



e-tech

News & views
from the IEC

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IEC GENERAL MEETING

E-TECH SPECIAL

Making the IEC the home of industry

IEC General Meeting in Oslo

IEC FAMILY

Next IEC President

Council elects Dr Junji Nomura of Japan

Immediate Past President

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IEC General Meeting

This issue of e-tech focuses mainly on the proceedings of the IEC General Meeting that took place in Oslo, Norway from 1-5 October 2012: Elections, awards, management meetings, Young Professionals and Industrializing Country workshops and Affiliate Forum. Not to forget an extensive photo gallery of the event.

IEC GM Oslo photo credits:
Morten Flaten

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Editorial

Focus on IEC General Meeting



Claire Marchand,
Managing Editor of e-tech

This issue of e-tech summarizes much of the 2012 IEC General Meeting proceedings in Oslo, Norway.

Articles in this issue report on the President's address to Council and the IEC activity report presented jointly by Ronnie Amit, who stepped down as IEC General Secretary & CEO on 30 September, and his successor, Frans Vreeswijk. The official handover between Amit and Vreeswijk and a presentation made by the latter early December to the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) Board of Directors are also featured.

Further reports include the election of the next IEC President, Dr Junji Nomura, and an interview with Immediate Past President Jacques Régis. The ceremonies honouring the laureates of the IEC Lord Kelvin and the Thomas A. Edison Awards, as well as the winners of the IEC-IEEE Challenge, management meetings, the Young Professionals and Industrializing Country workshops and the Affiliate Forum complete the table of contents.

Not to forget an extensive photo gallery of the event.



The 76th IEC General Meeting was in Oslo, Norway. Here the Opera House



Nobel Peace Prize Award ceremonies are held in the grand Central Hall of the Oslo City Hall

Making IEC the home of industry

IEC President addresses Council



IEC President Klaus Wucherer addressing Council in Oslo

IEC President Klaus Wucherer began his speech by stressing the fact that the IEC continues to perform well in spite of still difficult world economic conditions. The Commission meets its targets and in some areas even beats expectations. The organization is dynamic and ambitious, doing well but always striving for improvement. He sees this as a major internal management challenge at a time when there are also many external challenges to be met.

Wucherer then addressed a topic that is recurrent throughout the IEC Masterplan: “Making IEC the home of industry”. For him, two questions need to be answered: How to define “home” in the global IEC context and why put the accent on industry rather than on any other stakeholder group?

What and where is “home”?

For Wucherer, the answer to that first question is clear: home consists of the IEC members, the NCs (National

Committees). It is through them all that the IEC can serve its stakeholders and meet their standardization and conformity assessment needs. He encouraged the NCs to represent their various national stakeholders to the fullest extent possible and to make them feel at home in the IEC, where their voice can be heard and valued, where their influence can be felt.



“Making IEC the home of industry” is a recurrent topic throughout the IEC Masterplan

Why focus on industry?

More than any other group, private and public sector industry make the greatest investment in and contribution to IEC work. Industry supplies the vast majority of technical experts who develop IEC International Standards; it is the biggest customer for these standards, and widely uses the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems.

This does not mean that other groups – regulators, trade organizations among them – are not important and make no contribution. On the contrary, they do and should play an important role in IEC activities.

Mapping market trends

Wucherer further stated that, in our day and age, the demand for electricity is growing quickly and the IEC has to be at the leading edge of evolving standardization needs in all electrotechnical sectors. This is where the MSB (Market Strategy Board) has a major role to play.

Looking five, 10 or 20 years into the future, mapping the likely technical and market trends that will lead to IEC International Standards or conformity assessment activities is invaluable to the IEC. The MSB is contributing in an important way and already produced some excellent results that the SMB (Standardization Management Board) and CAB (Conformity Assessment Board) are acting on.

Strong leadership

In the last part of his speech, Wucherer paid tribute to Ronnie Amit, IEC General Secretary and CEO from 1 January 1999 to 30 September 2012, and welcomed Frans Vreeswijk, who took over on 1 October.



Through its members, the IEC can serve its stakeholders and meet their standardization and conformity assessment needs

Wucherer praised Amit's strong and focused leadership which has brought the IEC where it is today. Under his management, the IEC expanded its reach around the world, standardization moved from a paper to a 100% electronic environment, and governance, structure and processes have been modernized and streamlined for greater efficiency. The Commission's finances are sound, giving

the IEC a very strong basis to face the future and its challenges.

Industry men

Wucherer said, "Above all, because he himself was an industry man, Ronnie Amit has done more than anyone to keep the IEC close to its markets and serving their needs. Ronnie Amit is a leader – and that is exactly what we need in our world.

So I cannot finish this address without saying a profound thank-you, on behalf of everyone in this room and the entire IEC community world-wide. (...) But I can almost hear Ronnie Amit saying 'We need to do more!' And that is why we have the new Masterplan."

Wucherer then explained that the single most important requirement considered when selecting the new General Secretary was the ability, experience and commitment to implement the Masterplan. Frans Vreeswijk is also an industry man. He was previously President of the Dutch NC and served on the SMB and Council Board. Under his leadership, the IEC would be in good hands.

Wucherer asked the IEC members to give Vreeswijk the same strong support they gave to Amit. He concluded his speech with the same message he gave in Melbourne the previous year: "This is an increasingly electric world. Electricity is our domain. That means it is an increasingly IEC world. Everywhere there is electricity, there also should be the IEC:"

What makes the difference

Ronnie Amit and Frans Vreeswijk address Council



In his presentation, Ronnie Amit focused on the unique advantages of the IEC

The Oslo Council meeting saw the formal handover between former IEC General Secretary and CEO

Ronnie Amit and his successor Frans Vreeswijk. The traditional Activity Report that Amit initiated at the 1999 Kyoto GM (General Meeting) took a slightly different form this year. First, Amit focused on the unique advantages of the IEC, followed by Vreeswijk who provided an update on IEC Masterplan implementation.

Stability on all fronts

Amit praised the financial stability of the IEC in recent years, which has allowed the Commission to perform well in difficult

economic conditions. He presented some key figures, stressing the fact that the IEC Family, with a total of 163 countries (82 Members and 81 Affiliates) has been stable for several years, providing a truly global reach.

Managing the entire standards development process

Very few organizations outside the IEC can claim that they manage the entire standards development process. In the IEC CO (Central Office) and SMB (Standardization Management Board) provide the complete standardization process from inception to publication.



Frans Vreeswijk provided an update on IEC Masterplan implementation

The SMB is focusing on several key fields for standards development. Among them are Smart Grids, EVs (electric vehicles), renewable energies, energy storage, thermal solar energy and HVDC (high voltage direct current). A systems approach and closer collaboration between TCs (Technical Committees) on specific issues are being established.

One of the great strengths of the IEC is that most of its technical experts and secretaries of Technical Committees come from industry, they are not employed by the NCs (National Committees). For their standardization work, they all benefit from a 100% electronic environment, set up by the Commission, allowing for document sharing, commenting and much more.

Identifying market trends

The IEC doesn't only deliver what industry knows it needs today; it also tries to anticipate what will be required tomorrow.

The MSB (Market Strategy Board) comprises a group of CTO-level members from industries worldwide that greatly benefit from the work of the IEC. The Board keeps a close watch on technologies and trends that require our attention and sets strategies so that the IEC can respond to them in a timely manner.

In this context the MSB organizes market-watch events that provide the IEC with the opportunity to consult directly with market leaders to determine their needs and support new technologies and

markets in a timely manner. This helps avoid duplication of work and encourages those developing relevant technologies to work through the IEC platform from the start.

IEC White Papers

Each year, one or two major technologies are subject to an in-depth analysis by experts in cooperation with eminent international research establishments. They are published in the form of White Papers.

So far the MSB has published three White Papers, which have received a high level of attention by regulators, industries and governments. The first paper on Electrical Energy Efficiency was issued 2 years ago. In spring 2012, the MSB oversaw the publication of the White Paper on Electrical Energy Storage, which led to the creation of a new Technical Committee, IEC TC 120. In October followed a White Paper on the Integration of large capacity Renewables through the use of large-scale Electrical Energy Storage Systems. A fourth White Paper on Microgrids for Disaster Recovery is currently being prepared and publication is planned for the 1st quarter of 2013.

Regional Centres

The IEC also tries to improve workflows by being located increasingly close to our markets. The IEC Regional Centres manage standards development in the same time zone and are able to give answers, often in the local language, taking into account the local culture. They are an integral part of the IEC CO (Central Office). Much of the training is managed regionally and they participate in many awareness building events and activities that benefit the IEC brand and recognition.

The MSB secretariat is managed from Boston, USA. The two Centres in Boston and Singapore are providing services to the secretaries of an increasing number of Technical Committees. Today 52% of Technical Committees are managed from outside the Geneva Office. Our Regional Centre in São Paulo, Brazil, helps us stay

in touch with important organizations and industries in the Americas.

Two of the CA (Conformity Assessment) Systems – IECEx and IECQ – are managed from Sydney, Australia.

Conformity Assessment

The three IEC CA Systems – the third one is IECEE – are the largest and best known multilateral agreements based on one-time testing of products globally. More than 2 500 testing laboratories participate in them. Each of the members of a System automatically accepts the conformity certificates and reports of all the other System members. So there is no duplication, no waste of time or money. With them manufacturers can access markets faster and at less cost. This activity has been endorsed by the WTO (World Trade Organization) TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade) Agreement for many years.

