

Annual Report 2005

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Issue 5

Retooling the Machinery of Standardization

The reduction in number of technical resources available for voluntary standardization is reaching critical proportions. Through the use of technology and streamlined procedures, standards developers have made significant strides in shortening processing time involved in the administrative area of standardization, but the “brain drain” continues, particularly at the technical development level. Achieving a balanced representation at this fundamental working level of standards development, in most cases, seems now to be

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virtually impractical. To the distain of unfunded stakeholder groups, standardization processes have become

dominated by participants with commercial interests. At that, fewer and fewer commercial companies are investing their technical resources in standardization at the technical development level. In some cases in fact, just a few companies dominate the entire process.

The problem of the shrinking technical resource pool is most evident in traditional national standards development processes, even in larger countries such as Canada, the United States and Brazil. Through the use of technology, SDOs in some countries have recruited balanced stakeholder consensus groups willing to review, comment and vote on draft standards and proposals, but those who labor at the working level sometimes question whether indirectly involved stakeholders have the necessary context that often can only be obtained through the arduous technical discussions.



Regional standardization bodies such as CANENA have provided some temporary relief by pooling technical resources from multiple countries to address national standards having a common scope. This facility benefits the SDOs through broader technical contributions leading to more refined draft standards delivered into the national processes, but it has not successfully attracted a better balance of stakeholder groups.

The volunteer participants benefit by consolidating their technical resource in one forum instead of separate forums in each country. The same can be said for the standards development process of CENELEC in Europe and even in the IEC.

What can be done then to resurrect this failing model? Renewed commitment and investment is the only answer.

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From the President



First, I want to thank the members of the Council for your confidence in electing me to serve as President. I also want to gratefully acknowledge the work of Tony Flood who, for four years, led CANENA

through the evolution of uniform procedures and alignment of necessary resources. The result was the successful completion of a wave of harmonized standards, many of which had been years in the making. These successes are also attributed to the diligent efforts of the national standards development organizations. ANCE, CSA and UL have voluntarily cooperated with each other in a continuous effort to coordinate procedures to efficiently process the harmonized draft standards concurrently through each national system. In addition to this, they con-

tinue to provide needed technical personnel resources in each THC work program.

If we measure CANENA's value based on the number of recently harmonized standards, increased membership, continuous activity of THCs, and the vast reduction in procedure related complaints, we would have to agree that CANENA's value is increasing. Yet we are aware of undercurrents within the larger standardization community that question the Council's role and its interface with official standardization entities throughout the region. I like to think that this is an indication of the growing perception that CANENA has truly become relevant and recognized, although perhaps misunderstood.

As a responsible partner in the standardization framework of the region, crossing national boundaries as a necessary function, the Executive Committee of CANENA in 2004 undertook the task of developing a comprehensive

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cooperation and communication strategy. The resulting document will guide the Council in providing purposeful and consistent communication to CANENA members and other identified national, regional and international entities. The objective is to ensure that CANENA continues to provide real value for all direct participants and complements the activities of the other standardization entities whenever possible.

New Cooperation & Communication Strategy Adopted

CANENA has become a widely known facilitator for electro-technical standards harmonization. Our success in harmonizing electrotechnical standards is evidence that early procedural difficulties are behind us and our necessary resources are aligned to accomplish the directives of the Council and the objectives of our Technical Harmonization Committees (THC). With success comes responsibility, and many are for the first time wanting to know: What CANENA is all about? And, What is CANENA's intended role in the broader standardization community?

In order that CANENA's purpose, processes and intentions are clearly understood, and that our role in the broader standardization community is and remains complementary, the

CANENA Executive Committee at its September, 2005 meeting, approved a broad Cooperation and Communication Strategy. The strategy specifically identifies the official entities directly involved in electrotechnical standardization in countries that may presently be affected by CANENA harmonization activities. It goes on to assign short- and long-term actions to ensure an open channel of two-way communication exists.

The objective of the strategy is to ensure that CANENA seeks the appropriate relationships and establishes the optimum channels of communication to ensure accomplishment of the Council Directives.

