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From the Chair

Message from the Chair



In the days when the world is forever changing due to the COVID 19 we, each of us, as an individual, a family member, and as part of a national and international community must take part in the change. It is our duty as a community member to help change for the better.

The changes that have been forced upon us include adjustments in work processes, thought processes, creativity improvement processes and the development of new ways to effectively perform our work. These new ways are based on the knowledge that all of us have gained from our traditional processes and the experiences we have accumulated. New remote assessment processes for our work exist in the international standards we use, but they have now become key in light of the reality in which we find ourselves. These days we all need to improve our communication in order to be clear about our assessment and evaluation management requirements in our organizations and to be open and flexible to the complex situations in which our CABs, Regulators, Stakeholders and customers are also working. Today, we are more than ever committed to close, clear and accurate cooperation to achieve our vision. We all promote Tested, Calibrated, Inspected once accepted everywhere, for all our accredited conformity assessment providers.

Medical Laboratories around the world we wish you All the best: stay Safe and Healthy.

From the Secretariat

World Accreditation Day 2020

World Accreditation Day will be celebrated on 9 June 2020 and the theme this year is "Accreditation: Improving Food Safety".

This year's theme focuses on how accreditation improves food safety, supporting the confidence of consumers, suppliers, purchasers, regulators and specifiers in the quality and safety of food.



While the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting travel restrictions and social distancing policies may disrupt physical WAD events, we encourage you to celebrate with us online using the hashtag #WAD2020 and to contact your local accreditation body for further details on local media and online seminars and programs they may be organising.

Further information, including materials and details for celebrating #WAD2020, is available from [World Accreditation Day 2020](#)

In addition, the poster and brochure templates are available for downloading from the members area of the ILAC website to allow translation and use in other languages.

Secretariat Update April 2020

ILAC and COVID-19

The ILAC Secretariat staff wish all our members and colleagues strength and health as we progress through the consequences of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Secretariat staff are continuing to work from our home 'offices' and stay in-contact via the use of online tools.

We also continue, with the ILAC Executive, to monitor advice and to assess the developments and risks this pandemic presents for us as an Association, our members and their accredited CABs. The situation has led to personnel safety concerns and travel restrictions in most, if not all economies, that are impacting the way we all work. We note the on-going commitment of our members to continue to provide a robust accreditation service via the use of remote assessment and evaluation activities to support the accredited conformity assessment community and those, such as regulators and consumers, that rely on it.

In relation to the transition of accreditation bodies to ISO/IEC 17011:2017 a joint statement was released by ILAC and IAF and is available from the ILAC website [transition-to-iso-iec-170112017-and-the-coronavirus-outbreak/](#).

The data from the regional cooperation bodies on the progress of the transition of accredited laboratories to the 2017 edition of ISO/IEC 17025 is currently being reviewed by the ILAC AMC.

Decision to Establish a Single International Organisation for Accreditation

The 2019 ILAC and IAF Annual Meetings were notable for the significant decision taken during the ILAC and IAF General Assemblies.

The ILAC and IAF Chairs presented draft resolutions and an initial proposal for implementation of a JEC recommendation to the members of ILAC and IAF during the Joint General Assembly meeting to establish a single international organisation for accreditation.

The members of ILAC and IAF agreed, during the Joint General Assembly meeting on 29 October 2019, to adopt the resolutions shown below and then subsequently confirmed the adoption of these resolutions during the ILAC and IAF General Assemblies held on 30 October 2019.

JGA Frankfurt Resolution 1 – Recommendation to Establish a Single International Accreditation Organisation (1): The Joint General Assembly endorses the recommendation of the Joint Executive Committee to establish a single international organisation for accreditation on the basis of the results of the "Survey In Support of the IAF 2020 – 2025 and ILAC 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plans".

JGA Frankfurt Resolution 2 – Recommendation to Establish a Single International Accreditation Organisation (2): The Joint General Assembly endorses the recommendation of the Joint Executive Committee to create a Steering Committee, reporting to the Joint Executive Committee, to lead the process to establish a single international organisation for accreditation. In this regard, a contractor will be engaged and the costs for the project will be shared equally by IAF and ILAC.

Amendment of the ILAC Articles of Association and Bylaws

A major focus for the ILAC Executive Committee since 2016 has been the revision of the ILAC Articles and Bylaws. During 2019 the official Deed of Amendment of the Articles of Association, in both English and Dutch, was prepared by the Dutch Notary and confirmed by the ILAC Executive. The final documents for voting were distributed to ILAC members on 20 September 2019 and the vote on the revised Articles of Association and Bylaws was carried out during the ILAC General Assembly meeting on 30 October 2019, in Frankfurt.

The results of Voting on the ILAC Articles of Association and ILAC Bylaws were as follows:

Deed of Amendment Article of Association (1 – 23):	91% in Favour
Declarations (1 – 7):	92% in Favour
ILAC Bylaws:	89% in Favour

Following the positive decision by the ILAC members the amended Articles of Association were registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce on 11 November 2019. Work is currently underway to align ILAC's policies, procedures and processes with the amended Articles of Association and the revised Bylaws as necessary.

The revised Articles of Association and Bylaws are available from the ILAC website and have been published as:

ILAC-R2A:11/2019 *ILAC Rules: Articles of Association*
ILAC-R2B:11/2019 *ILAC Rules: Bylaws*

The ILAC MRA

As at 9 April 2020, there are **102 ILAC MRA signatories**, representing **104 economies**. The ILAC MRA covers recognition for accreditation in the areas of calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), testing (ISO/IEC 17025), medical testing (ISO 15189), inspection (ISO/IEC 17020) and proficiency testing providers (ISO/IEC 17043). The list of signatories to the ILAC MRA is available from the [ILAC MRA Signatory Search](#).

It is expected, as a result of an ILAC Arrangement Council ballot currently in progress, that the scope of the ILAC MRA will be extended to include the accreditation of reference material producers using ISO 17034 later this month.

The *ILAC MRA Annual Report 2019* will be published in May. It will be available from the [ILAC MRA and Signatories page](#). As in previous years single page infographic highlighting the key points from this Annual Report will also be available from the [Publications](#) page.

Information on the acceptance of calibration, testing and inspection results and programs provided by PTPs via the ILAC MRA is available from [ilac-mra-and-signatories](#).

Case studies and research on the recognition of the ILAC MRA by governments and regulators are available from the [Public Sector Assurance website](#).

The [Business Benefits website](#) is a reference website designed to demonstrate the monetary value of standards, conformity assessment and accreditation for businesses.

ILAC Meetings

The 'in-person' ILAC and IAF Mid-term and the JWG Communications meetings were cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ILAC MCC and IAF CMC (JWG Communications) held a very successful on-line meeting on the 19 March and likewise the ILAC Executive met on online on 7 April.



An online joint meeting of the ILAC and IAF Executive Committees (JEC) is currently in the process of being organised for the 27 May 2020 to discuss specifically the ILAC/IAF Annual meetings scheduled for 27 October – 5 November 2020 in Montreal, Canada and the progress of the work being carried out by the JEC Steering Committee for the establishment of a single international organisation for accreditation.

The ILAC Committees are all continuing their work using online tools.

ILAC Membership

ILAC membership as at 9 April 2020 is as follows:

- 102 Full Members (signatories to the ILAC MRA) representing 104 economies;
- 12 Associates representing 18 economies;
- 10 Affiliates representing 14 economies;
- 24 Stakeholders;
- 6 Regional Cooperation Bodies (includes 5 Recognised Regional Cooperation Bodies)

The ILAC membership consists of 154 organisations from 128 different economies worldwide. Over 79,000 laboratories, more than 11,000 inspection bodies and over 400 PTPs are accredited by the ILAC Full Members (signatories to the ILAC MRA). The latest statistics and graphs on the number of accreditation bodies, accredited laboratories and inspection bodies are available from the [ILAC Facts & Figures page](#).

ILAC Strategic Plan Progress Update

The ILAC Executive Committee continues to review the implementation of *ILAC-R3 ILAC Strategic Plan 2015-2020* and the actions detailed in *Supplement 1 to ILAC R3*. The ILAC Committees and the Executive task force groups established to address

the implementation of the ILAC Strategic Plan, continued to progress their respective action items and the results of these efforts were seen throughout 2019, with the number of completed actions rising from 24 to 45.

The report and recommendation from the Executive Committee to the ILAC members on the ILAC strategic plan action to review ILAC's resource needs (now and into the future) was distributed to the ILAC members and a presentation and opportunity for further discussion was provided during the ILAC General Assembly in Frankfurt. Noting the outcome of the decision by ILAC and IAF to establish a single international organisation for accreditation the ILAC members approved the following resolution:

ILAC Resolution GA 23.16: The General Assembly accepts the results of the ILAC Secretariat Study as the basis for ILAC's position in future discussions on the provision of the Secretariat for a single international organisation for accreditation.

ILAC-R3 can be downloaded from the [ILAC Publications and Resources section](#).

ILAC Liaisons and other International Activities

ILAC continues albeit at present via online methods to participate in our regular liaison activities with our international partners. Information on ILAC's partnerships, including copies of communiqués, joint procedures, press releases and MoUs, is available from the [ILAC Partnerships page](#).

