

ILAC News

Issue 36, October 2009



- ILAC / IAF Conference – carbon neutral
- **ILAC-UNIDO** joint workshops
- International Accreditation Day celebrated



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From the Chair

At the time this editorial will be published, we will be very close to the Vancouver set of meetings. Therefore, I cannot refrain from thinking about this event, which will be a crucial one for the accreditation community.

Dear readers, all of you are aware that in Vancouver, following the decision taken last year in Stockholm, we will have the opportunity to take a decision about the future of ILAC and IAF.



The Joint Task Force set up by the two organisations to address this important issue has worked hard to develop several options that will be presented for consideration, as requested during the last Joint General Assembly.

However, whatever the result may be, we all have to keep in mind that the choice taken must improve the ability of both organisations to fulfil the expectations of all our stakeholders. By saying 'all' I mean not only accredited bodies, but also their clients (industry, etc) and regulators who increasingly want to rely on accreditation, and therefore accreditation bodies, to ensure confidence in the conformity assessment arena.

Indeed, our real challenge is there.

Looking back at what happened during the last ten years, it is clear that accreditation is more well known and that its role has increased.

However, despite closer cooperation between ILAC and IAF, many 'direct' stakeholder representatives (laboratory community and management systems certifiers, for instance) still retain the view that the two organisations have different focuses and goals.

I believe, however, that such views are no longer an accurate reflection of the current situation at the international level.

The first role of regional and international organisations is to ensure consistency and equal reliability between all accreditations delivered under their umbrellas. All accreditation bodies must comply with a unique international standard, which is ISO/IEC 17011.

Let me also remind everyone of the theme of our common accreditation day this year, which was 'competence'.

Competence of the whole conformity assessment chain is what is requested by industry, regulators and end-consumers. These groups are not concerned about the organisation of the global accreditation system, provided it is clear, efficient and able to provide confidence.

It is for ILAC and IAF to decide on the most efficient method of operation for the future, not of accreditation itself, but of the monitoring of accreditation at the global level.

I foresee lively discussions, but I remain optimistic of achieving a good outcome for the accreditation community and for our stakeholders.

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 2009 was hosted by Cofrac in March, in Paris. This was also the first meeting for the new Executive Committee, elected during the 2008 General Assembly. The meeting included an additional day for a review of the action plans for the ILAC committees (including the Executive) against the revised ILAC Strategic Plan published at the end of 2008. Other topics considered in detail were the ILAC budget and membership fees for 2010, the allocation of funding for the liaison activities for 2009 and the confirmation of the schedule for the 2009 annual meetings to be held in Vancouver. Significant progress was made on these and many other matters.

The mid-year meetings of the ILAC Executive and the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (AMC) were hosted by UKAS in London, during the week of 22 June 2009. The week also included meetings of the IAF, ILAC and ISO Joint Working Group, the Joint Committee for Closer Cooperation (JCCC) and the various ILAC and IAF arrangement management committees. The meeting of the IAF, ILAC and ISO Joint Working Group was the first to be held with the new ISO Secretary-General, Rob Steele. The meeting was

very productive, with discussions on areas of common interest for all three organisations taking place and progress being made on actions from the previous meeting.

The ILAC Secretariat participated, via teleconference, in the ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee meeting that was held in Mumbai, India, in March.

The final Executive meeting for the year will be held in Vancouver, in October, as part of the ILAC and IAF Annual meetings.

ILAC Arrangement

In June, the ILAC Secretariat participated in London meetings of the ILAC AMC and the JMC 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. Further progress was made towards establishing the ILAC and IAF MLMRA for Inspection, and ILAC and IAF have now invited the current Recognised Regional Cooperation bodies to apply for evaluation to join the IAF/ILAC Inspection MLMRA.

ILAC-MRA Mark

The ILAC-MRA Mark registration process continues and, as at 17 July 2009, 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).

Website

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

Members should note that if you would like to change your password for access to the Members Only area of the website, there is now an option to select a password of your choice. Just go to the home page of the Members Only area and click on the 'change your password' link on the left-hand side of the page. As always, feedback on the website is welcome from all users.

Ballots

A complete list of all documents that have been (or are being) circulated to members for either comments or voting can be obtained from the ILAC website in the Members Only area under Ballots. Members are again reminded of their obligation to vote during both document and membership ballots.

ILAC News

The Secretariat continues to play an active role in the preparation of *ILAC News*. The aim of the newsletter 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. Feedback on the presentation and content of *ILAC News* is, as always, very welcome and a huge thank you to those members and colleagues who regularly submit articles and photos.

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ILAC Liaisons

The review of liaison activities continues to be a major focus of the ILAC Executive Committee, which seeks to ensure that ILAC interests are represented in areas that 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 Only area of the ILAC website, continues to serve as the main repository for the ever-increasing number of reports and documents that are produced as part of ILAC's liaison activity. (ILAC members who have not as yet sought access to the Members Only area can do so on-line via the homepage).

Since the April 2009 edition of *ILAC News*, ILAC has participated in a number of liaison activities including, CASCO WG 29 (Revision of ISO Guide 65 – Product Certification), CASCO WG28 (Revision of ISO Guide 43 – Proficiency Testing), ISO TC212 (Technical Committee – Clinical laboratory testing and in vitro diagnostic test systems), CITAC, CCQM, EURACHEM, ISO REMCO, BERM 12 and a meeting of the WADA Laboratory Committee.

ILAC will also be represented at the BIPM Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM) and the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM) in September and July 2009 respectively, as well as a number of CASCO meetings in November.

ILAC has commenced general discussions with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to determine how we might best cooperate in areas of mutual interest and involvement. A meeting took place in July in Lyon, France between WHO representatives and the ILAC Chair, Daniel Pierre, to continue these discussions.

Daniel Pierre has also been invited to speak on behalf of ILAC at a major symposium being held by BIPM in

October this year. The Symposium is being held to mark the 10th Anniversary of the CIPM Mutual Recognition Arrangement.

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

Joint ILAC/IAF Activities

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

The task force comprises the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ILAC and IAF, the Chair or nominated representative from each region, a representative of the unaffiliated bodies and stakeholder representatives from three areas namely: the ILAC laboratory Committee, the IAF industry representative and the IAF conformity assessment bodies representative. The task force has had two meetings, one in January and one in May. Its progress was reviewed during the JCCC meeting in London and details were finalised of the information package to be provided to members, in preparation for the discussions in Vancouver in October.

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

CHANGES TO ILAC MEMBERSHIP

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

Full Members

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

Association of Analytical Centers "Analitica" (AAC Analitica), Russia for testing

Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC), Pakistan for testing and calibration

Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation Inc. (PJLA), USA for extension of scope to include calibration

Romanian Accreditation Association (RENAR), Romania for extension of scope to include calibration

Associates

Accreditation Body of Montenegro (ATCG), Montenegro

Institute for Accreditation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BATA), Bosnia and Herzegovina

Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS), Kenya

AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, (AIHA-LAP), LLC USA

Affiliate

Organismo Nacional de Acreditacion de Colombia (ONAC), Colombia

Stakeholder

Water Quality Association (WQA), USA

ILAC Membership

ILAC membership as at 31 July 2009 is as follows:

- 65 Full Members (Signatories to the ILAC Arrangement) representing 50 economies
- 24 Associates representing 23 economies
- 20 Affiliates representing 18 economies
- 4 Regional Cooperation Bodies
- 1 National Coordination Body
- 27 Stakeholders

The ILAC membership (total 141 bodies) now covers a total of 86 different economies worldwide. Approximately 33,000 laboratories and 6,000 inspection bodies are accredited by the 89 ILAC Full Members and Associates.

ILAC/IAF 2009: carbon neutral



The environmentally friendly ILAC/IAF 2009 conference in Vancouver (see the conference website via the Events button on www.ilac.org) will include, for the first time, elimination of the carbon footprint for all delegates' flights to the conference.

