IFAN 2019 Standards paper Writing competition

IFAN are pleased to announce the winners for the 2019 paper writing competition.

- The winning paper was: 'Crisis to Rebirth', by Elie Cohen
- Second prize was: 'Make good use of standardization', by Wanru Chen, Zhenji Wang and Jun Ren.
- Third prize was: 'How to encourage young people to get involved', by Peiwu Zhu and Tingjun Huang.

Manuscripts entered had to aim at demonstrating from a users' point of view what role standards play in the changing economy especially by providing confidence, tools for excellence and sustainability, technical innovation facilitators, links between governmental regulations and business and commerce, and should preferably include examples. Papers were invited that relate to at least one of the following potential topics, but are not limited to:

- The benefits of international standards to the performance of your organization
- Sustainability standards and their benefits to your organization
- International standards - a gate to the global world

The winning paper is published [pages 6-7] in this issue of the IFAN Newsletter, the second and third placed papers will be published in the IFAN Newsletter in 2020.

Presentation of the first place award to Elie Cohen [centre] by IFAN Vice-President Vered Oren [right] and Dr Gilad Golub, CEO at SII.

The second and third place prizes were presented by the IFAN President at the IEC General Meeting in Shanghai.
The 2nd Belt and Road University Alliance for Standardization Education and Academics (B&RUAS)

The 2nd Belt and Road University Alliance for Standardization Education and Academics (B&RUAS) was recently held (30 October to November 2019) at Jiao-tong University in Xi’an China. ISO President Mr. John Walter was one of the keynote speakers and he later made a presentation on the current draft of the ISO strategic plan.

Mr. David Felinski, immediate past-President of IFAN, was invited by Professor Song Mingshun, Vice-Chairman of our Chinese Member CAS and President of China Jiliang University in Hangzhou, to make a presentation related to standardized education or research from the perspective of IFAN. After introductory remarks on the nature, membership and structure of IFAN, Mr. Felinski gave a more detailed presentation of the recently revised (2018) IFAN Guide 4 on Education and Training about Standardization, and he further elaborated on the few initiatives being carried out in this area within North America (since he is based in the United States and is also an ANSI-accredited standards developer and actively engaged in standards education initiatives there). Ms. Cui Yan from the China Association of Standardization also attended the Summit.

B&RUAS was initiated by China Jiliang University jointly with other founding members such as Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Qingdao University, Xi’an Jiaotong University (where this summit was held), Guangdong, University, Chung-Ang University, Erasmus University and the University of Quebec. Founded in May of 2018, the initial 'batch' of B&RUAS membership included 106 universities from over 30 countries and regions. The "Belt and Road" in the name acknowledges the role the famous silk road played in global trade, standardization development and capacity building and the fact that standards have become the 'universal language' of the world and mark the progress of human civilization.

- B&RUAS organizes and undertakes cooperation programs pertinent to standardization education, including development of teaching plans, teaching materials and knowledge systems, web-based teaching platforms and teaching expert databases;
- B&RUAS organizes undertakings of cooperative research on standardization, including disciplinary development, knowledge systems, theory and methodology and the frontiers of knowledge;
- B&RUAS launches standardization-related programs for teachers and students, including exchange visits, joint educational programs, exchanges and training, and cultural summer camps and summer programs;
- B&RUAS advocates that all members shall carry out various intercollegiate exchanges with standardization as a bond such as cooperative education, joint personnel training, joint scientific research, construction of laboratories, establishment of joint research centers, and cultural exchanges through fora such as these annual Summit Conferences.

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The workshop was open by the IFAN President Ross Wraight and he presented his review of the year to the members.

Mr. David Bell, Director of Standards Policy, BSI, welcomed the members on behalf of BSI and BSS, Mr Bell then talked about the challenges that were faced by the standards world such as Brexit, climate change specifically for developing countries and note the current climate protests in London.

In the meantime, BSI is pressing ahead with innovation, AI, autonomous vehicles and other innovative technologies. He noted that BSI was one of the leaders of the UNECE’s initiative on Gender and standards and has signed the declaration. He spoke about the ISO Strategy and that the common thread is the need to connect with users.

