

Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Another busy period for standards users during the past few months and plenty of activities to come before the end of the year. Unfortunately, we still have violent conflicts in various parts of the world including in Europe. Despite this, we have continued to promote a positive agenda and will continue for the rest of 2023. Of particular note, as you will see in this edition of IFAN's newsletter we celebrated International Women's Day and the video is available for you to review. The Standards development world needs to be reminded that standards need to be written and responsive to women's needs along with numerous other users, including our senior citizens, people with disabilities, disadvantaged and less developed communities. There is no doubt that standards development organizations have made great strides in meeting these multi stakeholders needs, however more needs to be done.

In the newsletter you will also see information on IFAN WG 16 Education and Training webinar on the changing needs of standards users and a report on the SES Conference held in Portland Oregon.

Access to standards in the electronic age is much easier than ever before for many and IFAN has conducted an international survey to seek the views of standards users. The results of the survey will be made available later this year. The response rate was excellent with over 250 received from around the world. IFAN will conduct more surveys in the year ahead.



IFAN President, Ross Wraight

IFAN like many other international non-government organizations relies on volunteer support and active participation of its members, and I wish to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed. I encourage others to join in our global effort in supporting the users of standards.

My best regards

Ross Wraight
IFAN President

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International Women's Day 2023, by Vered Oren



"Many Different languages - one voice" - International Women's Day Video

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on March 8th, with the aim of celebrating the achievements of women around the world, while also highlighting the ongoing struggle for gender equality. The importance of this day cannot be overstated, as it serves as a reminder of the progress that has been made in advancing women's rights, while also highlighting the work that still needs to be done.

It has been a tradition for IFAN to celebrate International Women's Day. This year we decided to produce a video that highlights the common voice of women. We gathered women from around the world to wish happy International Women's Day in their native language. Wishing everyone a happy International Women's Day in many different languages is a powerful way of celebrating the diversity of women around the world. It serves as a reminder that no matter where we come from, or what language we speak, we all share a common goal of achieving gender equality. By celebrating International Women's Day in this way, we are able to show that women are a force to be reckoned with, and that together we can achieve great things. By coming together and raising our voices, we can inspire action and work towards a brighter, more equal future for all women.

You are invited to watch our video in our social media platforms:

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



IFAN would like to thank the Standards Institution of Israel for their sponsorship and particularly for their technical expertise.





*Association pour la Promotion de la
Métrologie et la Normalisation en
République Démocratique du Congo*

International Women's Day message from IFAN Member: APROMEN

On March 8, 2023, the world celebrated International Women's Rights Day. In 1977, the United Nations made International Women's Day official, encouraging all countries in the world to celebrate women's rights on this date.

The International Women's Day 2023 theme is: "For an inclusive digital world: innovation and technologies for gender equality".

This theme highlights the need for inclusive and transformative technologies and digital education to facilitate the empowerment of women and girls.

As part of the celebration, this theme helps to explore:

1. the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities,
2. the need to protect the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and
3. the best ways to address online gender-based violence facilitated by Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

It is worth noting that women's participation in the technology sector results in more creative solutions and offers greater potential for innovations that meet women's needs and promote gender equality; their lack of inclusion, on the

other hand, has enormous financial implications.

Indeed, according to UN Women's Focus on Gender Equality 2022 report, women's exclusion from the digital world has reduced the gross domestic product of low- and middle-income countries by \$1 trillion over the past decade, a loss that will reach \$1.5 trillion by 2025 if nothing is done. Reversing this trend will require addressing the problem of online violence, which a 51-country study found that 38 percent of women had personally experienced.

A gender-sensitive approach to digital innovation, technology, and education can increase women's and girls' awareness of their rights and civic engagement.

Advances in digital technologies offer tremendous opportunities to address development and humanitarian challenges and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

It is observed that growing inequalities are becoming increasingly evident in digital skills and access to technologies as a result of women being left behind due to the digital gender divide.

The need for inclusive and transformative technologies and digital education is therefore crucial for a sustainable future.



SES Conference 2023

By Claudia Bach

SES. The Society for Standards Professionals, held its annual conference earlier this year in Portland Oregon USA. I was able to attend and enjoyed many of the presentations and events.

One thing that was different to me from years past is that the vast number of attendees were from standards developing organizations, rather than from organizations that use standards. However, there were still of interest to someone with a focus on standards users like myself.

Poppy Crum, neuroscientist and technologist from Stanford University, provided the keynote address. Ms. Crum focused on the topic "the Role of Standards in Driving Innovation." Her background in standardization is in the field of "hearables," hearing aids. The talk addressed issues of the interactions of various devices for monitoring and affecting human bodies and the challenges of cross-communication.

Friday's featured speaker was Cynthia Cheng Correia, Managing Director of Knowledge InForm. Her session discussed the use of foresight tools and practices by standards managers, developers, and other stakeholders. These tools can be helpful to organizations trying to gain insight into the direction of future standardization and how to impact the process.

