

ILAC News

Issue 38, October 2010

**ILAC MRA ARGENTINA OAA AUSTRALIA NATA AUSTRIA BMWA
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KINGDOM UKAS USA A2LA ACLASS AIHA-LAP ASCLD/LAB IAS
L-A-B NVLAP PJLA VIETNAM BOA **10TH ANNIVERSARY****



Contents

From the Chair	Inside Front Cover
News from the ILAC Secretariat.....	1
ILAC MRA 10th Anniversary.....	3
Developing ties between IEC CAB, ILAC and IAF.....	4
US EPA recognizes accredited laboratories	6
ILAC and IFCC sign MoU.....	6

International update

The BIPM and ILAC	7
OIML	10

Regional cooperations

From the APLAC Secretariat	14
An Overview of Major Developments within EA	14
EA enters partnership with the Commission	16
EA's Reinforcing its Relations with Stakeholders.....	17
IAAC Report.....	17

Accreditation update

A2LA	20
MAURITAS develops Inspection Body Accreditation Programme.....	20
ACCREDIA celebrates "Global Acceptance"	21
Swedac celebrated World Accreditation Day	21
DAC celebrated World Accreditation day	22
DAC re-structured technical task forces.....	22
DAC accredited first type "B" inspection body	23
DAC training courses.....	23
EGAC Seminar on Conformity Assessment for Medical Devices	23
ema: World Accreditation Day celebrations in Mexico	24
News from Croatian Accreditation Agency	25
JANAAC Achieves Milestone on World Accreditation Day.....	26
KENAS Celebrates World Accreditation Day	28
Kolas: World Accreditation Day in Korea.....	29
MASM: World Accreditation Day in Mongolia	30
SADC Countries Commemorate World Accreditation Day.....	31
Accreditation in Thailand	32
ECA supports Regulatory Authorities	34
Argentine Accreditation Body - Monitoring Authority for GLP.....	35
EGAC hosts third preparatory meeting of AFRAC	35
News from TAF	36
OGA: World Accreditation Day in Guatemala	37
PCA – co-producer of accreditation awareness programme for Polish Radio	38
EGAC-UNIDO-EU Seminar on OECD GLP in Egypt.....	39

Stakeholders

European inspection, testing and certification associations join forces.....	39
Eurachem Workshop on PT in Chemistry, Microbiology, and Medical Testing.....	40
ILAC Publications	Inside Back Cover

From the Chair

As everybody knows, after having been ILAC Vice-Chair for 4 years and then ILAC Chair for 6 years, I will step down after the Shanghai meetings. Meetings which will see the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the ILAC MRA and the 12th anniversary of the IAF MLA.

Therefore this is my last contribution to ILAC News as Chair of our organization and I will take this opportunity not only to look backward, but also to express my wishes for the future.



During the last 10 years, a lot of work has been done and a lot of progress has to be noted. In this respect, I will just focus on three main issues:

First of all, the continuous development of our membership and the increase in the number of signatories to our Arrangement, which was first signed in 2000 in Washington, are the most significant proof of ILAC's good health.

Secondly, the increase and strengthening of the liaisons ILAC has with international organizations interested in accreditation (ISO, IEC, UNIDO, BIPM, OIML, WADA, IFCC,...) demonstrates that our organization has now become a key player at the worldwide level.

Thirdly, the improvement that has been achieved in the cooperation with IAF, permits the accreditation community to speak with a single voice on many occasions and also to avoid some duplication in the day to day work.

Certainly, these successes are the results of the huge amount of work done by those dedicated ILAC members actively participating in committees, working groups and task forces, spending unpaid time for ILAC on a purely voluntary basis.

But we must also keep in mind the crucial role of the ILAC Secretariat whose efficiency and dedication need no further demonstration.

I will not forget to mention that, despite the work done free of charge by some of its members, it remains difficult for ILAC to produce the full range of services requested. All members will have in mind the recent difficult discussions about fees. Increasing fees is always unpopular but ILAC needs to obtain the means needed to implement its policy. Improvement in productivity has limits and members must be aware that without enough money, the quality of the service will decrease.

Coming now to my wishes for ILAC in the future, I will concentrate on three very personal ideas that will probably be difficult to realize. But by the end of my career, I feel allowed to dream! They are classified as follows by increasing level of difficulty:

- 1) Obtain more involvement in ILAC activities from end-users of accreditation (Industry, Consumers, Public Authorities,...);
- 2) Achieve a unique worldwide organization of accreditation bodies despite the negative vote which occurred last year;
- 3) Achieve a situation where there is no competition between accreditation bodies and have accreditation recognized as a Public Service, and as a not for profit and non commercial activity, everywhere.

I don't want to open or reopen any debate on the above points, but I sincerely think they will become crucial in the medium/long term if we want an increasing role for accreditation.

Finally, I want to warmly thank all those who helped me during my Chairmanship and to express my confidence in the future.


Daniel Pierre
Chair



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

News from the ILAC Secretariat

ILAC Secretariat

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

ILAC Meetings

The first ILAC Executive meeting for 2010 was held in March and hosted by Cofrac in Paris. The ILAC Executive was the last in a three day series of meetings that commenced with the IAF Executive meeting on the Sunday and then moved onto the first Joint meeting of the ILAC and IAF Executive Committees (JEC).

“...a three day audit of the Secretariat was undertaken in August this year by Mr Shaharul Sadri Alwi, Director of Accreditation at the Department of Standards Malaysia.”

These new arrangements for Executive Committee meetings were again put to the test in June, when our colleagues at ema in Mexico hosted the three day meeting series. The three day mid year program (for those involved in both the ILAC and IAF Executive meetings) replaces the previous 5 day program.

The JEC meetings are now covering all topics of common interest to ILAC and IAF, such as the activities of the joint working groups and committees, joint liaison activities, joint work items undertaken by the Executives, reporting by the Regional

Cooperation Body members from both organisations and all matters associated with the planning and general logistics for the joint annual meetings and mid year meetings as appropriate. These issues were previously addressed by each Executive Committee separately and then in many instances were covered again during meetings of the Joint Committee for Closer Cooperation (JCCC).

Based on the current experience with the new meeting arrangements, the three day series appears to be achieving the aim of addressing issues in the most appropriate forum with a minimum of duplication.

The final ILAC Executive meeting for the year will be held in Shanghai, in October, as part of the ILAC and IAF Annual meetings, and the third JEC meeting is also scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday 26 October 2010.

The Secretariat works closely with the MCC in a number of areas, including the publication of documents and the maintenance and presentation of the ILAC Website and this year it was possible for a member of the Secretariat staff, Sharon Kelly, to participate in the ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee meeting in March.

Internal Audit of the ILAC Secretariat

In addition to the annual performance review of the ILAC Secretariat, undertaken by the ILAC Executive Committee, the Executive determined that an internal audit process should be established to review the operation of the Secretariat, noting that the Secretariat responsibilities cover not only the general administration of ILAC but also the management and maintenance of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement. This latter area of Secretariat responsibility was audited by Mr Anthony Russell in January 2009.

Accordingly, a three day audit of the Secretariat was undertaken in August this year by Mr Shaharul Sadri Alwi, Director of Accreditation at the Department of Standards Malaysia. The audit was a very positive experience and the Secretariat welcomed the opportunity to receive feedback on the procedures and systems currently in place. No non-conformities were identified and work is underway to improve aspects of the system that were highlighted as areas for improvement. The Secretariat would like to thank Mr Sadri Alwi for giving up his time to undertake the Secretariat audit.

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 Joint Management Committee sessions, is involved in the on-going management activities in relation to the ILAC Arrangement through out the year. Progress continues to be made towards establishing the international multi-lateral mutual recognition arrangement (MLMRA) for Inspection and some evaluation activities are now in process in relation to the applications that have been received from the Recognised Regional Cooperation bodies.

Preparations are currently underway for the Shanghai meetings of the Arrangement Management Committees and the annual ILAC Arrangement Council meeting.

ILAC-MRA Mark

The ILAC-MRA Mark registration process continues and, as at 23 August 2010, 47 ILAC Full Members had signed Licensing Agreements with ILAC, for the use of the Combined MRA Mark (the Combined MRA Mark is the ILAC-MRA Mark used in combination with the accreditation body's own mark).

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Website

The Secretariat, in-conjunction with the ILAC MCC continues to develop the ILAC website. The day to day administration of the website is carried out by the ILAC Administrators, Alison Hay and Rose Bevins. An audit of the ILAC website, by the Secretariat, is carried out each year as a supplement to the routine monitoring and maintenance undertaken by the Secretariat staff.

As always feedback on the website, both positive and negative, is welcome from all users. All feedback is reviewed and acted upon when appropriate.

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 again reminded of their obligation to vote during both document and membership ballots.

ILAC News

The aim of ILAC News is to provide information on accreditation for ILAC members and their clients, liaison organisations and any organisation that has an interest in the activities and benefits of accreditation. The Secretariat, as always, welcomes feedback on the presentation and content of ILAC News as this is a valuable mechanism for facilitating the on-going development of the newsletter. A huge thank you to those members and colleagues that regularly submit articles and photos.

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 which have an impact on the activities of ILAC and its members. Action items arising out of ILAC's liaison activities are addressed during each Executive meeting as well as on a continuous basis throughout the year.

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. It can be accessed via the members area of the ILAC website. (ILAC members who have not as yet sought access to the Members Area of the website, can do so on-line, via the 'Home' page of the website).

During the March 2010 meeting of the JEC, the ILAC and IAF delegations for the first

meeting of the IAF/ILAC/IEC CAB Steering Committee were finalised. The Steering Committee will be chaired initially by IEC and will meet annually during the IAF/ILAC Annual Meetings. The Secretariat support for this meeting will be provided by ILAC and IAF. The first meeting is scheduled to be held on Saturday October 23 in Shanghai.

ILAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) in July 2010. The signing of this MoU was the culmination of a very productive meeting held earlier this year and a series of follow up communications between the two organisations.

Three existing MoUs are currently undergoing a scheduled review, namely the tripartite MoU between IAF, ILAC and OIML, the MoU between ILAC and WADA and the MoU between ILAC and IEC.

***"ILAC signed a
Memorandum of
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in July 2010."***

ILAC continues to participate in a number of liaison activities with ISO. These include CASCO WG 29 (Revision of ISO Guide 65 – Product Certification), CASCO WG 31 (Revision of ISO 17020 - Inspection), ISO TC212 (Technical Committee - Clinical laboratory testing and in vitro diagnostic test systems – Revision of ISO 15189), ISO TC69 (Technical Committee – Applications of Statistical Methods) where ILAC has been granted liaison status with SC6 because of the special interest in measurement methods. ILAC and IAF also liaise closely with ISO and ISO/CASCO as part of the IAF/ILAC/ISO Joint Working Group which usually meets twice a year (next meeting 15 November 2010).

Other regular liaison activities already carried out, or planned for 2010, include meetings with BIPM, ISO REMCO, OIML, CITAC, CCQM and the DCMAS Network (Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardisation for Developing Countries – formerly JCDCMAS).

The ILAC Executive Liaison, Alan Squirrell has participated, either in person or via

teleconference, in two meetings of the WADA Laboratory Committee in 2010, with another two meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2010. ILAC and IAF will be represented at the 45th Meeting of the International Legal Metrology Committee (CIML), held in September in Orlando, Florida, USA and at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Regional Consultation on Conformance Assessment and Interoperability for the Asia-Pacific Region, also in September 2010.

ILAC Executive

Elections for all (elected) positions on the ILAC Executive Committee will be held during the annual meetings in October 2010 and a call for nominations has been sent out to all members in preparation for the ILAC General Assembly in October. Of special note for both the members and the Secretariat is that both the ILAC Chair, Daniel Pierre and the ILAC Vice-Chair Peter Unger, having served in their respective roles for the maximum period allowed under the ILAC Rules (three consecutive two year terms), will not be eligible to continue in their current positions.

On behalf of the staff of the ILAC Secretariat I would like to offer our thanks and appreciation for the on-going support and assistance provided by both Daniel and Peter during the course of their terms as ILAC Chair and Vice Chair respectively. It is perhaps not well known by all ILAC members, that a large amount of the day to day business of ILAC is managed via communication between the Secretariat and the Chair and Vice Chair in the first instance. Indeed it has been rare for a day to pass where there is not some form of email communication and I can say with certainty that in the majority of cases a reply is received from Daniel and Peter within 24 hours, an outstanding effort that has made our job all the easier. Thank you Daniel and Peter!

The staff of the Secretariat wishes Daniel and Peter all the very best for the future.

Contact

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

Annette Dever
ILAC Secretary
31 August 2010



ILAC MRA 10th Anniversary

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). The principle aim of this Arrangement is as relevant today, as it was when it was first established, and that is to build confidence among accreditation bodies and their ability to determine a laboratory's competence to perform testing or calibrations.

This confidence in turn facilitates the acceptance of testing and calibration results between countries when the results can be demonstrated to come from accredited laboratories. This ultimately supports the freedom of world trade by eliminating technical barriers to trade. The creation of an international network among accreditation bodies removes the need for suppliers to have their products or services re-evaluated in each country they enter on a commercial basis. The key to the Arrangement is that the results of accredited organisations are recognised as equivalent by signatory accreditation bodies. In this way, certificates issued by accredited organisations can therefore be accepted throughout the world.

On 2 November 2000, 36 laboratory accreditation bodies, full members of ILAC, from 28 economies worldwide signed an arrangement in Washington, DC to promote the acceptance of technical test and calibration data for exported goods. The arrangement came into effect on 31 January 2001. Today, there are 66 accreditation bodies from 55 economies that are signatories to the ILAC MRA.

Now that the ILAC Arrangement is well established, governments are taking advantage of it to further develop or enhance trade agreements. The ultimate aim continues to be the increased use and acceptance by industry as well as government of the results from accredited laboratories, including results from laboratories in other countries. In this way, the free-trade goal of "a product tested once and accepted everywhere" can be realised.

At the national level, there is greater recognition of accredited activities, in particular from regulators, who are using the ILAC Arrangement to deliver policy objectives from health and safety to the protection of the environment, as well as providing the conditions that support a competitive economy through their impact on the export performance of businesses.

From a business perspective, the ILAC

Arrangement can significantly reduce compliance costs by removing unnecessary repeat testing or the need to comply with redundant local requirements. This also has a positive impact on time-to-market, which can be reduced through this streamlining of the approvals process.

The ILAC website continues to provide an ever increasing number of examples of demonstrated positive outcomes from the implementation of the ILAC MRA.

Looking to the future, ILAC will continue to meet the expectations of a growing base of stakeholders in the ongoing implementation of the ILAC Arrangement. This will include responding to the needs of both industry and regulators, who are increasingly turning to accreditation to meet their regulatory responsibilities. As an international organisation, the primary role of ILAC is to ensure consistency and equal reliability among all accredited activities delivered under their jurisdiction, to ensure that the 'Global Acceptance' of accredited conformity assessment results is universally achieved.

The aptly chosen theme for World Accreditation Day this year, given this 10th anniversary, was 'Global Acceptance', a principle aspiration of the ILAC Arrangement.

The IAF and ILAC Annual Meetings will take place in Shanghai from 20 – 29 October 2010, during which the international accreditation community will hold celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the ILAC MRA. (The 12th anniversary of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) MLA will also be celebrated because in China, twelve-years represent a cycle in the twelve Earthly Branches. A ten-year period is called 'Xun' and a twelve-year period is called 'Ji.') As the World Expo is being held in Shanghai this year, it is of commemorative and historical significance that these celebrations by the international accreditation community will also be held in China.

The Gala dinner, held as part of these annual meetings will conclude a series of 10th anniversary celebrations from around the world which began on World Accreditation Day - 9 June 2010.



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.com.au
who will arrange for
them to be added to
the good news stories
page on the ILAC
website.

Developing stronger ties between IEC CAB, ILAC and IAF

Companies the world over, large and small, are pooling resources, streamlining efforts, stepping up their attempts to be more efficient and competitive. However, saving time and costs and striving to offer the best products or services is not just an industry prerogative. Nations are joining regional entities that are better equipped to defend their interests; national, regional and international organizations are signing agreements that give them more weight in the global market.

Based on this rationale, the IEC has over the years finalized numerous agreements and worked in tandem with other international or regional electrotechnical standardization or CA (Conformity Assessment) bodies. The IEC CAB (Conformity Assessment Board) in particular has a long history of cooperation with ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and the IAF (International Accreditation Forum).

“...a new model of assessment collaboration – the common pool model – was elaborated and agreed upon...”

The working relationship between the CAB and ILAC began in 2003 and was made official two years later with the signing of a MoU (memorandum of understanding) that aimed to improve efficiency and reduce assessment costs for testing laboratories. Discussions between the CAB and the IAF were initiated in 2005 and formalized in early 2008. CAB/ILAC and CAB/IAF Technical Panels were established, meeting once a year to deal with common technical and policy issues.

Reassessment taken one step further

The three organizations met on 14 October 2009 in Vancouver, Canada, to take the partnership to a new level. There, a new model of assessment collaboration – the common pool model – was elaborated and agreed upon, whereby the IEC CA Systems will provide ILAC and IAF with their reassessment plans for 2010.

If the reassessment of a specific CB (Certification Body) or TL (Testing Laboratory) coincides with the relevant ILAC or IAF plan, then the CA System will provide a list of Technical Experts to choose from. ILAC or IAF will appoint the reassessment team, made up of a Lead Assessor coming from their ranks and a group of CA System technical experts. Once the reassessment has been completed, the CA System will administer the reassessment report as one of its own.

This common model of cooperation ensures that IEC CA Systems-registered assessors apply IEC International Standards in a uniform and consistent way, maintaining confidence in the rigour of the technical assessment.



IECEE Executive Secretary Pierre de Ruvo was appointed Chairman of the Steering Committee

New Steering Committee

CAB, ILAC and IAF proposed the establishment of a tripartite Steering Committee to deal with policy and strategy issues. Ad hoc task forces will be appointed to deal with specific technical or administrative issues and will report to the Steering Committee.