The key note speaker was Mr. Terry Hill CBE, ISO President 2013-2014, currently Chairman of Ove Arup Foundation: Spoke about Standards users, infrastructure projects and ISO.

Mr Hill opened his talk by saying he had always been a standards user, never a standards writer or developer, and it was in this capacity that Sir David John headhunted him as for the role of ISO President, and he is very grateful to BSI for guiding him through the whole process.

He talked about his work at Arup which has a reputation for innovation, he talked about the infrastructure projects he had been involved in which led to him being appointed by the UK Finance Ministry to do a review of infrastructure costs, the report was published in 2010 and had 6 major recommendations. The report did contain some criticism of the role of standards, and the lack of interconnectivity, for example they found that Network rail had 11 sets of documents in contradiction with standards. The report concluded that standards should be simplified and embraced, the suggested system was red for regulations; grey derogations allowed and green - could be challenged.

In the middle of all this he found himself surrounded by his 'coming out ball'!

Mr Hill talked about the challenges for ISO when he was President with different views, on one side was the USA wanting the market to decide which standards it used and on the opposite side was Germany.

He touched on the issue of the Millennium Bridge and how that showed up a gap in the standards and how everyone joined in to solve the problem.

He recalled a press conference in St Petersburg when as ISO President he was accused of leading a mega corporation and that ISO was dominated by big bosses and not the consumer.

And in China he was handed a 10 strand phone charger and asked when ISO was going standardise them, he didn't feel that he could say this wasn't something for ISO so talked about the vibrant market for multi stranded phone cables instead!

Mr Hill closed by saying that it had been a huge privilege to be ISO President.

Continued on page 8 Link here
The first meeting of the Asia Pacific group was held at BSI, London on the 18 October. The meeting was Chaired by MS. Yan Cui and Mr. Xiuxun Zhang of CAS and in attendance were the IFAN President Mr Ross Wraight; Mr. Peter Walsh, IFAN Associate; Ms Andrea Beddard-Smith and Mr Keith Wilson of BSS; Ms Claudia Bach of SES; Dr Bernhard Angermaier of ANP; Ms Evelyne Thomann of ACANOR.

CAS informed the group of three initiatives that they were currently involved in:

1. NEASF is a platform established by three governmental standardization bodies (SAC, JISC, KATS) and three associations (CAS, JSA, KSA) of China, Japan and Korea. Three countries convene the forum assembly in turn annually. The three associations undertake the secretariat of each country. All six parties sign resolution after each year's forum. You could also refer to the agenda and more info via the following url: http://neasf2019.jsa.or.jp/

2. The Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS) and the Korean Standards Association (KSA) co-organize the International Standards Olympiad to facilitate an understanding of the standards among and to instill their importance in the next generation. Students from middle and high school levels from all around the world take part in the International Standards Olympiad. Here is also its official url: http://www.standards-olympiad.kr/main/en/index.asp?this_site_lang=en China has participated the activity twice, and will continue attending. We think it's a good way to raise awareness of standardization among teenagers. Therefore, we are also trying to introduce the activity in China and held a national competition in the coming year.

3. Chinese National Platform on VSS aims to facilitate the development of VSS, and push forward the realization of SDGs proposed by United Nations. CAS holds the secretariate of the National Platform and established a website: http://cpvss.org.cn/ The website is still under construction. We are also drafting a guideline to evaluate a VSS, and the outline is listed in the introduction.

The task of the Asia Pacific group is to deal with standards users' issues specific to Asia-Pacific area and countries, and to improve IFAN cooperation within PASC members.

The group welcomes new members who have an interest in standardization in the Asia Pacific Region.
This year IFAN was represented at the ISO 42nd General Assembly by IFAN Immediate Past President Mr. David Felinski and IFAN Secretary Mrs. Andrea Beddard-Smith.

