



IRAQ

Sharing standardization best practice through training
to secure a more prosperous future for Iraq

Standardization could play an important role in aiding economic recovery and growth in Iraq. But this will only be possible if Iraq makes significant progress on adopting international standards and drafting its own national standards so they meet international requirements.

A project we delivered in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), aimed to help efforts to achieve these two crucial objectives, which could ultimately bring great benefits to Iraq's people, businesses and national economy.



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Rakhita Nikahetiya
BSI Lead Project Manager

Action Learning

Iraq's National Standards Body is the Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control (COSQC). It was established in 1979, although its roots can be traced back to 1963, when the Iraqi Standards and Metrology Body was created.

“In November 2014, we welcomed 15 representatives of COSQC's 450 staff to London,” recalls BSI Lead Project Manager, Rakhita Nikahetiya. “They visited our testing and certification facilities, received customized standards-drafting training, learned more about the differences between regional, national and international standards, how technical regulations work in the EU, and about the UK's standards technical committees.”

A second group of 17 COSQC staff visited our West London headquarters in January 2015 to gain a better understanding of the standards-drafting process in the UK. They also learned about National Standards Body best practice by being treated to a close look at how BSI operates.

“To aid their understanding, the Iraqi delegates participated in live technical committee meetings.”

Rakhita Nikahetiya – BSI Lead Project Manager

Learning outcomes

The training enabled COSQC delegates to better understand European and international standards and their influence on national standards. They found out about the standards-drafting process, the work of technical committees and the role BSI plays in facilitating and managing the standards-making process in the UK. “To aid their understanding, the Iraqi delegates also participated in live technical committee meetings at BSI,” Nikahetiya adds.

A special two-day course on drafting standards introduced Iraqi delegates to basic principles, document types, structure and content. Practical exercises were used to illustrate key points, while delegates got the opportunity to draft their own documents during a half-day workshop.

They also learned how successful stakeholder engagement ensures that standards are developed to meet real market needs, and how stakeholder involvement can help to promote the benefits of best practice more widely.

Knowledge transfer

Members of our marketing department shared their insight on how best to market standards, while other BSI staff covered risk management. Delegates also found out about BSI's content management systems and the lifecycle of British standards.

Both study tours were highly successful, with all delegates passing exams at the end of their visit, taking away knowledge that will help them in their work in Iraq. As a result of the project, COSQC's staff are better equipped to develop national standards, manage technical committees, train colleagues and understand British, European and international standards.

Did you know?

Covering some 438,000 sq km (170,000 sq miles), Iraq is the world's 58th largest country.

Did you know?

Agriculture is an important source of employment in Iraq and key crops include wheat, barley, rice, dates and cotton.

Contact us

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