



Press Release

2017-11-30

FOR THE SECOND TIME LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN IEC AFFILIATED COUNTRIES GATHERED IN A WORKSHOP

[COPANT](#), together with the International Electrotechnical Commission ([IEC](#)) and with the support of [PTB](#) (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt), organized a workshop to continue supporting Latin American and Caribbean countries in their activities to increase their participation in the IEC's standardization work and to share the advantages from participating in the [IEC Affiliate Program](#). The event was carried out in Lima, Peru with the logistic support of [INACAL](#), the standards body of Peru.

The objective of the workshop was to follow up the action plan to raise the awareness of COPANT members' stakeholders that was prepared in 2016 during the IEC-ACAS-PTB-COPANT-INTECO event held in Costa Rica.

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

More than 50 persons attended the workshop from the following 12 countries: Bahamas, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, México, Peru, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago. Representatives from CROSQ (CARICOM Regional Standards and Quality Organization), IEC, and PTB also participated.



Participants of the Workshop

The general topics addressed were:

- The importance of the Conformity Assessment for Public Policies to protect the consumers, users and the economies against bad quality products and systems.
- IEC Product certification schemes
- Renewable energy schemes and Conformity Assessment for Sustainable Energy – IECRE



The main themes analyzed during the workshop were:

- Update of the IEC activities and of the Affiliate Country Programme
- Peru's participation in the IEC and their Experience in establishing a NEC (National Electrotechnical Committee)
- The importance of promoting the work of the NEC at the national level and how to do it
- How to structure a mirror TC and why it is important for the country
- National adoptions of IEC International Standards in Mexico, and process for making comments on working documents
- Experience of participating in a mentoring program

Discussion panels also took place, to analyze the following topics:

- Progress made at the national level to increase stakeholder engagement for their national interests
- Experiences in establishing a NEC, problems and barriers encountered, lessons learned
- Conformity Assessment, Regulations, Priority and Stakeholders



At the end of the event, steps forward were define and approved for the following:



- Establish Priorities in IEC standards to follow up and/or participate in their revision.
- An Action Plan on how to elaborate a National Electrotechnical Code that will include conformity of energy efficiency and safety in household appliances
- What to do, to ensure compliance of the selected standards by using the Quality Infrastructure at a national,

regional or international arena.

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Photos courtesy of INACAL