Council Directives:

Ensure that

- ◆ harmonized standards developed within CANENA are unimpeded in their adoption in each participating country,
- ◆ the initiation and scope of a CANENA harmonization project has core support from industry, the relevant standards developers and other relevant entities in each participating country, and that
- ◆ CANENA's role in national, regional and international standardization is complementary, periodically assessed and clearly communicated through all channels.

Cooperation

The Cooperation element of the strategy establishes CANENA's intent to develop and periodically assess its role cooperatively with recognized national standardization entities

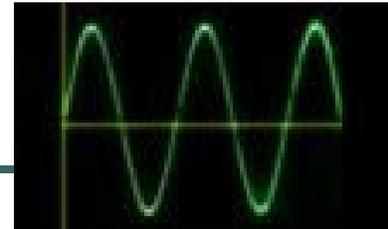
The strategy recognizes that:

CANENA must establish and maintain a complementary relationship with those official entities that determine national standards policies and that provide national representation in regional and international standards forums in countries with CANENA activities.

Each nation with standards that are materially affected by CANENA harmonization activities has official entities with authority over national, regional and international standardization. The primary responsibility for establishing the appropriate, cooperative relationship with each of these identified entities lies with the CANENA Vice President who is elected by CANENA members from that country and represents them on

the CANENA Executive Committee. In this expanded role, the CANENA Vice Presidents, who most often are prominent and active members of their national standardization systems, will provide the desired channels of communication that will ensure the best possible cooperation.

CANENA will continue to honor its official agreements with CENELEC and IEC, and will actively develop appropriate relationships with COPANT and AMN, always respectful of the primary role of official national standardization entities. CANENA's President, Ambassador-At-Large, and Secretary General working cooperatively with the Executive Committee will share the primary responsibility in these areas.



Communication

An important part of the Cooperation and Communication Strategy identifies what and how CANENA will communicate with members and the standardization community at-large, going forward. The following principles have been established:

Official communications shall be purposeful, timely and authorized by the Executive Committee. Unless specifically authorized, neither CANENA nor its members shall claim to represent another standardization entity or its positions through official communications or forums.

The criteria for Council recognition of General Members, and any other class of membership, and the particular nature of each according to CANENA Bylaws shall be clearly and publicly communicated.

CANENA shall continually assess and clearly communicate to its members and the standardization community, its place (role) in national, regional and international standardization activities.

Members in good standing shall be informed on the administrative matters of the Council and the Executive Committee and conduct of

technical harmonization work programs in accordance with published CANENA Bylaws and harmonization procedures.

CANENA's website will continue to be the key resource for member and public communication. Improvements are under consideration that will increase the effectiveness of this resource in communicating the Council's purpose and role as well as information essential to our continued operations. The annual Council Meeting program, this annual report, and special member update communications round out the fundamental communication tools. Importantly, each CANENA member shares in the responsibility for representing the Council in a positive way.

The complete CANENA Cooperation and Communication Strategy document is available for viewing at www.CANENA.org.

CANENA Technical Programs

2005 continued the pace of the previous year with publication of another eight (8) standards harmonized within CANENA. That brings the total number of harmonized standards to forty-nine (49). The following are the most recent standards published:

Binational— Canada and U.S.: *Nonmetallic Mechanical Protection Tubing (NMPT)* (CSA C22.2 No.227.3/UL1696), *Nightlights* (CSA C22.2 No.256/UL1786),
Trinational— Canada, Mexico, and U.S.: *Thermoset-Insulated Wires and Cables* (NMXJ-451-ANCE/CSA C22.2 No.38/UL44), *Sealed Wire Connector Systems* (NMXJ-519-ANCE/CSA C22.2 No.198.2/UL486D), *Wire and Cable Test Methods* (ANCE Pending/CSA C22.2 No.2556/UL2556), *Motor Control Centers* (NMXJ-353-ANCE/CSA C22.2 No. 254/UL845), *Switchboards* (NMXJ-118/2-ANCE/CSA C22.2 No. 244/UL891), and
IEC Based-Binational— Canada and U.S.: *Appliance Switches* (CSA C22.2 No.61058-1/UL61058-1).

