



ISO/TC 197  
Hydrogen technologies

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### **Interview with ISO TC 197 Chair 2016-01**

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Background: This is the third in a series of interviews with the Chair of TC 197 conducted by Karen (Hall) Quackenbush. This article deals with the 2015 progress and the outlook for the future.

The other two articles can be found in N 740 and N 741.

All of these articles have been published in the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Safety Report, which is sent out periodically by the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association.

Committee URL: <http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink/open/tc197>

## **Interview with ISO/TC 197 Chair: Report on 2015 Progress and Outlook for the Future**

*By Karen Quackenbush, FCHEA*

In March 2015, we launched FCHEA's "Interview with the ISO/TC 197 Chairman" series of articles. The first edition introduced the Chairman, Dr. Andrei V. Tchouvelev and the goals and challenges of the International Technical Committee (TC) on Hydrogen Technologies, ISO/TC 197. The second article focused on the technical work – specifically the family of hydrogen fueling standards presently under development. This third installment takes a look at recent progress and provides a glimpse into what lies ahead.

I asked ISO/TC 197 Chair Andrei V. Tchouvelev to summarize the most significant accomplishments of ISO/TC 197 in 2015. “Over 90 experts and guests from 14 countries attended the 12 working group (WG) meetings and the two day plenary during the week of November 30 – December 4, 2015, in Torrance, California. This is the largest recorded participation of both experts and countries since the inception of our Technical Committee in 1990”, Dr. Tchouvelev reported. “This fact underscores the rising relevance of hydrogen technologies in the global marketplace and the importance of international standardization in this regard, as well as the spirit of openness and teamwork within the TC that brings experts together. Hence, our work benefits from active participation of world-renown experts in establishing sound, evidence-based standard requirements related to gaseous hydrogen fueling stations and components, as well as other important hydrogen energy technologies.” ISO/TC 197 now has 14 working groups with 15 standard development projects.

“Our membership has strengthened despite the withdrawal of Switzerland. Both the Czech Republic and New Zealand recently became P-members, and the Islamic Republic of Iran (ISIRI) joined as an O-member”, Dr. Tchouvelev noted. In 2015 we made important progress on a couple of key documents. ISO/TR 15916:2015 - *Basic Considerations for the Safety of Hydrogen Systems* was published and ISO/TR 19880-1: *Gaseous hydrogen — Fueling stations — Part 1: General requirements* was approved for publication. We are now balloting to publish this document as a Technical Specification, while work continues on the development of an International Standard. We also reconfirmed a number of published International Standards, and are expecting to move a number of projects to the Draft International Standard (DIS) stage in 2016.”

When asked his opinion on the prospects of staying on such an aggressive schedule with so many active work items, Dr. Tchouvelev expressed his confidence in the dedication of the working group convenors and experts. He also noted that some of the projects engage task groups, with assigned leaders to address specific issues necessary for inclusion in the documents. “Our work program is very busy”, Dr. Tchouvelev admitted. “Without the hard work of our convenors and working group experts, documents would take much longer to prepare.” He also noted a recent change in ISO procedures which allows Technical Committees more flexibility with regard to the timeframe for certain consultation steps. “When circumstances allow, the Technical Committee may be able to accelerate the process”, Dr. Tchouvelev noted. “For example, the Committee Draft stage, which consists of a 2-month review by TC members, can be skipped if TC 197 decides that there is appropriate justification. In addition, the Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) stage is now skipped by default in ISO.”

Dr. Tchouvelev also noted that in addition to the work items described in the July edition of the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Safety Report located [here](#), there have been some New Work Item Proposals (NWIPs) moving forward. ISO 19880-8: *Gaseous hydrogen – Fueling stations – Hydrogen quality control* has been approved and work has started within a newly formed WG28. In addition, the work has started to revise and amalgamate the existing standards for water electrolyzers (ISO 22734-1 and -2, WG26) and hydrogen fuel specifications (ISO 14687 series, WG27) respectively. Lastly, the work will start within WG24 to address *Sampling of Gas Impurities and Particulates*, as part of the future International Standard requirements for fueling stations.

“Our Working Groups plan to keep very busy throughout 2016”, Dr. Tchouvelev stated. “We are also able to confirm that the 2016 TC 197 Plenary will take place at the European Commission Joint Research Center in Petten, Holland on Dec. 8th and 9th, 2016. There will also be a limited number of parallel Working Group meetings earlier in the week.”

FCHEA will keep interested parties informed of the progress of the developing International Standards throughout the coming year.