

**WTO
TECHNICAL BARRIERS COMMITTEE**

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM
(PROPOSAL OF BRASIL)**

1.GOAL

To promote technical cooperation among the Members' technical bodies, acting on the TBT context, and train human resources from these bodies (of metrology, standardization, technical regulation, and conformity assessment) in particular as a basis to build the technical confidence which is necessary for mutual recognition agreements, with a view toward facilitating business by eliminating unnecessary barriers to trade.

2.FOCUS

- ◆ Metrology (basic, industrial, legal)
- ◆ Standardization and Technical Regulation
- ◆ Conformity Assessment (as defined in ISO/IEC Guide 2)

1.MODALITIES

Technical cooperation/assistance activities hereby considered may consist of several kinds of modalities which can be, *grosso modo*, classified as follows:

- a) technical assistance: transfer of technical and managerial specialized knowledge, in order to allow the establishment, reinforcement and/or improvement of on given technical structure;
- b) technical missions: from one country to another, in order to promote mutual knowledge and understanding of their technical structures and practices;
- c) Training and human resources development: including short, medium and long term activities, such as laboratory assessors courses, implementation of quality systems in labs, uncertainty measurement calculation, etc;
- d) Technical Consultation: that would allow experts from one country to help developping and improving specific areas in other countries;
- e) On the job training: specially designed training programs to allow technicians from one country to work, during a established period, in other countries' technical structures;
- f) Joint technical activities: technical activities performed by two or more experts from different countries aiming at achieving mutual confidence (peer evaluation,

inter-comparison activities in laboratories, etc.)

- g) Meetings such as, seminars, workshops, lectures, etc., in order to present and discuss technical themes;

1.THEMES TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE PROGRAM

4.1. METROLOGY

- ◆ Providing technical assistance for mapping the structures (legal framework and institutions) and facilities (installations and technical personnel) of each country in need thereof, identifying strong and weak points.
- ◆ Designing a program of technical internships in the hemisphere's best trained and best equipped metrology laboratories (both primary and secondary). These internships will be made available to technicians from laboratories in the countries with the most needy systems.
- ◆ Holding specific traveling courses, covering such areas as uncertainties in measurements, metrology and metrological reliability, certifying and qualifying measuring instruments, the fundamentals of industrial metrology, metrology and quality systems, laboratory accreditations, the calibration laboratory quality system (ISO/IEC 17025 Standard), in accordance with identified interests.
- ◆ Organizing courses and technical assistance for groups of calibration laboratories in each country in need thereof, to implement ISO/IEC 17025 Standard.
- ◆ Holding high-level seminars intended to encourage debate on advanced metrology topics as a strategy for promoting interaction between leading figures in the area with researchers and technicians from Members.
- ◆ Conducting studies of the technical feasibility of sharing metrological infrastructure in regional or sub-regional levels.
- ◆ Conducting cross-comparison activities among calibration laboratories.
- ◆ Establishing a panel of visiting consultants to undertake tasks in their specialized areas at laboratories in need of such specialists.
- ◆ Establishing a data base of senior consultants (chiefly retired personnel) to provide longer term assistance and consulting under the auspices of WTO.
- ◆ Designing a program to improve the participation of developing countries in key comparisons under the schedule of the BIPM/CIPM and the Regional Metrology Organizations.
- ◆ Designing a program to help countries to improve or even create their legal metrological structures, including metrology legislation and systems for control and inspection of pre-packaged goods and measuring instruments

4.2. STANDARDIZATION

- ◆ Providing technical assistance for implementing a computerized system for drafting, discussing, voting on, recording, and selling technical standards.
- ◆ Organizing courses to train specialist teams (country delegations) to

participate at international standardization meetings.

- ◆ Organizing courses and providing technical assistance to draw up company standards (of a modular nature) and to assemble permanent standardization structures (in companies and sectoral entities).
- ◆ Organizing courses and technical assistance for groups of standardization bodies with a view toward implementing ISO/IEC Guide 59, “Code of Good Practice for Standardization,” ISO/IEC Guide 21 “Adoption of International Standards as Regional or National Standards” and Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex III of TBT).