CANENA THCs remain a vital part of the maintenance of harmonized standards providing continuity and technical expertise through a common approach. Eight (8) maintenance projects began in 2005.

We continue to see an interest from THCs in exploring IEC standards based work programs. One such program now underway in CANENA THC23B-1 is perhaps one of the most

complex. This THC has electrical switch and outlet boxes within its scope. Having first completed tri-national harmonization of separate national standards for metallic boxes in 2004, the THC decided to leap past its next planned objective, nonmetallic boxes. Instead, it has focused on harmonizing both metallic and nonmetallic box standards with IEC60670 Boxes

and enclosures for electrical accessories for household and similar fixed electrical installations. Taking advantage of the experience of active THC members from Canada and the U.S. who are their country's active participants on IEC 23B MT5, this THC work program is well into its technical review phase where proposals are being developed that eventually are intended to be submitted through the national committees to IEC for consideration by 23B MT5 during a future maintenance cycle. Simultaneously, the THC members are deliberating over the differences in their existing national standards along side of the requirements in the IEC standard as the most efficient means to reduce the number of differences overall.

Technical Activities Summary	
CANENA THCs:	24
Active Projects—Including Maintenance (2005):	58
Published Standards (2005):	8
New Projects (2005):	6

Roadmap for National Standards Development Systems

For active participants in CANENA Technical Harmonization Committees, even the veterans, understanding the distinct national processes for standards development and adoption is difficult. While participants profess to having some knowledge of the system utilized in their home country, even this becomes confusing as they attempt to anticipate the path their final harmonized draft standard will follow as it is introduced into "the system". Now compound this by two- or three-separate and distinct systems processing the draft standard simultaneously. It's little wonder that Council members have asked for a clear "roadmap" to help them understand the similarities and differences in the national standards systems.

ANCE, CSA and UL have each come a long way in providing publicly available descriptions of their individual standards development systems. They have also, for many years, cooperated in publishing formal *Procedures for Harmonizing ANCE and/or CSA and/or UL Standards*, a detailed set of procedures representing their agreement in support of industry driven, voluntary standards harmonization.

Among the issues that seem to constantly astonish the THCs is the time necessary to publish a harmonized standard once they release the final draft to the national SDO or Publication Coordinator. It is important to understand that each national Standards Development Organization operates

under specific rules of accreditation. These rules help ensure broad technical review and even public comment, then official voting, all leading to a consensus national decision. Often, minimum timeframes are stipulated for each stage: to review and comment, to address comments, and finally to vote.



Under pressure to reduce the costly cycle time for developing standards, virtually every SDO on the planet has reviewed processes and implemented technology to shorten each process cycle. So how do national processes compare?

CSA and UL undertook to develop a comparative "roadmap" to answer this question, and now ANCE is ready to integrate their process. The result will provide a composite view of the similarities and differences of the three national systems CANENA harmonized drafts most often enter. This vital information will be very useful to THC members for planning purposes and will make each member a more knowledgeable participant.

Dates to Remember

- ◆ CANENA Council 14th Annual Meeting – March 8-9, 2006 Puerto Vallarta, MX
- ◆ COPANT General Assembly Meeting – April 24-28, 2006 La Paz, Bolivia
- ◆ NFPA World Safety Conference and Exposition – June 4-8, 2006 Orlando, FL USA
- ◆ CSA Annual Conference – June 18-23, 2006 Huntsville, ON Canada
- ◆ IEC Centenary General Meeting – September 24-26, 2006 Berlin, Germany

CANENA and AMN Exchange Views

The first meeting between CANENA and AMN, the Mercosur Association for Standardization, took place in São Paulo, Brazil on September 29, 2005. Stemming from the suggestion by CANENA at the COPANT General Assembly Meeting in May of this year, Carlos Santos Amorim, Jr., President of COPANT, was instrumental in getting the two organizations together for this historic meeting.

