Successful realization of COPANT Week 2023: Action for Climate and Innovation

COPANT Week 2023, the most important event in the field of standardization and quality in the Americas, took place in a hybrid format on the beautiful island of Barbados from April 23 to 26. Under the main theme of "Action for Climate and Innovation," the meeting was a resounding success, bringing together prominent experts and leaders in the field.

The week began with a warm welcome reception on Sunday, organized by hosts BNSI (Barbados National Standards Institution) and IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission). This inaugural event set the stage for collaboration and the exchange of ideas among attendees.

The General Assembly meeting was held on Monday, April 24, and Tuesday, April 25, with 132 delegates representing 27 active members, 8 adherent members, and 11 special invited organizations, in addition to the COPANT authorities. Of these, 39 participated physically at the event, while 62 joined virtually, demonstrating the adaptability and importance of connectivity in current times.

During the General Assembly, elections were held to appoint new authorities. Mauricio Céspedes from the Costa Rican Institute of Technical Standards (INTECO) was elected as the new President of COPANT, along with Roberto Montoya from ICONTEC (Colombia) as Vice President, and José Durán from IBNORCA (Bolivia) as Treasurer. Additionally, the representation in the Board of Directors was renewed, with renowned institutions from across the Americas assuming their roles.
During the week, outgoing President Osvaldo Petroni (IRAM) and incoming President Mauricio Céspedes presented the management report and future plans of COPANT. The strengthening of COPANT's global relevance through participation in international and regional events was emphasized, as well as the formalization of agreements with other organizations. The main objective of the 2023 Operational Plan, which seeks to conduct more Best Practices exchange workshops and promote effective communication among members, was also highlighted.

One of COPANT's most notable achievements was its support in the execution of the regional project financed by PTB on Quality Infrastructure for the Circular Economy. Furthermore, the upcoming publication of a Pan-American Guide to include circularity in standardization was announced, demonstrating COPANT's commitment to sustainability and innovation.

The opening ceremony featured remarks from the hosts, Acting Director of BNSI, Mr. Hadyn Rhynd, BNSI Chairman Ryan Brathwaite, and the Honorable Senator Lisa Cummins, Minister of Energy and Business. Several panel discussions were also held, addressing topics such as innovation, climate change, digital transformation, and the circular economy.

During the week, the creation of a Focus Group to monitor the development of the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Standard in ISO was approved, highlighting COPANT's commitment to sustainability and corporate responsibility.
In addition to the General Assembly meeting, COPANT Week 2023 included meetings of the Board of Directors, a Business Roundtable among members, and a workshop on dialogue sessions focused on climate change. Experts from various organizations and countries presented valuable perspectives and experiences in the fight against climate change and the promotion of the circular economy.

At the closing dinner, BNSI, which celebrated its 50th anniversary, recognized prominent personalities in Barbados who have contributed to the advancement of quality and standardization in the country.

COPANT Week 2023 was a success, bringing together leaders and experts committed to climate action and innovation throughout the region. COPANT reaffirms its commitment to continue promoting standardization and quality in the Americas, fostering collaboration and sustainable development for the benefit of society and the environment.