The Liaison information page, located in the member's area of the ILAC website, continues to serve as the main source of the reports and documents produced as part of ILAC's liaison activities and also includes the current representatives for each liaison activity. ILAC members can also find copies of all ILAC comments submitted during ISO/CASCO ballots on international standards pertinent to the work of ILAC.

The Events calendar available from the [ilac.org/events](#) is being updated as we are advised of re-scheduled meetings in this current environment.

ILAC thanks all of the ILAC liaison officers, and their organisations, who volunteer their time to assist ILAC in carrying out these activities for the benefit of all ILAC members.

ILAC Secretariat Audit

In February (17 -19), Dana Leaman, Chief of NVLAP (USA), APAC Team Leader, ILAC ARC Chair and member of the ILAC Executive, carried out an audit of the activities of the ILAC Secretariat. The objective of this audit is to establish the effectiveness of the Secretariat's services and liaison support capabilities. The scope of the audit included activities (except finance) covered in:

- The Deed of Agreement;
- The Secretariat Duties and Performance Measures, and
- The Secretariat Procedures Manual.

The findings from the audit resulted in 4 non-conformities, 2 concerns and 5 comments being raised. These findings related primarily to updating of documentation, timeliness of distribution of minutes, responses to enquiries and the website audit.



L-R Hannah, Rose, Joelle, Annette, Sharon, Dana, Vanessa

The Secretariat staff are currently working on addressing these findings and would like to thank Dana for her time and effort and in carrying out the audit in a professional and constructive manner.

ILAC Secretariat Staff

The ILAC Secretariat currently includes: Annette Dever (F/T), Sharon Kelly (F/T), Vanessa Oconer Muhi (F/T), Hannah Yeoh (F/T - 12 month contract for maternity leave cover), Rose De Rota (0.7 FTE) and Joëlle Nicolas (0.8 FTE).

Staff currently on maternity leave: Stephanie Sun (F/T) and Nicole Kam (0.6 FTE).

Vanessa Oconer Muhi joined the Secretariat on 5 February 2020 in the role of ILAC Quality Officer. Vanessa was previously working as the Quality Coordinator for a large NATA accredited commercial laboratory.

Follow [@ILAC_Official](#) on Twitter to receive the latest ILAC news, including information on meetings, events, liaison activities and new publications.

You can also [subscribe to the ILAC Newsletter](#).
[Subscribe to the latest news](#) to receive updates from ILAC members and liaisons.

Committee

ILAC Accreditation Committee

by AIC Chair Erik Oehlenschlaeger, DANAK

With the outbreak of the covid-19 epidemic the work undertaken by the Accreditation Committee (AIC) is affected just as activities all over the whole world continue to be. We have been reminded how much we depend on each other by the cancellation of the meetings in Beijing in March/April 2020. Many issues were planned for this AIC meeting including some that were transferred from the last meeting in Frankfurt in October 2019. Fortunately, much, if not, most of this work can be undertaken online. We skype, zoom and use other IT communication tools not the least, numerous emails. Therefore, many things are business as usual except the ties and suits are hanging in the wardrobes and we sit at our home desks dressed more casually and are perhaps even in more contact worldwide, than we might be within our countries that are struck by covid-19.

Ballots coming up

A number of work items have been in preparation for some time and have now reached a final state where the documents will go for ballot in the near future. This includes the new document: Guidelines for harmonization of scopes of ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation of WADA anti-doping laboratories. This is a completely new guideline developed by the WADA WG to suit the needs of all the parties involved in the accreditation of WADA laboratories. It is very important to observe that the degrees of freedom normally afforded to testing laboratories are restricted for WADA anti-doping laboratories. This work has been convened by Ian Mann from SAS in close collaboration with the WG conveners Victoria Ivanova, WADA, and Trace McInturff, A2LA. The document going for ballot is the result of a well-established consensus among the parties participating in this "scheme". The number of WADA anti-doping laboratories represents approximately 30 highly specialized laboratories that upon accreditation are recognized by WADA and perform testing for doping controls worldwide.

Besides this specialized guide, the ILAC Policy on Metrological Traceability of Measurement Results (ILAC P10), has been revised by a task force in the WG Metrology, convened by Giulia Suriani from Accredia. The policy remains the same with regard to metrological traceability to the SI, but has been updated to reflect the developments in traceability offered through reference materials. The ILAC Policy for Measurement Uncertainty in Calibration (ILAC P14) has also been revised by another task force in the WG Metrology, convened by Barbara Belzer, NVLAP, and Jeff Gust from Fluke, the ILAC LC chair. This policy also stays very much the same. These revisions of our P-documents are guided by a high degree of continuity, however, the 'purpose' section in

each policy has been updated to allow the application of these policies in other Conformity Assessment Bodies which undertake testing and calibration e.g. Proficiency Testing Providers and Reference Material Providers.

Circulations coming up in the AIC

In February 2020 ILAC received the ISO 15189 CD for comment. As this CD has increased by 50 % to more than 50 pages and the comments were originally to be submitted when we would have been in Beijing, the cancellation in this case has created room for a thorough reading of the CD. All members of the AIC were asked to provide comments by mid-March and small group from the AIC WG 15189, led by Ian Mann, SAS, is presently considering the ILAC comments that will be submitted to ISO. So far there appears to be rather good consensus among the AB's regarding this standard even though the medical laboratories are established with-in very different regulatory frameworks in different economies. It is the hope that ILAC will provide a valuable and constructive contribution to the revision of ISO 15189. It will be noted that the structure of ISO 15189 shall be aligned with the common elements of PROC 33 developed by ISO CASCO although the standard is developed by ISO TC212.

To continue the work which would have been undertaken at the meeting in Beijing, 2 major AIC circulations are planned for the near future. The first circulation is expected in mid-April and will include:

- The processing of ILAC G17 covering uncertainty in testing. This is in preparation for 60 day comment;
- How to deal with the comments received in the 60 day comment period on ILAC G3 that covers training courses ; and
- The results of the ILAC survey on ISO/IEC 17043:2010 in preparation for a possible revision of this standard that is proposed by ISO. This has a deadline for submission of early June 2020.

A second package of documents will also be distributed to the AIC members in June. The content for this second package is not as clear as the first package at this stage, however expect to be provided with information on the developments of:

- Draft G19 for forensic laboratories. This is an update to align G19 with the revised ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and also taking ISO 15189 into account for special cases.
- Draft G18 for an AIC circulation if not circulated earlier.
- Issues relating to the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017. This includes the measurement uncertainty arising from sampling (sMU) and conformity with requirements.
- Developments associated with revision of the VIM (Vocabulary in Metrology) in progress through the JCGM.

While much work can be completed using online tools some issues remain not so easy to solve. The most prominent issue presently in the AIC is measurement uncertainty arising from sampling (sMU). While not much was heard during the first 1½-2 years of implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017, it started to be raised in early 2019. A position paper has been developed by Danielle Dicker from NATA. The comments on this position paper, as well as the results from the survey conducted simultaneously, call for more discussion and this is where we miss the dynamics of the meeting rooms and coffee breaks. Similarly with the ILAC Policy for Proficiency Testing, ILAC P9, which has been through a 60 day comment period. While we can collect comments, sort them, address them and compile our documents accordingly, this process is very slow in addressing an issue where people provide differing opinions. It is more difficult to investigate and analyze, provide responses back and forth and arrive at solutions where all in the room sit nodding and agree on a consensus. This is an absolutely crucial process for the difficult issues and therefore we do look forward to meeting each other and sitting together in the meeting rooms, sharing a coffee and finding ways to reach consensus. Hopefully we will do that in October in Montreal, Canada. Until then we will skype, send emails and be in touch otherwise, more than usual.

International Updates

2020 World Metrology Day

On behalf of the World Metrology Day Team, we are pleased to announce that the 2020 World Metrology Day Resource Website is now live:
<http://www.worldmetrologyday.org/>

The theme this year is "Measurements for global trade". This theme was chosen to create awareness of the important role measurement plays in facilitating fair global trade, ensuring products meet standards and regulations, and satisfying customer quality expectations.

Last year's World Metrology Day was a huge success; we hope to build on that success in 2020.

On the resource website, you may download the Press Release, the Directors' Message and the poster.

The poster may be downloaded in PDF format in English and French, and in PhotoShop format in English.

Please help us to spread the word about World Metrology Day and let the World Metrology Day Team know by email about the events you are organizing in your country so that we can include them on the website. If you need inspiration, you can see the sort of events organized by other NMIs in previous years on the website.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or need help in downloading the posters.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,
On behalf of the WMD Team (<http://www.worldmetrologyday.org/contacts.html>)
Chris Pulham / Andy Henson
OIML / BIPM

ISO CASCO News

As of 1 January 2020, CASCO is pleased to welcome Mr Reinaldo Balbino Figueiredo (ANSI, United States), the new CASCO Chair, and Ms Caroline Outa (KEBS, Kenya), appointed as CASCO Vice Chair, for the term 2020-2021. Strong and efficient national mirror committees (NMCs) play a crucial role in the success and uptake of the conformity assessment standards. Therefore, supporting NMCs for an active participation in CASCO will be the priority of the new CASCO Chair and Vice Chair.

