

THE WORLD OF ISO - DEVELOPMENT OF WORKING DRAFT-

International Affairs Department

In September, I visited Denver, U.S.A, to attend the ISO/TC 224/WG 6 meeting. ISO/TC 224 is a technical committee of "Service activities relating to drinking water supply systems and wastewater systems - Quality criteria of the service and performance indicators."¹ WG 6 handles asset management. I will tell you how people develop a working draft at ISO meetings in this newsletter.

Regarding asset management, you might think ISO has already published ISO 55000. ISO 55000:2014 provides an overview of asset management, its principles and terminology, and the expected benefits of adopting all kinds of asset management, including road, railroad, electric power, water supply, and wastewater system. TC 224/WG 6 aims to develop asset management guidelines for water supply and wastewater systems. Currently, TC 224/WG 6 is considering the development of policies for the following four categories: Asset management for water pipelines (Part 1), water works facilities (Part 2), sewer pipelines (Part 3), and wastewater facilities (Part 4). Parts 2 and 4 are in the middle of the ballots for NP (New work item Proposal). Voting results will come out when you read this newsletter.

*1. As to basic information about ISO, TC or standards development, you can refer to the #172 newsletter of February 2016.

🌐 **Development Process of Working Draft and Meeting Procedure**

Development of ISO documents starts with NP. After that, several processes are repeated, including collecting members' comments, approval/rejection of the words, and having meetings.

For example, in Denver, Part 3 of TC 224/WG 6 was in the stage of DIS (Draft International Standard) that was ready to finish. Members dealt with the issues that remained a matter of debate among comments collected from member countries. We had a total of observations numbers in the hundreds and 321 this time. WG 6 spent two days discussing issues that were just part of the entire group of comments.



Photo 1: Denver meeting

In the meeting, the discussion proceeded with a screen showing the working draft with a list of observations. A secretary of a convenor added modifications or results of the debate, including approval, rejection, and specific actions (Photo 1).

🌐 **The Scope of the ISO document**

I mentioned ISO has already published ISO 55000 for asset management. TC 224/WG 6 refers to guidelines of ISO 55000 to develop a working draft. I felt many discussions in WG 6 focused on the consistency with other standards between some sections of TC 224 or the distinctiveness of TC 224. Particularly this time, WG 6 spent its time on the "Definition of Terms." When developing new ISO standards, the existing ISO documents are often used as references. The most crucial process at this point is to clarify the "Scope of Application" and "Definition of Terms" of developing documents. For example, Part 3 (sewer pipelines) of TC 224/WG 6 specifies

guidelines in the opening sentence of the scope that "Technical aspects, tools, and good practices for the management of assets of wastewater networks to maintain value from existing assets." The content also mentions that the international standard applies to "all types and sizes of organizations and utilities operating wastewater networks" and "all different roles/functions for the management of assets within a utility such as an asset owner, manager, and service provider."

Learning English



While ISO standards are developed in English, many non-native English speakers, including me, join the work. Oral communications at discussions or meetings allow us to moderate English. But ISO documents require English accuracy, of course. As convenors or secretaries always ask a native speaker's advice for English, British or American members judge grammar. In Denver, the British convenor of WG 1 (Definition of Terms) helped grammar check WG 6. His grammar check was too delicate for me to understand precisely. I learned about word choices, such as "identification" or "identifying," following "of," "may," or "can" for indicating the possibility, and so on. I wish I could use them in practice. It is a beneficial English lesson.

In closing

Any meeting seems to have its "color." In WG of ISO, the color of the discussion depends much on the policy of a convenor. WG 6 has a German convenor and a German secretary in the Denver meeting. JS has been involved in ISO/TC 275 (Sludge recovery, recycling, treatment, and disposal) as a member of the national mirror committee, and some WGs in TC 275 have a French or Italian convenor. Japan will act as a convenor for TC 275/WG 7 this year, and I will join as a secretary for the

next meeting in Dublin. The Denver meeting helped me work as a member of the Secretariat in the upcoming opportunities.

I hope JS will contribute to the standardization in the field of wastewater in many ways.

 **The abbreviation on this newsletter** 

DIS: Draft International Standard