The following elements will be developed further by the Committee:

- Common understanding of the requirements laid down in ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*, and ISO/IEC Guide 65, *General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems*, applicable to the electrotechnical sector (ISO stands for the International Organization for Standardization.)
- Reassessments of CBs and TLs using CA Systems expertise
- Use of harmonized assessment forms
- Use of harmonized assessment preparation guidelines

The appointment of IECEE Executive Secretary Pierre de Ruvo as Chairman of the Steering Committee was also agreed, with his three-year term of office starting on 1 January 2010. IECEE is the IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components. ILAC and IAF will provide the Committee's "Meeting Secretary".



From left, CAB Secretary Gabriel Barta, IEC Vice-President and CAB Chairman Hiromichi Fujisawa, and IEC President Jacques Régis



ILAC Chair, Daniel Pierre and IEC General Secretary, Aharon Amit signing the original MoU.

"...ensure that standards are applied in a uniform and consistent way globally..."

The proposals made in Vancouver strengthening ties between the three organizations, plus the fact that the IEC/ILAC MoU is due for revision in 2010, offer the perfect opportunity to develop a tripartite MoU that would incorporate these proposals.

CAB approved the proposals and recommendations at the IEC General Meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel. ILAC and IAF also approved these proposals during their joint general assembly on 19 October 2009 in Vancouver.

ILAC/IAF agreement: faster, more cost-effective accreditation

Mr. Hiromichi Fujisawa particularly highlighted the proposed agreement on a tripartite MoU (memorandum of understanding) with ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and IAF (International Accreditation Forum), a step on from the current bilateral MoUs. The aim is to constitute a common pool



ILAC Chair, Daniel Pierre and IECEE Executive Secretary, Pierre de Ruvo.

of assessors and a single review body that will improve the unique IEC CA Systems peer assessment and IAF/ILAC accreditation activity in terms of both costs and turn around times. It will ensure that standards are applied in a uniform and consistent way globally (see related article in the current e-tech).

The MoU foresees that reassessment teams will be composed of an ILAC or IAF Lead Assessor and a group of IEC CA System technical experts and that reassessment

reports will be treated as part of the IEC CA System.

IECEE Executive Secretary Pierre de Ruvo has been elected as Chairman of the Steering Committee, with a term of office of three years starting on 1 January 2010.



US Environmental Protection Agency recognizes accredited laboratories

There is a continuing trend of greater recognition of accreditation and the ILAC MRA from Government and Regulators. For instance, more US regulators such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission for toy testing and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the nuclear area, have clearly expressed their desire to rely on laboratories accredited by ILAC Full Members. ILAC is now also mentioned as a key player by the United Nations. Trade agreements are also including more references to the ILAC MRA.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has become the latest Regulatory Agency to recognize the use of laboratories accredited by an ILAC signatory to underpin the public credibility of the ENERGY STAR Program.

On June 30 2010, the EPA finalized and distributed the Conditions and Criteria for Recognition of laboratories, which represents

“...clearly expressed their desire to rely on laboratories accredited by ILAC Full Members.”

an important step in the enhanced testing and verification effort that EPA intends to have in place for all ENERGY STAR qualified products at the end of 2010.

The ENERGY STAR products program has grown to encompass products in more than 60 categories and is used by millions of consumers in selecting products that help them save money and protect the environment. To ensure that ENERGY STAR remains a trusted symbol for environmental

protection, the EPA and the US Department of Energy are pursuing enhancements for product qualification and verification. These include laboratory qualification and comprehensive verification testing, through the use of accredited laboratories.

Further information, including the Conditions and Criteria for Accreditation Bodies and for Laboratories can be downloaded from www.energystar.gov/testingandverification. Visitors to the site will also be able to view a list of the products and programs covered by ENERGY STAR, as well as being able to access the relevant application forms. Due to the short timescales set by the EPA, it is advised that applications are submitted as soon as possible.



ILAC and IFCC sign MoU

ILAC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC).

The IFCC is the global body for setting and promoting high standards of practice in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine including the promotion of worldwide medical laboratory accreditation. Following meetings earlier this year between members of the ILAC Executive Committee and representatives from the IFCC, ILAC is pleased to announce the signing of this MoU that formalises the commitment from both organisations to work together in the

promotion of medical laboratory accreditation. A copy of the IFCC-ILAC MoU is available from the ILAC website.



“...formalises the commitment from both organisations to work together in the promotion of medical laboratory accreditation.”



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.

The 2011 IAF/ILAC annual conference is scheduled for 2-11 November 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand

The BIPM and ILAC

The BIPM and ILAC continue to work closely in areas of mutual interest, and not surprisingly both organizations consider close liaison as being of the highest importance. The senior representatives of the two organizations met in March, and a number of ideas are being developed to strengthen the links, and particularly to jointly promote the CPM MRA and the ILAC Arrangement. The BIPM was represented at the AIC meeting at the end of June by Andy Henson, the new International Liaison Officer at the BIPM.

50th anniversary of the SI: the International System of Units

The year 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the name "International System of Units", and the symbol "SI" (taken from the French words *Système international d'unités*), by the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM, Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures) in 1960. This 11th meeting of the General Conference was thus the formal beginning of the SI. The success of the SI in providing internationally agreed standards for the world of science, engineering and technology is an occasion to be celebrated.

The BIPM was originally established in 1875 by the Metre Convention to ensure world-wide unification of measurements. At its 1st meeting, in 1889, the General Conference decided definitions of the metre and the kilogram in terms of prototype artefacts. Definitions of the electrical units based on the ampere were added at the 9th meeting of the General Conference, in 1948, in agreement with the IEC. At the same conference the candela was adopted as the name of the unit of luminous intensity in place of the older "new candle". The definition of the kelvin was added at the 10th meeting of the General Conference, in 1954, and the formal definition of the second was added by the CIPM in 1956. Finally the 11th meeting of the General Conference in 1960 laid the foundation for the complete system of units, built upon the six base units used at that time and including multiple and sub-multiple prefixes, and adopted the name International System of Units by which the entire system is known today. The definition of the mole for the quantity amount of substance, the seventh base unit, was added at the 14th meeting of the General Conference in 1971.



There have been many developments to the system during the 50 years from 1960 to 2010. The definitions of many of the base units have been revised to meet new developments in the experimental basis of metrology, and to ensure the coherence of the entire system. These changes have been faithfully recorded in successive editions of the **SI Brochure**, prepared by the Consultative Committee for Units (CCU) and published by the BIPM at irregular intervals.



The Brochure has grown from the 36 pages of the original first edition to the 200 pages of the 8th and current edition, published in 2006. The 8th edition is also accompanied for the first time by the four-page Concise Summary of the SI. These publications are available free at www.bipm.org and are recognized around the world as the reference standard for all quantitative measurements.

The SI has reached maturity as the ultimate international reference for all standards of measurement, but it is a living system, forever being revised and improved in a variety of ways to recognize our developing abilities in making measurements. At present there are active plans to revise the definitions of four of the seven base units - the kilogram, ampere, kelvin and the mole - as we strive to achieve a more uniform system in which the definition of all units are referenced to the fundamental constants of nature.

Metre Convention and the CIPM MRA - interest continues to grow

In addition to the **signature of the CIPM MRA by the WMO** (see below), the BIPM has

registered three further signatories of the CIPM MRA:

- The Executive Director of the Ghana Standards Board (GSB), Republic of Ghana, signed the CIPM MRA on 24 February 2010. The Republic of Ghana had become an Associate of the CGPM on 17 September 2009.
- The Director-General of the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología y Normalización (INTN) of Paraguay, signed the CIPM MRA on 26 October 2009. Paraguay had become an Associate of the CGPM on 6 May 2009.
- The President of the Instituto Nacional de Defensa de la Competencia y de la Protección de la Propiedad Intelectual (INDECOPI) of Peru, signed the CIPM MRA on 17 November 2009. The Republic of Peru had become an Associate of the CGPM on 28 May 2009.

As of 18 June 2010, the CIPM MRA has been signed by representatives of 78 institutes from 48 Member States, 27 Associates of the CGPM, and three international organizations, and covers a further 133 institutes designated by the signatory bodies as holders of specific national standards. The full list of participants in the CIPM MRA is available from <http://www.bipm.org/en/cipm-mra/participation/signatories.html>

The Republic of Kenya, previously Associate of the CGPM, became a Member State of the BIPM on 1st January 2010, and the People's Republic of Bangladesh became an Associate of the CGPM on 29 March 2010. This brings the current number of Member States of the BIPM to 54, and of Associates to 28. For the full list, see the BIPM website.

As of mid-May 2010, about **23 000 CMCs were included in the BIPM key comparison database (KCDB)** representing an additional 1800 CMCs compared to mid-May 2009. Indeed, over the last year a large number of newly approved sets of CMCs have been published. There is also a continuous movement linked to approval of Quality Systems (QS): temporary removal (so-called "greying-out") of CMCs not covered by an approved QS, and re-instatement of CMCs following approval of the QS. Occasionally CMCs are also deleted permanently, if they relate to services that are no longer provided.

Last year the KCDB attracted more than

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90 000 visitors, who opened a total of about 821 000 KCDB web pages. The number of monthly visits varied between 5 600 and 10 100, and the number of pages opened each month between 48 800 and 117 500. These counts, however, do not include the additional fraction of visitors arriving at the KCDB via our free-text search engine on the main BIPM website.

BIPM Workshops

BIPM Workshop on Physiological Quantities and SI Units (BIPM, 16-17 November 2009), chaired by Prof Michael Kühne, BIPM

Increasing demands are being placed on metrologists and other experts to quantify the effects of a multitude of factors on the human body, and this requires the resolution of a number of complex scientific issues – including assuring the traceability of the measurements to the International System of Units (SI).

To this end the BIPM organized a Workshop on Physiological Quantities and SI Units to bring together the various interested communities – principally those concerned with traceable, reliable and comparable measurement, and those responsible for writing and applying specification standards and/or health and safety legislation. The principal aims of the Workshop were to initiate:

- a collaboration aimed at relating the effects on the human body to measurements traceable to the SI or to other internationally agreed standards;
- harmonization of terms and methods so that measurements made in different places can be related to each other, thereby enabling comparability of research work and a consistent approach to the estimation of effects on the human body;
- best practice guides and/or documents which may be adopted as the basis for the measurement aspects of international standardization, regulation and/or legislation; and
- a commitment by intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to work together and to encourage the application of the agreed best practices.

The Workshop took place at the BIPM on 16-17 November 2009 and the final report is available from the BIPM website. Access to the presentations given during the Workshop is restricted to the participating

experts nominated by the Intergovernmental Organizations, International Organizations, and National Metrology Institutes.

BIPM Workshop on Metrology at the Nanoscale (BIPM, 18-19 February 2010), chaired by Dr Alan Steele, NRC

Recognizing the importance of measurement science and metrology in emerging areas of technology, the BIPM organized and hosted a Workshop on Metrology at the Nanoscale, bringing together scientists from the NMIs and industry with experts from the regulatory and standards development community. The two-day Workshop, held on 18-19 February 2010 and involving more than 100 participants, approached the very broad topic of nanotechnology with thematic lectures and round-table discussions in eight topical areas:

- Toxicological testing;
- Nanobiology;
- Aerosols;
- Microscopy;
- Surface analysis;
- Thin films and coatings;
- Mechanical metrology; and
- Electrical and magnetic applications and measurements.

The programme was very lively, and the presentations were uniformly excellent, allowing the attendees to address the focal question of the meeting: “What activities are required to establish an effective international infrastructure for metrology at the nanoscale?”

The full report, which will be released in mid-2010, includes a comprehensive summary of the discussions on this question, including the drivers to work on the topic, technical issues and barriers to progress, status and needs for traceability to the SI, as well as the anticipated use and need for reference materials and documentary standards.

WMO-BIPM Workshop on Measurement Challenges for Global Observation Systems for Climate Change Monitoring: Traceability, Stability and Uncertainty (WMO, 30 March-1 April 2010), co-chaired by Prof Andrew Wallard (BIPM) and Dr Wenjian Zhang (WMO)

The BIPM held a joint Workshop with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on the broad subject of Metrology and Climate Change, and how satellite-based, ground-based and other monitoring

techniques can be improved by the adoption of best-practice metrology. This was a two-day Workshop held in Geneva from 30 March to 1 April 2010, with a fascinating series of presentations and a great deal of commitment by our colleagues in the meteorological community to take much greater advantage of the expertise that is in National Metrology Institutes.

The Objectives of the Workshop were to:

- Identify key measurement issues in climate science, Numerical Weather Prediction model (NWP) and Earth observation where there is a requirement for improved underpinning metrology.
- Foster closer links and develop dialogue between the metrology and the Earth observation systems communities.
- Drive agenda setting and road mapping within National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) and ensure that measurement science is developed to meet the needs of climate science, NWP and Earth observation community needs.
- Inform the Earth observation systems community about the capabilities and plans of the NMIs.

In the words of Professor Wallard, Director of the BIPM:

“For us, it was a major step forward because although there have been a lot of working-level contacts in a variety of different disciplines between the metrologists and parts of the observation networks – the Global Atmospheric Watch and GEOS networks – it really became a major commitment by the WMO at the most senior level.

For those of you who would like to look at it in a little bit more detail, all the presentations that were given at the Workshop can be found on the open BIPM website. Our aim is to produce a report that will contain all the recommendations and the conclusions that we drew from the Workshop, and it will probably be a joint BIPM/WMO document. It will be circulated very widely, including to governments, intergovernmental organizations, NMIs Directors, the international panel on climate change, the UNCCC that deals with this, and to anybody else we can think of, because I think it is a major step forward to have the commitment of two of the world intergovernmental organizations, tackling the metrology and measurements issues in what, I am sure we all agree, is one of the most



From left to right: Dr L Barrie (WMO), Prof A Wallard (BIPM), Dr M Jarraud (WMO), Prof E Göbel (CIPM), and Dr W Zhang (WMO)

major challenges of the world at the moment.

This is a hugely important and active area with demands from the practical observation community, satellite people, calibration, specifications of what is needed in terms of monitoring global greenhouse gases, in terms of concentrations, in terms of temperature measurements in sea-based measurements and a variety of other things. So there is a wide range of subjects within this particular topic.

From our point of view, we will carry the work forward with as much energy as we can. One of the things we want to do is to set up clear liaison links between the relevant Consultative Committees and the WMO, so that the interactions can be realized in a positive and active way. We will certainly also be setting up a joint group with the WMO to monitor the actions and make sure things do happen."

At the occasion of the Workshop, the WMO joined the CIPM MRA. The signing ceremony took place on 1 April 2010, when Michel Jarraud, Secretary General of the WMO, signed the Arrangement on behalf of the WMO.

The WMO has designated three laboratories to represent it in activities organized within the CIPM MRA:

- **World Radiation Centre (PMOD/WRC, Davos, Switzerland)**, for solar irradiance;
- **Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research (EMPA, Dübendorf,**

Switzerland), for surface ozone; and

- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Earth System Research Laboratory (NOAA/ESRL, Boulder, Colorado, USA)**, for carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and carbon monoxide concentrations.

World Metrology Day - 20 May 2010

Measurements in Science and Technology – A bridge to innovation

During World Metrology Day more than eighty States celebrate the impact of measurement on our daily life, no part of which is untouched by this essential, and largely hidden, aspect of modern society. Previous themes have included topics such as measurements in sport, the environment, medicine, and trade. The 2010 theme concentrates on how measurement influences science and stimulates innovation. As the world strives to move on from its recent financial problems, and as Governments work to regenerate economies, we shall find that science and technology are the engines of economic growth and prosperity. These, in turn, rely on being able to measure correctly and to refer measurements to the same international reference standards. A world without accurate measurement is a world where science, technology, trade and society can't communicate and where error and uncertainty would reign supreme.

National systems of measurement wherever they are, must, therefore, all rely on agreed standards and units as well as agreed techniques to make consistent,

reproducible and accurate measurements. Each national system is linked into a worldwide network of national measurement standards and laboratories coordinated by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. This network gives society access to accurate measurement in order to meet today's challenges in healthcare, within the environment and in all the new technologies. In industry and commerce, it helps ensure product quality, to eliminate waste and to raise productivity and trade based on agreed measurements and tests. It also enables scientists to use a common language to underpin their collaboration across the world and ensure that their exploits can be taken up by companies where ever they operate.

This year, in his message to the world of metrology, Governments, companies, academics – and the man in the street – the Director of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures highlights the role played by precise measurement. He challenges measurement scientists to be more active in promoting the topic among decision makers, as well as with young people, pointing out the value of accurate and reliable measurement to their daily tasks and to the world as it deals with today's Grand Challenges. Where would we be without it?

The Director's address, as well as the posters and other material, can be found on the dedicated website www.worldmetrologyday.org



OIML

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation), IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and the OIML, a joint ILAC/OIML Working Program was developed. It is revised every year during an annual tripartite meeting.

Among the joint actions decided in 2009 was the organization of two surveys (one managed by ILAC and the other by the OIML, among their respective Members) on accreditation in the field of legal metrology.

The aim of these surveys was:

- to collect information from ILAC members concerning the number of accreditation bodies which are actively accrediting organizations working in the fields of legal metrology covered by the OIML Declarations of Mutual Confidence; and
- to collect information from OIML Members (Member States and Corresponding Members) concerning:
 - countries which request accreditation of national type approval bodies, bodies responsible for initial and periodic verifications;
 - the requirements used to evaluate the competence of the relevant bodies.

Replies to the surveys

From both sides, unfortunately, very few replies were received; consequently it is not possible to draw any definitive conclusions.

However, it has been decided to publish the results of these two surveys for information purposes.

Survey conducted by ILAC

The questionnaire sent out by ILAC requested answers to the following questions:

- How many laboratories have you accredited in the field of:
 - testing water meters according to OIML R 49;
 - testing load cells according to OIML R 60;
 - testing non-automatic weighing instruments according to OIML R 76;
- If accreditation was delivered, which requirements were used?

Fifteen ILAC Full Members replied – these replies are summarized in Figures 1, 2 and 3.