Best in class IT solutions

The IEC has developed IT solutions that have enabled extensive improvement in processes and operations. They respond to the needs of users, are simple, low-cost and provide common platforms for the IEC community. They are available to all NCs and partner organizations. More than 30 000 experts today rely on the IEC Collaboration Tools for document dissemination, group discussions and project management. A new voting and commenting system was put in place in 2011. The first standards in database format, launched several years ago, were well received and there are plans to add several more to the collection.

Involving the younger generation

For the third year, the IEC had a Young Professionals workshop during the General Meeting and welcomed 58 participants from 30 countries who got better acquainted with IEC standardization and conformity assessment activities and had the opportunity to sit in at SMB, CAB and several TC meetings. Four leaders from past years led part of the workshop. The group also elected the three 2012 leaders

who in the coming year will represent the group and share its ideas with the IEC community (see *e-tech* article).

Reaching out to developing countries

The IEC Affiliate Country Programme has proved to be a very successful tool to ensure that developing nations use and adopt international standards. To date, more than 3 600 standards have been adopted at the national level and 36 countries have created a NEC (National Electrotechnical Committee). The programme is helping those countries to comply with the WTO TBT Agreement and encourages active participation in technical work.

Passion and support

All of the above is what makes the difference. This couldn't have been achieved without the spirit, passion and culture of the thousands of people who, through the NCs, make up the IEC's unique contribution to the market.

Before handing over to Frans Vreeswijk, Amit thanked the entire membership for the support and trust they had afforded him throughout his years as General Secretary.

Masterplan implementation

In his presentation, Vreeswijk focused on the implementation of the IEC Masterplan, taking its headings as lead.

Vreeswijk began by reminding the audience that electricity consumption is growing at a very fast rate, which means that the IEC has increasing needs to meet but also a multitude of opportunities.

The IEC Market

The first goal of the Masterplan is to develop closer relationship with the IEC market. Vreeswijk said that ensuring a balanced representation in all IEC NCs, increasing visibility in countries that are becoming key world players in the electrotechnical sector, approaching regulators and intergovernmental agencies, will be on his agenda in the coming months.

The home of industry

For the IEC to be the home of industry, a balanced representation at both the management and technical levels is essential. NCs should first identify the important stakeholders in their country, and then run promotional activities targeted to individual stakeholder groups. Training should be provided to technical people and Young Professionals should be more involved in national activities.

Technology

Electrotechnology is a fast moving sector and identifying upcoming technologies is a must for the IEC. MSB market watch events, the dissemination of information about new standardization work and the systems approach, which essentially consists of working towards technologies and markets rather than products, are put in place to help the IEC react quickly and position itself as the leading platform for international standardization and conformity assessment work.

Cooperation

The IEC already works with many other bodies to promote the use of IEC International Standards and to

avoid duplication of work. NCs have a major role to play in promoting collaboration at the regional level. The IEC is also a pioneer and a leader in providing IT tools for its community of users and will continue to develop solutions that respond to their needs.

Experts and leaders

People make the IEC. Their motivation and passion is central to the quality of the organization. There are many ways in which the IEC can enhance participation and commitment: by reaching out to industry managers to explain the benefits of involvement in IEC work; by providing experts with user-friendly tools and training; by developing further the Young Professionals programme to secure the long-term participation of young experts and leaders; and by increasing awareness of the IEC in academic circles.

Finances, efficiency and the IEC family

The IEC is in a solid financial situation and will continue to monitor markets and seek ideas for new revenue streams in the future. It will protect the IEC brand and business model to ensure the continuation of revenue to NCs and IEC CO from sales of standards and other products and services.

Finally the IEC plans to develop a mentoring programme to broaden participation and demonstrate the value of balanced representation of stakeholders in its work. The idea is for the more experienced NCs to share best practices with new members or Affiliate countries.

In conclusion, Vreeswijk said that historically, the IEC business-like approach had resulted in an efficient, productive and responsive organization and that he felt confident the Masterplan implementation and ongoing dialogue within the community would further improve on that.



A round of applause greeted the announcement of the formal handover between former IEC General Secretary and CEO Ronnie Amit and his successor Frans Vreeswijk

Systems approach

SMB report to Council

Report to IEC Council by James Matthews III, IEC Vice-President and SMB (Standardization Management Board) Chairman.

On behalf of IEC Vice-President and SMB (Standardization Management Board) Chairman Jim Matthews, IEC General-Secretary and CEO Frans Vreeswijk made the presentation to Council and reported on key SMB work over the last year, which has aimed to simplify processes, strengthen technical work, increase overall efficiency and enable broader cooperation.



Jim Matthews, IEC Vice-President and SMB Chairman (left) and Jack Sheldon, SMB Secretary

Performance

The IEC has a very broad and sound technical programme. Over the last months it has produced 451 new or revised standards. The number of TCs (Technical Committees) and SCs (Subcommittees) is stable at 174, comprising close to 12 500 active experts from all around the world. A large majority of these experts come from industry.

New Technical Committee

The proportion of RE (Renewable Energy) is likely to increase in all major electricity markets. However, large-scale incorporation of RE into existing electricity grids remains complex. To accelerate the integration of RE and to enable a more reliable and efficient supply of electrical energy, the IEC created a new TC on EES (Electrical Energy Storage) Systems. The decision to set up IEC TC 120 and to

assign its secretariat to Japan was ratified by the SMB at the Oslo meeting.

Streamlining

In its endeavour to streamline IEC standardization work, it made the decision to disband three TCs with low activity or participation and reassign their work to other TCs. The three disbanded TCs were:

- TC 16: Basic and safety principles for man-machine interface, marking and identification, work reassigned to TC 3: Information structures, documentation and graphical symbols
- TC 39: Electronic tubes, work reassigned to TC 110: Electronic display devices
- TC 93: Design automation, work reassigned to TC 91: Electronics assembly technology

Systems approach

SMB approved the proposals made by ahG (ad hoc Group) 35 relating to the organization of work on systems in IEC. This includes the concepts of Systems Advisory Groups, Systems Technical Committees and a Systems Resource Group.



IEC TC 120 was created to accelerate the integration of large-scale renewable energies into the grid



SMB approved the proposals made by ahG (ad hoc Group) 35 relating to the organization of work on systems in IEC

The recommendations made by ahG 35 include a process with two stages of systems activity and an additional group to serve as a resource for all groups undertaking this systems activity.

Two-stage process outlined

In the first stage, an SSG (Systems Strategic Group), which would be very similar to the current Strategic Groups created and managed by the SMB, would be open to experts from all stakeholders,

and would be expected to write non consensus documents, such as White Papers or Road Maps. They would be able to pass recommendations to TCs or, in a second stage, be transformed into an STC (Systems Technical Committee).

In this second stage, more focused technical work and deliverables are anticipated, including international standards, reference architectures, use cases, and other projects. The STC

would function similarly to an existing TC, but there would be additional obligations imposed on the participation of liaisons and interaction with TCs.

Creation of an SRG (Systems Resource Group) is also proposed to provide for the development of tools and processes as well as sharing of best practices among all the groups undertaking Systems level work.

The SMB agreed that ahG 35 should continue to follow through the implementation and details of the recommendations. Making the systems approach a reality will require dedication of resources to this activity by IEC.

The way ahead

In conclusion, and in line with the implementation of the IEC Masterplan, the key word is openness. To make the IEC standardization work, the IEC technical work needs to be more collaborative and more open to new ways of doing things, new technologies and new ideas.

Regional cooperation high on the agenda

CAB to enhance collaboration with technical and trade organizations

IEC Vice-President and Chairman of CAB (Conformity Assessment Board) Dr Hiromichi Fujisawa presented his report to the IEC Council.

Fujisawa gave an update on CAB activities in the 12 months since the Melbourne GM (General Meeting). He briefly reviewed the progress made by CAB WG (Working Group) 15: Marine energy CA (Conformity

Assessment) and WT CAC (Wind Turbine Certification Advisory Committee). Both are entrusted with the development of a globally harmonized framework(s) for conformity assessment in their respective fields under the auspices of IEC.



From left: Gabriel Barta, CAB Secretary, Hiromichi Fujisawa, IEC Vice-President and CAB Chairman, Klaus Wucherer, IEC President, and Jacques Régis, IEC Immediate Past President

International and regional cooperation

Cooperation with international and regional entities was high on the CAB agenda this year. Facilitating trade and access to the global markets, reducing technical barriers to trade, and eliminating the duplication of efforts among CA organizations are major benefits gained by collaborating closely at all levels.



The IEC and EEC delegations participating in the Moscow meeting in late September

Cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission

Prior to the Oslo GM, an IEC delegation met in Moscow with the EEC (Eurasian Economic Commission), representing the Customs Union of the Federation of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. The outcome of this high-level meeting was the signing of a letter of intention stipulating that all three EEC countries should be able to take full advantage of the IEC CA Systems.

Also in October, Kazakhstan officially applied to become a member country of the IECEE, the IEC System for Conformity Testing and Certification of Electrotechnical Equipment and Components.

