



A Specialized Body of SAARC

# SARSO NEWS

Newsletter of the South Asian Regional Standards Organization

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SARSO



2019 is galloping and SARSO is keeping pace. Our first tasks have been to strengthen SARSO. Mr. Ramesh Khadka, from Nepal has joined SARSO as a Deputy Director. We have a new Senior Finance Officer.

Initial meetings took place with ISO; Standards Australia; Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute, (BSTI); Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh; PTB Kathmandu and ANSI. Useful partnerships have begun with the SAARC Agricultural Centre, Dhaka and the SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo. SARSO participated in the Workshop on “Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development (QulSP) – 2019” organized by PTB at Colombo.

In the days to come, the above initiatives would open up paths for achieving SARSO’s aspirational goals.

One of the Objectives of SARSO is to present the common interests of the Member States in the various international standardization organizations. With this objective in view, an item has been included in this Newsletter with a brief list of subjects after a Panoramic scan of the 500 odd New Subjects, under various stages of discussion in ISO. It is hoped that this would help the NSBs to examine these subjects for further actions. It is hoped that this information would act as a supplement to the efforts of the NSBs in keeping abreast with the developments in ISO and help forge a SAARC view on these subjects in the relevant committees of ISO.

## WEBINAR MEETING WITH THE ISO



*Webinar Meeting with the ISO*

The webinar Meeting was held between the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and SARSO Secretariat on 29 January 2019. Ms. Pamela Tariff, Head, Membership from the ISO Central Secretariat in Geneva and Mr. E. Devendar, Director General, Mr. Jayantha Sirikumara, Director and Mr Tashi Wangchuk, Dy. Director of SARSO Secretariat participated in the Meeting. Ms. Pamela Tariff congratulated Mr. E. Devendar for his appointment as the new Director General of SARSO. The Director General of SARSO briefed ISO Central Secretariat on the recent developments in

SARSO. The ISO representative and SARSO discussed on further collaboration on areas of mutual interests. The SARSO also sought clarifications on the ISO National Strategy Workshop to be held in March 2019 in New Delhi, India and on ISO subscriber Membership details. Both the organizations agreed for continuous cooperation for the effective implementation of the cooperation agreement. The ISO and SARSO had signed cooperation agreement in the year 2016 to strengthen the cooperation between ISO and its Members in the South Asia region for the mutual benefit of ISO, SARSO and the South Asian Countries.

## ANSI VISIT TO SARSO SECRETARIAT

Ms. Jennifer Comer, Program Manager - International Development and Ms. Attiya Sayyed, Program Administrator, International Development from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) visited SARSO Secretariat on 23 January 2019. Mr. E Devendar Director General, SARSO, welcomed the ANSI delegates.



*Left to right: Mr. Tashi Wangchuk (SARSO), Ms. Jennifer Comer (ANSI), Mr. E. Devendar (DG-SARSO), Ms. Attiya Sayyed (ANSI), Mr. Jayantha Sirikumara (SARSO)*

The delegates from ANSI briefed SARSO about American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The delegates from ANSI briefed on their role to engage with National and Regional Standards bodies and governments to promote the adoption and use of ISO sanitation standards, primarily ISO 30500, non-sewered sanitation solutions and ISO 24521, guidelines for the management of basic on-site domestic wastewater services. The ANSI delegates expressed their interests to work with SARSO and Member

States of South Asia to work together to disseminate information, host workshops, and engage stakeholders in the region on the sanitation standards. The ANSI delegates also proposed to hold regional workshop on the two standards with the National Standards Bodies and water/sanitation experts in the South Asian region. Mr. E. Devendar thanked the delegates from ANSI for the visit and appreciated their interest for collaboration with SARSO and Member Bodies of SARSO.