Due to the situation with COVID-19, the 35th CASCO Plenary and Workshop hosted by the Deutsches Institut für Normung (DIN) in Berlin, were postponed. The alternative dates of 25 - 29 January 2021 have now been confirmed with the hosts and have been communicated to CASCO members. In the meantime, the Chairman's Policy and Coordination Group (CPC) and the Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group (STAR) will hold their meetings remotely, the same situation applies to all CASCO Working Groups' (WGs) meetings. To maintain the dialogue with Members, a round of conference calls will be organized between the CASCO Chair, CASCO Vice Chair and NMCs from different regions over the forthcoming months.

On the technical side, the revision of the Common Elements in CASCO Standards, that defines a set of common requirements to all conformity assessment standards, has been completed and the revised version of the document published. This document will remain an internal document to CASCO with the reference PROC 33 as it was for the previous version.

INetQI - Quality Infrastructure Network

by INetQI Chair, Merih Malmqvist Nilsson

INetQI is a network of global organisations which are either global cooperations of institutions in the quality infrastructure (QI), global stakeholders of the QI or global organisations which promote or fund the achievement of a robust QI for free trade on a fair and sustainable playing field.

The driving force for creating the network is the multiple challenges we are all facing in the wake of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR4.0) and the urgency of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These are not only challenges for developing economies but for all economies. The need for a multilateral dialogue is therefore bigger and more important than it has ever been. The challenges will be overcome only if there is a broad global dialogue and global cooperation.

INetQI members believe that it is high time we got together and started speaking about the future of a robust QI and all of its institutions around the world in order to meet the challenges of IR4.0 and the SDGs.

The present members of INetQI are ILAC, IAF, ISO, IEC, ITU, BIPM, OIML, ITC, UNECE, UNIDO, WBG, WTO, IQNet and IIOC. The present chair is provided by ILAC and the secretariat is provided by ISO/CASCO.

INetQI has had three meetings until now. We have taken a number of steps such as:

- Revising the definition of Quality Infrastructure;
- Reading, commenting and promoting documents produced by and contributing to activities, website initiatives and surveys performed by the member organisations such as UNIDO, UNECE, WBG and WTO so far;
- Drafting a communication strategy and actions list;
- Discussing the challenges of IR4.0 and the SDGs for the QI community.

INetQI has also been asked by ISO/CASCO STAR (Strategic Alliance and Regulator group) to host a library of documents encompassing all available resources such as documents, videos, brochures from the member organisations of the network. The purpose of this is to facilitate a search for resources on topics relevant to the QI and have an overview of what is available. The INetQI Chair, secretariat and communications manager are working on this at the moment. Work is being done through electronic meetings.

The next physical meeting of the network will be on the 30th of November 2020 in Geneva and will be hosted by IEC.

Regional Cooperations

IAAC News

IAAC held its Executive Committee meetings in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, in March 2020. Representatives from accreditation bodies and conformity assessment organizations in the region attended IAAC's beginning of the year meetings.



IAAC Executive Committee

During its meeting, IAAC created a Working Group which is developing a new IAAC Strategic Plan for the 2020-2025 term to establish the goals and guidelines that the Cooperation will be aiming for over the next five years.

The IAAC Multi-lateral Recognition Arrangement is the basis for operating equivalent accreditation systems in the countries of the region. The MLA Committee created a Working Group to analyze the effectiveness of the MLA evaluation process indicators and suggest ways to improve them. IAAC is carrying out efforts to improve the MLA process, to ensure that deadlines at every step of the process are met and to optimize the use of limited peer evaluator resources.



IAAC MLA Group



IAAC Meetings

On March 13, 2020, IAAC members analyzed and made decisions regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and its potential impact for accreditation bodies and conformity assessment bodies in the region. The IAAC MLA Committee agreed that IAAC shall follow the recommendations of the current and future statements issued by IAF and ILAC and posted on their websites regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. The IAAC MLA Committee agreed that each Accreditation Body shall document how it will address the impact caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and the application of alternative assessment techniques to ensure the competence of accredited conformity assessment bodies. The IAAC MLA Committee also decided that the accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies shall document how they will address the impact caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and the application of alternative conformity assessment techniques, in compliance with the guidelines established by the Accreditation Body.

IAAC Membership

IAAC currently has a total of 61 members: 24 are full members, 4 are associates and 33 are stakeholders. Since last year, IAAC accepted 3 new Stakeholder members from Ecuador, Peru and Mexico.

IAAC MLA Signatories

IAAC has a total of 20 MLA signatory members from 17 countries. The IAAC MLA continues to grow, 2 MLA Group members recently extended their MLA scopes. In August 2019, ONAC of Colombia was accepted as an MLA signatory for Medical Laboratories, Proficiency Testing Providers and Persons Certification. During the beginning of 2020, JANAAC of Jamaica extended its MLA scope to include Inspection Bodies.

IAAC MLA recognition by IAF and ILAC

IAAC is a Recognized Regional Cooperation for the main scopes of Testing (including Medical) and Calibration Laboratories; Inspection Bodies; Management Systems Certification Bodies (with sub-scopes QMS, EMS, FSMS, ISMS, MDMS and EnMS), and Product Certification Bodies (with sub scope Global G.A.P).

IAAC received peer evaluations from ILAC to extend its MRA recognition for the scopes of Proficiency Testing Providers (PTP) and Reference Materials Producers (RMP) in 2018 and 2019. IAAC is currently waiting on the ILAC AMC decision regarding these scope extensions. IAAC also submitted an application to IAF to extend its MLA recognition for the scopes of Persons Certification Bodies and Green House Gases (GHG) Validation/Verification. The IAF evaluations for these scopes are scheduled to take place before 2021.

The IAAC officers

The current key IAAC officers are:

Liliane Somma of OUA, Uruguay - IAAC Chair

Andrea Melo of Cgcre, Brazil - IAAC Vice-Chair

Elias Rafoul of SCC, Canada - IAAC Treasurer

Ferney Chaparro of ONAC, Colombia - MLA Group and MLA Committee Chair

Robert Knake of A2LA, USA - MLA Group and MLA Committee Vice-Chair

Training

IAAC carried out a training workshop for new peer evaluators on ISO/IEC 17011:2017, in August 2019, in Mexico City, Mexico. The Mexican Accreditation Body (ema) graciously hosted the workshop, which had 24 Spanish speaking participants from the region which were qualified as trainee peer evaluators.

IAAC also carried out a training workshop for new peer evaluators on ISO/IEC 17011:2017, in October 2019, in Washington DC, USA. The host body was ANAB. 14 English speaking peer evaluator applicants participated in the workshop and were qualified as trainee peer evaluators.



IAAC 17011 peer evaluators workshop Oct 2019

Technical Cooperation Project

The technical cooperation project titled "Quality Infrastructure Services for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (R3E) in Latin America and the Caribbean" was carried out by the 3 regional organizations for accreditation, standards and metrology: IAAC, the Panamerican Standards Commission (COPANT) and the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM). Sponsor organizations included the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) of Germany and the Organization of American States (OAS). The project ends in the first quarter of 2020. Among other activities, a total of 9 regional workshops were held to train IAAC peer evaluators with project funds from 2014-2019.

Cooperation with the Regions

IAAC has strong relationships with regional accreditation cooperations. IAAC and the Asia-Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) regularly carry out joint peer evaluations of their common members, regularly share peer evaluators as well as MLA practices. In 2020, IAAC will perform 2 joint peer evaluations with APAC. In 2019, IAAC performed 1 joint peer evaluation with PAC and 2 with APLAC, the former Asia-Pacific Cooperations which merged and now constitute APAC.

IAAC regularly exchanges technical information with the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), the Southern African Development Community Accreditation (SADCA) and the Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC), regarding best practices in MLA management. IAAC also exchanges information with the European Accreditation Cooperation (EA) on the latest

developments and trends in the region. The EA Chair attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings held in Mexico, in August 2019.

The Quality Infrastructure Cooperation of the Americas, (QICA) is a partnership of regional bodies with the objective of promoting the strengths of a Quality Infrastructure in the region of the Americas. QICA includes a representative from the regional standards body (COPANT), the regional accreditation cooperation (IAAC) and the regional metrology body (SIM). A QICA outreach event to Mexican regulators and government officials took place in August 2019 within the framework of the IAAC General Assembly and was hosted by emma, the Mexican Accreditation Body. The event was attended by 21 persons. The exchange of information was lively with issues raised on various topics such as risk assessment and how new technologies impact conformity assessment services. The participants went away with a deeper understanding of the value that standards, measurements and accreditation can provide in supporting the work of government regulators.

Redesigned IAAC website

The Ecuadorean Accreditation Body (SAE) and the Universidad Pedagógica de Quito with the support of the IAAC Secretariat redesigned the IAAC website. The new site has a streamlined design and is easier to navigate. The new IAAC website was launched in January 2020. You may visit it at www.iaac.org.mx.

IAAC Meetings

You are invited to attend the next IAAC General Assembly meetings to be held in Montreal, Canada, from August 14-21, 2020.

