

WORLD STANDARDS DAY 2020

INTERNATIONAL THEME: PROTECTING THE PLANET WITH STANDARDS

**NATIONAL THEME: ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WITH STANDARDS**

1. BACKGROUND

Every year, on 14th October, the members of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) join forces to celebrate the World Standards Day. This date marks the day in the year 1946, when delegates from 25 countries gathered in London for the first time and decided to create an international organization focused on facilitating standardization. The first World Standards Day was celebrated in 1970s.

The celebration of the World Standards Day (WSD) signifies the means of paying honour to the joint efforts of the numerous experts across the world that voluntarily develop the technical agreements that are issued as international, regional or national standards. It is also celebrated to raise awareness among regulators, industry and consumers as to the importance of standardization to the global economy.

Around the globe, various activities are chosen by member countries to commemorate the WSD by organizing special gatherings and events, ranging from conferences, exhibitions, and seminars to film shows, TV and radio interviews, and/or full "standards weeks" around mid October.

Through Rwanda Standards Board, Rwanda is one of the 121 member bodies of the ISO since 2003, where it currently participates in standardization activities of 34 technical committees (TCs) and 3 Policy Development Committees (PDC), and it joined the celebration of WSD since 2004. Additionally, Rwanda is a member of other regional and international standardization bodies including the International Organization for Legal Metrology (OIML), Codex Alimentarius Commission, International Measurement Confederation (IMEKO) and the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO), African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC), ITU, East African Community (EAC), as well as the Africa-Metrology System (AFRIMETS).

Furthermore, Rwanda has working relationships with international organizations such as IEEE, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and American Society for testing materials (ASTM). International Membership to these organizations confers Rwanda the right to access to a collection of international standards which can be adopted at the national level free of charge, enabling the country to be a standards setter and its participation in conformity assessment and

metrology fora. These international bodies also provide technical assistance programmes upon which policies implementation can be built.

2. CELEBRATION OF WORLD STANDARDS DAY 2020

This year the World Standards Day will be celebrated under the international theme “**Protecting the planet with standards**”. Life on earth, a finite vessel of life in the vastness of our solar system, depends on energy coming from the sun. However, over the last century human and large-scale industrial activities of our modern civilization have added to the earth’s natural **greenhouse gases**. They negatively impact our climate and with its all forms of life. At the same time, rapid population growth and broad **urbanization** call for **the responsible use of limited resources**.

To reduce human impact on our planet, we need the political will, concrete action and the right tools. Standards are one of such tools that provide sustainable solutions to technical challenges that we are facing nowadays; they help to share expertise and expert know-how broadly within developed and developing countries.

Rwanda has so far published 2843 covering different sectors including **all aspects of energy savings, construction, mining, water and air quality**. They lay down standardized protocols and methods of measurement. Their use helps to reduce the environmental impact of industrial production and processes which facilitates the reuse of limited resources and improve energy efficiency.

Moreover, standards published each year by national, regional and international standards organizations help to protect the planet through enabling the **control of waste, energy management, prepare the ground for renewable energy usage and integration into the power grid and pave the way for circular economy processes, including the recycling and re-use of materials among others**. They also facilitate the use of less polluting forms of transport, such as electric vehicles or hydrogen-powered trains and trams to reduce air emissions.

The benefits of standards use could go on, and found as ultimate tool used to reduce our carbon footprint to avert climate change, which is one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Standards are developed to help us succeed in the fight against climate change and land degradation.

This year Rwanda, through Rwanda Standards Board, in close collaboration with institutions responsible especially for environmental protection, energy saving, construction, mining and transportation as well as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) as well as African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) is celebrating the World Standards Day (WSD) under the national theme “**ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES WITH STANDARDS**”. The celebration will be preceded by ‘Standards Week’ starting from 8th to 14th October 2020 which will be marked with different activities including awareness workshops.

2.1. Expected objectives from the WSD celebration at national level

As aforementioned, the celebration of the WSD will be preceded by the “*standards week*” where key government institutions, business owners comprising **construction, energy and mining companies, solid waste handlers, transport companies**, the general public and other key stakeholders whose activities are more likely to significantly impact the planet, will be alerted to the protection of the environment through natural resource management and pollution reduction using national, regional and/or international standards.

2.2. Activities of the week

2.2.1. Workshop awareness

With the current measures related to Covid-19, the activities of the standards week will be limited to virtual workshops and trainings. Three online workshops will be organized to raise public awareness and share experiences on how we can use standards to sustainably use our limited natural resources by focussing on construction, mining, air quality and waste management. The topics of discussions will be as follows:

2.2.1.1 Role of standards in achieving sustainable construction to be held on 8th October 2020

Construction is one of the subsectors that contribute significantly to Rwanda’s GDP and absorb a good number of labours. On the other hand, the sector involves different industrial activities from quarrying to the manufacturing of construction materials mainly, including iron sheets, steel products, paints, cement among others. All these implied activities require tools that will assist concerned sectors to use sustainably natural resources and reduce their impact on our atmosphere.

This workshop specifically intends to discuss how construction companies and industries can use standards to achieve green building, sustainable mining and sustainable energy management. The workshop is accessible via <https://risa-rw.webex.com/risa-rw/j.php?MTID=mccef382b64629a5979924e23dabf1a9f>, (Meeting number (access code): 137 565 5842, Meeting password: wcJpJrCc643) on **8th October, 2020** from **9:00am to 11:00am**. The program of the workshop is provided in annex I.1.

