

ILAC News

Issue 33, April 2008



- Inaugural World Accreditation Day 9 June 2008
- World Anti Doping Agency (WADA)
- IMEKO TC 11 Symposium
- ILAC/IAF Conference 2008 to be held in Sweden



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From the Chair

After the celebration of its 30th anniversary last October in Sydney—the cake was absolutely delicious, thank you again NATA and JAS-ANZ—ILAC has continued to work hard.



While noting the continuation of the regular day-to-day activities within our committees, working groups and task forces and through our liaison representatives to many international organisations, there are three main issues on our agenda for this year that I would like to highlight.

First is the revision of our by-laws. This task, the need for which has already been extensively discussed with members, will be finalised in 2008 after preparation by our secretariat and a democratic process (being submission to members for comments—already completed—and then voting after a final revision by the Executive Committee). Second, is the review of the ILAC strategic and business plan. Here, the work is only just beginning, however, the output should be presented to members for review and comment later this year. Third, is the joint discussion with International Accreditation Forum (IAF) about the future of the international accreditation system. This is certainly the most difficult subject to address, as there exists a wide range of views across the memberships of both organisations. I am still hopeful that together we will find an acceptable solution to improve the current working arrangements. This needs important preparation work including detailed explanations. The work that started last year has continued to progress in 2008 and this preparation will permit a lively and fair discussion during the Joint General Assembly in Stockholm in October.

Hopefully this year we will also finalise our common work with the IAF in cooperation with the International Standards Organization (ISO), concerning ‘what is accreditable’ and the relationship between ISO/IEC standards and the application documents issued by the accreditation community, in order to ensure consistency and mutual recognition of accreditation worldwide.

In the meantime, the European regulation related to Accreditation has been adopted by the European Parliament, establishing accreditation as the privileged means to demonstrate competence of conformity assessment bodies and giving the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) a more important role in terms of harmonisation of accreditation practices.

This is an enormous step for the European Accreditation community, and now with clear regulatory obligations for EA members: accreditation, as a public service, must be a non-profit and non-commercial activity and competition between accreditors is forbidden. As I already mentioned in a previous editorial, this new situation has to be taken into consideration by both ILAC and IAF in order to maintain and even improve the confidence level in our worldwide multilateral recognition arrangements.

Daniel Pierre
Chair



ILAC Secretariat: Alan Squirrell, Annette Dever, Sharon Kelly, Amanda Stubbs, Alison Hay.

News from the ILAC secretariat

ILAC Meetings

The Secretariat extends their appreciation to colleagues from the co-hosts of the 2007 annual meetings, NATA and JAS-ANZ, for the logistical arrangements and support provided throughout the series of meetings, including the 30th Anniversary celebrations, held in Sydney in October 2007.

The first ILAC Executive Committee and Arrangement Committee (ARC) meetings for 2008 were hosted by Raad voor Accreditatie (RvA) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, during the first week of March.

Two new members were welcomed to the ILAC Executive Committee —Christina Waddington, the EA representative and Pat Paladino the IAAC representative. The contribution of the previous representatives, Hanspeter Ischi and Ana Maria Coro respectively, was also gratefully acknowledged. This meeting included an additional half-day session to begin the process of reviewing the ILAC Strategic and Business Plan and a task force (SPTF), led by Peter Unger (ILAC Vice-Chair), has been established to continue this Executive work item. The Executive intends to have a draft document ready for comment by ILAC members later this year.

The mid-year meetings in 2008 are being hosted by Cofrac in Paris. This group of meetings includes the ILAC and IAF Executive Committees, the ILAC/IAF Joint Committee for Closer Cooperation (JCCC), the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (AMC), the IAF MLA Management Committee (MC), a joint session of the ILAC AMC and IAF MLA MC and an IAF/ILAC/ISO JWG meeting.

The annual ILAC/IAF meetings are being hosted by SWEDAC in Stockholm, Sweden from 10–22 October 2008.

The ILAC Arrangement

As at 11 February 2008, there were 59 Signatories (Full Members) to the ILAC Arrangement, representing 46 economies.

ILAC continues to focus on enhancing a more widespread understanding of the benefits of the Arrangement amongst the international community, particularly governments and regulators.

ILAC Membership

The following ILAC membership changes have occurred since the last issue of ILAC News.

Full Members: Laboratory Accreditation Bureau (L-A-B), USA.

Associates: Directorate of Accreditation (DA), Albania, Cyprus Organisation for the Promotion of Quality (CYS)—Accreditation Body (CYSAB), Cyprus, Kyrgyzstandard (KAC), Kyrgyz Republic.

Affiliates: College of American Pathologists (CAP), USA. **Stakeholders:** The Association of Practising Pathologists (APP), India.

As at 11 February 2008: 59 Full Members (Signatories to the ILAC Arrangement) representing 46 economies; 19 Associates representing 18 economies; 20 Affiliates representing 18 economies; 5 Regional Cooperation Bodies; 1 National Coordination Body; and 24 Stakeholders.

The ILAC membership (total 128 bodies) now covers a total of 78 different economies worldwide and approximately 30,000 laboratories and 5,000 inspection bodies are accredited by the 78 ILAC Full Members and Associates.

Joint ILAC/IAF Activities

The joint activities between ILAC and IAF continue to be managed through the Joint Committee for Closer Cooperation (JCCC). Currently operating under the stewardship of this committee are the following:

- Joint Inspection Group (JIG)
- Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC)
- Joint Working Group on Maintenance of A-Series Documents

- Joint Working Group on Training of Peer Evaluators
- Joint Working Group on Guidance for ISO/IEC 17011:2004
- Joint Sessions of the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (AMC) and the IAF Multilateral Arrangement Management Committee (MLA MC)
- Joint Working Group on Communications.

Each of these Joint Working Groups report on their work programs and progress at the Joint Committee for Closer Cooperation (JCCC) meetings and also at the annual Joint General Assembly (JGA).

Further discussions were held at the ILAC Executive meeting in March on the 'Discussion Paper on Development of ILAC and IAF' following the initial review and consideration of the comments received from the memberships of ILAC and IAF. This information will be circulated to members of both organisations in the near future.

ILAC liaisons

The review of liaison activities continues to be a major focus of the ILAC Executive Committee, which seeks to ensure that ILAC interests are represented in areas which have an impact on the activities of ILAC and its members. The liaison database, located in the members area of the ILAC website, has recently been extensively reviewed and updated and continues to serve as the main repository for the ever increasing number of reports and documents that are produced as part of ILAC's rapidly expanding liaison activity. It can be accessed via the members area of the ILAC website. (ILAC members who have not as yet sought access to the members area of the website, can do so on-line, via the home page of the website).

Recent ILAC liaison activities have

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included representation at a meeting of the Joint Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM) and attendance at the 23rd meeting of the Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures, (CGPM), which meets every four years in Paris. The delegates to this meeting are representatives of the governments of the Member States to the Meter Convention and observers from the Associates to the General Conference. The regular annual series of meetings between ILAC and BIPM, including representatives from the Regional Membership Organisations of both ILAC and BIPM, were recently held in Paris in March 2008, and included a workshop on the progress in adopting and implementing the joint statement on calibration and measurement capability (CMC).

A meeting of the Joint Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance to Developing Countries in Metrology, Accreditation and Standardisation (JCDCMAS) was also held in Paris on 7 March 2008 and ILAC delegates represented both ILAC and IAF at this meeting. This committee aims to provide a holistic approach to issues relating to metrology, accreditation and standardisation in developing economies. An update on the outcome of this meeting and the future work items being undertaken will be available in the liaison database mentioned above.

ILAC's continuing close cooperation with EURACHEM and CITAC supports the important metrological initiatives in chemical and biological measurement also being undertaken in conjunction with BIPM. Liaison activity with EURACHEM and CITAC also includes work on method validation, measurement uncertainty and compliance with limits, the use of 'good quality' reference materials and proficiency testing.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ILAC and OIML in November 2006, has been expanded to include IAF in a Tripartite MoU and this was signed in Sydney in October 2007. Further progress was made during the recent March 2008 meetings on the ILAC and OIML Joint Work Programme.

ILAC continues its active role in many ISO Technical Committees and CASCO Working Groups. In late 2007 and early 2008 ILAC liaison officers (sometimes more than one) participated in meetings of the CASCO CPC (Chairman's Policy Committee), WG 27 (Drafting requirements for use in conformity assessment applications), WG 29 (Revision of ISO Guide 65—Product

Certification), CASCO WG28 (Revision of ISO Guide 43—Proficiency Testing), CASCO Plenary, ISO TC212 (Technical Committee - Clinical laboratory testing and in vitro diagnostic test systems), ISO TC 69 (Technical Committee—Applications of statistical methods), ISO TC 176 (Technical Committee—Quality Management and Quality Assurance) and the IAF, ILAC and ISO Joint Working Group.

ILAC and the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) have continued the cooperation begun in 2003. ILAC now holds a seat on the WADA Laboratory Committee (LC) and attended the World Conference on Doping in Sport in November 2007 in Madrid. WADA held its fourth training course for (Accreditation Body) Assessors in April 2007 and another is scheduled for 2008. Good progress continues to be made with this collaboration which has matured to the point that a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations was signed in Madrid in November 2007.

The work of the ILAC Secretariat

The ILAC Secretariat staff remains unchanged from 2007, with all members continuing in their previous roles.

The first quarter of 2008 has been busy (as members will be aware) with several documents being distributed to the ILAC membership for comment and ballot. These have now all been compiled and returned to the relevant committees for the next stage in the process. The continued efforts of ILAC members in responding promptly during the 60-day comment and voting periods are appreciated, particularly

during periods when multiple documents and membership ballots are in progress.

In keeping with the resolution taken during the Eleventh ILAC General Assembly in 2007, Alan Patterson, Chief Executive of The National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) and Daniel Pierre, Chair of ILAC, officially signed the Deed of Agreement covering the provision of the Secretariat services to ILAC for the period 2008 to 2011, in Amsterdam in March 2008.

An audit of the ILAC website has recently been completed, resulting in some updates and refinements being made to the site. In case you were wondering where you went wrong in the quiz conducted in conjunction with ILAC's 30th Anniversary and as part of the 2007 annual meetings—the answers are available from the ILAC website. Many thanks to Martine Blum for compiling these. Also, if you don't like your password for access to the members only area of the website, there is now an option to change the password to one of your choice, just go to the home page of the members only area and click on the 'change your password' link on the left hand side of the page. As always feedback on the website is welcome from all users.

The ILAC-MRA Mark registration process continues and, as at 11 February 2008, 42 ILAC Full Members had signed Licensing Agreements with ILAC, for the use of the Combined MRA Mark (the Combined MRA Mark is the ILAC-MRA Mark used in combination with the accreditation body's own mark).