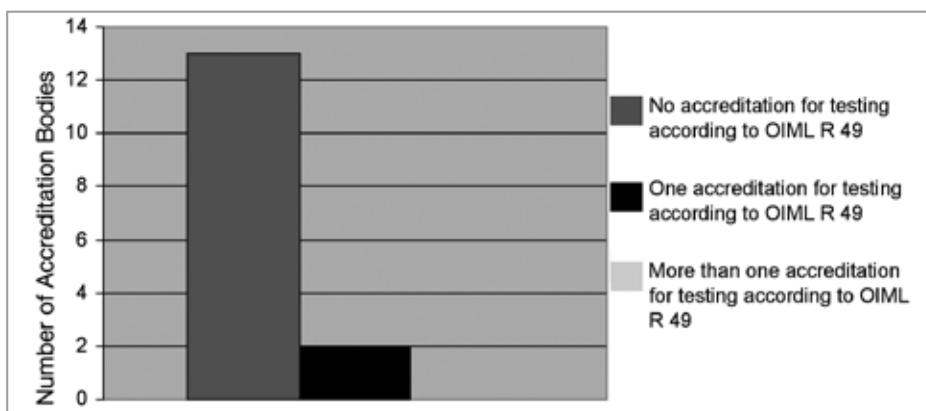


Fig 1 Accreditation in testing water meters according to OIML R 49

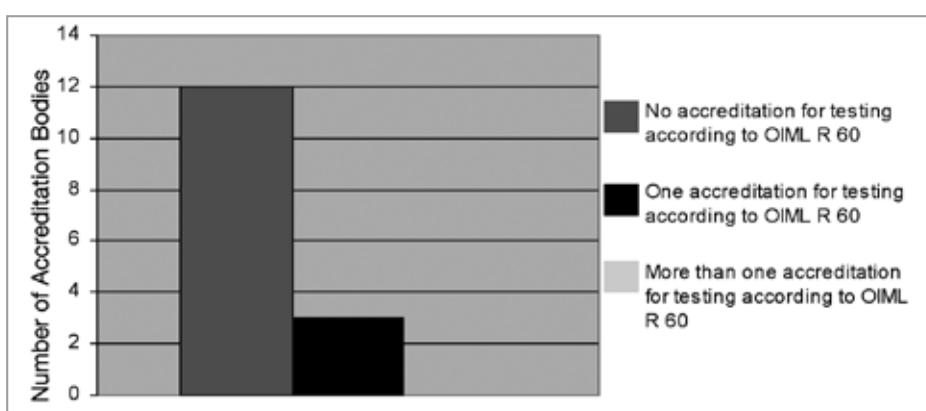


Fig 2 Accreditation in testing load cells according to OIML R 60

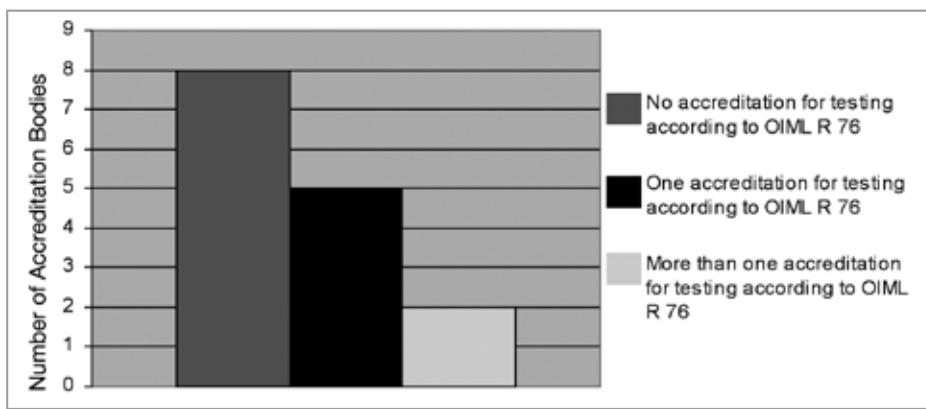


Fig 3 Accreditation in testing non-automatic weighing instruments according to OIML R 76

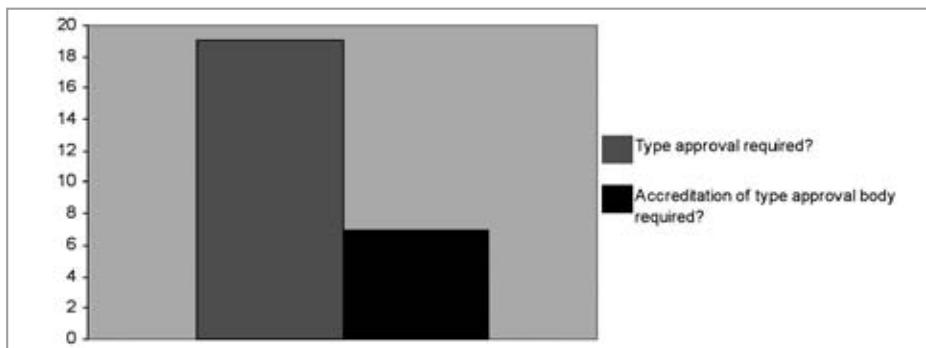


Fig 4 Number of countries which request type approval of certain categories of measuring instruments and where accreditation is required

Among those national accreditation bodies that declared having accredited testing laboratories in these three domains of legal metrology, six indicated that the accreditations were delivered on the basis of ISO/IEC 17025 *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*. One mentioned the use of ISO/IEC 17020 *General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection*.

It should be highlighted that most of the time, legal metrology or even testing according to the relevant OIML Recommendations is not clearly indicated in the accreditation scope. This means that the current replies may undermine the reality.

"...legal metrology or even testing according to the relevant OIML Recommendations is not clearly indicated in the accreditation scope."

In addition, if we consider that the accreditation of notified bodies for the implementation of the Directive for Measuring Instruments (MID), notified bodies for module B (Type Examination) may be accredited as product certification bodies on the basis of EN 45011 (ISO/IEC Guide 65 *General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems*) then the accreditation of the associated laboratories may not be visible as an accreditation in the field of legal metrology.

Survey conducted by the OIML

The questionnaire sent out by the OIML requested answers to the following questions:

- Does your national regulation require type approval for certain categories of measuring instruments?
- Does your national regulation require initial verification to be carried out on certain instruments before they are placed on the market or put into use?
- Does your national regulation allow the manufacturer of the instrument and/or the owner of the type approval certificate to be responsible for the initial verification?

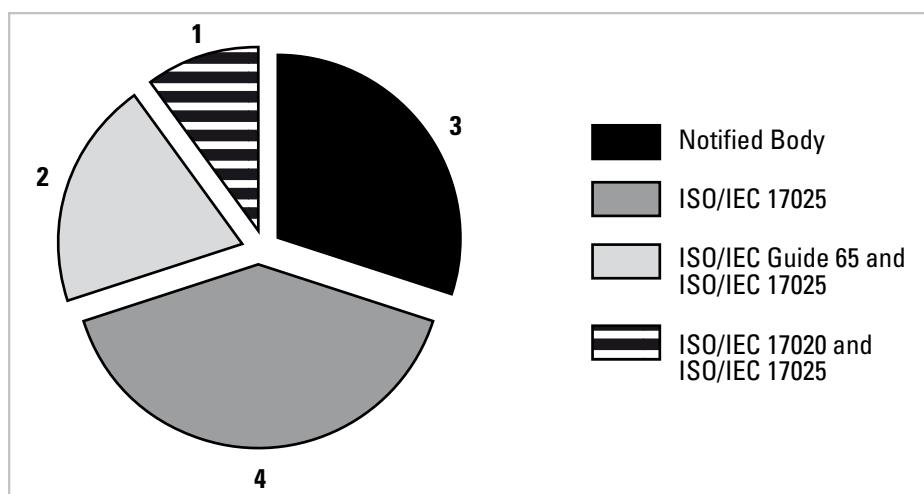


Fig 5 Number of countries regarding the requirements applicable to type approval bodies

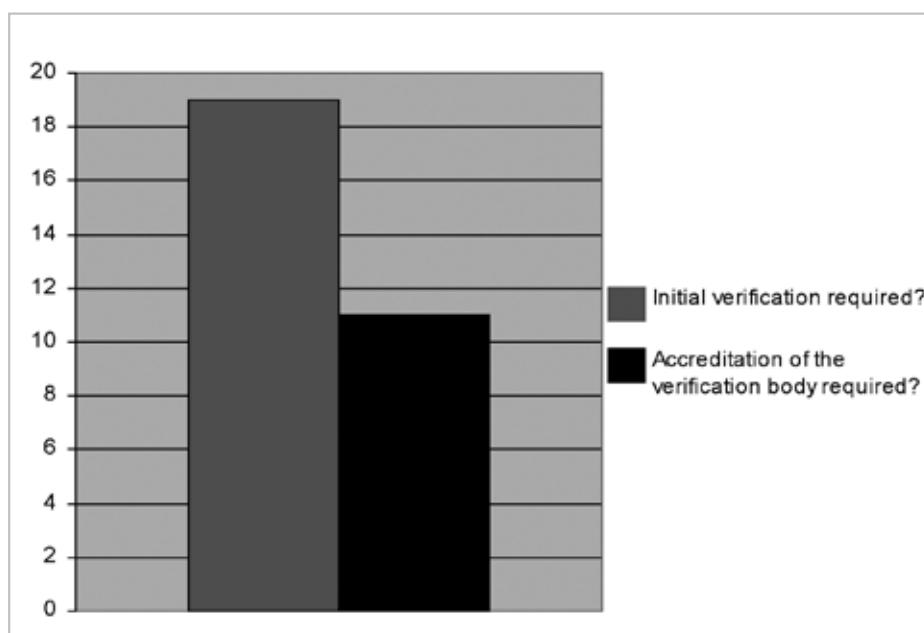


Fig 6 Number of countries which request initial verification of certain categories of measuring instruments and where accreditation is required

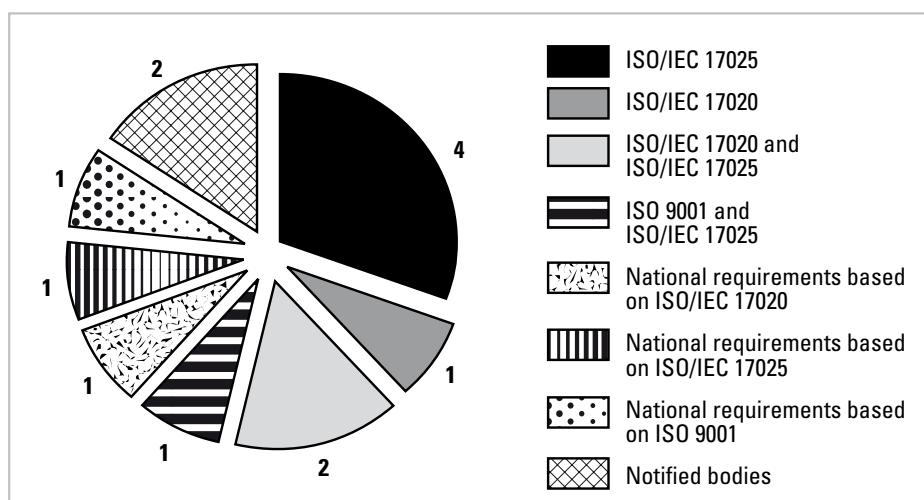


Fig 7 Number of countries regarding the requirements applicable to initial verification bodies

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International Update

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- Does your national regulation require subsequent verifications for certain categories of measuring instruments?

If the answer was "yes" to any of the questions, then additional questions were asked: whether the responsible bodies need to be accredited and if "yes" according to which reference standards.

Twenty OIML Members sent in replies. Among them, twelve were sent by countries outside Europe. These replies are summarized in Figures 4–11.

"Analysis of the figures may demonstrate a tendency for accreditation to be more widely required for bodies responsible for subsequent verification."

No formal conclusions may be drawn. Analysis of the figures may demonstrate a tendency for accreditation to be more widely required for bodies responsible for subsequent verification. This is probably due to the fact that for several years, national regulations authorize designated third-party bodies to perform subsequent (in service) verifications of measuring instruments.

Joint ILAC/OIML Working Program 2010–2011

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in November 2007 between ILAC and the OIML, the joint Working Program has now been revised on the basis of the conclusions of the ILAC/OIML Meeting held on 1 April 2010 and approved by the ILAC Chair and CIML President.

Laurent Vinson (ILAC) and Régine Gaucher (OIML) are responsible for the implementation of this Program, which is included for your information and also available from the ILAC website.

(see Working Program on next page)

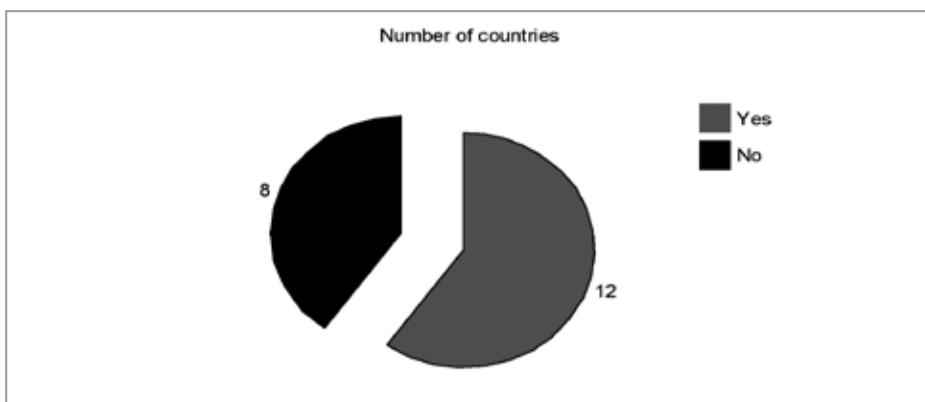


Fig 8 Initial verification by the manufacturer

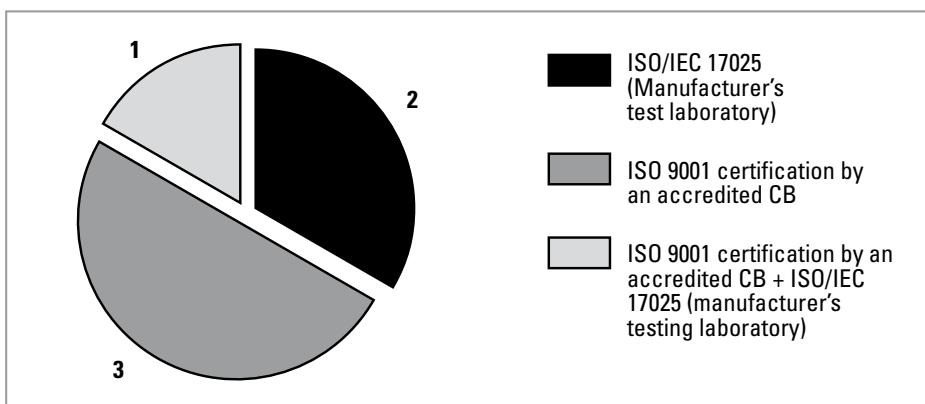


Fig 9 Reference requirements applicable to the manufacturer CB: Certification Body

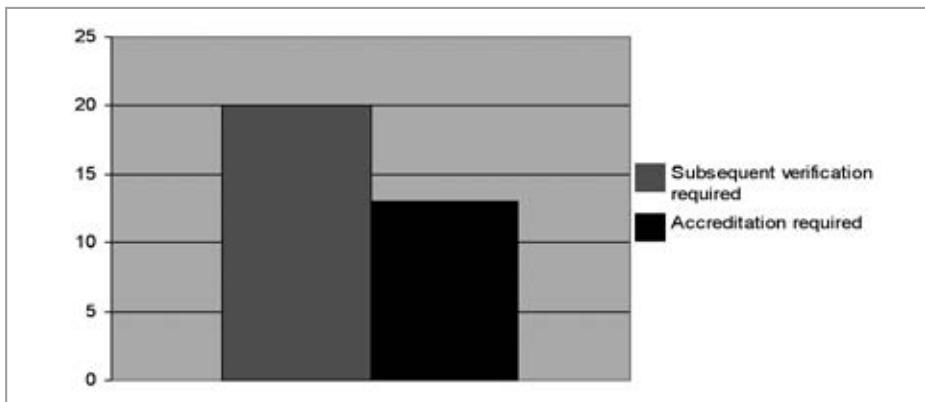


Fig 10 Number of countries which request subsequent verification and which request accreditation of subsequent verification bodies

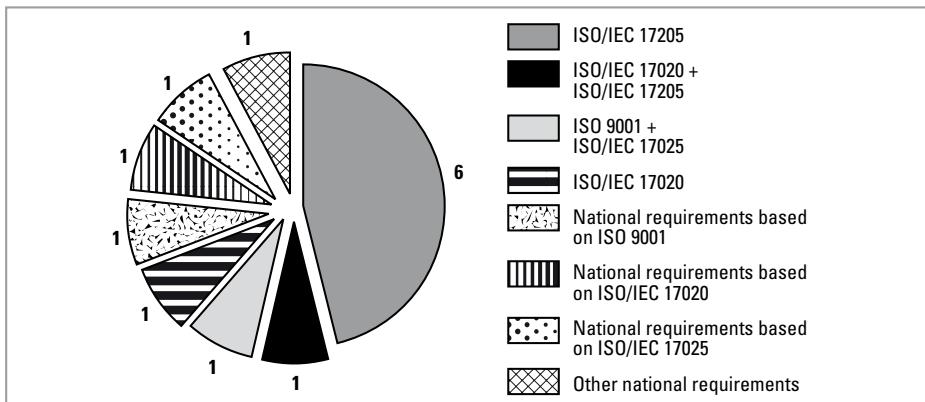


Fig 11 Number of countries regarding the requirements applicable to subsequent verification bodies when accreditation is required

Joint ILAC/OIML Working Program 2010-2011

Action	Comments	Leader	Means	Deadline
Improvement in communication between National Accreditation Bodies and National Legal Metrology Bodies	Draft joint ILAC/OIML Communiqué	ILAC	Joint ILAC/OIML Communiqué to be sent to CIMP Members and to National Accreditation Bodies. Communiqué to be uploaded on both ILAC and OIML web sites and to be published in ILAC News and in the OIML Bulletin	December 2010
	Renewal of the R 60 and R 76 DoMCs	BIML	BIML Circular to be sent to Issuing Participants (with copy to CIMP Members) before launching the renewal of the R 60 and R 76 DoMCs	September 2010
Training for lead assessors from Accreditation Bodies, ILAC full Members	Development of training material	BIML	One-day training sessions	To be decided
	Training organization	OIML	One-day training sessions	To be decided
Procedure for assessment in the field of legal metrology	Draft OIML/ILAC procedure to be prepared by a joint ILAC/OIML Working Group to be set up	BIML/ILAC	Joint ILAC/OIML Publication	September 2010
Communication on the use of accreditation in legal metrology	Article to be drawn up jointly by ILAC and the OIML to present the results of the two surveys conducted in 2009	BIML	Article to be published in ILAC News, posted on the ILAC web site; and published in the OIML Bulletin and posted on the OIML web site. BIML Circular to CIMP Members and OIML Corresponding Members	Mid-2010



Changes to ILAC Membership

The following ILAC membership changes have occurred since the April 2010 issue of ILAC News.

