Successful Plenary Week in Berlin
In October, the TC with 7 of its 9 subcommittees and close to 20 working groups came together for eight intensive days of meetings in Berlin, Germany. Some highlights are provided in this newsletter.

TC 59 gave their unanimous support for the re-appointment of the TC 59 Chair, Per Jæger, for another three years, and this has now been approved by ISO/TMB.

TC 59 is in the process of setting up a WG 4 “Resilience of buildings and civil engineering works” to develop a Technical Report focusing on the factors to be considered in relation to the contribution made by buildings and civil engineering works to community resilience following the impact of disasters, both natural and man-made, including the potential effect of weather-related disasters attributable to climate change.

SC 14 Framework for the description of housing performance has established a new WG 7 “Accessibility and usability” under the convenorship of Prof. Satoshi Kose (Japan) to develop a preliminary work item on this topic. The envisaged standard will be helpful in relation to housing policies and construction for population ageing and will benefit both housing manufacturers, authorities and consumers.

Experts wanted
SC 14 Design life is presently reviving the resources available within the SC 14 community to tackle the revision of existing high profile standards as well as to look into possible new work items. Two working groups are about to be reactivated to revise Part 3, Performance audits and reviews, and Part 10, When to assess functional performance, of the ISO 15686 series on service life planning for buildings and constructed assets.

ISO/TC 59 at WSBE17
ISO/TC 59 has been invited to be a supporting organisation to next year’s World Sustainable Built Environment Conference, WSBE17, which is held in Hong Kong on 5-7 June 2017. WSBE17 Hong Kong is the world conference of the 2015-2017 cycle of the renowned SBE Conference Series, which is now considered to be the most influential of its kind globally.

The conference will gather 1800 green building advocates, policymakers, academics, and industry practitioners from all over the world, offering an inspirational opportunity for delegates to “Put Ideas into Action” to transform the world’s built environment.

The International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment, iiSBE, one of the liaison organisations to SC 17 and also one of the international co-owners of the event, has kindly offered ISO/TC 59 display space at their exhibition booth. So if you are attending this event, be sure to stop by the iiSBE booth!

Read more about WSBE17 Hong Kong here: http://wsbe17hongkong.hk

Appreciation to Dr Takashi Nireki
SC 14 Design life took the opportunity at their plenary meeting in Berlin to honour one of their long-standing experts, Dr Takashi “Nikki” Nireki from Japan. The picture shows Nikki receiving a document of appreciation from the SC 14 Chair, Dr Hywel Davies, and the TC 59 Chair, Mr Per Jæger. SC 14 also took the following resolution:

Dr Takashi Nireki (Nikki) has been a Representative of Japanese Standards on ISO/TC59/SC14 Design life for many years. ISO/TC 59/SC14 recognises the outstanding contribution of “Nikki”, as a founder member, to its work since 1993 and thanks him for his participation over the whole life of SC14.

Chairman’s corner
Another year is drawing to a close. In an ISO/TC 59 perspective, 2016 has been both eventful and busy. The big event was of course the plenary week in October, which gathered around a hundred delegates and experts from all over the world in Berlin. It was great to see so many of you there!

Our subcommittees have published a number of quality standards, and more are in the making. We have also started some important work on resilience; a topic I believe will just become increasingly relevant in the time to come.

In 2016, we have also seen changes of secretariats, and we have taken a closer look at the ISO/TC 59 committee structure. At present, our proposal to disband one of our subcommittees is under consideration in ISO/TMB. This proposal is the result of several years of careful considerations as well as an overall desire to work simpler, faster and better.

All in all, 2016 has been a year of hard work and good achievements. It is my hope that you all get some well-deserved quality time with your loved ones during the upcoming holidays. And I look forward to new adventures with you all in 2017!