ARAC News

I. First ARAC stakeholder members

Substantial growth in the ARAC membership has been achieved following the acceptance of two new associations of Testing and Calibration laboratories as ARAC stakeholder members: the National Commission for Private Laboratories Council of Saudi Chambers, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Chambre Syndicale Nationale de la Métrologie [National Union Chamber of Metrology], Tunisia.

These new memberships were approved following 30 day ballots and review by the ARAC Executive Committee and ARAC General Assembly members. Following the acceptance of these new members, ARAC has 20 members (14 Full members, 4 associate members and 2 stakeholder members) covering 18 Arab countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates & Yemen).

It should be highlighted that the Stakeholder membership in ARAC allows ARAC to respond to the needs of both industry and regulators in the Arab region with the aim of ensuring consistency and equal reliability among all accredited activities delivered under their jurisdiction. This in turn ensures that the 'Global Acceptance' of accredited conformity assessment results is universally achieved.



Signing Ceremony of CSNM Stakeholder membership in ARAC



Signing Ceremony of NCPL Stakeholder membership in ARAC

II. ARAC Mid-Term meetings 2020

After much planning, ARAC held very successfully Mid-Term Meetings in Amman, Jordan from the 22nd to 26th February 2020 hosted by the Jordanian Accreditation System [JAS]. The program including Regional Workshops and committees was as follows:

- 22nd February 2020: 6th meeting of the ARAC MLA Group
- 23rd February 2020: ARAC MLA, Technical and Communication & Marketing and Capacity Building Working Group meetings
- 24th February 2020: ARAC 16th Executive Committee meeting
- 25th February 2020: ARAC Accreditation Bodies Partnership Regional Workshop
- 25th February 2020: JAS' Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies & ARAC Stakeholders Community Awareness Workshop

Significant achievements were made at these meetings including the following:

- Schedule of the upcoming ARAC Peer Evaluation activities;
- Establishment of the ARAC Capacity Building program that will be implemented remotely by using E-learning and Online tools;
- Progress made in the development of the new ARAC website and IT solution covering the following modules:
 - Document control process,
 - Peer evaluation process,
 - Peer Evaluators qualification process,
 - ARAC membership process,
 - E-learning and online training platform,
- Preparation for upcoming Peer evaluation of ARAC that will be conducted by IAF and ILAC.



ARAC Executive Committee meeting

III. ARAC ABs Partnership Regional Workshop

ARAC conducted its second ABs partnership Regional Workshop on 25th February 2020 which is designed to serve a number of objectives, namely the following:

- Support the implementation of the signed MOUs between ARAC members
- Enhance technical cooperation and inter-relationship between ARAC members including sharing information
- Facilitate collaboration and mutual assistance among members by means of training activities/workshops and experts meetings
- Coordinate among the ARAC AB members an opportunity for sharing experience in terms of activities and competencies related to the development and implementation of accreditation systems for new schemes.

The main outcome of this workshop is that a technical support action plan has been established which defines support for each AB in the different activities covering mainly:

- Management System of the AB according to ISO/IEC 17011:2017,
- Capacity Building,
- Practicing Assessments.



Participants at the 2nd ARAC ABs Partnership Regional Workshop

IV. JAS' Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies & ARAC Stakeholders Community Awareness Workshop

A very successful awareness stakeholder workshop was held on 26th February 2020 in Amman, Jordan with the participation of the Jordanian Ministry of Industry & Trade and more than 70 participants from conformity assessment bodies and regulatory authorities in Jordan.

During this workshop, the participants stressed the role that ARAC plays in the development of the accreditation and conformity assessment infrastructure in Jordan.

This workshop aimed to provide stakeholders in Jordan with a better understanding of the value of accreditation and accredited services, and in particular, for regulators to recognize and accept accredited conformity assessment results covered under the ILAC MRA, IAF MLA and ARAC MLA.



Participants at the ARAC Stakeholders Community Awareness Workshop

V. ARAC Cooperation with the other Regional Cooperation Bodies

- APAC – ARAC

ARAC conducted a joint Peer Evaluation with Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation [APAC] of the Emirates International Accreditation Center (EIAC) in November 2019 for the activities related to the accreditation of Management System, Product and Personnel Certification (joint Peer Evaluation of the common AB signatory).

- AFRAC - ARAC

ARAC and African Accreditation Cooperation [AFRAC] continue to work closely to identify further areas for cooperation in support of their Technical Cooperation Agreement signed in March 2013. The implementation of this Technical Cooperation Agreement continued with the participation of ARAC Peer evaluators in AFRAC Peer evaluation activities.

VI. Upcoming ARAC key events

- ARAC Annual meetings:

The upcoming ARAC Annual meetings will be held during the period 29th August – 03rd September 2020, Cairo, Egypt.

ARAC Secretariat Contact Details
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News from EA

Impact of the Coronavirus on EA activities

Due to the growing concerns of the global outbreak of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), EA has decided to cancel its March and April 2020 physical meetings in order to protect all the participants, and limit as much as possible the impact on the business of our members, and to avoid spreading of the virus.

This pandemic has challenged EA in the organization of its meetings, leading even the big Committees to experiment with new ways of working and discussing.

The Horizontal Harmonization Committee (HHC) decided to use the EA forum, launched in September 2019, to exchange and finalize draft versions for new and revised documents, such as:

- EA-3/01: Supplement to EA-3/01 – Rules on the use of the EA MLA Mark
- List of Risks
- Consultancy, and the Independence of Conformity Assessment Bodies
- EA-2/17: EA Document on Accreditation for Notification Purposes
- EA-1/22: EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members

The period for comments and suggestions was limited to two days, the same period as the HHC meeting would have been held, and the topics, on the evening of the second day were closed by the EA HHC Chair Gabriel Zrenner, giving the final output of the discussions and the follow-up actions.

The Inspection Committee (IC) organized a one-day web meeting to exchange ideas on all the ordinary items of its March agenda:

- Database for EA IC Frequently Asked Questions
- Application of ISO/IEC 17020 in the field of crime scene investigation (CSI)
- EA-5/02 EA Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020 in Periodic Inspection of the Roadworthiness of Motor Vehicles and their Trailers
- Liaison with EA Recognized Stakeholders (DG Environment, European Union Agency for Railways (ERA))

Further meetings will be organized remotely in the coming weeks, in order to ensure the continuity of EA activities.

Focus on the role of Team Leader for EA peer evaluations – Leopoldo Cortez

Peer evaluation shall ascertain whether the National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) meet the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 765/2008, relevant harmonised standards and mandatory EA and international documents.

National authorities shall recognise the equivalence of the services delivered by those NABs which have successfully undergone EA peer evaluation, and thereby accept the accreditation certificates of those bodies and the certificates and reports issued by the accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies.

To perform these peer evaluations (PE), EA mandates peer evaluators, highly qualified and experienced NAB staff members.

One of these EA peer evaluators is Leopoldo Cortez, President of the Board of Directors for the Portuguese National Accreditation Body, IPAC.

Leopoldo Cortez, you have been a peer evaluator of EA for 25 years. Would you say that the Peer Evaluation work/EA's approach to PE have changed over the years?



My first peer-evaluation was in 1995. At that time, we were only 5 persons for the scopes of calibration and testing. What was different back then? Essentially the requirements to be met by the ABs, the communication (no e-mail, just letters and phones, and sometimes faxes) and a lot of paper to handle. The format of the peer-evaluation, however, was similar, with a week of work, for witnessing, reviewing files, and interviewing staff. The spirit of being a peer-evaluation, and not an assessment, was also the same.

But the methodology for performing a peer-evaluation had some differences: the committee managing the Multilateral Agreement (MLA) would only choose the Team Leader, and he/she would select and propose from the list of approved peer-evaluators the members of the team.

How do you see your role as a Team Leader (TL) for EA?

Nowadays, the Team Leader is mainly the conductor or maestro of an orchestra, due to the increasing size of the PE teams – his/her leadership's skills are more important than ever, he/she will have to obtain the best performance from all its PE Team's members. Also, TL's competence is required to have more focus on the NAB's impartiality and structural elements, and the NAB's competence approach. And being a TL in EA also means that I need to be aware of the implications of Regulation (CE) No. 765/2008 and the increased responsibilities that the Regulations bring to everyone in the EA PE system.

[Click here to read the full interview](#)

Accreditation Updates

News from MAURITAS



The Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS) has been established as a department under the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division) following the adoption of the Mauritius Accreditation Service Act 1998. The main objective of MAURITAS is to provide a national, unified service for the accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) such as Calibration and Testing Laboratories, Inspection Bodies and Certification Bodies.

MAURITAS was admitted as an Arrangement Member, that is signatory to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) on 28 September 2018 and subsequently, MAURITAS has achieved signatory status to the ILAC MRA on 04 October 2018 and to the IAF MLA on 17 October 2018. MAURITAS achieved signatory status to the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) MRA on 14 March 2019. The programmes for which MAURITAS is an arrangement Member of SADCA, AFRAC, ILAC and IAF are as follows:

- Testing ISO/IEC 17025;
- Calibration ISO/IEC 17025; and
- Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1.

MAURITAS underwent a transition evaluation by the AFRAC Evaluation Team from 01 – 03 July 2019. The Evaluation Team comprised Mr. Adel Rezk from the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC) as Team Leader and Mrs. Susan Munyiri-Ochieng from the Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS) as Deputy Team Leader.