Full Members

- Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA)
- Hungarian Accreditation Board (NAT)
- Papua New Guinea Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (PNGLAS)

Associates

- Kosovo Accreditation Directorate (DAK)

Affiliates

- Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB)
- PPD

Withdrawn

- DAR

ILAC Membership

- ILAC membership as at 26 August 2010 is as follows:
- 66 Full Members (Signatories to the ILAC Arrangement) representing 55 economies;
- 22 Associates representing 22 economies;
- 20 Affiliates representing 19 economies;
- 4 Regional Cooperation Bodies
- 25 Stakeholders

The ILAC membership (total 137 organisations) now covers a total of 89 different economies worldwide and over 34,000 laboratories and 6,000 inspection bodies are accredited by the 88 ILAC Full Members and Associates.



2011 Metrology Conference

The first announcement and call for Papers for the 4th International Conference on Metrology - Measurement and Testing in the Service of Society, to be held in Jerusalem, Israel on 23-24 May 2011 has been launched.

The conference program, including details of the list of topics and instructions for the submission of abstracts can be accessed from the ILAC website.



From the APLAC Secretariat

We would like to thank KOLAS for hosting the recent ISO/IEC 17011 training course, the MRA Council and Board of Management meetings. The meetings were very successful and we especially appreciate KOLAS's hospitality in hosting the very enjoyable MRA Council dinner and entertainment.

APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

At the recent MRA Council meeting PNGLAS (PNG) was accepted as a signatory to the APLAC MRA for testing and the recognition of A2LA (USA) was extended to include ISO 15189. Congratulations to PNGLAS and A2LA!

Congratulations also go to PAO, (Philippines) for the continuation of its signatory status for testing and calibration.

APLAC Workshops/Training Courses in 2010

A successful 2 day training course on ISO/IEC 17011 was held in Seoul, Korea on the 10 and 11 May.



At the time of writing this report a 3 day training course on the recently issued ISO/IEC 17043 has been scheduled to be hosted by TAF, Chinese Taipei from the 14 to 16 September.

Also a 3 day training course on the updated version of ISO Guide 34:2009 has been scheduled to be hosted by CNAS, People's Republic of China from the 20 to 22 September.

APLAC meetings in 2010

The 2010 General Assembly and associated meetings will be held in Osaka, Japan in the week 4-10 December. The meetings will be jointly hosted by IAJapan, JAB, JCLA and VLAC.

APLAC web site

Our website has frequent updates so please feel to visit it at www.aplac.org

New Members

APLAC welcomes the Quality Management Program – Laboratory Services (QMP-LS), Canada as a new Full Member and the Korea Association of Standards and Testing Organisations (KASTO) as a new Associate Member.

APLAC Secretary

Mr Michael Fraser has now assumed the role of APLAC Secretary. Michael can be contacted at: aplac@nata.com.au. Janet Clark continues in her role as APLAC Administration Coordinator and can be reached via the same email address.

Helen Liddy retired from NATA on the 30 June and we wish her all the very best for the future.

From Michael Fraser and Janet Clark



An Overview of Major Developments within EA

EA full members and signatories to the EA MLA

In accordance with European Regulation (EC) no 765/2008 which states that national authorities in each EU Member State shall establish one single national accreditation body (NAB) in charge of all accreditations, some adjustments are being completed within the EA membership. Further to the appointment of ACCREDIA as the Italian national accreditation body in early 2010, and after calibration activities previously accredited by COPA were taken over by ACCREDIA in April 2010, the 25th EA General Assembly held on 20-21 May 2010 in Zurich, Switzerland (see photo) confirmed the termination of COPA's full membership with immediate effect.

EA was very pleased to welcome Roxanne Robinson (APLAC), Ileana Martinez (IAAC), Annabel Brewka (European Commission), Tore Nyvold Thomassen (EFTA), Hoang Liauw (CEN), Guy Jacques (Eurolab – Chair of the EA Advisory Board), Martin



Stadler (Business Europe – Vice-Chair of the EA Advisory Board), Pavel Klenovsky (EURAMET), Jean-Marc Aublant (Eurolab), Natasa Mejak-Vukovic (WELMEC), Hinrich Schaub and Herbert Egolf (CEO International), and Erik Janssens (EOQ) to the EA General Assembly held in Zurich.

To date the whole EA family counts 33 full member accreditation bodies, out of which 29 are signatories to the EA MLA. HAA and NAT, the Croatian and Hungarian NABs respectively, have recently been allowed to become EA MLA signatories for every scope covered by the agreement. So far a total of 22 accreditation bodies have now signed for all accreditation activities currently covered by the EA MLA.

EA-1/08: *Multi- and Bilateral Agreement signatories* has become an information

brochure with a completely renewed format aiming at raising stakeholders' and regulators' awareness about the peer evaluation process, and the values and benefits of the EA MLA.

As for the Statement of Equivalence to be used by EA MLA signatories to communicate on the equivalence of accreditation systems operated by EA MLA signatories and the reliability of reports and certificates issued by the conformity assessment bodies accredited by EA MLA signatories, the final draft should be made available by the end of 2010.

Increasing cooperation beyond the European Union

EA gathers 20 non-European accreditation body signatories to a contract of cooperation, out of which 11 have developed into bilateral agreements with EA. With a view to develop its cooperation outside the EU-member states, EA approved a policy - published in Document EA-1/13 - to provide

for a better framework for cooperation with accreditation bodies of countries not being members of the EU and EFTA but falling within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), and particularly belonging to the Euro-Mediterranean area. A detailed review of the existing contracts of cooperation and bilateral agreements was subsequently carried out by the EA Executive Committee in late 2009.

At its meeting in May 2010, the EA General Assembly resolved that:

- in accordance with the recently revised EA Articles of Association, the associate membership is offered to the accreditation bodies located within the countries that are either potential candidate countries to the EU/EFTA or in the European Neighbourhood Policy. Where an associate member has a bilateral agreement with EA on its recognition in relation to the EA MLA, it will be asked to sign a new BLA specific to associate members;
- for accreditation bodies that are outside of the EU/EFTA and European Neighbourhood Policy area, the existing contracts of cooperation and bilateral agreements are allowed to remain in force for the time being, in line with the earlier General Assembly resolutions.

Additional actions are being taken to define criteria, call for and evaluate applications from accreditation bodies interested in an on-going relationship with EA in line with EA-1/13. The results of the evaluations by the EA Multi-Lateral Agreement Council should be presented to the General Assembly in November 2011.

Boosting EA perspectives

The EA Executive Committee held a strategy session in combination with its first 2010 meeting in January. The objective was to revise the EA Strategic Plan and develop a vision for the Secretariat in accordance with the new role and enhanced status given to EA by Regulation (EC) 765/2008. This was a first step in the process: discussions are going on within the Executive Committee with a view to present a revised plan to the EA General Assembly in November 2010.

As a very first outcome, the Paris EA Secretariat is getting support. Further to the need approved by the last General Assembly in May 2010 to increase the EA Secretariat's human resources, EA has just selected an additional person to reinforce the team in Paris in their daily activities as from summer 2010 on the basis of a fixed-term part-time

"The objective was to revise the EA Strategic Plan and develop a vision for the Secretariat in accordance with the new role and enhanced status given to EA by Regulation (EC) 765/2008."

employment contract.

The EA Executive Committee has completed the second stage of revision of the EA Articles of Association and Rules of Procedure. The first stage had been achieved at the end of 2009 with the adoption and publication of the Articles, after Articles 1 through 4 of the Articles had been revised to align the EA membership criteria with the European Regulation requirements. Now the revised draft is ready to go out for comments in due course for the final draft to be ratified and published by the end of 2010.

Formal adoption of ILAC and IAF resolutions and documents within EA

In May 2010 the EA General Assembly resolved that the EA Executive Committee shall review the resolutions from ILAC

and IAF at the first Executive Committee meeting following the ILAC and IAF General Assemblies, before making proposals to formally adopt within EA any resolution that impacts on the operation of EA-member accreditation bodies.

A parallel procedure should soon provide that ILAC and IAF documents which are mandatory for EA MLA signatories, as well as for EA as the regional cooperation body that administers and manages the evaluations of EA signatories to the ILAC and IAF arrangements, shall be submitted to EA members for endorsement. Approved ILAC or IAF documents will be proposed to the EA General Assembly for formal approval. ILAC and IAF documents endorsed as EA documents will be available through the EA website.

In case ILAC or IAF documents contain provisions, principles or policies conflicting with those adopted for the European accreditation system, the EA Executive Committee shall bring the matter to the attention of the EA Advisory Board, asking the latter for advice on how to resolve the conflict. A proposal supplemented by a recommendation to solve the conflict identified will be submitted to the EA General Assembly. This recommendation may consist of drafting a specific EA document to replace the international document.

continued next page



The 25th EA General Assembly held on 20 and 21 May 2010 in Zürich, Switzerland, brought together more than 80 delegates representing 40 EA members and contract of cooperation signatories.

Regional Cooperations

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Document revision within the EA Horizontal Harmonisation Committee (HHC)

Revision of EA-3/09: *Surveillance and reassessment of accredited organizations*: at its meeting in March 2010, the HHC agreed to recommend to downgrade EA-3/09 status to that of an advisory document. If agreed by the General Assembly, EA evaluators will have to be informed. In addition, the HHC decided to develop a new guidance on ISO/IEC 17011 focusing on surveillance and reassessment rules. Feedback on EA work will be provided to ILAC/IAF and the Chair, Merih Malmqvist-Nilsson, offered to draft a paper on accreditation cycles for further discussion at the HHC September meeting.

Revision of EA-2/11: *EA Policy for Conformity Assessment schemes*: the policy encapsulates a process for dealing with

applications from schemes to be accepted in EA. It also outlines a proposal for an MoU meant to formalize relations and interaction between EA and the scheme. Accepted schemes will be published on the EA website. Currently there are 13 HHC-reviewed schemes operating in the private and regulatory areas.

The EA Laboratory Committee (LC): a buoyant committee

In light of the results of a survey launched in April 2010 to evaluate EA-member accreditation bodies' activity and the need for accreditation in the field of reference material producers, the EA General Assembly has recently endorsed the principle that EA should expand its MLA to cover the accreditation of RMPs in the future. The proposed timeframe for when the activity should be covered by the EA MLA will be defined in due course.

The WG Healthcare of the EA Laboratory Committee should elect its new Chair to replace Andreas Steinhorst on 15 September 2010.

At the LC meeting held in March 2010, Christian Lehmann (DAkkS), the convenor of WG ILC Testing, provided a presentation on the results achieved in recent PT activities. He also presented a Table of Learning Points that should become a very useful tool for EA accreditation bodies' use in their system and structure, in particular, but not only, for training of assessors.

The WG ILC Calibration is about to start an inter-laboratory comparison for calibration of roughness measurements in line with the agreed five-year plan for regional ILCs. An invitation to nominate laboratories was circulating until 1 July 2010. For more information, please contact the EA Secretariat.



EA enters into a formal partnership with the Commission

The European Accreditation Co-operation (EA) and the European Commission signed a Framework Partnership Agreement in Brussels on June 30, 2010. The signing ceremony was attended by Graham Talbot, EA Chairman and Ms Liliana Brykman, Director on behalf of Mr Heinz Zourek, Director General Enterprise and Industry.

The agreement formalises the relationship between the two organisations that started with the adoption of the new European legislative package, in particular Regulation (EC) 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008, and the recognition of EA as the official European accreditation infrastructure.

Further progress was made with the signing of the "General Guidelines for the Cooperation between the European co-operation for Accreditation and the European Commission, the European Free Trade Association and the competent National Authorities" on 1 April 2009 in Brussels.

The partnership agreement sets out the terms and conditions of the relationship, with a view to achieving the common policy aims and objectives stated in the Cooperation

Guidelines. It covers a period of four years commencing on 1 January 2010.

"This is a significant achievement for EA..."

EA also signed a Specific Agreement on an Operating Grant for 2010, which details financial contributions from the Commission in the form of operating grants for EA to carry out elements of its work as the official accreditation infrastructure in Europe. A similar agreement should be signed with the EFTA countries by the end of the year.

There is still work to be completed, notably establishing the processes and procedures necessary to administer the Specific Agreement on the Operating Grant. The EA Executive Committee will therefore pursue its planned work programme and update stakeholders in due course.

On signing the agreements Graham Talbot commented: "This is a significant achievement for EA and I would like to thank those within EA and the Commission



who contributed to reaching this important milestone. EA will strive to carry out its new role with diligence, impartiality, independence and professionalism to ensure that the trust that has been placed in EA is well-founded".



EA's Reinforcing its relations with stakeholders

Some changes within the EAAB

The EA Advisory Board (EAAB), chaired by Guy Jacques from EUROLAB since the second semester 2009, held its 24th meeting on 15 April 2010 in Brussels. The nomination of Michael Nitsche as the German national authorities' representative and the NA College's Chair at the Board's last meeting, has resulted in Michael being appointed as the second EAAB Vice-Chairman, together with Martin Stadler from BUSINESSEUROPE, the Industry College's Chair.

A strong focus on the cross-border issues

The last meeting's debates focussed on the implementation issues of the cross-border accreditation policy as enshrined in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) 765/2008, i.e. the multisite, multiple accreditation, competition and flexible scope issues. A specific EAAB TFG had been previously set up to collect and analyse current practices and options so as to make recommendations for harmonised pragmatic solutions. The

Board drafted and circulated a couple of documents, i.e. a background document and an EAAB position paper accommodating the Board's recommendations for each specific issue. Both documents were approved within the EAAB in mid-May 2010, shortly before being presented at the EA May General Assembly in Zürich.

Becoming EA Recognised Stakeholders

Regulation (EC) 765/2008 laying down a comprehensive regulatory set of requirements for the organisation and operation of accreditation at national and European levels emphasises and strengthens the important role to be played by stakeholders in accreditation.

Further to the obligation put on EA to interact in a more efficient and transparent way with its stakeholders, an EA Policy for Relations with Stakeholders was adopted and published in Document EA-1/15 in late 2009. This policy provides that a distinct "recognised stakeholder" status with

associated rights and obligations is granted to organisations that wish to become more directly involved in EA's associative life and have a particular institutional interest in contributing to EA's technical activities without, however, meeting the criteria for becoming EA members.

All applications for the recognised stakeholder status are carefully considered by the EA Executive Committee, which makes recommendations to the EA General Assembly after consultation with the EA Advisory Board. The status of becoming a recognised stakeholder is formalised by an agreement in writing between each organisation and EA in order to define the rights and obligations of the particular recognised stakeholder based on the general principles set forth in EA-1/15. The agreement is reviewed every two years.



IAAC Report



This report includes IAAC activities from January 2010 to July 2010.

IAAC MLA scope extension

Currently, IAAC is a Regional Cooperation Body signatory of the ILAC MRA with a scope in Testing and Calibration Laboratories and a signatory of the IAF MLA with a scope in QMS.

IAAC has started operating MLAs for the scopes of EMS Certification Bodies, Product Certification Bodies and Inspection Bodies.

IAAC has submitted an application to extend its IAF MLA for the scopes of accreditation of EMS Certification Bodies, Product Certification Bodies and for Inspection Bodies.

The ILAC-IAF evaluation team leader performed an evaluation of the IAAC MLA Group, and the MLA Committee, on 29-30 August 2009 and evaluated the IAAC

Secretariat on 1-2 September 2009, in Costa Rica. The IAF-ILAC evaluation team has also witnessed several IAAC evaluations in 2009.

New Signatories to the IAAC MLA's

- INN of Chile was accepted as a signatory to the IAAC MLA for calibration and testing laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025), including medical/clinical laboratories (ISO 15189) as of 22 March 2010.
- ECA of Costa Rica was accepted as a signatory to the IAAC MLA for calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025), as of 22 March 2010.
- FQS of the United States was accepted as a signatory to the IAAC MLA for the scope of Testing Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025), as of 22 March 2010.
- ema of Mexico was accepted as a signatory to the IAAC MLA for Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020), as of 22 March 2010. (ema will sign the IAAC MLA for

this scope when there is a minimum of 3 signatories.)

Signatories to the IAAC MLA

For Testing and Calibration Laboratories (13)

Argentina - OAA (and clinical/medical laboratories)

Brazil - Cgre/INMETRO

Canada - SCC (and clinical/medical laboratories)

Chile - INN

Costa Rica - ECA

Cuba - ONARC

Guatemala - OGA (Testing only) (and clinical/medical laboratories)

Mexico - ema (and clinical/medical

continued next page

Regional Cooperations

continued from previous page

laboratories)

USA - A2LA (and clinical/medical laboratories)

USA - ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, Doing business as ACCLASS

USA - ASCLD-LAB (Testing only)

USA - FQS (Testing only)

USA - NVLAP

For Quality Management Systems Certification Bodies (6)

Argentina - OAA

Brazil - Cgcre/INMETRO

Canada - SCC

Mexico - ema

Peru - INDECOPISNA

USA - ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, Doing business as ANAB

For Environmental Management Systems Certification Bodies (5)

Argentina - OAA

Brazil - Cgcre/INMETRO

Canada - SCC

Mexico - ema

USA - ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, Doing business as ANAB

For Product Certification Bodies (4)

Argentina - OAA

Brazil - Cgcre/INMETRO

Canada - SCC

Mexico - ema

For Inspection Bodies (1)

Mexico - ema (ema will sign the IAAC MLA for this scope when there is a minimum of 3 signatories)

IAAC Membership

IAAC currently has a total of 41 members from 23 countries in the Americas. 23 are full members, 7 are associate members and 11 are stakeholders.

