



## Information on DEVCO



ISO Committee  
on developing  
country matters

2000

International  
Organization for  
Standardization



ISO is the International Organization for Standardization. It is made up of national standards institutes from countries large and small, industrialized and developing, in all regions of the world. ISO develops voluntary technical standards which add value to all types of business operations. They contribute to making the development, manufacturing and supply of products and services more efficient, safer and cleaner. They make trade between countries easier and fairer. ISO standards also serve to safeguard consumers and users in general of products and services – as well as to make their lives simpler.

ISO develops only those standards that are required by the market. This work is carried out by experts on loan from the industrial, technical and business sectors, which have asked for the standards, and which subsequently put them to use. These experts may be joined by others with relevant knowledge, such as representatives of government agencies, consumer organizations, academia and testing laboratories.

Published under the designation of International Standards, ISO standards represent an international consensus on the state of the art in the technology concerned.

To reach levels of industrial capability comparable to the developed world, national strategies for economic development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition need to focus both on acquiring world class technology competence and achieving a good understanding of technical requirements underlying trade in world markets. In both of these areas, knowing how to use International Standards can bring key advantages to developers of new enterprises and companies in developing countries, and to a country's general economic progress.

After its establishment in 1947, ISO was quickly joined by a number of developing countries. To assist those countries in the fields of standardization and related activities, ISO created in 1961 DEVCO, the ISO Committee on developing country matters, reporting to the ISO Council. The committee is open to all ISO member bodies as participating or observer members, and to the ISO correspondent members as observer members.

At present it has 99 members from all over the world (see page 8).

The committee has a chairman, appointed by the ISO Council for a three-year term, and a secretariat provided by the ISO Central Secretariat in Geneva.

- *Chairman:*

Mr. Gene Hutchinson,  
Botswana

- *Secretary:*

Dr. Anwar El-Tawil,  
ISO Central Secretariat

## OBJECTIVES

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### **To identify the needs and requirements**

of the developing countries in the field of standardization and related areas (i.e. quality control, metrology and certification, etc.) and to assist the developing countries, as necessary, in defining these needs and requirements.

### **To recommend measures**

to assist developing countries in meeting their needs and requirements.

### **To provide a forum**

for the discussion of all aspects of standardization and related activities in developing countries, and for the exchange of experience among the developed and developing countries. This should be done in close liaison with the other ISO policy development committees: CASCO (Conformity Assessment), COPOLCO (Consumer policy), and INFCO (Information systems and Services); the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) and the relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations.

## Meetings

The committee meets once a year to review the needs of developing countries, exchange experiences and consider the implementation of the activities laid out in a three-yearly ISO Programme for Developing Countries known as DEVPRO and recommended for implementation by DEVCO and approved by the ISO Council.

## Monitoring the ISO Programme for Developing Countries (DEVPRO)

The DEVPRO activities include regional training seminars held in the developing countries on topics related to standardization for ISO members and industry; fellowships for further training in the industrialized countries for officers of ISO members; technical committee secretariat training; sponsorships to technical meetings of ISO; publication of Development Manuals for developing countries on technical matters related to standardization.

## Workshops

From time to time workshops are held in conjunction with the annual meeting of DEVCO. These one-day events provide an opportunity to address a subject of particular concern to the developing countries, to generate debate between the industrialized and developing countries and to promote a sharing of experience.

Past workshops have dealt with subjects such as:

- *The ISO Technical Process; Public relations, publicity and information systems;*
- *Relationship between industrial research institutes and standards bodies in developing countries;*
- *Developing countries, needs in low-cost housing;*
- *Reference materials and their application;*
- *Quality – competence in world markets;*
- *Preventing accidents and promoting safety;*
- *Upgrading standardization infrastructure in developing countries.*

The identification of needs of the developing countries is carried out in consultation with ISO members and with the seven Regional Liaison Officers who are appointed in an honorary capacity by the ISO Council. They assist the Secretary-General of ISO in representing ISO interests and acting as ISO spokesmen in their regions.

As a group, they constitute the DEVCO Chairman's advisory committee and are brought together for this purpose once a year.

The Regional Liaison Officers are:

#### South America

*Mr. M. Diaz Portocarrero*

#### Caribbean and Central America

*Mr. Dudley B. Rhynd*

#### South and Central Asia

*Mr. P.S. Das*

#### African region

excluding the Arab countries

*Mr. A.S. Khulumula;*

#### East and South-East Asia

*Mr. Herudi Kartowisastro*

#### Arab and Mediterranean region

*Mr. Hassan Saudi*

#### Central and Eastern Europe

*Dr. V. Koreshkov*

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Development Manual 1

*Establishment and management of a national standards body*

### Development Manual 2

*Conformity Assessment*

### Development Manual 3

*Training of technical staff*

### Development Manual 4

*Teaching of standardization in institutions of higher learning in developing countries*

### Development Manual 5

*The development and organization of a company standards department*

### Development Manual 6

*Application of standards*

### Development Manual 7

*Participation in international standardization*

### Development Manual 8

*Organization and development of a national standards information centre*

### Development Manual 9

*Establishment and operation of a testing laboratory for a national standards body*

### Development Manual 10

*Environmental management and ISO 14000*

Information on courses on standardization and related matters offered by ISO Members are available through ISO's Web site *ISO ONLINE* at <http://isotc.iso.ch> as is information on the Development Manuals.

# ISO / DEVCO MEMBERSHIP

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as of 1 May 2000

## P-members (participating)

Albania	Korea, Dem. P. Rep. of
Algeria	Korea, Rep. of
Argentina	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Armenia	Malaysia
Australia	Mauritius
Austria	Mexico
Barbados	Mongolia
Belarus	Morocco
Belgium	Netherlands
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Nigeria
Botswana	Philippines
Brazil	Poland
Bulgaria	Portugal
Canada	Romania
Chile	Russian Federation
China	Saudi Arabia
Colombia	South Africa
Cuba	Spain
Cyprus	Sri Lanka
Ecuador	Sweden
Egypt	Switzerland
Ethiopia	Syria
France	Tanzania
Germany	Thailand
Ghana	Trinidad and Tobago
Greece	Tunisia
Hungary	Turkey
India	United Kingdom
Indonesia	Uruguay
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Uzbekistan
Israel	USA
Italy	Venezuela
Jamaica	Viet Nam
Japan	Yugoslavia
Kenya	Zimbabwe

## **O-members (observers)**

Bahrain  
Brunei Darussalam  
Costa Rica  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Finland  
Guinea  
Hong Kong  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
Kyrgyzstan  
Latvia  
Lebanon  
Lithuania  
Malawi  
Malta  
Moldova  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
New Zealand  
Panama  
Papua New Guinea  
Peru  
Singapore  
Slovakia  
The Former Yugoslav Republic  
of Macedonia  
Uganda  
Ukraine



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