

**Trade Standards Practitioners
Network
Background, Mission and Objectives
Charter Sections 1.0 to 3.0**

**Steven Jaffee, World
Bank
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The Concept

■ Observations

- Growing importance of standards (environmental, social, SPS, other) for trade + development countries
- Increased level/demand for technical assistance/other support
- Little sharing of implementation experience + good practice
- Apparent technical 'silos' among practitioners and clients



■ Proposition

- Potential scope for collaboration—network or 'community of practice'
- Info-sharing, joint research, review implementation experiences; document 'what works and what doesn't'; training outreach; foster closer collaboration

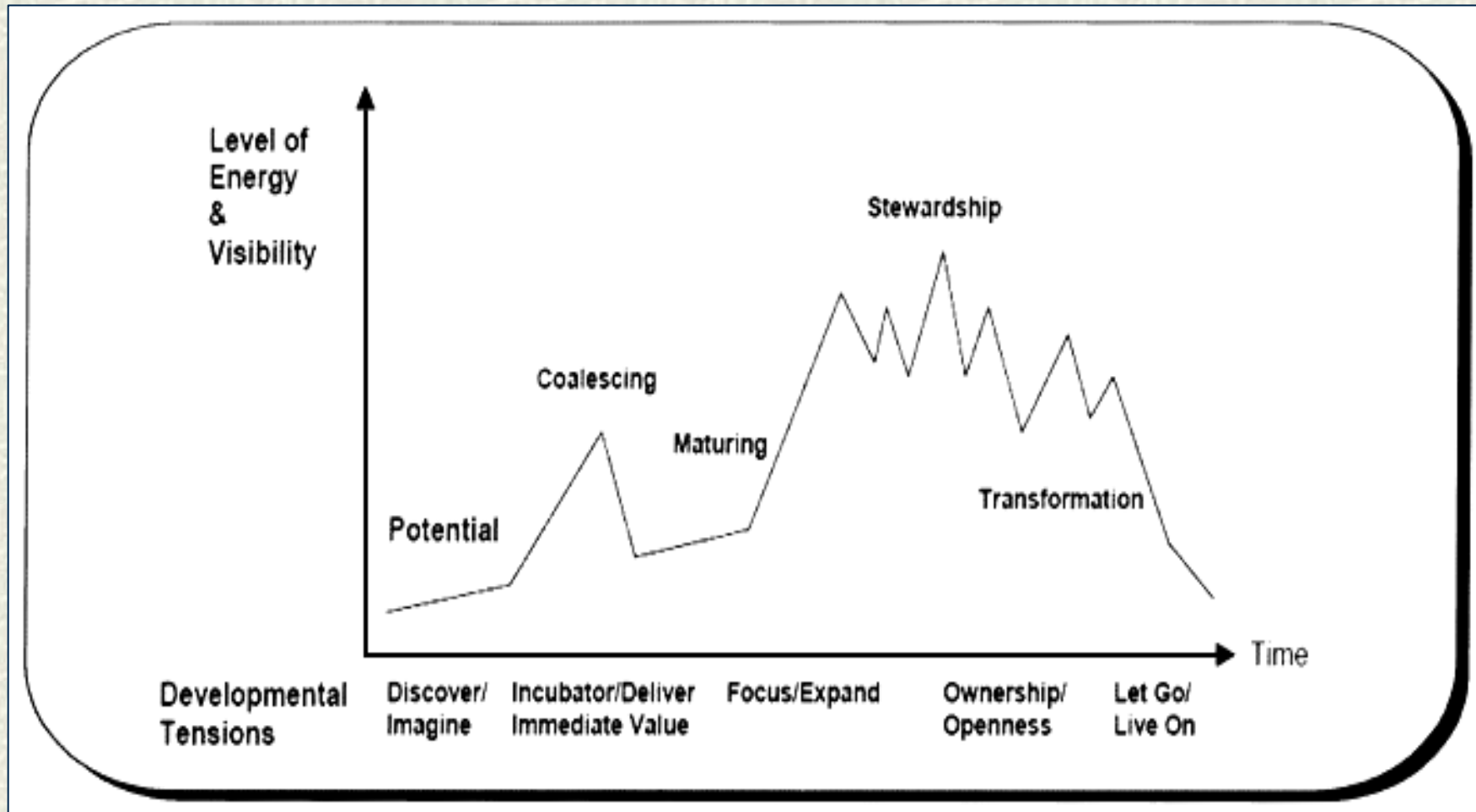
'Community of Practice'

