

# Importance of international standards

Prof. Shogo Sakakura, Dr. Eng.,  
President, Japanese Standards  
Association

# Outline of Presentation

- The significance of standardization
- The importance of international standardization
- Standardization in information technology

# 1. The significance of standardization

## 1). Definition of standardization:

“Activity of establishing, with regard to actual or potential problems *provisions* for common and repeated use, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.”

## 2). Function of standards

- 1. Promotion of mutual understanding
- 2. Ensuring compatibility, interface coordination
- 3. Coordination of diversity
- 4. Clarifying appropriate product quality
- 5. Achieving policy objectives and eliminating barriers to trade

### 3).Japan's standardization system

- Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS)  
9,300 instances of establishing JIS.
- Operation of the JIS mark system  
13,000 factories in Japan, certified to display  
the JIS mark  
(As of Mar. 31, 2004)

## 4) New JIS mark system

### Fast and Efficient Standard Formulation (since Fall 2003)

#### Utilization of Private Sectors

Utilize the vitality of the private sector, leaving JIS formulation to Competent Standardization Bodies, with JISC performing only a checking function.

#### Utilization of TS

Utilize TS.

Publish draft standards as JIS-TS as quickly as possible.

Test for market relevance.

Where the interested parties reach agreement within 3 years, recognize them as JIS.

Where market relevance is not obtained in that time, the TS will be eliminated.

## **The Industrial Standardization Law**

**(Revised in 2004, go into effect in October 2005. )**

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- **Application of the JIS mark will be allowed for all product .**
- **Private third-party auditing bodies will be able to certify JIS-conformity on their own responsibility. (From October 2005)**
- **Certification will NOT be of the factory, but of the product itself.**

## 2. Importance of international standardization

### 1). World trends in standardization

In pursuit of objectives similar to ours, the countries of the world formulate national standards.

The countries of the EU aimed at unifying the national standards of European countries, raising the quality of each country's industrial products, expanding markets, and increasing their international competitiveness.

ISO9000 : a standard dealing with quality control.

Objective is to give users the ability to use products, parts, and materials with assurance.

## 2). The true meaning of the internationalization of standards (International standardization)

- The true meaning of the International standardization is to unify the world's standards applicable, and thus to enable the maker of a product to export to all the world's countries once it has passed inspection confirming conformity to standards in a given country.

(This is known as “one-stop testing”)

### 3). Problems in international standardization

- Problems : regional ego  
ex: the case of IEC standard on electric washing machines

### 3. Standardization in information technology

#### 1). Priority fields

The Japanese Industrial Standards Committee wrote and put out its “Future Japanese Standardization Strategy.”

Its priorities reflect conditions in world markets.

## Priority fields:

- 1. In order to contribute to the further development of a sound information society, we will work on priority standardization in security technology, coding technology, IC cards, multi-media technology, document processing and data description languages, letter/character codes, content transmission, biometrics, and other areas.
- 2. We will carry out efficient JIS establishment taking full account of developments in international de jure standards, and of developments in de facto standards being formulated in fora such as W3C and IEEE.
- 3. We will work on standardization related to technologies needed for a man-machine interface enabling barrier-free information provision for groups such as the elderly and the disabled.
- 4. Geographic information system (GIS)
- 5. Standardization in basic technologies related to construction of information systems, such as letter/character code-related technology, programming languages, software, and network-use technology.

## 2). Multi-lingual document exchange technology

- Multi-lingual document exchange technology aims at equal exchange of information across languages and cultures among all the people of the world.
- International standards are the only channel that can link developed country developers and the unified demands of developing countries. The best way of proceeding is for developing countries to work to get their needs incorporated in international standards, calling on developed countries to bring international standards into conformance with those needs.

## The host of this seminar, CICC:

The host of this seminar, CICC, has made solving problems of developing country information literacy a major objective. For the past 15 years, it has held forums such as the Asia Forum for Standardization of Information Technology (AFSIT) and contributed to information technology standardization in the Asia region.

In light of the results of the AFSIT activity to date, reporting on the results of the “Multilingual Information Processing Technical Environment Technology” development study which forms a part of the “International Standard Joint Development Study” is highly significant given the situation we face at this time. I very much hope that all countries will continue to work hard to exploit the CICC channel.

# Thank you for your kind attention

Prof. Shogo Sakakura, Dr. Eng.,  
President, Japanese Standards Association  
4-1-24, Akasaka, Minato-ku,  
Tokyo 107-8440 Japan  
URL: <http://www.jsa.or.jp>