IAAC Officers

The current list of IAAC officers is as follows:

- IAAC Chair, Beatriz Garcia of OAA (Argentina)

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

- Interim Treasurer, Keith Greenway of ANSI-ASQ Nat. Acc. Board Dba ACCLASS (USA)
- MLA Committee Chair, Mauricio Soares of Cgcre/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, Andrea Jimenez of ema (Mexico)
- Training Subcommittee Vice-Chair, Nicolas Molina of DTA-IBMETRO (Bolivia)
- 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

IAAC has an extensive training program. The following is a list of training activities for 2010:

- Workshop on ISO/IEC 17021 Part 2 to be held in the United States, between October and November 2010.
- Peer evaluator training workshop for experienced evaluators to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20 August 2010.
- Workshop on Accreditation Best Practices was held in Asuncion, Paraguay on 14-16 June 2010. The workshop was sponsored

by PTB of Germany.

- Workshop on ISO/IEC 17024 was held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on 9-10 March 2010. The workshop was sponsored by OAS.
- Workshop on the Analysis of Proficiency Testing Results was held in Quito, Ecuador, in March 2010. The workshop was sponsored by PTB of Germany.

IAAC Proficiency Testing programs

IAAC T006 Proficiency Test for Sugar Analysis

An IAAC regional proficiency testing program on sugar analysis is being organised by OGA of Guatemala and will be starting soon. Invitations will be sent to IAAC, APLAC and SADCA members.

"IAAC currently has a total of 41 members from 23 countries in the Americas.

IAAC T005 Proficiency Test for Preservatives in Non-alcoholic Beverages

An IAAC regional proficiency testing program on preservatives analysis in non alcoholic beverages is being organised by OAA/INTI of Argentina. The program began in March 2010. Samples have been sent to IAAC, APLAC and SADCA participants.

IAAC T004 Proficiency Test for Wine

An IAAC regional proficiency testing program on wine analysis was carried out by DTA-IBMETRO of Bolivia. This program began in April 2009 and concluded in March 2010. Laboratories from the IAAC region participated, as well as laboratories from 4 APLAC members, and 1 SADCA member. The final report is available from the IAAC website.

Cooperation with International and Regional Organisations

Cooperation with IAF:

Ileana Martinez, IAAC Vice-Chair, attended the IAF Executive Committee meetings in Mexico City, in June 2010.

Beatriz Garcia, IAAC Chair, became a member of the IAF Executive Committee, and attended the IAF Executive Committee meetings in Paris, in March 2010.

Randy Dougherty, IAF Chair, attended the

IAAC Executive Committee meetings held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in March 2010.

At the request of IAF, IAAC will provide 2 regional peer evaluators (team members) for the evaluation of PAC in 2010/2011, and IAAC will also provide a regional evaluator for the evaluation of EA in 2010/2011.

Cooperation with ILAC:

Ileana Martínez, IAAC Vice-Chair, attended the ILAC Executive Committee meetings in Mexico City, in June 2010.

Beatriz García, IAAC Chair, attended the ILAC Executive Committee meetings in Paris, in March 2010.

Peter Unger, ILAC Vice-Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in September 2009, and the IAAC Executive Committee meetings held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in March 2010.

At the request of ILAC, IAAC provided a regional evaluator for the evaluation of APLAC.

Cooperation with PAC:

Fabian Hernandez of ema, Mexico, attended the PAC MLA Committee meeting as the IAAC representative during the PAC Plenary held in Wellington, New Zealand, in June 2010.

Shinichi Iguchi, PAC MLA Chair, attended the IAAC MLA Committee and MLA Group meetings which were held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 22 March 2010.

Cooperation with APLAC:

Barbara Belzer of NVLAP, USA, will attend as the IAAC representative, the ISO/IEC 17043 course organised by APLAC, to be held in Taipei in September 2010.

Laboratories from 4 APLAC members participated in the IAAC regional proficiency testing program on wine analysis carried out by DTA-IBMETRO of Bolivia. The program concluded in March 2010.

APLAC has invited IAAC members to participate in its proficiency testing programs during 2010.

Cooperation with EA:

Ileana Martinez of NVLAP, USA, represented IAAC at the EA General Assembly in May 2010.

Cooperation with SADCA and AFRAC:

Victor Gandy, IAAC Secretary, attended the 3rd workshop regarding the creation of the African Regional Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) which was held in Cairo, Egypt, in

April 2010.

Laboratories from 1 SADCA member participated in the IAAC regional proficiency testing program on wine analysis carried out by DTA-IBMETRO of Bolivia. The program concluded in March 2010.

Technical Cooperation Projects:

2009-2010 Organization of American States (OAS) Project

IAAC is currently implementing a technical cooperation project with the OAS for accreditation bodies in developing countries within the Americas region.

The project includes the following activities:

- Witnessing of IAAC peer evaluations;
- 2 peer evaluations of accreditation bodies;
- Training for 3 peer evaluators;
- 3 technical training courses;
- 1 webinar;
- 3 consultancies for developing ABs;
- 3 internships for staff of developing ABs;
- 1 regional seminar on accreditation;
- 2 national seminar programs on accreditation; and
- 2 proficiency testing programs.

2010 Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) Project

IAAC currently has a technical cooperation project with the PTB of Germany.

The project activities for 2010 include:

- Workshops on Good Practices in Accreditation held in Paraguay, in June 2010.
- Workshop on the Analysis of Proficiency Testing Results held in Quito, Ecuador, in March 2010.
- 3 internships for accreditation bodies that are developing an Inspection Body (IB) scheme were held at ema, Mexico, in November 2009. ema has an established IB program.
- Training for peer evaluator trainees.
- Support to carry out the international evaluations of IAAC and witnessing of IAAC evaluations.

Improvement of IAAC documents and procedures

The Executive Committee reviewed changes to several IAAC documents in order to improve the functioning of IAAC, including the MLA process and the IAAC Bylaws.

IAAC has a new category of mandatory documents which include IAAC, ILAC and IAF mandatory documents for the MLA. The documents may be downloaded from the IAAC website at www.iaac.org.mx

2010 IAAC meetings

- The 15th IAAC General Assembly meetings will held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20-27 August 2010.
- The IAAC 33rd Executive Committee, MLA Committee and Laboratories Subcommittee meetings were held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 22-24 March 2010.

IAAC Information and Publications

Information on IAAC members and documents is available at the IAAC website: www.iaac.org.mx.



**The
16th IAAC General
Assembly Meetings
will be held in Quito,
Ecuador from
20-27 August 2011.**

This series of meetings
will include the IAAC
General Assembly
meeting, Committee
and Subcommittee
meetings as well
as a Seminar on
accreditation and a
training course.

A2LA: Forensic Accreditation Program

In early 2009 in the United States a report was published by the Committee on Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Sciences Community, National Research Council, entitled "Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward." In the report, a detailed description of the status of forensic science in the United States was given and key recommendations were made to help improve the quality and reliability of forensic science in America. Included in the list of recommendations was mandatory accreditation and personnel certification.

Upon reviewing this report and in response to requests from our customers, the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) began work to create a forensic accreditation program. While the main focus of the program was considered to be forensic testing and inspection (scene investigation) conducted by medical, mechanical, electrical, engineering, software and environmental organizations, it was determined that the program should be designed so that it could apply to all those organizations performing inspections and testing for use in criminal and civil proceedings including government and private laboratories and inspection bodies.

On 23 April 2010, A2LA hosted the first meeting of its Forensic Examination Advisory Committee (FEAC). At the meeting, technical experts from various disciplines within the forensic sciences discussed key issues and made motions regarding A2LA policy for the developing forensic accreditation program. Also in 2009 and 2010, A2LA attended many forensic conferences and discussed with key contacts, needs within the forensic community and what A2LA could offer the community in the way of accreditation.

In July 2010, after many months of research and development, A2LA is proud to announce the launch of the A2LA Forensic Accreditation Program. It is hoped that the addition of this program to A2LA's accreditation offerings will help to bridge the gap between what is normally considered forensic examination (DNA, Fingerprints, Crime Scene Examination) and the often overlooked work of the commercial industry for civil litigation (Forensic Engineering, Failure Analysis, Accident Analysis).

The program consists of two separate accreditation options. The first offering is for assessment and accreditation of forensic testing laboratories. Laboratories seeking

accreditation under this option will be assessed for compliance to international standard ISO/IEC 17025 and A2LA policies and requirements.

The second accreditation offering is for the assessment and accreditation of forensic inspection bodies (eg crime scene units, forensic engineering – structural failure inspection). Organizations seeking accreditation under this option will be assessed for compliance to international standard ISO/IEC 17020 and A2LA policies and requirements.

It is hoped that with further research and development and with the support of the forensic community, that the A2LA forensic program will offer accreditation to all those organizations performing such work. For further information regarding A2LA's new program, please visit the A2LA website (www.A2LA.org).



Mauritas Develops An Inspection Body Accreditation Programme

The Mauritus Accreditation Service (MAURITAS) was established under the Mauritus Accreditation Service Act 1998 as a department within the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to provide a national unified service for the accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB's) such as Calibration and Testing Laboratories, Certification Bodies and Inspection Bodies. One of the objectives of MAURITAS is to provide formal recognition of the technical competence of Conformity Assessment Bodies to operate in accordance with international standards.

MAURITAS has already accredited ten (10) Laboratories to the International Standard MS ISO/IEC 17025 and one (1) Certification Body to MS ISO/IEC 17021 since February 2008.



MAURITAS has now embarked on an Accreditation Programme for all Inspection Bodies against ISO/IEC 17020: *General Requirements for the operation of various types of Bodies performing Inspection*. This programme aims at meeting the accreditation needs of Inspection Bodies in Mauritius and providing a high standard service in assessing and accrediting Inspection Bodies over a wide range of schemes in order to recognize their integrity and reliability. The programme is being funded by the French

Development Agency (AFD) under the Trade Capacity Program – "Programme de Renforcement des Capacités Commerciales (PRCC)". The PRCC was established in 2002 and has granted subsidies to a large number of projects. Accreditation of Inspection Bodies in Mauritius will provide formal recognition that an Inspection Service is capable of meeting standards of quality, performance, technical expertise, competence and professional judgment, both at the national and international level.

The Programme is due to start in August 2010 and will last three (3) years. After that period MAURITAS will run its Inspection Body Accreditation Programme independently.



ACCREDIA celebrates 'Global Acceptance'

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and the 12th anniversary of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA).

On the occasion of World Accreditation Day, ACCREDIA – the Italian Accreditation Body – in collaboration with RAI – public service broadcaster, CONFINDUSTRIA SIT – Italian business association for technology services, and AICQ – the most important Italian quality association, organised a roundtable with the theme "Make Quality - Products and Services to compete" for the 7 June. The event took place at the RAI head office in Rome and the opening speech was made by ACCREDIA President Federico Grazioli.

The aim of the meeting was to strengthen the message that certified quality is the instrument which gives tangible advantages to the economic system and to collective life: to companies – reinforcing competitiveness and efficiency with the recognition of competencies also on an international level – and to the general public – guaranteeing innovative services and products as well as better consumer goods from the point of view of safety.

RAI, through the Direction of Technology Strategies, confirmed, thanks to this roundtable, its commitment to technical quality of service as an essential requirement of the relationship with users.

Technical quality is considered to be the strategic objective in the new Service Contract between the Italian Government and the RAI.

ACCREDIA was recognised as the guarantor for quality and safety of Italian products.

AICQ bore testimony to its role for the dissemination of the Culture of Quality in Italy.

Confindustria SIT has acknowledged the commitment of associated companies for quality in Italy and in the rest of Europe.

Contributions were made by other important leaders of top companies to whom quality and customer satisfaction are a major strategic factor for market competitiveness.

Another event of great importance to further reinforce the value of accreditation in Italy took place at the Chamber of Deputies (Sala Marini) in Rome on the subject of "Qualified professional persons and the free market".

The meeting, held on 21 June, was organised with UNI – Italian National Standardisation Body – and Assoprofessioni – the Italian association for non-classified occupations. Many qualified leaders and representatives from various professional associations took part.

One of the main speakers was Antonio Paoletti, Vice-President of ACCREDIA whose contribution discussed the principal topic of accredited professional persons and was a great success.



Professional persons have a fundamental role in improving competitiveness, as they represent a key factor for business development and the quality of products and processes for the benefit of consumers.

ASSOPROFESSIONI have begun, with UNI, procedures for the recognition – through the establishment of technical standards – of each occupation based in the national economy, with the aim that they will be followed by audit certification and accredited by ACCREDIA.

There was a general agreement (including from Members of Parliament who participated in the roundtable) about the unsuitability of the classified occupation associations to ensure for the country a level of expertise in traditional sectors and to respond to the growing needs of new professional persons.

The way to standardisation, certification, accreditation – currently at an advanced stage at an international level – seems to provide the best response to current problems and ACCREDIA will have an important role to play in this area.



Swedac celebrated the World Accreditation Day

Swedac celebrated the World Accreditation Day at the head office in Borås and at the Stockholm office. Swedac's international secretariat lectured on the theme 'Global Acceptance'. Mrs Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, Head of the secretariat, and Mrs Ingrid Arremark, Technical Expert, developed thoughts on the importance of the international and national work to promote accreditation to really enforce the goal of 'Tested/certified once, accepted everywhere'.

The staff took part in a Swedac quiz to test their knowledge of various matters

concerning the international work and rules eg agreements on mutual recognition. The reward for taking part was coffee, strawberries and icecream. The winners of the quiz also received a Swedac rucksack.

Swedac also published special articles on 'Global Acceptance' in its magazine Swedac Kvalitetsaktuellt for customers and in its newsletter for the staff. On 9 June Swedac's new website was launched, and of course, the first news to appear was information on the World Accreditation Day!



Webmaster Heléne Johansson shows Swedac's new website launched on 9 June.
Photo: Johan Mikaelsson

Accreditation Update

Dubai Accreditation Department (DAC) celebrated World Accreditation day on 9 June 2010

Dubai Accreditation Department (DAC) celebrated World Accreditation day on 9 June 2010.

Under the theme of 'Global Acceptance' Dubai Accreditation Department celebrated World Accreditation day on 9 June 2010. An internal e-quiz competition at the level of Dubai Municipality employees was organised. A total of 97 correct answers were received and three winners were selected by draws conducted by Eng Salah Abdul Rahman Al-Amiri, Assistant Director-General for Environment and Public Health of Dubai Municipality.



As part of the celebrations DAC organised a ceremony to award the 1st and 100th accredited conformity assessment bodies in recognition of their association with DAC in the quest of quality and to encourage all conformity assessment bodies to participate in raising the quality of services provided to customers. The awards were given to the 1st accredited - M/S Al Hoty Stanger Laboratories, Dubai accredited in 2002 and the 100th accredited - M/S TUV SUD Middle East, Dubai accredited in 2010.

DAC re-structured technical task forces

DAC technical committees and task forces conducted their annual meetings after restructuring. DAC restructured four task forces for laboratories (medical, calibration, food and environmental testing and construction material testing), one task force for inspection bodies (pressure vessels inspection) and the personnel certification task force.

DAC will publish four new requirement documents by the end of 2010 following review by the task forces covering calibration, food and environmental testing, pressure vessels inspection, and personnel certifications for crane operators.



Eng Salah Amiri conducting a draw to select the winners of the e-quiz competition



Representatives from M/S Al Hoty Stanger Laboratories, Dubai and M/S TUV SUD Middle East, Dubai receiving their awards



Meeting of DAC task force for medical laboratories

DAC accredited first type "B" inspection body

DAC accredited DP World Technical Department, Dubai as a type "B" inspection body in the field of lifting equipment inspection. This is the first type "B" inspection body accredited by DAC. DAC's accreditation schemes are receiving attention from all types of conformity assessment bodies.

DAC training courses

- Pressure Vessel Equipment Inspection

DAC has conducted the second practical training course this year for "Pressure Vessel Inspection". The course was held from 26 to 28 April 2010. A total of 28 delegates from governmental and private Inspection Bodies attended the course. DAC staff also participated in this training course. This course provided the basic knowledge and skills for the inspection of pressure vessels. It highlighted the special approach needed to develop the inspection of different types of pressure equipment (vessels, boilers, pipelines, assemblies) and their safety and control accessories.

Uncertainty of measurement

DAC conducted the third public course this year on "uncertainty of measurement". The course was held from 17 to 19 May 2010. Twenty-two delegates from governmental and private laboratories, representing different types of testing, calibration and medical laboratories, attended the course. Eng Lina Qudah, former director of DAC, was the resource person for the training course.



Ms Amina Ahmed, Director of DAC presenting the accreditation certificate to the Quality Director of DP World, Dubai.



Delegates at the training course on uncertainty of measurement

EGAC holds a successful Seminar on Conformity Assessment for Medical Devices

On 6 July the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC) held a seminar on Conformity Assessment for Medical Devices as part of the EU/EGYPT TWINNING PROJECT EG08-AA-TR11 activities to enhance building the capacity of EGAC.

In his opening remarks and presentation, Eng Hassan Shaarawi the Executive director of EGAC, explained EGAC's mandate and objectives and introduced its plan to develop into a full portfolio leading accreditation organisation.

Shaarwi also stated that EGAC since its inception has accredited a total of 285

conformity assessment bodies including some African and Arab laboratories and during the last year alone trained more than a thousand participants.

Then Mr Bright, a world class expert from BSI presented the Medical Directives 93/42/EEC and 90/385/EE including 2007/47/EC and the classification of Medical devices, Declaration of Conformity and CE Marking.

The presentation by Mr Lewis from BSI, a renowned expert, covered the Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in the UK including how the system works, the role of Notified Bodies, the

Designation Handbook and the International updates to Certification of Medical Devices.

The seminar was successfully attended by 70 participants from medical devices manufacturers, users, assessors, regulators and other stakeholders from both the Public and private sector. The seminar concluded with an open panel discussion that showed a great interest from the medical devices community delegates in accreditation paving the way and to include this activity in EGAC's Portfolio in the foreseeable future.