For more information contact ILAC on ilac@nata.asn.au.

*Annette Dever
ILAC Secretary*



Daniel Pierre, ILAC Chair and Alan Patterson, NATA CE, sign the Deed of Agreement between NATA and ILAC for the provision of secretariat services to ILAC for the period 2008–2011.

ILAC committee news

Marketing and Communications Committee— Marketing workshops popular

By Graham Talbot, Chair, ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee

For the second consecutive year, the ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC) hosted a marketing workshop during the meeting schedule for the ILAC General Assembly and associated meetings in October last year.

The aim of the workshops was to share knowledge and best practice within the international accreditation fraternity, by presenting marketing initiatives that accreditation bodies can implement within their own economies. The workshop, project-managed by United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), also pointed members to existing tools created by the ILAC MCC, thus eliminating duplicity. The MCC also considered the demand for future workshops. In order to extend the reach, it was agreed that similar workshops would add significant value to regional meetings.

Although some accreditation bodies cannot commit several staff members to the ILAC or IAF General Assemblies due to cost constraints, they are more likely to attend the Regional General Assemblies in greater numbers.

As such a workshop will be held in the Americas (IAAC) in 2008 and in Southern Africa (SADCA) in 2009. By holding an MCC meeting concurrently, it is likely to generate a greater and more inclusive participation in the promotional arm of ILAC.

Further promotional tools have also been created, such as an information briefing and a letter template to raise awareness of the ILAC Arrangement.

International Accreditation Day will also be launched on 9 June, 2008. It aims to act as a platform for promotional activity at a local level, such as national events that use promotional material, an ILAC poster to raise awareness of the international infrastructure and the ILAC Arrangements. This work is being jointly developed with the IAF Communications and Marketing Committee. Further details will be sent out to all accreditation bodies by email.

The MCC continues to develop promotional tools to enable members to develop accreditation systems in their economies. A document aimed at guiding embryonic accreditation bodies through the process of becoming an ILAC signatory is in early drafting. Similarly, a guide to the use of the ILAC MRA mark is being developed in order to stimulate greater use by the Regions, Accreditation Bodies and Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs).

Finally the MCC is working toward using the website as a promotional tool.

This work includes making the site more visible in Internet searches. In order to rank ILAC higher, the MCC will create additional content and seek greater linkages to the ILAC site from national bodies.

The next meeting will take place in Bangkok on 14 and 15 May 2008.

2008 ILAC Survey on regulatory acceptance to begin soon

By Ian Roy

The ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC) has undertaken a survey every two years since 2002 on the level of acceptance by government of a domestic accreditation body's reports, as well as reports from the accreditation body's MRA partners.

The MCC will be circulating a survey later this year to see what changes have taken place since the 2006 survey.

The 2006 survey results were made available at the ILAC General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico. Most of the work will have been done for the previous surveys, only updating with additions will be required. The MCC looks forward to presenting the results of the 2008 regulator survey to the ILAC General Assembly in Stockholm in October 2008.

Accreditation—Delivering trust in the Global Economy Inaugural International Accreditation Day 9 June 2008

Monday 9 June 2008 has been designated as the first International Accreditation Day by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

(ILAC). Accreditation—as independent and authoritative attestation of the competence, impartiality and integrity of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) and, in turn the value and credibility of the corresponding attestations of conformity—underpins trust in the global market.

The value of accreditation has been widely recognised and adopted by economies and societies worldwide. Accreditation touches, in some way, every level of our lives. When something is supplied, whether it is drinking water or

complex IT systems, trust is placed in the supplier. The competence of the supplier can be evaluated through the use of third-party assessment.

In competitive and open markets, both government and business rely on trust to ensure a fair exchange of safe goods and services. The essential aspect of accreditation is that it underpins this confidence because it is a valid means of verifying claims about quality, performance, and reliability.

For more information visit the website www.ilac.org.

International update

IMEKO TC 11 Metrological Infrastructure organises international symposium: 'Metrology, testing, and accreditation —breaking the trading barriers'

By *Mladen Borsic*, IMEKO TC 11 'Metrological Infrastructure', Chairman

The 'Metrology, testing and accreditation—breaking the trade barriers' symposium will be held in Cavtat, Dubrovnik, Croatia on 12–15 November 2008.

The aim of the symposium is to bring together International Organisations such as Bureau International des Poids

et Mesures (BIPM), Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML), and ILAC, and Regional Metrology Organisations (RMOs). Representatives of the international organisations and chairpersons of the RMOs will describe the functioning and purpose of their organisations. The representatives of the National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) will be invited to present their efforts and discuss hot topics and challenges.

Part of the TC 11 Symposium will be the 20th International Metrology Symposium.

International technical sessions include: mass and related quantities (including force, pressure, air density, torque, viscosity and hardness), electricity and magnetism (including RF and microwave), length, form measurements,

complex geometry, angular measurements, laser measurements, nanometrology, surface texture, time and frequency, thermometry (including thermophysical properties and humidity), ionising radiation (including radiometry and dosimetry), photometry and radiometry (including fiber optics), flow (including fluid properties), acoustics, ultrasound and vibration (including accelerometry) and amount of substance.

The symposium, will be held in Cavtat, near Dubrovnik. It will provide an opportunity for metrologists from many continents to meet, and take in the breathtaking surrounds or enjoy a meal from one of the many seafood restaurants along the coast.

For more information, visit www.rmo2008.org.

The Mutual Acceptance Arrangement of the International Organization of Legal Metrology: Accreditation or peer assessments

By *Régine Gaucher*, MAA Project Leader, BIML (Bureau International de Métrologie Légale), Headquarters of OIML

The International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) launched the implementation of its Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA) in January 2005. Such an Arrangement is based on the recognition of test results issued by testing laboratories responsible for evaluating measuring instruments on the basis of requirements defined in OIML recommendations. These test results are used by OIML Issuing Authorities to issue evaluation reports of measuring instruments.

The MAA implementation led to the signature of three Declarations of Mutual Confidence (DoMCs): one related to the evaluation of load cells on the basis of OIML Recommendation R 60 *Metrological regulation for load cells*, signed in September 2006 and revised in December 2007; one related to the evaluation of non-automatic weighing instruments on the basis of OIML Recommendations R 76-1 *Non-automatic weighing instruments. Part 1: Metrological and technical requirements—Tests* and R 76-2 *Non-automatic weighing instruments. Part 2: Test report format*, signed in September 2006 and revised in December 2007; and one related to the

evaluation of water meters on the basis of the OIML Recommendations R 49-1 *Water meters intended for the metering of cold potable water and hot water. Part 1: Metrological and technical requirements*, R 49-2 *Water meters intended for the metering of cold potable water and hot water. Part 2: Test methods* and R 49-3 *Water meters intended for the metering of cold potable water and hot water. Part 3: Test report format*, signed in November 2007.

Participants in the OIML MAA are either 'Issuing Participants' (designated as 'Issuing' in the table on page 7) which are OIML Issuing Authorities or 'Utilizing Participants' (designated as 'Utilizing' in the table on page 7), which do not issue any evaluation reports under the OIML MAA but which undertake to use those issued by an Issuing Participant. Consequently, Utilizing Participants may rely on the testing facilities and the competence of Issuing Participants.

Evaluation of Issuing Participants: use of accreditation

According to OIML Publication B 10-1 *Framework for a Mutual Acceptance Arrangement on OIML Type Evaluations (MAA)*, confidence in test results may be demonstrated either by accreditation or by OIML peer assessments. This means

that testing laboratories which operate as subcontractors of issuing participants in Declarations of Mutual Confidence are assessed either by accreditation or by peer assessment using the criteria of ISO/IEC 17025 *General requirements for the competence of testing laboratories and calibration laboratories*.

Of course, using accreditation requires that the relevant testing (such as type approval testing on the basis of OIML R 60), shall be covered by the accreditation scope of the Testing Laboratory and that the assessment team includes competence in the relevant field of legal metrology testing (such as type approval of load cells).

In order to promote the use of accreditation during the implementation of the MAA, in November 2006 ILAC and the OIML (www.oiml.org/maa) signed a Memorandum of Understanding which requires ILAC Members to use technical and metrological experts whose competence is validated by ad-hoc OIML Committees. In addition, since such accreditations may be used on a national regulatory basis, guidelines for the application of ISO/IEC 17025 to Testing Laboratories involved in legal metrology testing are being developed by the OIML. These guidelines will be an additional tool for National Accreditation Bodies (NAB). The OIML, on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding should

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Participants in the Declarations of Mutual Confidence

State	Identity of Participants	Status of participation		
		R 49 DoMC	R 60 DoMC	R 76 DoMC
AUSTRALIA	NMI, National Measurement Institute of Australia	Utilizing	Issuing	Issuing
BULGARIA	Bulgarian Institute of Metrology		Utilizing	Utilizing
CANADA	Measurement Canada	Utilizing	Utilizing	Utilizing
CHINA	AQSIQ, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine		Issuing	Issuing
DENMARK	FORCE-Dantest CERT	Issuing		
FRANCE	LNE, Laboratoire National de Métrologie et d'Essais		Issuing	Issuing
ISRAEL	Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor—Legal Metrology Department		Utilizing	Utilizing
JAPAN	NMIJ/AIST, National Metrology Institute of Japan		Issuing	Issuing
KOREA (R.)	KATS, Korean Agency for Technology and Standards			Issuing
NETHERLANDS	NMI Certin B.V.		Issuing	Utilizing
NEW ZEALAND	MCA/MAPSS, Ministry of Consumer Affairs— Measurement and Product Safety Service	Utilizing	Utilizing	Issuing
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	VNIIMS, Russian Research Institute for Metrological Service		Utilizing	Utilizing
SAUDI ARABIA	SASO, Saudi Arabian Standards Organization		Utilizing	Utilizing
SERBIA	ZMDM, Bureau of Measures and Precious Metals	Utilizing	Utilizing	Utilizing
SLOVAKIA	SLM, Slovak Legal Metrology (Banská Bystrica)		Utilizing	Issuing
SOUTH AFRICA	SABS, South African Bureau of Standards—Legal Metrology Department		Utilizing	Utilizing
SWEDEN	SP, SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden			Issuing
SWITZERLAND	Federal Office of Metrology METAS	Utilizing	Issuing	
UNITED KINGDOM	NWML, National Weights and Measures Laboratory	Issuing	Utilizing	Utilizing
UNITED STATES	NCWM, National Conference on Weights and Measures		Utilizing	
VIETNAM	STAMEQ, Ministry of Science and Technology, Directorate for Standards and Quality			Utilizing

develop in cooperation with ILAC, training for lead assessors of National Accreditation Bodies who would be responsible for assessing Testing Laboratories in the field of legal metrology testing.

