



### **MAUREEN MUTASA, 2002 ZIMBABWE**

CEO, Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service

“I always wanted to play a leadership role in the field of standardization,” Maureen Mutasa noted prior to her Eisenhower Fellowship program. As director general of the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ), Maureen Mutasa achieved just that, elevating SAZ’s already high reputation along with her own. She attributes her Eisenhower Fellowship experience as a major factor in her success. Most evidently, it contributed to her appointment to chair the International Organization for Standardization’s (ISO) Committee for developing countries, a group that eases the way for developing countries to enter the global economy by helping them adopt standards used in international trade. Mutasa also credits the fellowship for providing her with a unique understanding of globalization, new international contacts, and the confidence and professionalism to move to a new level of international leadership.



Having achieved the organization’s top position at SAZ, Mutasa was interested in taking a more international leadership role and bringing Zimbabwe into the international standards community as well. Her Eisenhower Fellowship nomination came just then. According to Emmanuel Jinda, the chairman of the Association Board, Mutasa seized the opportunity. “Maureen’s participation in the Eisenhower Fellowship came at a very timely moment. It was very exciting, as she wanted the opportunity to gain the greatest exposure possible and obtain a better appreciation from the global perspective,” he says.

Mutasa brought back a number of formal agreements with American standards associations including the American Society for Testing Materials and QSU Publishing. Prior to her Eisenhower Fellowship, Zimbabwe relied solely on standards from Great Britain and South Africa. Former SAZ head Hywel Williams concurs that the wealth of resources that Mutasa brought back have “been vital to SAZ and have been used extensively.”

Since the fellowship, Mutasa has made an international name for both herself and the SAZ. She has been invited to join numerous international organizations including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change where she served on the UN Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation Accreditation Panels for 8 years, but her influence can be seen even more powerfully in the reputation Zimbabwe has attained in the field of standards. Jinda reports that Mutasa’s efforts have “opened Zimbabwe to the world”, and in a meeting with the then Zimbabwe’s minister of industry and trade, the minister indicated that while political troubles have damaged Zimbabwe’s image in the international community, “everyone speaks of the Standards Association of Zimbabwe glowingly.”

In 2008, Mutasa became the first Chief Executive Officer of the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service. In this role she is increasing awareness in the region of the benefits of accreditation in facilitating trade, enhancing the protection of consumers and the environment, and in improving the competitiveness of SADC products and goods, ultimately contributing towards socio-economic development in the region. Mutasa has achieved her goal of regional and international leadership, and used the opportunity of her Eisenhower Fellowship to reach these goals. In her own words, “the leadership has always been there, but the Eisenhower experience raised it to the international level.”

**Leaders bettering the world around them.**