MAURITAS Staff with the AFRAC Transition Evaluation Team



Mr. R. N. Gopee, Director MAURITAS
handing over a souvenir to Mr. A. Rezk,
Team Leader



Mrs. C. Matadeen-Domun from
MAURITAS handing over a souvenir
to
Mrs. S. Munyiri-Ochieng, Deputy
Team Leader

MAURITAS submitted corrective actions for all findings raised during the Evaluation and the same were subsequently cleared by the Evaluation Team. The AFRAC MRA Council approved, in November 2019, that MAURITAS had successfully transitioned to ISO/IEC 17011:2017. In this context, the next re-evaluation of MAURITAS will be carried out by 25 May 2022.

News from PAB



In a world dominated by rules and regulations, various requirements entailing the use of more resources and time discourage businesses to operate legally and dampen consumers' desire for better products and services. Verification and conformity assessments are seen as additional requirements for quality and safety.

Attainment of quality standards would be easier if redundancies are eliminated when dealing with different government agencies. A coordinated approach among regulators, accreditation bodies, and conformity assessment bodies (CABs) would translate to better regulatory compliance by consumers of conformity assessment services. This helps CABs comply with local policies and technical regulations while gaining global marketing advantage. This will also result in a higher demand for accredited conformity assessments.

The Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) endeavors to complement traditional marketing of accreditation to CABs by promoting recognition of accreditation and accredited conformity assessments among regulatory bodies which are members of its PAB Council, a public and private sector body that provides guidance in the work of the bureau.

Since last year, PAB has been exploring areas of collaboration with PAB Council members that would harmonize accreditation and conformity assessment. The initiative has been paying off.

As an offshoot from a series of discussions with the Department of Energy (DOE) that started in mid-2019, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the recently passed Republic Act No. 11285 (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act) requires third party testing and examination service providers to be duly accredited by PAB according to reference standards and as requirements of energy labeling.

PAB is in the final stages of reviewing an agreement with Department of Health (DOH) that seeks to accredit their reference laboratories, recognize accredited laboratories for drinking water analysis and clinical laboratories, and encourage the use of accredited services and facilities. This is seen to improve the delivery of medical laboratory testing critical to healthcare management.

Initiatives with other PAB Council members are also being discussed to streamline, complement, and rationalize conformity assessment functions in relation to PAB accreditation. Aside from DOE and DOH, the other PAB Council members include Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of National Defense (DND) and three representatives from the private sectors.

Recognizing the significance of Halal industries in national economic development, the Republic Act No. 10817, or the, "Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Act," was enacted in 2016. It empowers PAB to accredit Halal certification bodies. This paved the way for Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA) and PAB to enter into a technical cooperation in Halal accreditation to reduce technical barriers to trade, and facilitate bilateral trade between the UAE and the Philippines for Halal products.

In addition, a number of government agencies in the Philippines acknowledged the value of accredited conformity in performing their functions:

- DOH - Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recognizes test reports of private testing laboratories that are PAB-accredited (Department Circular No. 2011-0101).
- Department of Budget and Management (DBM) specifies that ISO 9001:2015 certification for government offices, must be issued by an accredited certification body under IAF member, preferably by PAB (Memorandum Circular No. 2018-01).
- A DA – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) administrative order specifies that, specific tasks can be delegated to a particular laboratory based on ISO/IEC 17025 (Fisheries Administrative Order No. 228 Series of 2008).

In the future, PAB will continue to work with other government agencies in harmonizing regulatory environment to protect the health and safety of the public and conserve the environment. If more economies adopt better compliance to regulations through accreditation, the world will be a better and safer world.

For information and latest news about PAB please visit our website: <http://www.dti.gov.ph/pab>.

Prepared by: (Sgd.) Jenebert P. Opinion – TIDS, PDD

Reviewed by: (Sgd.) Amor F. Lahoz – Chief, PDD

Approved by: (Sgd.) James E. Empeño – Director IV 20 February 2020

AZAK working towards signatory status to EA, ILAC and IAF

“Azerbaijan Accreditation Center” Legal entity of Public Law (AZAK) is the sole national accreditation body of the Republic of Azerbaijan and recognized by the State to accredit conformity assessment bodies, such as testing and calibration laboratories and certification and inspection bodies.

Acting as an independent and self-financing entity, AZAK has the institutional commitment to attest that accredited bodies offering testing, calibration, certification and inspection services have the technical competence and impartiality to check the conformity of products and services using the relevant national and international standards. The accreditation activities are performed by two departments: Laboratory accreditation Department and Certification and Inspection bodies accreditation Department.

Accreditation in Azerbaijan is regulated by the “Law on accreditation in the field of conformity assessment” dated 30th of May 2014, establishing the legal and organizational basis for the accreditation of bodies conducting the conformity assessment activities of testing (ISO/IEC 17025), calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), certification (for management system ISO/IEC 17021, for product certification ISO/IEC 17065), inspection services (ISO/IEC 17020). The Law is currently under revision to be in line with the European Regulation (EC) 765/2008 on setting out the requirements for accreditation relating to the marketing of products.

According to the (№ 1234 dated February 10 2017) Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (addressing additional measures to improve governance in the field of standardization, metrology, accreditation and protection of patentable subject matters) AZAK implements accreditation principles and rules, accredits conformity assessment bodies, and represents Azerbaijan at the international organizations.

AZAK accredits conformity assessment bodies in the voluntary area as well as in the regulated area.

In the regulated area, the law requires accreditation for those bodies that qualify certain categories of products and services, which can be put onto the market only after undergoing conformity assessment against the applicable standards.

In the voluntary area, where there is no specific legislation, companies seek accreditation to provide the market with an impartial attestation of their competence in guaranteeing the quality, safety, security, etc of products and services.

AZAK established its management system in respect with the quality policy, indicated below:

- In order to develop, implement and continually improve the quality system of a CAB, NAB approves relevant accreditation rules
- Setting conditions for certification bodies to be accepted in the system despite their size, membership to the any kind of associations, help them to manage processes, and achieve objectives with transparent, impartial and reliable methods.
- To be known as the competent and reliable accreditation body in order to meet with the expectations of the applicants
- Make available information about certification activities for all stakeholders in order to ensure transparency of the information
- Promote AZAK as the sole national accreditation body within the Republic, and main executive body of the conformity assessment regardless of whether it is voluntary or compulsory

AZAK applies ISO/IEC 17011 and was an affiliate member of ILAC (International Accreditation Cooperation) since 2012 and is now an Associate member since 7th March 2018.

At the meeting of the General Assembly on November 2017, the appeal of the Azerbaijan Accreditation Center to the European co-operation for Accreditation was considered. The Azerbaijani Accreditation Center was unanimously accepted as an Associate member of EA.

Twinning project

Strengthening the National Accreditation System of the Republic of Azerbaijan

July 2017 - October 2019

The Twinning project “Strengthening the National Accreditation System of the Republic of Azerbaijan” is the program financed by European Union representing a number of actions aimed at reinforcing the capacity of AZAK in line with the requirements of EA (European co-operation for Accreditation), ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and IAF (International Accreditation Forum).

The Twinning project lasted from July 1, 2017 to June 31, 2019 with a 4 month extension, and was performed by the consortium of National Accreditation Bodies of EU Member States (MS), DAkKS (Germany), Accredia (Italy) and LATAK (Latvia), for the beneficiary AZAK, the Accreditation Body of Azerbaijan (BS). During this period, the project was supported on site by Resident Twinning Assistant (RTA).

The Twinning project considered the mandatory results for 4 components:

- Upgrading the legal and regulatory framework – Gap analysis performed by the experts and recommendations for the Secondary Legislation in line with Regulation EC 765/2008 were delivered.
- Capacity building - Training was held for ISO/IEC 17011; ISO/IEC 17020; ISO/IEC 17065 and so on to improve the personnel efficiency.
- Institutional capacity improvement – Upgrade of AZAK internal management system procedures.
- External communication and international networking – AZAK website upgraded and the institutional brochure of AZAK was realized in English and Azeri were issued. Workshops for CABs were delivered.

Currently AZAK is in process of the mandatory activities to become a signatory to the international and regional organizations (ILAC, IAF and EA).



Workshop "The benefits of accreditation", Shamakhi, January 2019



Study tour of AZAK and State representatives to Berlin, February 2019



Training on accreditation standards, December 2017



Training on ISO 45001 and IAF documents, July 2019



Study tour to Accredia (Italy), June 2019



Workshop on Regulation EC 765/2018, Baku, June 2018

Medical Laboratory Accreditation - Serbia

Conference on Medical Laboratory Accreditation and Quality Systems: European Answers (CLAQ)

The 3rd Conference on Medical Laboratory Accreditation and Quality Systems (CLAQ): Lab medicine in the transformative decade: digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and quality management was held on December 9th and 10th, 2019, in Belgrade. It was organized by the Center for Medical Biochemistry of Clinical Center of Serbia and Society for Clinical Laboratory Medicine and Science (SCLM) in cooperation with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) - Emerging Technology Division (ETD) Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine (C-MHBLM). The conference brought together 894 participants, and 30 speakers from 12 countries (16 speakers from France, Czech Republic, United States of America, Poland, Croatia, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Romania, Albania, Cyprus, and 14 speakers from the Republic of Serbia). It was held under the auspices of IFCC, European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), Ministries of the Serbian Government (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Economy), Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia and the honorary patronage of TRH Crown Prince Alexander and Princess Katherine Karadjordjevic.



