

PASC STRATEGIC PLAN

2026-2030

BACKGROUND

1. Established in 1972, the Pacific Area Standards Congress (or “PASC”) is an independent and voluntary organization. Its membership comprises of national standards bodies principally from the Pacific Rim. PASC members have diverse cultural, linguistic and development backgrounds.
2. Upholding PASC’s core values of collaboration, commitment and innovation, PASC members’ primary focus is to support the region’s engagement in the international standardization system for the advancement of economic, social and environmental well-being. This includes ensuring that PASC is well-represented in policy and governance committees of ISO, IEC, and ITU-T.
3. Although PASC’s work program is focused primarily on standardization, it also considers other elements of the technical infrastructure, such as conformity assessment, metrology and regulatory support for the implementation of standards.
4. This document seeks to present PASC’s vision and priorities for 2026 - 2030 to respond to opportunities and challenges arising from the changing global standardization landscape. This document was developed in collaboration with the current Working Groups 1-5 and features their inputs throughout¹.

EVOLVING GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

5. Several key trends are influencing the global standardization environment and shaping the region’s needs. These should be considered in PASC’s future activities to ensure that it remains relevant well in the future.

¹ See Annex 2 for Working Groups scope and definition.

6. For instance, expectations and needs of standards users and standards developers are evolving as a result of factors such as rapid technological advancements, new threats to intellectual property rights, changes in demographics and aging, requirement for sustainable development, and increasing challenges in international trade and supply chain resilience, etc. These changes include the increasing need for timely development of standards and ease of standards accessibility that can be addressed by the broad range of international organizations developing standards that are used in the region. To ensure the sustainability of all international and national standardization systems, PASC sees the need for the full standardization value chain (e.g. development processes, content delivery modes, etc.) to transform in tandem with the needs of the market.

7. Digital technology is also changing the way in which standards are developed. Standards developing organizations are increasingly scaling up innovations in their standardization processes (e.g. through the introduction of collaborative platforms, harmonisation of data and interfaces, etc.). Considering the level of ongoing digital transformation within the standards space, PASC recognises the importance to adapt to keep itself relevant and current.

8. In addition, the proliferation of standards, policies and regulations related to emerging technologies has led to overlapping standardization efforts by different standards developing organizations to address gaps in the market. Thus, PASC sees the benefit in understanding the commonalities, bridging the divergence of these standardization efforts, and engaging with organizations such as ISO, IEC, and ITU-T as well as other standards developing organizations, so as to maximise the outcomes of these ongoing initiatives.

9. Finally, with new global challenges, PASC also sees the increasing importance of advocating the value of international standards for the multilateral trading system and facilitating global trade and strengthening resilient and efficient international supply chains.

VISION OF PASC

10. PASC's long-term vision is "enhanced regional engagement through leadership, innovation and collaboration, through a collective voice among PASC members in standardization to provide increased stakeholder engagement, higher levels of effective information sharing, and timely solutions to address the needs of the region".

KEY STAKEHOLDERS OF PASC

11. In order to focus PASC's future activities to address the needs of its stakeholders, the key relevant stakeholders have been identified and categorised as follows:

- i. PASC's primary stakeholders are the PASC members (i.e. National Standards Bodies)
- ii. PASC's partners are as follows:
 - a) International Standardization Organizations and their respective regional offices (e.g. IEC Asia-Pacific Regional Centre)
 - b) International and regional inter-governmental organizations (e.g. APEC SCSC, ACCSQ, etc.)
 - c) APEC Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs) (APAC, APMP, APLMF)
 - d) Other regional organizations (e.g. ARSO, COPANT, GSO, PISC, SARSO, etc.)
 - e) Asia-Pacific Cooperation Forum (APCF)
 - f) Development facilitation and donor organizations (e.g. overseas development assistance, UN specialized agencies, multilateral development banks, etc.)
- iii. PASC's indirect stakeholders, who are beneficiaries of PASC's efforts through their national standards bodies, are as follows:
 - a) Industry, business and trade enabling organizations
 - b) Governmental bodies and regulators
 - c) Researchers and academia, particularly those in CET and digital transformation fields
 - d) Organizations that provide standards with global reach that are used

by and benefit PASC members

- e) Entrepreneurs, innovators, and start-up networks
- f) Consumers and civil society organizations
- g) Next generation (e.g. young professional, new expert groups, etc.)

