



## News

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### IEC on the agenda at WTO meeting for Asia-Pacific



Some 26 countries from the Asia-Pacific Region took part in a three-day workshop organized by the [World Trade Organization](#) (WTO), and hosted by the Malaysian Government. The event, held from 20-22 November, was part of the WTO's ongoing programme to increase awareness of international standardization and conformity assessment in support of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement.

IEC was represented by Chris Agius, Technical Secretariat for the [IECEX](#) and [IECQ](#) Conformity Assessment Schemes, who updated delegates on the IEC's standardization activities and the capacity building initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region. Agius was able to give a particularly informed insight into the Commission's conformity assessment activities.

The workshop aimed to help countries in the region consolidate their knowledge of the principles and disciplines of the WTO TBT Agreement from the detailed presentations from the WTO Secretariat.

The event also enabled attendees to gain a better understanding and updates from the activities of the invited organizations, with the IEC providing examples of practical and real benefits in the use of its standards and its conformity assessment schemes.



26 countries from the Asia-Pacific Region took part in the WTO workshop



Attendees at the WTO workshop

During an open discussion forum held on the last day, attendees were invited to raise issues for further consideration by the WTO or other invited organizations, including the IEC. Delegates from Bhutan and India raised the need for further assistance in raising the region's awareness and understanding of conformity assessment across various disciplines. During the discussions, attendees were informed of work through the IEC Affiliate Country Programme, now boasting 77 participating countries and the coordinated work between the Programme's secretariat and its three conformity assessment schemes ([IECEE](#), [IECQ](#) and [IECEX](#)).

Other invited organizations present at the workshop in Kuala Lumpur included the [European Commission](#), the International Organization for Standardization, [ISO](#), the [International Organization of Legal Metrology](#), OIML, the [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#), UNIDO, and the [US Department of Commerce](#).

The WTO/TBT Secretariat has set up a [workshops webpage](#), where, in addition to the final programme and list of participants, you will find a summary of the issues discussed during the sessions and the PowerPoint presentations that were presented.

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