

## Message from the President

### A Golden Anniversary: Celebrating 50 Years of IFAN!

Dear Colleagues,  
Welcome to a very special edition of the IFAN newsletter! As you all know, 2024 marks a momentous occasion: the 50th anniversary of the International Federation of Standards Users!

It's hard to believe that it was five decades ago, in the vibrant city of Paris, that a group of passionate individuals came together with a shared vision: to empower standards users around the world. From those humble beginnings, IFAN has blossomed into a global organization, a powerful voice advocating for the needs of standards users everywhere.

This milestone can't go unmarked! To celebrate our golden anniversary, we're pleased to announce a week-long event in Paris this September. It promises to be a truly enriching experience for all our members.

### A Week of Celebration and Collaboration:

- **International Conference:** We'll kick things off with an international conference, tackling some of the most critical issues faced by standards users today.
- **Members Assembly:** This is your chance to reconnect with fellow IFAN members from across the globe. It'll be a fantastic opportunity to share experiences, discuss common interests, and foster lasting collaborations.
- **Working Group Meetings:** Dedicated working group sessions will allow you to delve deeper into specific standards-related topics and contribute your invaluable expertise.



Vered Oren, IFAN President

- **Meet the Locals!:** Network with the vibrant French standards user community and gain insights into local practices.

This event wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our sponsors: AFNOR, the French standards body, and ACANOR, the French user group. We extend our sincere gratitude for their invaluable contribution. Stay tuned for more details about the Paris event in the coming months.

See you in Paris

Vered Oren  
IFAN President



# IFAN Celebrates Women in AI at International Women's Day Webinar

In honor of International Women's Day, the International Federation of Standards Users (IFAN) held a dynamic webinar celebrating the remarkable contributions of women to the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Women at the Forefront of AI"

The insightful session, moderated by IFAN President Vered Oren, featured two leading AI experts: Shira Weinberg Harel, an AI and Product expert and speaker on gender biases in technology, and Marta Janczarski, National Standards Officer at Microsoft, Ireland.

The engaging webinar explored the significant impact women are making in AI, a field that is rapidly shaping our world. Harel and Janczarski, both accomplished leaders in their respective areas, shared their expertise and experiences, inspiring the audience with their vision for a more inclusive and equitable AI landscape.

## Highlighting Gender Bias in AI

Shira Weinberg Harel shed light on the critical issue of gender bias in AI. Her talk delved into the potential for bias to creep into AI systems during development and implementation, potentially leading to discriminatory outcomes. Harel explored ways to mitigate this bias, ensuring that AI remains a force for good.

## Standardization for a Responsible AI Future

Marta Janczarski, the National Standards Officer at Microsoft, Ireland, focused on the importance of standardization in building a responsible AI future. Her discussion centered around the development of standards and frameworks that can guide the ethical and responsible development and deployment of AI technologies.

Watch the webinar with this [link](#)



# Who's new at IFAN

## Martin Conrads, IFAN Treasurer

With a strong foundation in machine engineering from the Technical University in Munich (TUM), Martin embarked on a remarkable career journey. He began as a Project Engineer at Knorr Brakes Railway Division and spent over 20 years leading the AUDI AG standardization Department. Martin has an extensive experience in standardization. He has been an active member of IFAN since 2001 and has been past president and current board member of ANP - The German Committee of Standards Users.

## Vivian Xia, Newest member of the IFAN Board

Vivian has been the Director of the International Department of the China Association for Standardization (CAS) for many years. In this role, she has: Led CAS's international cooperation and standardization activities.

**Key leadership positions:** Vivian's dedication is evident in her long-standing roles as Secretariat for both the Northeast Asia Standards Cooperation Forum (NEASF) and the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC).

**Championed sustainability:** She played a crucial role in establishing the China National Platform Secretariat of Voluntary Sustainability Standards and currently chairs the NPIC Network under the UN Forum on Sustainability Standards.

**Nurtured future standardization leaders:** Vivian's passion extends to empowering young minds, overseeing national standardization competitions for students, and facilitating participation in the International Standards Olympiad.

Vivian achievements are further underscored by her recognition as "Excellent Employee of CAS" for two consecutive years, and her department's consistent acclaim as "Excellent Department of CAS."

## Individual Membership

This category of membership was introduced in 2023.

The first IFAN individual member was Nicolas Fleury.

Nicolas is a well-respected figure in the world of standardization, and we are thrilled to have him on board.

Nicolas: "Being close to and listening to the users of standards and to the organizations representing them, especially IFAN, has always been an imperative for me. In the past when I oversaw ISO's commercial policy and the sale of ISO standards, but also today in my own consulting activities. My mission is indeed to help businesses and governments "put standards at the core" of their strategies and use them effectively to capture all their benefits. It is also to help them raise their needs with the organizations that develop standards, something I can do thanks to my unique knowledge of the standards ecosystem and its functioning. IFAN is an essential platform for such objectives, and I am delighted, as a new member, to contribute to its work."



Mr Martin Conrads, IFAN Treasurer, from 2024



Ms Vivian Xia, member of the IFAN Board, 2024-2026



Mr Nicolas Fleury, first IFAN individual member





# 23-24

SEPTEMBER 2024

AFNOR hosts IFAN (International Federation of Users of Standards) on their 50th anniversary



## IFAN Week 23-27 September 2024

To celebrate IFAN 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we are returning to Paris for our 51<sup>st</sup> Members' Assembly, Conference and Working Group Meetings.

IFAN was founded at an International Conference held in Paris in 1974, and AFNOR have kindly invited us back to Paris to celebrate.

The programme for the week is:

- Monday 23 September      9.30-10.30 WG1  
   10.30-11.30 WG 3  
   11.30-12.30 WG 8  
   12.30-13.30 Lunch  
   14.00-17.30 Board Meeting
- Tuesday 24 September      9.30-18.00 16th International Conference  
   18.30 Cocktails at AFNOR
- Wednesday 25 September 9.00-13.00 51st Members' Assembly  
   13.00-14.00 Lunch  
   14.00-17.00 Asia Pacific Group meeting  
   Evening Members Dinner, TBC
- Thursday 26 September      9.00-13.00 European Group  
   13.00-14.00 Lunch  
   14.00-17.00 WG16
- Friday 27 September        9.30-12.30 Visit to Gimelec 7 rue de l'Amiral Hamelin 75116 PARIS  
   12.30-13.30 Lunch  
   End

The calling notice for the event will be sent to members towards the end of June, the IFAN Board hoped that all IFAN members will attend either in person or virtually.



# Join the Conversation!

We invite you to join us on social media! We're launched an exciting challenge to spread the word about IFAN's 50th anniversary. Look for updates on our platforms and see who's sending their well-wishes from around the world.

Add a like to [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Youtube](#)

For further information on IFAN:

IFAN Publications: [www.ifan.org/ifan-publications](http://www.ifan.org/ifan-publications)

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