2.2.1.2 Standardization of Masonry Units on 12th October 2020.

This workshop is being organized in collaboration with African Organization for standardization and ASTM international where ASTM experts in masonry products will share technical expertise to national technical committee experts. This workshop will also involve experts from African countries through African Organization for Standardization (ARSO).

2.2.1.3 Role of standards in achieving clean air and efficient wastes management to be held on 13th October 2020.

As the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Events and Exhibitions) strategy seeks to make Rwanda a top conference hub and a key revenue contributor to the tourism sector's total returns as well as enhancing job creation and more importantly preserve the health of urban dwellers in Rwanda, there is a need to continue air quality monitoring and improve cleanliness in the country especially in the City of Kigali and other secondary cities. This workshop is meant to raise awareness on standard ways of controlling air pollutant from the most contributing sectors including transport, factories, indoor. This workshop will also tackle the best way of handling solid waste generated from our everyday activities. It will be accessible at <https://risa-rw.webex.com/risa-rw/j.php?MTID=ma0d33daa2501b5b9cf9498335e609712>, (Meeting number (access code): 137 815 6833, Meeting password: aR2xCWs7jb5) on **13th October 2020** from **9:00am to 11:00am**. The program of the workshop is provided in annex I.2.

2.2.2. Celebration of the World Standards Day on 14th October 2020

This day will be marked with different activities including the launch of cook-stoves laboratory and public awareness on radio and TV shows.

2.2.2.1. Launch of laboratory on cook stoves

During the Standards Week 2020, RSB in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment will launch a new testing laboratory on cook stoves as a means of informing the general public and users about the capability of the lab and its role in environmental protection. In addition to the cook stoves efficiency, this lab will be testing particle matters, emitted pollutants including carbon oxide.

2.2.2.2. TV and Radio discussion on standards and sustainable use of natural resources and environmental conservation

The World Standards Day will also be celebrated through Radio and TV shows. The aim of the shows is to reach and alert more stakeholders and the general public on what role they have to collectively play to achieve sustainable use of Rwanda resources and reduce the impact of their activities on the environment through the implementation of existing standards.

2.2.2.3. Launch of national standards published in the financial year 2019-2020 and Recognition of TC membership

Technical Committee Members are a key and strong pillar to the development of national standards. They will receive recognition of their valuable membership and efforts they put in to enable the availability of national standards that are contributing to the national economic growth. Technical committee members who are complying with the requirements of awarding schemes will be awarded a certificate of appreciation. In addition, the WSD 2020 will also be marked with the launch of national standards published in 2019/2020.

3. Participants

The workshops were organized in collaboration with International and Regional Standardization Organizations, ISO, ASTM and ARSO, Policy makers and Regulatory Bodies including Ministry of trade and industry, Ministry of infrastructure, Ministry of environment, REMA, RHA and RMB. Participants were drawn from development partners, construction, mining and environmental protection companies, investors, districts, professional associations, academia, technical committee members, and other key Stakeholders implementing standards.

4. Programme

The programme of the workshops is hereto attached as annex I.

Annex I: Program of the virtual workshops

I.1. Role of standards in achieving sustainable construction to be held on 8th October 2020

S/N	Time	Item	Responsible
3	8:30 – 9:00	Joining the meeting (30minutes before)	All participants & Moderator
4	9:00 - 9:15	Opening of the workshop and back ground of World Standards Day	The Director General of Rwanda Standards Board (RSB)
5	9:15 - 9:30	Presentation on achieving green building with Standards (30minutes)	Expert from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
6	9:30 - 10:00	Q&A and other interventions on national green building policies and strategies (30minutes)	Moderator and all participants
7	10:00 – 10:15	Presentation on achieving sustainable mining with standards (20minutes)	Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB)
8	10:15 – 10:30	Q&A and other interventions on sustainable mining policies (15 minutes)	Moderator and all participants {Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and the Ministry of Environment}
9	10:55 – 11:00	Closing of the Workshop (5minutes)	The Director General of Rwanda Standards Board (RSB)

I.2. Role of standards in achieving environment protection and to be held on 13th October 2020

S/N	Time	Item	Responsible
1.	8:30-9:00	Joining the meeting	All participants & Moderator (The Director of Engineering and Urban Planning Unit/RSB)
2.	9:00 - 9:15	Opening of the workshop and background of World Standards Day (15minutes)	The Director General of Rwanda Standards Board (RSB)
3.	9:15 - 9:45	Presentation on control of vehicle emissions & indoor air pollution with standards (30minutes)	Dr Gasore Jimmy
4.	9:45 - 10:15	Q&A with intervention on vehicle emissions and indoor air quality (20minutes)	Moderator and all participants (REMA Motor Vehicle Inspection Center)
5.	10:15 – 10:35	Presentation on E-waste and solid waste management(30minutes)	Enviroserve Rwanda
6.	10:35 – 10:55	Q&A with intervention on waste management facilities (20minutes)	Moderator and all participants (City of Kigali on solid waste & RSB on non-sewered sanitation systems)
7.	10:55 – 11:00	Closing of the Workshop (5minutes)	The Director General of Rwanda Standards Board (RSB)