



Report of the Chairman for the 13th plenary meeting of ISO/TC 197 on 2 July 2004 in Yokohama, Japan

Dear members

In preparation for the next ISO/TC 197 plenary meeting, I am pleased to provide you with a brief report on the activities that I have been involved in since the last plenary meeting. First, I would like to thank the ISO Central Secretariat for their cooperation in matters related to increasing stakeholder awareness of ISO/TC 197 activities.

As some of you may already know, a number of articles have been published in the ISO magazine, which is now called *ISO Focus*. More specifically, ISO/TC 197 was given a high profile in the September 2003, January 2004, March 2004 and June 2004 issues. The purpose of these articles was to increase the visibility of ISO/TC 197 and promote the benefits of the technical committee's work. The March 2004 issue specially focused on the automotive industry.

The ISO Central Secretariat has also played a very important role in helping us launch the worldwide hydrogen industry survey that is posted on the ISO web site (see www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/news/2004/tc197hydrogen.html). This survey was prepared with the intention of broadening the ISO/TC 197 business plan consultation so as to make it more reflective of stakeholder needs.

Further progress has also been made in our cooperation with WP.29 on the development of regulations for hydrogen vehicles. The technical content on the draft liquid and gaseous hydrogen storage systems regulations of the UN ECE are now harmonized as far as possible with the ISO standards on fuel tanks (ISO/DIS 13985 and ISO/DIS 15869). ISO/TC 197 has also been recognized in the *Road Map to develop Hydrogen/Fuel Cell GTR(s)* as one of the organizations with which cooperation will be needed.

Thanks to ISO, another important milestone has been reached in November 2003. At its one-hundred-and-thirty-first session, WP.29 made the decision to rely more broadly on international standards. Whenever possible, WP.29 will refer to International Standards by simply quoting their references and publication dates, rather than reproducing all or parts of the text of the standards.

In addition to WP.29, we have strengthened our relationship with ISO/TC 22 *Road vehicles* and ISO/TC 58 *Gas cylinders*, who are important liaison partners of ISO/TC 197. The coordination meeting, which was held on 14 January at the ISO Central Secretariat in Geneva, was an opportunity for the leadership of these technical committees to become better acquainted. This face-to-face meeting will certainly help better coordinate the joint work that we are doing with these organizations.

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I sincerely hope that all these activities will make ISO/TC 197 stronger and more relevant. I am looking forward to a good plenary meeting in Yokohama. Have a safe journey.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Dey", with a horizontal line underneath.

Randy Dey
Chairman of ISO/TC 197