



**ECO Regional Institute for**

**Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology**

**ECO-RISCAM**

## *ECO-RISCAM History*

The Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO based on its objectives and the importance of standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology in the development of the economy and trade in the region and around the world, and the need to harmonize standards and procedures In the region, as well as considering the pivotal role of standards in the development of trade between member countries and facilitating the exchange of goods and services between them by removing trade barriers, emphasized to establish an ECO regional institute for standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and Metrology (ECO-RISCAM).

The establishment of the ECO-RISCAM Institute was approved at the Third Meeting of ECO Industry Ministers in Lahore, Pakistan in 2008.

According to ECO-RISCAM statutes, the institute is headquartered in Tehran. This institute has four technical management boards, TMBs which are:

- Standardization Technical Management Board (Turkey)
- Conformity Assessment Technical Management Board (Iran)
- Accreditation Technical Management Board (Turkey)
- Metrology Technical Management Board (Pakistan)

The opening ceremony of the premises of the Central Secretariat of ECO-RISCAM and its Technical Management Board of Conformity Assessment was held on 14 December 2016.



Currently, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan and also, Afghanistan, have signed and ratified the Statute of ECO-RISCAM. Therefore the Statute shall come into force upon ratification of 4 ECO Member States.

## *OBJECTIVES*

The objectives of the Institute:

- To promote the development of standardization and related activities, i.e. conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology in ECO region with a view to facilitating exchange of goods and services and to developing cooperation in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological and economic activity.
- To develop RISCAM standards aiming at enabling the Member States to reap maximum benefit from the economic advantages to be brought about by the standards.
- To encourage the use of international standards published by international organizations such as ISO, IEC, etc. and to make them widespread.
- To ensure the increased implementation of international standards as regional and national standards as well as their utilization in business and industry.
- To ensure collaboration of the relevant national bodies of the Member States in the fields of standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology.
- To ensure training for the technical staff of the Member States in the domain of standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology by making most efficient use of existing means and sharing accumulated information and experience and through organization of training courses.
- To organize seminars, conferences, fairs and exhibitions, etc. with the aim of introducing the national products and services of the Member States.
- To provide technical assistance on standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology and issues related to the needs of the Member States in these fields.
- To establish mutually beneficial cooperation with the relevant international and regional organizations.
- To ensure mutual recognition of results of activities undertaken by Conformity Assessment Bodies such as Certification and Inspection Bodies and Testing and Calibration Laboratories as well as Accreditation Bodies in the Member States.

To remove the technical barriers to trade within ECO Region through harmonization of standards, as well as accreditation, conformity assessment and metrology practices.

## ***VISION***

ECO-RISCAM will be the focal point for activities that promote an integrated regional market; which actively supports ECO Member States to penetrate and enhance their share in the global markets; and contributes to economic, social, scientific and technological progress of the region.



## ***MISSION***

ECO-RISCAM will:

- Harmonize national standards of the ECO Member States;
- Harmonize conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology practices of the ECO Member States;
- Facilitate and promote trade through the harmonization of standards, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology practices which will contribute to removal of technical barriers to trade;
- Enhance quality and safety of products, environmental and consumer protection through the application of harmonized standards, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology practices;
- Disseminate information on standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology that will promote scientific and technological progress of the ECO Region; Promote and support effective participation of ECO Member States in international activities in the fields of standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology.

### *Technical Management Boards:*

The Technical Management Boards of the ECO-RISCAM are the Standardization Board, the Conformity Assessment Board, the Accreditation Board and the Metrology Board which work under the supervision of the Executive Board.



According to the ECO-RISCAM statute and its amendment, the Secretariats of TMBs are located in the following Member States:

- ✚ The Standardization Board and Accreditation Board in the Republic of Turkey
- ✚ The Conformity Assessment Board in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- ✚ The Metrology Board in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

## **1. Standardization Management Board**

Standardization Board is responsible for the harmonization of the national standards of the Member States, development of RISCAM standards and coordination of participation of experts and delegations of Member States in standardization work carried out at the international level.

## **2. Conformity Assessment Board**

Conformity Assessment Board is responsible for the harmonization of the conformity assessment procedures for the benefit of manufacturers, service providers, consumers and governmental technical regulators in the Member States.

## **3. Accreditation Board**

Accreditation Board is responsible for the harmonization of the accreditation practices in the ECO region by establishing Mutual Recognition Arrangements in different areas of conformity assessment activities.

## **4. Metrology Board**

Metrology Board is responsible for promoting the coordination and integrity of metrology activities and services in the Member States in order to achieve greater mutual acceptance of results of calibration, measurement and testing performed in these states and build mutual confidence in this regards among the Member States.

## *ACTIVITIES*

One of the major objectives of establishment of ECO - RISCAM is facilitating sustainable economic development of the member states, improving standards, enhancing quality of life in these countries through utilization potential resources and capacities of the region.

Expanding cooperation for the sake of economic development of the ECO member states is inevitable and makes relations among them stronger and deeper. Synergies arising from mutual cooperation will result in greater social welfare in the region and enhancement of competitiveness capabilities of the member states at international level.

To achieve these goals and with regard to the decisions made at various ECO Regional Planning Council meetings and the road map of ECO-RISCAM, activities accomplished by ECO-RISCAM Central Secretariat are as followings:

- ✓ Establishment of Central secretariat of ECO- RISCAM
- ✓ Establishment of the Technical Management Board of Conformity Assessment
- ✓ Preparing the roadmap
- ✓ Holding several meetings with representatives of member states concerning expediting ratifying membership and statute on side lines of ISO General Assembly meetings or other meetings held in Tehran
- ✓ Ratification of ECO-RISCAM Statute and Following up the ratification of its amendment
- ✓ Activation of the technical management board of conformity assessment
- ✓ Preparing the basic documents of ECO-RISCAM include Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations, Staff Regulation
- ✓ Conducting the workshops to provide the participants with the latest knowledge related to the ECO-RISCAM fields of activities
- ✓ Organizing 7 High Level Working Group Meetings.
- ✓ Holding coordination meetings at the Central Secretariat

- ✓ Preparing the chart of ECO-RISCAM and Central Secretariat of ECO-RISCAM
- ✓ Preparing the chart of Conformity Assessment TMB
- ✓ Conducting the first Joint Meeting by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey on activation of Technical Management Boards of ECO-RISCAM
- ✓ Preparing two project proposals
- ✓ Planning for holding the meeting of the technical management board of conformity assessment
- ✓ Drafting the regional conformity assessment procedure