Since the implementation of a joint ILAC/OIML program has just started, such a scheme has not yet been implemented. Nevertheless, in order to accept the participation of above-mentioned participants in the Declarations of Mutual Confidence, most of the participants requested the OIML to take into account their accreditation. To this

end, accreditation assessment reports and competence of assessors have been reviewed by the ad-hoc OIML Committees. The aim of the scheme should allow the process to be improved by avoiding the validation of the assessment team by the ad-hoc Committees for each application since a global validation would be implemented.

In addition, cooperation between NABs and national legal metrology bodies could be reinforced and could lead to a long term strategy of relying on the decision to accredit for technical aspects.

Example of the use of accreditation in the field of legal metrology at the national level

In its national regulation, France requests that third-party bodies responsible for initial verification (verification of the measuring instrument before it is put into use) and for subsequent verifications (periodic verifications to be conducted once the measuring instrument is in use) of measuring instruments are accredited by a

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NAB, ILAC Full Member to be authorised by the legal bodies to conduct these activities. Accreditation is a precondition for their designation.

To this end, Cofrac and the ministry responsible for legal metrology cooperate closely. A representative of the ministry responsible for legal metrology participates in the Cofrac accreditation committee, which is responsible for proposing the accreditations in legal metrology.

Such a scheme could be implemented in the future in the various countries where accreditation is requested on a national regulatory basis.

Evaluation of Issuing Participants: use of peer assessment

Since within the implementation of the OIML MAA accreditation is not mandatory, an alternative is that testing laboratories request to be peer-assessed. These peer assessments are managed by the OIML and the process is similar to that of accreditation.

The assessment team shall include a lead assessor, a Technical and a Metrological Expert. The latter is an expert who has been validated by one of the OIML ad-hoc Committees.

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding between ILAC and the OIML, the OIML is ready to use lead assessors from NABs to be part of the peer assessment team. Such cooperation has been implemented informally between the OIML and some NABs for initial peer assessments conducted in 2005. In two years, peer assessments will be conducted for the renewal of Issuing Participants in the Declarations of Mutual Confidence.

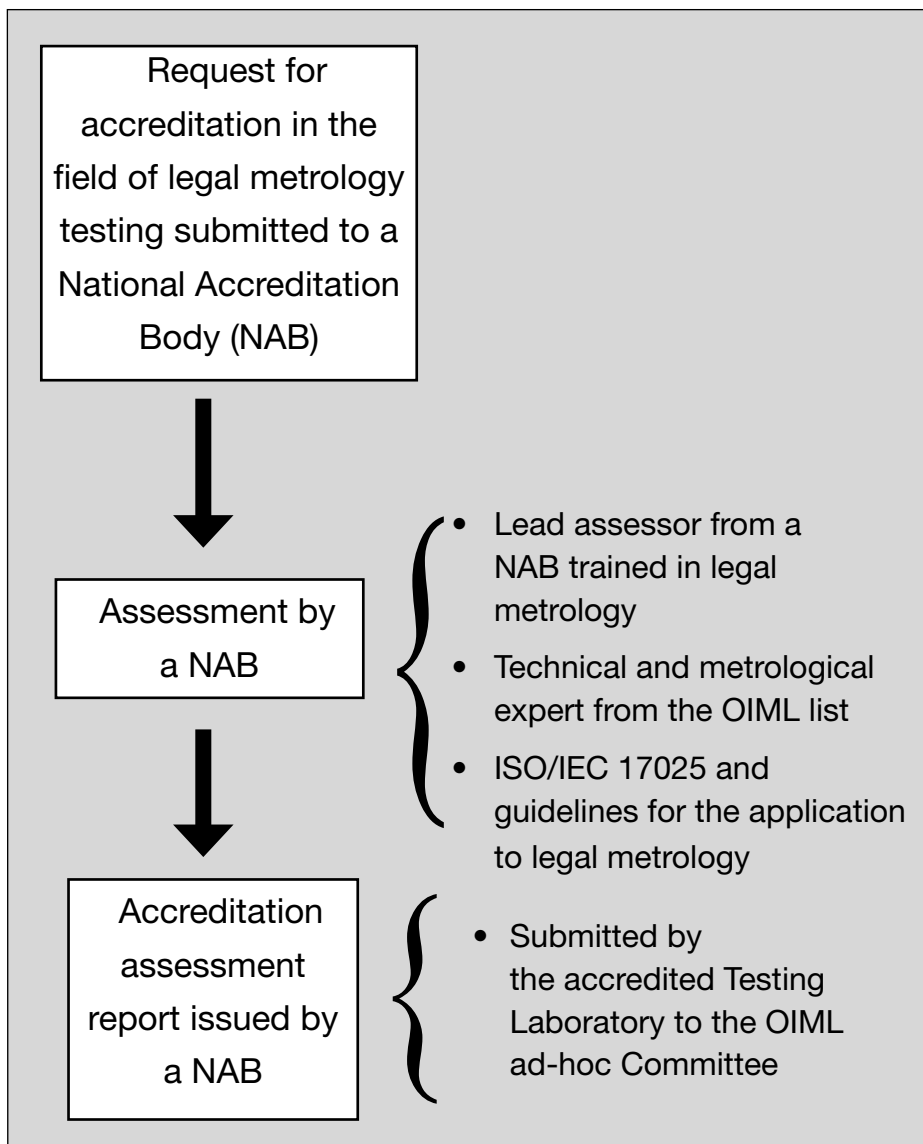
To this end, a formal list of lead assessors from NABs (trained in legal metrology) should be available.

Further practical issues will be discussed between ILAC and the OIML at the bilateral annual meeting to be held on 6 March 2008.

Conclusions and prospects

At present, legal metrology is only a very limited part of accreditation

Scheme to be implemented



schedules. The OIML MAA is only currently implemented for three categories of measuring instruments out of the 46 which are eligible for the signature of a Declaration of Mutual Confidence.

“The OIML MAA is only currently implemented for three categories of measuring instruments out of the 46 which are eligible for the signature of a Declaration of Mutual Confidence”

Nevertheless, the OIML MAA is currently under revision and the aim could be to draw up a global arrangement similar to that of the Mutual Recognition arrangement of the CIPM. Such a global scheme would facilitate the participation of OIML Member States and communication.

It would also facilitate the evaluation of testing laboratories by optimising the assessment process and the associated administrative work.

A global scope would also give the opportunity to include, in the medium term, more or less all the eligible categories of measuring instruments in the Arrangement. This could increase the accreditation applications in the field of legal metrology.

The implementation in Europe of the European Directive on Measuring Instruments (MID) refers to the

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accreditation of Notified Bodies and testing laboratories as a means to demonstrate competence, even if there are currently no mandatory requirements.

At the national level, several countries already promote accreditation as a way of demonstrating competence in legal metrology testing and certification.

The ongoing development at the international, regional and national levels will certainly modify the legal metrology landscape and the role of accreditation could be reinforced.

ILAC and the OIML will continue their cooperation and will be developing joint actions to communicate on the

legal metrology testing and certification schemes.

Cooperation at the international level alone is not sufficient; this cooperation should also be extended to the national level between NABs and national legal metrology bodies.

World Anti Doping Agency (WADA)

ILAC and WADA sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)



Attendees at World Conference on Doping in Sport.

By Alan Squirrel, ILAC Executive Liaison

A Memorandum of Understanding between the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and WADA was signed at the World Conference on Doping in Sport held in Madrid, Spain on the 15 November 2007.

At the invitation of WADA, Mr Daniel Pierre (ILAC Chair) and Alan attended the

conference, where they spoke and signed the MoU.

This MoU is a reflection of the hard work and cooperation on matters relating to laboratory accreditation since 2003. It also commits ILAC and WADA to continue to work closely together in the future.

The complementary roles are essential in the fight against drugs in sport—working

together to formally recognise the technical competence of the WADA laboratories leads to community confidence in the laboratories' outputs. In WADA, important decisions are based on these and therefore the laboratory's role is essential.

My thanks to Dr Olivier Rabin, WADA Science Director, his team and WADA

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World Conference on Doping in Sport.

Laboratory Committee colleagues for all their support and also to Regina Robertson who has taken the lead on the ILAC side as convenor of the WADA/ILAC Technical Committee working group.

About half of the 59 ILAC full member accreditation bodies are involved in the accreditation of the currently accredited 34 WADA laboratories. Whilst this is a small quantity in terms of the total number of laboratories accredited across all calibration and testing sectors—this is a very important fraction because it underpins the WADA testing regime. As is widely known, the results from these laboratories are closely scrutinised by the media.

Accreditation of laboratories by an ILAC signatory is now a pre-requisite for WADA accreditation—ILAC welcomes this initiative which reflects our true partnership.

We believe our complementary roles

and activities provide a sound and robust framework for effective laboratory assessments (based on ISO/IEC 17025 and the WADA International standard for laboratories—ISL).

“ Accreditation of laboratories by an ILAC signatory is now a pre-requisite for WADA accreditation—ILAC welcomes this initiative which reflects our true partnership ”

These provide the necessary requirements from both the technical and management systems perspectives.

One of WADA's initiatives is to train expert assessors in the application of the ISL and this is much appreciated (four courses to date). This facilitates a holistic approach to our on-site assessment and thereby minimising duplication for the laboratories. Also the improved communication between the accreditation bodies and WADA on assessment issues gives mutual confidence that all the laboratory requirements are being satisfied.

ILAC looks forward to ongoing work with WADA to further harmonise our laboratory assessment procedures and to promote the work of WADA laboratories in this challenging area and improve their international recognition.

ILAC wishes WADA all the best in their future endeavours.

Regional cooperations



Llew Richards, IANZ, Tony Russell and John Gilmour, former CEOs of NATA, and Terence Chan, HKAS, Hong Kong China.

Handling of deviating samples by competent laboratories/ disclaimers in reports



By Dr Cor de Ruiter, Dutch Accreditation Council (RvA)

Since 2003, extensive discussions have taken place within (EA's) Laboratory Committee regarding the handling of deviating samples by competent (ie. ISO/IEC 17025 or ISO 15189 accredited) laboratories. It is recognised that in order to obtain valid test results, the quality of sampling, sample preservation and logistics, analysis and reporting must be ensured. However, only a limited number of competent laboratories are responsible and accredited for sampling—the majority only receive samples to be analysed. Hence, the assessments by the accreditation bodies do not focus on sampling, preservation, transportation and receipt of samples.

Deviating samples are samples which are not correctly preserved. For example, they have exceeded their maximum preservation time, do not have the date and time of sampling recorded and are not cooled. As a result, deviating samples may jeopardise the validity of the reported test result.

Some years ago, accreditation bodies in EA observed that laboratories, in particular those operating in highly competitive markets, were not critical of the samples they received. Large numbers of deviating samples were accepted, analysed and test reports were issued without remark.