World Accreditation Day celebrations in Mexico

From 7 to 10 June, ema conducted the third week of celebration of Accreditation, in commemoration of 9 June: World Day for Accreditation.



On this occasion, 7 June was devoted to clinical laboratories and testing, and 8 June to calibration laboratories.

The 50 participants involved in the medical laboratory meetings had the opportunity to learn about international developments in this field. The National Metrology Center (CENAM), also explained the documentation of metrological traceability of clinical laboratory measurements.

About 250 people attended the testing laboratory meetings and 90 attended the calibration laboratory meetings. In these sessions, officials from the Directorate General of Standards of the Ministry of Economy, National Water Commission (CONAGUA) and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS) discussed the importance of technically competent and reliable conformity assessment agencies in supporting compliance with the rules to safeguard our security, health and environment.

Also on 8 June, conferences for staff from certification bodies were attended by 60 participants. These participants had the opportunity to learn about the sustainable forests certification, the gender equity standard and appellations of origin programs.



Inspection bodies were the focus for the 10 June. With 140 people in attendance, these conferences were addressed by authorities from the Ministry of Labor and Social (STPS); Secretariat of Communications and Transports (SCT); and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), on the existing verification programs in each of their areas.

For the third time on 9 June, in several countries, World Accreditation Day was celebrated with joy, and Mexico was no exception! The community who make up the Mexican System of Metrology, Standardization and Conformity Assessment, gathered to commemorate this important date and address issues of interest surrounding accreditation.

This year we had major figures participating as members of the presidium for the opening ceremony and sharing their messages and greetings on this special day:

We were privileged to have one of the highest authorities of the environment in Mexico, Mr Sandra Denisse Herrera Flores, Undersecretary of Promotion and Regulations of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources;

We were accompanied by Dr Francisco Ramos, General Director of Standards of the Ministry of Economy;

And we were honored with the participation of Mr Jorge Remedi, representative of the Accreditation Body of Argentina, OAA.

To inaugurate the work of our Day, Ing Salomón Presburger, President of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers of the United Mexican States (CONCAMIN) honored us with his presence, and reiterated the need to strengthen SISMENEC, stating that "this is one of the priorities of the plans and strategies for the development of Mexican society and economy."

The central theme for this year was "Global Acceptance" and to address it three workshops were conducted:

- Mutual Recognition Agreements, MRA;
- Policies and Procedures of Conformity Assessment; and
- Accreditation and Approval Difference.

We thank all those who made possible the celebration of our World Accreditation Day.



EA MLA signatory–ILAC MRA signatory–5th birthday of HAA!



Hrvatska akreditacijska agencija
Croatian Accreditation Agency

This year the Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA) has plenty reasons for celebration! One of the greatest successes of HAA, in the first part of 2010, was becoming a signatory to the multilateral agreement with EA for all accreditation schemes (calibration laboratories, testing and medical laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies for QMS, EMS, certification of products and certification of personnel). HAA was, in a demanding three year evaluation procedure, assessed by EA as a competent and confident institution.

HAA submitted an application to sign the EA MLA on 1 March 2007. The pre-peer evaluation of HAA was undertaken in June 2008 and the full evaluation was performed in July and November 2009. Finally, on 29 April 2010 HAA signed the EA MLA. Following this, HAA submitted application to ILAC and became an ILAC full member and signed the ILAC MRA. This great achievement of HAA is excellently timed to match with the 5th anniversary of HAA working independently.

The beginning of an accreditation service in Croatia started, much earlier however, in 1996. At that time the accreditation service was organized within the State Office for Standardization and Metrology (DZNM-NSO). HAA was established on 1 July 2005 as a result of a re-organization of the DZNM.

To seek feedback from accredited bodies and users of their services, HAA launched two comprehensive surveys. In February 2010 HAA conducted a survey on Clients' Satisfaction of HAA services. The survey was forwarded to all the accredited conformity assessment bodies with the questions related to:

- the application for accreditation (clarity of application documentation, availability of information about accreditation before the CAB's application for accreditation and the ease of completing application documents);
- the accreditation service (on site assessment, price, duration of accreditation process);
- the HAA staff (availability, kindness, professionalism, quality of information given by HAA staff);

- the value of accreditation (recognition and position of accredited bodies in the market and increase of CAB's activities/services after accreditation);
- financial impact of accreditation (increase in CAB's income after accreditation, increase in the number of supply/demand for services after accreditation);
- the main reason for application for accreditation (legal stipulations or quality improvements);
- the strong and weak points of HAA work; and
- HAA work in 2009 in comparison with previous years.

HAA conducts this kind of survey every 3 years as it is an important tool for identifying improvements in the HAA management system. We have informed our

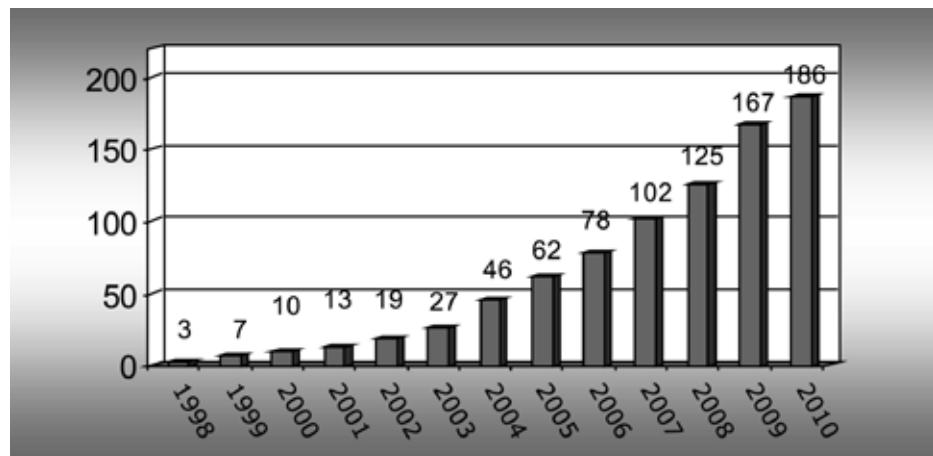
clients about the results of the survey and this information is available from the HAA website www.akreditacija.hr

To gather feedback from the users of accredited services, HAA in cooperation with the Croatian Chamber of Commerce (HGK), conducted the Survey on accreditation awareness and implementation of quality systems in practice among Croatian economic operators (sample of 20 000 companies). The survey was launched in April 2010 and was the first time such a comprehensive survey in this area was conducted in Croatia. The main points of the survey were related to:

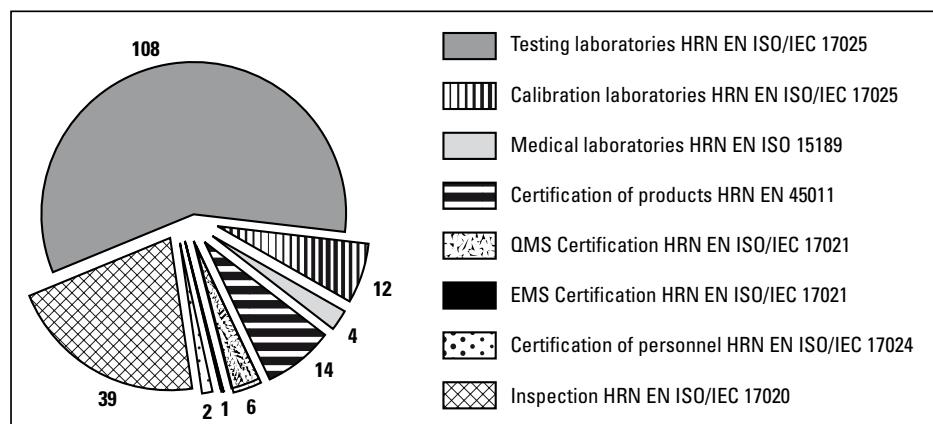
- the company's data (number of employees/size of company, sector of operation);

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HAA in numbers - 5 years of HAA independent work



Number of accredited bodies in Croatia by years (status 2010-06-30)

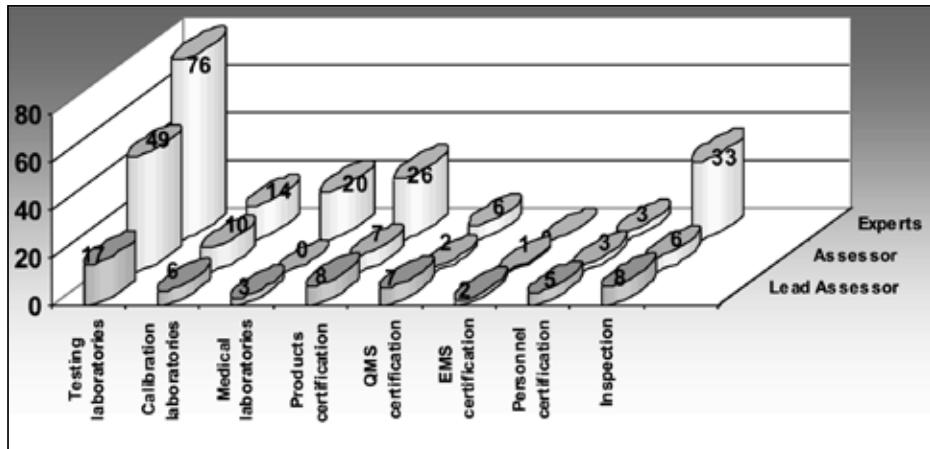


Number of accredited bodies in Croatia according to the accreditation schemes (status 2010-06-30)

Accreditation Update

continued from previous page

- the management system in the company (has the company implemented any kind of management system, is it certified, is it certified by accredited certifying body);
- knowledge about accreditation (are they familiar with the terms: certification, accreditation, difference between certification and accreditation, HAA activities);
- the use of services of conformity assessments bodies (does company use services of CABs, does company use services of accredited CABs, does company use services of CABs abroad and main criteria for choosing specific CAB (price, CAB's accreditation, recognition by ministries, others); and
- implication of Croatian negotiation process with EU on the quality issues in general.



Number of HAA assessors according to the accreditation schemes (status 2010-06-30)

The results of this survey will be presented to the Croatian economic operators via the media and other joint HAA and HGK promotion activities from September 2010. A plan for a comprehensive education and

training program for economic operators has also been agreed with HGK and will be performed during 2010 and 2011.



JANAAC Achieves Another Milestone on World Accreditation Day

KINGSTON JAMAICA, 11 JUNE 2010: The Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC), on World Accreditation Day (WAD), Wednesday 9 June 2010, presented its first Certificate of Accreditation. The certificate was presented to the Analytical Services Department of the Scientific Research Council (SRC) during the WAD commemorative breakfast.

On this day JANAAC also introduced the two accreditation symbols that will now be used to identify medical and testing laboratories that have achieved the level of technical competence necessary to be accredited to the international standards ISO 15189 and ISO/IEC 17025.

These symbols were introduced by Jamaica's Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce Karl Samuda, during a CEO Breakfast hosted by JANAAC at the Terra Nova Hotel in Kingston on 9 June. The breakfast was one of several commemorative events hosted by the accreditation body as they joined other countries world-wide in observing World Accreditation Day under the theme Global Acceptance.

One accreditation symbol is for medical laboratories and the other for testing laboratories. Both symbols are in the Jamaica national colours of black, green and gold.



According to JANAAC's CEO Marguerite Domville, this signifies 'national pride.'

The Minister lauded the staff of JANAAC for their achievements over the two years since the agency began operations, pointing out that their work was significant in enhancing the competitiveness of Jamaican products in the international marketplace.

He also used the opportunity to urge the over 80 laboratory representatives in attendance to ensure that their laboratories become accredited to enable smoother trade relations within CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market) and greater access of Jamaican goods and services to international markets.

In presenting the first Certificate of Accreditation, Minister Samuda expressed his concern that only one of all the laboratories in the country had achieved the level to be accredited by JANAAC. He also pointed out that "Accreditation of Jamaican laboratories to international standards will directly impact the country's ability to develop

products to satisfy local needs and to meet global acceptance, as accreditation facilitates global trade by allowing goods tested once in the country of origin to be accepted elsewhere without the need for further testing."

"Failing this," the Minister expanded, "Jamaica's trading partners including CARICOM member countries could have the basis to refuse our exports. When we are all accredited, products can flow more freely and facilitate (fair) trade."

The certificate of accreditation was presented to the SRC following months of rigorous



Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce Karl Samuda presents the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation's (JANAAC) first certificate of accreditation to Carol Thompson, Team Leader in the Scientific Research Council's Analytical Services Department and Marguerite Domville of JANAAC.

assessment, by JANAAC's assessors, of its operating procedures and testing methods to ensure they conformed to the standards outlined by the International Organization for Standards (ISO) and the Guidelines of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

With the accreditation of the SRC's Analytical Services Department by JANAAC, Jamaica now has two local laboratories that are accredited to international standards. The other accredited laboratory is the Mass Laboratory at the Bureau of Standards, which was accredited by an overseas based accreditation body, before the establishment of JANAAC.

CEO of JANAAC, Marguerite Domville said "although the SRC's chemistry laboratory was the only laboratory to be accredited thus far, she was heartened by the response of the other laboratories to the call for them to become accredited. To date 27 laboratories have picked up applications.

Meanwhile guest speaker at the breakfast, President of the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association (JMA), Omar Azan, called for a nurturing of the goods producing sectors of the Jamaican economy in order to build their capacity to comply with international quality standards. He pointed out that the detention of Jamaican products at the ports of entry for retesting by importing countries, can be very costly to exporters.

"One major problem that exists in the Caribbean is the lack of traceability from the inputs to the finished product. We need measures to be put in place to verify the source of inputs, so that we can vouch for the integrity of our products" Mr Azan said.

The day's activities also included a live broadcast of the CEO Breakfast on Jamaican radio, a Poster Exhibition and a Technical Conference entitled "Testing for Accuracy and Global Competitiveness."

The Technical Conference which took place in the afternoon was a joint activity done in collaboration with the Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Service (CLAS) Project of the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ).

JANAAC, an agency of the Industry, Investment and Commerce Ministry, was incorporated in March 2007 to provide accreditation services to Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) such as laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.



Ms Marguerite Domville
Chief Executive Officer



JANAAC CEO Breakfast: Jamaica's Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce Karl Samuda, (right) and from left: Giselle Guevara, Manager of the Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Scheme project, Reginald Budhan, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry Investment and Commerce, Marguerite Domville, Omar Azan, President of the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association (JMA) and Simon Roberts, Chairman of the JANAAC Accreditation Council.



A very pleased Carol Thompson, Team Leader in the Scientific Research Council's (SRC) Analytical Services Department (left) is all smiles as she uses a chart to explain how the SRC prepared itself for the accreditation process to: from left - AnnMarie Smith of the SRC, Simon Roberts, Chairman of the JANAAC Accreditation Council and Sonia Morgan, JANAAC Senior Lead Assessor.



Marguerite Domville, CEO of JANAAC left, has the attention of: from left - former JLP spokeswoman on Commerce Shirley Williams, Noel Osbourne Executive Director of the Bureau of Standards and Claudette Brown Technical Manager, JANAAC. Mrs Williams, who is CEO of the Polydiagnostic Centre Ltd, was among numerous CEOs and senior executives from laboratories across the island who attended a CEO Breakfast hosted by JANAAC.

Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS) Celebrates World Accreditation Day (WAD)

Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS), the sole National Accreditation Body (NAB) for Kenya and a statutory organization under the Ministry of Industrialization, celebrated the third World Accreditation Day (WAD) during the 29th World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science.

This was the first time this conference has been held in Sub-Saharan Africa. The venue was the Kenyatta International Conference Center (KICC) in Nairobi, Kenya from 6 to 10 June 2010. The conference was organized jointly by the Association of Kenya Medical Laboratory Scientific Officers (AKMLSO), the host and the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS). IFBLS was founded in 1954 by Ms Elizabeth Pletscher.

The purpose of this congress was to promote excellence in biomedical science, enhance professional development, and provide networking opportunities in research, education and business. The focus was on the role of Biomedical Laboratory science in the management of the global health burden with emphasis on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

KENAS was a key participant in the congress, having both an exhibition booth, and a paper which was presented by Doris Mueni Mengo from KENAS titled "Do doctors use laboratory results prior to treatment of patients?". KENAS used the opportunity to organize a symposium to elucidate the theme of this year's WAD focusing on medical/ clinical laboratory accreditation.

The WAD was established three years ago in 2008 under the auspices of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the umbrella bodies that are globally responsible for accreditation activities in the field of certification and inspection/laboratory testing respectively.

This was the third WAD to be celebrated. The first WAD was celebrated in the year 2008 and the theme was "Accreditation-delivering global trust" while the second one was celebrated in 2009 with the theme "competence".

The theme for this year was "Global Acceptance".

Put simply with medical/clinical laboratories in mind – Global acceptance of medical/



clinical results, goes hand in hand with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory

Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) principle of "tested once, accepted everywhere".

The big gathering comprised of delegates that are experts in the field of Biomedical Science drawn from all over the world. KENAS took this opportunity to reach out to the laboratory scientists, first to increase awareness, educate them and to outline the significance and benefits of medical/clinical laboratory accreditation taking into account the requirements of customers (physicians/ clinicians, patients) and applicable standards particularly ISO 15189:2007-*Medical Laboratories-Particular requirements for quality and competence as well as applicable regulatory requirements*.

The symposium was officiated by the Permanent Secretary of our parent Ministry of Industrialization, Prof John K Lonyangapuo CBS, HSC who was represented by Ms Pamela A Dede, Deputy Director of Industries. Other key representatives were from the Ministry of Medical Services (MOMS), Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MOPHS), Centre for Disease Control (CDC), A Global Healthcare Public Foundation (AGHPF), Family Health International (FHI), Pathcare Laboratories (K) Ltd, the private sector and donor support partners amongst many other partners in the health sector.

The KENAS symposium took place between 11.00 and 13.00. Participants in this world accreditation day symposium were biomedical scientists who were present at

the congress and who chose to celebrate this day with KENAS together with other key medical/clinical laboratory stakeholders.

The Director KENAS, Mr Sammy K Milgo welcomed the participants to the symposium and gave a brief history of KENAS.

