As you all know, the week of our Plenary Meeting in Tokyo is approaching. Our goals are:

- to co-ordinate existing projects,
- to develop new, cross-over projects,
- to exchange experiences, ideas and relevant information,
- to increase the collaboration among our subcommittees,
- to deal with existing challenges and identify new ones,
- to establish new areas of interest,
- to map out the road ahead.

And not least I would like to emphasise the value of meeting in person to strengthen old ties and establish new connections. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Kind regards,

Per Jæger

Chairman’s corner

Plenary Meeting in Tokyo

On 14–19 October, ISO/TC 59 will meet in Tokyo for our 27th biennial Plenary Meeting and corresponding SC and WG meetings. buildingSMART International also has their IUG and ITM meeting in Tokyo at the same time, so we are currently in talks about coordinating our schedules for mutual benefit. TC 10/SC 8 “Construction documentation” will also take part in some of our meetings. Our programme this week will include an Industry Day with an industry visit, a Cross-over Session as well as social events. For more information, please visit our newly established website. One topic that we would like to emphasise during the Cross-over Session – but also in general in the time to come – is terminology. We will let Mr. Mike Roberts tell you why (below the picture):

Terminology coordination in ISO/TC 59

Terminology is the cornerstone of all standardisation work within ISO/TC 59. However, each subcommittee tends to look at the subject from its own perspective and to produce definitions without reference to the work of other SCs. A common approach to managing terminology and language across ISO/TC 59 is needed. The task of achieving the necessary coordination has been given to SC 2 “Terminology and harmonization of languages”.

The initial focus of its work was on the publication of ISO 6707-1, Building and civil engineering – Vocabulary – General terms, in 2004. For several years after the publication of ISO 6707-1, SC 2 was inactive although some coordination work was undertaken by TC 59 task groups and ad-hoc groups. However, the subcommittee has now been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Mr. Rodney McPhee; BSI is provided the Secretariat. Terminology coordination will take centre stage in its future programme.

Aside from revising ISO 6707-2, Contract terms, SC 2 is revising ISO 6707-1, bringing it up to date and making it consistent with the general terms in the specialist vocabularies produced by other subcommittees of ISO/TC 59. An initial draft of a guide to terminology coordination within ISO/TC 59 has been produced by the SC 2 secretariat. This will be evaluated by SC 2 members and then circulated to ISO/TC 59 members for their comment. When there is general agreement on the procedure, the necessary steps will be taken to implement the policy.

Everyone in ISO/TC 59 is affected by and involved in terminology work, so SC 2 is encouraging members of other subcommittees to participate in its work in order to achieve a genuine two-way flow of information and so that ISO 6707-1 can serve as the first point of reference for terms and definitions for the industry.

Mike Roberts (roberts@blueyonder.co.uk), Secretary of ISO/TC 59/SC 2

TC 59 as a facilitator

The TC 59 secretariat has received a proposal from ISO/TAG 008, the advisory group on construction, to develop the Canadian standard Z782-06, Guideline for design for disassembly and adaptability in buildings, as an ISO standard. The TC 59 secretariat considers SC 17 to be the most relevant committee for this project. However, the project is also relevant for other committees, and a liaison with SC 14 and other SCs could be an option.

The TC 59 secretariat has no strong opinion about whether this project should be put on a 24 or 36 month development track. We are confident that SC 17 will update the standard from 2006 to represent the increased focus on sustainability.

This proposal serves as a good example of the role the ISO/TC 59 committees can play to internationalise national standards.
Cross-over projects
Below is a good example of a cross-over project; it is registered as a work item under WG 3 "Data requirements" of SC 14 "Design life", but also involves the work of SC 13 "Organization of information of construction works". Once all the project stages are completed, the document will become a Technical Report.

"ISO 15686-4, Buildings and constructed assets – Service Life planning – Part 4: Building Information Modelling and data requirements" This part of ISO 15686 provides information and guidance on the use of standards for information exchange for service life planning of buildings and constructed assets and their components as well as the required supporting data. It provides guidance on structuring information from existing data sources to enable delivery of their information content in a structure that conforms to international standards for information exchange. In particular, reference is made to ISO/PAS 16739:2005, Industry Foundation Classes (IFC).

It is also applicable to the exchange of service life information between categories of design and information management software applications that have standards-based information exchange interfaces including:

- Building Construction Information Modelling (BIM),
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS),
- Computer Aided Facilities Management (CAFM).

[Adapted from ISO/PDTR 15686-4]

News from our SCs and liaisons
SC 13 has recently reactivated Working Group 2 "Classification of the information on the construction industry". They had their first official meeting in Copenhagen on 20–21 February 2012. Mr. Henrik Balslev from Denmark is appointed as convenor and Danish Standards (Mr. Jan Fuglsig Lambrecht) will act as secretariat.

Furthermore, many of our ISO/TC 59/SC 13 experts will be attending the meetings of buildingSMART International in Oslo in the week from 18 to 23 March due to our close collaboration. In addition, we will have some parallel SC 13/WG meetings in Oslo in the same period.

SC 14 with Working Groups is coming together for a coordination meeting in Oslo on 23–27 April this year. The meeting will be hosted by Standards Norway.

The extensive work of SC 16 on developing ISO 21542, Building construction – Accessibility and usability of the built environment, has paid off. On 12 December 2011, the standard was officially adopted as an ISO standard and is now available at ISO. This standard makes a solid foundation for further development within the area of accessibility.

"ISO 21542:2011 specifies a range of requirements and recommendations for many of the elements of construction, assemblies, components and fittings which comprise the built environment. These requirements relate to the constructional aspects of access to buildings, to circulation within buildings, to egress from buildings in the normal course of events and evacuation in the event of an emergency. It also deals with aspects of accessibility management in buildings and contains provisions with respect to features in the external environment directly concerned with access to a building or group of buildings from the edge of the relevant site boundary or between such groups of buildings within a common site.”

[Adapted from www.iso.org]

In SC 17, there is talk of reactivating Working Group 3 "Environmental declaration of products" for the possible revision of ISO 21930, Sustainability in building construction – Environmental declaration of building products. Should the revision be approved and the WG reactivated, the convenor will be Ms. Anne Rønning from Norway and the secretariat will be administered by Standards Norway.

buildingSMART International: There will be held plenary and parallel International User Group (IUG), International Technical Management Committee (ITM) and buildingSMART Data Dictionary Group (bSDDG) meetings during 19 and 21 March, co-located with ISO/TC 59/SC 13.

On 22 March, buildingSMART Norway hosts the annual Norwegian buildingSMART conference titled "Moving the building Industry forward". For more information or to register as a participant, please visit http://www.buildingsmart.no/events/iug-itm-and-bsddg-meetings-in-oslo-19-23-march-2012.

[Adapted from www.buildingsmart.no]

Standards adopted in 2011
ISO 9836:2011, Performance standards in building – Definition and calculation of area and space indicators (SC 3)
ISO 21542:2011, Building construction – Accessibility and usability of the built environment (SC 16)