

PASC STRATEGIC PLAN

2021 – 2025

BACKGROUND

1. Established in 1972, the Pacific Area Standards Congress (or “PASC”) is an independent and voluntary organisation. Its membership comprises of national standards bodies principally from the Pacific Rim countries. PASC members have diverse cultural, linguistic and development backgrounds.
2. Upholding PASC’s core values of collaboration, commitment and innovation, PASC members’ primary focus is to support the region’s engagement in the international standardisation system for the advancement of economic, social and environmental well-being. This includes ensuring that PASC is well-represented in policy and governance committees of ISO, IEC, and ITU.
3. Although PASC’s work programme is focused mainly on standardisation, it also considers other elements of the technical infrastructure, such as conformity assessment, metrology and regulatory support for the implementation of standards.
4. This document seeks to present PASC’s vision and priorities for 2021 - 2025 to respond to opportunities and challenges arising from the changing global standardisation landscape.

EVOLVING GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

5. Several key trends are influencing the global standardisation environment and shaping the region’s needs. These should be considered in PASC’s future activities to ensure that it remains relevant well in the future.

6. For instance, expectations and needs of standards users and standards developers are changing as a result of factors such as technological advancements, changes in demographics, etc. These changes include the increasing need for timely development of standards and ease of standards accessibility that can be addressed by the broad range of international organizations developing standards that are used in the region. To ensure the sustainability of all international and national standardisation systems, PASC sees the need for the full standardisation value chain (e.g. development processes, content delivery modes, etc.) to transform in tandem with the needs of the market.

7. Digital technology is also changing the way in which standards are developed. Standards developing organisations are increasingly scaling up innovations in their standardisation processes (e.g. through the introduction of collaborative platforms, harmonisation of data and interfaces, etc.). Considering the level of ongoing digital transformation within the standards space, PASC recognises the importance to adapt to keep itself relevant and current.

8. In addition, the proliferation of standards, policies and regulations related to emerging technologies has led to overlapping standardisation efforts by different standards developing organisations to address gaps in the market. Thus, PASC sees the benefit in understanding the commonalities and bridging the divergence of these standardisation efforts so as to maximise the outcomes of these ongoing initiatives.

9. Finally, with new global challenges, PASC also sees the increasing importance of advocating the value of international standards for the multilateral trading system and facilitating global trade.

VISION OF PASC

10. PASC's long-term vision is "Enhanced regional engagement through leadership, innovation and collaboration in standardisation and conformance to provide timely solutions to address the needs of the region".

KEY STAKEHOLDERS OF PASC

11. In order to focus PASC's future activities to address the needs of its stakeholders, the key relevant stakeholders have been identified and categorised as follows:

- i. PASC's primary stakeholders are the PASC members (i.e. National Standards Bodies)
- ii. PASC's partners are as follows:
 - a) International Standardisation Organisations and their respective regional offices (i.e. ISO REI and IEC APRC)
 - b) International and regional inter-governmental organisations (e.g. APEC SCSC, ACCSQ, etc.)
 - c) APEC Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs) (APAC, APMP, APLMF)
 - d) Other regional organisations (e.g. ARSO, COPANT, SARSO, etc.)
 - e) Development facilitation and donor organisations (e.g. overseas development assistance, UN specialized agencies, multilateral development banks, etc.)
- iii. PASC's indirect stakeholders, who are beneficiaries of PASC's efforts through their national standards bodies, are as follows:
 - a) Industry, business and trade enabling organisations
 - b) Governmental bodies and regulators
 - c) Organizations that provide standards with global reach that are used by and benefit PASC members
 - d) Entrepreneurs, innovators, and start-up networks
 - e) Consumers and civil society organisations
 - f) Next generation (e.g. young professional, new expert groups, etc.)

KEY PRIORITIES

12. To realise PASC's vision, PASC Members will focus their resources and efforts on the following priority areas:

- (i) communication and stakeholder engagement;

- (ii) capacity building;
- (iii) supporting governmental and industry efforts in trade facilitation; and
- (iv) policy and governance.

