

ILAC NEWS

Issue 30, November/December 2006



- **Cancun Joint General Assembly**

- **A new website for ILAC**

- **SADCA developments**

- **Africa's water research**

- **Croatia's conference in 2007**

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ILAC News

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2007 ILAC/IAF Joint Annual Meetings, Sydney	(back cover)

As we approach the election in Cancun of ILAC office bearers for 2007 and 2008, it is timely to review the achievements of the past two years while looking forward to exploring the needs of the future.

Congratulations to the team of officers elected in Cape Town who have started to implement the Strategic and Business Plan elaborated under Mike Peet's chairmanship.

We have concentrated our efforts on liaison issues (BIPM, OIML, ISO, IEC, UNIDO, WADA) aimed at strengthening the role of accreditation, as well as being recognised as a robust pillars for the facilitation of international trade and the development of national economies.

In this respect, important progress has been achieved. Memoranda of Understanding have been signed and implemented, with obvious results such as the joint communiqué from ILAC/IAF/ISO on the relationship between ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation and ISO 9001 certification for example.

In terms of liaison, I wish to highlight ILAC's cooperation with the International Accreditation Forum IAF, our sister organisation. As this cooperation has matured the benefits to the Accreditation Bodies, members of both organisations and to our stakeholders has also increased.

During the same period, the work related to reference materials and proficiency testing has been confirmed. The establishment of the Proficiency Testing Consultative Group and its success have to be highlighted.

The on-going progress of the international cooperation to facilitate the establishment of recognised accreditation bodies in developing countries is also a reality.

There is not sufficient space here to provide an exhaustive list of ILAC achievements, but I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Executive Committee, all those ILAC members, including our stakeholders, who actively participated in our efforts and, above all, our Secretariat who did a great job during the past two years and before.

It is clear that the future path to follow is already paved. We simply have to actively pursue and implement our Strategic and Business Plans.

All the fields of work mentioned above are still open and some others will have to be open according to the work plans established and updated by the ILAC committees.

Certainly ILAC is making a lot of progress, but we have to remain conscious of the fact that this is the result of on-going efforts, which have to be maintained and in many cases strengthened, to meet the challenges of the ever increasing complexity of our environment

No doubt the active participation of more and more ILAC members will give us the opportunity to fulfil our stakeholder's expectations.



Daniel Pierre
Chair



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News from the ILAC secretariat

ILAC Secretariat: Alan Squirrell, Annette Dever, Nilla Merrigan, Alison Hay



Highlights—2005

The release of the Communique on the recent alignment of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 with ISO 9001 (2000) in August 05, was the culmination of a significant effort coordinated by the joint International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) working group. The Communique is available on the ILAC website.

Another significant step forward in this important area is the commencement of work by the ILAC Proficiency Testing Consultative Group (PTCG), which includes all interested parties (i.e. Proficiency Testing providers and users).

The group has already commenced several projects, including the revision of ILAC G13 and, following receipt of ISO approval, they will now provide input to the revision of ISO Guide 43 (to ISO/IEC 17043). The ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO) Secretary, Peter Dennehy attended the last meeting of the PTCG held in May 06, in Madrid and addressed issues surrounding the new CASCO WG28.

ILAC and IAF signed an Agreement for Closer Cooperation in September 2005. This being a further reflection of the joint work undertaken in areas of common interest, and for mutual benefit to both organisations. A copy of the agreement can be downloaded from the ILAC website at www.ilac.org under International Partnerships.

A highlight in December 05 was the release of a joint statement, by ILAC and the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) outlining the roles and responsibilities of the National Measurement Institutes and the National Accreditation Bodies. Another highlight was the signing of a joint declaration by ILAC, BIPM and OIML, reflecting the on-going close cooperation between ILAC,

BIPM and the Organisation International de Metrologie Legale (OIML).

The above achievements, together with an increasing number of new members, a continuation of the on-going work with IAF, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation UNIDO providing assistance in the development of accreditation infrastructure in developing countries, demonstrates the wide range of ILAC's progress in 2005.