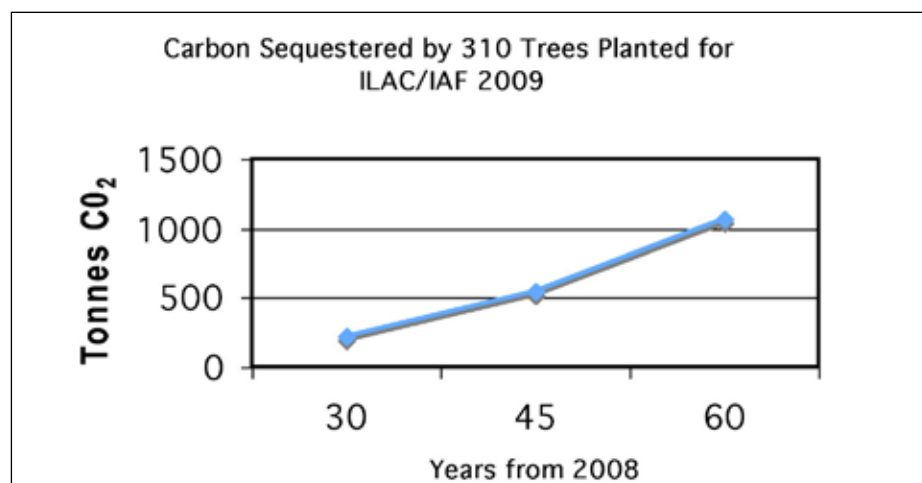
The organisers at CALA (Canada) based their carbon emission estimates on values generated on the Air Canada website where that airline allows clients to buy offsets. Emission estimates, generated for 261 individuals whose country of origin was reported for the Sydney conference, suggest an average emission footprint of about 1.87 tonnes of carbon dioxide per delegate. A 300-delegate conference would generate about 560 tonnes, and it was estimated that it would cost about C\$9,000 to purchase individual offsets.

The organising committee accepted a donor's offer to counteract the flight emissions through a tree-planting program, which commenced in May 2008. By May 2009 a total of 310 trees (nine major species plus a variety of ornamentals) of varying sizes (mostly




A tree being planted to offset the carbon produced by delegates' flights to the ILAC/IAF 2009 conference.

about one to three years old) have been planted.



The amount of carbon that will be sequestered by the trees increases with their age as illustrated in the diagram. The existing plantings, with good management over their lifetimes to replace trees damaged by winter weather and deer browsing, will take about 45 years to eliminate the carbon footprints of about 290 delegates to the 2009 conference.

The organisers have suggested that they will plant at least one tree for every delegate. Put them to the test: register for the conference at www.ilac.org 

ILAC committee news

Joint Developing Support Committee (JDSC)



JDSC's workshop on Reference Materials & ISO Guide 34:2000 for Latin American Accreditation Bodies.

Workshop on Reference Materials, ISO Guide 34:2000

Last December, the JDSC sponsored a two-day workshop on Reference Materials & ISO Guide 34:2000 for Latin American Accreditation Bodies.

The workshop was held in ema's offices in Mexico City, and the instructors were Ms Judith Sainz and Mr José Antonio Salas, both from Mexico's National Center for Metrology (CENAM). Ms Sainz is also a member of ISO-REMCO.

Nine participants from seven Accreditation Bodies, from ILAC or IAAC, attended the workshop: IBEMTRO-Bolivia, DIGENOR-Dominican Republic, OAE-Ecuador, CONACYT-El Salvador, COHCIT-Honduras, ema-Mexico and ONA-Paraguay.

Participants congratulated the speakers on a very good presentation, and expressed the view that they learnt more than they expected.

Food Seminar


During the last IAF/ILAC JDSC meeting in Stockholm in October 2008, the developing Accreditation Bodies requested that a further organic food seminar include more topics on implementation and private sector specific standards than the one held during the meetings in Stockholm.

The seminar will be aimed at Middle East and African economies, and the expected date is November 2009. It is very probable that the venue will be LNCSM in Libya, and that the JDSC will sponsor three or four economies to participate.

Further information will be sent to the Accreditation Bodies from the Middle East and Africa regarding participation.

ISO/IEC 17043 Training Course

In view of the upcoming publication of the ISO/IEC 17043 proficiency testing standard, the JDSC and the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), Germany are organising a training course on the topic to take place in Latin America. The venue for the course will be ema's offices in Mexico City and instructor, Daniel Tholen (A2LA Assessor) has been invited.

The training will be carried out on 28 and 29 October, and all Latin American economies are invited to participate. Sponsorship will be available for three or four economies who will be advised in July. 

International update



Profile of BIPM's upcoming director



By Pedro Espino, International Liaison, BIPM

Professor Michael Kühne joined the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) as Deputy Director in April 2009. In late 2010 he will become the organisation's director.

After receiving a doctoral degree in 1977, Prof Kühne joined the National Metrology Institute of Germany, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) in Berlin. Prof Kühne participated in the development of the PTB laboratory for vacuum-ultraviolet radiometry at the Berlin electron storage ring BESSY, and was appointed head of this laboratory in 1986. In 1991 Prof Kühne moved to thermometry, becoming head of the PTB's Department of Temperature and Heat.




Professor Michael Kühne

In 1992 he was awarded the 'Habilitation' (postdoctoral lecturing qualification) and was appointed lecturer in the Department of Physics at the University of Hanover where in 1996 he was appointed adjunct professor.

In 2001 Prof Kühne moved to Braunschweig to become Head of the Staff Office of the PTB's Presidential Board, and in 2003 he became a member of the Presidential Board in the post of second vice-president.

From June 2006 to March 2009 he was Chairperson of the European Regional Metrology Organisation where he managed the change from EUROMET to EURAMET and worked on the development of the European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP).

Prof Kühne is a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Measurement Science and Technology* and a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, UK.

In November 2007 he was elected by the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM) as the Director Designate of the BIPM. 

ILAC-UNIDO hold joint accreditation workshops



By María José Mesén, Coordinator National and International Relations, ema, Mexico

Last year, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the ILAC Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC) held two workshops, one in Kigali, Rwanda, the other in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The purpose of the workshops was to support developing economies with awareness campaigns on the importance of accreditation.

From 6 to 7 November 2008, the Kigali workshop was presented by the ILAC representative Ms Orna Dreazen, former ISRAC Director, and PTB expert Mr Manfred Kindler. The workshop was attended by 40 participants, mainly from Rwanda and Burundi but also from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The participants were mainly from medical, food and agricultural testing.

According to Ms Dreazen's report, the presenters provided an overview of the requirements for laboratories, both medical and regular analytical laboratories, with special emphasis on three key issues:

- Risk-based management of the laboratory.
- The intended use of and the decisions based on the laboratories' results.
- The impact of the laboratories' work on the economy and the wellbeing of the population at large.

The workshops also tackled the importance of metrological elements that must be implemented by the laboratory's personnel and mastered by the assessors, in addition to an overview of ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189.


The purpose of the workshops was to support developing economies with awareness campaigns on the importance of accreditation.

The second half of the workshop was dedicated to accreditation bodies, including the requirements, establishment, and costs involved. It is important to point out that the ILAC requirements for single and regional accreditation bodies were also described and a presentation was given on the ILAC/IAF view on 'What is Accreditable'.

The Bangladesh 'Asia Regional Workshop on Accreditation Cooperation' was held 10-11 November 2008. ILAC's representative was Mr Kukuh Achmad, Director of Laboratory and Inspection Body Accreditation, KAN (Indonesia), and Mr. Balakrishnan Venkataraman, Chair of the IAF Development Support Committee, who participated on behalf of IAF. The workshop was funded by the European Union and Norwegian Agency NORAD, and organised by IAF, ILAC and UNIDO.

Over 100 people participated, mainly from Bangladesh, but also from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan and Indonesia. The participants from Bangladesh were mainly: policy-makers from different ministries and regulatory bodies; representatives from chambers of commerce, trade associations and industries; quality auditors; laboratory assessors and managers; scientists; professors involved in QA/QC; and laboratory, metrology, calibration, certification and inspection personnel from various public and private technical institutions and universities.

