



The IEC Young Professionals (YP) Program had a great session this year! Held in New Delhi, India, from September 15–29, 2025, alongside the IEC General Meeting, the event successfully united 95 talented young professionals from 46 countries across the globe.

We are all starting our journeys in electrotechnical standards and conformity assessment. The core mission of the YP Program is clear: to identify, engage, and integrate the next generation of standardization experts and leaders into the vital work of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

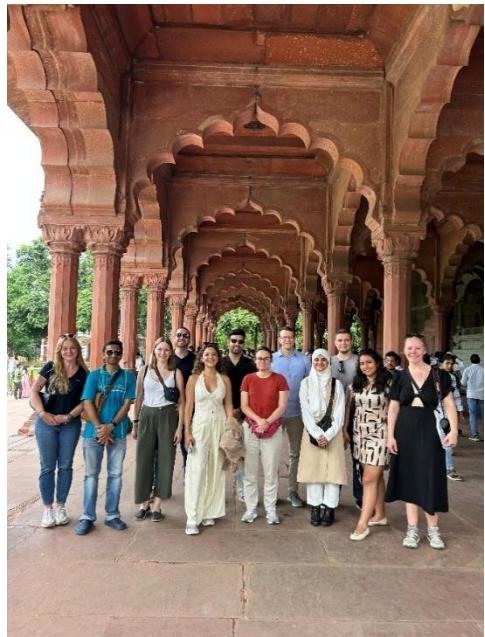
The time spent connecting with people from every corner of the globe was truly unforgettable! This experience only reinforced our conviction: international standards are the superheroes of our transition to a sustainable society. They offer a common, accessible language and a fantastic platform for teamwork, making them vital for bridging divides and helping us all rebuild trust.

We are completely energized by the world of international standards and the brilliant, inspiring people dedicated to this work. The future feels like an open book of excitement! We may not know the exact path yet, but we're moving forward with wonderful ideas brewing and a whole lot of fantastic new connections to share the journey with!



## **Sunday, 14.09.2025, YP Welcome Gathering**

On Sunday, September 14, 2025, the Young Professionals (YP) workshop began with a welcome gathering at Silver Oak (Entry Gate No. 3), India Habitat Centre. The event was officially opened by Philippe Metzger, IEC Secretary-General & CEO, along with several distinguished speakers from BIS, who gave the YPs a warm welcome. This initial reception was an excellent opportunity for attendees to network and make their first connections.



To further encourage engagement and teamwork, BIS hosted a quiz game to help participants from different backgrounds and with diverse perspectives aligning with one another, establishing a solid foundation for the days ahead. Following the quiz, attendees had the chance to move to different tables to initiate new conversations. The evening concluded with a wonderful meal and more networking outdoors.



## Monday, 15.09.2025, Opening and first workshops

The workshop officially began on Monday morning with a welcoming address from IEC President Jo Cops. In his speech, he highlighted the importance of young professionals as the future leaders of standardization, stressing their vital contribution.

The participants then had the opportunity to direct their questions to experienced members and the management level of the IEC in a “Ask me anything!” session. The panel was moderated by Katharina Fraga, IEC Director of Membership, Affiliates, and Capacity Building (MAC).

The panel members included Dr. Miyuki Takenaka (Chair, IEC TC 111), Håkon Rem (IEC Board Member and President of Norway NC), James E. Matthews (3rd IEC President Elect), and Sonya Bird (Vice President of International Standards at UL Standards & Engagement).

Key topics and questions discussed included:

Digitalization

IEC's role in developing countries

Extending the scope of TC 111 to include AI and other emerging technologies

Developing agile and innovative methodologies to improve the speed and consensus of IEC's work

The SMB-Edison Award, leadership, and networking opportunities

The future of smart production and quality

Following the opening remarks, the participants were introduced to the morning breakout sessions, which took place from 10:30 to 12:30. The sessions were led by various speakers and focused on several key topics:

Ian Gardner: Presented on IECEE from a Young Professional's perspective.

Alisdair Menzies & Sei-Yun Park El-Darwish: Led a session on the OSD (Organizational Strategic Development).

