ASTM International helps our world work better. Each day, more businesses and governments across the globe turn to ASTM for standards and standards development support. As a result, economies grow, trade flourishes, and quality of life increases for millions of people.
MOU Program

ASTM International’s MOU program, started in 2001, promotes consensus-driven standards development in emerging economies. ASTM’s relationships with standards bodies around the world lead to powerful and transformative changes that improve the health, safety, environmental, and economic conditions of millions of people.

Benefits of the MOU Program

- One complete collection of ASTM International standards to support standards development
- Selected standards experts hosted at ASTM headquarters each year for one month (Standards Expert Program)
- Partial funding of an annual visit from international ASTM MOU partners to conduct research at ASTM headquarters focused on a key industry (Technical Visitor Program)
- Support for staff of MOU partners to collaborate with ASTM, to participate in committee weeks, and to learn about various international standardization systems
- Ability to participate as voting members in ASTM at no charge

ASTM members represent countries totaling more than 90 percent of the world’s population.
A Resource for Emerging Economies

As one of the world’s largest standards development organizations, ASTM’s standards have been referenced almost 7,000 times by governments outside the United States. These standards are part of the economic foundation for many emerging economies, supporting growth in areas ranging from raw materials and manufacturing... to health and environmental protection.
Success Story

The Board of Engineering of Trinidad and Tobago’s Small Building Code deals with the design and construction of residential buildings and incorporates provisions to deal with hurricane and earthquake threats. For this code to be effective, it must be supported by a regime of standards in the construction industry. In order to address the needs of the industry, the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards launched construction standards using ASTM standards as their basis. Using the normal process of standardization and given the existing resources, this project would have taken approximately five years in Trinidad and Tobago. With today’s technological advances, in five year’s time these standards may have become obsolete or may have needed to be revised almost immediately. But by working with ASTM International, these documents were developed and available for use in a much shorter period of time — in approximately 18 months.

“We are benefiting greatly from the services ASTM provides. Information sharing is critical for us to keep abreast of technical developments. The option to adopt ASTM standards allows for fast tracking of standards projects.”

Romana Marunda
Manager-Standards Development & Information, Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) on the benefits of the partnership between ASTM International and SAZ.

Trinidad and Tobago uses ASTM building standards to improve construction integrity in the following areas:

- Clay Block
- Concrete
- Electrical Cable
- Paint
- Plywood
- Portland Cement
- PVC Pipe
- Residential Security
- Roofing
- Steel
A Resource for Trade

ASTM International standards are crucial for improving market access and strengthening global trade. ASTM standards help foster cross-border harmonization of regulations while also promoting the principles of the WTO.

Over

50%

ASTM standards distributed outside the United States

80%

Global commodity trade impacted by standards

92+

Agreements with national standards bodies in emerging economies
“Our MOU with ASTM International has opened the way for technical experts from Qatar to participate freely as full voting members in ASTM standards development committees, in addition to facilitating the work of our national committees in specific fields. We are now able to adopt and use ASTM standards as reference documents in the development of Qatari standards.”

Eng. Nawaf Al-Mana
Director of Standards and Metrology at Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology (QS)
A Resource for Technical Training

ASTM International plays an active role in equipping professionals with the knowledge and tools to adopt market-driven specifications and test methods in their respective countries. ASTM staff regularly host delegations and conduct trainings abroad. Ultimately, these efforts empower standards leaders to build capacity, reduce poverty, and accelerate economic growth.

In a four-year span, ASTM International has hosted:

- 46+ International Training Courses held
- 98+ International Virtual Meetings with over 1,300 participants from 70 countries
- 65+ Delegations from 27 countries
“Through this intensive training course provided by ASTM International, I gained knowledge of the relationship between ASTM standards and the nuclear industry.”

Mr. Gook-Ju Ihm
Korea Testing Laboratory, a participant of a 2011 Intensive Training Program in the U.S. focusing on nuclear energy. Eight South Korean experts spent time at ASTM headquarters, visited agencies in Washington, D.C., attended ASTM committee week meetings, and made site visits to private companies during the 18 day co-sponsored program.

Success Story
Since 2004, when ASTM International experts were invited to attend a construction industry event to discuss state-of-the-art concrete technology described in ASTM standards, more than 200 engineers from Latin America have participated in ASTM’s cement and concrete technical committees. Active participation through ASTM’s electronic tools, as well as regularly held webinars and Web conferences, have lead to better understanding of the origin of the standards and accelerated local adoption.
Using Standards to Benefit Society

ASTM standards improve our lives. The benefits to society are widespread: safer consumer products, cleaner air and water, improved energy efficiency, better healthcare, and much more.
Ms. Margaret Lungu, ASTM Standards Expert Program alumna from the Zambia Bureau of Standards, presented the Zambian perspective on the benefits of ASTM’s MoU Program at the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Standardization / Gaborone, Botswana / 2011

“We consider the MOU with ASTM a valuable tool because ASTM is recognized internationally and some of its more than 12,000 standards have been used as the basis for policy development in Guatemala in the areas of building materials, hydrocarbons and plastics.”

Abel Francisco Cruz Calderón
Deputy Minister of Investment and former President of COGUANOR, the national standards body of Guatemala

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Success Story

The country of Haiti lies on a major seismic fault line. It has suffered serious loss of life and infrastructure as a result. ASTM is reaching out to help by partnering with Build Change, an NGO focused on designing disaster-resistant houses and schools, to introduce more resilient construction techniques to builders in Haiti. The offer of an MoU with ASTM was embraced by the national standards body, BHN. ASTM standards are also now being used as the guides at the National Laboratory for Buildings and Public Works, LNBTP. The well-being of the country of Haiti and its citizens will benefit from the collaborative work of ASTM and its global membership.
Over 12,000 ASTM standards operate globally. Defined and set by us, they improve the lives of millions every day.

Combined with our innovative business services, they enhance performance and help everyone have confidence in the things they buy and use – from the toy in a child’s hand to the aircraft overhead.

Working across borders, disciplines and industries we harness the expertise of over 30,000 members to create consensus and improve performance in manufacturing and materials, products and processes, systems and services.

Understanding commercial needs and consumer priorities, we touch every part of everyday life: helping our world work better.