It was discussed during the workshop, that given the nature of trade under the WTO regime, accreditation may play a crucial role in removing technical barriers to trade. It is also the keystone of a national conformity assessment infrastructure.

For more information, visit the Bangladesh Quality Support Programme website (www.bqsp.org). 

News from ISO/CASCO



By Stefan Marinkovic, Project Manager, Conformity Assessment, ISO Central Secretariat

The ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO) is the committee responsible for developing conformity assessment policies. It also prepares documents concerning the operation of conformity assessment activities, one of which the ILAC community knows very well: ISO/IEC 17025.

ISO/IEC 17025 is not the only international standard developed by ISO/CASCO that is of interest to ILAC members. As ISO/CASCO standards are undergoing systematic revisions, the actual role and weight of accredited laboratories in the current economy has to be correctly reflected. As a consequence, the following ISO/CASCO standards (still under development) will make reference to ISO/IEC 17025:

- ISO/IEC 17043 (revision of current ISO/IEC Guide 43 parts 1 and 2 on proficiency testing), CASCO Working Group 28 (WG28).
- ISO/IEC 17065 (revision of current ISO/IEC Guide 65 on certification of products, processes and services), CASCO Working Group 29 (WG29).

Both working groups met in June/July this year. CASCO WG 28, responsible for the development of Conformity assessment — General requirements for proficiency testing, approved the document going to the FDIS stage (final stage before publication as an international standard), and CASCO WG 29 decided that Conformity assessment — Requirements for certification bodies certifying products,

processes and services will go to CD (Committee Draft) stage.

Additionally, ISO/IEC 17020:1998 is undergoing a revision. The working group in charge of this (CASCO WG 31) has met once so far in May 2009. The final version of this international standard may include an informative annex that will describe the key differences between testing activities, inspection activities and product, process and service certification activities.

As ISO/CASCO standards are undergoing systematic revisions, the actual role and weight of accredited laboratories in the current economy has to be correctly reflected.

As many ILAC members are also members of IAF, the IAF/ISO Action Plan will be of interest. This project is of particular importance for the ISO community because it has been set up to improve accredited certification to ISO management standards (ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 22000). The objective is to have a better oversight of the ISO management standards that are delivered by accredited bodies (either by IAF or ILAC). An article in the ISO Management System will soon be dealing with the IAF/ISO Action Plan.

On the CASCO Secretariat's side, an interpretation process has just been

implemented for all CASCO-generated ISO/IEC Standards. An interpretation can be submitted by any National Member Body or ISO/CASCO A liaison with the aim of having a final interpretation within three months. Two interpretations are currently being processed and the result will be posted on the CASCO page of the ISO website (www.iso.org/iso/conformity_assessment).

Currently, the ISO/CASCO membership count is 73 Participating members and 36 Observing members and has the benefit of an A liaison with 15 organisations (an application from the Latinoamerican Institute for Quality Assurance – <http://www.inlac.org/> – is currently being processed).

For the full list of ISO/CASCO members, please visit this link: http://www.iso.org/iso/standards_development/technical_committees/list_of_iso_technical_committees/iso_technical_committee_participation.htm?commid=54998

For the list of ISO/CASCO A liaisons, please visit this link: http://www.iso.org/iso/resources/conformity_assessment/casco_liaisons.htm

ISO/CASCO will hold its 25th plenary meeting on the 12 and 13 November 2009 in Geneva. It will also hold a workshop on 'The role of international standards in managing the global supply chain and traceability' the day before the plenary meeting. This workshop is open to ISO/CASCO members only.

Last but not least, ISO/CASCO is going to publish an e-newsletter. The first issue is expected for mid-July. More details will be available on the ISO/CASCO page of the ISO website soon, should you wish to subscribe.

Any questions on ISO/CASCO activities can be sent to cas@iso.org 

Regional cooperations

From the APLAC Secretariat



By Helen Liddy and Janet Clark, APLAC Secretariat

Successful Board of Management and MRA Council meetings as well as a Lead Evaluator Workshop were held in May in Hong Kong, China.

We would like to thank Terence Chan and his staff at HKAS, especially Donna Cheung and C K Cheung, for their efforts in making the meetings and workshop such a success.

Congratulations go to the following:

- AAC Analitica (Russian Federation) on being accepted into the APLAC MRA for testing.
- PNAC (Pakistan) for being accepted into the APLAC MRA for testing and calibration.
- PJLA (USA) on the extension of its APLAC MRA signatory status to include calibration.
- NVLAP (USA) on the continuation of its MRA signatory status for testing and calibration.

The MRA Council, among other things, reviewed comments on proposed revisions to some MR documents and endorsed a proposal to set up a small working group with the PAC MLA Group to consider processes for joint APLAC/PAC evaluations.

A most interesting and informative lead evaluator workshop (for 24 lead evaluators) was held from 19 to 21 May with the third day being the first day of the MRA Council meeting. The workshop helped to ensure greater harmonisation among APLAC



Delegates to the APLAC meetings in Hong Kong.

evaluation teams in all aspects of their activities. It also enabled lead evaluators to discuss problems they have encountered during evaluations. We would like to thank the workshop facilitator, Ned Gravel (CALA) as well as Barry Ashcroft (IANZ), C K Cheung (HKAS), Roxanne Robinson (A2LA) and Helen Liddy (NATA/APLAC). APLAC appreciates the assistance of all concerned.

An ISO 15189 Medical Testing Workshop, convened by IANZ, was held in Auckland, New Zealand from 30 June to 2

July. Presenters were: Dr Chen Wenxiang of the National Centre for Clinical Laboratories, Beijing; Dr Graham White of Flinders Medical Centre, Australia; Mr Kevin Taylor of Canterbury Heath Laboratories, New Zealand; and Ms Shelli Turner of IANZ. Registrations closed in early June.

KAN is hosting APLAC 2009 which is being held from 5 to 11 December at the Kartika Plaza Hotel, Bali. It is expected that the website will be available from early June. Members will be advised when

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Accreditation session at 'Metrology 2009' successful



By Frédérique Laudinet, EA Secretariat

A round-table session dealing with the economic and strategic stakes of accreditation took place on 24 June within the framework of the 14th International Congress of Metrology in Paris. It proved to be a great success.

About 70 manufacturers and members of laboratories or relevant international organisations participated in two-hour lively discussions led by Nicole Van Laethem, director of the Belgian national accreditation body (BELAC). Among the speakers were representatives from industry (PSA, Schneider Electric), the French national forensic science institute (IRCGN), COFRAC, TUNAC and the French regulators in legal metrology.

At first, the debate focussed on the concepts of quality and technical competence and how they are facilitated by accreditation. It was clearly demonstrated that there cannot be stand-alone quality: it should meet customers' needs and expectations. Quality is based on an adequate analysis of and balance between potential risks and real costs.

Beyond reliability and security advocated by the speakers from the industrial sector, the TUNAC representative insisted on quality as a confidence factor. A few participants from Tunisian laboratories took this opportunity to point out that some foreign customers still tend to request European accreditation, although TUNAC has successfully signed a bilateral agreement with EA. This illustrates the importance of confident relations between accredited bodies' customers and national accreditation structures.


After everybody readily agreed to the need for the development of a broad quality culture, the way accreditation can support technical innovation and economic development was discussed at greater length.

The IRCGN proved how accreditation inspires innovation: working with damaged pieces of evidence and untangling increasingly inventive criminal processes make flexibility and rapid adaptation quite essential. The question raised by the industry representatives is whether the improving intelligence of products will systematically go together with a good human understanding. Such a constant upgrading should result in ongoing education not only of citizens but also of experts and technical auditors employed by accreditation bodies. Innovation also confers additional responsibility on accreditation structures, which have to accept a preliminary margin of uncertainty beyond all conformity assessment standards by adapting evaluations and introducing flexible scopes.