The ISO 42nd General Assembly was built around the draft ISO strategy and specifically the four drivers of change that are listed in the draft strategy:

- **Economy:** trade and uncertainty
- **Technology:** the impact of the digital
- **Society:** changing expectations and behaviour
- **Environment:** the urgency for sustainability

The debate on each topic was opened by a speaker and the breakout sessions provided an opportunity for everyone to come together to discuss the strategy.

ISO 42nd General Assembly
19-20 September 2019
Cape Town

The first speaker, Catherine Grant Makokera, on Economic and trade uncertainty, the unpredictable trade landscape and the (d)evolution of multilateralism and the rise of African integration was Catherine Grant Makokera, Univ of Witwatersrad and the LSE. Catherine talked about uncertainty and cited several sources including the IMF World trade Uncertainty Index which had jumped 10 points in the last year, mainly because of the US/China trade war. She questioned if the Inter dependent global economy was a good thing and said that globalization was in transition with the future of supply chains being at risk. She also noted that 55% of WTO members thought that it needed major reform, particularly in view of the move towards pluralism or small groups.

The Urgency for sustainability, Regina Asariotis spoke about The impacts of climate change on international transport networks. She explained that the most impact was felt by the least developed countries as transport is also a victim of climate change - poor transport infrastructure can cause delays and disruption to supply chains and key ports are exposed to flood risk. Enhanced protection is needed for ports, more information is needed, and adoption of transport infrastructure is a matter of strategic importance.

Technology: the impact of the digital. Bitange Ndemo

Talked about the 4th industrial revolution, blockchain, A.I. the Internet of things, Robotics, Virtual reality.

The second day started with an inspirational talk by Lynette Ntuli - Strategy, leadership and diversity - Building a strong foundation for our future. After this presentation we went into our breakout groups to discuss the draft strategy in more detail.

The final session

Society: Changing expectations and behaviours. The rise of the sharing economy - community or commodity? Challenges, opportunities and the role of standards. 83% are unstressed by the sharing economy 85% say it’s a priority for society.
I assumed a chief management position at Termokir* - a leading purveyor of construction material solutions in Israel - in the early 2000s whilst the company was undergoing a period of notable financial and operational challenges. In 2002, Kibbutz Horshim experienced an economic crisis that deeply influenced the communal and social aspects of kibbutz life, as well as the manufacturing capabilities of its main source of income - Termokir's manufacturing facility. As a result, one of Termokir's main competitors made a bid to purchase the company. However, due to objections by a number of key Kibbutz members, it was decided that the company would not be sold to the competitor and that, instead, I would be nominated to a key and influential management position within the company with one and only goal - to critically revive, reestablish and reinstate Termokir's position as a formerly preeminent player in the Israeli construction market.

The management approach that I introduced and implemented at the company was based on a stable and secure outlook; one that could take the circumstances of the shock that the company had experienced in order to create new, stable foundations based on what I called 'anchors'. These anchors would not only help get the company on its feet, but would be the basis for its success to come. By conducting thorough research into economic inefficiencies that were affecting the company, I decided to base the company's strategy on two key anchors: the first is the adoption of sustainable business practices that, at the time, were still viewed with skepticism in Israel, particularly in the construction industry. The second anchor was to guarantee the ability to measure the company's sustainable performance through quantitative methods, such as those advanced by internationally-recognized standards and procedures. Thus, for Termokir, standards are inherently not just a benchmark tool for measuring the level of quality, safety, production and service that the company can reach, but rather a central ethical and managerial pillar on which its stable and sustainable activity rests.

The decision to operate the company according to stringent international standards, which included the adoption of standards for management, quality, safety and the environment, enabled me to theoretically steer what was previous considered a sunken ship in the right direction. The process of aligning our company's processes and procedures with the world of standards began first with the improvement of existing product lines and management approaches, and later influenced the development of more sustainable, durable products. Secondly, a cultural shift in the organization resulted from the improvement of project and product management procedures, which was inspired by working through the standards' stringent requirements. It should be noted that in those years, the decision to base a company's management approach on compliance with international standards was considered an avant-garde approach in Israel, namely in the construction sector. The existing Israeli standards for measuring and recording the activity of local construction companies, namely in the context of measuring environmental impacts, were partial or lacking at most, and did not provide an adequate response for Termokir in its quest to become reliant on standards for efficient management. Therefore, we found ourselves - me, together with Dr. Semeon Frimovich, the company's Chief Technological Officer - contributing the knowledge that we had gained through our research to the development of our company's own "standards" and even in the development of national standards on sector-relevant topics. Termokir is a proud participant in leading commissions hosted by the Standards Institute of Israel, such as the Technical and Expert committees.