ASEAN

At the CAB meeting in Oslo, Standards Malaysia made a presentation on ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) integration initiatives in

standards and conformance, highlighting important progress among ASEAN member states in mutual recognition of CA results. ASEAN member states' harmonized regulations already recognize the IECEE System as competent in assessing certification bodies and testing laboratories, thus qualifying them to be designated bodies in ASEAN. While CAB considers this as a crucial development, it further recommends ASEAN to fully accept all internationally valid CA results, such as test reports and certificates issued by the IEC CA Systems.

CAB proposed to invite regional representatives to its future meetings and also to provide such regional organizations with information on international developments on a common regulatory framework. As an example, CAB cited the UNECE's best-practice recommendations concerning IEC International Standards and the

CA System in the field of explosive atmospheres, namely IEC TC (technical Committee) 31: Equipment for explosive atmospheres, International Standards and IECEx, the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres.

Assessment and re-assessment

CAB also approved the revised MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) between IEC, IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation), which was signed by all parties at the IAF/ILAC Joint General Assembly meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The new agreement includes initial assessments of certification bodies and testing laboratories that are accredited by IAF and ILAC Member Accreditation Bodies and operate as registered members of the relevant IEC CA System(s). The original MoU only took re-assessments into consideration for "unified" assessment.

Taking developing countries onboard

In his report to CAB, Affiliate Leader Phuntsho Wangdi explained that the Affiliate Country Programme of the IEC needed help and support from CAB and the IEC CA Systems to develop conformity assessment activities at the national or regional level. Practical collaboration is already taking place and should continue to grow – earlier this year, IECEE granted IEC Affiliate Countries to attend the management committee meetings of the IECEE System as observers. To that end, CAB mandated its WG 11: Systems issues, to work out, together with the CA Systems and the Programme, the modalities of providing support to countries in developing their understanding and use of CA services. Decisions concerning the enhanced cooperation with Affiliates should be made at the next CAB meeting.

IEC CA Systems

The Systems' financial results for 2011 were approved by CAB. All three Systems showed excellent financial health and are developing well in all respects.



CAB lends its support to Affiliate countries for the development and use of conformity assessment activities at the national or regional level

Safety above all

Lord Kelvin Award goes to German expert

Friedrich Harless received the Lord Kelvin Award for his long-term contribution to the IEC in the field of electrical safety from the hands of IEC President Dr Klaus Wucherer at the Council Statutory Session during the General Meeting in Oslo, Norway.

Systematic risk assessment process

Friedrich Harless has been involved in the work of IEC TC (Technical Committee) 44: Safety of Machinery – Electrotechnical aspects, for many years, and became its Chairman in 2002. His life-long expertise and experience in the safety field were also key to his nomination as Chairman of the SMB (Standardization Management Board) ACOS (Advisory Committee on Safety) in 2004.

Harless has been instrumental in the implementation of a systematic risk assessment process for electrotechnical products, leading to the publication of IEC Guide 116, *Guidelines for safety related risk assessment and risk reduction for low voltage equipment*, and revision of ISO/IEC Guide 51, *Safety aspects - Guidelines for their inclusion in standards*.



IEC Lord Kelvin Award Laureate Friedrich Harless

Benefits of participation in IEC

Under Harless's leadership, ACOS captures the collective interests of manufacturers, regulators and equipment users from all over the world. As Chairman of TC 44, he has managed several fundamental changes, including the transformation from hardwired safety function requirements to programmable electronic techniques. He also supported

the establishment of a common standard with ISO for functional safety based on safety integrity.

Friedrich Harless's contributions to the IEC have spanned decades. Throughout this time he has shared his vast technical knowledge and experience in electrical safety to the benefit of the entire IEC community. Over the years, he has also convinced many global industries and regulators of the benefits of using and participating in IEC standardization and conformity assessment activities.

A great honour

Upon receiving the Lord Kelvin Award in the presence of his peers, Friedrich Harless said: "There are more than 10 000 experts in the IEC community. To be the laureate of such a prestigious award is a great honour. Throughout my career, I have tried to generate benefits for the company that has employed me for close to 40 years, as well as for the IEC. My goal has always been to keep both competitive in an increasingly global environment."



From left: Ronnie Amit, past IEC General Secretary and CEO and his successor Frans Vreeswijk, Friedrich Harless and Klaus Wucherer, IEC President



Harless has been instrumental in the implementation of a systematic risk assessment process for electrotechnical products

Lord Kelvin Award

The Lord Kelvin Award was created in 1995 and named after the

IEC's distinguished first President, William Thomson, The Rt. Hon. Lord Kelvin, one of the most brilliant minds of

the 19th century. Kelvin was an incessant inventor and, through his mathematical genius, significantly contributed to the advancement of modern physics and science as well as the understanding and practical application of electrotechnology. Those who receive the Lord Kelvin Award have the same drive to understand and improve the practical applications of the millions of electrical and electronic devices that are part of our lives.

The Lord Kelvin Award comprises a solid gold medal, a gold lapel pin and a personal certificate signed by the IEC President and the General Secretary.

Friedrich Harless's IEC involvement

- Chairman IEC TC 44: Safety of machinery - Electrotechnical aspects
- Chairman ACOS (Advisory Committee on Safety)
- Observer ACEA (Advisory Committee on Environmental Aspects)

Friedrich Harless used to be an expert in IEC TC 70: Degrees of protection provided by enclosures and in SB (Sector Board) 3: Industrial Automation, which was disbanded in 2010.

Other standardization activities

- German National Committee: Chairman of national mirror committees to IEC TC 44 and IEC ACOS
- ISO/IEC JACMS (Joint Advisory Committee on Machinery Safety)
- CENELEC TC 44: Safety of machinery: electrotechnical aspects
- EU: Standing Committee "Machinery Directive" and CEN Advisory Nucleus "Machinery"

General

Over the past 37 years, Friedrich Harless has held managerial positions at Siemens in Erlangen, Germany. He worked in Development and Marketing at the Medical Engineering Group from 1975 to 1986 and since 1987 has been Head of the Corporate Standardization Department "Electrical Engineering and Safety".

Growing our next generation

IEC Young Professionals Workshop 2012 in Oslo

As part of IEC's focus on broadening its base of professional experts and increasing awareness of its work, close to 60 representatives from 30 National Committees came together to share experiences, network and learn more about the world of international standardization at the successful IEC Young Professionals workshop in Oslo.

Building on the success of previous years

The IEC Young Professional Programme and its annual workshop recognize that the globalization of markets and converging technologies require that tomorrow's leaders become more aware of the strategic importance of standards. The workshop, held during the IEC General Meeting, built on the

success of similar events held in Seattle in 2010 and Melbourne in 2011. There were some familiar faces amongst attendees with Young Professional leaders from previous years sharing their experiences. The 2012 Young Professionals Programme workshop kicked off with a welcome reception on Sunday 30 September. On Monday 1 October, IEC President Klaus Wucherer



Plenaries with combined break-out sessions, attendance at SMB, CAB, and TC meetings and networking

officially opened the event before IEC General Secretary Frans Vreeswijk welcomed participants during the plenary session.

Sharing insights, seeing IEC at work

Over three days, attendees were introduced to the many facets of IEC's work in international standards and conformity assessment from key IEC Officers, staff members and other high-level speakers. They took advantage of the opportunity to observe the SMB (Standardization Management Board) and CAB (Conformity Assessment Board) meetings, as well attending a technical meeting of their choice and taking part in breakout sessions. A breakfast session saw the Young Professionals meeting with their respective National Committee President and Secretary. A Q&A session gave the opportunity to ask questions



Over three days, attendees gained an insight into IEC's work in International Standards

of Technical Officers, while two lunch sessions with SMB members and CAB members provided an avenue for informal sharing of professional experiences and useful networking opportunities.

Two sessions were dedicated to the break-outs which looked at the strategic importance of the IEC's work, how the IEC can communicate more widely about new technical work, best practice in national Young Professional programmes and next steps for the IEC YP programme. On Wednesday morning the Young Professionals had the opportunity to attend interactive sessions on IEC IT Tools, the standards development process, IECEx and preparing to participate in a technical meeting. This was followed by an Open Space session, where participants raised and discussed topical issues of their choice. The afternoon was dedicated to an industry visit to DNV, where the CEO and other company representatives shared their experiences of the benefits that being active in international standardization brings to the bottom line of a company.

In their words...

Feedback from the workshop showed that all participants said they found the Young Professionals Programme experience valuable, 91% said their expectations were fulfilled and almost 90% said they planned to become more involved in the IEC. Many found the time spent with IEC leaders and the opportunity to meet and share with their peers to be very valuable. In the words of

one participant, "it's hard to believe that programme is only three years old, as so much has already been achieved and it seems so mature."

"Being able to sit in at the SMB and CB meetings and also getting to sit in at the TC level, was a great insight. This provided a holistic view from the technical side all the way through to the management side of standards, and that was a good opportunity. Having lunch with the SMB and CAB members was great – we sat down at the table and could ask them about their backgrounds and how they came to the IEC."

Manyphay Souvannarath,
United States

"One of the biggest pleasures I had was meeting Young Professionals from other countries and knowing that I'm not the only one who shares that passion. There are quite a few who share the same passion."

Chetan Ratna, Kenya

"The workshop is a great way of getting an introduction to the IEC work, meet with top management and decision makers in the IEC, as well as networking with colleagues from all over the world."