All speakers confirmed that accreditation fosters business development. Costs firstly incurred by accreditation do subsequently enable companies to optimise their total budget and redeploy their activities and staff. Therefore, as part of a long-term strategy, accreditation can generate a future return-on-investment and yield more than its costs.

Furthermore, Ms Van Laethem pointed out how accreditation feeds a profitable emulation and motivation through fruitful exchanges between experts.


Regarding the evolution of accreditation, the need for a better promotion of the principles of equivalence and mutual recognition to avoid duplicate accreditations was strongly stressed in the light of the new European cross-frontier policy to be implemented as of 1 January 2010. In this respect, the authorised diffusion of an EA logo on accreditation certificates was suggested by some participants as one of the ways to boost confidence in local accreditation bodies.

Ms Van Laethem finally highlighted the crucial necessity for accreditation to fully satisfy customers, consumers, laboratories and other conformity assessment bodies, national and European authorities, judicial courts, and so on. For customers, the ultimate goal is not only to get accreditation, but also to perpetuate it as part of an ethical, cultural strategy. 

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it is 'live' and registration opens. We look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible in December.

Members are advised when updated APLAC documents are placed on the APLAC website. Updates since December include:

- MR 003, issue no. 14
- MR 007, issue no. 2
- PR 007, issue no.s 25, 26
- PR 008, issue no.s 37, 38, 39
- PR 009, issue no. 8
- PT 003, issue no. 12
- APLAC Quality Manual, issue no. 5
- SEC 038, issue no. 42
- SEC 039, issue no. 24
- SEC 042, issue no. 5
- Several reports on completed APLAC PT programs (in the 'members only' area). 

Report from Southern African Development Community Accreditation (SADCA)



Signing of the SADC/SADCAS Memorandum of Understanding. From Left to Right: SADC SQAM expert, Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu; SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão; SADCAS Chairman, Mr Riundja Ali Kaakunga (Othy); and SADCAS Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Maureen Mutasa.



DEMONSTRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

1. SADCA OVERVIEW

1.1 SADCA working towards an African Accreditation Cooperation

Members of the accreditation stakeholders within Africa held a

brainstorming workshop in Mauritius at the end of March 2009. A document of intent was drafted, which delegates will be discussing with stakeholders in their respective countries. The outcome of the workshop was positive, with an agreement on the principles of an accreditation infrastructure reached. A project team was also established.

1.2 SADCA training

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) concluded an agreement with the European Union (EU) for the funding of various

projects for the four Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) structures. As part of the first phase of the funding, SADCA trained a number of technical experts in the key management systems' standards.

SADCA will soon commence with the second phase of the training of these technical experts, which will include training in technical assessment techniques, mentoring, monitoring and attachments to accreditation bodies.

2. SADCAS OVERVIEW

2.1 Launch of SADCAS

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was officially launched on 23 April 2009 at the Grand Palm Hotel, Gaborone, Botswana. In conjunction with the launch, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on general cooperation was signed between SADC, represented by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão, and SADCAS, represented by the Board Chairman, Mr Riundja Ali Kaakunga (Othy). The MoU formalises the operational relationship between SADC and SADCAS.

2.2 Current status of National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs)

The SADCAS CEO visited a number of SADC Member States, meeting with NAFPs, their immediate supervisors, senior government officials and regulators to apprise them of SADCAS, its activities and its benefits in the SADC region. From Member States' reports at the General Assembly, it was evident that the visit by the SADCAS CEO had substantively increased the awareness of accreditation amongst senior government officials, regulators and stakeholders.

2.3 SADCAS accreditations

SADCAS is preparing to accept its first applications for accreditation in the second half of 2009.

2.4 SADCAS communications


SADCAS has published its second newsletter, The Pioneer, which is available on the SADCA website, www.sadca.org

3. INTERNATIONAL LIAISON

The SADCA Chairperson, Mrs Masego Marobela represented SADCA

The SADCAS CEO visited a number of SADC Member States, meeting with NAFPs, their immediate supervisors, senior government officials and regulators.

at the 2008 IAAC General Assembly in Asunción, Paraguay in September 2008. She and the SADCA Regional Coordinator, Mr Ron Josias, attended the IAF and ILAC Executive meetings respectively in June 2009 in London.

SADCA would like to thank EA and IAAC for availing their representatives who participated in the brainstorming workshop on the need for an African Accreditation Cooperation. The presentations by IAAC and EA on their experiences immensely benefited the discussions among delegates at the workshop. 

ILAC Publications update

As a result of the successful ballot held a few months ago, ILAC-R1:09/2009 Classification and Publication of ILAC Documents has been published. This document replaces ILAC S1:2003. The publication of this new document has resulted in the re-classification of the S-series documents. These documents are now listed as Rules or R-series documents.

The publication list included inside the back cover of this magazine has been updated to reflect this change, as has the ILAC website. The publications section of the website now contains the R-series documents. Please note that whilst the number and date of the S-series documents have been updated to reflect this change in classification and, in a few cases, updates to cross-referenced S-series documents have been made, there have been no changes to the content of these documents.

Additional information, if required, is available from the ILAC website under Publications and Resources or by contacting the ILAC Secretariat on ilac@nata.com.au

Accreditation Update

The Dubai Accreditation Department (DAC) celebrates International Accreditation Day



DAC celebrated the second International Accreditation Day on 9 June 2009.

On this occasion, DAC launched a month-long awareness campaign with respect to this year's theme 'competence', publishing and circulating various posters.

In line with Accreditation Day celebrations, DAC arranged an open house for medical laboratories in the City Hall of Dubai Municipality. Representatives of various public and private medical laboratories attended. Ms Amina Ahmed, Director of DAC, welcomed all participants and gave a presentation on the importance of accreditation in the medical field. Dr Mohamed Saad and Dr Sujatha Chandrasekaran gave presentations on the role of ILAC, IAF and PAC and the requirements of ISO 15189. They also answered queries during the technical panel discussion session.

DAC also requested all of its CABs, through an official letter sent to them, to celebrate the day in a manner suitable to them and to report their activities in this regard, to DAC. Many accredited CABs celebrated the day. One of the accredited laboratories, Arab Center for Engineering Studies (ACES), arranged various programs.

DAC launches two new accreditation schemes

Dubai Accreditation Department (DAC) has launched two new accreditation schemes



Ms Amina Ahmed, Director of DAC presenting accreditation certificates to CAB representatives.



The elevator inspection course under way.

for conformity assessment bodies.

The first accreditation has been granted in the field of precious metals testing for gold, silver and plutonium to Dubai Central Laboratory Department according to the international standard ISO/IEC 17025.

DAC granted its first accreditation to SGS Gulf Ltd., Dubai for Occupational Health

& Safety Assessment Series (OHSA 18001) management system certification according to ISO 17021.

DAC conducts specialised training in elevators inspection

DAC has arranged a specialised training course covering the inspection of elevators in collaboration with the European

Certifying Organization (ECO), Italy. On-site practical training was the salient feature of the course, which was attended by 25 delegates from various inspection bodies. The trainer was Eng. Fabrizio Mori.

DAC organises a unique laboratories conclave


DAC organised a unique gathering of laboratories to discuss accreditation related issues with DAC's laboratory task force. The conclave was held in Zabeel Hall, DM Club, Dubai. Delegates from 70 laboratories attended the meeting and discussed various quality and technical issues with the task force. Dr Yaser Saleh (Principal Accreditation Officer, DAC) gave a



DAC Laboratory Task Force members Prof Mufid Samarai, Eng Emad Sharif, Mr David Stanger and Mr Huw Woodyatt during technical discussions.

presentation on the DAC Proficiency Testing Program.

DAC is the only proficiency testing

provider in the Gulf region and has conducted more than 175 proficiency testing programs. 

