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The AFSEC Newsletter

Message from AFSEC President



Bernard Modey
AFSEC President

It is my pleasure once again to wish all colleagues and Partners a happy new year.

The beginning of each year affords us a unique opportunity to evaluate our past performance and re-strategize towards our new direction. The year 2023 was an interesting year in which we deepened our collaboration with a number of our partners, notably, the Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China (SAC) through the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), US Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA) and most importantly active participation in the 87th IEC General Meeting which was originally scheduled to be held in Cairo but had to be changed into virtual meeting due to unforeseen events.

The year 2023 also saw further collaboration between AFSEC and APUA in activities of the Joint Scientific Committee and concrete support to PAQI in the support of the Cassava Processing Project in a joint effort to boost intra-African trade under the AfCFTA. Our experts on Rotating Machines, Refrigeration Systems and Trailers & Mills with the support of PTB recommended a number of standards for adoption.

The First Young Professional Program Meeting was a good opportunity for early mid-career professionals to practically contribute in the AFSEC standardization process, to connect with other professionals.

I would like to also take the opportunity to thank all our experts who continue to work on AFSEC standards and Guides especially the ones on Electromagnetic Field Exposure and Protection, Interconnection Guide, Smart Meters Technologies, PV Minigrids Installation and Evaluation and Automation Standards with the hope that these guides will be completed in a timely manner for implementation.

As we stride into 2024, I would like to also urge colleagues to take special interest in Artificial Intelligence technologies and other emerging technologies to guide our members to be abreast with the required standards to regulate such emerging and live transforming technologies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all National Committees, Management Committee, the Executive Secretariat, the Treasurer, Both the Standards Management and Conformity Assessment Committees, as well as the Technical Committees for their valuable work making 2023 a successful year.

I am most grateful for the support and contributions of PTB, APUA, PAQI, ARSO, IEC, CEN CENELEC and IEEE, and we look forward to an even more successful albeit challenging 2024.

Happy New Year and Best Wishes once again to All

The 22nd & 23rd PAQI Joint Committee Meetings & Celebration of PAQI 10th Anniversary

The 22nd Joint Committee PAQI (Pan African Quality Infrastructure) Meeting was held on 23-24 February 2023 held in Johannesburg South Africa to discuss mainly the Cassava Workshop, the PAQI Workplan as well the establishment of Africa Quality Policy Council. The 23rd PAQI Meeting and Forum was held on 9-12 October 2023 at AUC Premises in Addis Ababa, focused on a number of topics including Africa Quality Policy Council (AQPC) Activities, Made in Africa Guidelines finalization and implementation to Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Stocktaking Document 2023. This meeting focused as well on supporting the successful implementation of the AfCFTA.

Both Meetings took place with the participation of AFSEC as one of PAQI pillars.

In the side-lines of the meeting, was the Celebration of the PAQI 10th year Anniversary with the Theme of the Year (2023) to be “Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation”.



Meeting for the “Harmonization of Machinery Standards related to Cassava processing”, 10-16 June 2023, Cairo- Egypt

One of the projects implemented by PAQI and sponsored by PTB is the “Harmonization of Identified Machinery Standards related to Cassava processing”. AFSEC hosted the Face to Face Meeting of three Working Groups “Refrigeration Systems, Rotating Electrical machines and Trailers and Mills.” with experts nominated by NECs, who finalized the Harmonization of the prioritized standards proposed by PAQI consultant, and submitted their reports to NECS for adoption. The Standards that have been harmonized were provided by IEC and CEN CENELEC according to the agreements signed with AFSEC.



Signed Agreement with CONLOG - April 2023

An Agreement was signed in April 2023 with one of the manufacturing metering solutions companies “**CONLOG**”. This Agreement is based on sponsoring some of AFSEC activities specially developing AFSEC Guidelines in the field of Smart Metering and Automation Standards.

The 2nd and 3rd APUA-AFSEC Scientific Committee Meeting (SC5)

During the 2nd Meeting held in Lilongwe, Malawi 3-4 June 2023, APUA Needs were identified to provide APUA Members with Standards needed to be harmonized as African Standards.

During the 3rd Meeting held in Durban, South Africa 5-8 December 2023, SC5 members discussed the Standards Mapping Tool which was developed in the 2nd meeting, This tool assists to map the standards required by different sectors to be approved by SC5, and accordingly directed to AFSEC TCs to include within their work plan of reviewing.

During this meeting, both the “Interconnection Guide” and “Smart Metering Specifications” Drafts were finalized after being reviewed by the Team of Experts formed in the 2nd Meeting. These two guides have been circulated among APUA members, for approval.



MOU Between AFSEC and SAC, June 2023, Qingdao - China,

An MOU between AFSEC and Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China (SAC) was signed on 9th of June 2023. The purpose of this MoU is to establish a general framework for cooperation in Standardization and Conformity Assessment between the two Parties.



The 4th Ordinary Session of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure & Energy (STC-TTIE), 12-15 September 2023, Zanzibar- Tanzania

The Objective of the Meeting is to evaluate the implementation of some programs and activities in the Infrastructure and Energy Sectors. AFSEC was invited to attend the Experts & Ministerial Meetings and participated in the Thematic Parallel Session of Energy.

AFSEC called for the fast tracking of efforts to operationalize AFSEC as a subsidiary of AFREC.



The 87th IEC General Virtual Meeting, 19 October- 2 November 2023

AFSEC attended the 87th IEC Meetings including the General Meeting, the Affiliated Forum and the Open Session. During the Open Session, highlighting the contribution of IEC work was addressed for the efficient, safe and sustainable development of African countries, as well as discussing the benefits of greater involvement and influence of African countries in the IEC



The Technical Committee ATC77 Meeting, 20-23 October 2023, Cairo- Egypt

AFSEC Technical Committee (ATC77) Meeting was held in Cairo - Egypt, from 20th -23rd October 2023 sponsored by PTB.

The meeting focused on finalizing the AFSEC Guide on Electromagnetic compatibility against EMF exposure and protection on humans.

A Hybrid Seminar was conducted back-to-back to the Meeting to discuss Current Trends in Electromagnetic Compatibility with 4th Industrial Revolution 4IR.

At the end of the Meeting, A visit to the Electromagnetic Measures Laboratory (PMC) located outside Cairo helped ATC77 members to be acquainted with the up-to-date realities of the implementation of Electro Magnetic Compatibility EMC standards for home appliances and smart meters.



The Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF2023), 9-15 November 2023 Cairo- Egypt

The Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) was held from November 9-15, 2023, in Cairo, Egypt,

The Fair highlighted the importance of quality infrastructure in supporting the AfCFTA. With the support of PTB, PAQI Institutions participated in the IATF 2023 over five days, with activities including training sessions on Codex and ISO standards and panel discussions on AfCFTA implementation.

AFSEC as one of the PAQI Institutions participated in this important event by focusing on the role of standardization and Conformity Assessment in promoting African Trade.



The First AFSEC Young Professionals Meeting, 21-22 November 2023, Cairo- Egypt

The AFSEC Young Professionals (YP) program was adopted by AFSEC Council, to encourage YPs and women to participate in standardization work.

The First Face to Face Meeting was held on 21-22 November in Cairo, Egypt where 9 YPs nominated by 8

NECs actively participated and the main Outcomes of this Meeting were:

- 1- Election of YP Chair and Secretary
- 2- A Work Plan for the year 2024 including activities to enhance the Role of Standards in Improving African Trade and in strengthening NECs Activities.

A site visit took place to the New and Renewable Energy Authority Testing Facilities (Solar Thermal, Photovoltaics and Energy Efficiency)