

International and regional items of interest for March 2020 are as follows:

1. DG Azevedo communicated COVID-19 measures to WTO members and staff

[More>>](#)

2. WTO Trade Policy Review for Australia

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ISO items of interest for March 2020 are as follows:

1. Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity on Lithium

[More>>](#)

2. Five Things You Didn't Know About Global Payments

[More>>](#)

3. Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity on Biodiversity

[More>>](#)

IEC items of interest for March 2020 are as follows:

1. Can AI be used to fight the Covid-19 virus?

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2. Giving a New Shape to the Economy

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3. Information Technology for Smart Cities

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## International

### 1. [DG Azevêdo communicated COVID-19 measures to WTO members and staff](#)

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo has informed WTO members and staff that access to the organization's premises will be restricted as of 16 March. All WTO meetings are suspended until the end of April and Secretariat staff have been requested to work from home until the end of March.

Learn more [here](#).

### 2. [WTO Trade Policy Review for Australia](#)

The eighth review of the trade policies and practices of Australia took place virtually on 11 and 13 March following the decision to suspend all WTO meetings until 20 March. The suspension was agreed on after confirmation that one WTO staff member has contracted the COVID-19 virus. Both the WTO's report and Australia's policy statement are now available.

Learn more [here](#).

## ISO

### 1. [Proposal for New Field of Technical Activity on Lithium](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO technical committee on "Lithium" has been submitted by SAC (China). Standardization in the field of lithium mining, concentration, extraction, separation and conversion to useful lithium compounds/materials (including oxides, salts, metals, master alloys, lithium-ion battery materials, etc.) The work program includes terminology, technical conditions of delivery to overcome transport difficulties, unified testing and analysis methods to improve the general quality of lithium products.

To learn more about the proposal or provide feedback, please contact us at [sem@standards.org.au](mailto:sem@standards.org.au).

### 2. [Five Things You Didn't Know About Global Payments](#)

Ensuring people have the right skills for the job is a key element of an organization's success. A recently revised and revamped International Standard will help integrate competence management into its daily work.

Learn more [here](#).

### 3. [Proposal for New Field of Technical Activity on Biodiversity](#)

The national standards body of France (AFNOR) submits to ISO a proposal for the creation of a new Technical Committee on "Biodiversity". The Committee will develop standards and standardization documents in the field of Biodiversity, to develop requirements, principles, framework, guidance and tools in global approach for relevant organizations, to enhance their contribution to Sustainable Development.

To learn more about the proposal or provide feedback, please contact us at [sem@standards.org.au](mailto:sem@standards.org.au).

## IEC

### 1. [Can AI be used to fight the Covid-19 Virus?](#)

Advances in technology, such as artificial intelligence, could help to provide solutions to the Covid-19 pandemic. Using AI tools such as machine learning and data analytics, researchers can help to track outbreaks, detect illness and eventually secure a treatment.

Learn more [here](#).

### 2. [Giving A New Shape to the Economy](#)

The circular economy calls for a paradigm shift in production and consumption across society. Continual cycles recover and restore products, components and materials through strategies such as reuse, repair, remanufacture and, ultimately, recycling. It is a systemic approach to managing resources, which impacts all participants in the product value chain: manufacturers and their business models, suppliers, consumers and their behaviour and the waste management industry.

Learn more [here](#).

### 3. [Information Technology for Smart Cities](#)

Cities can benefit from the widespread use of data and technology. However, in order to leverage the benefit of new technologies, standards are needed. Not only do they allow for the provision of competitively priced and effective products and services that can function together, but they also provide clear descriptions of best practice and enable common approaches to tackling common challenges.

Learn more [here](#).