



## **Government energy efficiency officials call for improved co-operation in international product standards development**

29 government energy efficiency officials and experts from 12 economies met on 7-8 November 2012 in Tokyo, Japan to collaborate on initiatives to deliver greater international comparability of energy efficiency policies for appliances and equipment. They recognized the substantial benefits to governments, industry and consumers of such comparability and concluded that improved co-operation between governments and international standardization organisations is a high priority.

As governments seek to maximize energy savings from appliances and equipment through policies designed to stimulate higher energy efficiency levels, product test standards have a key role to play in ensuring accurate and repeatable test results and informative performance benchmarks. Governments recognize that the development of robust and uniform test methods by international standardization organisations is an important step towards reducing cost barriers for industry that may inhibit the trade of the most energy efficient products.

The workshop in Tokyo was convened at the request of participating governments of three organisations: the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Efficient Electrical End-use Equipment (IEA-4E) Implementing Agreement, and the Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) Initiative.

The workshop identified opportunities where international standards can accelerate and expand the alignment of national and regional appliance energy efficiency policies. Participants noted that internationally-accepted product definitions, test methods, efficiency metrics, and performance classes often make it easier and faster for national governments to implement effective energy efficiency policies. Further, when these national policies are based on international standards, manufacturers benefit as the costs of complying with disparate policies and certification requirements are reduced; consumers benefit from lower product costs and accelerated innovation; regulators benefit from enhanced transparency and clarity across economies and lower administrative costs, and economies benefit from reduced barriers to trade.

As a result of the workshop, participants from the IEA-4E, SEAD, and IEA pledged to work together to develop more effective mechanisms for engaging with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in pursuit of these common objectives.

Participants acknowledged the need for continued dialogue among regulators, standardization organisations, product manufacturers, test laboratories, and other stakeholders in order to promote further alignment of standards in the most effective and sustainable manner. In the coming months, representatives from IEA-4E, SEAD, and IEA will convene an informal “community of practice” to identify necessary follow-up activities. Parties interested in contributing to or receiving updates on these efforts should send an email to [standards@superefficient.org](mailto:standards@superefficient.org)