The EA Laboratory Committee members concluded that this practice is not in the interest of the laboratories, its customers or other users of the test results, for example governmental organisations, nor of the accreditation bodies. Continuation could threaten the credibility of accreditation.

These findings have been discussed in the past years within the EA Laboratory

News from the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)



By Helen Liddy, Janet Clark and Lilian Luiyf

A successful APLAC 2007 was held in Kuala Lumpur in the week 1–7 December 2007. The meetings and social activities were well organised by Standards Malaysia, as well as a surprise birthday cake to celebrate APLAC's 15th birthday. John Gilmour, APLAC's 'founding father' joined the celebrations. Mr Gilmour was one of five past APLAC Chairs who attended the meeting.

The Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) signing ceremony was held on 6 December. The following organisations are acknowledged: the Laboratory Accreditation Bureau (USA) which was accepted into the APLAC MRA for testing and calibration; China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS) for an extension of its scope of APLAC MRA recognition to include ISO 15189, and the four inaugural signatories to the extended APLAC MRA to include Reference Materials Producers: American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (USA), NATA (Australia), CNAS (People's Republic of China) and IA Japan (Japan).

There were over 100 registrants, not including staff from Standards Malaysia, who attended the General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur.

For the first time the secretariat used the members only area of the APLAC website to distribute agenda papers for the meetings. Comments and suggestions about the website are encouraged.

Colleagues were farewelled in Kuala Lumpur: Tony Russell, immediate past chair of APLAC, retired as NATA's Chief Executive and this was his last APLAC meeting. He served terms as a member of the Board of Management, as APLAC MRA Council Chair (2003-4) and APLAC Chair (2005-6); JoAnne Dupont, from Standards Council of Canada retired from the Board after its meeting in Kuala Lumpur. JoAnne has also retired from SCC and we wish her well in her retirement. APLAC appreciates her many contributions since 1999. Panadda Silva has stepped down as the representative of The Bureau of Laboratory Quality Standards Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health (DLQS-DMSc), Thailand to the APLAC General Assembly, following her promotion within DLQS-DMSc, and the Kuala Lumpur meeting was her last meeting. Panadda will be available to participate in evaluations in her area of expertise (ISO 15189) and assist with evaluator training courses. APLAC extends its good wishes to Panadda in her new role at DLQS-DMSc.

Helen Liddy and Janet Clark welcome Lilian Luiyf to the APLAC Secretariat. Lilian will be with APLAC for the next five to six months.

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Committee, and, taking into account the requirements of the accreditation standards, the following conclusions were drawn. Upon receipt of each sample, a competent laboratory shall assess whether the sample is suitable with regard to the requested tests. When the sample is deviating, a competent laboratory shall contact the customer for further instructions; when the customer wants the deviating sample to be analysed, a competent laboratory shall include a disclaimer in the report, clearly stating that the sample was deviating and that, as a result, the test results may be invalid. The accreditation bodies must, during their assessment at the laboratories, strengthen their focus on handling of deviating samples and the inclusion of disclaimers in the corresponding test reports.

In 2004, several accreditation bodies reported immediate actions such as informing lead assessors or technical experts to put more emphasis on deviating samples and corresponding disclaimers in reports during assessments. From 2005 until 2007, the majority of the European Co-operation for Accreditation Multilateral Agreement (EA-MLA) signatories have reported to the EA Laboratory Committee to have taken appropriate actions.

As a result, the general conclusion is that EA, by means of the EA Laboratory Committee, has harmonised its interpretation of the accreditation standards with regard to the handling of deviating samples and the inclusion of disclaimers in the corresponding test reports. In addition, accreditation bodies should challenge their accredited laboratories for compliance with the requirements so that significant improvements can be realised.

Deviating samples appear in many fields, for example environment, food, medicine and agriculture to name a few, therefore it is imperative that the EA Laboratory Committee and the EA peer evaluation system continue its focus on this issue.

Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)

This report includes IAAC activities from October 2007 to January 2008. Signatories of the IAAC MLA for testing and calibration laboratories are:

A2LA—USA
ACCLASS—USA
ECA—Costa Rica (testing only)
ema—Mexico
SCC—Canada
CGCRE/INMETRO—Brazil
OAA—Argentina
ONARC—Cuba

For Quality Management Systems Certification Bodies are:

ema—Mexico
SCC—Canada
Cgcre/INMETRO—Brazil
OAA—Argentina
INDECOPI/CRT—Peru

IAAC Membership

IAAC currently has a total of 41 members from 22 countries in the Americas. Twenty three are full members, 7 are associate members and 11 are stakeholders.

Change of IAAC Chair

IAAC held an extraordinary Executive Committee meeting in January 2008. Ana Maria Coro tendered her resignation as IAAC Chair as of 23 January, 2008, due to her plans for retirement. In accordance with IAAC Bylaws, Pat Paladino of SCC, Canada, who was IAAC Vice-Chair, replaces Ms Coro until the next IAAC General Assembly meeting to be held in Asuncion, Paraguay, on 12 September 2008. The IAAC Executive Committee appointed Beatriz Garcia as the IAAC Vice-Chair in replacement of Pat Paladino.

IAAC Officers

IAAC Chair, Pat Paladino of SCC (Canada). IAAC Vice-Chair, Beatriz Garcia of OAA (Argentina). Treasurer, Keith Greenway of ACLASS (USA). MLA Committee Chair, Fabian Hernandez of ema (Mexico). Technical Committee Chair, Beatriz Garcia of OAA (Argentina). Laboratories Subcommittee Chair, Bertha Munguia of A2LA (USA). Certification Bodies Subcommittee Chair, Randy Dougherty of ANAB (USA). Inspection

Bodies Subcommittee Chair, Eduardo Ceballos of INN (Chile). Management Committee Chair, Maria Miranda of ONARC (Cuba). Training Subcommittee Chair, Francisco de la Barrera of CNA (Panama). Promotions Subcommittee Chair, Jo Ann Given of ASCLD-LAB (USA). Documentation Subcommittee Chair, Maria Marta Mazzinni of OAA (Argentina).

Training

IAAC implements an extensive training program for all aspects of accreditation. A course was offered in Proficiency Testing Validation Methods, on March 2–4, 2008, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

A training exercise for IAAC peer evaluators, was held in February 13–15, 2008 in San Jose, Costa Rica. A course on ISO 22000 was held in November 19–21, 2007, in Santiago, Chile. A workshop on ISO/IEC 17021—‘Conformity assessment - requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems’, was held in August 18–19, 2007, in Ottawa, Canada. The second Part Workshop: ‘Identifying the demand and Proficiency Testing providers’, was held in August 8–11, 2007, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The first part of the Workshop: ‘Identifying the demand and Proficiency Testing providers’, was held in April 24–26, 2007, in Lima, Peru.

IAAC Peer Evaluator Training

IAAC held a peer evaluator training exercise with financial support from PTB in San José, Costa Rica, on 2–4 March, 2008.

IAAC Proficiency Testing Programs 2006–2007

A proficiency testing program on Volumetric Glassware organized by ema of Mexico began in March 2006 and has not been concluded yet. The Centro Nacional de Metrología, CENAM, was the reference laboratory for the program.

A proficiency testing program on meat is currently being executed by INTI and OAA of Argentina. APLAC and SADCA laboratories are also participating.

A proficiency testing program on thermocouples is currently being organized jointly by ECA of Costa Rica and NVLAP of USA.

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Cooperation with PAC

The Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) and the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the IAAC General Assembly in Ottawa, Canada, on 17 August 2007. The arrangement encourages increased cooperation on accreditation to foster the development of related programs in the Americas and Asia-Pacific regions.

During its upcoming Executive Committee meeting on 12–14 March 2008, IAAC will review the MoU implementation plan proposed by PAC.

Cooperation with APLAC

IAAC and APLAC have been cooperating within the framework of an MoU, and have invited each others members to participate in proficiency testing programs and training courses during 2007. APLAC members are currently participating in the IAAC proficiency testing program on meat analysis.

Technical Cooperation Projects 2007-2010 Organization of American States (OAS) Project

IAAC received approval by the OAS of a technical cooperation project for accreditation bodies in the region for the 2007-2010 term. The 2007 project's activities are currently being carried out and include: 2 witnessings of IAAC evaluations, 2 peer evaluations of ABs, training for 3 peer evaluators, 3 training courses, 3 consultancies to a developing AB, 3 internships for staff of developing ABs, a seminar on accreditation and 2 proficiency testing programs

2007 PTB Project

The PTB project includes the following activities performed in 2007: 1st Part Workshop: 'Identifying the demand and Proficiency Testing providers' was held in Lima, Peru, April 24–26, 2007; 2nd Part Workshop: 'Identifying the demand and Proficiency Testing providers' was held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in August 8–11, 2007; 3rd Part Workshop: 'Identifying the demand and Proficiency Testing providers' to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, during 2008; Training exercise for Peer evaluators, to be held in Costa Rica, in March 2008.

South African Development Cooperation for Accreditation



Members of the SADCAS Board of Directors at their meeting held in January 2008. From left to right: Back row, Ron Josias, South Africa; Mataa Mukelabai, Zambia; Stuart Carstens, South Africa, Oswald Chinyamakobvu, Zimbabwe and Mike Peet, South Africa. Front row: Cyprian Mokhorro, Lesotho; Marie Chilcott, South Africa, Othy Kaakunga, SADCAS Chairperson, Namibia; Masego Marobela, Botswana and Ali Tukai, Tanzania.

A Project Management Committee (PMC) meeting was held in October 2007 in South Africa. The focus of this meeting was to short list the applications received for the three SADCAS posts.

The focus of the PMC meeting held in February 2008 in Gaborone, Botswana was to discuss pertinent SADCAS issues, the support the PMC would provide to SADCAS

going forward and time was also spent on the preparations for the 2008 annual SADCA meeting.

SADCA reports that all 13 National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFP) have now been launched in their respective countries with ministerial and/or senior government officials in attendance.

South African Development Community Accreditation System

A SADCAS Board of Directors' meeting was held in January 2008. This was to discuss the results of the interviews for the SADCAS staff, other important SADCAS issues and to prepare for the 2008 SADCAS Annual General Meeting.

Offices for SADCAS had been secured in Gaborone, Botswana.

International Recognition

The SADCAS Chairperson, Mrs Marobela and the Regional Coordinator, Ron Josias, attended the ILAC and IAF General Assembly meetings in Australia in October 2007.

New PTB Project

The IAAC Executive Committee met with the PTB in January 2008 to review the results of the first project and to discuss a new technical cooperation project based on the 2008–2011 IAAC Strategic Plan.

IAAC meetings

The 28th Executive Committee meeting was held in Santiago, Chile, on 21–23 January, 2008.