KEY PRIORITIES

12. To realize PASC's vision, PASC Members will focus their resources and efforts on the following priority areas:

- i. Communication and stakeholder engagement;
- ii. Capacity building;
- iii. Technical collaboration;
- iv. Policy and governance;
- v. Digital Transformation.

PRIORITY 1 - COMMUNICATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

13. By the end of 2030, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes related to communication and stakeholder engagement:

- i. Increase awareness of PASC and its members' efforts among key external stakeholders, including cooperation with other regional groups.
- ii. Enhance knowledge exchange about the activities of PASC and its members.
- iii. Promotion on the benefits of standardization.

14. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realization of these outcomes include:

- i. Providing regular updates and promotion of the activities of PASC and its members through the website, including exploring relevant upgrades to improve engagement.²
- ii. Ensuring consistent communication and interaction with partners and other

² Publications (e.g. annual report), communication materials (i) to support members' stakeholder engagement, including the regulators and next generation of experts, (ii) to raise awareness and promote the benefits of standards, and (iii) to raise awareness of PASC and its roles

SRBs.³

PRIORITY 2 - CAPACITY BUILDING

15. By the end of 2030, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes related to capacity building:

- i. Strengthened capabilities and competencies of PASC members in both international and national standardization activities

16. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realization of these outcomes include:

- i. Contribute towards and leverage ISO, IEC, and/or ITU-T capacity building, research and innovation, training and education activities;
- ii. Survey PASC members on their capacity-building efforts in the region and work towards coordinating and aligning them and on their capacity building interests/needs and communicate survey outcomes. Organize workshops and seminars, as appropriate;
- iii. Extend technical assistance to strengthen the national quality infrastructure (QI) of developing countries in Asia Pacific through collaborations with our partner organizations (e.g. APEC SCSC, APEC SRBs, etc.);
- iv. Collaborate and support other capacity building initiatives led by other PASC working groups.

PRIORITY 3 – TECHNICAL COLLABORATION

17. By the end of 2030, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes related to technical collaboration:

- i. Enhance the capacity and position of PASC members in specific technical areas of ISO, IEC, or ITU-T assuming leading roles in specific TCs/SCs, submitting new proposals and developing international standards.
- ii. Enhance the collaboration of PASC members in technical areas of shared interest.

³ Includes exchanging information on tracking standards development and related regulatory/policy activities on emerging technologies within PASC

- iii. Each and every PASC member will benefit from the support of other members, thereby increasing regional participation and contribution.

18. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realization of these outcomes include:

- i. Identify global trends in technical fields and standardization.
- ii. Conduct discussions on specific technical topics to promote cooperation among PASC members, with the support of the EC Chair and the Secretariat.
- iii. Identify technical areas of shared interest and narrow them down to the most important priorities.
- iv. Facilitate cooperation in specific areas to promote the technical discussions and collaborate within the relevant ISO/IEC TC/SC.
- v. Regularly collect, track, and review the collaboration items and report the progress during each meeting.

PRIORITY 4 - POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

19. By the end of 2030, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes related to policy and governance:

- i. Enhance coordination on common positions for PASC on policy and governance matters related to international standardization.
- ii. Enhance effectiveness of PASC meetings to better address members' needs.
- iii. Enhance partnerships with other regional organizations to promote cooperation on matters related to international standards in the PASC region.

20. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realization of these outcomes include:

- i. Foster greater coordination on ISO/IEC/ITU-T policy and governance matters at the international, regional and national levels, and enhance collaboration and communication between PASC and APCF through joint activities.

- ii. Enhance PASC's advocacy on ISO/IEC/ITU-T policy and governance issues, including supporting the formulation and implementation of ISO and IEC's regional engagement policies.
- iii. Advocate for stronger regional diversity and representation in ISO/IEC/ITU-T at the policy, governance and technical levels.

PRIORITY 5 – DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

21. By the end of 2030, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes related to digital transformation:

- i. Facilitate digital transformation of PASC members by supporting National Standards Bodies.
- ii. Ensuring that all PASC members, regardless of their digital maturity can participate in and benefit from the digital advancements at ISO/IEC.
- iii. Contributing to the improvement of ISO/IEC digital tools through the systematic collection and analysis of PASC region-specific user feedback integrated into ISO/IEC digital programs and initiatives.
- iv. Enhanced capacity of PASC members through targeted training on digital technologies and standardization.

22. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realization of these outcomes include:

- i. Organize virtual/in-person workshops or webinars on digital transformation topics, in collaboration with ISO/IEC.
- ii. Facilitate peer-to-peer capacity building exchanges among PASC members on adopting ISO/IEC digital platforms.
- iii. Advocate PASC priorities in ISO/IEC digital policy forums through consolidated regional positions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 – 2030

23. This strategic plan is designed to be a living document to be reviewed annually and updated accordingly, in order to meet the region's needs.

24. To best support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as ensure the highest level of impact possible, Working Groups will more proactively engage with each other in a collaborative environment. To facilitate this, where possible, Working Groups will identify common challenges and areas of cooperation between groups and participate in cross-group information sharing. Additionally, Working Groups will provide regular updates on metrics, activities, and collaborative initiatives to the PASC Executive Committee.

25. The key initiatives covered in the aforementioned priority areas will continue to be overseen by the existing Working Groups, except when there is a need to establish a new Working Group. Each Working Group to develop a work plan in order to implement, track and report on progress of their respective initiatives. The relevance of the five priority areas and the progress of the key initiatives will be reviewed by PASC Executive Committee on an annual basis. Corresponding metrics⁴ will be developed by the Working Groups, where appropriate, and will be collected and presented in the form of a Monitoring and Evaluation report to the Executive Committee as requested.

⁴ Key performance indicators (KPI) have been developed and attached in Annex as a separate document to facilitate implementation of the PASC Strategic Plan. These KPI are recommendations only; the accountability and responsibility for the development of the KPI resides with the Convenors and members of each PASC Working Group.

Annex 1 Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
ACCSQ	ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality
APAC	Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation
APEC SCSC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance
APEC SRBs	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Specialist Regional Bodies
APCF	Asia-Pacific Cooperation Forum
APLMF	Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum
APMP	Asia Pacific Metrology Program
ARSO	African Organization for Standardization
CET	Critical and Emerging Technologies
COPANT	Pan American Standards Commission (Comisión Panamericana de Normas Técnicas)
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITU-T	International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Standardization Sector
GSO	Gulf Standardization Organization
PISC	Pacific Islands Standards Committee
SARSO	South Asian Regional Standards Organization

Annex 2 Working Groups Scope and Definition

PASC Priority	Outcomes and Initiatives	Measures	PASC Working Group Responsible
Priority 1 – Communication and Stakeholder Engagement	By the end of 2030, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes to Communication and Stakeholder Engagement: 1. Increase awareness of PASC and its members' efforts among key external stakeholders, including cooperation with other regional groups. 2. Enhance knowledge exchange about the activities of PASC and its members. 3. Promotion on the benefits of standardization. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realization of these outcomes includes: 1. Providing regular updates and promotion of PASC activities through the website, including exploring relevant upgrades to improve engagement. 2. Ensuring consistent communication and interaction with partners and other SRBs.	• Monitoring of website analytics to ensure increased engagement • Increased content published via the website • Maintain relationships with other SRBs • Active engagement in other regional forums to promote the work of PASC (e.g. APEC SCSC meetings)	PASC Working Group 1
Priority 2 – Capacity Building	By the end of 2030, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes related to capacity building: 1. Strengthened capabilities and competencies of PASC members in both international and national standardization activities	• Number of ISO, IEC, ITU-T capacity-building activities contributed or leveraged by PASC members • Completion of a PASC member capacity-building needs survey and	PASC Working Group 2