Yazan Manna: Discussed the ShapeSmart initiative.

James Wood: Focused on designing the future of the IEC YPP (Young Professionals Program).

Stephane Scherrer: Introduced the Collaboration @IEC Platform.

**Shape Smart:** The IEC Smart White Label App is a new digital platform designed to make IEC standards content more user-friendly and accessible. It serves as a personalized workspace for accessing IEC Smart content, which are standards transformed into digitalized, structured data.

The app offers features like advanced search and filtering, intuitive content navigation and comparison, personal list and custom project creation, collaboration tools, etc.

During the workshop, Yazan asked participants to submit new ideas, suggest future features, and report bugs. At the end of the workshop, this information was to be presented to the rest of the participants.

**After lunch, we joined** the Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) or Standardization Management Board (SMB) meetings.

During SMB meeting, the topic of zero emission buildings was discussed.

Once the presentation was finished, the YPs engaged the speakers in a Q&A session.

The CAB meeting took place at the same time as the SMB.

Various documents on the topic were discussed here. The CAB Board also involved the Young Professionals by allowing us to address our questions directly to the Board.

The evening began with the opening ceremony.

The event was officially opened by IEC leadership together with representatives of the Indian government. Those involved gave speeches and emphasized the importance of international standardization work.

This was followed by an event featuring traditional Indian dances and a friendly exchange with other participants of the General Meeting.



## **Tuesday, 16.09.2025**

The “Standard in a Day” workshop took place on Tuesday morning.

The focus was on actively discussing unclear sections of the standard.

In small groups, we discussed formulations and unclear sections in fictitious standard texts.

This exercise served to weigh up various arguments and come to a final decision together.

This was followed by a short meeting with the relevant experts to discuss the results.

After Lunch, following the experts' session, the Young Professionals (YPs) stepped into the shoes of those experts and stakeholders for an interactive role-playing exercise.

In this activity, participants debated an unfinished standard by adopting the viewpoints of different interests. While the work was serious and highly technical, it also proved to be a unique and imaginative experience. This was particularly true for those who had never had a straight-faced discussion about the capabilities of electronic baby robots or the precise definition of a "baby" within a technical document.

In the evening, the DKE (German Commission for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies) hosted a traditional German evening, inviting not only German experts but also YPs from Austria and Switzerland. This provided a great opportunity to discuss various standardization topics and build valuable connections with the experts from Germany.

**Wednesday, 17.09.2025**

The day began with observations of various standards committees.

This gave us an insight into the active work of the working groups of the various committees.

We visited TC9 (Electrical Equipment and Systems Used in Railways) and CISPR/CIS/F (EMI).

**TC9** : The IEC TC 9 is the IEC's Technical Committee responsible for developing international standards for electrical equipment and systems used in railways. The primary aim of the 65th Plenary Meeting was to review and update the TC 9 Work Program and project plans, discuss new work items and future work (like cybersecurity, safe transmission protocols, and sustainable transportation), and address the current maintenance cycle for numerous TC 9 standards and technical reports.

(source IEC website)



**CISPR/CIS/F** IEC is the identifier for a specific subcommittee within the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) that deals with electromagnetic interference (EMI) and electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) standards for household appliances, electric tools, lighting equipment, and similar apparatus. This means it's the technical body responsible for setting international rules on how these devices should control and limit the radio-frequency disturbances they produce.

(source iec website)

This was followed by the IEC Academy Bootcamp Conformity Assessment (Part 1).

This session focused on the roles of various market players, the definition and types of Conformity Assessment (CA), and how the IEC's CA systems address global market needs.

The four major IEC CA Systems discussed—IECEE, IECEx, IECQ, and IECRE—are operated by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). These systems provide a framework for the mutual recognition of test results and certificates worldwide in specific technology sectors.

During the Young Professional Lunch at the IEC General Meeting, young professionals met their 2 representatives of the National Committees.

At lunchtime, we met Micha Röllinghoff (CES President) and Mario Schleider (CES General Secretary). We exchanged experiences and discussed the needs and development opportunities for Young Professionals while enjoying fantastic Indian food!