During this meeting there was a change of IAAC Chair, and the 2008–2011 IAAC

Strategic Plan was drafted.

The 29th Executive Committee and MLA Committee meetings to be held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, in March 12–14, 2008.

The 13th General Assembly meetings to be held in Asunción, Paraguay, on 6–12 September, 2008.

IAAC Information and Publications

IAAC documents and information for members are available at the IAAC website www.iaac.org.mx.

Accreditation Update

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

In a 'good news' regulator acceptance story, certain utilities of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), have announced that they will accept endorsed calibration certificates and reports from ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) partners, but with small applications to the ISO/IEC 17025 reporting requirements.

In what the NRC is calling their 'nuclear caveat' for ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, ILAC MRA partners need to ensure that their accredited calibration laboratories are aware of this caveat.

The four additional requirements that would be needed for the additional 'nuclear caveat' are: the calibration certificate or report shall include identification of the laboratory equipment and standards used; the calibration certificate or report shall include as-found, as-left data, regardless of the need for adjustment or repair; well defined and documented measurement assurance techniques or uncertainty analyses may be used to verify the adequacy of the measurement process. If such techniques are not used, the collective uncertainty of the measurement standards shall not exceed 25 per cent of the acceptable tolerance for each characteristic being calibrated. This is typically referred to as the four-to-one ratio; the calibration certificate or report shall include reference to the Quality Manual and its revision or date.

All ILAC MRA signatory accredited calibration laboratories seeking to have their calibration certificates and reports accepted by the NRC must be sure to include these additional items on their certificates and reports.

For more information, please contact Peter Buzzard on Peter.Buzzard@pseg.com.

China National Accreditation Service (CNAS)



The accreditation of inspection bodies has developed rapidly since China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS) signed

the APLAC MRA for inspection in 2004. More than 100 inspection bodies have been accredited and nearly 20 are in the process of being assessed. The areas of CNAS inspection accreditation extend from the initial Mechanical and Electrical Equipment Manufacturing Supervision and Factory Inspection to Special Equipment Inspection, Electrical Apparatus for Explosive Atmospheres Explosion Protection and Safety Inspection, Building and Construction Inspection, Commodity Inspection, Information Security Evaluation, Factory Inspection for CCC and others, Dangerous Goods Transport Conditions Inspection, Architectural Fire Protection Facilities Inspection, Road and Traffic Engineering Inspection, Vehicle Safety Inspection, Health Examination and Forensic Science.

As a result, CNAS inspection accreditation gains wide attention from the society and its influence continues to increase significantly.

Dubai Accreditation Center (DAC)

DAC undergoes ILAC pre-peer evaluation

Dubai Accreditation Center (DAC) underwent its pre-peer evaluation by the ILAC team on 9–13 December 2007. The ILAC Evaluation Team comprised of Ralf Egner, Deputy Head of DaTech, Germany and Alan Glover, Assistant General Manager of International Accreditation New Zealand. The ILAC Evaluation Team recommended that DAC is ready for a full evaluation.

DAC sponsored international Auditors/Lead Auditors conference held in Dubai

DAC was one of the main sponsors of the third International Conference of Auditors/Lead Auditors held on 4–5 December 2007 in Dubai.

Auditors/Lead auditors from various countries representing accreditation bodies, certification bodies, quality organisations, training companies and consultancies attended the conference.

Engineer Muhammad Shahid Rasool, Head of the Assessment Section, DAC presented a paper 'Auditing in a multicultural society—Dubai Accreditation Center's experiences and approach'.

The United Arab Emirates and Dubai are multicultural societies, with residents originating from more than 180 different countries.

This multiculturalism is reflected in Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) as well as DAC which holds the cultural aspect of auditing in high regard.

In this paper the various assessment scenarios and DAC's approach for handling such issues were discussed.

DAC organised uncertainty of measurement training course

DAC organised a three-day training course on 23–25 January 2008 in Dubai on uncertainty of measurement in collaboration with United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

John Hurl and Peter Kelly, assessment



Participants at assessor/lead assessor course.

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DAC staff discussing PT issues with Dan Tholen, convenor, WG28 of ISO CASCO and convenor for the ILAC Working Group that prepared ILAC G13:08/2007.

managers of UKAS were the resource persons for the training course. Twenty delegates including lead and technical assessors from DAC and technical and quality managers of various laboratories attended the course.

Engineer Lina Qudah, Director, DAC thanked UKAS for its contribution and described the course as very informative and useful.

DAC conducted ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17020 assessor/lead assessor courses

DAC conducted three assessor and lead assessor courses in Dubai and Jordan. A five-day ISO/IEC 17025 assessor/lead assessor course was conducted in Dubai in May 2007. Lina Qudah, was the main tutor and Engineer Muhammad Shahid Rasool was the co-tutor for the course.

A five-day ISO/IEC 17025 assessor/lead assessor course and another five-day ISO/IEC 17020 assessor/lead assessor course was also conducted in Amman, Jordan in July and August 2007. Lina Qudah, was the resource person for the training courses.

DAC Aligns Proficiency Testing Programs (PTPs) to World Best Practices and International Standards

From 9–13 September 2007, DAC contracted Dan Tholen to review the current proficiency testing programs at DAC relative to international standards and best practices, and to provide training on the use and interpretation of the relevant standards. Mr Tholen is a statistical consultant and the convenor for the WG28 of International Standards Organization Committee of the General

Assembly on Conformity Assessment (ISO CASCO) which is preparing the anticipated ISO/IEC 17043 standard and the convenor for the ILAC Working Group that prepared ILAC G13:08/2007. The purpose of Mr Tholen's review was to assist DAC in improving its proficiency testing programs and ensure that the programs are in compliance with international standards and generally agreed-upon best practices.

The consultancy involved five full days of discussions with DAC staff members for proficiency testing and for assessments. This included careful review of procedures for all PT programs and a review of the requirements of ILAC G13:2007, the anticipated requirements in ISO/IEC 17043 and common practices for accrediting proficiency testing providers (PTPs).

Mr Tholen left DAC with a number of valuable recommendations which will not only benefit DAC but will be of value to its customers. DAC is planning to introduce the new changes to its PTPs in February 2008. DAC also has an emerging plan to accredit its PTPs through an ILAC MRA signatory accreditation body by next year according to the requirements of ILAC G13:08/2007.

For more information please contact the Dubai Accreditation Center: Engineer Lina Qudah, Director, Dubai Accreditation Center, Ph: +971 4 302 7444, email: lmqudah@dm.gov.ae, or Engineer Mohammed Shahid Rasool, Head of Accreditation Decisions Section, Ph: +971 4 302 7025, email: msrassol@dm.gov.ae.

Dubai Central Laboratory Department Premises—Administration Building, Za'beel Street, Next to Main Post Office, Second Floor, Office Numbers: 310–316 P.O.Box 67, Dubai, UAE, Ph: +971 4 302 7445, Fax: +971 4 336 2381, web: www.dac.gov.ae.

Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA)



EA MLA

The HAA submitted an application for inconclusion in the EA Multilateral Agreement (EA-MLA) in March 2007 for the accreditation of: calibration laboratories (HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025); testing laboratories (HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025); bodies for the certification of quality management systems (QMS) (HRN EN ISO/IEC 17021); bodies for the certification of environmental management systems (EMS) (HRN EN ISO/IEC 17021); bodies for the certification of products (HRN EN 45011); bodies for the certification of persons (HRN EN ISO/IEC 17024); inspection bodies (HRN EN ISO/IEC 17020). The pre-peer evaluation visit by EA evaluators is scheduled for June this year.

Mandatory area

The HAA has signed a contract for the performance of assessment of conformity assessment bodies' (CABs) competence with the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship (MELE). Based on this contract, the HAA will conduct an assessment of CABs' competence by performing accreditation and assessment activities related to both their professional and technical competence in line with the requirements of the standards series HRN EN ISO/IEC 17000 (or standards series HRN EN 45000), and by examining whether the requirements arising from the technical regulations and additional requirements to be adopted by MELE are met, as to be laid down in the Evaluation Rules for specific technical regulations. The Rules will be made by HAA and adopted by MELE.

The HAA will as a result of the assessment, issue reports on the competence of the CABs in which it will refer to accreditation certificates and the results of additional assessments for the purpose of authorisation. Based on those reports, MELE will authorise conformity assessment bodies in line with the legislation under MELE's responsibility.

In addition, the contract also stipulates that the HAA is to conduct regular annual surveillance of the authorised bodies and, upon the request of MELE, extraordinary

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surveillance, of which it must report to MELE. The representatives of MELE may also take part in the assessment procedure, if necessary. The HAA will also offer this type of contract to other ministries, which are responsible for technical regulations in specific fields.

The contract was signed in July 2007 and so far has been implemented in the area of pressure equipment. CABs in other areas covered by the procedure include lifts and personal protective equipment.

Anniversary

The Croatian Accreditation Agency, Croatian Standards Institute and the State Office for Metrology celebrated 15 years of metrology, standardisation and accreditation in the Republic of Croatia on 14 December 2007. It was a great opportunity to meet all the Croatian experts who have over many years contributed their work in the development of the quality infrastructure in Croatia.

HAA Development Strategy

HAA has started to draft a development strategy using the framework of the CARDS 2004 project: *Development of national metrology, standardization, conformity assessment and accreditation system*. The HAA project team supported by EU experts have conducted a strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis of the accreditation system in Croatia with special emphasis on HAA human resources, customers, environment and economy within the country. A detailed analysis of the weaknesses has been conducted including agreement on the follow-up actions and their priority. A report will also be compiled from the analysis.

The EU experts engaged in this activity are from the European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM).

HAA Newsletter

In January 2008 HAA issued its first newsletter, which aims to promote the role of accreditation among economic operators, state administration bodies and to provide clients with specific information regarding accreditation.

It will also provide information to all interested parties about HAA activities particularly in the implementation of technical regulations harmonised with EU legislation. The HAA Newsletter can be obtained in Croatian from www.akreditacija.hr

Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación (ema)

Successful congress reinforces conformity assessment activities

In an effort to reinforce activities that will benefit laboratories and other conformity assessment bodies, the Mexican Accreditation Entity (ema) proudly hosted the IV Ibero-American Laboratory Congress, carried out in Guadalajara, Mexico on 8 and 9 November 2007. The conference presented an opportunity to strengthen knowledge and experience in subjects relevant to conformity assessment bodies.