Tore Langeland, Norway

"It's been well organized, intellectually stimulating, a challenge from a technical perspective – there is nothing that I'd like to change. It's been a wonderful experience."

Michael Grant, South Africa

2012 leaders announced

A key feature of the Young Professionals Programme are the leaders, who act as ambassadors for the programme within the IEC family and help to shape the activities while they are leaders. The workshop saw the election of the three new leaders for 2012 who are:

- Mr Frens J. Rumph from the Netherlands
- Ms Manyphay Souvannarath from the United States
- Ms Marie Caroline Ehrhard from France



Thirty National Committees were represented by almost 60 delegates at the Oslo workshop

IEC wishes the three new leaders every success. You can read interviews with them in *e-tech* in the first quarter of 2013.

Motivated for a future in standardization

The IEC Young Professionals workshop provided participants with an overview of the importance of active involvement

in technical work and the development of standards. Participants expressed their views that work in international standardization and conformity assessment is a key part of career development and that their employers can greatly benefit from their involvement. Workshop attendees came from all corners of the globe and had a wide

variety of backgrounds. Many participants are actively involved in TCs, NCs, or are helping to develop similar programmes for the next generation of standardization professionals in their own countries. For some others, the workshop provided an excellent introduction to IEC, to the work of standardization and it showed in concrete ways how they may become further involved.

Calling Young Professionals for New Delhi 2013

The next IEC Young Professionals workshop is due to take place at the IEC General Meeting in New Delhi, India in October 2013. National Committees are invited to nominate representatives to attend. Potential participants are encouraged to contact their NCs for further details.

For more information about the IEC Young Professionals Programme, please see www.iec.ch/members_experts/yppl/

Council Statutory Session

Report on elections, appointments and other statutory issues

Council, the supreme governing body of the IEC, held its meeting on Friday 5 October 2012 during the IEC General Meeting in Oslo. The morning session was dedicated to the statutory issues of the Commission.

Statutory issues concerning the election/appointment of

- Future IEC President
- Five Members of the CB (Council Board)
- Three Members of the SMB (Standardization Management Board)
- Four Members of the CAB (Conformity Assessment Board)

Other principal items on the agenda

- The General Secretary's report (see *e-tech* article)



IEC Officers

From left: Hiromichi Fujisawa, Vice-President and CAB Chairman, Frans Vreeswijk, General Secretary and CEO, Ronnie Amit, Special Advisor to the President, Klaus Wucherer, President, Jacques Régis, Immediate Past President and Åke Danemar, Treasurer

- Official handover to the next General Secretary (see *e-tech* article)
- Financial matters
- A report from the CB, as well

as separate reports from the IEC Vice-Presidents on SMB and CAB activities (see *e-tech* articles on SMB and CAB)

- Forthcoming GMs (General Meetings)
- Lord Kelvin Award (see *e-tech* article)

Before moving on to the meeting's agenda items, Council expressed its warm appreciation to the Organizing Committee and the Norwegian National Committee for their excellent organization of the 76th IEC General Meeting and for the generous hospitality extended to IEC delegates in Oslo.

Election of the future IEC President

Council elected Dr Junji Nomura of Japan as IEC President for a three-year term of office (1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016) and as President-Elect for the year 2013 (see *e-tech* article).

Election results

CB

Council re-elected one financial Group A member of the CB for a three-year term of office (2013-2015):

- Mr Jun Xie (China)

The CB Members elected / re-elected for a three-year term of office (2013-2015) were:

- Mr Gianni Binacchi (Italy)
- Dr Ralph Craven (Australia)
- Mr Günther Idinger (Austria)
- Mr Ed Tymofichuk (Canada)



The next IEC President, Dr Junji Nomura



IEC Council Statutory Session

SMB

Council appointed as Automatically Appointed Member of the SMB for a three-year term (2013-2015):

- Ms Hong Dai (China)

The SMB Members elected / re-elected for a three-year term of office (2013-2015) were:

- Mr Kim Leon Craig (Australia)
- Mr Svante Skeppstedt (Sweden)

CAB

The CAB Members elected / re-elected for a three-year term of office (2013-2015) were:

- Mr Weijun Liu (China)
- Mr Soo Hyun Baek (Korea, republic of)
- Mr Thomas Korssell (Sweden)
- Mr Simon Barrowcliff (United Kingdom)

Financial matters

Åke Danemar, IEC Treasurer, reported on the financial situation of the IEC.

Council approved the audited accounts of the Commission for 2011 as well as the transfer of the surplus accruing from

2011 operations to the special fund for future investments. Council also approved the proposed budget and distribution of national dues for 2013.

Future General Meetings

- 77th General Meeting
New Delhi, 21 to 25 October 2013, hosted by the Indian NC
- 78th General Meeting
Tokyo, 10 to 14 November 2014, hosted by the Japanese NC

Council formally accepted the invitation of the Belarus National Committee to host the 2015 General Meeting in Minsk from 12 to 16 October.

Although Council can only officially accept invitations from National Committees up to three years in advance, many Members have already declared their intention to host a future IEC GM:

- 80th General Meeting
Germany has expressed an interest in hosting the event in 2016
- 81st General Meeting
The Russian Federation has stated its intention to invite the IEC for the 2017 GM



The theme of the Council Open Session was: Renewable Energy and Future Grids

Thereafter, the National Committees of the Republic of Korea, China, Sweden and the United States have expressed an interest in hosting the GM in the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022 respectively.

IEC-IEEE Challenge Award Ceremony

The IEC-IEEE Challenge Award Ceremony preceded the Council Open Session in the afternoon. The three winners – Ken Krechmer (University of Colorado, USA), Axel Mangelsdorf (BAM Federal Institute

of Materials Research and Testing, Germany) and Joyce van de Vegte (Camosun College, Canada) were present in Oslo to receive their prizes from IEC and IEEE officers (see *e-tech* article).

Council Open Session

The theme of this year’s Council Open Session was: Renewable Energy and Future Grids. Among the presentations during the session, two concerned the latest IEC MSB (Market Strategy Board) White Paper, Grid integration of large-capacity Renewable Energy sources and use of large-capacity Electrical Energy Storage, officially launched in Oslo earlier in the week. Other presentations introduced Norwegian, Korean and Japanese activities in the Smart Grid and energy storage field from the perspective of regulators, user industry and utilities.

IEC Thomas A. Edison Award recipients

Outstanding contributions by current IEC Officers recognized

Five of the seven laureates of the IEC 2012 Thomas A. Edison Award were honoured during the IEC General Meeting week in Oslo in October.

Keeping alive the Thomas A. Edison spirit

Each year the Thomas A. Edison Award recognizes exceptional achievements in the management of IEC standardization and conformity assessment activities by current TC/SC officers (Chairman, Secretary or Assistant Secretary of a Technical Committee or Subcommittee) and officers of the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems and their subsidiary bodies.

The award was created in 2010 and a maximum of nine IEC Thomas A. Edison Awards per year may be granted by the management bodies – SMB (Standardization Management Board) and CAB (Conformity Assessment Board). Seven of these are reserved for

TC/SC officers and up to two for officers in the conformity assessment bodies. To be nominated for an award, TC and SC officers must be active in IEC work and they must have made an outstanding contribution to IEC systems and international standardization work that assists the committee’s key stakeholders and helps the committee to work more effectively.

Awards granted by SMB

The 2012 laureates who received their award during the SMB meeting in Oslo are:



Derek Johns, New Zealand

Chairman, IEC TC 61: Safety of household and similar electrical appliances

Derek Johns is one of the longest serving IEC Committee Chairs and was recently reappointed for a sixth term as Chair of IEC TC 61. He has been actively involved

in standardisation work for the electrical appliance industry for the past 37 years, and has held many positions at both regional and international levels.



Yaping Li, KETOP Lab, China

Chair, IEC TC 95: Measuring relays and protection equipment

Dr. Yaping Li is the first person to have taken on the role of chair in an IEC TC on behalf of China.



Etsuji Sugita, Hakusan Manufacturing, Japan

Secretary, IEC SC 86B: Fibre optic

interconnecting devices and passive components

Dr Etsuji Sugita has held the position of Secretary of Subcommittee 86B,

since 2003, when the Japanese National Committee accepted to host the secretariat. His dedication and contributions to the field of standardization, interoperability and reliable performance of fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components have been recognized by the Thomas A. Edison award.

Two of the laureates distinguished by the SMB could not be present in Oslo and will receive their award at a later date: Karen Higginbottom, Chair,

ISO/IEC JTC 1: Information technology, and Claire Vincent, Secretary, IEC TC 78: Live working.

Awards granted by CAB

The two CAB-nominated Thomas Edison awardees for 2012 are:



**Kerry McManama,
Underwriters
Laboratories,
United States**

Kerry McManama,
General Manager

of global hazardous locations at UL, currently serves as Chairman of IECEx, the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres.



David W. Smith

David W. Smith, currently serves as Chairman of IECQ, the IEC Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components.

