

ILAC NEWS

Issue 35, April 2009



- UNIDO launches web portal
- 22nd EA General Assembly
- The future of the German accreditation system



ilac-MRA

From the Chair

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opinions do not necessarily reflect ILAC Policy.

Writing the editorial of ILAC News twice a year is always a great pleasure for me, even if I sometimes give the impression of repeating the essence of my message which is: we are working well, but we still need to improve.



Indeed, following the increase in requests for accreditation in many many domains, the ILAC role and the impact of the ILAC Arrangement are themselves also increasing.

We can easily measure the progress of the ILAC role through the increase of our liaison activity, both in terms of confidence building with our historical partners (ISO, IEC, BIPM, OIML,...) and in terms of the development of cooperation or the prospect of cooperation, with new partners (WADA, ISTA, WHO,...).

Concerning the ILAC Arrangement, it's a matter of fact that it is more and more well known and that the number of signatories is growing.

All this is very nice, but we have to do more and better.

During the Stockholm meetings two issues were of great concern to me.

First, the increase in ILAC fees. It was an absolute necessity to get approval of this decision for ILAC to be able to play its role, to face its duties and to comply with its policies. All of us know that an increase in the fees is unpopular and the Executive Committee is committed to work hard in order to address the problem in a better manner for the coming years.

Secondly, the future of ILAC and IAF. Here also, it is a matter of improvement, saving time and money and improving the image of the whole accreditation community. The JCCC Task Force has already started its work and the task is not an easy one. Even if everybody has the same goal (better efficiency), views related to the appropriate means for reaching it differ.

However, ILAC is ready to address these challenges.

The newly elected Executive Committee is made up of experienced people and together with our very dedicated secretariat will act accordingly, in line with our newly revised Strategic Plan.

On my side, I just wish to thank ILAC's members for their confidence in my capability to chair our association for a third and final two-year term.

I am sincerely proud to serve such an active fraternity.

Daniel Pierre
Chair



ILAC Secretariat: Alan Squirrell, Annette Dever, Sharon Kelly, Rose Bevins, Alison Hay.

News from the ILAC Secretariat

The staff at the ILAC Secretariat continues as: Annette Dever – ILAC Secretary; Alan Squirrell – ILAC Executive Liaison Officer; Sharon Kelly – Senior ILAC Coordinator; Alison Hay – ILAC Administrator; and Rose Bevins – ILAC Administrator.

Meetings

As you are aware, the annual meetings for 2008 were held in Stockholm in October. The Secretariat would like to extend a very big thank you to the SWEDAC staff for the logistical arrangements and excellent support provided throughout the annual conference.

By the time you receive this edition of ILAC News, the first ILAC Executive meeting for 2009 will have been hosted by Cofrac in Paris. This is the first time the newly elected Executive from the 2008 General Assembly will have met. Included on the rather extensive agenda is the review of the committee action plans against the recently published ILAC Strategic Plan, the consideration of the allocation of funding for the liaison activities for 2009 and finalisation of the schedule for the 2009 annual meetings to be held in Vancouver. In addition, this week of meetings includes the ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC) and the ILAC Laboratory Committee as well as the annual series of meetings with BIPM, OIML and the Joint Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance to Developing Countries in Metrology, Accreditation and Standardisation (JCDCMAS).

The ILAC Secretariat will have also been involved, via teleconference, in the ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee meeting held early in March.

The mid-year meetings of the ILAC Executive and the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (AMC) are being hosted by UKAS in London during the week of 22 June 2009. This week also includes the joint meetings with IAF and ISO.

ILAC Arrangement

The ILAC Secretariat, in its role of providing support for the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (AMC), the ILAC Arrangement Council and alternating with the IAF MLA MC Secretariat in supporting the JMC sessions, is currently involved with the follow-up activities and the actions arising from the Stockholm meetings of the ILAC AMC and Arrangement Council and the JMC. The activities of the ILAC Arrangement Council and AMC were the subject of an external audit in January 2009. It is expected the report and outcomes from this report will be discussed at the March meeting of the ILAC Executive Committee.

ILAC-MRA Mark

The ILAC-MRA Mark registration process continues and, as at 31 December 2008, 44 ILAC Full Members had signed Licensing Agreements with ILAC for the use of the Combined MRA Mark (which is the ILAC-MRA Mark used in combination with the accreditation body's own mark).

Website

The Secretariat, in-conjunction with the ILAC MCC, is continuing to develop the ILAC website. The day-to-day administration of the ILAC website is carried out by the ILAC Administrators, Alison Hay and Rose Bevins. An audit of the ILAC website was carried out by the Secretariat during March 2009.

Members should note that if you would like to change your password for access to the members only area of the website, there is now an option to select a password 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.

Ballots

A complete list of all documents that have been (or are being) circulated to members for either comments or voting can be obtained from the ILAC website in the Members Section under 'Ballots'.

Members are reminded of their obligation to vote during both document and membership ballots. We have noticed the need to send significantly more reminders to ensure a quorum is reached for recent ballots.

ILAC News

The Secretariat is also closely involved in the preparation of ILAC News, with stories, photographs, captions etc. being compiled into this newsletter for ILAC members, their clients and related organisations that have an interest in the activities and benefits of accreditation. Members' feedback on the presentation and content of ILAC News is, as always, very welcome and a huge thank you to those members that provide articles and photos for this publication.

ILAC Liaisons

The review of liaison activities continues to be a major focus of the ILAC Executive Committee, who seeks to ensure that ILAC interests are represented in areas that have an impact on the activities of ILAC and its members. In particular, in the first quarter of this year, Alan Squirrell and the Executive are continuing to work on the prioritisation and funding policies for ILAC's liaison activities.

The Liaison Database, located in the Members Area of the ILAC website, continues to serve as the main repository for the ever-increasing number of reports and documents that are produced as part of ILAC's liaison activity. (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).

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Since the October 2008 annual meetings, ILAC has participated in a number of liaison activities including, 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), and the IAF, ILAC and ISO Joint Working Group.

ILAC and IAF were represented at the 13th International Legal Metrology Conference held in October in Sydney, Australia. ILAC also participated in the WADA Laboratory Committee meeting in December. Technical Panel meetings and workshops were held in conjunction with IEC and IAF, and meetings of the BIPM Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM) and the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM) were also attended by ILAC representatives.

Several liaison activities, in addition to those mentioned earlier, are scheduled for March and April 2009. These include meetings with WADA, ISO technical committees and CASCO working groups.

In addition, ILAC is commencing general discussions with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to determine how we might best cooperate in areas of mutual interest and involvement.

The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the liaison officers, and their organisations, who give up their time to assist ILAC in carrying out these activities for the benefit of all ILAC members.

Joint ILAC/IAF Activities

As many of you would be aware, discussions regarding the future development of ILAC and IAF were held during the first half-day of the Joint General Assembly (JGA). It was agreed during the JGA that a Task Force would be established to consider in detail the issues highlighted by the members as requiring further investigation before consideration could be given to following any particular direction.

The Task Force is comprised of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ILAC and IAF, the Chair or nominated representative from each region, a representative of the unaffiliated bodies and stakeholder representatives from three areas, namely: the ILAC Laboratory Committee, the IAF industry representative and the IAF conformity assessment bodies representative. The Task Force met on 15 and 16 January 2009 in Paris and finalised the Terms of Reference that have since been distributed to all members. The Task Force are next scheduled to meet in May in London.

Information on ILAC can be obtained from the ILAC website, www.ilac.org, or by emailing the Secretariat on ilac@nata.asn.au.

Annette Dever
ILAC Secretary



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 website.

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 website Publications and 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 weblink.

CHANGES TO ILAC MEMBERSHIP

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

Full Members

Philippine Accreditation Office (PAO), Philippines (Signatory status for PAO was reinstated by the APLAC MRA Council for testing and calibration on 10 December 2008. As a result of this, ILAC membership status for PAO was changed from Associate to Full Member).

Associates

Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS), Mauritius

The Accreditation Institute of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (IARM), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Accreditation Board of Serbia (ATS), Serbia

American Society of Crime Lab Directors/ Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB), USA

Affiliates

Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS), Botswana

Organismo Uruguayo de Acreditación (OUA), Uruguay

Stakeholder

CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), Barbados

ILAC Membership

ILAC membership as at 21 January 2009 is as follows:

- 62 Full Members (Signatories to the ILAC Arrangement) representing 48 economies
- 21 Associates representing 20 economies
- 20 Affiliates representing 18 economies
- 4 Regional Cooperation Bodies
- 1 National Coordination Body
- 26 Stakeholders.

The ILAC membership (total 134 bodies) now covers a total of 82 different economies worldwide. Approximately 33,000 laboratories and 6000 inspection bodies are accredited by the 83 ILAC Full Members and Associates.

Letter to the Editor

Prof. Dr. Ernst Göbel
President
PTB
38116 Braunschweig
Germany

Alan Squirrell
ILAC Secretariat

Dear Alan,

After reading the article 'Cooperation with the BIPM and the national metrology institutes' in ILAC News, Issue 34 of October 2008, I would like to make the following clarifications, on behalf of a major NMI, to avoid any misunderstanding for the readers of this article. I would appreciate if you could publish this statement in your next issue of ILAC News.

The ILAC News article reports that the Accreditation Committee of ILAC (AIC) regrets the "lack of interest from the NMI community" regarding laboratory accreditation. Then a number of assumed reasons are stated, but I believe that the major one is missing. I feel the ILAC AIC report is, in itself, misleading in its generalisation of the view NMIs have of accreditation. I also would not wish the readers of ILAC News to conclude that accreditation has no role to play for some NMIs – indeed about half of the world's NMIs choose accreditation to demonstrate compliance with the quality systems requirements of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement drawn up by the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM MRA). Others choose another, equally acceptable, route via peer review and self declaration.

Let me explain the situation from my point of view: In 1875 the "Metre Convention" was signed between the Governments of 17 states, the number of which has grown in the meantime and the BIPM now has 51 Members. Twenty seven other NMIs are Associates of the General Conference on Weights and Measures. This treaty established the BIPM as an intergovernmental organisation and the CIPM as its advisory board. The task of the BIPM

is to assure world-wide uniformity of measurements and their traceability to the International System of Units (SI). At the time of writing, 195 National Metrology Institutes or Designated Institutes (which hold special National responsibilities in certain areas) participate in the CIPM MRA. The aim of the CIPM MRA is to demonstrate equivalence of nationally-held standards, which are traceable to the SI, and mutual recognition by signatories of calibration and measurement certificates.

This arrangement:

- Establishes the degree of equivalence of the national measurement standards.
- Provides for the mutual recognition of calibration and measurement certificates issued by the NMIs.
- Thereby provides governments and other parties with a secure technical foundation for wider agreements related to international trade, commerce and regulatory affairs.

