

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

1. WTO DDG Wolff: China of today is vastly different from the China that joined the WTO in 2001 [More>>](#)
2. WTO and World Bank showcase updated version of Services Trade Policy Database [More>>](#)

ISO items of interest for January 2020 are as follows:

1. International Standards improving financial inclusion for all [More>>](#)
2. Transforming the migration of money: ISO 20022 [More>>](#)
3. Advancing biosecurity with first international standard for biorisk management [More>>](#)

IEC items of interest for January 2020 are as follows:

1. New subcommittee enables future of cloud computing standardisation at the international level [More>>](#)
2. How standards help people trust AI [More>>](#)

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International

1. [DDG Wolff: China of today is vastly different from the China that joined the WTO in 2001](#)

In a speech to Chinese university students visiting the WTO on 13 January, Deputy Director-General Alan Wolff underlined that China's accession to the WTO accelerated the country's process of internal economic reform. He said that the multilateral trading system provides the essential international legal structure to assure China's economic future through trade and encouraged China to use its extensive expertise with respect to the WTO to help the organization update its rulebook and maintain the value of the global trading system.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [WTO and World Bank showcase updated version of Services Trade Policy Database](#)

An updated version of the Services Trade Policy Database, jointly developed by the WTO and the World Bank, was presented at the WTO on 16 January. The database now contains new information on the services trade policies and regulations applied by 68 economies and incorporates data on 23 sub-sectors, including financial services, telecommunications, distribution, transport and professional services.

Learn more [here](#).

ISO

1. [International Standards improving financial inclusion for all](#)

In the world of haves and have-nots, nearly two billion people globally lack access to the mainstream financial system. Why does this matter and what can be done to tackle the issue? Experts explain how International Standards can help to establish transparency, rebuild trust and solve the identity crisis in the digital age.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [Transforming the migration of money: ISO 20022](#)

The global financial system is currently undergoing its most far-reaching transformation in recent history as new market infrastructure, such as instant payment platforms, is being implemented worldwide. Underpinning these developments is ISO 20022, an international messaging standard that promises to be a game changer in payments.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [Advancing biosecurity with first international standard for biorisk management](#)

From diagnosing diseases to pharmaceutical and scientific research, the handling of biological materials in laboratories or elsewhere is essential for many industries but doesn't come without its dangers. Effective risk management of biohazardous materials means a reduced chance of accidents, less impact on the environment and a more efficient use of time and other resources. A new international management system standard has just been published to help.

Learn more [here](#).

IEC

1. [New subcommittee enables future of cloud computing standardisation at the international level](#)

Cloud computing has taken the IT industry by storm. Estimated at USD 24.6 billion in 2010, cloud computing has already surpassed USD 100 billion and is expected to reach USD 150 billion by the end of 2020. Standards can help to provide confidence and guidance in a rapidly changing industry. To enable the standardization of cloud computing at the international level, the IEC and ISO joint technical committee on IT set up a subcommittee in this area: ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 38.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [How standards help people trust AI](#)

Today, people must work with non-human entities, which are incorporating diverse artificial intelligence (AI) technologies across multiple sectors. A key barrier to adoption of AI is concerns about the trustworthiness of the system. The standardisation work being carried out by [IEC and ISO](#) not only tries to identify and put a framework around these emerging issues, it also provides technical approaches to mitigating the concerns and links to the non-technical requirements such as ethical and societal challenges.

Learn more [here](#).