



هيئة التقييس

لدول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية
GCC Standardization Organization

2017

GSO REVIEW
INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION



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The letter of GSO Secretary General

Dear GSO Partners and Stakeholders,

GCC Standardization Organization's (GSO) seeks to strengthen cooperation and partnership with counterpart organizations at the regional and international levels, to benefit from their experiences and expertise in a way that contributes to supporting trade exchange and removing potential technical barriers to trade between member states and economic groupings and blocs represented by these entities.

Along with the harmonization of standard specifications, technical regulations and conformity verification procedures, and twinning of some related technical committees with the corresponding technical committees in those bodies as needed, by Encouraging its active participation in the work of international committees, benefiting from capacity-building and technical support programs, exchanging experiences, best practices and annual work programs, and coordinating positions with regional and international organizations to support GSO's member states at the regional and international levels.

GSO continued to support its current partnerships, opened new channels of communication with regional and international organizations, and actors in the public and private sectors, and worked closely with its partners around the world. Where the GSO signed (12) MoUs and Technical cooperation agreements with ISO, SMIIC, AGU, GCCJPPI, CROSQ, CEN, ACI, CNCA, KATS, RWDI, NMIA and AZSTAND.

GSO cooperates with its counterparts to enhance and explore opportunities for cooperation and the implementation of signed MoUs and annual operational programs, through bilateral meetings, exchange of experts, experiences and best practices, and coordination in international forums to ensure the achievement of the desired results, and to support standardization and its various activities in order to achieve the safety and prosperity of societies.

In conclusion, I am honored, on my own behalf, and on behalf of all employees of the GCC Standardization Organizations (GSO), to place in your hands the most prominent achievements of GSO in terms of international relations for the year 2017.

With many thanks to our partners and friends around the world for their continuous cooperation with GSO, looking forward to the continuation and sustainability of these relations.

Nabil bin Amin Molla
GSO Secretary General



Cooperation Agreements signed in 2017

GSO signed several Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and cooperation agreements in 2017 to further our cooperation with International, regional, and National standardizations organizations. These MoUs and agreements formalize our partnerships and establish key objectives and strategies, including sharing of knowledge, experience, best practices, and other mutual benefits to drive increased relevance and influence of standards throughout the world. The following table includes the standardization organizations with which GSO signed MOUs in 2017:

#	Abbriv	Organization
01	ISO	International Organization for Standardization
02	SMIIC	Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries
03	AGU	Arabian Gulf University
04	GCCJPPI	Gulf Cooperation Council Joint Program Production Institution
05	CROSQ	CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality
06	CEN	European Committee for Standardization
07	ACI	American Concrete Institute
08	CNCA	Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China
09	KATS	Korea Agency for Technology and Standards
10	RWDI	Rowan Williams Davies & Irwin Inc
11	NMIA	National Measurement Institute
12	AZSTAND	Azerbaijan Standardization Institute



Highlights



ISO

A Memorandum of Understanding with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was renewed (by correspondence) for the next three years, starting from 04/25/2017, after the success of the first MoU of in strengthening the relationship between the ISO in various fields.



Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

GSO signed a MoU with SMIIC on the sidelines of the SMIIC General Assembly Meeting, (26 November 2017) in the presence of the Turkish Minister of Science, Industry and Technology.



Arabian Gulf University (AGU)

GSO and the Arabian Gulf University signed a cooperation agreement on (14 August 2017) represented by His Excellency Mr. Nabil bin Amin Molla, Secretary-General of GSO and Dr. Khaled bin Abdul Rahman Al-Ohali, President of Arabian Gulf University.



This MoU included many areas of cooperation with a focus on coordination to promote and disseminate the culture of standardization and quality at the level of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and to conduct scientific research, surveys that serve standardization and related activities.



Gulf Cooperation Council Joint Program Production Institution

A MoU was signed between Gulf Cooperation Council Joint Program Production Institution and GSO on (16 August 2017).



This MoU highlights the role of the media and media institutions in raising awareness of standardization and quality in a way that preserves consumer safety, public health and environment. within the programs and activities of the institution in the member states through qualified human cadres in each of two organizations, bodies and institutions or analogous to the organization regionally and internationally.



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CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)

On the sidelines of the meeting of the General Assembly of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (Berlin, 17-22 September 2017), GSO signed a memorandum of understanding with CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ).

This MoU includes exchange standards documents and technical regulations published by each party, exchange of work programs Annual plans, Standards and technical regulations prepared by the technical committees of the parties, and to consider the standard specifications issued by the two parties as a main reference when preparing standards by the two parties.



European Committee for Standardization (CEN)

A technical cooperation agreement was signed between the GSO and the European Standardization Committee (CEN) in the field of children's toys CEN / TC 52 (Safety of Toys) on (April 21, 2017).



American Concrete Institute (ACI)

GSO and the American Concrete Institute (ACI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on (May 17, 2017), represented by the Secretary-General, Nabil bin Amin Molla, and on behalf of the Institute, its Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Ronald Berg.