Seventeen forums took place, addressing issues such as: Electric-Electronics (covering sub-issues such as: Laboratory's capacity to issue reports, limits and testing times, Best Measurement Capability (BMC) and 'Main Proficiency Testing (PT) Sub disciplines'); Food; Laboratory Accreditation and its importance to Certification and Inspection Bodies; Water ('Water Quantity and Quality, conformity process and product trustability'); Construction ('Mobile Laboratory Accreditation'); Technical Development in Latin America; Understanding Uncertainty and Calibration Reports; Calibration and Reference Materials in Textile; Flexible Scopes in Accreditation; Metrology ('Measurements, basis to assess conformity'); Anti-Doping; Environment; Proficiency Testing ('Scope on today's documents and progress on the subject' and 'Portuguese Experience'); Forensic Laboratories ('Importance of Forensic Laboratory' and 'Portuguese Police and Forensic Laboratories in Europe'); Beverages: 'Barriers to recognition of testing reports issued by a Cross Frontier Laboratories'; Reference Materials: Reference Materials Producers (RMP); Accreditation and the need to have CRM; and the Importance of Assessors' Technical Competence in Accreditation.

Apart from these forums, two



More than 200 delegates from various nations attended the conference.

plenary conferences took place, one on 'Globalisation and Conformity Assessment' and another on 'Laboratory Integration Networks: the European Experience'.

There are few laboratory networks in Latin America that are in a position to promote research and strengthen technological platforms. The latter conference provided an example for Latin America to follow, to encourage laboratories to create associations and integrated networks that may join ILAC as stakeholders.

Grateful acknowledgement is extended by ema to the 43 speakers from Mexico, Latin America, and other parts of the world, whose contribution to knowledge in this area is invaluable.

Among participants and speakers, more than 200 people attended from Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay. We had a special representation from Canada with Mike Ouellette from the National Research Council of Canada, from NATA with Maritta Parsell, and with Anthony Russell who represented the ILAC Proficiency Testing Consultative Group (PTCG).



A view of the conference room where the IV Ibero-American Laboratory Congress was held.

International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ)

IANZ provides technical advice for trade negotiations

Recognition in China of New Zealand accredited laboratories will be greatly improved when the first New Zealand/China Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement is signed in April 2008.

Under the agreement, most electrical and electronic goods may be tested and certified in New Zealand to go straight on to the market in China. The control process for goods coming into New Zealand from China will also be strengthened.

IANZ Chief Executive, Dr Llew Richards, who has been a delegate at the discussions at the request of the Ministry of Economic Development, has provided technical advice on the recognition of testing such products in the regulated environment.

IANZ and the China National Accreditation Services (CNAS), through the ILAC and APLAC MRAs, already have mutual recognition arrangements in place where each party recognises test results from each others accredited laboratories. The level of recognition is now raised to a significantly new level by way of the formal obligation of both governments under this new Agreement to recognise accredited tests results.

Future negotiations are expected to include mutual recognition agreements for agricultural equipment and machinery and a wide range of other products.

Review of accreditation by the New Zealand Government finds IANZ sound

In the Standards and Conformance Infrastructure Review, which was concluded in late 2007 by the Ministry of Economic Development, it was found that New Zealand has a 'world-class' infrastructure that is fundamentally sound. Within this infrastructure, IANZ successfully supports the New Zealand economy through their accreditation services.

IANZ is now involved in the initiative by the Ministry of Development to create a regulatory forum of policy makers, regulators, other government departments, as well as standards and conformance infrastructure bodies. Dr Llew Richards, IANZ Chief Executive, says this will only enhance IANZ's current efforts to improve the understanding of conformance

assessment with these sectors of the economy.

In another initiative from the review, Ian Roy, IANZ Manager International Affairs and Government Liaison, is actively involved with the Ministry in establishing a web-based information clearing house. This will greatly help Ian deal with the dozens of trade enquiries he receives each week mainly from importers seeking information about testing products and obtaining test reports from their suppliers.

Jordanian Accreditation Unit (JAC)

Application for EA evaluation



An application to become an EA signatory—including all requested quality management documents—was prepared and submitted to EA in September 2007.

The application was accepted and a pre-peer evaluation was conducted during the period 16–18 December 2007. The results were very encouraging, and a full evaluation is expected this year.

Expanding the scope of AU services to include medical laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies

The QMS of the accreditation unit (AU) was reviewed and amended to cover the requirements of the related standards. New procedures were drafted and current procedures were amended. Training courses were conducted to prepare a team of experts in these fields from AU staff and assessors and to educate potential customers on the requirements of the related standards.

For the medical laboratories, a pilot project of three laboratories was initiated to prepare them for accreditation. Coaching missions and pre-assessments were conducted by external experts to assist the laboratories in implementing the requirements of ISO 15189. A study tour for three staff members of AU in the German Accreditation System for Testing DAP GmbH and BAM in Berlin took place to gain practical experience on accreditation of medical laboratories.

Consequently, three laboratories applied for accreditation in the field of clinical chemistry and haematology. Three initial assessments were conducted. Two laboratories are now accredited which represents a success story for AU and the Jordanian-German twinning project.

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Members of the Jordanian-German twinning project.

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Improvement of AU's IT-Infrastructure

An independent website of JAC was developed www.jism.gov.jo/jas and launched to include new information about the Jordanian Accreditation System (JAS), system policies, procedures and services. Furthermore a new database was created to perform dynamic web pages and the website was connected to the current data bases available at the AU.

The script language and the design were changed and now English and Arabic pages are available.

The integrated database, includes all the important data about accredited laboratories and the qualifications of assessors.

ILAC weblink available for downloading

The ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee has developed a weblink graphic that can be used to link to the ILAC web site.

The link can be used by accreditation bodies, accredited laboratories, liaison partners and other interested organisations.

People interested in using the link should visit the ILAC web site Resources page at www.ilac.org/resources where they can download a web-ready graphic in either black and white or colour. Instructions are also provided for the use of the web link.



National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA)

NATA on course with Macquarie University

An agreement reached between NATA and Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia means that NATA together with the National Measurement Institute (NMI) will develop course materials for the post-graduate Laboratory Quality Systems course.

Agreements were signed in January between the University, NATA, and the NMI. Signatories were the Acting Dean of Division of Environmental and Life Sciences at Macquarie University, Associate Professor Kevin McCracken, NMI Chief Executive, Dr Laurie Besley, and NATA's General Manager, Corporate Services, Mr Graeme Drake.

NMI's Chief Executive, Dr Laurie Besley said that a collaborative activity such as this one with Macquarie University, is a win-win situation for all involved.

Mr Drake said that NATA was very

pleased to be involved with this initiative.

The new postgraduate degree program in Laboratory Quality Analysis and Management aims to produce graduates at the postgraduate certificate level with an appreciation of, and hands-on laboratory experience in basic analytical chemistry.

Danny Wong, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry said that at present, the world of chemical measurement is undergoing major changes on an international scale.

"International free trade means that initiatives are being taken at the international level and across measurement sectors to ensure measurement science issues are being applied in a systematic and consistent manner. For practising analytical chemists, this means training in quality assurance and metrology is essential to ensure that the quality of chemical measurements is within their international acceptance level," Dr Wong said.

More information on the courses is available for download at www.nata.asn.au.



New postgraduate courses-Back row; Macquarie University's Dr Chris McRae, Dr Danny Wong and NMI's Marian Haire. Front row; Dr Laurie Besley, NMI, Acting Dean of Division of Environmental and Life Sciences at Macquarie University, Associate Professor Kevin McCracken and Graeme Drake, General Manager, Corporate Services, NATA.

Radiology accreditation first in Western Australia

Fremantle Hospital, in Perth was recently recognised as the first public facility in Western Australia (WA) to have its Radiology Department accredited to technical standards for medical imaging.

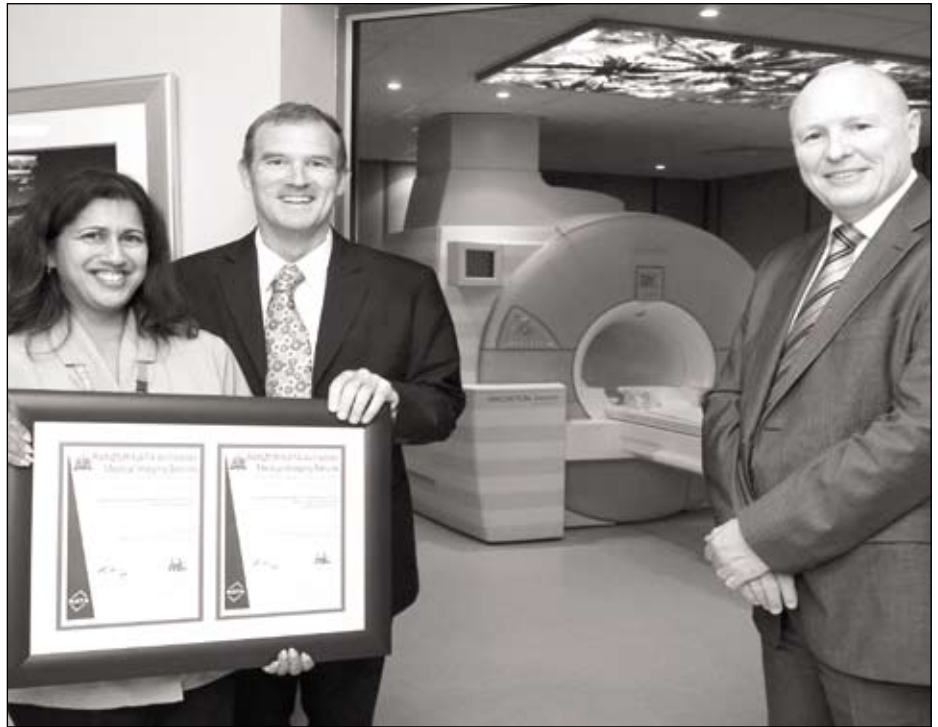
The accreditation means that diagnostic medical imaging at the hospital meets international standards in terms of technical competence and quality assurance. At present, such accreditation is voluntary, although the Australian Federal Government has a process in place to bring such facilities under a yet-to-be-defined mandatory accreditation system.

The accreditation was awarded through a program run jointly by The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) and National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA).

Mr John Hyde, the WA Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Minister for Health, praised the hospital's efforts in gaining medical imaging accreditation.

The certificate presentation ceremony was attended by Mr John Hyde, NATA Chief Executive Mr Alan Patterson, and RANZCR president Professor Mark Khangure.

Mr Patterson said "Its accreditation under the voluntary scheme is testimony to the high standards the hospital endeavours to achieve.



Sharon Coutinho (left) from Fremantle Hospital's Radiology Unit receives the RANZCR/NATA accreditation certificate from Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health John Hyde, and NATA CE Alan Patterson.

"Medical imaging is an expanding clinical field in Australia; it involves increasingly sophisticated imaging technology and is relied upon across the health sector to provide crucial clinical information to support decision making in the management of patients."

Professor Khangure said that this award of accreditation recognises the motivation and effort made by

all members of the Fremantle Radiology Department medical imaging team to consistently achieve a high level of quality in the services they provide to their patients.

