**Chairman's corner**

It is 2013, and we are in a new year. Hopefully, a year that brings with it good progress in the standardisation work of our committee. That being said, I would like to give some well-deserved credit and thanks to all of our experts, who volunteer time and resources to take part in the development of our standards.

And exciting things are happening: The TC 59 family is expanding. Since our previous newsletter, several of our subcommittees have gotten new members, among them, SC 2, SC 13 and SC 17. This is fantastic news, and I am delighted to see this increased interest in the work that we do.

Kind regards,
Per Jæger

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**Next ISO/TC 59 Advisory Group meeting**

The TC 59 secretariat looks forward to gathering our chairs and secretaries for this year's ISO/TC 59 Advisory Group meeting at the Institute of Structural Engineers in London on 13–14 October. We will take a closer look at the current activities in the committee and deliberate on strategic issues for the time to come.

Our SC 3 “Functional/user requirements and performance in building construction” and SC 15 “Performance description of houses” will also meet in London. They will have their plenaries with corresponding WG meetings in the days after the AG meeting (14–17 October) at the premises of the British Standards Institution (BSI).

Our liaison buildingSMART International (bSI) will be having its autumn meeting in Munich on 7–11 October, and in order to facilitate the on-going collaboration between our SC 13 “Organization of information about construction works” and bSI, SC 13 will have its plenary meeting and corresponding WG meetings in Munich on 10–11 October.

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**Symposium on ISO 21542, Building construction – Accessibility and usability of the built environment**

In its awareness of the importance of ISO 21542:2011, and promoting its implementation, AENOR, the Spanish NSB, who holds the Secretariat of SC 16, adopted this standard soon after its approval.

In order to spread its contents, AENOR also organized a symposium at the beginning of April, funded by Fundación ONCE. Nearly 100 people attended the workshop, representing all the stakeholders’ sectors: associations of people with disabilities, public administration and legislators, architects, enterprises of the construction sector and other enterprises concerned with accessibility.

Mr. Javier García, Standards Director of AENOR, opened the meeting. Mr. Demetrio Casado, Director of SIPOSO, explained the origins of the standard. Ms. Nieves Peinado, Chairperson of SC 16, gave an overview of the document. Mr. Jesús Hernández-Galán, Convenor of CEN-CENELEC Joint Working Group 6 "Accessibility in the Built Environment", explained the European works on EC M/420 ‘Mandate to CEN, CENELEC and ETSI in support of European accessibility requirements for public procurement in the built environment’, which are influenced by ISO 21542. Mr. Juan Novillo, from AENOR, explained the Conformity Assessment of Accessibility Program on ISO 21542, for projects and construction works, and on UNE 170001-2, for accessibility management systems. Mr. Jose Luis Posada, from the Spanish administration, one of the driving forces of the introduction of accessibility requirements in the Spanish Building Code, related the standard with the Spanish Legislation. Finally, Ms. Cristina Rodríguez-Porrero, Director of the Spanish Reference Center for Personal Autonomy and Technical Aids (CEAPAT), closed the symposium.

From left to right, Mr. Jesús Hernández-Galán, Mr. Demetrio Casado, Mr. Javier García, Ms. Nieves Peinado and Mr. Juan Novillo.

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Fernando Machicado (fmachicado@aenor.es), Secretary of ISO/TC 59/SC 16
**Under the magnifying glass**


Building information modelling provides a concept for describing and displaying information required in the design, construction, and operation of constructed facilities. It can bring together the diverse sets of information used in construction into a common information environment – reducing, and often eliminating, the need for the many types of paper documentation currently in use. An information delivery manual (IDM) provides significant help in getting the full benefit from a building construction information model (BIM). If the information required is available when it is needed and the quality of information is satisfactory, the construction process itself will be greatly improved. For this to happen, there should be a common understanding of the building processes and of the information that is needed for and results from their execution.

ISO 29481-2:2012 is intended to facilitate interoperability between software applications used in the construction process, to promote digital collaboration between actors in the building construction process, and to provide a basis for accurate, reliable, repeatable, and high-quality information exchange. [Adapted from ISO 29481-2:2012]

**From Dutch Technical Agreement to International Standard**

On 15 March 2013, ISO 16354, *Guidelines for knowledge libraries and object libraries* was officially published. The standard was developed by SC 13’s WG 10 “Object libraries” and is based on and an extension of the NTA (Dutch Technical Agreement) 8611 “Guidelines for library objects” from 2003.

SC 13/WG 10 was convened in London in early 2010, after which comments from various countries were handled in writing. Radboud Baayen has been the convenor of the WG, and Andries van Renssen, who initially authored the document, has handled the editing of the different views and comments and the streamlining of the document. The result is a good base document which is now available on ISO level.

The document was written to promote the interoperability of electronic object libraries. The guidelines in this standard are also applicable to the harmonization of vocabularies, electronic dictionaries, concept libraries, product catalogues, taxonomies and ontologies. [Adapted from press release provided by Radboud Baayen (rbaayen@stabu.nl)]

**News from our SCs and liaisons**

**Passing the Baton in SC 16**

At the beginning of the year, Mr. Eduardo Mario Álvarez passed the baton of the Chairmanship of SC 16, “Accessibility and usability of the built environment”, to Ms. Nieves Peinado, who was proposed by AENOR, who holds the Secretariat of this SC. She was warmly welcomed. Mr. Álvarez, together with AENOR (Spain), was one of the promotors of the birth of SC 16 and of ISO 21542, and has led SC 16 during its development. Ms. Peinado, who is an active member of SC 16, belongs to the Architecture Department of the Spanish Reference Center for Personal Autonomy and Technical Aids (CEAPAT). She is also the Chair of the Spanish Mirror Committee of SC 16. One of her first decisions as Chair was to propose the election of Mr. Gildo Santos as vice-president of SC 16, who was recently appointed. Mr. Santos, the Convener SC 16/WG 1, led the works of ISO 21542:2011 with clear success.

Following a joint meeting in Brussels in March, SC 17/WG 5 “Sustainability in civil engineering works” and CEN/TC 350/WG 6 have decided to collaborate on the development of a Technical Report, ISO/NP TR 18791, entitled *Analysis of sustainability performance assessment methods used for civil engineering works*. The project has been approved under ISO lead, and the project leader will be Guri Krigsvoll.

**ISO/TC 184/SC 4** has now published ISO 16739:2013, *Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) for data sharing in the construction and facility management industries*. This standard specifies a conceptual data schema and an exchange file format for Building Information Model (BIM) data. It represents an open international standard for BIM data that is exchanged and shared among software applications used by the various participants in a building construction or facility management project. SC 13 is currently in the process of establishing a joint working group (JWG) with TC 184/SC 4 and buildingSMART International concerning future work related to this standard.

**Published since November 2012**

ISO 16354:2013, *Guidelines for knowledge libraries and object libraries* (SC 13)

If you have ideas or contributions to the next newsletter, please make contact!