This MoU aims to Enabling GSO to use the concrete codes issued by the institute in the Gulf Building Code while preserving the intellectual property and publishing rights of the ACI.



Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China (CNCA)

GSO signed a memorandum of understanding with the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China (CNCA) in Riyadh (September 25, 2017).

This MoU comes to enhance, encourage and develop cooperation in the field of conformity assessment procedures, within the scope of competence of each of the two bodies with the aim of encouraging communication and cooperation between conformity assessment bodies in the member states of the Standardization Organization of the GCC Cooperation for the Arab Gulf states and the People's Republic of China.



Korea Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS)

GSO and the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (September 19, 2017).

Within the frame of strengthening cooperation between GSO and KATS, this MoU comes to cooperate in the field of Gulf technical regulations, certification tracking system and participation in joint meetings and seminars.

This memorandum comes as a renewal of the memorandum of understanding signed with the Korean side on (November 28, 2011).



Rowan Williams Davies & Irwin Inc (RWDI)

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between GSO and Rowan Williams Davies & Irwin Inc (RWDI) (May 15, 2017), to provide the necessary information to support the GCC and Saudi building code.



National Measurement Institute

GSO and the Australian National Measurement Institute (NMIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (30 August 2017), which includes cooperation in metrology-related activities such as the Calibration and Measurement Capabilities (CMCs) and Inter-laboratory comparisons (ILCs) and quality management systems).

This memorandum comes after a meeting with specialists at the Australian Measurement Institute. (Sydney, February 14, 2017), during the meeting, it was agreed to prepare a MoU between the institute and GSO.



Azerbaijan Standardization Institute (AZSTAND)

A memorandum of understanding was signed between GSO and Azerbaijan Standardization Institute (AZSTAND) on the sidelines of Azerbaijan-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Member States Business Forum, (19-20 October 2017), in the presence of the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Organized by Ministry of Economy and Federation of GCC Chambers.

The signed MoU aimed to strengthen cooperation between Azerbaijan and the GCC countries in the fields of standards and conformity assessment, to remove obstacles to trade and increase the volume of trade exchange between the GCC countries and Azerbaijan.



Regional and International Events



International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

GSO participated in the meeting of the 40th ISO General Assembly and the 50th ISO Committee on developing country matters (DEVCO), (Berlin, 17-22 September 2017).

The participation included holding a number of bilateral meetings with the organization's partners focused on support means of cooperation between GSO and regional and international standardization organizations, future trends of standardization and its impact on international trade and the global economy, and the importance of the participation of the young generation in the standardization process.

As well as participating in a workshop (Regional standardization organizations in the international framework) in cooperation with ISO, PTB, DIN, and in the presence of 13 regional and sub-regional organizations.





International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

GSO participated in the 81st annual general meeting of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and its accompanying events (Vladivostok - Russia, 09-13 October 2017).

On the sidelines of the meeting, GSO participated in the Standards Board meetings (SMB) and the Forum of National Committee Chairs (NC president workshop) as well as National Committees forum (NC Secretaries), the Council of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the General Assembly (Council Board).

Mr. Nabil Molla, GSO Secretary General gave an introductory speech at the Standards management Board meeting (SMB) chaired by Mr. Ralph Sporer about GSO and its most important achievements in the previous period in addition to submitting a proposal for GSO's desire to host a regional office for the International Electrotechnical Commission.

His Excellency GSO Secretary-General and his accompanying delegation participated in a number of workshops accompanying the meeting, including: The developed countries workshop that reviewed a number of successful practices on conformity verification systems, energy efficiency, supply chain management and other vital issues in a number of member states of the committee.

Also, GSO participated in the Young Professional workshop, which gave a presentation on the vision of the International Electrotechnical Commission regarding the current electronic systems and the systems that are being developed. Also, the workshop took part in a workshop of a set of coordination tools (IEC Collaboration Tools Suite Reference Group workshop), discussed the vision of the International Electrotechnical Commission regarding the current electronic systems.

On the sidelines of the meeting, it was a great opportunity to meet many Arab, regional and international delegations in the context of strengthening and sustaining the GSO's relations with its partners.



The Arab forum for standardization and consumer protection

The two-day forum, organized by the Sudanese Organization for Standardization and Metrology in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining, (Khartoum, 13-17 October 2017), GSO participated in the Arab forum for standardization and consumer protection.

The forum discussed many working papers by experts from inside and outside Sudan, aiming to come up with constructive recommendations that contribute to the development of standardization standards in the Arab region.





12th SMIC General Assembly

GSO participated in the general assembly of The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC),, in the presence of His Excellency the Turkish Minister of Science, Industry and Technology (Istanbul, November 26, 2017), during which a memorandum of understanding was signed between GSO and SMIIC. During this visit, GSO had a meeting with The Turkish Standards Institute (TSE) and the National Metrology Institute (UME) and several issues were discussed under the umbrella of signed MoU.