Continued on page 7 Link here
Crisis to rebirth, continued.

Indeed, our commitment to the application and advancement of standards was duly noted by the Institute when I was personally nominated to the position of Chairman of the Professional Committee for Green Products. While adopting international standards as a guidepost for corporate sustainability - environmental and economical - we undertook a number of turnkey initiatives that ended up constituting the transformative years of the company. We chose to focus on efficiency in the use of resources and made strides to identify of key areas of improvement. We took a comprehensive look at our company's manufacturing practices that resulted in performance improvements, which included investment in new, energy-saving machinery. We also took measures to reduce waste generation by introducing material reuse and recycling, inspired by principles of circular industry and by reducing the amount of waste sent to the landfill through more effective measurement (see exhibit A). These efforts and more resulted in a reduction in operational costs and positively influenced the company's bottom line and rehabilitative journey. In terms of environmental management in Israel, Termokir is one of the first companies in the construction sector to apply the lifecycle assessment (LCA) methodology for analyzing the use-phase of our leading product - thermal plaster.

These and other efforts brought our company into full compliance with a number of leading international standards such as: ISO 9001 quality standards, ISO 14001 environmental management standards, OHSAS 18001 health and safety management standards, ISO 50001 for energy management and SEDEX for responsible supply chain management, along with a Green Label certification from the Standards Institute of Israel. Termokir has received awards and recognition from a number of Israeli standards and quality assurance bodies: the Golden Mark from 2001-2007; the Platinum Mark from 2008-2010; and the Diamond Mark in 2011 that was accompanied by recognition for the company's efforts to achieve excellence in quality (see exhibit B). Indeed, our continued recognition by the Diamond Mark every year since 2011 embodies the company's consistent compliance achievements. Furthermore, when we first received the Diamond Mark in 2011, only three other Israeli companies were able to meet its exacting conditions, and it should be noted that these companies originated from high tech and security sectors.

Leading By Encouraging an Innovative Company Environment

The way we paved to encourage corporate sustainability through compliance with standards enabled the rehabilitation of our company, allowing us to stand out from competitors and contributing to our unique positioning in terms of the quality and the level of end-customer satisfaction from our products. Indeed, Termokir has experienced notable economic growth of over 340% in the last ten years - an accomplishment that has not gone unnoticed by the Israeli business community. Furthermore, Termokir prides itself on offering our customers and stakeholders a value proposition that, similar to the standards themselves, is based entirely on quality, complete honesty and clarity. And while the early years of the company were challenging, namely due to economic constraints and a conservative attitude towards innovation in the local market, we took on the mission of educating the market through a number of key campaigns that emphasized the importance of excellence in quality, service and environmental sustainability. Our goal was to become an example and 'trendsetter' in the local market in terms of the level of our commitment to our stakeholders' interests. As part of our role as an innovator in the Israeli construction market, we took on a key role in the establishment of the Israeli Green Building Council (ILGBC), which is the leading non-profit organization that aims to create a change in the Israeli construction market by making green building the prevalent construction standard. Since the establishment of the ILGBC, I have served as an active member of its managing board. Termokir was able to contribute as a company by working to create a forum specific to insulation solution providers and we contributed to the formation of "The Catalogue" - an online platform that enables the exchange of green construction products and supporting services with the goal of encouraging green building activities. These and other endeavors are aimed at encouraging additional companies, organizations and authorities to take part in advancing quality standards for construction in Israel, which will in turn enable us as a company to function within a fluid business environment that shares our language and sustainable outlook.