After Lunch a role-playing exercise was used to let Young Professionals (YPs) explore the "Baby Robot Standard" from the viewpoints of various market players or stakeholders. The primary goal was to gain a deeper comprehension of the intricate relationships and interdependencies among the needs of these diverse interest groups.

This activity revealed a wide range of expectations and requirements:

- Consumers desire products that are safe and affordable, and which comply with national regulations for Testing, Inspection, and Certification (TIC).
- Retailers are focused on ensuring that manufacturers adhere to the prescribed governmental standards for the products they intend to sell.
- Manufacturers, however, would rather use their own Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) instead of undergoing an external TIC check in every single country.

**Thursday, 18.09.2025**

Thursday morning began with a company visit at VVDN, an Indian technology company. After 1 hour of driving, we arrived to the company. They welcomed us warmly and gave us a tour of its competence center, showcasing its production focus and in-house testing laboratory. They have R&D and manufacturing departments and solutions for 5G, Datacenter, Networking & Wi-Fi, Automotive systems, and AI-enabled Vision products. After the production tour, we had some Indian specialties with the representatives from VVDN Technologies.

In the afternoon, we attended the MSB White Paper Session, where strategic reports on current and future project topics were presented.

The workshop day concluded with the finalization of our group projects. The primary focus was on MVDC Grids, specifically the necessary steps to standardize them and establish a Technical Committee (TC), exploring the related needs and opportunities.

This session was immediately followed by the third and final break-out group meeting. This phase adopted an optimized workflow, allowing all groups to craft the final presentation.

While the other national teams headed to the scheduled YP (Young Professionals) dinner, the Swiss delegation received an invitation to the NC (National Committee) dinner. This casual setting provided a platform for lively and inspiring discussions about the world of standardization, hosted by a diverse and engaging group.

After this very pleasant exchange with the representatives from Switzerland, we attended the Young Professionals' farewell evening hosted by the Bureau of Indian standards.

Here, over dinner and a few program items, we officially said goodbye, as some of the YPs were already leaving the workshop on Friday.

**Friday, 19.09.2025**

In the morning, we presented the results from the breakout sessions. A jury selected the most compelling presentations, which were then presented at the General Assembly.

The grand finale of the workshop saw the YP participants stepping onto a major stage. After successful breakout sessions, they strategically selected three of their five topics to present to an audience of IEC representatives and leaders from industry. This was a fantastic chance for the teams to amplify their ideas to a large, influential group and collect constructive, expert criticism.

This event was followed by “A Standard in 15 Minutes.”

Here, we were shown the versatility of the IEC in a series of short sessions.

In 15-20 minutes, intervals, various working groups and topics within the IEC were presented to us by the relevant experts.

These included, for example, household appliances and EMC.

The afternoon brought the exciting election of this year's YP Leaders! Three exceptional individuals were chosen to represent the major regions: Asia & Middle East, Africa & Europe, and America & Oceania. Over the next 12 months, this new leadership trio will take the helm, coordinating work on various crucial standardization projects.

After an exciting week, the official Farewell event took place.

After a few words of thanks and awards, the week ended with various Indian dances, music and drinks.

It was time to say goodbye to a week full of new insights, experiences, and exciting people from all over the world.



## Conclusion

This program impressively demonstrates how talent development can take place within organizations like the IEC. Through various workshops, we gained access to key areas of the IEC work and learned what potential involvement could look like. Inspiring talks with experienced delegates allowed us to hear firsthand about their experiences and journeys. The IEC made it clear that the involvement of young professionals is a priority and that our opinions and needs are being heard. In summary, we can say that this workshop had a big impact on our professionally and personally. We built connections that will likely accompany me for years to come. Events like this are a great example of how, even in times of global conflict and uncertainty, forums can be created where people from all over the world collaborate as equals.

At this point in our report, we would like to thank everyone involved who made this experience possible. In particular, of course, Electrosuisse, IEC, Bureau of Indian Standards, and our companies Hitachi Energy Ltd. and Huber+Suhner.

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