PRIORITY 1 - COMMUNICATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

13. By the end of 2025, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes related to Communication and Stakeholder Engagement:

- i. Increased awareness of PASC and its members' efforts among key external stakeholders
- ii. Enhanced knowledge exchange and partnerships on technical matters
- iii. Wider promotion on the benefits of standardisation to stakeholders including industry, policy makers, regulators, consumers, academia amongst others

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

- i. Activation of PASC website and sharing PASC members' information, events, resources¹
- ii. Maintain regular exchange of information with various Regional Standards Organisations (RSOs) on matters of mutual interests and explore possible areas for collaboration
- iii. Facilitate workshops and/or platforms/initiatives to encourage knowledge exchange² of best practices on technical matters according to members' needs

¹ Publications(e.g. annual report), communication materials (i) to support members' stakeholder engagement, including the regulators and next generation of experts, (ii) to raise awareness and promote the benefits of standards, and (iii) to raise awareness of PASC and its roles

² Includes exchanging information on tracking standards development and related regulatory/policy activities on emerging technologies within PASC

PRIORITY 2 - CAPACITY BUILDING

15. By the end of 2025, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes related to Capacity Building:

- i. Strengthened capabilities and competencies of PASC members in both international and national standardisation activities

16. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realisation of these outcomes includes:

- i. Contribute towards ISO and IEC capacity building, research and innovation, and training and education activities
- ii. Survey PASC members on their capacity building efforts in the region and work towards coordinating and aligning them, as necessary
- iii. Extend technical assistance to strengthen the national quality infrastructure of developing countries in Asia Pacific through collaborations with our partner organisations (e.g. APEC SCSC, APEC SRBs, etc.)

PRIORITY 3 - TRADE FACILITATION

17. By the end of 2025, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcome related to supporting governmental and industry efforts in trade facilitation:

- i. Partner with the following regional organisations to support government and industry efforts in trade facilitation:
 - a) African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO)
 - b) APEC Sub Committee on Standards and Conformance (APEC SCSC)
 - c) ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ)
 - d) Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)
 - e) Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF)
 - f) Asia Pacific Metrology Forum (APMP)

³ Key metrics for the key initiatives could be: the number of activities being conducted, as well as brief report of each activity. Format of the report could be developed by the WG2.

- g) Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT)
- h) South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO)
- ii. Improve understanding and capacity of NSBs to support trade facilitation.

18. Key initiative to be undertaken to support the realisation of this outcome includes:

- i. Increase communication with other regional organisations and identify areas for joint cooperation⁴
- ii. Exchange national best practices to facilitate trades⁵

PRIORITY 4 - POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

19. By the end of 2025, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes to Policy and Governance:

- i. Enhanced coordination on common positions for PASC on policy and governance matters related to international standardisation
- ii. Enhanced effectiveness of PASC meetings to better address members' needs

20. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realisation of these outcomes includes:

- i. Foster greater ISO/IEC/ITU coordination on policy and governance matters at the international, regional and national levels
- ii. Enhance PASC's advocacy on ISO and IEC policy and governance issues, including supporting the formulation and implementation of ISO and IEC's regional engagement policies
- iii. Advocate for stronger regional diversity and representation in ISO and IEC at the policy, governance and technical levels

⁴ Includes the participation of regional organizations at PASC AGM (remote participation encouraged where necessary) and identifying 2-3 areas for additional cooperation.

⁵ Includes a short members' survey on example of participation models and lessons learnt and developing a best-practice guide based on the survey results in order to complement existing information.

- iv. Solicit PASC members' inputs to determine areas of interests to be discussed at PASC meetings

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 – 2025

21. This strategic plan is designed to be a living document to be reviewed yearly and updated accordingly, in order to meet the region's needs.

22. The key initiatives covered in the aforementioned four priority areas will continue to be overseen by the four existing Working Groups. The terms of references of the Working Groups will be established by the PASC Executive Committee. The relevance of the four priority areas and the progress of the key initiatives will be reviewed by PASC Executive Committee on an annual basis. Corresponding metrics⁶ will be developed by the four Working Groups, where appropriate.

⁶ Key performance indicators (KPI) have been developed and attached in Annex as a separate document to facilitate implementation of the PASC Strategic Plan. These KPI are recommendations only; the accountability and responsibility for the development of the KPI resides with the Convenors and members of each PASC Working Group. Each Working Group may develop a work plan in order to track and report on progress of their respective initiatives.