The backbone of the CIPM MRA is the participation of the NMIs in key and supplementary comparisons, the results of which are published in the Key Comparison Data Base (KCDB) maintained by the BIPM. Calibration and measurement capabilities (CMCs) are also published in the KCDB after thorough technical reviews of the capabilities by the responsible Technical Committees (TC) of the Regional Metrological Organisation, e.g. in Europe EURAMET. After a successful review in the home RMO the CMCs are further reviewed by the other RMOs in order to assure a globally consistent evaluation standard. In addition, the Quality Systems are reviewed by a special TC for Quality in the respective RMO. As mentioned above, the CIPM MRA offers two possible routes to demonstrate compliance with its requirements in relation to quality systems: accreditation or self declaration based on peer review. The BIPM and the JCRB (the Joint Committee of the BIPM and the Regional Metrology Organizations) make no distinction, nor do they express any preference between the two. Both cases are treated similarly by the relevant regional review committees.

This peer review system is fully transparent and strongly focussed on the factual proof of technical competence through participation in international comparisons and the open publication of the results and further by the two stage technical review by peers plus a review of the quality management system. In fact, the reviews carried out within the CIPM MRA framework go further than those carried out by Accreditation Bodies. For example, in the CIPM MRA framework there is:

- The requirement for participation in comparisons with open disclosure of the results of all participants who are named in the reports.
- A close examination within the RMOs of the results of comparisons and periodic checks to ensure that any CMCs from NMIs are consistent with the results of an NMI's participation in Key Comparisons.
- An annual review and report by the NMI to the RMO on anything which may have affected its quality system or its CMCs.

In practice, a significant number of NMIs have had their CMCs deleted from the KCDB either as a result of weaknesses in their quality system or inconsistent results in a comparison. This is a tough regime and NMIs submit willingly to it so as to establish and assure the confidence of peers and stakeholders in the technical capabilities of the NMIs. It is a matter of individual judgement by the NMI whether or not to undertake accreditation as its chosen means of demonstrating compliance with the quality requirements of the CIPM MRA. Many do and, as I remarked above, about 50 per cent of participants in the CIPM MRA have chosen the accreditation path. On the other hand, having fully established the MRA process many do not see additional gain in confidence by turning to their national accreditation body and receiving accreditation. This, naturally, does not mean that those NMIs are denying the value of accreditation in general.

Braunschweig, 2008-11-27

ILAC committee news

Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC)

International Accreditation Day celebrated around the world

By Jon Murthy (UKAS), Member of the ILAC MCC

The inaugural International Accreditation Day took place on 9 June 2008. Established as a joint initiative by ILAC and IAF to promote the value of accreditation, the day was a significant success with promotional activity taking place in over 50 countries worldwide.

The theme of 'Trust', selected to convey the level of confidence that accreditation provides Regulators and the business community, was used to support the different types of activities carried out by accreditation bodies and the wider conformity assessment community.

The survey of ILAC and IAF members carried out following International Accreditation Day revealed almost all accreditation bodies used the internet to promote the day. They did this by linking through to the ILAC website or adding a section to their own site. Many translated the ILAC and IAF material into their own language, whilst two accreditation bodies created a dedicated website exclusively about the day with links to existing promotional tools such as presentations, videos and images.

Events of all types were organised to coincide with 9 June. Some held internal events to celebrate the day and to inform and motivate staff, which even included a sports day. A number of open days were attended by between 50 and 100 people. Attendees generally included government officials and representatives from trade bodies. Some events benefited from the attendance of ILAC / IAF officials and government ministers. There were also a number of themed workshops which were targeted at a particular sector or aligned to a newsworthy issue. For example, the awarding of a certificate to a WADA laboratory generated additional publicity as it was closely linked to the forthcoming Olympics. Some European national accreditation bodies (NABs) used the

New European Union (EU) Regulation that provides a legal framework for accreditation as a central theme to gain interest from regulators. Some NABs hosted large-scale conferences – one event, held over a week, attracted over 900 people and had over 80 speakers from both the local economy and overseas.

Nearly all accreditation bodies informed their customers and stakeholders about the day by email, or through their newsletters. One quality consultant even created an online members forum to encourage the debate on accreditation. The day was also heavily promoted in the press as well as the broadcast media.

One accreditation body created a promotional item that aimed to symbolise the values of accreditation – transparency and robustness. The item was presented to each of their customers.

The second International Accreditation Day will be celebrated on 9 June 2009. Themed 'competence', it is expected that this year's day will see an even greater level of promotional activity. The ILAC MCC and the IAF CMC are currently preparing a set of promotional tools to help accreditation bodies raise awareness in their local economies. Accreditation bodies will be informed when this information becomes available on the ILAC website.

More regulators around the world turn to accreditation

By Ian Roy, Manager, International Affairs and Government Liaison, International Accreditation New Zealand

An ILAC survey on regulatory acceptance of accreditation was conducted in mid 2008 by the ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC). The findings were displayed at the ILAC General Assembly held in Stockholm, Sweden in October 2008.

Signatories to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) were asked if regulators in their economies required or accepted accredited laboratory reports.

ILAC MRA signatories were also asked if regulators in their economies accepted similar reports from MRA partners. The survey results indicate a steady and significant growth in the acceptance of accreditation by domestic regulators as

well as improved recognition of the ILAC MRA.

The survey had previously been undertaken in 2002, 2004 and 2006. The 2008 survey results reveal improved regulatory acceptance of accreditation and acceptance of the ILAC MRA over the period 2002–2008.

The table below clearly shows that the number of survey respondents in the General Acceptance category increased from 41 per cent in 2002 to 68 per cent in 2008. Conversely, the number of respondents in the Limited Acceptance category decreased from 34.5 per cent in 2002 to 24.5 per cent in 2008, while in the Restricted Acceptance category, they decreased from 24.5 per cent in 2002 to 7.5 per cent in 2008.

ILAC REGULATOR ACCEPTANCE RESULTS BY YEAR (2002–2008)			
	2002	2006	2008
GENERAL ACCEPTANCE	41.0 %	55.0 %	68.0 %
LIMITED ACCEPTANCE	34.5 %	33.0 %	24.5 %
RESTRICTED ACCEPTANCE	24.5 %	12.0 %	7.5 %

It was also pleasing that more accreditation bodies reported an increase in the general interest of regulators to accept accredited test reports.

Regulators need to be confident that businesses comply with regulations; accreditation offers a cost-effective means of providing this confidence. In some instances, regulators will accept a manufacturer's self-declaration. In others, regulators may require accredited test and inspection results. Sometimes the regulators may do their own assessment of laboratory or inspection body compliance, or even require product certification (product compliance with a particular standard) or evidence of certification to ISO 9001.

Where accurate test reports are required, the most cost effective, transparent and non-discriminatory assurance of compliance is obtained by accepting test reports from accredited laboratories where the accrediting body is a signatory to a Mutual Recognition Arrangement such as the ILAC MRA. 

International update



UNIDO launches accreditation web portal



Labnet is an online interactive and collaborative web portal designed to promote the sharing of information and knowledge in the field of laboratory testing and calibration. It was officially launched on 12 December 2008 in Hyderabad, India.

Labnet is a web-based portal developed under the auspices of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (WAITRO) serving as a platform enabling developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to address their operational challenges in laboratory development and accreditation. ILAC also supported the development of the site, along with ISO, BIPM, BAM and EPTIS.



Labnet – UNIDO's interactive collaborative web portal.

The site will benefit:

- Laboratories (environmental, metrology, testing, chemical, microbiology, textile etc.)
- Professional laboratory staff in developing countries
- Exporters from developing countries
- Industry, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, seeking

metrology and calibration laboratories in developing countries

- Emerging accreditation/certification bodies
- Laboratories with the potential to obtain accreditation
- Academia and researchers

The portal can be accessed at www.labnetwork.org or via the ILAC website. 

Regional cooperations



IAAC Report to ILAC and IAF

This report refers to Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) activities from January 2008 to September 2008.

IAAC Strategic Plan

In June 2008, IAAC approved its new 2008-2011 Strategic Plan which serves as the guideline for our Cooperation's activities.

IAAC MLA scope extension

IAAC has submitted an application to extend its IAF MLA for the scopes of accreditation of Product and Environmental Management Systems Certification Bodies. Currently, IAAC is a Regional Cooperation Body signatory to the ILAC MRA for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, and also a signatory to the IAF MLA for QMS.

IAAC has started operating MLAs for the scopes of EMS Certification Bodies and Product Certification Bodies. During its previous meeting held in Asunción, Paraguay, on 12 September 2008, IAAC accepted four MLA signatories for the scope of EMS and three for the scope of Product.

The IAAC MLA Committee decided at its meeting in March 2008 that the IAAC MLA for Testing Laboratories includes ISO 15189 for medical laboratories. A plan was approved at the meeting in Asunción in September 2008 to ensure peer evaluations cover that standard and to identify and publish the relevant signatories on the IAAC website.

Signatories of the IAAC MLA

For Testing and Calibration Laboratories (10)

- Argentina – OAA
- Brazil – Cgre/INMETRO
- Canada – SCC
- Costa Rica – ECA (Testing only)
- Cuba – ONARC

- Guatemala – OGA (Testing only)
- Mexico – ema
- USA – A2LA
- USA – ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, doing business as ACLASS
- USA – ASCLD/LAB (Testing only)

For Quality Management Systems Certification Bodies (6)

- Argentina – OAA
- Brazil – Cgre/INMETRO
- Canada – SCC
- Mexico – ema
- Peru – INDECOPI/CRT
- USA – ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, doing business as ANAB

For Environmental Management Systems Certification Bodies (4)

- Argentina – OAA
- Canada – SCC
- Mexico – ema
- USA – ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, doing business as ANAB

For Product Certification Bodies (3)

- Argentina – OAA
- Canada – SCC
- Mexico – ema

MLA procedures

The IAAC General Assembly approved a revised version of procedure IAAC PR002 Policies and Procedures for a Multi-Lateral Recognition Arrangement among Accreditation Bodies which includes improvements in the management of the MLA and the execution of peer evaluations.

IAAC Membership

IAAC currently has a total of 38 members from 23 countries in the Americas. Twenty-one are full members,

nine are associate members and eight are stakeholders.

The new IAAC member as of 12 September 2008 is Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale du Quebec (CEAEQ) of Canada, as an Associate member.

IAAC Officers

In January 2008 Ana María Coro (INN – Chile) resigned as IAAC Chair and Pat Paladino (SCC – Canada), Vice-Chair at the time, replaced her as Chair until the end of her term in September 2008.