Other sessions that I personally found interesting included "Gender Responsive Standards Guidance," presented by Sonya Bird of UL and Lynne Gibbens of Standards Council of Canada. I also appreciated "Standards Digitization Benefits for Modern



Airline Retailing," led by David Smith of ATPCO. It centered on the migration of a service from a paper-based scheduling format into an interactive service. And Muhammad Ali, from HP and chair of our WG16, participated in the panel "Shifting from PDF to Digital Models in the Manufacturing Industry: What, How and Why." Ali also provided the conference with a session entitled "Navigating a Career in Standards: Let's Create a Virtual CV."

A deeper dive into the conference can be found in the post conference Press Release, found by clicking [this link](#). On a more personal note, in a meeting with Karen Reczek, the current President of SES, discussion was held regarding revitalizing the portion of SES membership who are actual standards users. IFAN members will be pleased to note that when Karen's term as President is concluded at the end of this year, she will personally be leading the efforts to widen the participation of standards users like us within the SES umbrella.



Focus on Education & Training in Standards

IFAN WG 16 on Education and Training hosted the webinar on the topic of changing needs of Standards users and the value of strategic standardization

The webinar was moderated by Muhammad Ali, Sr Standards Strategy & Policy Leader - HP, Inc. and IFAN WG 16 Chair. There were diverse speakers from industry, government, and SDO consisting of Erik Puskar, Sr Standards Specialist, NIST, Stéphane Tronchon, Sr Director Standards & Competition Policy, Inter Digital, and Marianna Kramarikova, Technical Officer, IEC.

Here are the key takeaways from the webinar:

- IFAN Guide 4 on Education and Training about Standardization defining different needs for different roles was referenced number of times in the discussion and its role was highlighted in driving standards education for diverse set of stakeholders.
- School of Talent for Standardization: Speakers discussed the needs for having a diverse framework for developing a robust school of talent for standardization. This includes traditional sets of learning such as webinar and trainings to targeted set of learning such as standards bootcamps and mentorship. It was also noted that preparing the next generation of standards professionals is as important as preparing the current workforce which includes young professionals' programs and university courses focused on standardization.
- Standards and Innovation: We heard that from industry perspective, strategic standardization is key to standards engagement and there are many factors to consider such as IP considerations, resources, benefits, and the SDO/forum policies where participation is being considered.
- Value of Standardization: As Standards are now being increasingly considered as a competition tool among countries for digital and emerging technologies, it is important to raise the value of standardization.



Speakers discussed that to amplify the value of standardization internally and externally, a targeted approach is needed, the use of steering committees is sometime helpful, digital tools can help reach out audiences, and standards system can also play a role in driving a more strategic approach to standards.

- Digital Transformation: In the context of standards, digital transformation is about how standards are developed, delivered, and consumed. We heard and ISO and IEC have already started a pilot for Online Standards Development (OSD) based on XML and rolling it to targeted ISO and IEC committees.
- Last but not least, collaboration and coordination among industry, government, and SDO community is essential to keep the standards ecosystem sustainable, to enable safety, interoperability, and reliability of products, services, and solutions and move forward on standards education initiatives.



Focus on Education & Training in Standards

Teaching About Voluntary Codes and Standards

Cary Coglianese, Edward B. Shils Professor of Law, Director, Penn Program on Regulation, University of Pennsylvania and

Erik Puskar, Senior Social Scientist, National Institute of Standards & Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland USA and corporate member of SES [IFAN Member].

Voluntary codes and standards play a key governing role in the world today. They can help ensure that consumer products are safe. They can enable cell phones and other digital devices to interact with each other. They can affect how buildings are constructed so they can withstand hurricanes and earthquakes. And so much more. When law students and graduate students in public policy learn about "codes" and "standards" they however learn about government rules and regulations-not the voluntary or consensus standards created by non-governmental standard-setting organizations. Despite their technically non-binding nature, voluntary codes and standards can influence industry behavior and have far-reaching impacts on modern products and business practices. Moreover, they can become legally binding when they are incorporated by reference into government regulations.

To help address the deficiency in what professionals know about standards, the Standards Coordination Office at National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) launched the [Standards Coordination Office Curricula Development Cooperative Agreement Program](#). Similar to a grant program, this cooperative agreement program aims to strengthen education and learning about standards and standardization by supporting the development of new courses, modules, seminars and learning resources integrating standards into formal curriculum. The number of awards given each year is based on various factors, such as the number of proposals received and funding available. The evaluation criteria have evolved as NIST continues to improve the program each year, but the essential goal has remained the same: supporting standards education at U.S. colleges and universities.

As one of the many recipients of support under NIST's program, the Penn Program on Regulation at the University of Pennsylvania has created a resource website, www.Codes-and-Standards.org. The purpose of this website is to provide an abundance of curricular materials for faculty in law schools and public policy programs to use to teach their students about the world of voluntary codes and standards. This brief essay explains the rationale behind the creation of Codes-and-Standards.org, as well as descriptions of the resources it contains.

