



ISO to hold a training seminar in Africa on consumer participation in standardization

Date: 31 August- 1 September 2006

Location: Gaborone, Botswana

The ISO Committee on Consumer policy (COPOLCO) and the ISO Committee on Developing Country matters (DEVCO) are jointly organizing a training seminar to enhance consumer participation in standards development. The Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) will host this event, which will bring together representatives of National Standard Bodies and consumer associations from ISO members in sub-Saharan Africa to explore ways to work more effectively together.

This is the most recent of similar training events which have already taken place in Bangkok, Cairo, Prague, Toronto and Kuala Lumpur from 2003 to the present. All have used an interactive dialogue method which encourages participants to develop concepts presented by experts within small group discussions.

One main objective will be to help NSB's and consumer associations to work together more effectively in order to ensure that consumers' priorities are included in standards, and standardization programmes. Another will be to raise consumer representatives' awareness of the value of standards and specific ways to become more involved in their development.

The event will set out basic principles of standardization, and how consumers can help define basic criteria that standards for products and services should address from a consumer's point of view. Specific case studies will be presented, and participants will have an opportunity to test the theory in small group activities to define consumer priorities for a product or service of their choice.

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