

# NBCC's Involvement in Creating International Assessment Standards

In 2007, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) began to lead the development of international assessment standards. ISO is a very well-respected international organization that sets standards for business, government and society, using a creation process that includes wide representation from the appropriate professions when drafting standards related to that profession.

The Association of Test Publishers (ATP) invited NBCC to become a member of its Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which would be involved in representing the interests of professionals in the United States and would assist in drafting solid international standards. NBCC has had a long positive relationship with ATP and asked Dr. James Sampson, a counselor educator from Florida State University and an assessment consultant with NBCC since 1986, to be their representative on the committee.

Over the past four years, multiple international meetings have been held to draft these standards. Dr. Sampson has continuously advocated for standards based on proven competencies and not on having a specific professional credential or specific degree. This is the same stance for which both NBCC and the Fair Access Coalition on Testing (FACT; [www.fairaccess.org](http://www.fairaccess.org)), a multidisciplinary coalition sponsored by NBCC, have historically advocated.

The draft standards, titled *Standards for Assessment Service Delivery—Procedures and Methods to Assess People in Work and Organizational Settings*, were completed at the end of 2010 and have been submitted to ISO for final edits and approval. Once ISO responds, the draft will be released for public comment. (Both NBCC and FACT will take part in this comment period.) The draft includes

- competencies required for professionals to administrate assessments, and
- responsibilities of both the service provider and the clients.

“I was very pleased to represent NBCC in the creation of these standards,” said Dr. Sampson. “Having a competency-based approach in limiting access to assessments better protects the public while also ensuring broad access to the assessment services that individuals need.”

NBCC is pleased to have had this opportunity to represent the interests of NCCs and the U.S. counseling profession in drafting international assessment standards.

## MHF UPDATE

The Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program continues to grow and help to meet the mental health needs of underserved citizens in different regions of the world. The following is a list of the most recent trainings of trainers and master trainings offered.

- A training of trainers was held in Puchong, Selangor, Malaysia, in August 2010, in partnership with Turning Point Integrated Wellness. Twenty participants from a variety of backgrounds obtained their registration as MHFs and as trainers.
- A master training was held in Penang, Malaysia, in August 2010, in partnership with USAINS Holding Sendirian Berhad. NBCC International (NBCC-I) is pleased to add Dr. Zainal Ariffin Ahmad, Dr. Azlinda Azman, Dr. Ismael Baba and Dr. See Ching Mey to the registry of master trainers.
- A master training was held in Greensboro, North Carolina, in September 2010. Nine participants were trained and registered as master trainers. NBCC-I is pleased to welcome Mr. Phil Clarke, Mr. Anthony Dotson, Ms. Bella Kiteki, Ms. Cristina Lima, Ms. Ali O’Dea, Fr. Peter Siamoo, Dr. June Ann Smith, Dr. Daniel Williamson and Dr. Jennifer Williamson as MHF master trainers.
- The fourth master training at NBCC headquarters is scheduled for April 2011. All available slots for this training are filled, and there are plans to have another master training in summer 2011.

We look forward to additional partnerships and more training opportunities in 2011 and beyond.