



PASC STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020 VERSION 2.0

FOREWORD

The Pacific Areas Standards Congress (or “PASC”), first established in 1972, is a voluntary, independent organisation, comprising 24** national standards bodies, principally from Pacific Rim countries. They have diverse cultural, linguistic and development backgrounds.

2. This document seeks to present the strategic vision and desired outcomes of PASC by 2020, in order to guide its decisions and key initiatives to strengthen the region’s capacity in responding to emerging challenges and opportunities in the global environment.

3. Although PASC’s work programme is focused mainly on standardization, it will also consider other elements of the technical infrastructure such as appropriate accreditation and metrology support for the implementation of standards.

4. It is intended as a living document to be reviewed yearly and updated when appropriate, in order to meet the region’s needs.

PASC VISION FOR 2020

5. The global landscape is experiencing dynamic changes requiring relevant and timely solutions to an evolving business and trade environment. This new reality has brought about greater recognition of the importance of standardization in facilitating international and regional growth and initiatives. The standards landscape is shaped by different social, political, legal, technological, economic and environmental factors which must be considered to ensure that the international standardization system retains its relevance well into the future.

6. PASC’s vision by 2020 is “Enhanced regional development and competitiveness through effective and sustainable standardization activities”. These activities will support efforts to improve international standardization systems and member participation in international standardization bodies.

7. PASC will focus on three priority areas to achieve its vision for 2020. These are (i) communication, (ii) partnerships & stakeholder engagement and (iii) capacity building & trade facilitation.

DESIRED OUTCOMES AND KEY INITIATIVES

Communication

8. By the end of 2020, PASC's strategic directions in communication should enable the following desired outcomes:

- a) More efficient access to and exchange of international and regional standardization information leading to greater influence and more effective member participation and collaboration;
- b) Increased awareness of PASC and its roles among key international, regional and national standardization organisations and stakeholders.

9. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realisation of these outcomes include:

- a) Revitalising the PASC website;
- b) Establishing an Information and Communications Technology (or "ICT") solution for efficient collaboration and communication between members;
- c) Setting up a repository and sharing of best practices and knowledge about standardization to relevant stakeholders¹;
- d) Developing PASC related standardization promotional material;
- e) Exploring the use of social media platforms.

Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement

10. By the end of 2020, PASC's strategic directions in partnerships and stakeholder engagement should facilitate the following desired outcomes:

- a) Enhanced participation, influence and visibility of PASC members in international standardization activities in line with the regional needs of PASC members;
- b) Effective coordination on common positions for PASC on policy and governance matters related to international standardization, where appropriate and possible;
- c) Greater information exchanges on matters of mutual interest and benefits through the development of consultative liaison relationships;

¹ Examples include best practices on stakeholder engagement and outreach, case studies on the economic benefits of standards and standards education programs to students and undergraduates.

- d) Wider promotion of the benefits of standardization and conformance with PASC regional stakeholders thereby identifying their needs and strengthening their participation in PASC activities.

11. To achieve these outcomes, PASC will seek to increase collaborations with the following organisations when appropriate:

- a) *International and regional standards development, accreditation, metrology and trade organizations;*
- b) *Regional stakeholders*, i.e. governments, industry, chambers of commerce and consumers associations as well as PASC members' experts who are engaged in international standardization activities.

12. Key initiatives to be undertaken with identified partners include:

- a) Coordinating common positions among PASC members on matters related to international standardization, including (i) developing and supporting New Work Item Proposals (NWIPs) at ISO and IEC; (ii) implementation of the Vienna Agreement at ISO and the Dresden agreement at IEC; (iii) PASC candidates running for governance and policy-level committees of ISO and IEC, and (iv) matters related to adherence to the provisions of relevant WTO Agreements, where appropriate and possible;
- b) Coordinating with regional and international bodies to ensure respective work programs are coherent and inclusive of the relevant expertise;
- c) Organising and inviting representatives of international or regional organisations or PASC regional stakeholders, i.e. governments, and consumers to PASC meetings and regional workshops to promote collaborations on regional needs where appropriate;
- d) Encouraging PASC members to attend major conference/seminars/events organised by key partners and stakeholders to enhance the visibility of PASC and its role in enhancing regional development.

Capacity Building & Trade Facilitation

13. By the end of 2020, PASC's strategic directions in capacity building & trade facilitation should enable the following desired outcomes:

- a) Greater overall effectiveness of PASC's capacity building and training initiatives to enable PASC members to be engaged in international standards development activities, with active participation in initiatives organised by regional bodies such as ISO & IEC regional offices;
- b) Enhanced communication and partnerships in trade facilitation with APEC's Sub Committee on Standards and Conformance (APEC SCSC), Overseas Development Assistance, Multilateral Development Bank donors and other key stakeholders.

14. Key initiatives to be undertaken include:

- a) Identifying and prioritising capacity building projects, training and development programs through the development of a rolling 2016-2020 work plan;
- b) Training on developing NWIPs at ISO/IEC and managing Technical Committees;
- c) Twinning and mentoring partnerships to enhance participation in ISO activities;
- d) Strengthening human resource capacity through National Standards Body (NSB) staff training programs; internships, exchange of staff and experts, including taking up sponsorships or training opportunities by ISO, IEC or other partners;
- e) Providing technical assistance to meet WTO/Regional Trade Agreement obligations as well as implementation of the Code of Good Practice for Standardization and Good Regulatory Practice.

IMPLEMENTATION

15. PASC will set up a Working Group to review its organisation model to ensure that it effectively supports the implementation of the PASC Strategic Plan. The PASC Executive Committee will oversee the overall implementation of the Plan, including the development and review of appropriate success indicators to track its progress.