During the annual meeting held in September in Paraguay, the IAAC General Assembly elected new officers for several key positions including IAAC Chair and Vice-Chair, MLA Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, Technical Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, Management Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, and others. The current list of IAAC officers is as follows:

IAAC Chair, Beatriz Garcia of OAA (Argentina)

IAAC Vice-Chair, Ileana Martinez of NVLAP-NIST (USA)

Treasurer, Keith Greenaway of ACLASS (USA)

MLA Committee Chair, Mauricio Soares of Cgre/Inmetro (Brazil)

MLA Committee Vice-Chair, Alexander Pineda of OGA (Guatemala)

Technical Committee Chair, Johanna Acuña of ECA (Costa Rica)

Technical Committee Vice-Chair, Peter Unger of A2LA (USA)

Laboratories Subcommittee Chair, Bertha Munguia of A2LA (USA)

Laboratories Subcommittee Vice-Chair, Barbara J. Belzer of NVLAP (USA)

Certification Bodies Subcommittee Chair, Ignacio Guerreiro of OAA (Argentina)

Certification Bodies Subcommittee
Vice-Chair, Steve Cross of SCC (Canada)

Inspection Bodies Subcommittee
Chair, Eduardo Ceballos of INN (Chile)

Inspection Bodies Subcommittee Vice-
Chair, Sergio Hurtado of ema (Mexico)

Management Committee Chair,
Elizabeth Tejeda of ema (Mexico)

Management Committee Vice-Chair,
Cynthia Jimenez of ECA (Costa Rica)

Training Subcommittee Chair,
Francisco de la Barrera of CNA
(Panama)

Training Subcommittee Vice-Chair,
Peter Unger of A2LA (USA)

Promotions Subcommittee Chair, Jo
Ann Given of ASCLD/LAB (USA)

Promotions Subcommittee Vice-Chair,
Sandra Saraiva of Cgcre/Inmetro (Brazil)

Documentation Subcommittee Chair,
Maria Miranda of ONARC (Cuba)

Documentation Subcommittee
Vice-Chair, Liliane Somma of OUA
(Uruguay)

Training

Training is a key activity for IAAC. The following is a list of courses held and planned for 2008 and 2009:

- A Training exercise for IAAC peer evaluators was held 13-15 February 2008 in San Jose, Costa Rica.
- A Course on Proficiency Testing Validation Methods was held 2-4 March 2008 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- The third Part of the Workshop: 'Proficiency Testing workshop' was held 22-25 April 2008 in San Jose, Costa Rica.
- A training course on the implementation of ISO 17024 was held in Asunción, Paraguay 13-14 September 2008.
- A peer evaluator training course for Spanish speakers is to be held in Mexico in November 2008.
- A Training course on ISO 17020 is to be held in Panama in March 2009.
- A Peer Evaluator training course in English, with cooperation from APLAC, is planned for 2009 in the USA.
- A peer evaluator training course in Spanish is planned for September 2009 in the Americas.

IAAC Proficiency Testing programs 2007-2009

Proficiency Test for Volumetric Glassware

The program was organised by ema of Mexico. It started in March 2006 and was finalised in March 2008. The Centro Nacional de Metrología, CENAM, was the reference laboratory for the program. Thirty-one laboratories from 13 different accreditation bodies within the region participated in this program.

Proficiency Test for Meat

The program was organised by INTI and OAA of Argentina. This is the second program where APLAC and SADCA laboratories were also invited to participate. A preliminary report was submitted for revision on 29 August 2008 and the final report is due to be completed by the end of 2008. Seventy laboratories, 53 from IAAC, 7 from APLAC and 10 from SADCA, participated in this program.

Proficiency Test for Thermocouples

This program is currently under development by ECA of Costa Rica with support provided by NVLAP of the USA.

Proficiency Test for Mineral Testing Program

This mineral testing Proficiency Testing program is being organised by INN, Chile. IAAC will send the invitations to participants in November 2008. SADCA and APLAC members will also be invited. The only cost to participants will be for the transportation of the samples.

IAAC T003 Proficiency Test for Fatty Acids

IAAC T003 Fatty Acids composition in Vegetable Oil will be organised by OAA / INTI of Argentina. The invitations will be sent out in October 2008.

Proficiency Test for Wine for Testing Laboratories

A wine inter-comparison is being organised by IBMETRO of Bolivia. The details are under development.

Documents under development

Exercise of ISO/IEC 17025:2005

LSC formed a new working group to assist in further developing the exercise that will be based on all the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025. It will be a pilot exercise of no more than five

cases to be sent to the accreditation bodies for distribution to assessors. The goal of the exercise is to determine uniformity in assessments and promote harmonization. A report will be prepared to determine the level of harmonization and will provide useful information to be used by accreditation bodies in their own training programs. The exercise will be sent to the accreditation bodies by December 2008.

Need for peer evaluation requirement for Medical Laboratories and ISO 15189 Implementation Guide for Laboratories

LSC proposes a working group to examine the requirements for the assessment of medical laboratories for accreditation to ISO 15189:2007. (ILAC P-10, ILAC P-9 and the GUM, requirements for the peer evaluators on uncertainty, traceability, PT frequency.)

IAAC Library

This database started as a mirror of the non-ILAC documents, but it has grown and now includes several clinical documents. LSC will review and improve the list of clinical documents to determine which documents should be kept in the library.

Cooperation with international and regional organisations

Cooperation with IAF

Elva Nilssen, IAF Vice-Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings in Asunción, Paraguay, in September 2008.

Cooperation with ILAC

The ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC) meeting and the ILAC Marketing Seminar were held in Asunción, Paraguay, in September 2008, during the week of IAAC General Assembly meetings.

Cooperation with PAC

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

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Asia-Pacific regions.

Elva Nilsen, PAC Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings in Asunción, Paraguay, in September 2008. IAAC regularly conducts joint peer evaluations with PAC.

Cooperation with APLAC

Implementation of the IAAC and APLAC MoU has been progressing well with several successes in cooperation and participation in proficiency testing programs and training courses.

Laboratories from six APLAC members participated in the IAAC regional proficiency testing program on 'Meat analysis' organised by INTI and OAA in 2007. APLAC has invited IAAC members to nominate laboratories to participate in its proficiency testing programs during 2008.

APLAC invited IAAC to send a participant to the APLAC inspection workshop in Chinese Taipei.

APLAC and IAAC will hold a joint evaluator training course in the USA in 2009. The course will be coordinated by Ned Gravel of CALA (Canada) who convenes the APLAC evaluator training courses. The course presenters will include Ned and Barry Ashcroft (IANZ), the Chair of the APLAC MRA Council. In 2008 APLAC and IAAC have carried out two joint peer evaluations.

Cooperation with EA

Lorenzo Thione, EA Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings in Asunción, Paraguay, in September 2008, and delivered a presentation during the IAAC Seminar on the EU Accreditation system. Ileana Martinez, as the IAAC representative, attended the EA General Assemblies held in Bulgaria in 2007 and Estonia in 2008.

Cooperation with SADCA

Laboratories of four SADCA members participated in the IAAC regional proficiency testing program on "Meat analysis" organised by INTI and OAA in 2007.

Masego Marobela, SADCA Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings in Asunción, Paraguay, in September 2008.

Cooperation with SIM

As of 2007, an IAAC representative attends SIM General Assemblies.

Cooperation with COPANT

An IAAC representative attends COPANT General Assemblies and a COPANT representative attended the IAAC General Assembly in Asunción, Paraguay, in September 2008.

Biannual Dialogue, Latin America: Globalization and Quality Infrastructure

IAAC participated with a delegation at this key event organised by ECLAC/CEPAL which was held in Santiago, Chile, 26–27 August 2008. IAAC was invited by the PTB of Germany to provide a presentation regarding IAAC and to discuss the issues related to accreditation.

Technical Cooperation Projects

2007-2010 Organization of American States (OAS) Project

IAAC is currently implementing a four-year project which was approved by the OAS for technical support and cooperation for accreditation bodies in developing countries within the Americas region. The second year of the project which runs from June 2008 to March 2009 includes funding for the following activities:

- Witnessing of an IAAC peer evaluation.
- Peer evaluations of accreditation bodies.
- Training for peer evaluators.
- Technical training courses for ISO/IEC 17024 and ISO/IEC 17020.
- Three consultancies to a developing accreditation body.
- Three internships for staff of developing accreditation bodies.
- A seminar on accreditation.
- Proficiency testing programs.

IAAC-PTB Project

The PTB-IAAC technical cooperation project titled: "Regional Cooperation for Environmental Protection and Food Safety in Latin America and the Caribbean", includes the following activities for 2009 (the list is still open and may be increased). These activities

are in line with the IAAC Strategic Plan objectives.

- IV Workshop for proficiency testing.
- Workshop on the development of a Business Plan for accreditation bodies.
- Workshop on Good Practices in Accreditation.
- Comprehensive Training section on food safety (ISO 22000, GFSI and related schemes, including but not limited to Global GAP, BRC, SQF).
- Internship for accreditation bodies that are developing an inspection body scheme or accreditation bodies that have developed and established such a scheme or training for less developed accreditation bodies.
- Training on ISO/IEC 17011 in Mexico, in November 2008, for non-OAS project beneficiaries.
- Training for peer evaluators in 2009 for non-OAS project beneficiaries.

International Accreditation Day

IAAC members organised events throughout the Americas promoting the benefits of accreditation on 9 June 2008 – the first international celebration of accreditation day.

IAAC meetings

The 13th General Assembly meetings were held in Asunción, Paraguay, 6-12 September 2008. The meetings included the Executive Committee, MLA Committee, Committees and Subcommittees.

IAAC future meetings

The 31st Executive Committee meeting is to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 19-20 February 2009.

The IAAC MLA Committee meeting is to be held in Buenos Aires on 18 February 2009.

IAAC Information and Publications

IAAC has implemented a Members Only section on the IAAC website with information for its members and each Committee and Subcommittee.

IAAC documents and information on members are available at the IAAC web site: www.iaac.org.mx 

You're invited to a break-out session at 'Metrology 2009'



By Frédérique Laudinet, EA Secretariat

Within the framework of the 14th International Congress of Metrology taking place in Paris from 22 to 25 June 2009, the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) will organise a roundtable session dealing with the economic and strategic issues of accreditation. It is scheduled for Wednesday 24 June from 3.30 to 5.30 pm.

Hundreds of manufacturers and scientists from all over the world will have an opportunity to participate in this event entitled "Accreditation and accredited

conformity assessment services: efficient tools designed to promote and consolidate metrological culture and practices in modern economies and societies".

*Hundreds of manufacturers
and scientists from all
over the world will have an
opportunity to participate in
this roundtable event*

The discussions will be led by Lorenzo Thione, the EA Chairman, and focus on three themes:

1. Metrological quality, product quality and business development

Metrological quality underpins the quality of various processes and services in manufacturing, health, safety and environmental fields, as well as in many other fields with an important social dimension.

Achieving metrological quality is obviously a costly requirement for any private or public, profit-making or non-profit-making company. But it is indispensable to improving its customers' and subcontractors' confidence, to boost its competitiveness, to ensure its long-term viability, to increase its innovation capacity and to strengthen its potential for national and international development.

2. Accreditation fostering the development of metrological best practices and culture

A broadly generalised metrological quality will result only from a large development of metrological culture and best practices within the relevant structures.