Conference Speakers and Participants



Conference Participants

This meeting aimed to show the importance of the quality system in the field of medicine, to become acquainted with new scientific and technological achievements in the field of laboratory medicine and to promote the accreditation of medical laboratories of different profiles.

At the event, eminent experts in various fields of laboratory medicine, as well as experts in the field of accreditation of medical laboratories from different national accreditation bodies in Europe and the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) presented their experience in accreditation.

This international conference was designed to address the educational and professional needs of the experts in the field of laboratory medicine, directors of hospitals and private laboratories, engineers, technicians, and participants in the quality management and accreditation of medical laboratories. Additionally, it provided an opportunity for participants from Serbia and Southeastern Europe to educate themselves in the field of accreditation and to share their experiences with experts in this field (including members of the EA Working Group Health Care, within the EA Laboratory Committee), as well as prominent experts from the medical laboratories of Europe and the region.

In this unique way, the tradition that began in 2017 when the Accreditation Body of Serbia (ATS), together with the Clinical Center of Serbia - Center for Medical Biochemistry, supported the first international conference on Accreditation of Medical Laboratories entitled "1ST CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION AND QUALITY SYSTEMS: EUROPEAN ANSWERS" (CLAQ), held on April 20th-21th 2017 in Belgrade continued. At the meeting, various topics such as practical aspects of the application of the ISO 15189 standard and accreditation of medical laboratories were discussed, whereas the topic of the 2nd conference held in November 2018 was: "POCT innovation, Connected Health and Beyond: How digital technology is transforming lab medicine health and social care?" which provided an overview of the point-of-care (POC) testing landscape as well as trends in laboratory challenges and clinical applications.

The laboratories were given the opportunity to learn about the latest developments in the medical sciences in one place. Also, this conference provided the opportunity for laboratories to understand the importance and benefits of accreditation. This applies in particular to the application, ie. understanding the requirements of the standard relating to the accreditation of medical laboratories. This type of conference is very important for medical laboratories as well as for all other factors in the world of accreditation and medicine that make up a unique quality system.

The representatives of ATS at past events were Jelena Stojanovic and Ljubinka Gligic, PhD, who presented the activities of ATS with special reference to the accreditation of medical laboratories.

Prof. Sanja Stankovic, PhD, the director of the conference and the director of the Center for Medical Biochemistry of the Clinical Center of Serbia was once again in charge of the excellent organization of this conference, as in the previous years.

News from A2LA

A2LA Hosts APAC Peer Evaluator Training

On February 4-6th, 2020, A2LA had the privilege of hosting a class to train new peer evaluators on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011:2017, as well as the requirements for peer evaluators imposed by the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC), the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). Peer evaluators play a crucial role in the global quality infrastructure, ensuring that accreditation bodies are consistent in their practices across organizations and across borders. Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) like the one created by APAC facilitate global trade and cooperation by recognizing accreditation bodies who have been peer evaluated and recognized as competent, allowing their conformity assessment results to be accepted across all regions covered by the MRA. The effectiveness of peer evaluators maintains the integrity of the MRA, so consistency and objectivity in the peer evaluation process is crucial.

This training was attended by fourteen participants, representing eight different accreditation bodies and five different countries. Helping these new peer evaluators understand their role was a team of three expert trainers, each from different organizations: Rob Knake from A2LA, Ned Gravel from the International Accreditation Service, and Apisit Prakamkamanant from the National Standardization Council of Thailand. The course covered conformity assessment concepts in great detail and provided an opportunity for learners to discuss examples and approach peer evaluation from a collaborative perspective.

A2LA is a proud member of APAC and is committed to reinforcing the value of accreditation all over the world. We were honored to have this opportunity to host and help teach this group of new peer evaluators. The international community of peer evaluators supports the validity of our work as an accreditation body and creates a system of accountability across borders. We are excited to continue our work with other accreditation organizations to build a strong and consistent quality infrastructure.

A2LA Launches New Customer Care Department

A2LA has always been committed to exemplary customer care, providing reliable and attentive support through everything from the most routine to the most exceptional circumstances. Over the course of the last several months, A2LA has been developing and implementing a new four-person Customer Care Department. As we evaluated our organization's objectives throughout 2019 and codified our new core values, it became clear that adding full-time customer care staff to our team would benefit both our current and future customers. Our new Customer Care Representatives were hired in early 2020 and have been training diligently on A2LA processes and values, as well as on the important accreditation concepts they may need to assist customers with.



The launch of our Customer Care Department was already planned for April of 2020, but with the uncertainty and disruption caused by the recent outbreak of COVID-19, the new team is proving even more vital. A2LA Customer Care Representatives have made strides toward reducing our response time and opening new lines of communication with our customers, including a live chat feature now available on our website. Moreover, the customer care team will be available from 8am to 8pm EST Monday through Friday to better serve our customers throughout the world. This department will continue to support our team of accreditation experts in delivering the excellent customer service A2LA is already known for.

"A2LA's first customer care department could not be launching at a more crucial time." Remarked Diana Elias, Senior Director of HR and head of the new department. "We created the department as part of our continued commitment to our customers and key stakeholder groups. The customer care team plays a major role in helping A2LA be more prepared to answer questions, proactively supporting public safety through education and outreach, and improving the customer journey to support accreditation accepted everywhere."

For the time being, the Customer Care team has all the resources they need to work safely and effectively from their home offices, and are easily accessible by phone, chat, and email. A2LA is now more prepared than ever to assist customers in the coming weeks and months, and excited for the opportunity to continue providing an exceptional experience in the future.

News from AERSSC

Peer Evaluation of AERSSC for APAC MRA

The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) approved the application from AERSSC to join the APAC MRA on 20th June 2019. In continuation of our application, APAC formed the Peer Evaluation Team headed by Ms. Utumporn Kaewnandee from TISI, Thailand, as the Team Leader and Team Member for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and Ms. Shelli Turner from IANZ, New Zealand, as the Team Member for ISO 15189:2012.



Ms. Utumporn and Ms. Shelli visited AERSSC's office to evaluate AERSSC's accreditation operation according to ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and the APAC/ILAC requirements from 1-6 March 2020.

The onsite assessment of Nepal Research Foundation, Birgunja, accredited by AERSSC using ISO/IEC 17025:2017 was witnessed by Ms. Utumporn. The AERSSC assessment team included three members headed by Mr. Shailesh Jha for the field of Chemical Testing.

The onsite assessments of two medical laboratories namely National Public Health Laboratory, Teku, for an initial assessment and Samyak Diagnostics Laboratory for a surveillance assessment were witnessed by Ms. Shelli accompanied by AERSSC's Team Leader Prof. C.V. Anand and Team Member Dr. Anthony Thomas from 3-5 March 2020 for the field of Medical Testing using ISO 15189:2012.

Assessor Training Course on ISO 15189:2012

Accreditation Education Research and Scientific Service Center (AERSSC) conducted a five day assessor training course on ISO 15189:2012 at the Godavari Village Resort, Godavari, Lalitpur, Nepal on 18 - 22 December 2019. Sixteen participants from India and two from Nepal participated in this course. Prof. Venkatesh Thuppil and Prof. P.D. Sawant from Foundation for Quality India (FQI) Bangalore conducted the course.

The course was designed to develop potential assessors following the International Guidelines and provided training in ISO 15189:2012 followed by ISO 22870:2016, assessment techniques of AERSSC, examples and case studies and report writing techniques.

NCA 20th Anniversary

Stages of establishment of National Center of Accreditation of the Republic of Kazakhstan

This year, in 2020, the National Center of Accreditation of the Republic of Kazakhstan (NCA) will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

With the aim of integrating into the global economy, NCA has been a full member and signatory of the ILAC Arrangement (MRA) for testing and calibration laboratories since 2010, and in 2013 became a full member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

Today, the NCA covers such scopes as accreditation of conformity assessment bodies for products/services, management systems, persons, testing, calibration and medical laboratories, PT providers, inspection bodies and validation and verification of greenhouse gas bodies.

In addition, since 2019, the NCA has been actively developing and implementing new accreditation schemes such as Halal accreditation, organic certification and Global G.A.P., implementation of the OECD GLP principles, cybersecurity and a new network of laboratories in the field of bioengineering, genetic engineering and biosafety.

Thus, by following the principles of the accreditation system, NCA plans to build a professional accreditation body, which will be one of the leading accreditation bodies in the world.

News from EIAC

1) EIAC adopted remote assessments during Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak

The Emirates International Accreditation Centre (EIAC) has adopted the remote assessment policy during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The policy is in line with the provision of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and ILAC and IAF mandatory and informative documents and guidelines. Remote assessments are applicable for existing clients for periodic assessments and reassessments only. The EIAC is regularly updating the conformity assessment bodies in this regard. The EIAC has also defined and published a guideline for the remote assessments during these extraordinary circumstances.