CNAS to provide medical laboratory accreditation service for 2010 Shanghai Expo



Medical laboratory accreditation has been a very important focus of the China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS) since it began in 2004. Following the successful achievements of the Laboratory Accreditation Program for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, CNAS has now joined with the Shanghai Health Bureau to initiate the Laboratory Accreditation Program for the 2010 Shanghai Expo for healthcare institutions in Shanghai, China.


This program aims to ensure a reliable and recognised healthcare service for the participants and tourists coming to the Expo, and at the same time to facilitate medical laboratory accreditation in Shanghai and nationwide.



The ceremony launching CNAS's medical laboratory accreditation program for the 2010 Shanghai Expo.

The Shanghai Health Bureau issued an announcement on the cooperation with CNAS on 17 March 2009, and the joint official ceremony initiating the Program was held on 16 April 2009.

The ultimate object of the Program is to upgrade the technical capability and management of healthcare institutions

in Shanghai through carrying out well-planned and organised medical laboratory accreditation work. Many medical laboratories in Shanghai are now actively building or revising their quality management systems, reviewing and improving their technical capability, and preparing to formally apply for accreditation. 

EGAC celebrates International Accreditation Day



The Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC) celebrated International Accreditation Day on 3 June 2009 by holding a major conference in Cairo under the auspices of H.E. Rachid Mohamed Rachid, the Minister for Trade and Industry. The conference was designed to promote accreditation to government and business and at the same time to announce that EGAC was well on track to become a full member of both ILAC and IAF. The conference was very well attended by nearly 300 delegates and a large body of the media including TV. The event therefore received very wide and excellent publicity.

The conference reflected the enormous importance and the high level of responsibility to which Egypt has committed itself in encouraging the development of a world-class quality system. Egypt will follow the international approach for eliminating technical barriers to trade and will achieve the global goal of facilitating trade by the introduction of the concept of "Tested/inspected once and accepted everywhere".

Engineer Hassan Shaarawi, Executive Director of EGAC, opened the conference with a message from H.E. the Minister of Trade and Industry who stressed that accreditation plays a pivotal role in developing the Egyptian quality infrastructure and in supporting the national and international economy. The Minister added that accreditation is fundamental to supporting Egyptian products in international markets and emphasised the importance of conformity assessment for the benefit of all consumers.



Mr. Hassan Shaarawi, Executive Director of EGAC, at the opening of the EGAC conference.


The Conference heard presentations from: Dr Ali Abu Elezz, the President of National Institute of Standards (NIS), representing metrology in Egypt; Dr Hany Barakat, the new President of Egyptian Organisation for Standardisation (EOS); and Mr Hugh Berridge, Resident Twinning Advisor to EGAC for the European Union Capacity Building Programme.

Further presentations were made by EGAC staff to promote accreditation and raise awareness among stakeholders in the economy. These provided updates on accreditation issues affecting conformity assessment bodies (CABs), including recent ILAC/IAF and EGAC requirements and policies in the fields of accreditation for laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies.

The progress and capacity building of EGAC in accrediting medical laboratories was one of the important issues communicated to the health sector in the Egyptian economy.

Other accreditation issues were discussed with representatives of the accredited CABs, such as proficiency testing, the use of the accreditation symbol and implementation of the new ISO 9001:2008.

During the conference a number of accreditation certificates were presented to both public and private sector organisations.

In all, it was a very satisfying event that reflected EGAC's enhanced status as a major force for quality and conformance in Egypt. 

NATA accredits Boeing Defence Australia



NATA has accredited Boeing Defence Australia to test medium-sized military and commercial aircraft for electromagnetic environment effects (E3). This is the first accreditation of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and one of only a handful in the world.

Chief Executive, Alan Patterson presented the accreditation certificate to Boeing Defence Australia's Managing Director and Vice President, John Duddy at a ceremony at Boeing House in Brisbane on 15 April.

Boeing's E3 testing accreditation is "a significant and unique achievement in Australia," Mr Patterson said. "It is a testament to the efforts of all involved."

Boeing's E3 facility is located in Queensland, at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Amberley, just west of Brisbane.

E3 testing has two aspects that are consistent with regulations imposed by regulatory bodies such as the Directorate General Technical Airworthiness – Australian Defence Force (DGTA) and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority. Firstly, the aircraft's electronics cannot emit electromagnetic radiation beyond established parameters, as this can have an adverse effect on electronic systems around it. Secondly, the aircraft's systems cannot be susceptible to high emissions, whose sources include mobile phone towers, other aircraft and radio transmitters. The importance of this is obvious – an aircraft that is unduly susceptible to such emissions could experience system failure mid-flight.

A number of other facilities in Australia are accredited to test individual components



Photo: Boeing

NATA Chief Executive, Alan Patterson (centre) presents the accreditation certificate to Boeing Defence Australia's Managing Director, John Duddy (second from left). Also present: Boeing's E3 Group Lead, Paul Howard; NATA Senior Scientific Officer, Darina Ross; and NATA Queensland Manager, Alex Sellars.


for E3 but only Boeing is accredited for 'whole aircraft' testing. This is an important distinction as components may react differently when part of a complex system.

"It's an exciting development for NATA in that it expands the activities for which we provide accreditation," said NATA Manager, Measurement Science and Technology, Paul McMullen. "We're always looking to expand our capability. It's required us to source new technical assessors, and work with more people. And it's providing accreditation to a new standard, namely ED 107."

Boeing is now accredited to test aircraft and a range of other military equipment and commercial platforms that emit frequencies between 4MHz and 400MHz, such as the F-111 and F/A-18 fighter/bombers, C-130 Hercules military transport, the Boeing Next-Generation 737 passenger carrier, as well as the RAAF's High Frequency Modernisation Communications System, the Army's Black Hawk helicopters, and Qantas Boeing 747 in-flight entertainment and communications.

Though the E3 facility is based at RAAF Amberley, it also has mobile testing caravans that allow it to conduct testing anywhere in Australia.

Boeing conducts its testing using software platforms that were developed in-house by its E3 team over a six-year period. These programs underwent a complete document, software and technical assessment, including a five-day site visit involving NATA staff and technical assessors from the DGTA, the Defence Science and Technology Organisation, and the Land Engineering Agency.

"This is a proud day for our employees, who have worked hard over several years to ensure Boeing has an E3 testing capability second to none on this side of the globe," Mr Duddy said. "It has been a great collective effort, and I would also like to thank NATA and the government agencies who were able to support this accreditation." 

Trans-Tasman risk management improved

The ability of companies and governments to mitigate risk will be streamlined, following the recent announcement that the key two national accreditation bodies for testing and certification will sign a formal agreement to work in closer cooperation in the national interest for Australia and New Zealand.

The National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) and the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) made the announcement on 9 June to mark International Accreditation Day.

Both organisations play pivotal roles in underpinning the technical infrastructure that improves Australia's economic efficiency and trade.

NATA's Chief Executive Alan Patterson, and JAS-ANZ CEO Dr James Galloway, made the joint announcement on International Accreditation Day, which is intended to highlight the importance of the accuracy and reliability of testing, inspection and certification services worldwide. They said they hoped their agreement would eventually grow to include the New Zealand technical accreditation body, IANZ.

"This agreement will help increase recognition that accreditation through our two organisations is an important part of any government's or company's mitigation of risk," Mr Patterson said.

"Both organisations have excellent reputations for working collaboratively with their clients to achieve optimal results. We believe that once an agreement is in place, it will open the door to some exciting synergies.

"We hope this announcement will highlight to regulators the fact that we provide these services, and that they are essential to any legislation, regulatory framework or industry goal which aims to mitigate risk."

"Both our organisations are finding that while our work is known and appreciated at the highest levels of government, all too often legislation and regulations are being promulgated without the appropriate risk mitigation checks that both organisations provide. The Memorandum of Understanding that we are working towards will go a long way to redress that problem," Dr Galloway added.

JAS-ANZ is the government-appointed accreditation body for Australia and New Zealand responsible for providing accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) in the fields of certification and inspection.

