



Benefits of IFAN membership



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BENEFITS OF IFAN MEMBERSHIP

This document appeals to organizations and companies which are proactive in their application of standards and business philosophy.

The International Federation of Standards Users (IFAN) gives its members the opportunity to have a positive influence on the development of strategies and policies in standardization, conformity assessment and other related matters.

IFAN has established formal relationships with international and regional standards bodies by signing Memoranda of Understanding with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC). Under the terms of the memoranda, representatives of IFAN can participate in the general assemblies of these organizations. Currently IFAN, as a liaison organization, participates in the activities of the ISO policy development committee on conformity assessment (CASCO).

IFAN members discuss and review strategies of international and regional standards organizations. As an example, IFAN was deeply involved in the development of the ISO Strategic Plan for 2005-2010 *Standards for a Sustainable World*.

IFAN cooperates on an informal basis with organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), the Industry Cooperation on Standards and Conformity Assessment (ICSCA), the European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for Standardization (NORMAPME).

IFAN members have the opportunity to directly participate in ISO, IEC, CEN and CENELEC projects of interest to them.

For example, IFAN representatives participated in the revision of the ISO/IEC Directives, ISO/IEC Guide 21 (parts 1 and 2) Regional or national adoption of International Standards and other International Deliverables and are currently participating in the ISO project for the development of a standard on social responsibility.

IFAN members coordinate and communicate their needs, views and concerns to international standards developing and conformity assessment bodies.

IFAN develops positions on subjects of interest to IFAN members and

communicates them to the relevant bodies. Recent IFAN positions dealt with the CEN and CENELEC adoption of ISO and IEC standards, the simplification of the range of ISO and IEC deliverables, the creation of a single source for search and delivery of ISO, IEC and ITU standards and the brochure Using and referencing ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations. IFAN members prepare articles related to standardization and IFAN activities which are published in ISO Focus and media of other standards organizations.

IFAN members have access to the global community of experienced professionals (practitioners) in the field of standardization and conformity assessment.

IFAN holds an International Conference once every three years in conjunction with the Members' Assembly meeting. This conference, open to all persons interested in the work of IFAN, is generally focused on issues of concern to the organization. The last (12th) conference was held in San Francisco on 20-21 August 2007. Its subject was Standards – the bridge to global markets. A list of IFAN conferences is given in the section Facts and figures on IFAN of the IFAN Web site (www.ifan.org). IFAN also organizes workshops on specific issues or topics and may provide speakers to national conferences and workshops related to the use of standards.

IFAN members gain vital information about the latest trends in international standardization which helps their organizations and companies anticipate future developments.

Since year 2000, IFAN has conducted surveys on the archiving of standards by standards developing organizations, the use of international standards, standards users' problems and the distribution of standards. News items concerning various aspects of standardization and related matters are published on the home page and Message board on the IFAN Web site. IFAN members receive automatic e-mail notifications each time a news item is added to the Web site.

IFAN, founded in 1974, is an independent non profit-making association based in Geneva, Switzerland. IFAN membership mainly consists of national and corporate members. There are also national developing, prospective corporate and associate categories available. Detailed information on IFAN and its activities is presented on the IFAN Web site IFAN Online (www.ifan.org). For becoming an IFAN member, please follow the procedure presented on the page "How to join IFAN" of the Web site.