Adoption of IEC International Standards

Workshop provides training course for IEC Members and Affiliates



From left: Graham Holloway, course instructor, Dennis Chew, IEC-APRC Regional Director, and Amaury Santos, IEC-LARC Regional Manager

Adoption of International Standards as national standards is an important topic for developing countries. It helps them comply with the WTO (World Trade Organization) TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade) Agreement. To assist IEC NCs (National Committees) and Affiliates in their endeavour to meet these WTO requirements, the workshop for industrializing countries, held in Oslo during the General Meeting, presented an abridged course on "Adopting and referencing IEC International Standards for use in technical regulations for IEC Members and Affiliates".

Broad attendance

The course attracted 54 delegates from 28 Member and Affiliate countries. Also present on the IEC side were Affiliate Leader Phuntsho Wangdi and Affiliate Coordinator for Africa Evah Oduor, IEC-LARC (Latin America Regional Centre) Regional Manager Amaury Santos and IEC-APRC (Asia-Pacific Regional Centre) Regional Director Dennis Chew. They were joined by AFSEC (African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission) President Claude Koutoua and Executive Secretary Paul Johnson, as well as

COPANT (Pan American Standards Commission) Executive Secretary Kory Eguino. The course instructor was Graham Holloway, an Independent consultant in standardization and quality infrastructure.

Background

This is the first time the IEC organizes such training. Based on previous ISO/IEC joint courses on adopting and referencing International Standards – the first one was in Singapore in 2011, the second in Burkina Faso in 2012 – this short version of the training was specifically developed and adapted to meet the needs of the IEC community.

Detailing WTO recommendations

Holloway explained how IEC International Standards can be the basis for technical regulations. He pointed out that in some countries, International Standards can be used as such, while in others, they cannot be used unless they have first been adopted as national standards.

He spent time on WTO requirements and how the use of International Standards, or national standards based



Claude Koutoua (left) and Paul Johnson, respectively President and Executive Secretary of AFSEC

on those, and conformity assessment are instrumental in reducing or even eliminating technical barriers to trade.

Holloway also addressed the health and safety issue. In many countries, consumers are not well informed and have little control over what is on the market. International Standards and conformity assessment, to assess compliance with standards, are part of the solution but need to be supplemented by laws and regulations

that can prevent sub-standard products from being sold.

He offered as an example the model of a WTO-compliant technical regulatory system, explaining in detail what the WTO recommendations are, and how best they can be applied in each country.

Benefits of adopting International Standards

The presentation also included information on ISO/IEC Guide 21, *Regional or national adoption of International Standards and other International Deliverables* rules and procedures for adopting international standards and addressed interactions with regulators.

Participants asked numerous questions, some very basic on the procedures for adoptions, the numbering of adopted standards and so forth. Some were more complex and concerned for

example the harmonization of standards at the regional level, be it Latin America, Africa or the Gulf countries.

In any case, the workshop proved to be extremely useful for all participants. In future, the IEC intends to use parts of this course in presentations to explain the adoption process and why it is beneficial for countries to adopt International Standards as national ones.



Participants asked many questions on the procedures for adoptions of IEC International Standards

Affiliate Forum

Raise awareness, increase participation

The Affiliate Forum has been part of the IEC GM (General Meeting) agenda since 2009 and is a great opportunity for Affiliate delegations to meet, exchange views, share experiences and discuss common challenges and issues, both at the global and regional levels.

This year, 22 delegates from 12 Affiliate countries (Bhutan, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Lebanon, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania and Yemen) were present. They were joined by 8 delegates from 5 IEC member countries (Albania, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Malaysia and South Africa). Also in attendance were Claude Koutoua and Paul Johnson, respectively



From left: Françoise Rauser, IEC Affiliate Executive Secretary, Phuntsho Wangdi, Affiliate Leader, and Evah Oduor, IEC Affiliate Coordinator for Africa

President and Secretary of AFSEC (African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission), as well as Amaury Santos, IEC-LARC (Latin America Regional Centre) Regional Manager.

Report from the Affiliate Leader

After a warm welcome to all from IEC Affiliate Executive Secretary Françoise Rauser, Affiliate Leader Phuntsho Wangdi shared the report he

submitted to the SMB (Standardization Management Board) and CAB (Conformity Assessment Board). He gave an update on IEC Affiliate Country Programme activities and developments since Melbourne. Wangdi also provided feedback received from both SMB and CAB.

Many of the questions that followed Wangdi's presentations were related to the adoption of IEC International Standards at the national level.

Update and feedback on rural electrification

The issue of rural electrification was addressed in a common presentation made by Leon Drotsché and Sivaganthan Jayasingam, Co-Convenors of IEC TC (Technical Committee) 82: Solar photovoltaic energy systems, JWG (Joint Working Group) 1, which prepares guidelines for DRE (Decentralized Rural Electrification) projects being implemented in developing countries.

Both experts gave an overview of the IEC TS 62257 series of International Standards, which deals with recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification, explaining its structure and providing attendees with a complete list and status of all publications pertaining to the series.

Increase participation in technical work

A majority of countries said they were interested in participating in TC 82/JWG 1 work and some even recommended experts.

In conclusion, Drotsché and Jayasingam made a few proposals on behalf of JWG 1, i.e. to recruit experts from Affiliate countries and to promote the active utilization of IEC TS 62257 to end-users by adopting it into national standards programmes.

Focus on regional issues

The last part of the Affiliate Forum consisted of two breakout sessions



Leon Drotsché and Sivaganthan Jayasingam, Co-Convenors of IEC TC 82 JWG 1

where participants focused on regional issues. Françoise Rauser and Phuntsho Wangdi convened the session on Asia-Pacific, while Evah Oduor, IEC Affiliate Coordinator for Africa, led the one on Africa.

Benefits of adopting International Standards

Oduor presented a report on her activities on behalf of the IEC, representing the Commission in the region and facilitating the participation of African countries in IEC work. She also spoke about the ISO/IEC regional course on the benefits of adopting International Standards, held in Burkina Faso in March 2012, and the ensuing meetings Rauser had with the Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire NECs as well as with UPDEA (Union of the producers, distributors and transporters of electric power in Africa).

AFSEC report

Paul Johnson and Claude Koutoua then gave participants an update on AFSEC activities. Johnson provided insights into the structure and work of AFSEC, founded in 2008 with the support of the IEC. AFSEC is responsible for the identification and harmonization of standards in the area of power generation and brings together representatives of the power industries of many members of the African Union.

AFSEC has now set up the first five mirror TCs (Technical Committees) of IEC TCs. A vital next step will be to increase the membership of each TC to include all African Affiliate countries and to motivate them to also become statutory members of AFSEC.

Asia-Pacific

Rauser and Wangdi were joined by TC 82 Co-Convenor Sivaganthan Jayasingam, of Malaysia, for the breakout session attended by delegates from Bhutan, Lebanon and Papua New Guinea. They focused on issues linked to the adoption of International Standards and the establishment of NECs.

It is essential to continue to raise the level of awareness on IEC activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Jayasingam shared his experience from a Malaysian point of view and offered to participate in the forthcoming mentoring programme, expected to be launched in 2013.

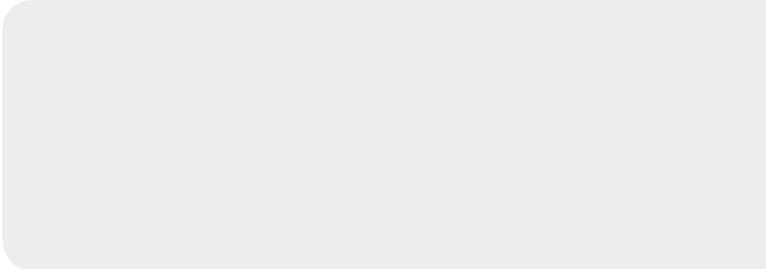


Participants in the Affiliate Forum

Photo gallery

A selection of photos taken during the 76th IEC General Meeting in Oslo, Norway.





Council elects next IEC President

Junji Nomura of Japan will take over Presidency in 2014

IEC Council elected

Dr Junji Nomura of Japan as IEC President for a three-year term of office, starting 1 January 2014.

In March 2012, IEC members were asked to nominate candidates for the position of IEC President in the run up to the October election. With all Council members endorsing his candidacy, Nomura was elected as next President of the IEC on 5 October during the Council Statutory Session in Oslo, Norway.

Representing the IEC

Nomura will become IEC President-Elect on 1 January 2013 and throughout the year he will have the opportunity to familiarize himself with the task ahead and provide support to IEC President Klaus Wucherer. On 1 January 2014, he will take over as President and Wucherer will become IEC Immediate Past President.



Junji Nomura during his speech, thanking IEC Council for his election

The IEC President represents the Commission and is the Chairman of Council, the CB (Council Board) and the ExCo (Executive Committee), as well as the MSB (Market Strategy Board). He serves a three-year term and cannot be re-elected.

Nomura is no stranger to the IEC. Since 2011, as a member of the CB, he has been taking part in the management activities of the organization. He will become the third IEC President



Klaus Wucherer (left) congratulates his successor

from Japan since the founding of the Commission in 1906.

Industry background and experience

Nomura has been Corporate Adviser, Energy Solution Business Promotion at Panasonic, since 2011. From 2004 to 2009, he was CTO (Chief Technical Officer) and Vice President of Matsushita Electric Works Ltd and, after the company changed its name to Panasonic Corporation, Nomura became the CTO, a position he held until 2011. Nomura has spent his whole professional career at Matsushita/Panasonic.