NATA and its activities are recognised by the Australian Federal Government through a Memorandum of Understanding.

General Coordination for Accreditation (CGCRE/INMETRO)

New programs

CGCRE/INMETRO has started implementing two new accreditation programs, proficiency testing providers and reference materials producers, which will be available up to 2009. These new programs are a good promotional tool for Brazil, offering new proficiency testing programs and new reference materials, which will strengthen its laboratory accreditation

activity. A survey conducted at the end of 2006 showed 28 suppliers and 13 producers interested in these types of accreditation.

Meeting of the Committee on Reference Materials (ISO REMCO)

Between 10 and 13 June 2008, Rio de Janeiro/Brazil will be hosting the

31st Meeting of the Committee on Reference Materials (ISO REMCO). The Committee is chaired by Dr Adriaan Van der Veen (Netherlands) and is integrated by representatives of 31 participating countries and 38 observing countries. Brazil will be represented in the next ISO REMCO meeting by an Inmetro delegation, composed of technicians of the accreditation and metrology areas.

Oficina Guatemalteca De Acreditacion accepted at the IAAC MLA meeting for testing laboratories



From left to right: Mr Juan Alberto Hernández, Director of the National Quality System of Guatemala, Mr Alex Pineda, Head of OGA, Mr Pat Paladino, IAAC Chairman and Mr Fabián Hernández, Chairman of the IAAC MLA Committee.



By Alexander Pineda, Head of the Guatemalan Accreditation Office

Some years ago, a working team was established to build up the Accreditation Body in Guatemala.

It was a process that required hard work and the participation of private, public and academic sectors. Market support was also important. OGA recognises the technical assistance from its colleagues at SWEDAC. Other accreditation bodies, regional and international forums, and the international cooperation also provided support.

In March 2008, the IAAC MLA Committee and the IAAC Executive

Committee met in Guatemala City. During the meeting of the MLA Committee a number of important resolutions for IAAC and their members were discussed. One of the resolutions issued by the MLA Group was about the acceptance of OGA as a signatory for the IAAC MLA for testing laboratories. The ratification of this resolution by the General Assembly is expected in the coming months.

New schemes are 'on the table' for OGA. Recently, the first accreditation for inspection bodies was granted. Also, the first medical laboratory was accredited according to ISO 15189. The accreditation system in Guatemala is 'growing up' as new applications are processed. In addition some sectors in the market are now demanding that the CABs prove their technical competence.



Director General, Norwegian Accreditation Mr Torleif Hauge and Director General PNAC, Mr Abdul Rashid Khan exchanging documents for phase II of the project.

Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC)



Collaboration with Norwegian Accreditation

The bi-annual meeting of the joint project of Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) and Norwegian Accreditation (NA) was held in Islamabad from 25 to 28 November 2007. Director generals (DGs) and project coordinators from both sides attended.

The project: 'Support to capacity building and good governance of PNAC', was developed by PNAC and NA under the Pak 3004 Institutional Cooperation Program between Norway and Pakistan.

The three-year project costing Rs 33.44 million was approved by a steering committee headed by the Secretary, Planning and Development Division and represented by the Economic Affairs Division and the Norwegian Embassy in 2005. The project is fully funded by The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of PNAC to sign a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with APLAC and ILAC.

In the meeting, project activities undertaken during the last six months were reviewed and the plan for the next six months was finalised. The plan includes two three-day workshops on the 'uncertainty of measurement for testing laboratories' to be held in Islamabad and Karachi; an assessor course on ISO 15189 and an assessor course for inspection bodies and as well as training of officers of PNAC at NA Norway. Both sides discussed and agreed to prepare the second phase of the project for further strengthening of existing accreditation schemes such as medical laboratories, inspection bodies, proficiency testing and also launching of new programs. It is pertinent to note that Alfe Ramsalein of NORAD and Asif Sheikh of Planning and Development Division, Pakistan extended full cooperation and support for the success of the project.

NQP&P Implementation Committee meeting held

The first meeting of the National Quality Policy and Plan (NQP&P) Implementation committee under the Chairmanship of the former Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Nouraz Shakoore Khan was organised recently by PNAC.

Secretaries of relevant Federal Ministries, including Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Industry, Provincial governments, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and consumer associations attended the meeting. While speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasised that there should be strong coordination with provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) and Northern Areas of the country while implementing the policy.

He informed the participants that the relevant organisations of Ministry of Science and Technology including PNAC will be further strengthened.



Participants giving their views regarding the implementation of the National Quality Policy and Plan.

PNAC and NPO sign MoU



DG Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) Engr. Abdul Rashid Khan and Chief National Productivity Organization (NPO) Mr Tariq Bajwa signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) and National Productivity Organization (NPO) will jointly work with the objectives to improve industrial and human quality and productivity for the ultimate aim of enhancing exports and ensuring accelerated economic development.

In this connection, a formal MoU

between PNAC and NPO was signed on 14 February, 2008. DG, PNAC Engineer Abdul Rashid Khan and NPO Chief Mr Tariq Bajwa signed the MoU.

The main purpose of this MoU is to establish a working relationship between PNAC and NPO to coordinate and organise jointly, training seminars and courses under the project 'Awareness

PNAC Delegation visits Malaysia

A two-member delegation comprising of Najam Uddin, Deputy Director General and Ismat Gul Khattak, Director IL/QMR attended the MRA Council and General Assembly meetings of APLAC held in Malaysia. The Council is in the process of establishing an MRA peer evaluation team to visit PNAC.

Raising and Training on Conformity Assessment, Quality and Productivity'. PNAC and NPO will look into the possibility of holding joint National Training workshops by employing greener and cleaner production methods with special focus on enhancing exports and protecting the environment.

PTA hosts PNAC in Sydney



Group photo of Ismat Gul Khattak with staff of PTA.

Proficiency Testing Australia (PTA) hosted a one-week attachment training covering proficiency testing for the experts from PNAC under the United Nations Industrial Development Organization–European Union Project (UNIDO-EU). Ismat Gul Khattak, Director (II), PNAC who is also a member of the APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee attended the Sydney training. The training will enhance the capability of PNAC to launch a national level PT scheme in the country.

DG PNAC Attends International Conference of Auditors and Lead Auditors

The third International Conference of Auditors and Lead Auditors was held from 4 to 5 December, 2007 in Dubai. PNAC Engineer Abdul Rashid Khan being a Member of the International Technical Committee of ICA2007 attended the conference and presented a paper on the role of technical experts used in certification audits to cover various Nomenclature Generale des Activites Economiques dans l'Union Europeenne" (NACE) code. He was the keynote speaker on the opening day of the conference and chaired a session of the conference.

Training Course on ISO/IEC 17020, Accreditation of Inspection Bodies



A short training course of 3 days duration on ISO/IEC 17020 under the UNIDO-EU Project, was organised by Dutch Accreditation Council, (RvA) in Utrecht, the Netherlands from 26 to 28 September 2007. Azhar Iqbal, Deputy Director, Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC), attended the course.

RvA Chief Executive Mr Jan van der Poel, is presenting an ISO/IEC 17020 Certificate of Success to Mr Azhar Iqbal.



Participants at the launch of SANAS's new status and logo.

South African National Accreditation System

New identity and status

SANAS has become a public entity with the official launch on 15 February 2008. Although independent, it is still accountable to government through the Department of Trade and Industry.

Along with this change SANAS now has a new logo. The South African

Minister of Trade and Industry, Mandisi Mpahlwa officiated in the launch of both SANAS and the National Metrology Institute of South Africa, as separate public entities with brand new logos.

In March SANAS will be holding



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regional launches of accreditation marks to be used by all of its accredited facilities.

The South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) was established in 1996 as a non-profit organisation under section 21 of the South African companies Act.

On 1 May 2007 the Accreditation for Conformity Assessment, Calibration and Good Laboratory Practice Act No 19 of 2006 (Accreditation Act) was enacted. Promulgating the Accreditation Act saw SANAS change from a section 21 organisation to being a public entity.

Establishment of SANAS as a public entity under the Accreditation Act means that the South African government recognises SANAS as the only national body that is responsible for carrying out accreditation of conformity assessment bodies, and the only national body that is tasked with monitoring GLP compliance with OECD principles.

As can be expected, enactment of the Act has introduced new legal implications for both SANAS and its accredited facilities.

As an example, misuse of accreditation, including misrepresentation of data from an accredited body, or misuse of the SANAS logo, is now regarded as a criminal offence.



South African Minister of Trade and Industry
Mandisi Mphahlela.

Update from TAF

Forum on 'Quality Enhancement in Medical Testing by Application of ISO 15189'



Forum on Quality Enhancement in Medical Testing by Application of ISO 15189.

By Wanji Yang

TAF held a forum on 'Quality Enhancement in Medical Testing by Application of ISO 15189' on 21 December 2007.

Ten speakers gave valuable viewpoints from different angles and aspects: Dr Jay-San Chen (President, TAF), Ms Li-Jue Wu (Section Chief, Centers for Disease Control, Department of Health), Dr Cathy H. Y. Wung (CEO, Taiwan Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation and Quality Improvement), Dr Cheng-Chun Lee (Secretary in General, China Medical University Hospital), Mr Mu-Chin Shih (Deputy Director, China Medical University Hospital), Dr Dan-Jiang Wang (Superintendent, Taichung Veteran General Hospital), Mr Tsu-Lan Wu (President, Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine), Dr Wei-Jen Yao (President, Society of Nuclear Medicine, Taiwan), Dr Bi-Fang Lee (Director, National Cheng-Kung University Hospital) and Mr Nigel Jou (Vice CEO, TAF).

Since the launch of the ISO 15189 accreditation service in 2003, TAF has accredited 108 medical laboratories. Moreover, in light of a cooperative service programme with the Centers for

Disease Control, TAF has accredited 56 hospitals in the field of 'health examination for foreign labours'.

“TAF has accredited 56 hospitals in the field of 'health examination for foreign labours'”

Thanks to the internationally recognised, APLAC MRA for ISO 15189, TAF accredited medical testing laboratories see the future of better medical testing quality in a very positive way, and have confidence in keeping up with international requirements. Moreover, TAF accreditation against ISO 15189 is now domestically recognised by doctors, patients and users of testing results.

First accreditation certificate granted to forensic science testing laboratory—the Criminal Investigation Bureau

By Wanji Yang

TAF granted the first accreditation certificate in the forensic science testing field to the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB), National Police Agency, Ministry of the Interior on 17 January 2008.

The assessment was conducted in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005

and ILAC G19:2002. TAF launched its accreditation service in forensic science testing field in January 2007 on the basis of two-years preparatory work, including signing an MoU with the ASCLD/LAB, holding assessor training courses and setting up the accreditation system for this particular field.