In fact, accreditation is not recognised enough. Accreditation should increase its visibility by means of actions raising business and public awareness of the values and guarantees offered by accreditation. All interested parties should also reinforce their participation in implementing accreditation in accordance with the new European legislation that imparts a major role and responsibility to all economic operators including national authorities.

3. Accreditation: a key asset for the economic development of emerging countries

Accreditation through accredited conformity assessment services plays a strategic role in economic and social development. Indeed Euro-Mediterranean countries, such as Tunisia whose national accreditation body will be represented during EA's roundtable discussions, are eager to set up conformity assessment infrastructures complying with the European model in order to facilitate their exports to Europe, to increase their national growth and to improve their citizens' standard of living. It is worth considering how to support these countries' development while maintaining the European market's growth. 

PARIS
June 22-25
2009

International Congress of
METROLOGY

www.cfmetrologie.com

From the APLAC Secretariat



By Helen Liddy and Janet Clark, APLAC Secretariat

A very successful week of APLAC 2008 meetings was held in Singapore (6-12 December).

Congratulations and thank you to SAC and its staff for organising the program of meetings and very enjoyable social events. Our special thanks go to Chang Kwei Fern, Chin Poh Yin, Lee Ham Eng, Karen Yeo and Jason Tan.

APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

We are pleased to advise that, at the APLAC MRA Council meeting on 10-11 December 2008, the suspension of PAO's (Philippines) recognition in the MRA for testing and calibration was lifted. At the same meeting the recognition of ACLASS (USA) was extended to include RMP, and the recognition of NABL (India) was extended to include ISO 15189. There are now 28 signatories to the APLAC MRA, including 12 for inspection, 10 for ISO 15189 and five for RMP. Full details of the scopes of recognition of each APLAC MRA signatory can be found on the APLAC website.

APLAC General Assembly

The APLAC General Assembly was held in Singapore on 11-12 December 2008.

The main issues arising from the General Assembly and other meetings were:

Elections of APLAC office bearers (for details see below).

The decision in principle to consider applications for APLAC membership from outside the current geographic reach, for example from Central Asia.

The decision in principle to offer accreditation bodies outside the APLAC region access to the APLAC MRA for RMP by means of contracts of cooperation.

The decision to offer training as an APLAC evaluator to suitably qualified persons from ILAC unaffiliated bodies.

The endorsement of a training workshop on ISO 15189 to be held in New Zealand covering new directions around POCT and developments in measurement traceability in laboratory medicine.

The endorsement of a workshop on the accreditation of PT scheme providers to be held in the USA (hosted by A2LA).

The endorsement of the conduct of a survey on members' training needs over the next five years.

The endorsement of a workshop for APLAC lead evaluators to be held in Hong Kong China in mid-May.

A review of the draft APLAC strategic plan.

A discussion on the Task Force of the Future issues paper.

Consideration of the issues to be addressed and the processes needed to be implemented to allow for closer cooperation with PAC on evaluations of ABs with memberships in common.

The endorsement of a proposal from the MRA Effectiveness Working Group to undertake a pilot study of the cost benefits and effectiveness of the APLAC MRA.

The recognition by acclamation of the many contributions to APLAC and its activities over the years by Wei Hao (CNAS) who has moved to a different organisation within the Chinese technical infrastructure.

New Office Bearers

Congratulations to the following on their election during the General Assembly meeting:

Terence Chan of HKAS was re-elected as Chair of APLAC.

Barry Ashcroft of IANZ was re-elected as MRA Council Chair.

Regina Robertson of NATA, Roxanne Robinson of A2LA and Vu Xuan Thuy of BoA were elected to the three vacant positions on the APLAC Board of Management.

Zhang Mingxia of CNAS was elected as Chair of the Training Committee; Trace McInturff of A2LA was elected as Chair of the Technical Committee; Dan Tholan (representing A2LA) was elected Chair of

the PT Committee and Alan Patterson of NATA was elected as Chair of the Public Information Committee.

APLAC Workshops/Training courses in 2008

Inspection Accreditation Workshop in Chinese Taipei on 27-29 October, followed by an optional two-day visit to inspection bodies on 30-31 October. Thank you to Nigel Jou (TAF), Geoff Hallam (IANZ), Per Lundmark (SWEDAC) and Julian Wilson (NATA) who were the trainers. Per and Julian were late replacements for two of the original trainers who were unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. APLAC appreciates their assistance very much. Thanks also to Wanji Yang for her assistance with the organisation of the workshop.

RMP Train the Trainers Workshop in Hong Kong China on 17-19 November. Thank you to Ales Fajgelj (IAEA), Randy Querry (A2LA) and Jeff Ruddle (UKAS) who were the trainers. Thank you to W W Wong for his good work in organising this workshop.

APLAC Evaluator training course for nominated APLAC evaluators in Singapore on 3-5 December. We thank Ned Gravel (CALA) and Barry Ashcroft (IANZ) for again being the facilitators, assisted by Helen. Thank you also to Lee Ham Eng who assisted with the organisation of the course. Special thanks to Ned for the new format and curriculum that were most successful. They will be used again in a joint APLAC/IAAC evaluator course to be held in the US in March 2009.

New Members

APLAC welcomes two new Associate Members:

- Proficiency Testing Australia.
- Family Health International (Thailand office).

APLAC meetings in 2009

The mid-2009 APLAC MRA Council meeting will be held in Hong Kong China on 21-22 May, preceded by a two-day lead evaluator workshop.

The 2009 APLAC General Assembly and associated meetings will be held in Bali, Indonesia, hosted by KAN, in the week 5-11 December 2009. 



Delegates at the 22nd EA General Assembly in Estoril, Portugal.

Communiqué from the 22nd EA General Assembly



The discussions held at the 22nd EA General Assembly on 18 and 19 November 2008 in Estoril in Portugal reflected the enhanced status of EA and the whole spectrum of its increasing responsibilities as a major European and international network within the accreditation world.

Consolidated EA cooperation and structure

As agreed by the Assembly, EA now includes two new Contract of Cooperation signatories, namely the accreditation bodies of Montenegro (ATCG) and Kazakhstan (NCA). Another Contract of Cooperation is about to be concluded with the Egyptian Accreditation Council once merged with the other national accreditation structure. The EA General Assembly (GA) has also endorsed the termination of the membership of DATech, whose activities have merged into TGA: a promising step towards the establishment of a unified German accreditation body.

Besides EA will sign a cooperation agreement jointly with CEN and CENELEC during a special event planned to be organised by CEN in Brussels on 21 January 2009. A memorandum of understanding has already been concluded with EEPKA, the European Electrical Product Certification Association, on 18 November 2008 on the occasion of the General Assembly. In addition to improving its European dimension and visibility, EA will reinforce its cooperation at the international level since the GA has mandated the EA Chair to sign a memorandum of understanding with APLAC.

A new structure is emerging within EA: the last GA endorsed the draft terms of reference of the Horizontal Harmonization Committee (HHC). The HCC will liaise with the EA technical committees in order to: examine horizontal technical issues regarding the application of general accreditation requirements on different types of conformity assessment bodies; consider horizontal aspects of the assessment of notified bodies and elaborate decisions regarding EA's cooperation with sector schemes. The HHC, whose Chair has been elected by the GA in the person

of Merih Malmqvist, will be accountable to the GA for all its activities.

The GA meeting in Estoril also endorsed the revised Terms of Reference of the Communications and Publications Committee (CPC) which, as agreed at the previous GA meeting in Tallinn, had been reviewed so as to include benchmarking activities and increase communication among EA accreditation bodies. A benchmarking framework will be elaborated and implemented in order to transfer accreditation knowledge and best practices between AB members. Moreover, communication will be facilitated among EA members to exchange knowledge and share experience with a view to harmonising the application of accreditation criteria and contribute to issues related to the operation and management of accreditation bodies. It will also promote cooperation with authorities and other stakeholders.

At last, the GA elected Torleif Hauge (NA) as member of the Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) to replace I. Matsas (ESYD) for one year up to the end of the mandate of the current FOC. The GA also adopted the annual financial audit report for 2007. It asked

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Yavuz Cabbar, Chairman of TURKAK and Gro Rodland, Chair of the MLA Committee sign the EA MLA for product certification and certification of persons.

the Executive Committee to satisfy the recommendations by the FOC regarding the structure of reserves, the management of an activity-based budget (in place for 2009) and the procedure for control of expenditures.

The new EC legislation: impending implementation...

While welcoming the adoption by the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament of the “New Internal Market Package for Goods”, the

last General Assembly passed a resolution outlining the EA statement of recognition of equal reliability of attestations of conformity issued under IAF/ILAC MLA/MRA accreditation.

In short, accredited reports and



The Chairman of EA, Lorenzo Thione congratulates Ranko Nikolic, director of ATCG, the accreditation body of Montenegro, for signing a cooperation agreement with EA.



V. Baggio, President of the European Electrical Products Certification Association (EECPA) and Lorenzo Thione, Chairman of EA sign the EA/EECPA MoU.

certificates issued by non EA Full Member country-based accreditation body signatories to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement and IAF Multilateral Agreement (but not signatories to the EA Multilateral Agreement or holding a bilateral agreement with EA) are considered to be equally reliable as those issued under accreditation within the EA MLA and BLAs. Please visit our website to upload the full text of the resolution.

... and implications for EA

The last General Assembly marked a new step in the actions under way to turn the association into a more professional one able to properly manage its new role, obligations and responsibilities as set forth in Regulation 765/2008.

A draft revision of the EA Articles of Association and Rules of Procedure, aiming at enhancing the efficiency of EA's operations as well as its visibility, will be subject to a formal 60-day period of written comments immediately after the Executive Committee's meeting in January 2009. The objective is to submit a final proposal for approval to the General Assembly in May 2009.

The delegates to the GA were also invited to discuss the draft EA policy for relations with stakeholders which, in addition to strengthening the role of the

EA Advisory Board (EAAB), should help enlarge and optimise the participation of stakeholder organizations in the activities of the association. The EAAB Terms of Reference are being revised in parallel to reflect the new role given to the EAAB by the Regulation and its consequences in operational terms. A revised draft will be submitted for approval at the next EAAB meeting in April 2009 and to the General Assembly in May.

The EA Development Plan has been reported by the convenors of the different sub-projects. SP 1 Harmonisation of assessment practices in view of notification has finalised the draft guidance on the horizontal requirements for the assessment of notified bodies. It is presently being circulated for a final round of comments, which will be consolidated in a final draft to be presented to the SOGS in 2009.

The task entrusted to SP 2 Information and knowledge database, which consists of setting up networks of contact points to enable EA members to access and exchange relevant information and data on Directives, has considerably progressed. It has resulted in several recommendations approved by the General Assembly. Networks should be created for 18 schemes covering 26 EC Directives provided the number of ABs proposing convenors for the networks is sufficient. The new HHC will supervise operations of the established

Directive networks in close cooperation with the EA technical committees.

