

# MEDIA RELEASE



Tuesday, 19 February 2013

## AUSTRALIA HOSTS AANZFTA WORKSHOP

Standards Australia is today hosting a two day workshop on International Standards Development Best Practices under the Economic Cooperation Work Program (ECWP) of the Agreement establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) which supports training of ASEAN Parties to assist in implementing the AANZFTA.

The workshop is taking place with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

“This initiative is fundamental to sustaining economic competitiveness, productivity, and growth across the region,” said Colin Blair, Chief Executive Officer, Standards Australia.

“Increasingly we have to look to innovation as the primary means of staying competitive and productive in the region,” Mr Blair said

Mr Blair said Australian Standards provide a benchmark for technology, safety, interoperability and trade.

“We’re committed to fostering regional and global partnerships that enhance information sharing and best practices in standards development and conformance assessment,” Mr. Blair said.

Mr Michael Mugliston PSM, Special Negotiator, Free Trade Agreement Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said Australia has a key role to play through AANZFTA in contributing towards capacity building and institutional strengthening across the region.

“Standardization is a fundamental enabler in international trade and exchange, and an area where Australia has a key leadership responsibility,” Mr Mugliston said.

Mr Mugliston said standardization provides the technical infrastructure critical for global engagement, prosperity and economic growth.

Standards Australia is the Australian member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

**Media Contact      Nicholas Davy, 0405 506 457**  
**Head of Public Affairs**

Standards Australia is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, recognised by the Australian Government as the peak non-government Standards body in Australia. Standards Australia develops internationally aligned Australian Standards® that deliver Net Benefit to Australia and is the Australian member of ISO and IEC [www.standards.org.au](http://www.standards.org.au). Standards Australia is the Principal Sponsor of the Australian International Design Awards [www.designawards.com.au](http://www.designawards.com.au)