My best wishes for the holiday season to each and every one of you!
SC 8 Sealants
Chair: Andreas T. Wolf (Belgium)
Secretary: Jianqing Zhang (SAC)

SC 8 Sealants was established in 1976 to develop testing and requirement standards for sealants. Per December 2016, the subcommittee has 31 members (12 P and 19 O), and the following 8 active working groups:

- WG 10 "Aesthetic issues" (A. T. Wolf, Belgium),
- WG 14 "Test method for the stringiness of sealants" (A. T. Wolf, Belgium),
- WG 17 "Volume loss in sealants" (O. Huss, France),
- WG 18 "Surface preparations for samples in glass and/or anodized aluminum" (T. Jouen, France),
- WG 19 "Paintability and paint compatibility of sealants (including coatings and coated sealants)" (L. Williams, UK),
- WG 20 "Peel Adhesion" (R. Heinzmann, Germany),
- WG 21 "Test method for the sanitary sealants" (S.K. Lee, Korea),
- WG 22 "Cure properties" (A. T. Wolf, Belgium).

In addition, SC 8 has several Ad Hoc Groups conducting research into new areas.

Having published a total of 28 standards to date (including updates) – which is close to 25% of all the standards developed under the ISO/TC 59 umbrella – SC 8 is by far our most productive subcommittee. It is also the only product-oriented subcommittee under ISO/TC 59.

A key driver for SC 8’s work is the fact that performance and durability test standards for sealants contribute to the performance and longevity of a building and the comfort of its occupants. Furthermore, sealed joints are often the most critical link in weatherproofing by providing continuity between similar or dissimilar building materials or components.

The next meeting of SC 8 will be held in London, UK, on 11-13 October 2017.

New rooms launched by buildingSMART International

At its Korea standards summit in September, buildingSMART introduced new rooms – or centres of activity – to meet the needs of members and the wider industry in two areas: construction and airports.

The Airport Room was launched with “a very good vibe and a great kick-off” according to Yannick Vos, strategic advisor, BIM and Asset Management, at the Schiphol Group. The impetus for an Airport Room came from Schiphol, Amsterdam’s airport. Yannick and his colleague Alex Worp are jointly leading the room, along with Rob Roef, chair of the Benelux chapter. The definition of a uniform classification for airport assets is likely to feature on the immediate workplan.

Also launched at the Korea summit was the Construction Room, led by Ken Endo, IT project manager with Kajima. Kajima, the Japanese contractor with global activities, was the driving force behind the room. It undertakes nearly 300 projects a year and plans to increase the use of BIM tools across all its projects to improve productivity. “We have to expand the area of BIM from modelling to management. It is building information management that is needed for productivity,” says Ken.

Read more about buildingSMART and its rooms at www.buildingsmart.org.

Text by Betzy Dinesen, Editor for BuildingSMART International

Highlights from SC 17 Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works

In September 2016, Mrs Karine Dari (AFNOR) took over as Secretary of SC 17.

At the plenary in Berlin, SC 17 re-activated its WG 2 with the new title "Sustainability indicators and benchmarking" in order to draft a new project: ISO/WD 21678 Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – Methodology for benchmarking of the contribution to sustainable development from construction works. WG 2 is convened by Ms Tarja Hakkinen from Finland.

Furthermore, a new ad hoc group, AHG 1 "Multiple resource productivity" was established under the leadership of SII (Israel) in order to investigate and elaborate a draft on Multiple resource productivity – Guideline for resource accounting methodology.

Another exciting news item from Berlin is SC 17’s adoption of a preliminary work item titled ISO/PWI 22057 Use of Environment Product Declarations (EPD) at construction works level using building information modelling (BIM). The preparatory work will be done in WG 3, under the leadership of Ms Anne Ranning from Norway.

Should you be interested in participating in any of these projects, please contact your national member body to be registered as a national expert.

The next plenary meeting of SC 17 will take place in Israel in September 2017.

Published since June 2016

ISO 19208:2016 Framework for specifying performance in buildings (SC3)
ISO 11528:2016 Buildings and civil engineering works -- Sealants -- Determination of crazing and cracking following exposure to artificial or natural weathering (SC8)

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

See also the ISO/TC 59 home page: https://committee.iso.org/tc59