This is an achievement of the CIB and a milestone in Chinese Taipei's progressive development in forensic science. TAF looks forward to further accreditation application, and more advanced and mature professionalism in the forensic science environment in Chinese Taipei.

Another milestone for Trinidad and Tobago Laboratory Accreditation Service

By Giselle Guevara, Manager, Laboratory Accreditation, TTLABS

Industry and Government will benefit now that two more laboratories in Trinidad and Tobago have achieved accreditation, bringing the country total to five accredited laboratories in 2007.

On 1 November 2007, Angostura Ltd, Morvant and Analytical Technologies Ltd, Pt. Lisas were accredited to the International standard ISO 17025:2005—*General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*, by the Trinidad and Tobago Laboratory Accreditation Service (TTLABS). This occasion also celebrates the first accreditations awarded by TTLABS.

Scope of Accreditation

Angostura Ltd is accredited for alcohol testing, specifically rum, bitters, flavoured alcohol products, wines and carbonated beverages while Analytical Technologies Ltd is accredited for waste and waste water tests—pH, chemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids and total plate count.

Commenting on their achievement, both organisations agree that the process allowed them to become more efficient, improve quality control and establish a greater team spirit. They felt confident that they could continue to serve their customers at the highest level while remaining competitive. Angostura is

assured that their local and international trading partners can rely on their test results, eliminating a barrier to trade, while saving time and money by avoiding expensive retesting of their products. Similarly, Analytical Technologies will offer industry the assurance that their water testing is in competent hands, especially for environmental monitoring under the Trinidad and Tobago Water Pollution Rules.

Trade benefits of Accreditation

Achieving such recognition required each laboratory to pass a rigorous set of on-site assessments and external quality assurance programs, which verified that the technical competence of the staff had been established. Reassessments by the Laboratory Accreditation Service will continue to ensure that they comply with the required criteria, or face suspension or withdrawal of Accreditation.

For the Caribbean region, in the future the validity of laboratory test data will be subject to increasing challenge from all users, including Government, Manufacturers, Energy Sector companies, clients, patients and International trading partners. The implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and the signing of the European Partnership Agreements (EPA) by the region will require laboratories

that are not in the process of quality improvement to take action or be left out of the trading arena.

Tested once, accepted everywhere

This journey to accreditation began in May 2003 when the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) signed on agreement with Mexico, Costa Rica and Paraguay to be part of an Inter American Development Bank (IDB) funded project entitled 'Overcoming technical barriers to trade through the strengthening of Accreditation Systems'. In 2004, laboratories were invited to submit proposals for assistance under the project with the objective of being accredited at the end. Of the six laboratories accepted into the project, Angostura and Analytical Technologies are proud to boast their successful completion of the task and accreditation, which will be recognised internationally.

TTLABS hopes that the phenomenal achievement of these laboratories will motivate other local laboratories, both public and private sector, to become accredited and as a result be recognised favourably by industry and government. This achievement is yet another milestone that Trinidad and Tobago can celebrate as it implements Vision 20/20 towards developed country status.

Organismo Argentino de Acreditación (OAA)

Special mention for excellence in integral management



The Argentine Accreditation Body has received the Special Mention for Excellence in Integral Management from the National Quality Award Foundation.

The Mention was awarded during an official ceremony in the Presidential Palace by the Nation's President accompanied by four Nation's Ministers.

Why the quality award

The OAA, when establishing its Vision, strategically decided to follow the route towards excellence using these tools in order to: Promote the development and communication of its processes and systems aimed at the continual improvement of quality in the services it provides; encourage and support the modernisation and competence of organisations and ensure the satisfaction of the needs and expectations of the community; preserve the human work environment, the optimum assignment of tasks and use of resources.

The design of OAA's Quality System has incorporated the National Quality Award Model to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 in order to: fix goals and deal with improvement plans; detect the areas in which the opportunities for improvement are more significant; obtain an evaluation of its integral management system.

Description of the model for nonprofit organisations

The evaluation model defined by the Model for a Management of Excellence in nonprofit Organizations (ONG) is divided into three components which in turn are subdivided and include several criteria each.

The three components: Leadership, Management System and Results unfold in six criteria, 22 factors and 140 aspects.

Leadership component

The leadership component proposes that leadership must be exercised by Directors who apply strategic management, with a clear vocation and firm commitment to constantly improve the results, by continually improving the management system, and who promote and apply the values of excellence assuming their social responsibility and contributing to the continual improvement of their physical, social and economic environment.

Management system component

The Management System component proposes that an organisation of excellence has to develop action plans that facilitate the fulfillment of the strategic planning focused on the recipients and the community and that it has to manage processes and human resources in order to achieve the objectives established by its management team, within the framework of its vision, mission and values.

Strategic planning criterion

The organisation must have an effective planning system focused on establishing the specific activities needed for the achievement of the objectives and the development of a consistent strategy with the model adopted.

Focus on recipients criterion

An organisation of excellence must have mechanisms implemented that facilitate their understanding of the requirements and expectations of its present and potential recipients. The relationships with them must ensure that they are adequately assisted and that the commitments assumed are fulfilled. Mechanisms must be in place



to determine the satisfaction and loyalty of the recipients. A system for handling complaints and claims that ensures that these are adequately solved, giving rise to actions that avoid their recurrence, is necessary.

Management of processes criterion

This criterion establishes how key processes, such as design, support, production, services and relationships with providers, should be carried out.

Management of human resources criterion

An organisation of excellence must distinguish itself with respect to the management of its human resources. The planning and conduct of human resources must be aligned with the general planning and strategies of the organisation. Its personnel must be trained in order to carry out their tasks, be fully familiarised with the continual improvement process and satisfied with their working environment.

Results component

The proper implementation and management of the above components must be reflected in the third component—results. The fields foreseen for the measurement are: satisfaction and loyalty of the recipients, repercussion on the community, financial-economic results and intangibles, operational results, management of human resources and outcomes of the actions related to social transcendence.



OAA staff with quality award.



Presentation of quality award to OAA.

ILAC Publications

The following is a listing of titles of all ILAC public documents at 8 November 2007. These can be downloaded from the Publications section under Resources on the ILAC website.

Brochures

The ILAC Arrangement
 Why Use an Accredited Laboratory?
 Why Become an Accredited Laboratory?
 How Does Using an Accredited Laboratory Benefit Government & Regulators?
 The Advantages of Being an Accredited Laboratory
 Laboratory Accreditation or ISO 9001 Certification

Information Documents (I Series)

ILAC-I1:1994 Legal Liability in Testing
 ILAC-I2:1994 This document is currently under review
 ILAC-I3:1996 Withdrawn
 ILAC-I4:1996 Withdrawn

Guidance Documents (G Series)

ILAC-G3:1994 Guidelines for Training Courses for Assessors
 ILAC-G7:1996 Accreditation Requirements and Operating Criteria for Horseracing Laboratories
 ILAC-G8:1996 Guidelines on Assessment and Reporting of Compliance with Specification
 ILAC-G9:2005 Guidelines for the Selection and Use of Reference Materials
 ILAC-G10:1996 Harmonised Procedures for Surveillance & Reassessment of Accredited Laboratories
 ILAC-G11:07/2006 Guidelines on Assessor Qualifications & Competence of Assessors and Technical Experts
 ILAC-G12:2000 Guidelines for the Requirements for the Competence of Reference Material Producers
 ILAC-G13:07/2007 Guidelines for the Requirements for the Competence of Providers of Proficiency Testing Schemes
 ILAC-G17:2002 Introducing the Concept of Uncertainty of Measurement in Testing in Association with the Application of the Standard ISO/IEC 17025
 ILAC-G18:2002 The Scope of Accreditation and Consideration of Methods and Criteria for the Assessment of the Scope in Testing
 ILAC-G19:2002 Guidelines for Forensic Science Laboratories
 ILAC-G20:2002 Guidelines on Grading of Non-Conformities
 ILAC-G21:2002 Cross Frontier Accreditation — Principles for Avoiding Duplication
 ILAC-G22:2004 Use of Proficiency Testing as a Tool for Accreditation in Testing
 ILAC-G23:2004 Withdrawn

Procedural Documents (P Series)

ILAC-P1:07/2007 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Requirements for Evaluation of Accreditation Bodies by ILAC-recognised Regional Cooperations
 ILAC-P2:2003 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Procedures for the Evaluation of Regional Cooperation Bodies for the Purpose of Recognition
 ILAC-P3:07/2007 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Procedures for the Evaluation of Unaffiliated Bodies for the Purpose of Recognition
 ILAC-P4:2003 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Policy Statement
 ILAC-P5:04/2007 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement)
 ILAC-P6:2003 Application for Full Member Status
 ILAC-P7:2003 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Key performance Indicators (KPIs) (Link to IAF/ILAC A3:2005)
 ILAC-P8:07/2006 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Supplementary Requirements and Guidelines for the Use of Accreditation Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Laboratories
 ILAC-P9:2005 ILAC Policy for Participation in National and International Proficiency Testing Activities
 ILAC-P10:2002 ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement Results
 ILAC-P11:2004 Monitoring Performance of ILAC Evaluators
 ILAC P12:2005 Harmonisation of ILAC Work with the Regions
 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Terms of Reference and Composition of the Arrangement Management Committee

Secretariat Documents (S Series)

ILAC-S1:2003 Guidelines for the Proposal, Drafting, Approval and Publication of ILAC Documents
 ILAC-S2:2003 Rules
 ILAC-S3:2004 ILAC Strategic and Business Plan
 ILAC-S4:05/2007 Use of the ILAC Logo
 ILAC-S5:09/2007 ILAC Procedure for Handling Complaints
 ILAC-S6:10/2007 Procedure for Expansion of the Scope of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

Joint ILAC/IAF Documents (A series)

IAF/ILAC A1:05/2007 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Evaluation of a Regional Group
 IAF/ILAC A2:05/2007 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body
 IAF/ILAC A3:05/2007 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Key Performance Indicators
 IAF/ILAC A4:2004 Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020

Accreditation: Delivering Trust in the Global Market

International
Accreditation Day
9 June 2008



Welcome

to Stockholm, Sweden

10-22 October 2008

Stockholm will be the venue for the ILAC/IAF Conference 2008

SWEDAC, the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment, invites you to the meeting in Sweden's beautiful capital. We will do our best to offer good facilities and surroundings for a successful conference and a memorable stay here.

The Clarion Hotel Stockholm, the venue for the meetings, is centrally situated close to the city centre.

You will find restaurants and shops as well as public transport at walking distance.

Besides successful meetings, we hope that you

will enjoy the social programme like the welcome reception in the City Hall, the Swedish dinner at the Vasa Museum and the Banquet with the signing ceremony at the Clarion Hotel Stockholm. We will also offer some options to join sightseeing tours in Stockholm and surrounding areas.

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