NATA is the authority in Australia that provides independent assurance of technical competence through a proven network of best-practice industry experts for customers who require confidence in the delivery of their products and services.

The theme of International Accreditation Day this year was 'competence'. According to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, and the International Accreditation Forum, accreditation provides an independent and authoritative attestation of the competence, impartiality and integrity of conformity assessment bodies. Accreditation that is internationally accepted and meets international standards increases confidence in the accuracy and reliability of testing, inspection and certification.

ema raises its profile



By María José Mesén, Coordinator National and International Relations, ema

ema Promotion Campaigns

Since 2005, the entidad mexicana de acreditación (ema) has run a national promotion campaign called "ema goes to your home town" ("ema VA A SU CASA", in Spanish). The objective is to reach out to our interested parties and promote accreditation and the benefits of working with conformity assessment bodies.

The idea is to visit at least seven strategically chosen Mexican states each year. The activity in each is divided into two phases. The first one consists of a visit to government authorities, industry or others in order to raise awareness. In the second phase, a series of conferences on accreditation topics are held, and all interested parties are invited to participate.

In 2008, this campaign included twelve Mexican States (Baja California, Chiapas, Coahuila, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Michoacán, Nayarit, Oaxaca, Querétaro, Sonora and Yucatán). In total, 1609 people attended the conferences, and 109 meetings were held with authorities and others.

During the first half of this year, three states were visited (Chihuahua, Tamaulipas and Veracruz), and five more (Aguascalientes, Campeche, Durango, San Luis Potosí and Tabasco) will be covered in the remainder of the year. Although the number of states has been reduced, we expect to have a greater impact this year.

International Accreditation Day celebrations in Mexico

From 8 to 12 June, the ema held the 2nd Accreditation Week as a celebration of International Accreditation Day.

Each day of the week was dedicated to a different area: 8 June for certification bodies, 10 June for inspection bodies, 11 June to testing laboratories, 12 June to calibration laboratories, and of course 9 June was celebrated with conferences on different topics of national and international relevance.

During the International Accreditation Day conferences' opening, Dr Alvaro Castro Estrada, Under-Secretary of Labor, pointed out the importance of complying with security and health standards in work places, and the need to have a structure for conformity assessment bodies. Dr Castro advised that the Ministry of Labor would begin a campaign to assess compliance with security and health standards at work, among ema and the accredited conformity assessment bodies.


During the week, 75 speakers participated, four of whom were international guests: Sean MacCurtain, Head of ISO-CASCO; Lane Hallenbeck, Vice President for Accreditation



Maribel López, ema's Executive Director during the 'ema va a su casa' promotion campaign.

Services at ANSI (USA); Roy Swift, Senior Director of Personnel Credentialing Accreditation Programs at ANSI; and Vagn Andersen, Manager of International Affairs and Planning at DANAK (Denmark). ema sends a special thank you to the international

and national speakers for taking time to promote accreditation.

In total, we received 565 participants from 8 to 12 June, which shows that this year's event to celebrate International Accreditation Day was as successful as that in 2008. 

News from TAF



TAF invites accreditation stakeholders to celebrate International Accreditation Day (IAD)

By Wanji Yang

To echo the theme 'competence' of the 2nd International Accreditation Day, TAF specially organised a seminar called 'Accreditation – Determination of Competence' on 9 June. Considering different phases of 'competence' in the various roles in accreditation, TAF invited accreditation stakeholders to share practical experience of competence in accreditation. TAF CEO, Ms Angela Chang, gave the opening speech. The seminar was divided into three sessions:

1) 'Creating Benefits of Accreditation – Sharing Success Stories by Accredited Laboratories', facilitated by Mr Nigel Jou, TAF Vice CEO.




Presentations at TAF's 'Accreditation – Determination of Competence' seminar.

2) 'Professionalism of Key Accreditation Manpower – Experience and Growth', presented by Professor Jen-Fon Jen, National Chung-Hsing University.

3) 'Internationally Recognised Accreditation Brand – Sharing Users' Experience', chaired by Mr Neng-Jong Lin, TAF Senior Advisor.

Six representatives from accredited laboratories, one TAF staff member, one TAF Senior Assessor, one head of an accredited

laboratory and four representatives from government sectors were invited to give short presentations. The layout of the venue was also specially designed to encourage conversations among participants. In total, there were approximately 200 participants. Positive feedback on the topics and arrangements were received afterwards. More information about the events TAF held on the 2nd IAD is available from: <http://competence.taftw.org.tw> 

JLAC holds 8th Technical Information Seminar

In honour of International Accreditation Day the Japan Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (JLAC) held the 8th Technical Information Seminar on 11 June 2009 in Tokyo.

The opening speech was presented by Dr Katuo Seta who represented the Japan Accreditation Council (JAC) (see diagram). The keynote speech was addressed by Mr Hirofumi Ono, Director of the Conformity Assessment Division, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). This was followed by presentations about experience and effectiveness of laboratory accreditation presented by four speakers from accredited laboratories. The program of this seminar was as follows:

Opening speech: Summary of the activities of JAC and JLAC.

Keynote speech: Approach toward establishment of the carbon footprint program and its international Standardisation.

Speech 1: Application and the effectiveness of MLAP (Specified Measurement Laboratory Accreditation Program).

Speech 2: ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation and NADCAP (National Aerospace and Defense Contractors Accreditation Program).

Speech 3: ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for EMC laboratories.

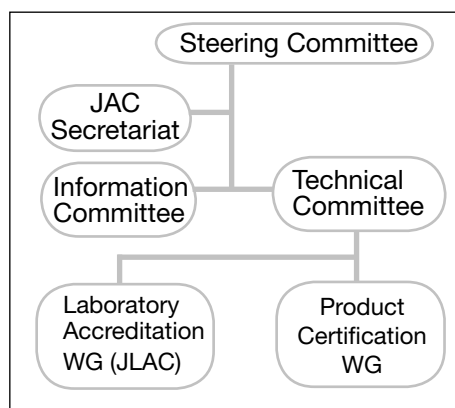
Speech 4: Calibration service by ASNITE (Accreditation System of the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation).

About 200 people attended the seminar. Quite a few of the participants remarked that the speeches were practical and reminded them of the importance of accreditation. It was also remarked that the success stories were helpful for laboratories



JLAC'S 8th Technical Information Seminar.

applying for and maintaining laboratory accreditation.



Japan Accreditation Council (JAC) structure.

JAC Members:

Office of Medical Devices Evaluation, Evaluation and Licensing Division, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW)

Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF)

Electromagnetic Environment Division, Radio Department, Telecommunications Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)

JASC Office, Conformity Assessment Division, Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

Mutual Recognition Office, Conformity Assessment Division, Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)


Product Safety Division, Commerce and Distribution Policy Group, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

Incorporated Administrative Agency, Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Center (FAMIC)

International Accreditation Japan (IAJapan)*

The Japan Accreditation Board For Conformity Assessment (JAB)*

Japan Chemical Laboratory Accreditation (JCLA)*

Voluntary EMC Laboratory Accreditation Center Inc. (VLAC)* 

* JLAC member

Jamaica's PM launches accreditation body



Jamaica now officially has its own accreditation body with the launch of the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC) by Jamaica's Prime Minister Bruce Golding on International Accreditation Day, 9 June 2009.

The launch of JANAAC, which was incorporated in March 2007, took place at the Terra Nova Hotel in Kingston. In addition to the Prime Minister, several high level members of government participated, including the Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Karl

Samuda, under whose portfolio the agency falls.

Only the second such agency in the entire Caribbean region, JANAAC is expected to play an important role in facilitating trade between Jamaica and its trading partners, including the Caribbean community (CARICOM), which was well represented at the launch.

Through the provision of accreditation services, JANAAC will enable Jamaica's conformity assessment system to meet international standards and eliminate some technical barriers that have affected Jamaican manufacturers and exporters for many years.