Welcome remarks were made by Dr Moses Njue Head of the Department of Diagnostic and Forensic Sciences (DDFS) - MOMS, Mr Valentine Magero - A Laboratory specialist from Family Health International (FHI) - Africa Regional office, and Dr Jane Mwangi from Centre for Disease Control and Prevention - Global AIDS Program (CDC-GAP) Kenya.

Presentations were given by Dr Khadijah Kasachoon from KENAS, who talked about Global acceptance for medical/clinical laboratory results. Mr Eric Wakaria from the Human Quality Assessment Services (HUQAS) which has been accredited by KENAS as a Proficiency Testing (PT) provider for medical/clinical laboratories gave a presentation on External Quality Assurance (EQA) programs in relation to accreditation.

Mr Paul Okwach from Pathcare Laboratory (K) Ltd, a medical laboratory accredited by SANAS of South Africa, gave a presentation on the process of accreditation. Mr Kevin Omondi, on behalf of Prof Kilian Songwe, the President of A Global Healthcare Public Foundation (AGHPF) gave a presentation on WHO-AFRO Accreditation process used as tool for strengthening laboratories and as a stepping stone towards ISO 15189 accreditation of laboratories in Africa.

Sammy K Milgo
Director-Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS), Kenya.



Speakers at the KENAS symposium held during the 29th World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science.

World Accreditation Day 2010 in Korea

KOLAS organized a series of events to celebrate the 3rd World Accreditation Day at the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards on 9 and 11 June 2010.

The expert conference was held on 9 June 2010, by inviting experts in conformity assessment fields to share information about the ILAC-MRA and accreditation system, and to discuss plans for reinforcing international confidence by ensuring trust and competence of KOLAS.

The theme of this conference was 'the key of new market development and trade vitalization'. The discussions covered the importance of mutual recognition for product/test certificates, KOLAS policies and its future plan to strengthen global competitiveness in new industry areas including medical testing laboratories, software, reference materials, etc.

The experts emphasized establishing the credibility of KOLAS schemes, government investment for building safety in software fields, development of new products in high technology business and clinical fields, and the need to develop reference materials for safety assessment.

"...importance of mutual recognition for product/test certificates, KOLAS policies and its future plan to strengthen global competitiveness in new industry areas including medical testing laboratories, software, reference materials."

As part of the celebration, KOLAS held the commemorative seminar for World Accreditation Day on 11 June 2010 at the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards. This seminar attracted 350 domestic experts in conformity assessment, including corporate personnel, KOLAS-accredited laboratories, interested parties, and assessors.

Prior to the seminar, an award ceremony was performed for eight individuals



Participants and delegates at the World Accreditation Day events.

and three organizations that have contributed to the testing fields of KOLAS-accredited laboratories, including the "Telecommunications Technology Association".

During the seminar KOLAS introduced the international framework of the accreditation system, the restructuring of the KOLAS, and the guideline for management of technical records that has been recently published.

The experts made suggestions for the direction of KOLAS policies and the priority

for a medical laboratory accreditation program (ISO 15189) that KOLAS has recently launched. Also, they proposed the plan for establishing an assessment system in the software fields. Accordingly, the KOLAS system with the addition of the new industries and field programs, now operates 18 tasks in 5 fields - energy, environment, software, forensic science, and medical laboratory testing (ISO 15189).



World Accreditation Day in Mongolia

Mongolia's accreditation body has been celebrating World Accreditation Day since 2008 and World Accreditation Day 2010 was organized under the theme "Global Acceptance" in Mongolia.

In the framework of this event a workshop was held and almost all accreditation-related parties such as governmental and non-government organizations, businesses, and national and foreign-invested accredited testing and metrology laboratories participated. More than 80 heads and managers from such organizations, businesses, and laboratories discussed challenges they face and exchanged information and experience. In addition, recommendations were made for further cooperation to address such challenges.

A multitude of testing laboratories from Australia, Canada, China, Russia, and South Korea are accredited as part of Mongolia's National Accreditation System (MNAS) of conformity assessment bodies under Mongolia's laws and operate in the mining and construction industries in Mongolia.

Mr Mungunbayar M, Director of the Accreditation Department, Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology (MASM), gave interviews to three major national television programs and wrote articles, for press release, on the consistency of standardization, accreditation, and conformity assessment and the contributions they make to society.

Mongolia's accreditation body was created and started with the accreditation of testing and metrology laboratories in 1999. Now, it is a party to regional and international accreditation cooperation organizations and has a team of highly qualified assessors and technical experts competent to conduct peer evaluations of equivalent conformity assessment bodies and is making preparation to enter the APLAC MRA.

The UNIDO project on the capacity building of Mongolia's Accreditation body has been implemented since 2006. More than 200 assessors and technical experts have participated in a series of training sessions on the ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17011 standards and internal audits held by experts from India, Norway and South Korea.

We are going to launch accreditation programs for medical laboratories, inspection and personnel certification bodies, and UNIDO has confirmed that it is prepared to support these programs.

We endeavor to take an active role in APLAC and ILAC activities and would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere

thanks and appreciation to them for their continued support.

On behalf of MNAS (Mongolian accreditation system) we would like to wish every success in your activities in ensuring Global Acceptance.



Participants and delegates at the World Accreditation Day workshop.

SADC Countries Commemorate 2010 World Accreditation Day

World Accreditation Day is a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation. It is celebrated on 9 June each year with the inaugural World Accreditation Day having been celebrated in 2008.

To commemorate World Accreditation Day 2010 various activities were held in SADC countries ranging from press releases to conferences. A press release on World Accreditation Day adapted by SADC Accreditation Services (SADCAS) and based on the IAF/ILAC 2010 World Accreditation Day joint statement was circulated to the network of National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) who in turn circulated the press release to stakeholders in their respective countries and the local newspapers. The press release was widely publicized in the newspapers in Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

In Botswana, a World Accreditation Day conference was held at the Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) Headquarters in Gaborone to commemorate the day. The conference was jointly organized by SADCAS, the BOBS ISO/IEC 17025 Forum and the NAFP for Botswana which is housed within the Department of Industrial Affairs Ministry of Trade and Industry. Over 120 stakeholders mainly from conformity assessment bodies ie calibration, testing and medical laboratories as well as certification and inspection bodies attended the conference. The theme was "Global Acceptance" in line with the IAF/ILAC theme for 2010.

The conference which was the first of its kind held not only in Botswana, but in the whole of the SADC region. It was officially opened by Mrs Banny Molosiwa, Permanent Secretary Botswana Ministry of Trade and Industry. Mr Graham Talbot, Chairman of the ILAC/IAF Joint Marketing and Communications Committee and also Chairman of the European Cooperation in Accreditation (EA) gave the key note address. In her opening address, Mrs Molosiwa applauded the creation of an international network for accreditation bodies which removes the need for repetitive testing,

certification and inspection which is not only time consuming but costly, as certificates issued by accredited organizations can be accepted throughout the world. She said that accreditation is paramount as it provides assurance and confidence that traded products and services not only conform to specifications, but also meet legal and regulatory requirements thus serving to protect public interests in general. Mrs Molosiwa also commended SADC on the establishment of SADCAS, a multi economy accreditation body which provides SADC Member states without their own national accreditation bodies, ready access to cost effective accreditation services. She encouraged the Botswana calibration and testing laboratories and certification and inspection bodies to take up the SADCAS services to improve the competitiveness of Botswana products and services as the country diversifies its economy and adds value to its products.

In his key note address Mr Talbot noted that the use of accreditation is widening and expanding into new sectors. "We are seeing a continual growth of accreditation into areas that up to now have not relied on accreditation to provide users with confidence such as healthcare, forensic science, climate change, sustainability, food safety and so on", he said.

The opening ceremony was followed by a session during which delegates were updated on regional and international developments in accreditation by various experts including Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu the SADC SQAM Expert, Mrs Masego Marobela, the Chairman of SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA), Mr Ron Josias the Chief Executive Officer of the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) and Mr Talbot in his capacity as the Chairman of EA. The session which was Chaired by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer ended with lively interactive discussions with participants wanting to know more about the linkages between the regional (SADCA) and African Cooperation in Accreditation (AFRAC) which is due to be launched in September 2010. Participants also discussed the implications of the new European regulation 765/2008 on accreditation and market surveillance in trade with SADC countries.



The second session of the conference which was Chaired by Mr Josias and was on sharing experiences in the journey towards global acceptance of technical competence. The session started with a paper by Mrs Mutasa who gave an overview of SADCAS, briefly outlined the prerequisites and requirements for the ILAC/IAF Arrangements, as well as the process followed to achieve international recognition. She then informed participants about the progress of SADCAS so far, in its journey towards global acceptance of certificates issued by accredited laboratories and bodies. Very informative and lively presentations by Mr Tebogo Kajane, BOBS Manager Laboratory Services, Dr Kitenge Kalenga a local hospital superintendent, Dr Kekgonne Baipoledi, Deputy Director Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory and Mrs Oliviah Zimba, Director Quality Assurance Standards Association of Zimbabwe outlined the respective conformity assessment bodies' triumphs and tribulations in their journey towards accreditation.

In her vote of thanks, Ms Verily Molatedi, SADCAS Board member thanked all the speakers for their excellent and informative presentations and more importantly for sharing their experiences in accreditation with other stakeholders at the conference. Judged by the level of attendance and interactions and feedback from participants, the workshop was indeed a success!

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) a half day workshop was held in Lubumbashi to commemorate World Accreditation Day on 9 June 2010 thus raising awareness of the importance of accreditation in the minerals rich Southern region of DRC. The workshop which was attended by 200 participants, was organized by the Congolese Control office where the NAFP is housed. The workshop was graced by Honourable Tsiazwiza, DRC Minister of Trade, Finance and Economy and Honourable C Mwando Ministers of Industry.



Accreditation In Thailand

This is an extract of a story that appeared in the Bangkok Post on Wednesday 9 June 2010.

Accreditation in Thailand emerged with the use of standards for quality management systems, such as ISO 9000 and ISO 14000, to screen imports. After the World Trade Organisation (WTO) adopted guidelines for mutual recognition of inspection and certification, Thailand saw it as necessary to protect its national interests by creating an accreditation system in accordance with international systems. The Cabinet therefore appointed the National Accreditation Council (NAC) on 11 August 1997 to formulate accreditation policies and measures for mutual recognition between Thailand and other countries and make sure that such policies and measures correspond to the international accreditation systems. In the initial stage, an office was set up to work as a secretariat for NAC.

Since then, accreditation has become more important in the country, prompting the Thai government to expand accreditation to more sectors. At present, there are four accreditation organisations in Thailand, as follows:

- The Thailand Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) accredits certification bodies, inspection bodies, testing laboratories and calibration laboratories.
- The Department of Science Service (DSS) accredits physics, chemical and biological science laboratories as well as proficiency testing programmers.



Representatives from accreditation bodies in Thailand

- The Department of Medical Sciences (DMSC) accredits public health and medical laboratories.
- The National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS) accredits certification bodies which certify food security systems, organic products and Good Agricultural Practice (GAP).

In 2008, the National Standardisation Act B.E.2008 was enacted to authorise NAC to formulate policies and regulate and coordinate accreditation activities in Thailand to achieve unity and effectiveness among Thai accreditation bodies.

Benefits Of The National Standardisation Act

- It integrates the government's accreditation activities for unity of Thai accreditation bodies with a mutual use of personnel and budget.
- It is a tool to enhance transparency and accountability of accreditation activities.
- It creates economic recognition in terms of inspection and accreditation for international trade.
- It reduces burdens shouldered by suppliers who are required to abide by many standards.



Four ministers and senior high-rank officers of NAC and the Thai accreditation bodies



Thai bag and pen

World Accreditation Day: Four Units Collaborate To Organise “Building Confidence With Globally Recognised Accreditation” Seminar

On the occasion of World Accreditation Day 9 June 2010, TISI, ACFS, DMSC and DSS will jointly present a seminar entitled, to be in line with the IAF/ILAC theme, “Building Confidence with Globally Recognised Accreditation”. This will be held in the Grand Hall of the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC) from 08.30 – 16.30 hrs.

Deputy Prime Minister Trairong

Suwannakhiri will preside over the opening ceremony and deliver a special lecture on the topic of “National Standardisation Strategy for Economic Sustainability”. In addition, special lectures on a theme of “Thai Public Sector Roles and Global Acceptance” will be given by four relevant ministers as follows:

- “Accreditation of Testing Laboratories and Proficiency Testing Programmers” by the Minister of Science and Technology
- “Inspection of Agricultural Commodity Standards” by the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives
- “Developing Thailand into an International Health Hub” by the Minister of Public Health
- “Enhancing Potential and Competitiveness of Thai Entrepreneurs with Internationally Recognised Conformity Assessment Standards” by the Minister of Industry

The TISI Secretary-General will also give a lecture on the topic of “Creating Recognition for Thai Test Results and Accreditation in the Global Arena”. Before the event concludes, success stories of entrepreneurs involved in accreditation will be shared with seminar participants. An interesting exhibition to celebrate World Accreditation Day will also be included in the event.



Minister of Industry with press



Accreditation day seminar



Seminar: Building confidence with globally recognised accreditation

ECA: The Accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) as support to Regulatory Authorities

The Law 8279 of the National System for Quality of Costa Rica, establishes in Chapter IV the creation of the Costa Rican Accreditation Body (ECA) as the only one with the competence to provide accreditation services in the country. This law states that, to fulfill their functions, the Government institutions that require the services of CABs should hire the ones who are accredited, or recognised, by ECA.

The CABs, public or private, are responsible for fulfilling the regulations that guarantee, in any way, the protection of health and safety of the population. Through accreditation, ECA ensures the technical competence of these CABs using a unique, transparent and participatory approach. This includes the use of technical criteria and a reproducible assessment process, thereby guaranteeing confidence in the service they provide. This is achieved through an independent mechanism that ensures the technical competence, impartiality and integrity of the CABs, strengthening confidence in the global market and the consumer in general.

Benefits of Accreditation for Regulatory Authorities

The regulatory authorities and other users often must make decisions about fulfilling the State's legitimate objectives among which are: protecting health, consumer's welfare and environmental protection; in addition to the development of new requirements and regulations, control of the compliance of the statutory and regulatory requirements and allocation of technical and financial resources.

To make decisions on these objectives, there must be confidence in the results generated by the accredited CABs, that benefit the population in general, in areas such as: reduction of uncertainty associated with decision making; increase people's confidence because accreditation is a recognised seal of approval; elimination of redundant services and cost reduction in assessment processes; the use of in-house resources decreases; citizen's confidence in public institutions strengthens; and also encourages the appearance of new self-regulatory schemes, as well as the adoption of good practices and reducing the creation of unnecessary regulation by regulatory authorities.

Therefore, in Costa Rica every day there are more state institutions using accredited CABs to fulfill a facilitator role and become a bridge in the nation's economic development. The MLA in testing and calibration achieved by ECA with IAAC and

ILAC has become a competitive advantage that ensures international support in the service that ECA provides.

By Maritza Madriz, Manager ECA



Mr Juan Maria Gonzalez, President of the Chamber of Industries; Mrs Clotilde Fonseca, Minister of Science and Technology and Mrs Maritza Madriz, Manager of ECA at the launch of the Calibration MLA on 24 June 2010.



Participants at the launch of the Calibration MLA 24 June 2010.

Argentine Accreditation Body, OAA - Monitoring Authority for Good Laboratory Practice (OECD)



Last May, Resolution nº 274/2010 of the NATIONAL AGRIFOOD HEALTH AND QUALITY SERVICE (SENASA) was issued in the Official Bulletin of Argentina. In that resolution the President of SENASA resolved that the companies that request recognition for the requirements of biological studies, residues of chemical and biological pesticides studies, or other non-clinical safety studies of products, physicochemical properties, analytical chemistry or other studies, for registration purposes, by a National or Foreign Laboratory, must provide the supporting documentation relevant to Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) developed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and issued by the Argentine Accreditation Body (OAA).

The resolution also established a period of three years in order for laboratories belonging to the National Network of Testing and Diagnosis Laboratories to comply with the said prescriptions.

Additionally, the Directorate of Laboratories and Technical Control will be entitled to carry out additional audits, according to the current legislation of this National Service, which are not required by the Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) developed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

National and international regulations

The Monitoring Program, implemented by the OAA, that to date covers pesticides and industrial chemicals, is of great importance for Argentina as it conforms to national and international regulations on topics directly related to the health and safety of people and the environment.

An example of this importance, at the national level, is the recently issued Resolution nº 274 and the Resolution nº 617 of SENASA regarding the use of OECD GLP in the non-clinical studies performed by laboratories for the purpose of registration of phytosanitary products. Evidence of conformity with the OECD GLP requirements through inspections carried by the OAA, Monitoring Authority must be provided with these products.

Another important example within the international arena is the registration system of the European Union, REACH – Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals - that establishes the requirements that European producers, as well as those who sell products to this region, must comply with in order to register industrial chemicals. One of these requirements is the application of the OECD GLP Principles when new toxicological and ecotoxicological tests are carried out on industrial chemicals.

In addition, OECD countries require that non-clinical studies for the purpose of registration, carried out on a great variety of substances and/or products, are performed in line with the GLP and that a national monitoring authority verifies this condition.

Roles of the Regulatory Authority (SENASA) and the GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority (OAA).

The strengthening and success of a Monitoring Program requires a permanent and fluid communication between the Regulatory Authority, recipient of the data, and the Monitoring Authority in charge of the inspection, in order to coordinate actions while each of them meets its own obligations.

The Regulatory Authority must review the final report issued by the laboratory and must ensure that the laboratory has been inspected by the Monitoring Authority. In addition it may request the Monitoring Authority to carry out audits of questionable studies and/or the inspection of the laboratory facilities.

On the other hand, the Monitoring Authority is responsible for conducting GLP inspections in the laboratories, as well as audits of the studies sent to the Regulatory Authority. Likewise, it must inform the National Regulatory Authority and the OECD Working Group when a laboratory no longer complies with the GLP principles.

EGAC hosts the third preparatory meeting of AFRAC

In accordance with the Abuja Treaty (The treaty establishing the African Economic Community), and to adopt a common policy on standardisation, quality and accreditation in order to promote trade and economic development in Africa, the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC) hosted the third preparatory meeting of the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC).