The principle objective of the meeting for both organizations, was to share information on the structure, processes, and objectives of each forum. COPANT has begun to realize that the success of their TC 151 Committee, whose responsibility is electro-technical standardization, can be enhanced through cooperation between the active electrotechnical standardization forums in the region. By all accounts, this first meeting was successful in exchanging factual information and establishing the basis for future discussions.



The meeting was attended by Sr. Amorim, Maria Antonieta Gamarra de Velázquez, President of AMN (Paraguay), and Tim McNeive, CANENA President (pictured), as well as Rafael Nava, CANENA Ambassador at large, AMN member representatives from Argentina and Brazil and a number of observers.

According to CANENA President McNeive, "We now have a common understanding of the purpose, motivations and processes of each organization. The description of CANENA membership as individual and voluntary was an important revelation to the AMN participants."

CANENA was given a strong endorsement by Louise de Silva, a guest representing the Standards Council of Canada. She very eloquently described how CANENA is now an integral part of Canadian electrotechnical standardization. She described CANENA as providing expanded technical resources to a system desperately short of volunteers.

IEC Global Relevance— The argument over "Infrastructure"

Two fundamental areas, climate and infrastructure, were agreed upon as the basis for bringing forward essential differences in normative requirements (EDR) in an IEC standard when Global Relevance was first adopted by the IEC Standards Management Board (SMB). Now, opponents of the previously agreed principles have raised issues as to the meaning of "technical infrastructure" creating a challenge to EDRs under present consideration, and the process for implementation of Global Relevance as was previously agreed.

At its October meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, members of the IEC SMB renewed the debate over a definition for "technical infrastructure", but could not reach agreement. This has left present EDRs and the previously agreed implementation process, in limbo.

The principle of Global Relevance has been embraced by IEC National Committees in countries in Europe, the Americas and elsewhere although there are obviously notable exceptions. The proponents view that accommodating for globally relevant products and classes of products in IEC standards is vital for IEC standards to be adopted globally.

Perhaps opponents of the previously agreed principles should look at how this fundamental concept has been

successful in regional standardization. Regional harmonization of legacy standards has been achieved both in CENELEC and in CANENA, among participants who share significantly common infrastructures and who have agreed that they can accommodate variations (essential differences) without introducing unsafe conditions. Many harmonized CENELEC standards have gone on to form the foundation of IEC standards. In more recent years, regional cooperation and harmonization of legacy

in•fra•struc•ture (in'frā-strūk'chər) *n.* 1. An underlying base esp. for an organization or system. 2. The basic facilities, services, and installations needed for a community or society.

standards having a scope very similar to existing IEC standards has taken place in CANENA and elsewhere. But these standards and many of the products and technologies they represent, support an infrastructure that is

sometimes quite different than that in Europe.

It is reasonable to consider that many of the fundamental differences between regionally harmonized standards and existing IEC standards are intrinsically globally relevant with respect to infrastructure. And, it is fair to consider that the products and classes of products reflected by those differences are safely employed at least within that infrastructure.

Hopefully, the SMB will maintain its resolve in implementing Global Relevance as planned and agreed and all members of IEC will embrace the principle as an important means for advancing the goals of IEC.

Retooling... from page 1

In the global economy, virtually every economic sector acknowledges the necessity of effective standards. Today, this need may be more universally recognized than at anytime in history. Then why the failure to fund the system? Have we reached the point where we only respond to catastrophe? Most every developed nation has now published a standards strategy that expresses principles for employing standards as a vehicle for economic development and public safety and security but most of these strategies fall short in addressing the need for investment in technical resources to fuel the engine of standardiza-

tion. The producer sector will continue to provide voluntary resources based on value and risk. A funding model is necessary to increase participation by small and medium sized enterprises to help balance the concern over commercial domination by large enterprises. And, unfunded, or underfunded stakeholder groups must have the opportunity to be full participants thus achieving the desired balance.

While individual nations struggle with this dilemma, it is something most nations have in common. It is perhaps a subject that should be addressed internationally if we truly expect to advance in global standardization.