countries exemplifies their interest in realizing the benefits of participating with CANENA committees towards eventual adoption of the harmonized standards to further reduce barriers to trade.

Building upon the systems standards approach to energy efficiency presented at the 2014 CANENA Annual Meeting, the keynote address by Carlos Manuel Obregon, Executive President of the Costa Rican Institute of Electricity. He summarized Costa Rica’s composition of the national energy matrix for the group, as well as pointed out the various challenges inherent within balancing the most optimum generation sources with the characteristics of quality, availability and market price. Projects and programs where standards development can play a role to ensure a sustainable future through the energy matrix program, while prominently keeping the national environmental, social and financial priorities in areas of implementation were highlighted.

The roundtable panel forum entitled “What CANENA Really Means” uncovered numerous prospective future strategic initiatives, which the CANENA Executive Committee will consider and address in a planning session to be held in July to support of continual mission evaluation and multi-year strategic direction. In addition, building upon this year’s Annual Meeting theme will lead to visits to the respective Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) for tours of ANCE, CSA and UL laboratory facilities. Onsite location visits will support further learning and understanding of similarities and differences of the processes each respective SDO follows for internal review and resolution of comments, the relevant committee & constituent comment review and resolution, leading to successful publication of a draft harmonized standards.

Once again next year we will welcome COPANT to participate at the 24th CANENA Annual Meeting, to be held February 24-25, 2016 in Mexico City. We very much value the close relationship our Council enjoys with COPANT, and are always open to exploring greater areas of cooperation.

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, installation codes and other technical requirements in the countries of our members. Membership in CANENA is individual, by company or industry association 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 SDOs. 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. To obtain more information about CANENA, go to www.CANENA.org

Thank you once again for inviting CANENA to participate in the COPANT 2015 General Assembly.