

Summary of the ICES meeting in Tokyo (ICES 2006)

'Companies as well as standards bodies need well-educated standardization experts. Standardization processes should keep up with the times. Who will progress the theory and practice of standardization? Will universities provide us with such people? My dream is that we cooperate to promote education about standardization and manage its realization'.

In order to let this dream become true, John Hill, Standards Manager of Sun Microsystems, organized an expert meeting on 'The Future of Global Education in Standards.' Experts from academia as well as companies from Asia, North America and Europe met in Tokyo, February 6-8, and shared ideas and experiences.

South Korea served as a benchmark: during 2005, 4830 students participated in a course on standardization, provided by 120 lecturers at 30 universities. In 2006, the number of universities is expected to increase to 45. One of the critical success factors seems to be the active and very personal commitment and involvement of KSA, the Korean Standards Association.

Though cultures differ, standardization is an international phenomenon, so countries can learn from each other's standardization education practices. The participants agreed:

- that "education about standardization globally " is a subject worth pursuing;
- to continue the initiative and to meet once a year;
- to share knowledge and experience;
- to proceed under the name 'International Committee for Education about Standardization' (ICES).

The next meeting is scheduled for 7-9 February 2007 in Delft, The Netherlands, and will be prepared by Tineke Egyedi (Delft University of Technology) and Henk de Vries (Erasmus University Rotterdam). The meeting in Tokyo was on invitation only, the meeting in 2007 will be open for everyone sharing 'the dream.' For more information: Henk de Vries , +31 10 408 20 02, hvries@rsm.nl

Toshiaki Kurokawa – CSK Holdings Corporation, Tokyo
Henk J. de Vries – RSM Erasmus University, Rotterdam