In 2011, Termokir's management launched its renewed vision to be a global provider of innovative construction solutions based on sustainable value (see exhibit C). To realize our vision, we set out a "Roadmap for Sustainability" that was created in partnership with Dr. Michael Brown from BWE - Brown and Wilmanns Environmental LLC, a nationally-recognized leader in organizational sustainability consulting in the United States. The firm has worked with such sustainability pioneers as Patagonia and Nike, among others. In addition, in recent years, we have looked to expand and innovate our product line in cooperation with SAKRET Group, the inventors of ready-mixed dry mortar, which has been an important source of knowledge and development for the company. The goal in the partnership was to improve Termokir's existing line of products, while also ensuring that they meet the needs and constraints of the Israeli market. However, the main goal to be achieved through our cooperation is the encouragement of the principles of sustainability and quality - enriching the local manufacturing knowledge and promoting the local economy, further empowering our stakeholders' view of our company.
The second speaker was Mr. Ben Hedley, BSI Manager CSN: The Commonwealth Standards Network

The Commonwealth Standards Network was started in 2018 with funding from the British Government, and it has just received funding for a further year to 2021. The Commonwealth consists of 53 countries with 19 being in Africa; 7 in Asia; 13 in the Caribbean & Americas; 3 in Europe and 11 in Oceania & the Pacific. The CSN offers a significant opportunity to collaborate and share best practice.

It empowers developing countries to have a stronger voice in the international standards community - something that has benefits on a global scale.

CSN has its foundations in the Commonwealth advantage promoting the use of standards across the Commonwealth to reduce technical barriers to trade. It aims to promote stakeholder engagement, which hasn’t happened before, the network hopes to increase the number of Commonwealth countries participating in the standards development process - to help them become standard writers not just standards takers.

The CSN has an online site which users can join and then have access to a toolkit, publications and a forum for discussion.

https://www.commonwealthstandards.net/

Mr Henry Cuschieri of ISO was due to give an update on ISO activities, unfortunately he was unable to attend and so Mr David Bell of BSI stepped in and gave Mr Cuschieri’s presentation which focused on the ISO strategy 2030.

Mr. Joachim Lonien of DIN spoke next on Standardization in the context of Smart Cities and opened by describing the large amount of standards work that is being done around this topic by many different standards bodies, and how this lead to a great deal of frustration in Germany - because so many people and organizations were involved. So DIN held a series of workshops to find out what was really needed in Germany, 5 topics were covered: ICT and basic infrastructure; Energy; Mobility; Governance and the Digital Agenda and Waste Management. They looked at the national interest such as AUDI's work on Urban Future Initiative and started with a specification for an integrated multi-functional humble lamppost. Other specifications followed on topics such as Open Urban Platform reference architecture; urban mobility data collection; data models for city data; cities and digital transformation; terminology; definitions for testing of automated vehicles.

The final presentation was from Graham Goring, BSS Member, Conformity assessment of the obsolescence management discipline.

BSS Member Graham Goring asked the President if he could present his paper on obsolescence management and permission was granted.

Mr Goring gave some historic background to the topic of obsolescence management and noted the huge and sometimes confusing number of subject specific QSM standards.

He noted that BSS had in fact published the first obsolescent management guides which later became standards.

All the presentations will be available in the Conferences & Workshops section of the IFAN website, link to the folder is here.

After the workshop the formal part of the Members’ Assembly opened and as usual there were reports from IFAN's Working groups, of number of whom also held meeting in the same week.

This was followed by members reports on their activities.

Also covered in the MA were the budget, report from the auditor, the IFAN strategy and most importantly the election for Board positions that were becoming vacant at the end of the year.

Elected to be Vice President [national] was Dr Burkhard Raith of ANP, Germany. Dr. Raith had already served 2 terms as a member of the Board.

Elected as a member of the Board was Prof Albert Cavalieri of ACANOR, France.

Both posts commence on 1 January 2020.

The President took the opportunity to thanks the outgoing Vice President Ms Evelyne Thomann for all her hard work on behalf of IFAN and ACANOR.

HOLD THE DATE!

The 47th IFAN Members’ Assembly and associated meeting will be held in Berlin, 12-16 October 2020