



Consejo de Armonización de Normas Electrotécnicas de las Naciones en las Américas
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 17-22, 2016 - Guayaquil, Ecuador**

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 2016 CANENA Annual General Meeting held on February 24–25 was based on the theme “An Overview of the Standardization Process, Certification, Verification and Testing: Focus on Mexico”. This year’s meeting was the first of three successive AGM events where a centerpiece of the respective meetings’ activities will include visits to the Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) of each host country. These visits during the consecutive CANENA annual meetings will support further learning and understanding of process similarities and differences that each respective SDO follows for internal review and resolution of comments, along with the relevant committee & constituent comment review and resolution, combining to lead to the continued successful publication of regionally harmonized standards that are consistent with existing electrical infrastructure and installation practices.

The SDO visit to ANCE during this year’s AGM was prefaced by Sr. Pablo Moreno’s, ANCE President, presentation entitled “ANCE – Background, Today and Future”, where the group learned of the origin of the association over 20 years ago, and the challenges it has overcome to become the lead SDO in Mexico with wide international recognition. Sr. Moreno also summarized the projects that ANCE is currently working on to continue the support and innovation of the system of standardization and conformity assessment in Mexico, continuing to drive its vision for the future. CANENA’s Mexico Vice President, Julián Yarza (Director of Standards-Hubbell Mexico) followed up with a talk on the importance and advantages of ANCE standards as a tool for national regulations, along with detailing the role of ANCE’s Technical Committee (CONANCE) within regulations development. In addition, several Mexican electrotechnical industry manufacturers shared success stories, activities and their experiences with ANCE as an important facilitator for Mexican industry development.

The roundtable panel forum theme entitled “Electrical Reform in Mexico” afforded the occasion for representatives from key institutions and other meeting attendees to share, learn and discuss the expectations arising from opening up the power generation market in Mexico to new providers, resulting in a new electrical supply market. The aspect of telecommunications reform in Mexico was also presented, as the main objective here is to enhance Mexican economic competitiveness by bringing down costs and improving the quality of telecom services. Several means to achieve these goals throughout a revamped regulatory regime were offered to the group for consideration, along with talks on the implementation of reform and how Mexico will

begin to address newer technology concepts driven by increasing market demand for products and systems that embody the expanding Internet of Things concept.

Throughout all of the presentations, panel discussions and site tours, AGM attendees had numerous opportunities to hear first-hand about the continued intentions of greater technical standardization development, and its usefulness within the respective national regulatory frameworks pertaining to product certification requirements directly from 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. As was the case at the 2015 conference in Costa Rica, the attendance of a broad cross-section of Latin American countries at this year's event in Mexico City exemplifies the strong interest in realizing the benefits of participating with CANENA committees towards eventual adoption of harmonized standards to further reduce barriers to trade.

Building from the 2015 AGM roundtable panel forum entitled "What CANENA Really Means" that uncovered numerous prospective future strategic initiatives, the CANENA Executive Committee held a planning workshop to better identify organizational strengths and opportunities in support of continual mission evaluation and multi-year strategic direction analysis. The resulting enhancements to CANENA's Vision and Mission statements, as well as accompanying recommendations for organizational improvement towards ongoing membership effectiveness and responsiveness is expected to be presented at some point later this year.

Once again next year we welcome COPANT to participate at the 25th CANENA Annual Meeting, to be held February 22-23, 2017 in Toronto. We greatly 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 towards 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 2016 General Assembly.