

## Critical Infrastructure and Support Systems Standardisation Project

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This important initiative was jointly funded by (APEC) and Standards Australia. StanCert was contracted by APEC and Standards Australia to manage the project.

The impetus for this project came from the need to refocus on security in the Asia-Pacific Region following events such as natural disasters and criminal activity in recent times. The project aimed to identify where gaps existed in the existing standards and recommend priorities for the development of future standards. There was a solution oriented approach to barriers identified relating to the protection of critical infrastructure. Most importantly, the project provided a blueprint for the development of a standards framework to assist in identifying and categorising security standards.

The benefits to APEC Member Economies from participation in this project included:

- a more consistent approach to security along with emergency and disaster management in the APEC region;
- the promotion of security standards and systems capacity which support business as well as critical infrastructure in times of emergency, helping to minimise impact on economies;
- harmonisation of related standards across the APEC region, which will help improve the interoperability and compatibility of systems related to securing critical infrastructure;
- improved technical capacity through assistance in ascertaining key areas of standardisation focus so that programs may be targeted for the development of security standards; and
- the capacity to make more informed choices about effective security solutions through better access to information on tested and consistent methods to protect critical infrastructure.

An online survey was conducted from 1 October 2008 until 8 December 2008.

The draft project report was released for comment prior to finalisation and publication. The report was then updated and a final draft submitted to Standards Australia and APEC for approval. It is anticipated that the final report will be released shortly.