Nomura is a member of several trade and industry associations, including the Nippon Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations) Industrial Technology Committee, the Japan Smart Community Alliance Steering Committee and the METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) Agency for Natural Resources and Energy Study Group on the Scheme for Next-Generation Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Systems.

Nomura has a doctorate in engineering from Kyoto University. The subject of his thesis was "A study on systems approach to some industrial management problems".



Nomura is a member of a METI Study Group on the Scheme for Next-Generation Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Systems

Jacques Régis – a quiet strength

Outgoing Immediate Past President Jacques Régis reflects on his five years at the heart of IEC governance

IEC Immediate Past President Jacques Régis ends his mandate at the end of this year. He shared his views and some of the milestones that marked his term on his six-year involvement in IEC governance for e-tech. Régis is confident the relief of the IEC guard is ensured and says he was impressed by the quality and dedication of IEC staff and experts and by the collective spirit within the Council.



Jacques Régis

Electrical energy efficiency and conformity assessment

When I joined, a central element of my action was to place energy at the core of our activities. I was fully aware that the IEC was an organization that had a unique standing as regards international standardization in a domain that is strategic for the whole economic development of countries. This distinctive position needs being constantly stressed and it is something I tried to do as member of a team, together with the General Secretary, the IEC Officers and the Council Board.

What struck me when I started was that the Conformity Assessment work was not given the prominence it deserved. For my part, I saw it as a central pillar

of the IEC's future, which also sets it apart from other organizations in the marketplace since no one else has anything comparable. It is quite remarkable if one also takes into account all the related knowledge and I really thought that it deserved stressing.

I must say that I am delighted to see several strategic initiatives launched by the SMB (Standardization Management Board) and the CAB (Conformity Assessment Board) that take into account all areas as we deal with all aspects that concern energy efficiency and how to measure it. With all the systems that exist in the world today, we're starting to contemplate an IEC-like system that would give an overall international view on how to assess and measure energy efficiency.

However, we haven't sufficiently managed to communicate to all those involved in energy efficiency what we're already doing in this area where International Standards play a central role.

We must think about the best way to make the widest possible number of interested parties aware of what we can already offer in the energy efficiency domain.

Being more proactive

I thought that it was important to be even more proactive than we were before, to be able to pre-empt the needs that might emerge in standardization as well as in Conformity Assessment. I'm very pleased with the progress made.

There were many initiatives led by the SMB on key issue with the creation

of several Strategic Groups including Energy Efficiency, Smart Grid. IEC-CIGRE (Council on Large Electric Systems) joint Seminar on Ultra High Voltage.

Also, the MSB (Market Strategy Board) was introduced. Its role had already been defined in the previous strategic plan. When I joined in 2007, the new 2006-2011 Strategic Plan was already in place. It was under my mandate that the MSB was launched and began its work with the publication of the IEC's first White Paper on Coping with the Energy Challenge. I found it very rewarding to see our contribution in the energy efficiency domain recognized. I consider this to be a corner stone of our action and one of our strongest assets.

I was also keen to improve our cooperation with ISO (International Organization for Standardization) as well as with CIGRE. The right approach was to deal with issues that might emerge in a timely way.

Ensuring the relief of the guard

I had a number of objectives when I was elected. An obvious one was to pave the way for the future and I always hoped I could do something in that direction. I am convinced that we managed to advance quite some way along that path during my term. As far as the relief of the guard is concerned, the fact that younger people are joining is evidence of this priority, this was managed by the IEC team, and I must say that I think that we did a good job.

I think that the Young Professionals' Programme was one way of giving a concrete form to the idea of what

needed to be done to prepare for the future. The Master Plan is obviously another stone in this construction, as it will help position the IEC in the global standardization market as well as for conformity assessment.

These are very important elements that will make the difference for the IEC in the long term.

Regional forum

I was very keen on another undertaking, namely securing our presence in different parts of the world where international standardization was being discussed. I thought it was essential for the IEC and for its effectiveness. I insisted to ensure that we were represented at the highest level in these, I think of COPANT (Pan American Standards Commission) and other similar regional groupings.

I inaugurated IEC-LARC (the IEC Regional Centre for Latin America) when I was President Elect in 2007; although this initiative had been launched before, I thought it was an excellent idea for promoting IEC work in Latin America. Thanks to Ronnie Amit.

Striking memory

Some of the best memories I will keep from the IEC will be the quality

and dedication of the people working for it who are helping us achieve our objectives.

I hosted the 2003 IEC General Meeting in Montréal where I chaired the opening and closing ceremonies. It was my first contact with the reality of IEC General Meetings, there were some 1 200 delegates, it was a memorable experience. Our experts were involved in IEC TCs and I immediately agreed to host the meeting. I have an excellent memory of this, but it is quite another thing to join the governance, the Council Board, which I entered in 2005, as this allows one to observe from within how all this works.

Before getting involved in the Council Board, I was essentially a user of IEC International Standards when I worked for Hydro Québec, where IEC International Standards are key reference standards. I met many people working in IEC TCs (Technical Committees).

Once in the Council Board, I was asked if I wanted to run for the Presidency of IEC. I had just retired from Hydro Québec as Hydro-Quebec TransEnergie CEO after 35 years, 12 of which in senior management, so my experience meant my profile was interesting for the

IEC, and I was available, which was a good thing as this position is rather demanding. Being elected was quite an emotional experience as this meant a transition from an idea to reality.

First steps

First of all, coming from outside the organization and not being familiar with its inner workings, one has to establish a close relationship with the General Secretary and Council members to be able to contribute more effectively.

I thought it was important to bring as much warmth and cooperation as possible, and to ensure people had more pleasure to participate and contribute as Council Board meetings were then quite formal. I find it important to have more complicity between people, to make them feel more at ease. Ronnie was an outstanding ally in this effort; his support was extremely important for this.

The collective spirit was excellent within the Council Board and the results of all its meetings were very positive and in the IEC's best interest

Ensuring the IEC's future

I think it is important to guarantee a place for the next generation that will take over. It is a good thing to have a programme, but it is not sufficient, we must also ensure the next generation is actively involved in the organization, contributes and shapes its future.

I believe this young generation will make a big difference in the organization's future and in its excellence. Not all organizations manage to do this, but I think we are well positioned in this respect and if we continue on this path we will be able to ensure our future.

What makes us so special and different from other organizations is that we have a well-defined focus in a domain that is strategically central to the world's entire economic prospect. We shouldn't lose



Warm atmosphere and good humour at the Affiliate Forum (IEC General Meeting in Oslo)



For Régis, the IEC must ensure that the young generation is actively involved in the organization, contributes and shapes its future

sight of this and venture doing the same kind of activities which others do. We have a unique and rich business-oriented culture and this must be highlighted.

Developing participation

The IEC showed that it was an organization that was open to all countries that wanted to be involved, allowing them to benefit from everything we had to offer. The Affiliate Country Programme was an excellent initiative, launched before my term, that allowed countries which don't always have the necessary resources to enjoy the benefits of IEC International Standards and of its Conformity Assessment Systems. It helps them acquire a certain expertise and encourages them to take a more active part, and we can see that it works.

No country can afford to ignore IEC International Standards as they are central to any economic development.

It allows them to introduce the world's best practices in their country. This is a unique programme and an extraordinary one and more and more countries have joined the programme, they move on to become Affiliate Plus and then Associate Members, and we hope they will eventually become full members.

The numbers show the interest in the Programme. In 2007 we had around 64 Affiliates, we now have 81. The same applies to Members. All this shows the important role played by the IEC and its participation in the development of international trade. We can be very proud of all this.

Own future

As for my future, I was never the kind of person who planned ahead what I was going to do. I let my lucky star guide me. I am not looking for a job as such, anything specific, it is always possible to

do something useful that we like doing. I'll spend time with my grandchildren. There might be other opportunities, but I am not chasing them. I'm more interested in doing voluntary work that benefits society, this is what guides me. We will see if my experience and skills can be of use to another organization

Besides, I am quite active; I chair two community organizations involved in helping youngsters who dropped out from school in the Greater Montréal area and this keeps me quite busy. It is rewarding to see individuals willing to persevere, who show a desire to succeed after having nearly dropped out completely. This is very rewarding.

As regards my involvement with the IEC over the past five years, as I told a Council meeting, it has been a privilege and honour to chair such an outstanding organization.

New IEC executive leadership

Frans Vreeswijk takes over as General Secretary & CEO



Frans Vreeswijk and Ronnie Amit

At the close of its General Meeting in Oslo, it was announced that Frans Vreeswijk has taken over the role of IEC General Secretary and CEO from 1 October 2012. He succeeds Ronnie Amit, who served as IEC General Secretary from 1999 until 30 September 2012.

Strong personal interest in standards

An electrical engineer by training, Frans Vreeswijk worked for almost 30 years in research, development and general management with Philips. He was head of Intellectual Property

and Standardization for the Healthcare sector of the company. Frans Vreeswijk has a strong personal interest in and commitment to electrotechnology, and has been the President of the IEC Dutch National Committee and has served on the IEC CB (Council Board) and the IEC SMB (Standardization Management Board).

Industry insight

He understands first hand that active participation in international standardization offers very concrete advantages to industry. "Companies who sit at the table where the rules of global trade are being written, avoid

that the competition writes those rules for them," said Frans Vreeswijk. "More importantly, companies who understand the strategic advantage of participating in standardization activities achieve important benefits in terms of market access, waste reduction and resource optimization."

