Secretariat of ISO/TC 176/SC 2

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To the Members of
ISO/TC 176/SC 2 -
Quality Management and
Quality Assurance/
Quality Systems

Communique on the 43rd meeting of ISO/TC 176/SC2
Azores, 19 – 23 November 2018

The 43rd meeting of ISO/TC 176/SC2 was held in Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal, hosted by Instituto Português da Qualidade (IPQ), the national standardization body for Portugal. The meeting was held at the University of the Azores (UAç).

The membership of the SC was noted as now being 81 P-members, 18 O-members and 44 Liaison members.
Since the publication of the 2015 edition of ISO 9001, the SC has been focussing its activities on the revision of several of its other key standards.

The revision of ISO 10006 *Quality management – Guidelines for quality management in projects* completed its Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) stage in November which was approved with 69 votes of approval, 2 disapprovals and 11 abstentions. The 3rd edition of the standard was published in November 2017; as a consequence SC2 offered its thanks to the Convenor, Secretary and Experts before disbanding WG27.

The revision of ISO 9004 *Quality management — Quality of an organization — Guidance to achieve sustained success* completed its FDIS stage in February which was approved with 70 votes of approval, 0 disapprovals and 13 abstentions. The 4th edition of the standard was published in April; as a consequence SC2 offered its thanks to the Co-Convenors, Secretary and Experts before disbanding WG25.

The revision of ISO 10005 *Quality management – Guidelines for quality plans* completed its FDIS stage in May and was approved with 74 votes of approval, 0 disapprovals and 11 abstentions and. The 3rd edition of the standard was published in June. At the meeting in the Azores, WG26 worked to complete a project review report, as well as to develop additional case studies and example quality plans, to be made available via the SC's web site at [https://committee.iso.org/tc176sc2](https://committee.iso.org/tc176sc2). At the end of the meeting SC2 offered its thanks to the Convenor, Secretary and Experts before disbanding WG26.

In addition to its standards development projects SC2 offers an interpretations service to its member bodies, to clarify any potential ambiguities in ISO 9001. This is managed through its WG22. Recently, the first two interpretations against ISO 9001:2015 have been published on the SC2 web site, and a third is currently under ballot.

The SC's Strategic Planning and Operations Task Group (SPOTG) held two meetings in the Azores to take an overview of the work of the SC. In the recent past, its role has mainly been to coordinate the activities of the different WGs and their projects. Now that many of the standardization projects have been completed, the SPOTG is moving more towards a strategic review of what will need to done in the future. The SPOTG set itself a number of tasks, such as how should it measure the use of SC2's standards, to provide inputs into the development of its strategic plans. It will also need to examine how to align the work of SC2 with the deployment of the ISO/TC 176 business plan.

A key issue for all ISO management system standards has been the advent of the Annex SL "High Level Structure", which seeks to improve alignment between such standards, so that they can be more easily integrated into an organization's management system. The body responsible for Annex SL (the ISO/TMB/ TAG13- JTCG, or just "JTCG") recently agreed to start a limited revision of it, and to establish a Task Force no.14 (TF14) to undertake this task. The SC2 Ad Hoc Group no.3 (AHG03) that is responsible for shadowing the activities of the JTCG met in the Azores to examine how best to provide inputs to the revision activity, and to propose SC2's representatives to TF14. Noting that this is likely to be a longer term activity, SC2 agreed to convert AHG03 into a new Task Group no.1 (SC2/TG01). The revision of Annex SL is expected to be achieved around 2020/2021.

The meeting noted that Dr Nigel Croft (from the UK) would be stepping down as Chair of SC2, after completing 9 years in office, in accordance with ISO's limit for holding such a position. He has steered the committee through major revisions of every one of its standards
(especially ISO 9001 and ISO 9004) and given exemplary service during his period of tenure. SC2 wished him the best of fortune in his future endeavours. He will be succeeded by Mr Paul Simpson (also from the UK).

The meeting also noted the retirement of Wu Tian (from China) as Co-Secretary. She has also given many years of exemplary service to the secretariat, and SC2 asked that its best wishes for a long and pleasant retirement be forwarded to her.

The work that was accomplished during the week could not have been achieved without the superb support that it received from our hosts and their sponsors, Instituto Português da Qualidade (IPQ), the Azores Government, the University of the Azores and the City Hall of Ponta Delgada, along with the excellent facilities and wonderful hospitality that were provided. Special thanks are also owed to Profª Graça Batista, Jose Carlos Damaso, Aida Diogenes, and all the other members of the organizing and support team.

The next meeting of SC2 is being planned to be held in conjunction with ISO/TC 176, during 3 to 8 November 2019, in Barbados.

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For the BSI Secretariat of
ISO/TC 176/SC2