Annex

PASC Priority	Outcomes and Initiatives	Measures	PASC Working Group Responsible
<p>Priority 1 - Communication and Stakeholder Engagement</p>	<p>By the end of 2025, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes related to Communication and Stakeholder Engagement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Increased awareness of PASC and its members' efforts among key external stakeholders ii. Enhanced knowledge exchange and partnerships on technical matters iii. Wider promotion on the benefits of standardisation <p>Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realisation of these outcomes include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Activation of PASC website and sharing PASC member information, events, resources ii. Maintain regular exchange of information with various Regional Standards Organisations (or "RSOs") on matters of mutual interests and explore possible areas for collaboration iii. Facilitate workshops and/or platforms/initiatives to encourage knowledge exchange of best practices on technical matters according to members' needs 	<p>Number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • References by PASC external stakeholders in support of the work of the organisation • Formal or informal partnerships with external stakeholders • PASC activities or events promoting the benefits of standardisation • Best practice workshops or related initiatives on technical matters, including emerging technologies within PASC <p>Number of PASC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing annual reports for posting on the PASC website • Reporting collaborative events with RSOs • Sharing stakeholder engagement best practice <p>Gender balance across PASC Communication and Stakeholder Engagement activities</p>	<p>PASC Working Group 1</p>

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PASC Priority	Outcomes and Initiatives	Measures	PASC Working Group Responsible
<p>Priority 2 – Capacity Building</p>	<p>By the end of 2025, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes related to Capacity Building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Strengthened capabilities and competencies of PASC members in both international and national standardisation activities <p>Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realisation of these outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Contribute towards ISO and IEC capacity building, research and innovation, and training and education activities ii. Survey PASC members on their capacity building efforts in the region and work towards coordinating and aligning them, as necessary iii. Extend technical assistance to strengthen the national quality infrastructure (QI) of developing countries in Asia Pacific through collaborations with our partner organisations (e.g. APEC SCSC, APEC SRBs, etc.) 	<p>Number of PASC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following Good Standardisation Practice (GSP) • Contributing to ISO/IEC/ITU Capacity Building • Contributing to ISO/IEC/ITU and Research and Innovation programmes • Attending workshops or training on standardisation activities organized by ISO/IEC/ITU or partner organizations <p>Number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Work Item Proposals submitted to ISO/IEC/ITU by PASC members • TC/SC/WG meetings of ISO/IEC/ITU hosted by PASC members • Capacity building programmes conducted for other countries by PASC members • Collaborations with partner organisations on technical assistance to strengthen QI in Asia Pacific <p>Gender balance across PASC Capacity Building activities</p>	<p>PASC Working Group 2</p>

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PASC Priority	Outcomes and Initiatives	Measures	PASC Working Group Responsible
<p>Priority 3 – Trade Facilitation</p>	<p>By the end of 2025, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcome related to supporting governmental and industry efforts in trade facilitation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Enhanced communication and partnerships in trade facilitation with Partner the following targeted regional organisations to support government and industry efforts in trade facilitation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) APEC Sub Committee on Standards and Conformance (APEC SCSC) b) ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) c) Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) d) Asia Pacific Metrology Forum (APMP) e) Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF) f) Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) g) African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) h) South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) ii. Improve understanding and capacity of NSBs to support trade facilitation. <p>Key initiative to be undertaken to support the realisation of this outcome includes:</p>	<p>Number of PASC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating with other RSOs on trade facilitation • In partnership with other RSOs on trade facilitation • Improving capacity of NSBs to support trade facilitation <p>Number of RSOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending PASC AGM <p>Gender balance across PASC Trade Facilitation activities</p>	<p>PASC Working Group 3</p>

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PASC Priority	Outcomes and Initiatives	Measures	PASC Working Group Responsible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Increase communication with other regional organisations and identify areas for joint cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Participation of regional organisations at AGM (remote participation encouraged where necessary) b) Identify 2 – 3 areas for cooperation ii. Exchange national best practices to facilitate trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Short members’ survey on examples of participation models and lessons learnt b) Develop best-practices guide based on survey results in order to complement existing information 		

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PASC Priority	Outcomes and Initiatives	Measures	PASC Working Group Responsible
<p>Priority 4 – Policy and Governance</p>	<p>By the end of 2025, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes to Policy and Governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Enhanced coordination on common positions for PASC on policy and governance matters related to international standardisation ii. Enhanced effectiveness of PASC meetings to better address members’ needs <p>Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realisation of these outcomes includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Foster greater ISO/IEC/ITU coordination on policy and governance matters at the international, regional and national levels ii. Enhance PASC’s advocacy on ISO and IEC policy and governance issues, including supporting the formulation and implementation of ISO and IEC’s regional engagement policies iii. Advocate for stronger regional diversity and representation in ISO and IEC at the policy, governance and technical levels iv. Solicit PASC members’ inputs to determine areas of interests to be discussed at PASC meetings 	<p>ISO/IEC/ITU coordination on policy and governance matters</p> <p>PASC member satisfaction with PASC meetings</p> <p>Number of common PASC positions on standardisation policy and governance matters</p> <p>Gender balance across PASC Policy and Governance activities</p>	<p>PASC Working Group 4</p>