Transition since March 2012

To facilitate a smooth leadership transition, Frans Vreeswijk became the IEC Deputy Secretary General on 1 March 2012. In addition, Ronnie Amit will remain available full-time as Special Adviser to the IEC President until end-January 2013 and then on a part-time



Frans Vreeswijk during his presentation to Council in Oslo

basis through to the completion of the February 2014 IEC management meetings.

Ronnie Amit and IEC

Ronnie Amit brought a wealth of

achievements to IEC to place the organization as the world's leading electrotechnology standards body. In 2004, the IEC was probably the first international organization to switch from paper to a 100%

electronic environment. Today, close to 13 000 experts from industry, government, test and research labs, academia and consumer groups participate in IEC standardization and conformity assessment activities.



Frans Vreeswijk speaking to Target Mchunu of South Africa, Oslo 2012

IEC, under Ronnie Amit's leadership, moved closer to the market with the establishment of its regional centres in São Paulo, Brazil; Boston, USA; Singapore and Sydney, Australia. IEC is continuing to grow its membership base, which now totals 82 Full and Associate Members. At the same time the IEC is reaching out to developing countries through the Affiliate Country Programme, with 81 developing countries participating in it. The IEC Young Professionals programme is encouraging a new generation of experts to become more deeply involved in the world of standardization, earlier in their careers.

Faster horses

IEC General Secretary addresses ANSI Board of Directors

On 6 December, IEC General Secretary and CEO Frans Vreeswijk addressed the Board of Directors of ANSI (American National Standards Institute). During his presentation, Vreeswijk noted that, while the importance of standardization and conformity assessment is dramatically increasing in the global marketplace, standards still fail to get on the radar screen of many CEOs. “Standards are a strategic instrument in competing for markets,” he explained, “but leaders who do not have a technical background often fail to see how very critical standards and conformance are to their bottom line.”

Made in the World

In today’s global marketplace, products, services, personnel, and systems need

to be able to cross borders. According to Vreeswijk, today products are no longer made in a single country, they are ‘Made in the World.’

As part of his presentation, Vreeswijk shared extracts of Global Visions interviews with CEOs from companies that participate actively in the IEC. Thomas Gross of Eaton Corporation stated that his company participates in part because “we can’t have country-specific standards in the future. It will be too expensive.” Videos from the CEOs of UL (Underwriters Laboratories) and Rockwell Automation were also shown; all three videos are available on the IEC’s official YouTube page.

Vreeswijk further noted that emerging countries are becoming increasingly influential in international standardization. He described how, in many Asian countries, standards



Vreeswijk addressing the Board of Directors of ANSI

education begins from a young age. Nations with an increasingly active and educated consumer base reap many benefits from their focus on standards education and outreach.

That is why, Vreeswijk said, identifying tomorrow’s experts and leaders is one of IEC’s primary strategic priorities. The



As part of his presentation Vreeswijk shared extracts of Global Visions interviews with CEOs

IEC Young Professionals Programme was launched in 2010 and has since grown to be a very successful initiative. Many IEC national committees, including the USNC (United States National Committee) have been active participants in this outreach programme from its inception in Seattle in 2010. The new nomination period for the 2013 Young Professionals is going to be announced soon. Young Professionals who have participated in the Programme over the past 3 years are unanimous in their praise, pointing particularly to the ability to gain valuable insights and network with a small and diverse group of highly motivated and intelligent professionals.

Faster Horses

In his presentation Vreeswijk articulated a clear vision for the organization going forward: "Making IEC the Home of Industry." Anticipating industry trends is a key part of the IEC Masterplan and strategic priorities. But it's not enough to ask industry representatives what they need and respond to



Identifying tomorrow's experts and leaders is one of IEC's primary strategic priorities

those requests. The challenge is to look ahead to determine what will be required tomorrow. Vreeswijk explained, "As Henry Ford once said, 'If I had asked them what they wanted, they would have said: faster horses.'"

Joe Bathia, ANSI President and CEO, expressed his pleasure in welcoming Vreeswijk, who was accompanied by IEC President-Elect Junji Nomura, IEC Immediate Past President Jacques Régis, IEC Vice-President and Chairman of the SMB (Standardization

Management Board) James E. Matthews III, as well as former IEC General Secretary and CEO Ronnie Amit.

Bathia concluded: "I speak for everyone at ANSI in saying that we've truly enjoyed hosting Mr Vreeswijk and furthering the partnership that ANSI, its US National Committee, and IEC share. Our discussions were highly productive and informative, and I look forward to future opportunities to work closely with Frans and all IEC staff."

Obituary

IEC Lord Kelvin Award laureate Giovanni Nozza

At the end of November 2012, the Italian IEC NC (National Committee) announced the death of a valued and distinguished member of the standardization community and former Lord Kelvin Award laureate, Giovanni Nozza, at the age of 87.

Total commitment to IEC standardization

Giovanni Nozza's involvement in IEC standardization work spanned more than 50 years. Several IEC TC/SCs (Technical Committees/Subcommittees) benefited from his great expertise and



Giovanni Nozza

experience. Over the years, Nozza participated in the work of IEC TC 17: Switchgear and controlgear, and IEC TC 23:

Electrical accessories, and their SCs. Until very recently he was also active in IEC TC 64: Electrical installations and protection against electric shock, and was Convenor of two TC 64 maintenance teams, MT 12: Verification of electrical installations, and MT 22: Isolation, switching and control (now disbanded), as well as Convenor of the corresponding CENELEC mirror working groups.

He was also a member of IEC TC 64 MT 3: External influences, and MT 9: Disconnecting times and related matters.



Giovanni Nozza (left), with Paul Galbraith, at the TC 64 MT 9 meeting in Zurich, Switzerland, November 2010, the last meeting he attended

Professionally, Giovanni Nozza had been in charge of the Standardization division of BTicino for many years. BTicino, an Italian company that operates in the field of electrical low voltage equipment used for residential, employment and production, proposes solutions for energy distribution, communication and light, sound, climate and security control.

Upon retirement, Nozza became a consultant to the Italian National

Committee of the IEC for its TC 64 mirror technical committee.

Lord Kelvin Award, 1906 Award

In 1996, Giovanni Nozza was awarded the IEC Lord Kelvin Award for his exceptional long-term achievements in his work with the IEC.

Created and first awarded in 1995, the IEC Lord Kelvin Award is named after the IEC's distinguished first President, William Thompson, The Rt. Hon. Lord Kelvin. It is the IEC's highest tribute and is awarded primarily in recognition of the long-term technical contributions that outstanding individuals have made to the Commission.

Ten years later, Nozza was one of the recipients of the IEC 1906 Award. The award, established in commemoration of the Commission's foundation in 1906, honours technical experts around the world whose work is fundamental to the IEC. Each year a maximum of five awards may be granted per TC, including its various subcommittees.



Giovanni Nozza at the celebration of the 100 year anniversary of CEI (Italian National Committee of IEC)

Giovanni Nozza will be remembered by all his colleagues in the standardization community with great affection and appreciation both for his humanity, dedication and immense expertise.

About IEC TC 64

IEC TC 64 prepares International Standards concerning protection against electric shock arising from equipment, from installations and from systems without limit of voltage. TC 64 works on the design, erection, foreseeable correct use and verification of all types of electrical installations at supply voltage up to 1 kV a.c or 1,5 kV d.c., except those installations covered by the following IEC committees:

- IEC TC 9: Electrical equipment and systems for railway
- IEC TC 18: Electrical installations of ships and of mobile and fixed offshore units

- IEC TC 44: Safety of machinery - Electrotechnical aspects
- IEC TC 97: Electrical installations for lighting and beaconing of aerodromes
- IEC TC 99: System engineering and erection of electrical power installations in systems with nominal voltages above 1 kV a.c. and 1,5 kV d.c., particularly concerning safety aspects

IEC TC 64 also works in co-ordination with IEC TC 99 on the design, erection and verification of electrical installations of buildings above 1 kV up to 35 kV.

IEC International Standards prepared by IEC TC 64 lay down requirements for installation and co-ordination of electrical equipment; basic safety requirements for protection against electric shock for use by technical committees; safety requirements for protection against other hazards arising from the use of electricity; provide general guidance to IEC member countries that may have need of such requirements; and aim to facilitate international exchanges that may be hampered by differences in national regulations.

IEC-IEEE Challenge winners' insights

Winners honoured at ceremony in Oslo during IEC General Meeting

The winning papers in the IEC-IEEE Challenge bring insights into the benefits of standards and standardization, from perspectives which range from cloud computing, to the German electricity and electronic industry, to the digital divide.

Role of standardization in development

Winners were honoured at an award ceremony in Oslo, Norway, during the IEC General Meeting last month. With the IEC-IEEE Challenge, IEC partnered with IEEE, the world's largest professional organization advancing technology for humanity, to seek publications that question the perception of electrotechnology, the role technology plays in development and how universal standards influence this process. The theme, "How does electrotechnology impact economic, social and environmental development?" attracted high-level submissions from universities globally.