- **Definition:** *Group of people who share a concern, a common set of problems, and/or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis.*
- **Purpose:** Create, expand, and exchange knowledge and to develop individual (or organizational) capabilities
- **Examples:** artisan guilds; software engineers for open-source technology; wikipedia; special topic consumer groups
- **Reciprocity in Community Participation:** Pool of goodwill that allows people to contribute to the community while trusting that at some point, in some form, they too will benefit.

Giving Specificity to a C of P

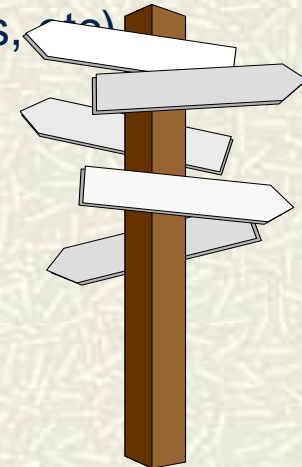
- Define Domain
 - What topics/issues do we care most about?
 - What are the open questions that we want to address?
 - What kind of influence do we want to have? On what? On whom?
 - What primary and secondary objectives?
- Define Community
 - What criteria for membership?
 - What roles will people/organizations play?
 - How often will the community meet or otherwise interact?
 - How to balance the needs of various (segments of) members?
 - What system for activity initiation, leadership, + governance?
- Define Practice
 - What knowledge to share/develop/document?
 - How should knowledge be stored, made accessible, and actively disseminated?
 - What actions to harvest existing/generate new knowledge?
 - What actions to practically apply this knowledge?

Stages in Community Development



TSPN: How did we get here?

- April 2005: Concept Paper for a 'community of practice'
- June 2005: First TSPN Meeting; 18 organizations
- July 2005: Review work of other networks
- Aug-Nov 05: List-serve dialogue (define mission, objectives, etc)
- March 2006: Workshop on development interventions
- June 2006: Collaboration on global elearning course
- Dec 2006: www.tradestandards.org launched
- June 2007: Workshop: smallholders/standards/dev. Interventions
- Nov-Dec 2007: Draft TSPN Business Plan
- Spring 2008: Successful application for DGF grant
- June 2008: Collaboration on Africa elearning course
- July-Aug 2008: Recruitment of TSPN Secretariat
- Jan-Oct 2008: Collaboration: "Voluntary Standards + Public Policy"



Mission Statement

Improve the effectiveness of initiatives that support developing country capacity and participation in the development and implementation of trade-related social, environmental, and food safety standards.

We achieve this by means of policy research, knowledge management and exchange, and the dissemination of capacity building best practices.

In doing so, the Network seeks to foster more sustainable, competitive, and equitable participation of developing countries in global value chains.

Objectives

- Improve the effectiveness of technical assistance and related measures to strengthen developing country capacities by drawing lessons from implementation experiences and identifying 'good and innovative practices';
- Translate those findings into strategic and practical guidelines;
- Encourage the development of public private partnerships for developing countries to effectively respond to trade related standards;
- Assist developing country stakeholders to make informed decisions in relation to trade related standards and regulations;
- Undertake joint research and development of assessment tools;
- Provide a platform for knowledge management and exchange; and
- Develop and deepen collaboration among members in various analytical and field activities.