Annex 2 Working Groups Scope and Definition

	Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realization of these outcomes include: 1. Contribute towards and leverage ISO, IEC, and/or ITU-T capacity building, research and innovation, training and education activities; 2. Survey PASC members on their capacity-building efforts in the region and work towards coordinating and aligning them and on their capacity building interests/needs and communicate survey outcomes. Organize workshops and seminars, as appropriate; 3. Extend technical assistance to strengthen the national quality infrastructure (QI) of developing countries in Asia Pacific through collaborations with our partner organizations (e.g. APEC SCSC, APEC SRBs, etc.); 4. Collaborate and support other capacity building initiatives led by other PASC working groups.	discussion of the results with the PASC Executive Committee • Number of QI-related technical assistance activities facilitated through PASC collaboration with partner organizations, in support of PASC members from developing countries • Number of capacity-building activities planned or delivered in coordination with other PASC Working Groups	
Priority 3 – Technical Collaboration	By the end of 2030, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes to technical collaboration: 1. Enhance the capacity and position of PASC members in specific technical areas of ISO/IEC, assuming leading roles in specific TC/SCs, submitting new proposals and developing international standards. 2. Enhance the collaboration of PASC members in the technical areas of shared interests.	• Discussions and workshops on the identified global trends in technical fields and standardization • Number of collected technical projects proposed by PASC members • Discussion on technical projects as needed or requested by members during regular meetings or single workshops	PASC Working Group 3

Annex 2 Working Groups Scope and Definition

	3. Each and every PASC member will benefit from the support of other members, thereby increasing regional participation and contribution. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realization of these outcomes includes: 1. Identify global trends in technical fields and standardization. 2. Conduct discussions on specific technical topics to promote cooperation among PASC members, with the support of the EC Chair and the Secretariat. 3. Identify technical areas of shared interest and narrow them down to the most important priorities. 4. Promote technical discussions and collaboration within the relevant ISO/IEC TC/SC. 5. Regularly collect, track, review the collaboration items and report the progress during each meeting.	• Collaboration among members at different levels to jointly initiate or participate in technical projects • Number of technical projects with common interests of ISO/IEC/ITU-T, with track on the progress • Number of members assuming leading roles in specific TC/SCs, submitting new proposals and developing international standards	
Priority 4 – Policy and Governance	By the end of 2030, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes to Policy and Governance: 1. Enhance coordination on common positions for PASC on policy and governance matters related to international standardization. 2. Enhance effectiveness of PASC meetings to better address members' needs. 3. Enhance partnerships with other regional organizations to promote cooperation on matters	• Number of PASC inputs submitted to ISO/IEC/ITU-T policy and governance matters • Number of PASC members represented on ISO/IEC/ITU-T governance and policy committees • Survey results from PASC members on effectiveness of PASC meetings	PASC Working Group 4

Annex 2 Working Groups Scope and Definition

	related to international standards in the PASC region. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realization of these outcomes includes: 1. Foster greater coordination on ISO/IEC/ITU-T policy and governance matters at the international, regional and national levels, and enhance collaboration and communication between PASC and APCF through joint activities. 2. Enhance PASC's advocacy on ISO and IEC policy and governance issues, including supporting the formulation and implementation of ISO and IEC's regional engagement policies. 3. Advocate for stronger regional diversity and representation in ISO and IEC at the policy, governance and technical levels.	• Success rate of proposals for which support was sought through PASC at ISO/IEC/ITU • Encourage gender balance in PASC leadership positions and appointed roles within all PASC technical and policy activities • Encourage balanced participation and representation of members at different stages of development within PASC policy and governance activities to ensure regional diversity	
Priority 5 – Digital Transformation	By the end of 2030, PASC aims to achieve the following desired outcomes related to digital transformation: 1. Facilitate digital transformation of PASC members by supporting National Standards Bodies. 2. Ensuring that all PASC members, regardless of their digital maturity can participate in and benefit from the digital advancements at ISO/ IEC. 3. Contributing to the improvement of ISO/IEC digital tools through the systematic collection and analysis of PASC region-specific user feedback integrated into ISO/IEC digital programs and initiatives.	• Number of workshops / webinars / training sessions organized (target: 2 per year): ○ One in collaboration with ISO/IEC ○ One Peer-to-peer workshop • More than 50% PASC member successful use ISO/IEC OSD	PASC Working Group 5

Annex 2 Working Groups Scope and Definition

	4. Enhanced capacity of PASC members through targeted training on digital technologies and standardization. Key initiatives to be undertaken to support the realization of these outcomes include: 1. Organize virtual/in-person workshops or webinars on digital transformation topics, in collaboration with ISO/IEC. 2. Facilitate peer-to-peer capacity building exchanges among PASC members on adopting ISO/IEC digital platforms. 3. Advocate PASC priorities in ISO/IEC digital policy forums through consolidated regional positions.		
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