4.3. TECHNICAL REGULATION

- ◆ Holding courses to introduce the concepts and obligations of the WTO’s Technical Barriers Agreement (TBT), including the inquiry points.
- ◆ Holding courses to train regulatory agencies in connection with the technical aspects of the regulations.
- ◆ Providing technical assistance for preparing and maintaining national archives of technical regulations.

4.4. CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

- ◆ Holding courses to train auditors in assessing conformity with the requirements of ISO/IEC Guides 62, 65 and 66, of ISO 17010 and ISO/IEC 17025 Standards.
- ◆ Providing technical assistance for national accreditation systems.
- ◆ Organizing courses and technical assistance for the creation and/or consolidation of certification bodies (products, processes, systems and personnel).
- ◆ Providing technical assistance for training specialists (country delegations) to participate at international bodies such as IAF, ILAC and IATCA.
- ◆ Organizing teams to participate in peer evaluations.
- ◆ Providing technical assistance for creating regional or subregional accreditation agencies in accordance with the interest displayed.
- ◆ Supporting joint assessments by accreditation agencies participating in multilateral recognition agreements (MLAs).
- ◆ Supporting on-the-job training for administrators of the hemisphere’s accreditation agencies.
- ◆ Holding specific traveling courses, covering such areas as uncertainties in measurements, certification and qualification of measuring instruments, laboratories accreditation, testing laboratory quality system (ISO/IEC Standard 17025), in accordance with identified interests.
- ◆ Organizing courses and technical assistance for groups of testing laboratories in each country in need thereof, to implement ISO/IEC Standard 17025.
- ◆ Organizing courses and technical assistance for accreditation agencies to implement ISO/IEC Guide 58, “Calibration and Testing Laboratory Accreditation Systems - General Requirements for Operation and

Recognition.”

- ◆ Organizing courses and technical assistance for groups of accreditation agencies aiming at the implementation of ISO/IEC Guide 60, “Code of Good Practice for Conformity Assessment.”
- ◆ Organizing courses and technical assistance for accreditation agencies to implement ISO/IEC Guide 61, “General Requirements for Assessment and Accreditation of Certification/Registration Bodies.”
- ◆ Organizing courses and technical assistance for groups of accreditation agencies seeking the implementation of ISO/IEC Guide 62, “General Requirements for Bodies Operating Assessment and Certification/Registration of Quality Systems.”
- ◆ Organizing courses and technical assistance for groups of product certification bodies to implement ISO/IEC Guide 65, “General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems.”
- ◆ Organizing courses and technical assistance for groups of accreditation agencies seeking accreditation to implement ISO/IEC Guide 66, “General Requirements for Bodies Operating Assessment and Certification/Registration of Environmental Management Systems.”
- ◆ Conducting cross-comparison activities among testing laboratories.

1.COORDINATION

The administrative coordination of the program will be carried out by the WTO’s Technical Barriers to Trade Committee, with the individual program blocks being technically assisted by BIPM/CIPM and OIML (scientific/industrial metrology and legal metrology, respectively), by ISO/IEC (standards) and by IAF and ILAC (conformity assessment). Regarding technical regulation, it would be interesting to receive support from ISO and regional standards bodies in order to clarify the appropriate balance between standards and technical regulations, according to TBT.

2.IMPLEMENTATION

6.1. SPECIALISTS / COURSES / TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Countries with better prepared systems should offer lists of specialists, with their corresponding résumés, to feed the above mentioned specialists data bases.
- WTO shall contact international financial supporting agencies and Member States in order to provide adequate support to the activities of the program.

6.2. PROGRAMMING

Based on the demand and technical assistance availability in each of the above mentioned themes, it should be possible to define a matrix to help the definition of a

concrete set of actions and a follow up system for the program.

This set of actions must be dynamically updated, and WTO should set up a internet site to allow everyone to follow the implementation of these activities and other actions included in the program (accomplished, on going and future activities/actions).