Dear ISO President Zhang Xiaogang, Acting ISO Secretary General Kevin McKinley and ISO Colleagues,

Re: Lawrence D. Eicher Leadership Award – thank you

Thank you for your kind words and to the ISO community for presenting ISO/TC 207/SC 1 with the Lawrence D. Eicher Leadership Award 2016. We are humbled to receive it on behalf of SC1. This award recognises the significant contribution that all national member bodies, liaison organizations, working group leaders and experts in SC1 have made to the success of SC1 and in support of its standards.

Much to our deep regret, both Mike and Anne-Marie are unable to attend the ISO General Assembly despite having made every effort to travel to Beijing but unfortunately fates were against us, which only became clear late on Friday 9 September 2016.

In our acceptance speech we had intended to cover a number of issues. We hope you will accept this letter as our acceptance speech.

Looking at one of themes of this ISO General Assembly namely sustainability, we are pleased that ISO 14001 and its supporting standards actively support organizations in contributing towards us as a world achieving eight of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. ISO 14001 is an essential support for both developing and developed countries.

SC1 innovation and success is built on a number of pillars of equal importance. The following are some examples of those pillars:

- **Clear focus on what its users want**
  - The Future Challenges Study Group to “determine future challenges facing EMS and how to take account of new environmental technology” initiated in 2008 which provide input to ISO 14001 revision and later SC1 standard development, ably led by Dick Hortensius (Netherlands).
  - ISO 14001 Continual Improvement Survey 2013 – The survey was issued in 2013 in 11 languages through national member bodies, and garnered an unprecedented response with close to 5000 participants in 110 countries worldwide. Its success would not have been possible without the active support of national member bodies. The questionnaire development, analysis and reporting was carried out by a small group ably led by Lisa Greenwood (USA).
- A clear and simple SC1 vision and mission (originally formulated in 2009) combined with an understanding of user needs across the world (recognising that not all users have the same needs).

- **Leadership - everyone's contribution is critical**
  - SC1’s achievements are due to the significant contribution of national member body’s and liaison’s delegates and experts.
  - But also the contribution of working group and ad hoc group leadership providing beyond expectation in many cases their time, commitment and energy for such roles, as exemplified by Susan Briggs (USA) and Horacio Martirena (INLAC) for leading the revision of ISO 14001 and Per Arne Syrrist (Norway) for leading the revision of ISO 14004. SC1 celebrated their and others contribution to SC1 on 28 August at the SC1 plenary in Seoul, Republic of Korea by presenting them with ISO Excellence Awards.
  - Equally important is the contribution national member bodies make in terms of secretarial support. SC1 has learnt the significant benefit of sharing workload in working group secretariat to manage modern expectation of speed and use of WebEx etc. as exemplified by UK and Germany joint secretariat of working group responsible for ISO 14001, and by Norway providing two secretaries for the working group responsible for the revision of ISO 14004.

- **Communication and transparency - modern era challenge for ISO**
  - The SC1 website at [https://committee.iso.org/tc207sc1](https://committee.iso.org/tc207sc1) was the first of its kind and part of the ISO website development project in 2015.
  - The SC1 website’s focus is on external users of ISO 14001 and others standards in the SC1 portfolio. It provides support materials in relation to ISO 14001:2015 but also explanation about developments in relation to new standards in SC1 portfolio.

- **Support for developing countries - essential for our future**
  - SC1 is acutely aware of the need to ensure developing countries are supported. There are many examples but just a few:
    - actively using developing country national member bodies in vice convening and leadership roles - exemplified by the last 10 years successful twinning with Indonesia’s Noer Wardojo (who has just stepped down) and the working group co-convenor for ISO 14008 Naji Tannous (Lebanon) and its co-secretary Paul Walakira (Uganda).
    - proving easy accessible material on SC1 public website on ISO 14001:2015 during its revision and afterwards to support understanding and use in developing countries.
    - planning and arranging Developing Country full day workshops at the last four TC207 plenaries, on issues such as the revision of ISO 14001 and on new standards in SC1 portfolio
    - launching ISO 14001:2015 at a conference in New Delhi, India arrange by Bureau of Indian Standard— which was attended by over 120 delegates from Indian industry at which the working group leadership for both ISO 14001 and ISO 14004 delivered presentations about the changes to the standards.
SC1 is grateful that a number of national member bodies provide financial support for developing country national member bodies to attend SC1 plenaries and working group meetings, as exemplified by Sweden for the 2016 plenary.

SC1 leadership would like to recognise the significant effort ISO national member bodies have made to translate ISO 14001:2015 into their national language, in some cases publishing the translated version at the same time as ISO 14001:2015. ISO 14001 is implemented in more than 159 countries and more than 324,000 organizations have been certified worldwide against ISO 14001 at the end of 2014.

Finally, this September as ISO we also celebrate a number of important birthdays for ISO and environmental management – the first meeting of SAG environment in 1991 (25 years ago) resulting in the setting up of ISO/TC 207 and SC1, and the first publication of ISO 14001 in 1996 (20 years ago).

Thank you to all in the ISO community for this award and for recognising the work of all who contribute to ISO/TC 207/SC 1’s success.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Anne-Marie Warris  
Chair ISO TC207 SC1

Noer Wardoyo  
Vice Chair ISO TC207 SC1

Mike Henigan  
Secretary ISO TC207 SC1