The results of the benchmarking survey launched by SP3 among EA accreditation bodies to evaluate their Communications with the National Regulators are being consolidated and are expected in the very near future. The best way to use the results as well as the identification of the next steps will be elaborated within the following weeks.

At last, the GA will be kept informed of the progress made by SP 5 Enhancing the peer evaluation process, which helps to build confidence in the robustness of the process. The draft document on the development of the peer evaluation process and its tailoring to the specific technical area of activity serviced by accreditation bodies provides an excellent basis for further discussion. Its system-based approach is fully capable of accommodating the specific needs of regulatory sectors, including the accreditation of CABs designated as notified bodies under Community legislation. The best way to value and use expertise from both national regulators and notified bodies will be examined by the sub-project group before being put forward to the SOGS. The idea that the EA MAC could constitute a special group of evaluators trained to look at the different schemes formed by the EC

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Directives, and include one evaluator of this group as an extra person into the evaluation team during each peer evaluation, will also be submitted to the SOGS. The whole task should be near completion by May 2009 even if a lot of work will remain to be done within accreditation bodies.

Strengthened partnership links between EA and the European Commission

EA's relations with the European Commission will also be further reinforced through the Guides for cooperation between EA, EC, EFTA and competent national authorities, whose approbation and signature were mandated to the EA Executive Committee and Chair by the General Assembly. There are good prospects that the signing will take place at the beginning of 2009.

The collaborative links with the EC services continue to develop in a very constructive way. The General Assembly expressed its support for EA's cooperation with DG Environment to actively promote the use of accreditation in the EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) and elaborate an EA position paper on the proposed revision of the Regulation on the Community Eco-Management and Audit System (EMAS). It notably endorsed the revised draft Terms of Reference of the new Working Group on the EU ETS to be established by the Executive Committee, and appointed Niels-Christian Dalstrup (DANAK) as the WG's convener.

The GA also encouraged EA's contribution with DG Agriculture to foster the application of accreditation in the fields of organic production, geographic indication and designation of origin as well as guaranteeing the traditional specialities. EA is also involved in the design and piloting of an accreditation/certification scheme project for breast cancer units in Europe in cooperation with DGs Enterprise and Health and Consumer Protection.

The EA Certification Committee (CC) echoed by the GA

While resolving to disband the CC Working Group on ISMS (Information Security Management System) certification, the EA General Assembly ratified the Certification Committee's recommendation providing that accreditation of certification to ISO 28000 in the field of Security Management System for the supply chain should be made according to ISO 28003 in combination with ISO/IEC 17021. 

Accreditation Update

Dubai Accreditation Department



Ms Amina Ahmed Mohammed, Director of DAC presents the accreditation certificate to Dr Johann Arnold of MEDLAB Analytik, Dubai. Dr Saad and Engr Shahid look on.

DAC launches new accreditation schemes

The Dubai Accreditation Department (DAC) has launched three new accreditation schemes for conformity assessment bodies.

The first accreditation was granted in the field of medical testing to MEDLAB Analytik, Dubai according to the international standard ISO 15189.

The accreditation certificate presentation ceremony was held in Dubai Health Care City. Ms Amina Ahmed Mohammed, Director of the Dubai Accreditation Department presented the accreditation certificate to Dr Johann Arnold, Managing Director of MEDLAB Analytik, Dubai.

At the presentation, Ms Ahmed congratulated the staff of the laboratory for their great achievement. She also emphasised the need for the accreditation of more laboratories according to ISO 15189 to provide reliable test results and so enhance the quality of health care services.

DAC also granted its first accreditation to Bureau Verits Certification, Dubai for food safety management system (ISO 22000) and HACCP certification according to ISO/IEC 17021.

In addition, DAC granted first accreditation to Dubai Central Laboratory Inspection & Certification Section, Dubai for product certification for concrete products according to ISO/IEC Guide 65.

DAC signs MoU with Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)

The Dubai Accreditation Department (DAC) has become a full member of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC). Ms Amina Ahmed Mohammed, Director of DAC signed the MoU with PAC in the presence of the PAC Chairperson, Ms Elva Nilsen and PAC Secretary Ms Belinda Mort during the joint ILAC/IAF General Assembly in Stockholm in October 2008.

(DAC)



Mr Muhammad Shahid Rasool Head of the CB Accreditation Section of DAC receiving a certificate from Ms Pega Rahimi, ICA Executive Secretary during the 4th International Conference of Auditors & Lead Auditors. Dr Mehdi Khademi, ICA President looks on.

International Conference of Auditors & Lead Auditors held 11-12 November 2008 in Dubai.

Delegates from 25 countries attended the conference. Various aspects of auditing were covered in the two days of sessions. For instance, Mr Muhammad Shahid Rasool, Head of the Certifying Body (CB) Accreditation Section of DAC presented a paper titled "Management system audit vs accreditation audit". 

DAC participates in International Conference of Auditors & Lead Auditors

The Dubai Accreditation Department (DAC) actively participated in the 4th

The Argentine Accreditation Body



OAA's news

The Argentine Accreditation Body (OAA) is pleased to announce two new accreditation activities for laboratories. The first, concerns conformity assessment, and the second relates to non-clinical health and environmental studies. The new programs are:

- Accreditation of proficiency testing providers, according to ISO/IEC Guide 43:1997 and ILAC-G13:08/2007.
- Monitoring of compliance with the Principles of Good Laboratory Practice following the directives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). 



Ms Amina Ahmed Mohammed,, Director of DAC signing the MoU with PAC in the presence of PAC Chairperson, Ms Elva Nilsen and PAC Secretary, Ms Belinda Mort.

Jordanian Accreditation Unit (AU)

AU signs medical laboratory accreditation MoU

The Jordanian Accreditation Unit (AU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jordan Society of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine on 30 November 2008. The memorandum organises mutual support in the fields of quality control, accreditation of medical laboratories, exchange of information

and expertise and the promotion of accreditation among medical laboratories.

The overall goals of the memorandum are: raising the level of medical services provided to people in Jordan, improving the quality infrastructure, and verifying medical laboratories' competence in testing. This is in addition to

spreading the importance and culture of accreditation among all interested parties.

AU started the accreditation of medical laboratories in 2007. Since then, AU has accredited three laboratories according to the international requirements – ISO 15198. 

AU launches a construction Proficiency Testing Scheme (PTS)

The Jordanian Accreditation Unit (AU) has organised a PTS in the field of construction for testing aggregates. The scheme is organised among national construction testing laboratories from governmental, private and research sectors. The 14 participating laboratories are either accredited, applying for accreditation or intending to apply for accreditation. The purpose of their involvement is to promote the quality of their measurements according to national and international methods, and to demonstrate the importance of participating in a PTS as a tool for accreditation and assessment. A report will be issued at the end of the scheme to all participants.

The scheme complies with the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 43:1997. A national construction laboratory, accredited by AU, was chosen as a reference laboratory for the scheme in order to fulfill the technical aspects of the scheme (that is, sample preparation, transport, and homogeneity testing in addition to the analysis of the results).

Overall direction of the scheme is provided by the Advisory Group (AG), which is designated by AU. The technical advisories are assigned on a professional basis and are chosen from technical assessors working with AU with known comprehensive and in-depth expertise through combined education, experience and knowledge.

AU hopes that this scheme will establish firm confidence at the national level regarding the use of inter-laboratory comparison tests as a valuable tool for laboratory performance improvement, so that it becomes part of the quality system of any laboratory.

This is the second such national scheme that has taken place in Jordan. The first one was during 2004 in the field of water testing. The need for AU to develop such schemes emerged from the fact that there aren't any national bodies providing such services and the costs of participation in international schemes are high. 

TAF produces 'ILAC Laboratory Combined MRA Mark' plate

By Wanji Yang

TAF has designed and produced the ceramic 'ILAC Laboratory Combined MRA Mark' plate for the purpose of promoting the ILAC MRA and the use of the Laboratory Combined Mark.

TAF conducted a survey on the recognition and benefits of the ILAC MRA in April 2008 among its accredited organisations. It was found that there was a strong need to promote the ILAC MRA Mark and the benefits of using the ILAC Laboratory Combined MRA Mark.

In order to make the ILAC Laboratory Combined MRA Mark easily visible, TAF cooperated with a ceramic design house to design a solid ceramic format for accredited organisations to hang on the wall. Each ceramic MRA Mark plate is handcrafted and unique.

TAF also issued a notice explaining the idea and encouraged accredited



TAF-designed ceramic 'ILAC Laboratory Combined MRA Mark'.

organisations to sign the sub-licence agreement with TAF. In total, TAF granted more than 1200 ceramic MRA Mark plates at events such as workshops, seminars and a specific granting ceremony as well as

by post. TAF has received lots of positive responses from the accredited organisations, and looks forward to signing further sub-licence agreements as well as the enhanced recognition and use of the ILAC MRA. 

Uzstandart Agency



Participants in the Regional Workshop on Proficiency Testing – Uzstandart Agency.

Uzstandart Agency holds regional PT Seminar

by Mr Abdukahhar Abduvaliev, Director General, Uzstandart agency, and Ms. Shakhnoza Yuldashova, International Relations Department, Uzstandart agency

Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Certification of Uzbekistan (Uzstandart agency) has been implementing a wide range of strategies to develop a national accreditation system. The focus is on improving the system to be in line with international best practices and conform to the requirements of International Standards. A series of seminars and workshops were designed to enhance the competence and reliability of the whole accreditation system. Close collaboration with international and regional partners as well as government support allowed Uzstandart to achieve this objective and demonstrate its significance.

In collaboration with the German Federal Metrology Institute, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)'s International Technical Cooperation Programme a Regional Workshop on Proficiency Testing (PT) was held at the Uzstandart in Tashkent 27–29 October 2008. This three-day workshop brought together 25 representatives from Accreditation Bodies and Testing Laboratories in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. It was the second of a series of seminars, with the first one held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) in June 2008. The workshop was conducted by PTB experts – Beatriz Paniagua (Costa Rica) and Manfred Kindler (Germany). The aim of the workshop was to facilitate discussion on future commitments for regional cooperation among the national

A series of seminars and workshops were designed to enhance the competence and reliability of the whole accreditation system.

accreditation bodies in coordinating regional proficiency testing schemes. In particular, the focal point of the meeting was to recognise the importance of supporting and developing cross-border PT schemes in order to enhance the technical competence of accredited laboratories throughout the Central Asian region.