Voluntary codes and standards serve important functions with respect to coordinating and governing. In much the same way that binding regulations can, legal and policy professionals working in the field need to know more about them. Students in law and policy programs learn about how commerce depends on coordinating business behavior and product design to conform to norms that facilitate trade and interoperability. The faculty members who teach these students understand the need for societal norms to protect human health and safety and protect the environment. But the curricula in law and policy predominantly focuses on the design and implementation of legislative and regulatory standards, not voluntary codes and standards.



Teaching About Voluntary Codes and Standards, continued

To help promote greater understanding of voluntary codes and standards, the Penn Program on Regulation has developed a suite of teaching materials prepared by a variety of experts at Penn and elsewhere. Faculty members anywhere can use these materials to integrate formal learning about voluntary codes and standards into their existing courses. The website, Codes-and-Standards.org, houses a rich collection of teaching guides, lesson plans, case studies, PowerPoint slides, videos, handouts, and readings that is freely available to the public. The materials are organized around five "modules," each focusing on a different facet of the world of codes and standards, all of which are suitable for use in a variety of different existing courses offered in law and policy schools. A brief summary of each of these five modules offers a clear sense of the scope of materials available at Codes-and-Standards.org:

1. **Introduction to Codes and Standards.** For any instructor coming to the world of codes and standards for the first time, this module offers overarching resources that can be used in any course touching on voluntary codes and standards. It addresses questions such as: What are codes and standards? Where do they come from? How are they made? It contains materials that can be used to create a stand-alone lesson in any existing course. This module can also be used to supplement the content in any of the other four modules.
2. **Standard Essential Patents.** The module on standard essential patents delves into a critical way that standards intersect with the technology development. The central problem motivating this module arises when a standard-setting organization creates a technical standard that can be met only through the use of someone's patented technology. To prevent the patent holder from extracting undue market power, legal principles require that standard essential patents be licensed on fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory (FRAND) terms. This module is built around a case study of the Microsoft v. Motorola litigation-where a federal court confronted a dispute over what FRAND means-and can be used in courses on intellectual property, patents, contracts, regulatory law, and technology policy.
3. **Incorporation by Reference.** As noted previously, public laws and regulations often incorporate by reference private codes and standards. This module delves into the fascinating issues implicated by incorporating voluntary standards into public law. Since voluntary standards can be copyrighted, they are not always reproduced in public sources of laws and regulations-they are just noted "by reference." This has raised a variety of questions that can be explored in the classroom about government transparency, copyright law, and administrative efficiency.
4. **Health and Safety Standards.** Many voluntary standards seek to protect consumers' and workers' health and safety. This module provides materials for instructors to teach about voluntary standards using a famous U.S. Supreme Court case-Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO v. American Petroleum Institute, or the so-called Benzene Case. It is suitable for use in courses on administrative law, environmental law, statutory interpretation, legislation, and regulatory law.



Teaching About Voluntary Codes and Standards, continued

5. **Building Standards and Federal Preemption.** A final module shows instructors how they can teach about federal preemption by using case studies of litigation challenging green building codes that incorporated by referencing various voluntary energy efficiency standards. The litigation around which the module's materials are organized arose from a claimed conflict between state and local building codes with federal energy efficiency laws. This module affords instructors a concrete context for teaching about federal preemption law, as well as to promote learning about building codes and climate change regulation.

Given the vital role that voluntary codes and standards can play in commerce today, it is appropriate that the training of all professionals involved in business operations and transactions gain a greater familiarity with these standards and how they are developed. The course modules and multi-media case studies assembled at Codes-and-Standards.org, which are all freely available in the public domain, use real-world examples to accommodate teaching about voluntary codes and standards in existing courses. As a result of their detail and structure, the modules can also be used by instructors without any prior background working with standard-setting organizations.

IFAN Survey Results to be released June 27, 2023

IFAN is pleased to announce that the results of our recent survey of standards users worldwide will be released in June. This wide-ranging report documents the first in a regular polling of standards users from every corner of the world. It provides definition of the needs and issues currently facing our community.

This first report looks at a wide variety of issues. These include challenges within organizations that use standards as well as concerns regarding broader community issues, like digital rights management, new publication formats and commercial policies. IFAN, the voice of standards users worldwide, is the only organization with the scope to define these

IFAN Survey

broader issues from a global perspective. As the standards community at large continues to focus on harmonization and broad distribution, this survey and the report we have generated will provide an essential window into the challenges facing IFAN's constituency, standards users themselves.

June

21 June: CEN- CENELEC GA
26/27 June: IFAN Board meets in Geneva

July

6 July: 50th IFAN European Group Meeting, online

September

18-22 September ISO GA Brisbane, Australia

October

IFAN Members' Assembly TBC
23-26 October IEC GE, Cairo

Calendar



For further information on IFAN:

IFAN Publications: www.ifan.org/ifan-publications

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