“Enhancing cooperation and activation of the MoUs” Workshop

GSO, in cooperation with the Public Authority for Industry in the State of Kuwait, organized a workshop to activate agreements and methods for member states to benefit from them (Kuwait, July 24-26, 2017), in which:

- Reviewing the experiences of international, regional and national standardization organizations invited to the workshop
- Reviewing the experiences of member states in the field of activating memoranda of understanding:
 - International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
 - European Committee for Standardization (CEN) / European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)
 - American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM International)





TÜBİTAK National Metrology Institute (UME)

Participating in the meeting of the TÜBİTAK National Metrology Institute (UME) (Istanbul, November 27, 2017) and presenting a presentation on the authority, including tasks, activities and achievements at the Gulf, regional and international levels, and discussing a number of topics included in the memorandum of understanding signed between the authority and the institute, and the approved work plan between the institute and the Gulf assembly Metrology.



The second Australian conference and exhibition for Halal

GSO participated in the second Australian conference and exhibition for halal (11-12 February 2017) , during which His Excellency the Secretary-General of the Authority presented a working paper on the Gulf standards and technical regulations in the field of halal. Several organizations and counterparts, regionally and internationally.

Joint meetings

01

His Excellency the Secretary-General received at the GSO's headquarters (Riyadh, April 05, 2017) a delegation of the Australian Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources headed by Mr. Paul Ross, Assistant Secretary-General, in the presence of Mr. Ian Mortimer Country Director for the Middle East, North and South Africa, Indonesia and Dr. Glen Edmunds, Advisor (Agriculture) at the Australian Embassy in Riyadh.

The meeting discussed the framework of cooperation between the two sides in terms of harmonizing Australian and Gulf standards and building the technical capacities of the Gulf technical committees in the field of water efficiency.



02

Mr. Molla, Secretary-General received at the GSO's headquarters (Riyadh, April 05, 2017) His Excellency the CEO of the Saudi Food and Drug Authority, Dr.Hisham bin Saad Al-Jadhey,.

The meeting emphasized the level of the distinguished relationship existing between the two sides and the desire for complementarity and joint work, during this meeting, GSO and SFDA discussed the Gulf technical regulation for Cosmetics and Medical Devices.



03

GSO received a delegation from the Standardization Administration of China (SAC) (Riyadh, March 30, 2017), addressing many areas of cooperation between the two sides, and focusing on the roadmap project in light of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two sides.



04

Meeting with specialists in the Ministry of Primary Industries of New Zealand (Wellington, February 16, 2017), during the meeting, the New Zealand side was invited to view the relevant Gulf standards by visiting the Standards Store on GSO's website and discussing the possibility of harmonizing the Gulf and New Zealand standards for food.

05

Meeting with specialists at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) (Wellington, February 16, 2017). The meeting addressed the importance of strengthening the relationship with the New Zealand side in terms of trade specifications and benefiting from the New Zealand experience in product safety legislation as well as its experience in risk assessment.

06

Meeting with specialists in New Zealand standards (Wellington, February 16, 2017), stressing the importance of harmonizing Gulf and New Zealand standards, and inviting specialists on the New Zealand side to participate in the work of the Gulf technical committees.

07

Meeting with specialists in the Measurement Standards Laboratory of New Zealand (MSL) (Wellington, February 16, 2017), during this meeting, the areas of cooperation between the institute and the Gulf Metrology Group were discussed.

08

Meeting with the specialists at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Wellington, February 16, 2017).

His Excellency the Secretary General gave an overview of GSO and the importance of standardization of cooperation and trade and economic exchange between the Gulf countries and New Zealand.

09

Meeting with specialists in the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (Canberra, February 13, 2017). The discussion took place on harmonizing the Gulf and Australian standards for food and benefiting from the Department's experience in using standards and assessing risks in public policy and legislation.

10

Meeting with specialists in the Australian Standards Authority (Sydney, February 14, 2017) during the meeting, the Australian Standards Authority was invited to participate in the work of the Gulf technical committees as needed to strengthen cooperation between the Australian Standards Authority Academy and the GCC Standardization Training Center.

11

Meeting with specialists at the Standards Australia (Sydney, February 14, 2017), the two side were agreed to prepare a memorandum of cooperation to be signed as soon as possible.





We are GSO, the Regional Organization for Standardization

- Established by the resolution of the GCC Supreme Council (22nd Session, Muscat, Oman, 30-31 December 2001) and operated in May 2004.
- A non-governmental and not for profit organization.
- Working under the umbrella of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC).
- Working with its Member States to unify the standardization activities and follow their implementation by Member States to protect the consumer, environment, public health, enhance the GCC economy and its competitiveness, and meet the requirements of Gulf Custom Union and Gulf Common Market, in accordance with the international practices.
- **Main activities:**
Standards, Metrology, and Conformity Assessment; Providing capacity building programs, technical assistance, and IT infrastructure.
- We are a regional network of national standards bodies with one member per country.
- **GSO members, namely:**
The State of the United Arab Emirates, The Kingdom of Bahrain, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, The Sultanate of Oman, The State of Qatar, and The State of Kuwait.
- All are members of ISO and are signatory to the WTO TBT Annex III.
- GSO provides a platform for developing practical tools through a sustainable partnership and common understanding and cooperation with all stakeholders.



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