In his keynote address at the launch, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of accreditation to trade and said that JANAAC will provide the confidence needed for Jamaica's export sector.

"If world trade is to function effectively to support economic growth, we need these agreed standards and the mechanisms to certify and to assure our traders. We have to have a network of laboratories that are respected and that command confidence in what they say," he said.

"Through the provision of accreditation services, JANAAC will enable local laboratories to demonstrate that they meet international standards."

continued next page



JANAAC CEO, Marguerite Domville (fourth from left) and members of her staff with Jamaica's Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Karl Samuda and Permanent Secretary Reginald Budhan.

from previous page

Other influential stakeholders including the Laboratories Association of Jamaica, Jamaica Manufacturers Association, The Jamaica Exporters Association and the Ministry of Health also participated in the launch and echoed similar sentiments in support of accreditation as an important facilitator of trade.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JANAAC, Marguerite Domville, said the laboratories in Jamaica have responded positively to the call for accreditation and that of the 83 presently in operation, 19 have already picked up applications from JANAAC's offices.

"A survey was done among labs by the Laboratory Association of Jamaica and they found that the majority of labs involved in the study plan to get accredited within the next 12 months," she said. "Labs have realised that it is important to their survival that they be accredited."

Among the CARICOM representatives were: Dr Vyjayanthi Lopez, CEO of the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), based in Barbados; Ms Giselle Guevara, Manager of the Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Service Project CROSQ; Dr Gem Fletcher of the CARICOM Secretariat, based in Guyana; and Ms Violet Davis-Maurice,



Manager Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Service Project, CROSQ, Ms Giselle Guevara makes a presentation at the International Accreditation Day Conference in Jamaica.

Manager of TTLABS, the National Accreditation Body of Trinidad & Tobago.

The day's activities also included an accreditation conference entitled 'Competence and Quality – a Guarantee of Excellence'. Hosted by JANAAC in

collaboration with CROSQ, the conference was well attended, with over 120 persons present. It included a series of technical presentations from quality experts examining the role of accreditation and the importance of competence in providing quality in testing services. The keynote address was given by Ulf Hilner of the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), Germany.

The formal launch of JANAAC and the accreditation conference were two of three main events organised by JANAAC as part of International Accreditation Day. On 8 June, CEO Marguerite Domville led a media tour of the island's only internationally accredited laboratory, at the Bureau of Standards.

For further information, contact:

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Tel: 968-7790/7799
Email: janaac@live.com



JANAAC CEO, Marguerite Domville (left) greets Prime Minister Bruce Golding upon his arrival at the launch of JANAAC at the Terra Nova Hotel in Kingston on June 9. Also present is Chairman of the JANAAC Council, Simon Roberts.

Jordanian Accreditation Unit (AU)



A new cooperation project for medical laboratories in Jordan

A project between the Jordan Institution for Standards and Metrology (JISM) and the PTB in Germany has been initiated in order to improve the present quality and competency of medical laboratory services.

A 'National Workgroup for Quality Assurance' was formed under the responsibility of the Accreditation Unit (AU) in order to prepare a draft regulation on quality assurance in medical laboratories based on the standard ISO 15189. A pilot project will start in order to test the acceptability and appropriateness of the new regulations with the help of 12 Jordanian medical laboratories. Based on the results, the regulations will be authorised by the Ministry of Health, and will then enter the mandatory phase.

The project includes training courses for the implementation of the ISO 15189 standard, in addition to workshops and awareness campaigns for all medical laboratories in Jordan.

The three-year project is expected to produce regulations on local quality assurance, a local EQAS and a national consensus on the interpretation of the ISO 15189 standard. The project also aims to develop medical metrology in Jordan by implementing a national quality scheme covering different medical equipment.

AU launches another Proficiency Testing Scheme (PTS)

In 2008, AU successfully organised a PTS in the field of aggregates, in which 14 local laboratories participated. Because it is striving to conduct a national scheme on an annual basis to maintain the efficiency of the participating laboratories, AU has launched a new PTS in the field of construction. The PTS was launched at a workshop attended by participating laboratories on 15 June

2009, in which the advisory group members presented the results and method of data analysis of the previous PTS and also responded to questions from the attendees.

The new PTS scheme will cover testing of aggregates, two of which are repeats from the previous PTS as well as five new tests. Reports are expected to be distributed to the laboratories by the end of October.

AU receives training

The AU participated in the 'World trade and Conformity Assessment, Quality Infrastructure Development' training course organised by Sida during the period 2-28 November 2008 in Sweden.

The course was aimed at providing participants with a more-in-depth understanding of the principles of international trade with emphasis on the agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO), technical regulatory activities and related conformity assessment activities. The concept of quality, the role and use of accreditation and conformity assessment as a tool of enforcement of national legislation and the development of national quality policies were also covered.

The course was divided into five phases, two of which were related to working on a project that will help in solving problems that participating economies face. The participant from the AU worked on a project that aims to provide equivalent accreditation services from different accreditation bodies and to avoid duplication of accreditation for national laboratories.

The study was conducted using Jordanian laboratories that have accreditations from either UKAS, DAP, DKD, or SWEDAC in addition to Jordanian accreditation. It involved distributing questionnaires to accredited laboratories and new accreditation bodies in the region, meeting the key personnel in laboratories, searching the websites of accreditation bodies, witnessing a UKAS assessment and comparing the differences between the procedures and requirements in terms of:

- The interpretation of ISO/IEC 17025.
- Published policies.


- The effect of cross-frontier policy on the national accreditation bodies.

In accordance with the results of the study, the AU will develop its system to increase customer satisfaction and reduce the differences as follows:

1. Review its related procedures.
2. Conduct training for assessors on human aspects.
3. Conduct promotion campaigns on the importance of accreditation in order to increase the number of approved assessors.
4. Evaluate the possibility and the effect of translating some national accreditation bodies' technical policies to be non-mandatory policies.
5. Make use of the cross-frontier policy by technical assessors participating in joint assessments. This will save money and time and will be an effective means of exchanging knowledge.
6. Conduct a study related to the cross-frontier policy, including its pros and cons and implementation.

Feedback received on the implementation of the cross-frontier policy is:

- There is a lack of cooperation when the international accreditation body subcontracts assessments to a local accreditation body.
- There is a lack of confidence in national accreditation bodies by the international accreditation bodies.
- Foreign accreditation bodies are more active in promoting their activities.
- Lack of communication between local and foreign accreditation bodies.
- All accreditation bodies prefer using their reports, forms and language during assessments.
- All local accredited bodies prefer to prepare reports in their native language even in relation to a joint assessment visit.

The final stage includes the implementation of this project, which will be evaluated in November 2009 to measure the effectiveness of the study. 

News from NVLAP



NVLAP's international recognition

At a recent meeting in Hong Kong on 20 May, the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP)'s management system was deemed compliant with ISO/IEC 17011, the standard for conformity assessment, General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies, by the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation's (APLAC) Mutual Recognition Council. Under consideration at this meeting was NVLAP's compliance with ISO/IEC 17011 as evidenced by a peer evaluation and subsequent response to corrective actions.

In July 2008, NVLAP underwent its

APLAC peer evaluation to determine compliance with ISO/IEC 17011. The evaluation included a team of four international peer evaluators who visited NVLAP, observed its operations, reviewed records of accreditation, and observed a sampling of on-site assessments conducted at NVLAP-accredited laboratories in locations across the USA, as well as in India.

APLAC is one of three recognised regional accreditation cooperations under the ILAC MRA. It is through the APLAC MRA that NVLAP is recognised as an ILAC signatory.

NVLAP, as a signatory to the APLAC MRA, is a viable, internationally recognised accreditation body. NVLAP's accreditation services and its 800-plus laboratories' test and calibration results continue to be recognised and accepted in the international metrology community.

NVLAP and VCCI sign MoU

NVLAP recently renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Voluntary Control Council for Interference by Information Technology Equipment (VCCI). The signing took place after the Second International Workshop on Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for Conformity Assessment of Electromagnetic Compatibility and Telecommunications Regulations held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA, 5–7 May 2009.