Along with the theoretical and economic aspects of regional PT schemes, the workshop incorporated practical elements

concerning transportation, testing, analysis of samples, distribution of results, statistical evaluation, management and document control in operating inter-laboratory comparisons. During the workshop, participants also reviewed the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 43:1997 *Proficiency Testing by Inter-laboratory Comparisons – Part 1: Development and operation of proficiency testing schemes*, Part 2: *Selection and use of proficiency testing schemes by laboratory accreditation bodies* and ILAC – G13: 2007 *Guidelines for the Requirements for the Competence of Providers of Proficiency Testing Schemes*. Furthermore, participants were able to discuss issues they are facing in designing, operating and coordinating PT schemes as well as identify collective solutions with the support of international experts.

The workshop ended by planning the next seminar, which is scheduled to take place in March 2009 in Dushanbe (Tajikistan).

The important conclusions reached at the workshop were, firstly, that it was the first collective move towards enhancing the national accreditation systems of each participating country and, secondly, the credibility of the national accreditation systems will therefore be increased at an international level. 

National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA)



Gulf Accreditation Center delegates visit NATA

Three members of a steering committee set up to establish the Gulf Accreditation Center (GAC) in the Middle East, visited NATA's Sydney office in mid-December. The purpose of their visit was to finalise the business model and organisational structure of the GAC, a new regional accreditation body that will service the accreditation needs of Bahrain, Kuwait,

Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The centre will be one of only a very few regional accreditation bodies in the world. According to the GAC's parent body, the Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO), "the center mirrors the ambition of [Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)] member states to deal with the outer world in the form of a single economy."

The three delegates were: Mr Mohamed Al-Badri, Deputy Director General, Emirates Authority of Standardization and Metrology (ESMA); Mr Fathy Abdel Rehim Ahmed Eid, Conformity Assessment Specialist, GSO; and Ms Masomah Ghloom Ali Akbar, Quality Manager and Management Representative, Public Authority of Industry, Kuwait.

NATA General Manager, Corporate Services and Business Development, Graeme Drake and former NATA Chief

Executive, John Gilmour led the talks, which took place over five days. "These discussions were tremendously useful in clearly establishing the way forward," said Mr Drake. "NATA is proud to assist with this important project in passing on our expertise. It will mean the citizens of Gulf countries can be assured the tests performed meet the highest possible standards."

NATA's involvement will continue until 2010 when it is hoped the centre will be operational. The GAC will be a legal entity under the GCC and will incorporate procedures and staff drawn from the existing accreditation functions in the region.

NATA has thus far advised on the GAC's draft law on accreditation, prepared drafts of the Rules document, toured the region assessing its accreditation functions, and proposed



Left to right: Susan Jones, Project Coordinator, NATA; John Gilmour, former NATA Chief Executive; Masomah Ghloom Ali Akbar, Public Authority of Industry, Kuwait; Graeme Drake, General Manager, Corporate Services & Business Development, NATA; Mohamed Al-Badri, Emirates Authority of Standardization and Metrology (ESMA); Fathy Abdel Rehim Ahmed Eid, GSO.

an overall business model, organisational structure and management system. It will also provide operational policies and documentation. Following the delegates' visit, NATA has continued its work refining the framework for the quality system and the quality manual which will draw on existing material, NATA's controlled documents and other best

practice from around the world.

In February this year, NATA field managers, Bettina Poxleitner, Julian Wilson and Paul McMullen completed documented accreditation requirements in construction materials testing, inspection and calibration - the three fields covered by NATA's current contract with the GAC. "It is important that

there be substantial local input into the development and documentation of the centre's systems, policies and procedures," Mr Drake said.

It is hoped that in due course a further contract with the GAC will expand NATA's involvement to include other fields as well as extensive training services. 

NATA signs agreement with Dubai

Stronger technical and accreditation ties with the Gulf region will result from an agreement signed between NATA and the Dubai Accreditation Department (DAC). NATA Chief Executive, Alan Patterson said its aim is to encourage strong accreditation links and relationships between the two organisations.

The Agreement on Technical Cooperation was signed on 27 January 2009 by Mr Patterson and the Director Designation of the Dubai Municipality Accreditation Department, Ms Amina Ahmed Mohammed. It came into force immediately.

The agreement features a five-point

plan for cooperation, including providing opportunities for the DAC to witness NATA assessments, mutual guidance and assistance in the preparation of seminars, conferences and workshops, and cooperation in training projects.

As well, the agreement allows the DAC to contract appropriate NATA technical assessors and encourages the implementation of ILAC and IAF Cross-Frontier Accreditation policies in the United Arab Emirates.

Mr Patterson said that although the signed agreement is not a binding legal document, it does highlight the advantages both organisations see in the development

of a close relationship offering strong accreditation and technical links.

The areas of cooperation will change from time to time, and are designed to contribute to the further development of the national accreditation system for the United Arab Emirates, and the regional work that is being undertaken with NATA's assistance to establish the Gulf Accreditation Centre.

"Both the DAC and NATA believe this opportunity for staff interaction, information exchange, joint assessments, training and other forms of collaboration will bring a significant amount of benefit to both organisations," Mr Patterson said. 

The Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA)



HAA's social and economic contribution

By HAA Director General, M.Sc. Biserka Bajzek Brezak

The Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA) is an independent, not-for-profit public institution, which has so far granted 128 accreditations. HAA was established on 1 July 2005 by the Croatian government on behalf of the Republic of Croatia.

Accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union brings a number of new regulations that aim to achieve harmonisation with the EU acquis communautaire, especially those covered by the chapter concerning the free movement of goods and safety of products. During 2008, Croatia has continued to

make progress towards an alignment of horizontal legislation with the acquis and has demonstrated good progress towards the transposition of the New and Old Approach Directives. Furthermore, Croatia had to develop a national quality infrastructure that consists of the institutions responsible for metrology, standards, accreditation and competent and accredited laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.

Such infrastructure is needed not only to support manufacturers in product and process control, but also for market surveillance and consumer protection purposes. Food safety and environment protection are also important for the protection of public interests. In that respect, HAA has a significant impact. In order to fulfill its role, the HAA has made progress in staffing. In 2005 HAA had only eight employees, but since then, in keeping with its strategy, it has strengthened its administrative capacity. HAA now has 23 professionals who have

contributed to the successful development of its activities.

Strengthening the national quality infrastructure is very important for the Republic of Croatia's further economic development. Its national accreditation system guarantees its traceability to the infrastructure on the European and world level.

The HAA became a full member of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) on 17 November 2005, only a few months after its foundation. HAA has been actively participating in the work of General Assembly Meetings and technical committees organised by EA, namely the Multilateral Agreement Committee, Laboratory Committee, Certification and Inspection Committee, Communications and Publication Committee as well as working groups for health and other ad hoc working groups.

HAA submitted the application for peer evaluation on 1 March 2007 after

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fulfilling all the conditions required for accreditation bodies. An evaluation team from EA visited HAA in June 2008 and evaluated the management system. The report was sent a month later and the team concluded that HAA has competent and experienced staff, an appropriate structure in the organisation and performs professional assessments on site. The team recommended the continuation of the peer evaluation process of the HAA and the EA Multilateral Agreement Committee decided to continue with the evaluation of HAA in the year 2009.

On the international level, HAA is an Associate member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the activities of HAA have been developed in line with the ILAC rules. After concluding the multilateral agreements with EA (EA MLA), HAA will have a direct approach to membership of the ILAC MRA.

All the HAA personnel, including board members, council and external associates (assessors) are well acquainted with the policy and objectives of HAA, have good knowledge of relevant

standards, normative documents and quality system documents, and implement the acquired knowledge in their work.

All the HAA personnel (internal and external) are required to comply with the rules determined by HAA, as well as with the requirements for impartiality and independence in the procedures, confidentiality regarding the documents and data of the clients, other parties and HAA, as well as to respect the requirement for the absence of conflicts of interest.

Granted Accreditation Certificates are published on the HAA website www.akreditacija.hr.

Challenges for HAA in 2009

- Amending the Law on Accreditation in line with the new EU Regulation for accreditation and market surveillance.
- Extension of the scope of accreditation activities – according to the needs of the state administrative bodies for technical regulation implementations:

food, water, soil, industrial products, waste, noise, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, forensic testing, etc.

Development of new accreditation scopes or areas:

- Information Security Management System (ISMS).
- EMAS (Eco Management & Auditing Scheme).
- Strengthening of professional capacities of employees and external experts (Lead Assessors, Assessors and Experts).
- Evaluation of HAA by EA for the purpose of concluding EA-MLA.
- Extension of international cooperation with other accreditation bodies and continuation of performing joint educational and training activities.

All these activities of HAA will significantly contribute to Croatian efforts to regulate its internal market as well as facilitate international trade and remove trade barriers with other countries. 

Cofrac

Inspection of buried tanks covered by accreditation



By Laurent Rouillot

The decree of 22 June 1998 relating to buried flammable liquid tanks and their associated equipment subject to authorisation or declaration, under section 1432 of the installations classified for environmental protection, requires the sealing on these tanks to be inspected.

Laurent Schneider, accreditation manager at Cofrac responsible for this sector, feels

that in the end, there will be less than half of the one hundred bodies initially present in this very specific market. “With a few well-known specialists, and a good half of them carry out very few inspections (fewer than 10 per year),” he said.

“Until recently, this type of inspection was carried out by private companies who had obtained authorisation from the MEEDDAT (Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Regional Development)”. It must also be pointed out that this authorisation was obtained by a simple written request.

“In short, this concerns tanks at petrol stations almost exclusively,” added Mr Schneider. “The Ministry set up a working group in 2005/2006 and began to look at how these authorisations would be awarded. It decided quite quickly to base the award of these authorisations on Cofrac accreditation.

“The Ministry made this decision following a series of accidents (explosions at petrol stations) that made increased inspections absolutely vital.”

In addition, Cofrac accreditation is a way to recognise the skills of bodies that are called on

to carry out this type of inspection.

“Of around one hundred bodies potentially concerned at the beginning, about half of them have started the procedure,” said Mr Schneider. “The others, given that they didn’t contact us within the right timeframe, lost their authorisation automatically on 30 June.”

From now on, the bodies that have launched the procedure have until the end of December 2009 to be assessed by Cofrac. Then from 1 January 2010, authorisation will only be given to bodies already accredited by Cofrac.

As for the type of organisations that have contacted Cofrac, Mr Schneider emphasised that these are mostly medium-sized structures.

Training sessions were held during the last quarter of 2008 for the assessors, especially technical assessors, involved in this extremely specialised domain.

“The first assessments were conducted at the end of 2008, with accreditations most likely to be awarded throughout the second semester of 2009”, said Mr Schneider. 

The future of the German accreditation system



By J. Thiele and F. Behrens

The present situation

The German accreditation system started with a sector-specific background and has continued to develop as such over the last 20 years. As a consequence, several individual accreditation bodies covering different areas of expertise now exist in Germany. Nonetheless, the German accreditation system enjoys an excellent international reputation.

The German Accreditation Council (DAR) was founded in 1991 as an umbrella organisation and voluntary working group with coordinating tasks. The DAR is not a legal entity and does not perform accreditations itself. Accreditation is carried out by the accreditation bodies under the umbrella of DAR and by other governmental accreditation bodies. As long as there are several individual accreditation bodies, coordination between them is needed to guarantee the effectiveness of the accreditation system in Germany.

