



Workshop on Harmonization of Standards: Challenges and Opportunities for World Trade

(Virtual)

06 September 2021



BRICS Workshop on ‘Harmonization of Standards: Challenges and Opportunities for World Trade’ was held in virtual format under the Chairship of India on 06th September, 2021. Shri Jayanta Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director General (Standardization), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) chaired the workshop, which was attended by delegates from the National Standards Bodies (NSBs) of BRICS Countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

Shri Chowdhury in his opening remarks welcomed his counterparts to the meeting being held during the year of 15th anniversary of BRICS under the theme ‘BRICS @ 15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus’. He highlighted the significance of the BRICS grouping, the constituent nations of which are not only are rapidly growing economies but also represent the aspirations of their respective regions, with substantial untapped potential for further all round growth.



Referring to the disruptions in the world order owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, he stressed on the importance of rebound of trade in order to mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic and rebuild lives and livelihoods. He highlighted the significance of standards in building the quality infrastructure of a country, playing a crucial role in achieving and maintaining a minimum level of quality of products and services offered to consumers, and added that harmonization of standards facilitates free-flowing trade, thereby providing manufacturers with access to a larger potential market and providing greater variety for the consumers to choose from.

The Heads of the delegations from Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa also spoke on the essence of standards and their relevance from the perspective of quality infrastructure and trade. The delegations from each country shared their perspectives on Harmonization of standards and the associated challenges and opportunities for world trade thereof, and covered other overlying aspects through their theme presentations.

The NSBs exchanged opinions and suggestions on the theme presentations, which were well received by all the national delegations. The importance of the BRICS forum was highlighted, acknowledging that it acts as a bridge between the developed and the developing world. Some of the key challenges flagged by the NSBs in the workshop that needed to be addressed by the forum were summarized such as challenges of low participation at international level, need for collaboration at the ISO/IEC, region specific requirements, resource constraints faced by NSBs, tapping capacity building potential, etc. as well as the opportunities linked with the harmonization of standards such as compliance with WTO-TBT requirements, aid in fulfilment of SDGs, integration with global value chains and increased share in global trade, increased uptake of standards by Govt. Policy makers and regulators, etc.

The meeting ended with Shri Chowdhury expressing his gratitude to all the delegates for sharing their inspiring thoughts and ideas and thanking them for making the workshop a success.