Representatives from several African countries and organisations including SADCA, NEPAD, Mauritius from Mauritius, SANAS from South Africa, KENAS from Kenya, TUNAC from Tunisia, Botswana,

Burkina Faso and Tanzania attended the meetings. The meeting was also attended by PTB staff from Germany, IAAC Secretariat staff from Mexico and a representative of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention from USA.

The attendees formed several committees to prepare for the formal launching of AFRAC and decided to hold the launch meeting in Cairo in September 2010.

This is a pivotal step towards the development of African trade and inter-African accreditation cooperation and integration.

The document 'Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Accreditation of Proficiency Testing Providers' has been approved as a result of the recent ballot. It will now be published as a P-series document on the ILAC website.

News From TAF

By Wanji Yang

TAF Becomes an EPA-Recognised Accreditation Body for the ENERGY STAR® Program

TAF has been formally recognised by the US EPA to accredit laboratories to conduct testing for ENERGY STAR® qualified products, starting from 21 July 2010.

TAF had been receiving requests from its accredited laboratories regarding the accreditation for ENERGY STAR® products testing. In order to prepare for early recognition by the US EPA, TAF started to conduct technical meetings, seminars and training courses a few months ago. Its application for "Recognition of Accreditation Body for ENERGY STAR® Laboratory Accreditation" was submitted as soon as the recognition was open to ILAC MRA Signatories. TAF is pleased to announce that it is now a US EPA-recognised accreditation body and has launched its "Accreditation Programme for US EPA Recognised ENERGY STAR® Laboratory" on 23 July 2010.

International Workshop on Worldwide Accreditation and Certification of Telecommunications Equipment

The "International Workshop on Worldwide Accreditation and Certification of Telecommunications Equipment", co-hosted by TAF, the National Communications Commission (NCC) and the Telecom Technology Center (TTC), was held on 10 May 2010 in parallel with the APEC TEL 41 meetings in Taipei. Honourable speakers from several mature governmental agencies were invited to share technical regulations and requirements and the MRA acceptance status in their own countries: Mr George Tannahill from the FCC (USA), Mr Peter Chau from the Industry Canada (Canada), Dr Nob Nakanishi from the JVLATE (Japan), Ms Melinda Tan from the iDA (Singapore) and Mr Roger Sheng from the TTC (Chinese Taipei). As telecommunication products are very much related to laboratory testing and product certification, Mr Nigel Jou from TAF represented both APLAC and PAC and provided information on these two international cooperations and the link with APEC TEL. Some 140 people participated in this workshop, including 90 laboratory heads from TAF accredited EMC testing laboratories. The hosts received positive feedback from participants, and appreciated the contributions from all speakers.



World Accreditation Day Celebrations

TAF has organised a series of activities to celebrate the World Accreditation Day and its theme "global acceptance". The joint message from the ILAC and IAF Chair has been posted on the TAF website in both Chinese and English languages and the poster has been displayed at all TAF activities since March. The celebration activities include:

Seminar on the Benefits of the MRA/MLAs, 7 June 2010

TAF invited representatives from the trade related government agencies, accredited laboratories and certification bodies, to exchange information on the benefits of adopting TAF accreditation, using TAF accredited conformity assessment bodies and

issuing reports bearing the ILAC Laboratory Combined MRA Mark. Questions covering topics such as data on economic impacts on trade, connection with WTO/TBT activities and acceptance level by regulators, etc were raised and discussed. More than 70 people participated in the seminar.



"Accreditation Once, Accepted Globally" Forum, 8 June 2010

TAF invited six representatives from various governmental and private sectors to share their views on how to promote the ultimate goal of global acceptance. It was particularly

2010 International Workshop on Worldwide Accreditation/Certification for Telecommunications Equipment



noted that a unified mark, such as the ILAC MRA Mark, would be an easier way for recognition and acceptance by regulators as well as consumers. In addition, the after-market surveillance would become more and more important as the acceptance level of such a unified mark increases.

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Laboratory Accreditation—Moving Forward with Confidence in an Independent, Impartial and Transparent Manner

TAF celebrated its 20th anniversary of

laboratory accreditation on 9 June 2010, the World Accreditation Day. Standing on the strong foundation established by CNLA, and with insistence on its core values:

“Independent, Impartial, Transparent and Objective” TAF continues to provide a full-range of accreditation services to assist its customers in coping with the changing world. At the celebration event, Dr Jay-San Chen, TAF President, presented hand-crafted customised TAF lamps, as a gift, to 18 honourable guests who had played a key role in the milestones of the 20-year history. TAF also made a 20 minute video tape recording special moments from the past 20 years and invited a few good friends of TAF, including Dr Helen Liddy, Mr Terence Chan and Mr Barry Ashcroft from APLAC, to say a few words on the tape. Some 830 participants attended the celebration ceremony and the Gala dinner. TAF is grateful for all the help that CNLA and TAF has received from numerous people and organisations. TAF will certainly continue serving its customers in a professional manner, cooperating with regulators by providing trustworthy accreditation results and playing an active contribution in the international accreditation society.



World Accreditation Day in Guatemala

By Alexander Pineda MSc, Head of OGA

OGA organized a Seminar called “Global Acceptance” to celebrate the World Accreditation Day in Guatemala. The activity was held in the Grand Tikal Futura Hotel with the participation of representatives from laboratories, the government, private sector and universities. During the seminar, the President of the National Accreditation Board and the Vice Minister of Economy, Mr Abel Cruz presented to more than 150 participants his appreciation for their participation and highlighted the importance of accreditation for global trade. Mr Cruz also remarked on the significance of OGA’s recognition at the international level through the ILAC MRA. There were three conferences focused on the acceptance of laboratory results based on customer and regulatory requirements.

The seminar was opened by the National Quality Director, Mr Juan Alberto Hernández who welcomed all the participants and remarked on the role of accreditation



OGA Staff (From left to right): Mr Erik Alvarado, Mrs Lucrecia Arriola, Mr Alberto Meléndez, Mrs Duberly Barillas and Mr Alexander Pineda.

within the National Quality System and the relationship with Standardization and Metrology.

The invited speakers were from companies based in the country that bring accredited

continued next page

Accreditation Update

continued from previous page

laboratory services of their own but also for third parties. The representative of Nestlé Guatemala presented an overview of the services that they provide in Central American and the Caribbean locations and how the accredited analysis brings trust to their partners for the food global trade. On other hand, the FOGEL Group, a company that produce and export refrigerators and freezers for commercial purposes focused their presentation on the importance of accreditation in order to fulfill technical regulations for energy efficiency in Mexico,

United States, Central America and others countries where they export the products and accreditation is required. A representative for INTERTEK Guatemala presented their experience in fulfilling technical requirements for export to USA. The services that the INTERTEK laboratory offers in Guatemala, and for other clients in Latin America, are analyses of textiles, food and toys. In particular, the regulation of the CPSC (Consumers Product Safety Commission) to determine the level of lead in paint in metal and non metal products including jewelry for children was highlighted. INTERTEK commented on the acceptance that the

accreditation in Guatemala had for its recognition with the USA CPSC.

With these conferences OGA confirmed the importance of laboratory accreditation in global trade and for consumer protection and demonstrated how the ILAC MRA opens the door for Global Acceptance.

OGA takes this opportunity to congratulate ILAC on its 10th Anniversary of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement.



Polish Centre for Accreditation (PCA) – co-producer of accreditation awareness programme for Polish Radio

Promotion of the benefits of accreditation

The survey conducted among Polish Radio First Programme listeners, a popular "Number One" Programme, revealed that the word 'accreditation', for most Polish people, was associated with journalism or diplomacy and only occasionally with conformity assessment, economy and free movement of products and services.

The Programme organised an interview with the director of the Polish Centre for Accreditation, Dr Eugeniusz W Roguski. This took place on the occasion of World Accreditation Day on 9 June 2010. During the interview the listeners, of this oldest and widest reception range Polish broadcasting station, had the opportunity to broaden their understanding of the meaning of the word 'accreditation'. They also had the chance to learn about the activities performed by the Polish Centre for Accreditation that has an influence on them. This was probably the first time most of them had heard about the institution, PCA. Nevertheless, the 15 minute interview was not enough to present, in an accessible way, the whole scope of activities undertaken by PCA, as well as the real meaning of accreditation.

A director of the Polish Radio First Programme therefore proposed that the PCA director co-produce a cycle of programmes with the objective to promote accreditation. After acceptance of the initiative by the PCA management, the contract between the Polish Radio First Programme and the Polish Centre for Accreditation was signed.

According to the clauses of the contract, there will be a series of 10 educational radio programmes transmitted in various bands. In the programmes it is planned to explain the issues connected with the confirmation of competences of testing and calibration laboratories and certification and inspection bodies participating in the conformity assessment system.

After the transmission of the final programme, there will be a survey conducted of the listeners of this radio station, to assess the appeal and effectiveness of this form

of social education on accreditation. If the survey results in a positive answer to this question, the contract between the Polish Radio First Programme and PCA will be extended.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that in 2011, the Polish Centre for Accreditation will celebrate its 10th anniversary. Moreover, in the second half of 2011, Poland will assume the Presidency of the European Union and in November 2011, PCA will host the EA General Assembly.



Dr Roguski on air

EGAC-UNIDO-EU Seminar: The application of the OECD Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) in Egypt

In the presence of representatives from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the European Union (EU), the Turkish Accreditation Agency (TURKAK) and senior officials of the Egyptian Government from the ministries of Trade and Industry, International Cooperation, Health, Agriculture and the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC), the seminar on the application of the OECD GLP in Egypt was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Cairo on 19 January 2010 under the

auspices of the Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry.

The presentations highlighted the role of EGAC in accreditation, particularly since signing the ILAC MRA and the IAF MLA. They also covered GLP and the role of accreditation, GLP from a GLP compliant laboratory point of view, the successful establishment of a recent GLP monitoring authority in Turkey, the role of the accreditation body in GLP and the benefits of GLP to Egypt.

After the presentations, the floor was opened for a panel discussion which showed a genuine interest from different stakeholders.

The event was a great success attended by 140 attendees and raised the awareness of the importance of GLP and accreditation. It also provided an opportunity for paving the way to starting a plan for adopting and applying GLP in Egypt.



Stakeholders

European Inspection, Testing and Certification Associations Join Forces in Brussels

Brussels, 14 April 2010.

CEOIC International, the International Confederation of Inspection and Certification Organisations, and EFNDT, the European Federation for Non Destructive Testing, have signed yesterday in Cyprus co-operation agreements with EUROLAB, the European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories.

EFNDT President Vjera Krstelj, EUROLAB President Jean-Luc Laurent and CEOIC International President Hugo Eberhardt stated after the signing ceremony that this co-operation marks an important step in the further development of the European inspection, testing and certification sector and enhances the political visibility and technical influence towards the European Institutions and Organisations in Brussels.

These Memoranda of Understanding are defining the co-operation issues between CEOIC, EFNDT and EUROLAB in the field of testing and certification of products and technical installations in Europe and will position these organisations as Europe's leading inspection and testing representations/bodies.

The growing number of unsafe products reaching the European markets and the ongoing aging of technical and industrial



installations call for a concerted action between these inspection organisations providing enhanced safety to the European societies and its citizens.

CEOIC International – the International Confederation of Inspection and Certification Organisations – was founded in 1961 in Zurich in Switzerland and acts as the voice of the inspection and certification sector at EU and international levels. Its headquarters are now based in Brussels. The confederation represents the joint interests of many of the world's leading inspection and certification companies, employing more than 70,000 highly qualified persons, of which over 42,000 are graduate engineers and technicians. CEOIC members are worldwide involved in the periodical inspection of technical installations as well as the

certification of new products and services to protect the workers and citizens of Europe against unsafe products and technical installations.

EUROLAB – the European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories – was set up in Brussels on 27 April 1990 as a network of the laboratory community and in response to the evolution of the European Union and is since 1998 registered as a legal entity in the form of an international association under Belgian law (aisbl – association internationale sans but lucratif).

Composed of 24 national associations from the EU and EFTA, EUROLAB is grouping over 2,000 conformity assessment bodies representing over 100,000 technical experts and laboratory practitioners. Associated membership is open world-wide and includes representatives from East and Middle East, South Africa and America. Besides formulating and voicing the opinion of laboratories regarding economical, political and technical issues, EUROLAB aims at promoting cost-effective testing, calibration and measurement services, for which the accuracy and quality assurance requirements were adjusted to the actual needs. These are particularly addressing European

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legislation, consumer protection, product and occupational safety.

EFNDT The European Federation for Non-Destructive Testing was founded in May 1998 in Copenhagen at the 7th European Conference for Non-Destructive Testing (ECNDT). Full membership is open to national NDT societies, one per country.

Associate membership is open world-wide. EFNDT aims at establishing a European system of personnel qualification by EFNDT in the sense of creating a partnership for safety and quality. EFNDT offers a route to more than 40 NDT Societies (including all those in Europe), more than 20,000 members of these individual national societies, more than 1,000 businesses in NDT which are corporate (company members) of the national societies, more than 190,000 NDT

personnel certificates which are recognized under the EFNDT Multilateral Recognition Agreement.

For more information please contact Astrid Silvia Grunert, EU Affairs Manager CEOC International: astrid.grunert@ceoc.com or consult the related web sites: www.ceoc.com, www.eurolab.org, www.efndt.org.



7th Workshop on Proficiency Testing in Analytical Chemistry, Microbiology and Laboratory Medicine

Istanbul (Turkey), [3]-4-6 October 2011

The EURACHEM Proficiency Testing Working Group (www.eurachem.org), in co-operation with CITAC (www.citac.cc) and EQALM (www.eqalm.org), is organising the 7th event of a series of Workshops addressing current practice and future directions of proficiency testing (PT) and external quality assessment (EQA) in analytical chemistry, microbiology and laboratory medicine.

Venue

The Workshop will be held in Istanbul, an historic city where east meets west. The month of October is a pleasant time of the year to enjoy scenery and historic sites, some of which dates back 8000 years. There are good airline connections from most major international cities to Atatürk Airport, at the European side of the city. There is also a second international airport, Sabiha Gökçen Airport which is in the Anatolian side of Istanbul. The Workshop will be held in Polat Renaissance Hotel, close to Atatürk Airport (www.polatrenaissance.com).

Technical Programme

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

Training Sessions

Training sessions, which are open to Workshop participants, will be on "Establishing traceability and uncertainty of



assigned values and assisting participants to assess/estimate their measurement uncertainty using PT results".

Lectures and Working Group Topics

- Implementing the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 by PT/EQA Providers
- Accrediting PT/EQA Providers to ISO/IEC 17043
- Establishing acceptability criteria in microbiology PT/EQA schemes
- Evaluating participant performance in qualitative PT/EQA schemes
- Establishing PT/EQA schemes in developing countries
- Pre and post analytical aspects in EQA

Who should attend?

The Workshop will provide an excellent opportunity for PT/EQA scheme organisers, and end-users of PT/EQA (laboratories,

accreditation bodies, regulators and the laboratories' customers) to come together and share their views.

Registration

Submission of abstracts, registration and hotel reservations is now open via the Workshop website.

Workshop Secretariat

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Ender Okandan

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The following is a listing of titles of all ILAC documents. These can be downloaded from the 'ILAC Documents' section under 'Publications and Resources' on the ILAC website www.ilac.org. Many of the brochures have also been translated into languages other than English.

Brochures

- The ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement
- Signatories to 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
- Benefits for Laboratories Participating in Proficiency Testing Programs
- The route to signing the IAF/ILAC Arrangement

Guidance Documents (G Series)

- ILAC-G3:1994 Guidelines for Training Courses for Assessors
- ILAC-G7:06/2009 Accreditation Requirements and Operating Criteria for Horseracing Laboratories
- ILAC-G8:03/2009 Guidelines on the 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 Qualification and Competence of Assessors and Technical Experts
- ILAC-G12:2000 Guidelines for the Requirements for the Competence of Reference Material Producers
- ILAC-G13:08/2007 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-G18:04/2010 Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Laboratories
- 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-G24:2007 Guidelines for the determination of calibration intervals of measuring instruments

Procedural Documents (P Series)

- 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-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-P11:09/2009 Monitoring Performance of ILAC Evaluators
- ILAC P12:04/2009 Harmonisation of ILAC Work with the Regions

- ILAC-R6:09/2009 Procedure for Expansion of the Scope of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement
- ILAC-R7:09/2009 Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark

Joint ILAC/IAF Documents (A series)

- IAF/ILAC A1:07/2010 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Regional Group
- IAF/ILAC A2:07/2010 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body
- IAF/ILAC A3:05/2007 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Key Performance Indicators - A Tool for the Evaluation Process
- IAF/ILAC A4:2004 Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020
- IAF/ILAC A5:04/2009 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Application of ISO/IEC 17011:2004 Accreditation Body
- IAF/ILAC A3:05/2007 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Key Performance Indicators - A Tool for the Evaluation Process
- IAF/ILAC A4:2004 Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020
- IAF/ILAC A5:04/2009 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Application of ISO/IEC 17011:2004

Rules Documents (R Series)

- ILAC-R1:09/2009 Classification and Publication of ILAC Documents
- ILAC-R2:09/2009 ILAC Rules
- ILAC-R3:09/2009 ILAC Strategic Plan
- ILAC-R4:03/2010 Use of the ILAC Logo and Tagline
- ILAC-R5:09/2009 ILAC Procedure for Handling Complaints



Welcome to

Shanghai, China

20 – 29
October 2010
**2010 IAF/ILAC
Joint Annual
Meetings**



China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS), is delighted to be hosting the IAF/ILAC 2010 Joint Annual Meetings in Shanghai, China, October 20-29, 2010.

The meetings will be held at HYATT ON THE BUND, Shanghai. The venue is a five-star luxury hotel, uniquely located on the banks of the Huang Pu River at the northern end of the Bund in Shanghai, China. This central Shanghai hotel offers spectacular views of the Bund and Pudong, with convenient access to Shanghai's airports, major areas of the city and the World Expo area.

During the meeting period, we hope that you will enjoy the social program such as the welcome reception, the cocktail dinner, and the Gala dinner with the signing ceremony.

Mark the days now: October 20-29, 2010! For registration, please visit the official website www.iafilac2010.cn.

Email: iafilac2010@cnas.org.cn