Chairman’s corner
The holiday season is at the door, and with it comes time for reflection. 2015 has in many ways been a year of new beginnings, and we have exciting times ahead of us.

In ISO/TC 59, we have established a new subcommittee and several new working groups. New members have joined our work. In CEN, a new technical committee has been established to work with building information modelling. This shows an increasing focus on our activities that I think bodes well for our work in the years to come.

I take this opportunity to wish all of you a merry and relaxing holiday season and all the best for 2016.

Kind regards,
Per Jæger

Photo: Johnny Syversen

Successful meeting week in Madrid
On 5 October, ISO/TC 59’s Advisory Group met at the offices of AENOR in Madrid. Five subcommittees and eight working groups also took the opportunity to meet in conjunction with the Advisory Group.

The Advisory Group consists of all the subcommittee secretaries and chairs, the TC leadership and the leadership of any working groups directly under ISO/TC 59. The group meets once a year to discuss technical and strategic issues as well as the road ahead for ISO/TC 59. This group also deals with any overarching matters across the subcommittees and coordinates the work among them as appropriate. In Madrid, the Advisory Group opened the show, and then the rest of the week followed with working group and subcommittee plenary meetings. Next year, ISO/TC 59 will have a plenary meeting again (occurs every two years). The 2016 meeting week will take place at the offices of DIN in Berlin, from 4 to 11 October.

Great interest in accessibility
In 2011, SC 16 “Accessibility and usability of the built environment” and its WG 1 with the same name published ISO 21542 Building construction - Accessibility and usability of the built environment, a very important standard that provides requirements and recommendations related to constructional aspects of access to buildings and aspects of accessibility management in buildings. Since the publication, the committee has had no physical meetings, but it has continuously monitored and assessed the need for a revision of the standard. As ISO 21542 will now come up for systematic review in 2016, both SC 16 and WG 1 decided to meet in Madrid. Both meetings attracted great interest, and over 20 delegates and representatives from SC 16’s member bodies and liaisons attended.

BuildingSMART summit in Singapore
Every six months, buildingSMART International holds a standards summit. Its most recent event was scheduled to coincide with meetings of TC 59/SC 13, so that buildingSMART participants with involvement in the subcommittee’s work could take part in both events or simply benefit from the networking.

With over a hundred delegates, including a large group from China, it was a busy week in Singapore at the buildingSMART standards summit during 12–15 October. There are five ‘rooms’ or centres of activity which host and develop projects: Building, Infrastructure, Product, Technical and Regulatory.

The alignment standard, which received buildingSMART accreditation earlier this year, has been well received as meeting a pressing need in infrastructure projects. An extension to the standard was immediately begun, and at Singapore three national authorities – the Finnish Transport Agency, the Dutch Rijkswaterstaat and the Swedish Transport Administration – signed an MOU agreeing to fund the completion of the alignment extension project and contribute to other Infra Room projects. This gives a boost to the Infra Room’s essential work.

The next buildingSMART standards summit will take place in the Netherlands in April 2016.

Photos and text provided by Betzy Dinesen, Editor for buildingSMART International
Our subcommittees
In the newsletters to come, we will give you short presentations of all the ISO/TC 59 subcommittees. This time, we look to SC 18.

**SC 18 “Construction procurement”**
Chair: Ron Watermeyer (South Africa)
Secretary: Gabriel Ngcobo (SABS)
The new subcommittee on construction procurement, SC 18, had its very first meeting in Madrid. In addition to SC 18's South African leadership, delegates from South Africa, Japan, China, Norway, and the UK attended the meeting. The subcommittee scope was further elaborated and agreed upon and this led to the establishment of two working groups: WG 1 “Maintenance of ISO 10845 series” and WG 2 “Procurement strategy and tactics”. The working groups will be convened by Alain Jacquet (South Africa) and Will Hughes (UK) respectively.

The elaborated scope reads as follows:

Standardisation of the conceptual framework and characteristics for procurement processes, methods and procedures for the construction, renovation, refurbishment, alteration, maintenance and demolition of construction works, including:
- the flow of information from the business case through to the completion and feedback on the lessons learned;
- funding options, selection methods, pricing methods, and contracting methods;
- the role of the client in the delivery of projects; and
- control frameworks.

excluding those relating to:
- those relating to conditions of contract;
- methods of measurement associated with a bill of quantities;
- project management; and
- logistics.

**Terminology coordination in ISO/TC 59**
Terminology is the cornerstone of all standardisation work within ISO/TC 59. 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 first meeting of SC 2/WG 4 was held in Madrid in October 2015. This working group is responsible for maintenance of terminology standards and policies. Brian Edgill (UK) is the convener. The working group monitors the terminology activity of other TC 59 subcommittees on behalf of SC 2 in accordance with the SC 2 procedural guidelines for TC 59 subcommittees when dealing with language and terminology. The working group is also responsible for ISO 6707-1 Building and civil engineering works – Vocabulary – General terms and ISO 6707-2 Building and civil engineering works – Vocabulary – Contract terms. It has started work on the revision of ISO 6707-1.

For further information, contact Mike Roberts, Secretary of ISO/TC 59/SC 2, at mikeroberts@blueyonder.co.uk

**Pedestrian walkway sealants**

The scope of ISO 11618 applies to sealants used for pedestrian walkways, public areas, movement joints between concrete slabs, areas with pedestrian load, areas which are used with trolleys, parking garages, walkable floors, balconies, terraces, and warehouses.

The standard specifies the types and classes of elastic sealants used in building construction pedestrian walkways according to their performance characteristics. Sealant may be either non-sag or self-leveling as declared by the manufacturer. Areas of application are floor joints which have been designed. Chemical containment, cold applied joint sealants for concrete pavements to be used in roads, airfields, and sewage treatment plants are excluded.

The new methods included into the specification are methods that have not been addressed for vertical walls where sealants are commonly applied. All four standards were completed by SC 8/WG 13 under the convenorship of Lawrence Carbary (USA).

Lawrence Carbary, Convenor of ISO/TC 59/SC 8/WG 13, l.carbary@dowcorning.com

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ISO 11618:2015 Buildings and Civil Engineering Works -- Sealants -- Classification and requirements for pedestrian walkway sealants (SC8)
ISO 19861:2015 Buildings and civil engineering works -- Sealants -- Determination of curing behaviour (SC8)
ISO 19862:2015 Buildings and civil engineering works -- Sealants -- Durability to extension compression cycling under accelerated weathering (SC8)

If you have ideas or contributions to the next newsletter, please make contact!
See also the new ISO/TC 59 home page: https://committee.iso.org/tc59