

ISO/IEC JTC 1 marks its 30th anniversary in Vladivostok

During the first week of October, ISO/IEC JTC 1 held its 32nd annual plenary meeting in Vladivostok, Russia. The meeting, scheduled to coincide with the 81st IEC General Meeting and hosted by the Russian National Committee, also marked the 30th anniversary of JTC 1's formation. The meeting brought together more than 80 experts from 18 countries to discuss developments and plan new work programs across many aspects of the Information Technology standardisation landscape.

[Constituted in 1987](#)¹ as the first joint committee of both IEC and ISO, JTC 1 is [now made up of](#)² experts from 33 countries and has published 3062 standards in the field of Information Technology.



Figure 1 Delegates attending the ISO/IEC JTC 1 meeting in Vladivostok

Originally publishing standards in areas such as “Coded Character Sets” under sub-committee (SC) 2 and “Telecommunications and Information Exchange between Systems” under SC 6, JTC 1 has always kept pace with technology developments. Following creation last year of a SC on **IoT & Related Technologies**, the trend has continued with the recommendation of a new SC on another cutting edge topic.

¹ <https://jtc1historyblog.wordpress.com/>

² <https://www.iso.org/committee/45020.html>

Artificial Intelligence



Artificial Intelligence was a theme that ran throughout the Plenary, with presentations and discussions on this hot topic being raised in many contributions and reports. The resulting JTC 1 decision was to establish a new SC on the topic of **Artificial Intelligence** which will consider aspects of AI including: Terminology, Reference Architecture, Security, Fuzzy Logic, Machine Learning and Risk Mitigation to name a few.

Recognizing the interdependence of many technical efforts in JTC 1, both the IoT and this new AI SC will adopt a systems integration approach for the development and management of their respective work programs.

3D Printing & Scanning

Following the completion of a year-long study by a JTC 1 Study Group into the state of the art in the area of 3D printing and scanning, JTC 1 has decided to setup a working group on the topic. The new working group, serving as the focus for and proponent of JTC 1's standardization program on 3D printing and scanning, will develop ICT-related foundational standards, identify gaps and opportunities, and work with other ISO and IEC committees plus external organisations active on this topic.

Additionally, JTC 1 is continuing its work on evaluating opportunities for new work in the areas of Augmented Reality and Edge Computing.

Recognition

JTC 1's prolific sub-committee SC 29 (Coding of audio, picture and multimedia information) has produced 576 published ISO/IEC standards which are used worldwide for creating and viewing digital pictures and videos. This October, its work will be recognised at the 69th Engineering Emmy Awards where members of JTC 1 SC 29 will receive an Emmy for standardisation work on High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC). This new compression coding technique improves the delivery of ultra-high definition (UHD) content over multiple distribution channels. JTC 1 SC 29 is no stranger to the Emmy's, having previously won awards in 2009 for MPEG-4 AVC and in 1995/1996 for MPEG-1 and MPEG-2.

This year also sees the term of current chair, Ms. Karen Higginbottom, coming to an end. Karen has served for nine years as JTC 1 chair and has led the organisation very effectively during this time of continuous evolution in information technology trends requiring standardisation. And in an effort to recruit new standardizers to this important area, Karen will also be presenting next week at the Young Professionals Panel during the IEC General Meeting.

The JTC 1 Plenary subsequently endorsed Mr. Phil Wennblom (US) as the incoming JTC 1 Chair for an initial three year term. Mr. Wennblom has in-depth experience in information technology standardisation and for the last 4 years has served as Chair of INCITS (the US Technical Advisory Group that mirrors the work of JTC 1).