This MoU allows for NVLAP-accredited laboratories in the Electromagnetic Compatibility and Telecommunications (ECT) program to gain ease of access to the VCCI mark used in Japan. The VCCI mark is required for shipment of Information Technology Equipment (ITE) into




NVLAP staff on International Accreditation Day.

the domestic marketplace in Japan. In addition, VCCI works to harmonise test methods for ECT and electromagnetic interference. More importantly, this MoU facilitates good customer service, value, and cost savings for the laboratories accredited under the NVLAP ECT Laboratory Accreditation Program. This is because VCCI will automatically recognise the accreditation from NVLAP, and laboratories do not have to apply directly to VCCI and have their documentation reviewed separately by them. There are currently more than 175 NVLAP-accredited laboratories in this program.

NVLAP raises awareness of the significance of laboratory accreditation and standards

International Accreditation Day is a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and ILAC to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities. The theme of this year's Accreditation Day on 9 June was 'competence'. Accreditation provides an independent and authoritative attestation of the competence, impartiality and integrity of conformity assessment bodies (CABs). Accreditation that is internationally accepted and meets

international standards provides confidence in the accuracy and reliability of testing and calibration.

NVLAP celebrated International Accreditation Day by sponsoring an open-house style reception where information about NVLAP programs was shared with interested NIST stakeholders, technical experts, and colleagues. NVLAP provides third-party accreditation to more than 800 testing and calibration laboratories across the world. NVLAP's accreditation programs are established in response to Congressional mandates or administrative actions by the Federal Government or from requests by private-sector organisations. 

Launch of SADCAS

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was launched on 23 April 2009 at the Grand Palm Hotel, Gaborone, Botswana. The occasion was graced by dignitaries from the SADC member states, diplomats from various countries and the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão. The Botswana Minister of Trade and Industry, The Honourable Daniel Neo Moroka was the guest of honour.

SADCAS is a regional accreditation body established in terms of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Memorandum of Understanding on standardisation, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology to provide accreditation services to SADC member states. The first multi-economy body in the world, SADCAS was incorporated in December 2005 as a non-profit limited company and was approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in August 2007 as a subsidiary organisation of SADC.

SADCAS, whose establishment is being funded by the Norwegian Agency for



The signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on general cooperation between the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS), which took place at SADCAS' launch. From left: the SADC Executive Secretary Dr Tomaz Salomão and SADCAS Board Chairman Mr Riundja Kaakunga (Othy).

Development Cooperation (NORAD), is to provide internationally recognised cost-effective regional accreditation services for SADC member states. Its aim is to support regional and international trade, enhance the protection of consumers and improve

the competitiveness of SADC products and services in both the voluntary and regulatory areas.

In his speech, the guest of honour noted the key role that accreditation plays in

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From left: Mr Riundja Kaakunga (Othy) – Chairman of SADCAS Board of Directors; Botswana Minister of Trade and Industry; Honourable Daniel Neo Moroka (guest of honour) shaking hands with SADCAS Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa after the unveiling of the plaque.


socio-economic development and welcomed the establishment of SADCAS. He urged conformity assessment service providers to take up the services offered by SADCAS as a demonstration of competency and a means to build trust and confidence amongst trading partners. He further noted that all stakeholders including the general public stand to benefit from accreditation. The Minister also encouraged SADC member states to facilitate the acceptance of SADCAS in their own economies and to continually support the National Accreditation Focal Points, which are the administrative links between SADCAS and member states.

In conjunction with the launch, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on general cooperation was signed between SADC, represented by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Tomaz Salomão and SADCAS, represented by the Board Chairman, Mr Riundja Kaakunga (Othy). The MoU formalises the operational relationship between SADC and SADCAS.

In her closing remarks, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer of SADCAS emphasised SADCAS' vision of being a leading regionally accepted and internationally recognised regional accreditation body aimed at supporting and enhancing industry and governments' efforts and to be at the cutting edge of

accreditation service delivery. She also said that SADCAS's vision will only come to fruition with the continued support of donors and the take up of SADCAS' accreditation services by clients in member states.

For more information please contact:

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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.

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.

ILAC Publications

The following is a listing of titles of all ILAC documents. They can be downloaded from the 'ILAC Documents' section under 'Publications and Resources' on the ILAC website.

Brochures

The ILAC 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

Information Documents (I Series)

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

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 Qualifications & Competence of Assessors and Technical Experts
ILAC-G12:2000	Guidelines for the Requirements for the Competence of Reference Material Producers
ILAC-G13:07/2007	Guidelines for the Requirements for the Competence of Providers of Proficiency Testing Schemes
ILAC-G17:2002	Introducing the Concept of Uncertainty of Measurement in Testing in Association with the Application of the Standard ISO/IEC 17025
ILAC-G18:2002	The Scope of Accreditation and Consideration of Methods and Criteria for the Assessment of the Scope in Testing
ILAC-G19:2002	Guidelines for Forensic Science Laboratories
ILAC-G20:2002	Guidelines on Grading of Non-Conformities
ILAC-G21:2002	Cross Frontier Accreditation — Principles for Avoiding Duplication
ILAC-G22:2004	Use of Proficiency Testing as a Tool for Accreditation in Testing
ILAC-G23:2004	Withdrawn
ILAC-G24:2007	Guidelines for the determination of calibration intervals of measuring instruments

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-R4:09/2009	Use of the ILAC Logo
ILAC-R5:09/2009	ILAC Procedure for Handling Complaints
ILAC-R6:09/2009	Procedure for Expansion of the Scope of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

Procedural Documents (P Series)

ILAC-P1:07/2007	ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Requirements for Evaluation of Accreditation Bodies by ILAC-recognised Regional Cooperations
ILAC-P2:2003	ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Procedures for the Evaluation of Regional Cooperation Bodies for the Purpose of Recognition
ILAC-P3:07/2007	ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Procedures for the Evaluation of Unaffiliated Bodies for the Purpose of Recognition
ILAC-P4:2003	ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Policy Statement
ILAC-P5:04/2007	ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement)
ILAC-P6:2003	Application for Full Member Status
ILAC-P7:2003	ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Key performance Indicators (KPIs) (Link to IAF/ILAC A3:2005)
ILAC-P8:07/2006	ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Supplementary Requirements and Guidelines for the Use of Accreditation Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Laboratories
ILAC-P9:2005	ILAC Policy for Participation in National and International Proficiency Testing Activities
ILAC-P10:2002	ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement Results
ILAC-P11:2004	Monitoring Performance of ILAC Evaluators
ILAC-P12:04/2009	Harmonisation of ILAC Work with the Regions

Joint ILAC/IAF Documents (A series)

IAF/ILAC A1:05/2007	IAF/ILAC MRAs: Evaluation of a Regional Group
IAF/ILAC A2:05/2007	IAF/ILAC MRAs: Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body
IAF/ILAC A3:05/2007	IAF/ILAC MRAs: Key Performance Indicators
IAF/ILAC A4:2004	Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020
IAF/ILAC A5:04/2009	IAF/ILAC MRAs: Application of ISO/IEC 17011:2004

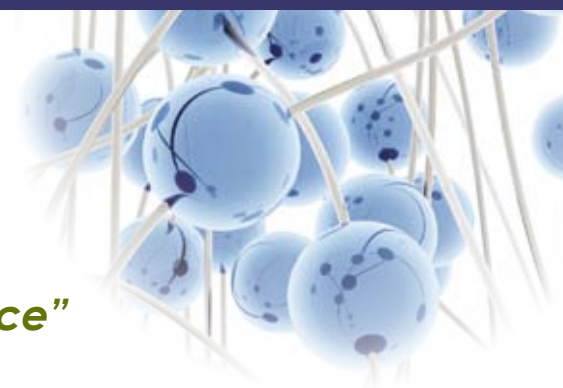
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