Ken Krechmer awarded IEC-IEEE Challenge first prize

The IEC-IEEE Challenge first prize and USD 20 000 was awarded to Ken Krechmer from the University of Colorado, USA, for his paper: *Cloud computing standardization*, which addresses how cloud computing promises to dramatically simplify the development and deployment of new economic, social and environmental applications. Standardization of the cloud computing building blocks and interfaces is vital to establishing multi-national markets and to balance the vendor's desire for commercial gain with the public's desire for open interfaces. Commercial gain and open interfaces need not be opposing goals. Krechmer's paper develops how the standards for



Ben Johnson, IEEE, Axel Mangelsdorf, Ken Krechmer, Joyce van de Vegte and Jacques Régis, IEC

these building blocks and interfaces may be designed to maximize both goals.

A lecturer at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he has also taught a graduate engineering course on the theory of standards, Ken Krechmer is no stranger to the winners circle when it comes to standardization paper competitions. In 2006 he received joint second prize in the IEC Centenary Challenge paper competition, and in 1995 and 2000 he won first prize in the World Standards Day paper competition. He is a Senior Member of the IEEE and a Member of The Society for Standards Professionals. Ken came upon standardization at the end of the 1960s and start of the 1970s and in his words, he has "been hooked ever since."

Moving from compatible to adaptable standards

"Standardization was probably something that was of interest to me from a very young age...I was always looking to see 'what was the reference?' I've studied standardization from the historical, economic, mathematical, and the electronics

viewpoint – it's amazing the number of different fields that are directly relevant to standards and standardization. What I'd like to see ultimately is that the major standards organizations focus not on compatibility but what I call adaptability – negotiating how to be compatible."

For cloud computing, Krechmer suggests that it's more a matter of standardization enabling systems rather than enabling one competing technology or another.

"Once we have programmable interfaces, where everything is changeable, we no longer have to specify what's compatible; we merely have to specify a way to negotiate what's compatible. Little and big companies can then compete on a level playing field if they have a better idea. The idea that standards are evolutionary is highly powerful. We are moving away from compatibility standards towards adaptability standards. This is very much in the same way that we have evolved from similarity standards to compatibility standards in the information age."

Standardization's benefits to German electrical industry

Second prize and USD 15 000 was awarded to Axel Mangelsdorf from the BAM (Federal Institute of Materials Research and Testing), Berlin, Germany [1], for his paper: *The benefits of standards and standardization in the German electrical and electronic industry*. Knut Blind, Chair of Innovation Economics, Technical University Berlin, Germany [2], is co-author of this paper. They present a study conducted with 170 companies in Germany. The paper explores how active participation in the standard setting process changes the perception of the strategic value of standards and the real benefits for companies. Based on this research, Mangelsdorf and Blind recommend implementation of a high-capacity, web-based portal to increase companies' participation in standardization processes and to encourage wider standards dissemination. Standards support technological change, impact safety and the environment, and facilitate access to global markets for new products and services. Interoperability standards allow devices from different manufacturers to connect and thereby stimulate economic development.

Axel Mangelsdorf studied economics in Berlin and Montreal. From 2008 to 2010 he was a researcher within the HARTING Graduate Programme "Mittelstand und Innovation" at the TU Berlin (Berlin University of Technology) from where he received his doctorate with honours in fall 2010. Axel Mangelsdorf was a consultant at the World Bank and the World Trade Organization where he worked on TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade) activities. He has worked as a research assistant at the BAM since 2011, where he deals with economic aspects of the national quality infrastructure.

"When I heard about the IEC-IEEE Challenge and looked at the webpage, there were already some papers uploaded. Everything sounded very complicated and very complex. I thought that with our paper on how to use standards and what their impact is, we won't have a chance – and we got the second prize."

Mangelsdorf is keen to educate students on the subject and he is supervising several Bachelor and Masters students who are preparing theses on standardization. With several colleagues, he presents lectures on strategic standardization to engineering, economics and business students

as part of a lecture series within Knut Blind's Chair of Innovation Economics.

"People don't know what they'll get when they hear a lecture on standards and standardization, but after a while they see that standards are everywhere, they are so important."

Bridging the digital divide via international standards

The third prize and USD 10 000 was awarded to Joyce van de Vegte from Camosun College, Canada, for her paper: *Bridging the divide with a three-way handshake*. The paper discusses how historical differences in the access to personal computers triggered a "digital divide" between those who benefit from the Internet and those who do not. The divide encompasses many dimensions – economy, education, health, information – and has tangible effects on human development. The adoption of global Internet standards based on TCP/IP helped narrow the digital divide, and the author demonstrates how Internet standards help bridge other divides as well, improving equity in the economy, education, health, and communication. Van de Vegte states that the benefits of the Internet are still unavailable to many due to language barriers, and that translation will be the next frontier. Robust standards for translations between pairs of languages could produce a seamlessly international Internet, preserving diverse cultural content while offering an increasingly level playing field to all.

Joyce van de Vegte completed her B.A.Sc. in Engineering Science in 1985 and her M.A.Sc. in Electrical Engineering in 1988, both at the University of Toronto. She worked at the Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine for six years, where her research focused on speech recognition and image processing. Now in the Electronics & Computer Engineering Technology department



Jacques Régis and Ken Krechmer



The IEC and IEEE sought papers that challenge the perception of electrotechnology

at Camosun College in Canada, Joyce's teaching areas include digital signal processing, renewable energies and system dynamics. She is also the coordinator of the Engineering Bridge programs. Joyce has a strong interest in internationalization and has taken teaching assignments at the Shan Dong University of Technology in China, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology in Thailand, and the Da Nang University of Technology in Vietnam. She recently completed a certificate in international education with the University of British Columbia, and is engaged in the development of intercultural engineering resources.

Standards advance social and economic development

"I only learned about the IEC-IEEE Challenge two weeks before the

deadline to submit abstracts. What really intrigued me was the focus on the development side. I really feel that engineers can make great contributions to different contexts, in support of projects in other parts of the world."

"The question I asked myself was – "Do standards make a significant contribution to the pace of development and in what way can we contribute?" – partly because I wanted to know the answer. I decided to look at Internet standards in particular as in many places, these can be a vehicle for development. It was quite exciting to uncover – the more I learned, the more I could see exactly how standards can and do contribute in a fundamental way. For example, in the countries where language supports have recently been put in place, the use of the Internet has

grown by 1000s of percent...so that to me is a very powerful thing to note. There's more parity to Internet use, so more access to health information and more access to educational resources."

The publications were judged by a distinguished panel: IEC Immediate Past President Jacques Régis, former CEO of Hydro Quebec, Montréal; Dr Moshe Kam, 2011 IEEE President, and Department Head, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Drexel University; and Paul Markillie, Innovation Editor at The Economist.

1. Dr Mangelsdorf is also affiliated with the Technical University Berlin, Chair of Innovation Economics, Germany.
2. Prof Blind is also affiliated with the Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communication Systems (FOKUS), Germany and the Rotterdam School of Management (RSM), Department of Management of Technology and Innovation, The Netherlands.

Upcoming global events

Global Electronics Forum and Energy Storage 2013

This month we would like to draw your attention to two global events that may be of interest to the IEC community.

Global Electronics Forum Shanghai, China – 13-15 March 2013



GEF will focus on connectivity from a manufacturing perspective

The IEC regularly lends its support to key global and regional industry events allowing them to put forward IEC endorsement on their website and materials. This is the case with GEF (Global Electronics Forum) which is scheduled to take place next March in Shanghai, China.

This meeting of top executives from the electronics industry will focus on connectivity from a manufacturing perspective. The event will feature executive-led discussions on topics including: product innovation, design, maximizing opportunities in developing economies, supply chain management and connectivity challenges.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet with key decision makers from key electronics manufacturing

sectors, including consumer electronics, telecommunications and automotive.

For more information, go to:
www.gef-forum.com/

Energy Storage 2013 Nice, France – 27-28 February 2013

ACI (Active Communications International) will be holding its 3rd Annual Energy Storage summit in February 2013 in Nice, France. The event will bring together senior executives from the utilities industry, TSOs (Transmission System Operators) and DSOs (Distribution System Operators), EES (Electrical Energy Storage) owners, developers as well as manufacturers to conduct a thorough cost analysis and comparison of various EES systems and their roles in the business strategies and blueprints of grid operators.



The event will focus on case studies of large-scale RES (Renewable Energy Source) projects across the globe

The conference will have a heavy focus on case study examples of large scale RES (Renewable Energy Source) projects across the globe, discussing how they overcame economic, political and technological challenges to improve penetration of intermittent RES.

For more information: link to event brochure in the online *e-tech* article

Please let us know if you feel a global/regional event in your industry would benefit from IEC endorsement: info@iec.ch



The IEC regularly lends its support to key global and regional industry events



Multimedia & appliances

A sector in constant evolution

Issue 01/2013 of *e-tech* will take a closer look at technological advances in the field of multimedia and appliances. The consumer electronics sector is evolving at an extremely rapid pace, with innovative new products reaching the market at a never-seen-before frequency.

Trends from International CES in Las Vegas, integration of portable fuel cells in mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets, notebooks and digital cameras will be featured, along with articles describing what IEC TCs (Technical Committees) do in those specific fields.





e-tech

News & views from the IEC

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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

3 rue de Varembé
PO Box 131
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

T 41 22 919 02 11

Contact: iecetech@iec.ch
For more information visit: www.iec.ch