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA INTERACTS WITH SARSO

A Video interaction was held on 24 January 2019 between Standards Australia and SARSO Secretariat. The Meeting discussed the Indo-Pacific Digital Trade Standardization Initiative led by Standards Australia and funded by Australian Government to provide capacity building in NSBs for awareness, adoption and increase digital trade, digital technologies, prioritize economic sectors and their implementation. Mr. E Devendar, Director General, Mr. K Jayantha Sirikumara, Director, and Mr. Tashi Wangchuk, Deputy Director (SARSO) and Ms. Lucy Chalmers, International Engagement

Manager (Standards Australia) were present during the interaction. Ms. Lucy Chalmers briefed the project phases, counterpart National Standards Bodies (NSBs) and other stakeholders along with targeted outcomes of Indo-Pacific Digital Trade Standardization Initiative. Ms. Chalmers also mentioned that the project is a three-year standards trade enabling program and Standards Australia would work with counterpart National Standards Bodies (NSBs) and other stakeholders to identify and deliver institutional strengthening and capacity building activities.



Ms. Lucy Chalmers also proposed for a visit to SARSO Secretariat at the end of April 2019. Mr. E Devendar, Director General (SARSO) appreciated Standards Australia for the Indo-Pacific Digital Trade Standardization Initiative and welcomed the visit of Standards Australia.



*Interaction with Standards Australia*

## COURTESY CALL ON WITH THE DG, BSTI

Mr. E. Devendar, Director General of SARSO paid a courtesy call on with Mr. Md. Muazzem Hossain, Director General of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) on 05 February 2019.

The Director General, SARSO briefed Mr. Md. Muazzem Hossain, the latest developments and progress of SARSO and thanked BSTI for their persistent support and guidance. The Director General, BSTI extended his appreciation towards SARSO's progress and committed his continuous support to the activities of SARSO.



*Left to right: Mr. Tashi Wangchuk (SARSO), Mr. E. Devendar (DG-SARSO), Mr. Md. Muazzem Hossain (DG-BSTI), Mr. Jayantha Sirikumara (SARSO)*

## AUDIT OF SARSO HELD



*The JAT18 team with the Director General of SARSO*

The Joint Audit on the Accounts and Operations of the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO), Dhaka for the period 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 was successfully conducted from 24 to 25 February 2019. The Joint Audit Team (JAT18) comprised of Mr. Rabindra Prasad Devkota, Director, Office of the Auditor General of Nepal, Mr. Muhammad Jan, Director General Audit, District Governments, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Office of the

Auditor General of Pakistan and Mr. Muhammad Ishaq, Director Establishment, Controller General of Accounts, Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan. The JAT18 audited the accompanying Financial Statements based on the financial rules and regulations of the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO), which comprise the Statement of Receipts and Payments and schedules forming part of the Financial Statements for financial year of 2018.

## COURTESY CALL ON WITH MOFA, BANGLADESH

The SARSO Secretariat team led by Mr. E Devendar, Director General paid courtesy call on meeting with Mr. Md. Shamsul Haque, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SAARC and BIMSTEC Wing), Bangladesh on 05 March 2019. The Director General, SARSO briefed the ongoing activities of SARSO. Mr. Md. Shamsul Haque welcomed the SARSO delegates. Mr. E Devendar briefed the ongoing activities of SARSO. Ms. Israt Ara, Director, Mr. Tanmoy Mujumder, Senior Assistance Secretary (SAARC & BIMSTEC wing), Mr. K Jayantha Sirikumara, Director, (SARSO) and Mr. Tashi Wangchuk, Deputy Director (SARSO) were also present during the discussion session.





*Discussion with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SAARC & BIMSTEC Wing), Bangladesh*



*Mr. Md. Shamsul Haque, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SAARC & BIMSTEC), Bangladesh (left)  
Mr. E Devendar, Director General, SARSO (right)*

## MEETING WITH PTB-GERMANY



*(left to right): Dr. V.T. Chitnis (PTB Expert), Mr. Uwe Miesner (South Asia Representative, PTB) and Mr. E. Devendar, Director General, SARSO*

