



# The Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP)

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## Case Study

### REGIONAL S&L COLLABORATION

#### **Message**

The Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP) has contributed to several regional collaborations directed at aligning or harmonizing energy efficiency standards and labels (S&L) as well as the test procedures that underlie these measures. The goal of these regional collaborations is to advance the quantity and quality of S&L practice to a new plateau, and, by doing so, dramatically transform markets, improve economic efficiency, and accelerate the pace of GHG mitigation. The capacity to develop and implement this government policy enables emerging economies to apply the most cost-effective approach to market development.

While S&L fosters technology innovation by requiring product improvement and bringing consumer attention to enhanced efficiency, its most direct benefit in sustainable development terms is advancing sound energy policy in emerging nations. Regional S&L collaboration leads to alignment and harmonization that reduces manufacturers' costs, testing costs, program administration costs, and barriers to trade.

#### **Project Story**

In order to help foster the alignment or harmonization of S&L among nations, CLASP has been providing technical support to seven regional activities with this objective involving 42 nations. CLASP has taken an active role in S&L programs within the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Cooperation and Development (SARI), the Asia and South East Asia Network (ASEAN), and the North American Energy Working Group (NAEWG), and is helping UNDP-GEF develop several regional S&L projects. These efforts address the adoption of the same test procedures, mutual recognition of test results, common comparative energy label content, harmonized endorsement energy labels, and harmonized minimum energy performance standards (MEPS).

Besides participating in numerous seminars, workshops, meetings, and teleconferences, and providing technical information on S&L, CLASP has participated in the following major ways:

- **APEC** [21 Pacific-rim countries] – In 2004, APEC partnered with CLASP to expand its web-based Energy Standards Information System (ESIS) beyond the APEC economies. The joint ESIS-CLASP database has information on over 1700 standards. Visit <[www.apec-esis.org](http://www.apec-esis.org)> and <[www.clasponline.org](http://www.clasponline.org)>. CLASP has been participating in all of the activities of APEC's Expert Group on Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EGEE&C) since 2002.
- **ASEAN** [Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam] – ASEAN engaged CLASP to help conduct an appraisal of the ASEAN ballast market, conduct comparative “round-robin” testing for magnetic ballasts in six ASEAN countries, and develop a

common testing procedure for magnetic ballasts – all in pursuit of an endorsement label for energy efficient products that would be available for voluntary use by any ASEAN member country starting with magnetic ballasts. CLASP has been working with ASEAN's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Sub-sector Network (EE&C-SSN) and its ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) since 2001.

- SARI [Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Pakistan] – USAID's South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Cooperation and Development (SARI/Energy) program, among other energy efficiency programs, engaged CLASP in efforts to harmonize standards developed by each country in the region in order to isolate the region from low quality and inefficient appliances and improve the energy efficiency of manufactured appliances in the region. Focusing first on harmonizing refrigerator standards, CLASP prepared white papers on testing facilities and protocols, and led workshops in Sri Lanka with key regional technical experts to discuss the regional implications of the refrigerator standards already developed by India & Sri Lanka. This historic meeting led to the formation of an informal regional technical group to pursue future regional standards.
- NAEWG [Canada, Mexico, United States] – The 3-country North American Energy Working Group's (NAEWG's) Energy Efficiency Expert Group has relied solely on CLASP to provide technical support since its formation in 2001. In 2002, CLASP assembled detailed comparisons of the three countries' test procedures, to identify areas for potential harmonization, showing that of the 46 energy-using products for which at least one of the three countries had energy efficiency regulations, three products had nearly identical test procedures in the three countries and ten other products had different test procedures but near-term potential for harmonization. Since then, CLASP has met regularly with the Expert Group conducting several other activities, all related to S&L. Recently NAEWG has become the energy arm of the broader trilateral Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP).
- UNDP-GEF – In 2002, CLASP began working with UNDP-GEF to develop a series of regional projects to foster regional collaboration in S&L. In 2004 UNDP-GEF brought an S&L international expert to its staff full-time in order to further develop and coordinate this effort. As of the spring of 2006, UNDP-GEF's regional S&L initiative has projects just getting underway in Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama), in the Andean region of South America (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela), and in Southern Europe (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Turkey), with more such projects under development. Besides playing a key role in the development of the initiative, CLASP is providing several international experts to each of the three projects. For example, to the Southern Europe project CLASP is providing: 1) a policy, legal & institutional expert; 2) a market studies expert; 3) a stakeholder assessment and awareness raising expert; and 4) a verification & enforcement capacities expert.

## **Partners**

*Funding Partners:* USAID, US DOE, US State Department, UNDP-GEF

*Country Partners:* Government agencies from 42 countries

*Implementing Partners:* Adviesbureau voor Energiestrategie (AES), Econolier International, International Institute for Energy Conservation, Frank Klinckenberg, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Jan van den Akker,