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Background: Here is another in the series of interviews with the Chair of ISO/TC 197 prepared by Karen Quackenbush.

This interview deals with the meetings that took place in the Netherlands in Dec. 2016.

All of the interview articles have been published in the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Safety Report that is prepared by the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association (FCHEA).

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ISO/TC 197 and EU-JRC hold Strategic Planning Meeting

by Karen Quackenbush, FCHEA

In this fifth installment of FCHEA's "Interview with the ISO/TC 197 Chairman" series of articles, Dr. Andrei V. Tchouvelev discusses the recent meetings in The Netherlands – including the Strategic Planning Meeting which addressed multi-fuel stations and power to large-scale hydrogen initiatives.

On Wednesday December 6, ISO/TC 197 and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) co-hosted a Strategic Planning Meeting, titled "H2@Market: Multi-fuel Stations and Power to Large Scale Hydrogen", which was by invitation only. Topics included "Multi-fuel Stations" (chaired by ISO/TC 197 Chair Dr. Andrei V. Tchouvelev); and "Power to Large Scale Hydrogen" (Chaired by Dr. Marc Steen of the JRC). Each topic featured panel discussions from international experts and discussions on regional initiatives.

I asked TC 197 Chair, Dr. Andrei Tchouvelev, to describe how this innovative event came about.

"This Strategic Planning Meeting provided an opportunity to discuss potentially large applications for hydrogen energy where future International Standards may be warranted", Dr. Tchouvelev noted. "The discussions also provided insights that may be useful in updating the ISO/TC 197 Strategic Business Plan – a forward-looking document", he added.

"Holding this event allowed us to make a clear connection between the US H2@Scale "Big Idea" and similar activities in EU. The format of the meeting provided strong support for these efforts and helped build a bridge between them", Dr. Tchouvelev suggested.

I asked what he hoped to achieve with the topic of multi-fuel stations. Dr. Tchouvelev responded that the session on multi-fuel stations was a direct result of discussions initiated at the 2014 ISO/TC 197 plenary meeting and continued at the 2015 plenary related to the revision of the ISO/TC 197 Business Plan. During those discussions, Dr. Tchouvelev had introduced the various interests in hydrogen blends, power to gas, etc., and asked members for expressions of what TC

197 might want to consider adding to the TC activities. Following some input from members present that these big-picture concepts would require leadership beyond TC 197, Dr. Tchouvelev promised there will be more to report at the next plenary. “As a result of this commitment”, Dr. Tchouvelev explained, “half of this Strategic Planning Meeting was dedicated to discussing the experiences from different regions with multi-fuel station deployment, and half was dedicated to power to large-scale hydrogen initiatives. The latter was particularly stimulated by the emergence of H2@Scale earlier in 2016”.

I asked Dr. Tchouvelev if he felt the meeting achieved his objectives. “I am quite satisfied with the results of this event”, Dr. Tchouvelev stated. “If this committee aspires to facilitate the commercialization of the global hydrogen infrastructure, we must be pro-active in building collaborations and identifying emerging topics for standardization of global relevance. This meeting did just that. We put complex issues on the table and shared global experiences. This is a long process. But, in my view, this is the only way to bring otherwise disconnected but relevant international standardization technical committees within ISO, IEC, CEN / CENELEC and other stakeholders together and start addressing cross-cutting topics of global importance, which otherwise would simply fall between the cracks. An emerging collaboration between ISO/TC 197, CEN/CENELEC TC6 and JRC is very encouraging from this perspective. Hopefully we can build on this early success going forward using the ISO umbrella-type organizational mechanism via a stakeholder forum”.

Dr. Tchouvelev suggested such Strategic Planning Meetings may become a regular event to be held the day prior to TC 197 Plenary meetings. He concluded by noting that he is already initiating planning on a similar meeting for 2017 that will be held in China. “In fact”, he noted, “our Chinese colleagues, who are hosting the next TC197 plenary meeting close to the eco-park and a large fuel cell bus assembly plant in the Foshan City, were so inspired by the Strategic Planning Meeting in the Netherlands that they proposed having a similar event in China prior to the TC plenary and suggested that it may be attended by as much as 300 people! This will give us an excellent opportunity to not only promote the work of TC 197 in the second largest global economy, but also discuss issues of global relevance taking into account the Asian and developing countries perspective.”



Further details of the 2017 Strategic Planning Meeting will be published in the *Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Safety Report* as they become available.