In Germany, a distinction is made between accreditation of conformity assessment bodies in the voluntary area and those in the mandatory area. At present, there are five private accreditation bodies and 14 governmental accreditation bodies/designating authorities operating in these two areas responsible for sector-specific tasks with very little overlap.

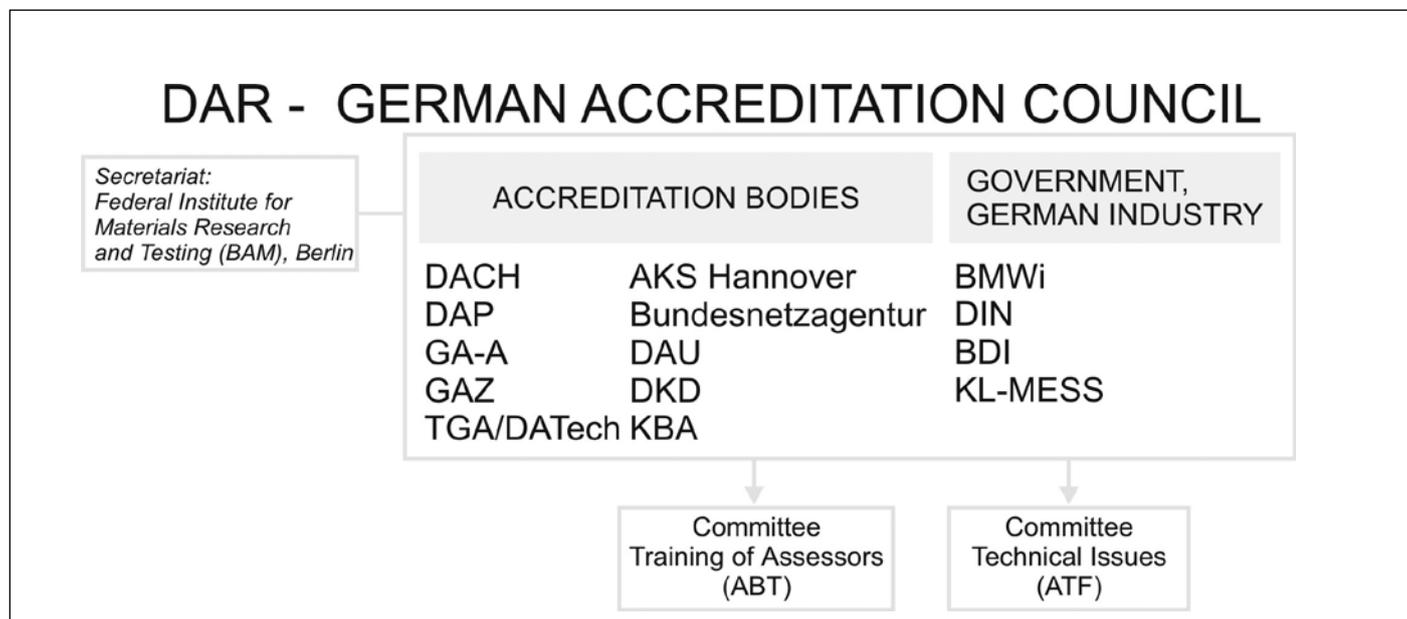
As long as there are several individual accreditation bodies, coordination between them is needed to guarantee the effectiveness of the accreditation system in Germany.

However, in some areas private and governmental accreditation bodies cooperate very closely. In certain cases, the German authorities recognise accreditations granted by private accreditation bodies.

The members of DAR comprise private and governmental accreditation bodies and interested parties, such as the national standardisation body (DIN), the Federation of German Industry (BDI), the Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMW_i) and a representative of legal metrology (KL-MESS). The DAR members are shown in Picture 1, below.

The accreditation body members use the jointly agreed DAR accreditation certificate (see Picture 2). The accredited conformity assessment bodies can use the protected DAR accreditation symbol (see Picture 5) on their documents of conformity assessment results. The statistics of accreditations granted by DAR member accreditation bodies as of 19 February 2009 are shown in Picture 4. The number of DAR-accredited conformity assessment bodies comes to 3330. The DAR also runs a freely accessible database of accredited conformity assessment bodies (see Picture 3) which is linked to the database of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA).

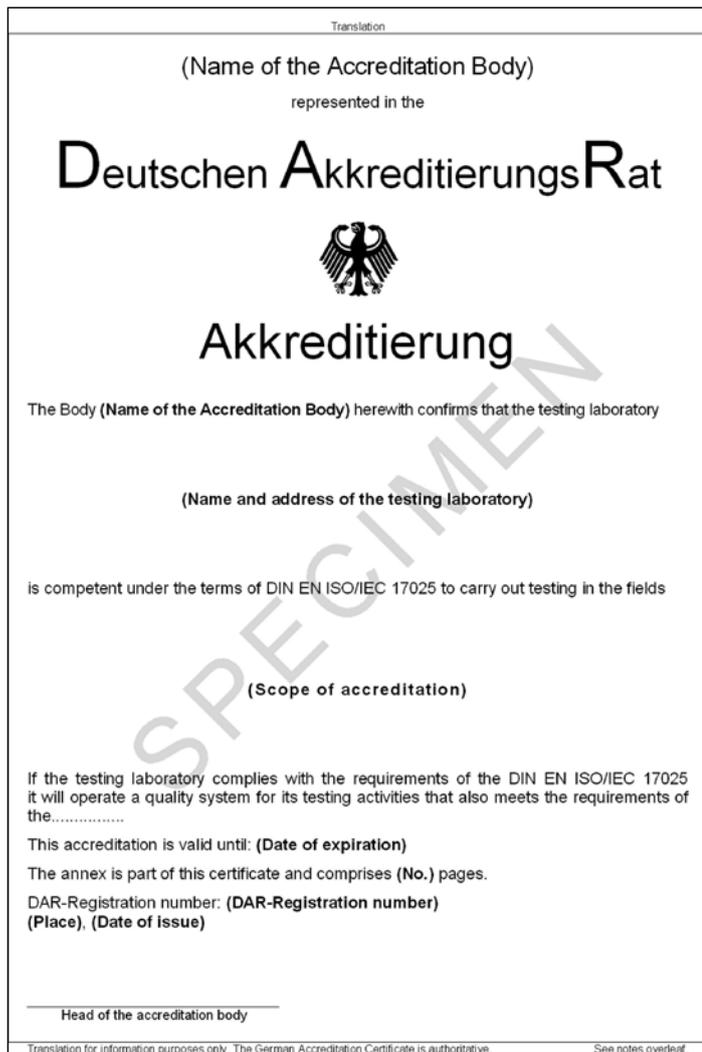
The private accreditation bodies DAP (German Accreditation System for Testing), DACH (German Accreditation Body Chemistry), TGA (German Association for Accreditation including the merged former DATech – German Accreditation Body for Technology) and



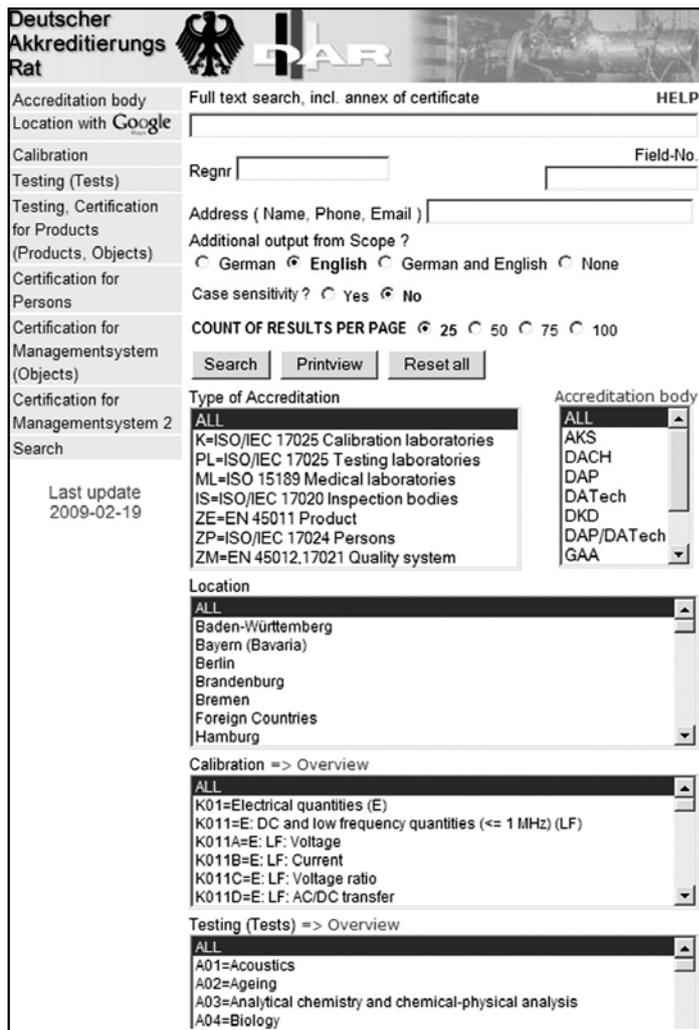
Picture 1 – DAR members.

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Picture 2 – Jointly agreed DAR accreditation certificate.



Picture 3 – Freely accessible DAR database of accredited conformity assessment bodies.

the governmental accreditation body DKD (German Calibration Service) are signatories to the EA Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) and are also signatories to the ILAC and IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangements in several sectors. Representatives of these German accreditation bodies participate as Team Leaders and Team Members in international peer evaluations. They have gained experience in European and international peer evaluations over a long time and actively participate in ILAC, IAF and EA committees and working groups. The DKD is the only governmental accreditation body in Germany which is a signatory to the EA MLA.

New Legislation Framework of the European Union

At the end of June 2008, Council of the European Union and the European Parliament agreed on the Regulation on accreditation and Market Surveillance (Regulation (EC) No 765/2008) and published it in the Official Journal of the

European Commission (L 218, 13 August 2008, eur-lex.europa.eu).

The regulation requires that there be only one single accreditation body per member state by 1 January 2010. Thus, the German accreditation system is faced with the major challenge of transferring all the experience from several private and governmental accreditation bodies active in both areas (mandatory and voluntary) and in different sectors into the new accreditation body. This new accreditation body must meet all the requirements of the new regulation and the international standards, for example ISO/IEC 17011.

The new European regulation declares accreditation as an activity in the public interest without competition between accreditation bodies and likewise between accreditation bodies and conformity assessment bodies. Accreditation should be the basis for conformity assessment bodies to become a notified body in Europe. Notification is the official appointment of a conformity assessment

body by the member state to the European Commission (EC) in Brussels. The notification is based on demonstrated competence during an accreditation procedure for certain EC Directives by the national accreditation body of an EU member state. The notified body receives a unique number from the EC. The EC publishes a register of all notified bodies in Europe. The conformity assessment results of notified bodies are recognised by the authorities of the member states.