2) EIAC Board of Directors restructured

The Board of Directors (BoD) of Emirates International Accreditation Centre (EIAC) has been restructured. On completion of the term of the Board of Directors, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President Prime Minister of UAE, Ruler of Dubai has issued Decree No. (02) of 2020 for the restructuring of the Board of Directors of the Emirates International Accreditation Centre (EIAC).



The BoD has been extended to include additional members and now comprises of 11 members including a wider stakeholder representation to support the accreditation of conformity assessment and regulatory bodies business.

3) EIAC's joint peer evaluation by APAC and ARAC

The periodic re-evaluation of Emirates International Accreditation Centre (EIAC) was conducted on 24-28 November 2019. The scope of the peer evaluation was a re-evaluation for: ISO/IEC 17021-1 for management systems certification bodies covering ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 22000; and ISO/IEC 17065 Product certification bodies as well as a scope extension for ISO/IEC 17024 persons certification bodies.



4) EIAC hosted attachment training for APAC members

The Emirates International Accreditation Centre (EIAC) hosted an attachment training program for member accreditation bodies of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) on 8-12 December 2019 on accreditation of medical laboratories using the ISO 15189 standard. Three delegates from the national accreditation bodies of Indonesia (KAN), Uzbekistan (O'ZAKK) and Kyrgyz Republic (KCA) attended the one-week attachment. Detailed training on the implementation of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 for an ISO 15189 scheme was provided. EIAC also provided the opportunity to delegates to observe the on-site assessments of medical laboratories conducted by EIAC assessment teams.



RusAccreditation News

1. International cooperation and the usage of the national accreditation system symbol

1.1. Participation in ILAC-IAF final meetings

In October 2019 the ILAC-IAF annual meetings and the ILAC-IAF General Assembly took place in Frankfurt (Germany). Representatives of RusAccreditation participated in the working group meetings of the International Accreditation Forum – IAF: TF Fraudulent Behaviour, IAF TF Principles for Determining Duration of AB Assessments and the IAF Technical Committee (TC). RusAccreditation also had representatives at the ILAC working groups, in particular, the Accreditation Committee, Inspection Committee, and ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement Council. On the sidelines of the ILAC-IAF arrangements head of RusAccreditation Alexey Khersontsev held bilateral talks with the IAF Chair, head of China National Accreditation Service for



1.2. Sharing of experience at the seminars with accreditation bodies of APAC countries

In October 2019 representatives of the Russian national accreditation system participated in the seminar of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) including the training course on ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and Risk Management Training that took place with organizational support of the Center for Accreditation of Uzbekistan (O'ZAKK) in Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan). The seminar provided the overview of such international organizations as ISO, CASCO, IAF, ILAC and the instruments used by these organizations. Also considered was the 2017 revision of the standard ISO/IEC 17011 Conformity Assessment — General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies, including the sphere of its application and basic terms and definitions which the standard establishes. Executives and senior specialists of APAC members' accreditation bodies participated in the seminar.



In November 2019 Vladivostok hosted Russia's first three-day training seminar on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 - Accreditation Experience Sharing organized by the Federal Service for Accreditation under the auspices of APAC. More than 30 leading specialists from accreditation bodies of the People's Republic of China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation participated in the seminar. During the seminar the principal provisions of the new version of the international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories were reviewed including elaboration by the accreditation bodies the plan on introducing the new version of the standard and realizing the transition period. Special attention was paid to risk management. Upon the completion of the training course attendees received an international certificate as an APAC seminar participant.



1.3. The policy on the use of the national accreditation system symbol by accredited bodies approved

In December 2019 RusAccreditation approved the policy on the use of the national accreditation system symbol by accredited CABs as a management system document. The policy has been elaborated with the aim to unify the requirements of the use of the national accreditation system symbol and ILAC MRA mark by accredited CABs and is intended for the Federal Service for Accreditation and the National Institute for Accreditation of RusAccreditation employees, assessors and experts, and also for legal entities and individual entrepreneurs, accredited in the national accreditation system or applying for accreditation.

	Политика использования аккредитационным лицам знака национальной системы аккредитации		стр. 1 из 14
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УТВЕРЖДЕНА
 приказом Росаккредитации
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ПОЛИТИКА
 использования аккредитованными лицами знака
 национальной системы аккредитации

2. Interlaboratory comparison

2.1. RusAccreditation coordinates participation of Russian laboratories in the international interlaboratory comparison program on microbiological studies

In 2019 the international program on proficiency testing for laboratories that conduct microbiological studies of food products was implemented. The program has been developed by the Analysis Capability Assessment System (ACAS) Agency of the Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine (CAIQ) with support of the Committee on Trade and Investment and Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Participation of Russian laboratories in this project was coordinated by the Federal Service for Accreditation. Altogether approximately 100 laboratories from APEC countries participated in the interlaboratory comparison round. Among them were 17 laboratories from Russia, including 10 laboratories that are in the foreground of the national project "International cooperation and export".

2.2. Launch of laboratories proficiency testing programs online-platform

In February 2020 a unified online-platform of the national accreditation system "Laboratories proficiency testing programs" (ptp.fsa.gov.ru/en) was launched in Russia. This source is aimed at supporting the national accreditation system and providing laboratories with up-to-date and complete information about proficiency testing programs, arranging interlaboratory comparison programs with joint participation of Russian and foreign laboratories. The platform contains data on the planned and ongoing interlaboratory comparison programs in the Russian Federation by 18 proficiency testing providers accredited in the national accreditation system for the compliance with the requirements of the Russian national standard GOST ISO/IEC 17043-2013 Conformity Assessment - General Requirements for Proficiency Testing.

3. Competence Supporting export

3.1. Developing a unified educational platform of the national accreditation system of the Russian Federation

Since the launch by the Federal Service for Accreditation of the unified educational platform of the national accreditation system on the basis of the National Institute for Accreditation in the beginning of 2019, the number of implemented training modules has increased three times and by the beginning of 2020 had reached more than 60. The educational platform is intended for ensuring equal conditions for building and maintaining competencies of all the participants in the national accreditation system involved in conformity assessment in any geographical location of the Russian Federation. Platform capabilities allow the creation of up-to-date education programs available for the RusAccreditation teams consisting of assessors, as well as for accredited CABs, domestic manufacturers and exporters. As a result, a unified conceptual framework, unified approach of government bodies, experts and business community to conformity assessment processes and procedures is being formed.

The educational platform allows the development and realization of education programs that are in demand among various target audiences. The professional development program "Main methods and instruments for realizing quality management system principles in conformity assessment bodies" was held for the first time for directors and laboratory quality experts, certification and inspection bodies. Additional professional development programs "The practice of applying provisions of the international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories" and "The practice of applying provisions of the international standard ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Conformity Assessment — Requirements for the Operation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection" have been established.

As part of the federal project "Systemic measures for international cooperation and export development" of the national project "International cooperation and export" the platform released a series of educational activities aimed at providing conditions for international recognition of test protocols and certificates of conformity issued by accredited CABs upon the results of conformity assessment of Russian products for export. Special attention was paid to professional development of testing laboratories' (centers') staff included in the Modernization Plan of laboratories that are in the foreground of the national project "International cooperation and export", which take part in selecting and adopting foreign testing methods.



4. Team: All-Russian activities in the sphere of accreditation in 2019

4.1. All-Russian Forum of Accredited CABs – 2019

Last December Moscow (Russia) saw the All-Russian Forum of Accredited CABs – 2019 held where a wide range of issues relevant to establishing the infrastructure of trust (which is promoting responsibility, cooperation and mutual respect between business, state and community, with the main objective to improve the living standards of people) were discussed. More than 400 people visited the annual event including representatives of EAEU, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, Rosstandart and the Russian Export Center. During the plenary session of the forum there were reports presented on the Russian Federation national accreditation system development in 2019 addressing the monitoring of accredited CABs and new approaches to keeping the national part of the unified register of EAEU accredited CABs; providing public services in the sphere of accreditation and confirmation of competence in 2019; digital infrastructure of trust; international integration of the national accreditation system and cooperation with international accreditation bodies. The forum was organized by the Federal Service for Accreditation.



4.2. VI All-Russian Congress of Assessors

In December 2019 Moscow (Russia) saw the VI All-Russian Congress of Assessors held. More than 300 people participated in the event including more than 200 assessors and representatives of national accreditation bodies of different countries. The congress was opened by the Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation – Head of RusAccreditation Alexey Khersontsev, who spoke on the measures of confidence building in the results of conformity assessment and underlined the key role of assessors in the national accreditation system. The Director of the Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD) Laboratories Accreditation Division, Ioannis Sitaras, gave a speech on using ISO/IEC 17043 for organizing competence testing in regard to sampling and major changes to the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The Director of the National Accreditation Centre of the Republic of Moldova (MOLDAC), Mrs. Eugenia SPOIALĂ, presented a report on the main changes that are to be taken into consideration when transitioning to the new version of the standard ISO/IEC 17011:2017. The Head of Methodology and Training Department of the Belarusian State Centre for Accreditation, Olga Bobko, spoke on the peer assessment of the Belarusian national accreditation system by the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and competence of assessors. The congress was organized by the Federal Service for Accreditation.