Mr. Uwe Miesner, Regional Representative South Asia, PTB-Germany and Dr. V.T. Chitnis, PTB expert visited SARSO Secretariat on 31 March 2019. Mr. E Devendar, Director General, SARSO welcomed the delegation from PTB-Germany. The meeting discussed about Strengthening regional integration and cooperation in the field of quality infrastructure in SAARC under the SAARC-PTB Project (phase 3). Mr. K Jayantha Sirikumara, Director and Mr. Tashi Wangchuk, Deputy Director and Mr. Ramesh Khadka, Deputy Director (SARSO) were present during the meeting. Mr. Uwe Miesner in his presentation

highlighted core areas of PTB international cooperation with special focus on SAARC-PTB Project Phase 3. Mr. Uwe Miesner briefly described the project module objectives, its indicators along with budget and main stakeholders. Dr V.T. Chitnis presented the project plan for regional cooperation in the field of metrology with proposed activities. During meeting, Mr. E Devendar briefed the present status of SARSO and highlighted the different fields of support needed for Strengthening of SARSO under the SAARC-PTB Project (phase 3).



## REGIONAL KICK-OFF WORKSHOP OF THE BLENDED LEARNING COURSE ON QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE HELD IN COLOMBO

The Regional kick-off workshop of the Blended Learning Course Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development (QulSP) under the SAARC-PTB Project 'Strengthening regional integration and cooperation in the field of quality infrastructure in South Asia', was held from 25 to 28 February 2019 in

Colombo, Sri Lanka. Mr. K Jayantha Sirikumara, Director of SARSO participated in the workshop. QulSP is a unique training concept providing an introduction to quality infrastructure. Its purpose was to raise the awareness of young professionals working in fields related to trade negotiations and agreements.



*Participants of the SAARC Member States with the experts from PTB-Germany*

The learning course had been started before the physical kick-off workshop in Colombo. Participants started with the online phase prior to the kick-off workshop in Colombo. The programme was a workshop blended with learning course with two mandatory workshops and an online phase. The workshop was held with the financial and technical assistance from PTB, Germany. Resource persons for the workshop were a team from PTB-Germany led by Mr. Patrick Dolle, Project Coordinator, International Cooperation, Working Group 9.32, Asia.

The participants of the workshop of the Blended Learning Course Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development (QulSP) also visited Sri Lanka

Accreditation Board (SLAB) on 27 February, 2019. Mrs Chandrika Thilakaratne, Director/CEO SLAB welcomed the distinguished guest at SLAB and presented the Role of Accreditation in National Quality Infrastructure. There were presentation from Sri Lanka Standards Institution and Measurement unit of Standards and Services Department. Mr Sujeewa Akuranthilaka, Director (D.A.), Measurement unit of Standards and Services Department (MUSSD) presented status of the Metrology in Sri Lanka. Mrs Chamari Gekiyanage, Senior Deputy Director from Sri Lanka Standards Institution also delivered presentations on Standards development of the Country.



## A Panoramic View of Emerging Subjects in ISO that may be of interest to SAARC Countries

The following are the list of emerging subjects in ISO forum that may be of interest to SAARC Countries:

ISO/CD 55011	ISO/NP TR 18146
ISO/AWI 23806	ISO/DIS 31022
ISO/IEC NP 24186	ISO/DTS 21192
ISO/CD 20940	ISO/FDIS 21939-1
ISO/IEC DIS 30146	ISO/DIS 22043
ISO/CD 22525	ISO/AWI 9994
ISO/CD 22524	ISO/AWI 22702
ISO/CD 22384	ISO/DIS 16791
ISO/DIS 22392	ISO/DTR 27921
ISO/CD 23044	ISO/FDIS 19932-1
ISO/CD 11193-1	ISO/CD 21680
ISO/IEC Guide 59	ISO/IEC Guide 76

The National Standards Bodies (NSBs) in SAARC Region may examine on these emerging subjects such that they may propose for formulation of SAARC

views on these subjects. This would help the NSBs who are members of ISO to project a regional view in the meetings of the relevant ISO Committees.

*The Secretariat of SARSO congratulates*

*Dr. Mohammad Musa Alami for his new appointment as the Director General of  
Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA), Kabul Afghanistan and*

*And*

*Mr. Md. Muazzem Hossain for his new appointment as the Director General of  
Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), Dhaka, Bangladesh*

*The Secretariat wishes them every success...*

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