Thus, the mutual recognition of conformity assessment results of the accredited notified bodies is lifted to a higher level by the release of the new regulation. This leads to increased confidence and regulatory recognition, which is also an important aim of ILAC.

According to the new regulation, the national accreditation bodies have to undergo peer evaluations. The European Commission and the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA) are discussing the appointment of EA

as the organisation to perform these peer evaluations, and a contract on that matter is under way. EA has extensive experience in peer evaluations on the grounds of the procedures for becoming a signatory to the EA Multilateral Recognition Arrangement.

Activities in Germany as a consequence of the New Legislation Framework

In order to fulfil the requirements of the New Legislation Framework, the drafting of a law for the establishment of the single nationally recognised accreditation body in Germany was undertaken. This law will describe the structure and main principles for the single national accreditation body according to the New Legislation Framework.

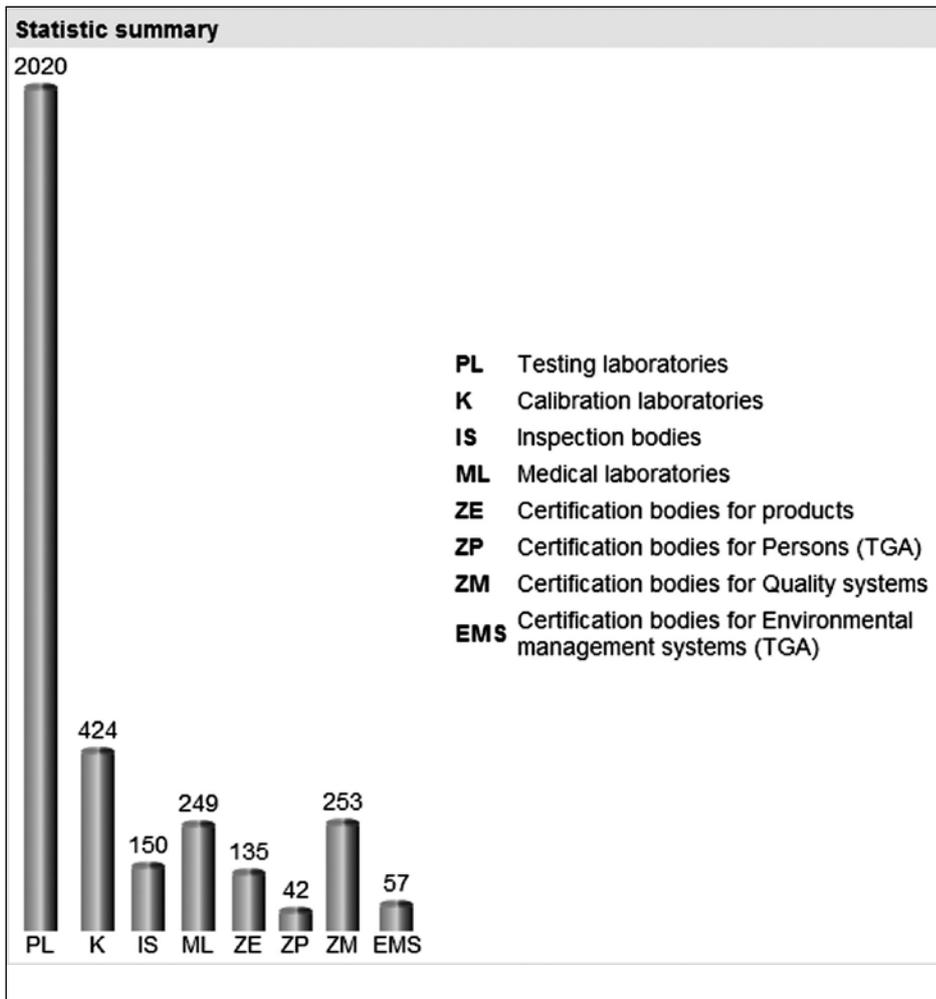
This draft law is still being deliberated by the involved ministries.

At present in Germany, two main options for the legal status of this new national single accreditation body are under intense discussion:

Option 1: The governmental mandate will be assigned to a new private accreditation body which will be under governmental surveillance (preferably a merging of the present MLA Members in Germany);

Option 2: An entirely new governmental accreditation body will be established.

Expecting the decision for option 1, the private accreditation body DATech has already merged with the private accreditation body TGA. Further mergers of private accreditation bodies



Picture 4 – Statistics of accredited conformity assessment bodies by DAR member accreditation bodies (as of 19 February 2009).

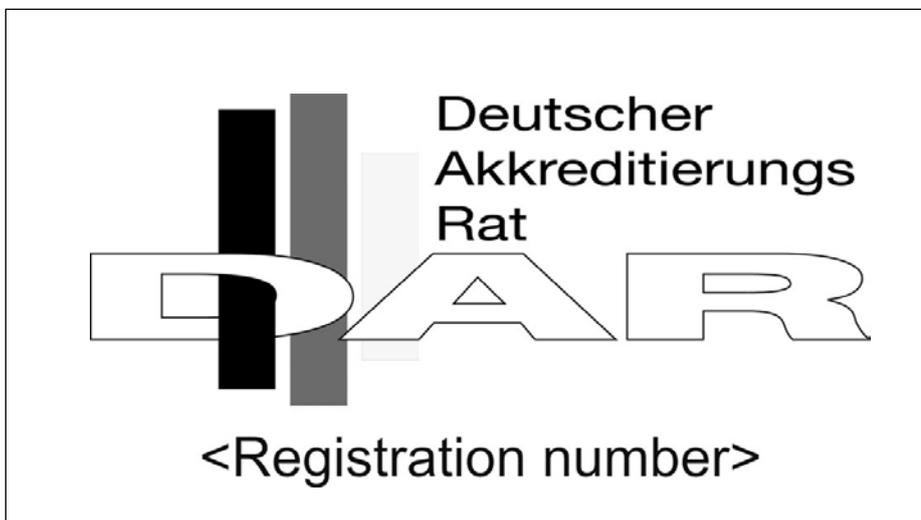
are expected but presently not yet decided.

Once the New Legislative Framework has been implemented, the conformity assessment bodies in Germany will have the great advantage of having to go through only one accreditation performed by only one accreditation body

instead of several accreditation bodies from the voluntary and mandatory areas.

It is both the political intention of the government and consensus of the interested parties that accreditations already granted retain their validity, and that no substantial changes are imposed on the accredited conformity assessment bodies. The operational process and procedures for checking the competence of a conformity assessment body including the international requirements from ILAC, IAF and EA will remain unchanged. Special requirements for conformity assessment bodies based on the requirements of EC Directives will be implemented.

EA is actively discussing this matter and in 2006 established five project groups in order to advance the implementation of the New Legislative Framework and as a working platform to prepare EA and its peer evaluation



Picture 5 – Protected DAR accreditation symbol.

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system in the best way for the new additional tasks. The tasks of the EA project groups are specified below:

EA Project Group 1

Provide a means for the harmonisation of the technical and system assessment of the competence of notified bodies.

EA Project Group 2

Identify a formal structure for sharing responsibilities for individual directives and technical knowledge and to create a network of EA member experts for directives as contact points in charge of disseminating and collecting information.

EA Project Group 3

Help member accreditation bodies to set up or optimise the communication processes with their local regulators.

EA Project Group 4

Investigate the relationship of EA members with the European Commission and to set up communication processes between EA and EC, for example, in the case of suspension or withdrawal from the MLA.

EA Project Group 5

Enhance the Peer Evaluation processes for the regulated area by investigating how to involve representatives from the National Authorities in the peer-evaluation process and how to best communicate with them.

German authorities were asked to participate in these EA projects, and the authorities have taken the opportunity to share their responsibility and professional expertise with EA. Representatives of the German accreditation bodies from both areas (voluntary and mandatory) participate actively in the five project groups of EA. Specific requirements for conformity assessment bodies set out in the EC Directives and the related harmonised standards have to be identified and implemented in the peer evaluation process. This approach may improve the cooperation between the regulated and the non-regulated areas in Germany, especially in the field of the directives.

Summary

For the regional accreditation system of EA, the regulatory recognition of accreditations granted by the national

accreditation bodies provided by the implementation of the new EC regulation gives an additional legal basis for accreditation and conformity assessment.

The German Accreditation Council (DAR) and the responsible Ministry of Economics and Technology agreed on general principles and activities during the last DAR meeting held on 8 December 2008. Emphasis was placed on how best to aid the formation of the new national accreditation body and how to further support EA in its activities related to the implementation of the New Legislative Framework once the German accreditation law is passed. The DAR takes care of the recognition, and correct and uninterrupted transfer of all accreditations granted according to the ILAC, IAF and EA rules.

Once the new national accreditation body in Germany is in operation, the voluntary and mandatory areas are expected to converge. In turn, the national accreditation system will become simpler and more clearly structured which is also ILAC's intention and strategy.

More details: www.deutscher-akkreditierungsrat.org 

New Brochure: Benefits of Proficiency Testing

A new brochure has been prepared by the ILAC Proficiency Testing Consultative Group (PTCG) and the ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC). Called *Benefits for Laboratories participating in Proficiency Testing Programs*, it is now available from the ILAC website under 'Publications and Resources', then 'ILAC documents'.

ISO REMCO Guide available for ballot

ISO/D Guide 34 *General requirements for the competence of reference material producers* has been issued as a Draft for voting. ILAC is an A Liaison member of ISO REMCO, and ISO Guide 34 is a very important standard for the whole ILAC community. ILAC members are therefore encouraged to provide input to their National Standards Body, who are able to exercise a vote on this draft, before the closing date of 15 May 2009.

A copy of ISO/D Guide 34 can be found on the ILAC website in the 'Members' section under 'Liaisons', 'ISO REMCO'. 

Success Stories from ILAC Signatories

Just a reminder that the ILAC MCC is always interested in receiving 'good news' stories that demonstrate the benefits of accreditation and the ILAC Arrangement. A collection of good news stories is available on the ILAC website for you to use to promote the benefits of accreditation.

If you have any recent good news stories to share, please do not hesitate to email the Secretariat on ilac@nata.asn.au who will arrange for them to be added to the good news stories page on the ILAC website.

ILAC Publications

The following is a listing of titles of all ILAC documents as at 11 December 2008. They can be downloaded from the 'ILAC Documents' section under 'Publications and 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
 ILAC-G24:2007 Guidelines for the determination of calibration intervals of measuring instruments

Secretariat Documents (S Series)

ILAC-S1:2003 Guidelines for the Proposal, Drafting, Approval and Publication of ILAC Documents
 ILAC-S2:07/2008 Rules
 ILAC-S3:12/2008 ILAC Strategic 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

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

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

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