Stakeholder News

News from ASCOLAB

ASCOLAB supports DRC laboratory towards accreditation

ASCOLAB is accompanying and assisting the GECAMINES BU/US Central Laboratory of Panda in accreditation process according to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 by SADCAS.

The Central Laboratory of Panda of GECAMINES Business Unit/Usine de Shituru, (BU/US), is located at Likasi industrial area at 120 km from Lubumbashi capital of Haut Katanga Province in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). GECAMINES BU/US is mainly focused on mercantile mining products intended for export.

One of the objectives of GECAMINES BU/US Management and included in the strategic plan is to accredit the Central Laboratory of Panda for cathodic copper testing.

BU/US Management and the Direction of Laboratory Department are involved in purchasing equipment and renovating the laboratory.



Gecamines BU/US Management,
Direction of Laboratories
department and ASCOLAB in
meeting on 20/02/2020



New equipment in the Central Laboratory of Panda

Postcard of Central Laboratory of Panda:

- Staff: 60
- Clients: Internal GECAMINES (Metallurgical Research, Geological Research, Environmental Research, Metallurgical plant and Water care plant)
External: More than ten (10).
- Equipment : AA 400, AA 500, CS LECO 250, ICP 2100 DV, ICP 8300 DV, MINIPLA 2 FRX, SEPCTROLAB SPARK, AA SENSAS GBC, LAMBDA 25 PHOTO, etc....
- Samples tested per month (average): mineral 6,000, solutions 4,000 and metal 200

After review, BU/US Management, Direction of Laboratories Department and ASCOLAB decided the following four (4) stages should from the activities plan:

1. Training of the Staff in the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard and other associated standards.
Writing a quality manual and SOPs and reviewing records that need be integrated, updated, kept or deleted.
2. Conducting an internal audit, including the development of an action plan after the audit. This work plan should include compliance actions, responsibilities and deadlines.
Selection and training of internal auditors.

3. Review by management and a follow-up plan of the agreed actions will be developed to assess the degree of achievement. This evaluation will be made by the Quality Team.
4. Documentation review and submission of documentation for an initial assessment to be carried out / conducted by SADCAS.

All the best and good luck in the accreditation process to the GECAMINES BU/US Central Laboratory of Panda!

ISTA Annual Meeting 2020 goes virtual

The International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) had to cancel its Annual Meeting in Verona, Italy planned to be held on 25-28 May 2020. The change occurred due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic.

As usual, the ISTA Annual Meeting serves as a forum for ISTA Management, Technical Committees, Partners and relevant stakeholders from all over the globe to get together and take the opportunity to discuss up-to-date issues in their respective areas. Furthermore, it is during the annual meetings that changes to the ISTA flagship publication, The International Rules for Seed Testing are voted, amended and approved during ISTA Ordinary General Meeting (OGM).

That is why ISTA has made a commitment to find a solution to hold a virtual Ordinary General Meeting and has asked all participants to keep their calendars open for 28 May 2020.

In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health 2020 (IYPH). This is a wonderful opportunity to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can have both positive environmental and social impact.



This year, to honour its commitment to Plant Health and the IYPH, ISTA was to kick off its annual meeting with a special one-day seminar on plant health. This seminar will now be held at the ISTA Annual Meeting 2021 in Cairo, Egypt.



Safeguarding seed health is crucial for plant health as seeds may be a pathway for the introduction and dissemination of pests in new geographic areas. Therefore, ISTA Seed Health Committee (SHC) has compiled a list of seed-borne diseases, focusing on non-vegetable species. The ISTA pest list database is regularly updated and should serve as an important tool for national plant protection organisations (NPPOs) and their phytosanitary requirements.



News from Eurachem

Last year Eurachem, now counting 35 member countries, celebrated its 30th anniversary. This joyful event was hosted by Estonia, at the University of Tartu, together with a well attended Workshop on "Validation of targeted and non-targeted methods of analysis".



From left to right, Marina Patriarca, David Milde and Vicki Barwick cutting the Eurachem 30 th Anniversary cake. (Photo: A. Brzyski)



Attendants of the workshop "Validation of targeted and non-targeted methods of analysis" (Photo: M. Viigimaa)

The occasion provided an opportunity to review our activities over the years and to look into the future. Eurachem was set up with the aim to support discussions among the analytical community related to metrological traceability of analytical results and other analytical quality issues, from which informed and considered approaches could be developed. Over the years, the efforts of many, volunteering time, competence and doubts to Eurachem, produced 13 authoritative guides and several shorter documents, freely available to everyone interested at www.eurachem.org. Most of this guidance is translated into several languages, including Japanese and Farsi.

Last year new editions of two important documents were released. Although the principles and advice given in the Eurachem/CITAC Guide "Traceability in Chemical Measurement" have not changed since the 2007 1st edition, the guide was updated to reflect the terminology of the 3rd edition of the International Vocabulary of Metrology (VIM) and the publication of ISO/IEC 17025:2017. This revised standard also put more emphasis on sampling and sampling uncertainty, to which the Eurachem/CITAC Guide on "Measurement Uncertainty arising from Sampling" (UfS) already provided a general approach and worked examples. Besides minor adjustments, the UfS revision focused on introducing the new main research developments in this area.

A few shorter documents were also published last year. Two of them address specific aspects of the validation of analytical methods (the use of "blanks" and how to plan and report validation studies); supporting the Eurachem Guide on this topic published in 2014. Another two give "hands-on" guidance to providers and participants on how to use surplus proficiency test items and how to investigate poor performance in proficiency testing.

Theory is good but face-to-face discussions and practice is better. In the last 10 years alone, Eurachem has held 15 workshops and training sessions, providing good opportunities for people both to learn and to highlight issues where the development of guidance is needed. Increasingly, we see attendance also from countries outside Europe. In our last workshop of 2019, which focused on "Uncertainty from sampling and analysis for accredited laboratories", the new approaches included in the revised UfS Guide were presented, as well as basic principles of uncertainty estimation, use of uncertainty in compliance assessment and new requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 related to these topics.



Group photo of the attendants of the workshop "Uncertainty from sampling and analysis for accredited laboratories". (Photo: B. Magnusson)

In February, a two-day training event on "Accreditation of analytical, microbiological and medical laboratories - ISO/IEC 17025:2017 & ISO 15189:2012" was held in Nicosia (Cyprus), to discuss critical issues, collect the experience of laboratories and provide opportunities for interaction between staff from accreditation bodies and laboratories. Presentations and posters from our workshops are available on the Eurachem website.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus emergency, all face-to-face Eurachem meetings and workshops are under review. Please see the Eurachem website or follow us on Twitter for the latest updates on upcoming events. Even though we can't meet face-to-face at present we are continuing to work, making the most of information technologies and planning for the near future, to support the quality of analytical measurements in all fields as required. You can find more information on our latest activities, as well as national and working groups reports, in our Newsletter, available for download from our website.

Enjoy your reading and keep in touch with Eurachem! (www.eurachem.org; Twitter: @EurachemEurope)
Wishing all the best to all of you!

Workshop on PT in Analytical Chemistry, Microbiology & Laboratory Medicine

by Brian Brookman, Chair Eurachem PT Working Group

10th Workshop on PT in Analytical Chemistry, Microbiology & Laboratory Medicine, Windsor (UK), 27th – 30th September 2021

The EURACHEM Proficiency Testing Working Group (www.eurachem.org), in co-operation with CITAC (www.citac.cc) and EQALM (www.eqalm.org), is organising the 10th event of a series of Workshops addressing current practice and future directions of proficiency testing (PT) and external quality assessment (EQA) in analytical chemistry, microbiology and laboratory medicine.

Venue

The workshop will take place at the De Vere Beaumont hotel in Windsor, a town on the River Thames in southeast England, just west of London. It is home to Windsor Castle, a residence of the British Royal Family, built by William The Conqueror in the 11th century. The story of De Vere Beaumont Estate in Old Windsor is a very British one; a tale of democracy, royalty, education and religion. At its heart, sits an 18th-century mansion, a chapel, 75 event spaces and a Georgian white house in 40 acres of parkland

grounds. The original house was built for Lord Weymouth but it was during its time as a public school, from 1854 - 1967, that saw most of the estate's architectural developments.



Technical Programme

The workshop will be structured to include training sessions, keynote lectures, short presentations, working group discussions and poster sessions, to enable interactive participation and cross-fertilisation of ideas. The official language of the workshop will be in English. Invited lectures and accepted presentations/posters will be considered, through peer-review, for publication as full papers as a topical focus in an issue of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (Springer Verlag).

Training Sessions

Four training sessions, which are open to workshop delegates, will be held on the following topics:

- Basic statistics
- Further statistics
- PT scheme design
- Test item QC testing

Lectures and Working Group Topics

- Revision of ISO/IEC 17043
- Guidance on different methods for setting the standard deviation for proficiency assessment
- Collusion or falsification of results in PT – why does it happen and how can it be prevented
- Comparisons of synthetic vs real PT items
- Emerging trends in PT
- Risk analysis approach for PT participation

Who should attend?

The workshop will provide an excellent opportunity for PT/EQA scheme organisers, and end-users of PT/EQA (laboratories, accreditation bodies, regulators and the laboratories' customers) to come together and share their views.

Registration

Visit the workshop website to register.

Workshop Secretariat

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