



Press Release

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## EXPERTS IN ELECTROTECHNICS OF THE REGION GATHERED IN COSTA RICA FOR THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR IEC AFFILIATED COUNTRIES

[COPANT](#), together with the International Electrotechnical Commission ([IEC](#)) and with the support of [PTB](#) (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt), organized a workshop to better understand the scope of the [IEC Affiliate Program](#). The organization of the event in San José was carried out by [INTECO](#), the standardization body of Costa Rica.

The objective of the workshop was to raise the awareness of COPANT members' stakeholders by providing evidence of successful cases in other countries and sharing experiences on how to benefit from the IEC Affiliate Program; how to form and operate the National Electrotechnical Committee; and to train participants on new developments in international electrotechnical standardization, such as:

- Electrical installation codes,
- IEC certification systems for product,
- Products installed under the Electrical Code
- Inspection Bodies and their role for inspection of electrical installations
- Renewable energy systems and conformity assessment for sustainable energy

The workshop was aimed at personnel of the National Standards Organizations and regulators or responsible for national policies in electrotechnics and energy in their respective countries.

41 people representing the following 12 countries attended the event: Barbados, Bolivia, Chile (virtually), Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica (Virtually), Ecuador, El Salvador (virtually), Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Saint Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago. Representatives of [CROSO](#) (CARICOM Regional Standards and Quality Organization), IEC, COPANT and PTB also participated.



*Participants of the Workshop - Photo courtesy of INTECO*

The main topics discussed during the workshop were:

- The IEC Affiliate Country Program and how members can best benefit from it.
- Establishment of a NEC (National Electrotechnical Committee), involving stakeholders
- Tutoring Programs
- Affiliate Conformity Assessment Status - IEC ACAS
- Renewable Energy and Conformity Assessment Programs for Sustainable Energy
- Electrical installation codes according to IEC standards



*Photos courtesy of INTECO*

To conclude the event, the participants worked on a plan of action to achieve better benefit from IEC activities, the main conclusions and recommendations were as follows:

- Establish in country “group” either initiated by the NSB or through other industrial groups based on Electro Technical Sector and Other Interest Parties within country, e.g. Utilities, Consumers, Regulators and Legislators, Academia, etc. Following the guidance “How to initiate a NEC in an Affiliate country”.
- Identify priorities for IEC standards based on national needs and select standards for adoption. Follow the IEC document “Criteria to select Priorities”
- Outreach programme on conformity assessment for application, implementation, and verification of IEC compliance.