

# ***Forum to Facilitate Asian Participation and Influence in IEC Standards Development for Lighting***

*Hong Kong, 28-29 October, 2009*

## ***Communiqué***

Representatives from Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam met to discuss the potential benefits of regional co-operation on standards development. The main focus of the discussions was whether or not the region would benefit from earlier involvement in the development of IEC standards for lighting and if so what could be done to facilitate this process.

The overwhelming conclusion was that a greater involvement in the development of IEC standards from countries in the Asia region would result in standards more appropriate for the region and would therefore facilitate trade and maintenance of appropriate technical standards. Although it was recognised that most Asian countries have a commitment to adopt IEC standards it was acknowledged that in many cases they are adapted to local conditions thus jeopardizing global harmonisation. In the case of lighting, a more homogeneous market will reduce prices of efficient lighting products for everybody in the region by reducing the costs of manufacture.

Participants noted that it was important to clearly specify the intent of this Forum, the communiqué, and any follow up actions as initiatives to help inform, support and improve regional understanding of existing and on-going IEC activities and processes.

The Forum participants came up with a ten-point plan:

- 1) The work done during the meeting should be continued through a network of interested stakeholders with the objective of working collaboratively on developments on lighting standards covered by IEC TC34 and also national standards – the network should be known as LITES Asia;
- 2) Communications should be based on Email alerts indicating “what’s on” with TC34 relating to CFLs, Mercury and LEDs - Email alert titles should be clear e.g. CFLs – Mercury, CFLs – Performance so that they can be screened easily;
- 3) A website should be developed where the TC34 work-plan and meeting schedule can be published as far in advance as possible covering each of the relevant subordinate working groups - this is to allow stakeholders time to budget for travel;
- 4) The website should give National IEC committee contacts for each country both at a high level and at the TC34 level;
- 5) The website should publish a description of the national standards processes for each participating country;
- 6) The website should host a list of national stakeholders, organisations and areas of expertise for each participating country;
- 7) Twice yearly face to face meetings should be held to develop the network (held alongside relevant meetings) with meetings by web-conference on issues that arise in between meetings;
- 8) Participating countries should be encouraged to share information on national standards developments relating to lighting;
- 9) Outreach should be made to the IEC to ensure their understanding and assistance with the network; and
- 10) A project manager should be funded to establish the network and facilitate its first two years of operation.