ILAC Meetings—2006

In February this year the Israel Laboratory Accreditation Authority ISRAC hosted the first ILAC Executive Committee and Arrangement Committee meetings for 2006, in Tel Aviv, in June, meetings were hosted by the Finnish Accreditation Service Centre for Metrology and Accreditation FINAS in Helsinki.

Meetings of the ILAC and IAF Executive Committees, the ILAC/IAF Joint Committee for Closer Cooperation (JCCC), the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (AMC), the IAF MLA Management Committee (MC) and the ILAC/IAF/ISO Joint Working Group were held during this period.

There was also the first joint session of the ILAC AMC and IAF MLA MC, as required by ILAC Resolution GA 9.17. Terms of Reference for the operation of this joint activity are being prepared.

The ILAC Arrangement

As at 21 September 2006, there were 56 Signatories (Full Members) to the Arrangement, representing 45 economies.

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

Joint ILAC/IAF Activities

The joint activities between ILAC and IAF continue to be managed through

the JCCC. Currently operating under the stewardship of this committee are the following:

- joint working group for inspection
- joint development support committee.

With the publication of the Joint IAF/ILAC A-Series documents the work of the Joint working group on harmonisation of peer evaluation procedures has been completed. As a result, it was decided by both organisations in Cape Town, that this group should be disbanded and replaced by three Joint Working Groups, covering the following areas:

- maintenance of the A-Series documents
- training of Peer Evaluators
- transition/guidance for ISO/IEC 17011:2004.

Each of these Joint Working Groups reports on their work programs and progress at the JCCC meetings and also at the annual Joint General Assembly.

ILAC Liaisons

The review of liaison activities continues to be a major focus of the ILAC Executive Committee, who seek to ensure that ILAC interests are represented in areas which have an impact on the activities of ILAC and its members.

To assist with the management of the ILAC liaisons, the Liaison Database was established in the last quarter of 2005. The volume of information in the database has increased substantially since that time and it is available for the information of all ILAC members. 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 Members area.

The trend of 2005 continues into 2006, with ILAC being actively involved in many liaison activities. ILAC recently participated in the Technical Panel meeting with IEC and the ISO TC 212 (medical) meetings.

March 2006 saw the annual week of

meetings and workshops scheduled with BIPM and OIML in Paris. These meetings focussed on progressing the cooperation between the three organisations, following the recent release of the joint statement between ILAC and BIPM and the tripartite declaration between ILAC, BIPM and OIML. Subsequently, the BIPM/ILAC Accreditation Committee working group has met twice to address important issues relating to dissemination of traceability (such as Best Measurement Capability (BMC)/Calibration and Measurement Capability (CMC)). A meeting of the BIPM, CCQM (Consultative Committee on Amount of Substance—Metrology in Chemistry) was held in April 06 and ILAC will be represented at meetings of the Joint Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM) in December 06.

ILAC's continuing close cooperation and liaison activity with EURACHEM and Cooperation on International Traceability in Analytical Chemistry supports these important Metrological initiatives in chemical measurement, including work on method validation, measurement uncertainty and compliance with limits, and the use of 'good quality' reference materials and proficiency testing.

April also brought the first round of meetings of the various ISO committees in which ILAC plays a very active role. Meetings of the CASCO CAPS (Conformity Assessment Promotions and Support Group), CASCO CPC (Chairman's Policy Committee) and Working Group 27 (Drafting requirements for use in conformity assessment applications) were attended by ILAC liaison officers. ISO Reference Materials Committee met in May in Prague where it was agreed to review and revise ISO Guide 34.

ILAC will also be represented at the October 06 CASCO Plenary in Argentina as well as meetings of various ISO groups and committees—e.g. TC 176 (ISO 9000), TC 69 (Statistical methods), TC 34 (Food Safety), Working Group 23 (Common elements), and WG 28 (Proficiency Testing).

ILAC and the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) have continued the cooperation begun in 2003, with ILAC now holding a seat on the WADA Laboratory Committee. ILAC attended its first Laboratory Committee meeting in Montreal during late March 06. Representatives from WADA also participated in the May meeting of the ILAC PTCG and the Accreditation Committee WADA Sub-Group, held in

Madrid in May 06. Firm progress has been made in the collaboration between both organisations in the area of accreditation and assessment of sports drug testing laboratories. WADA held its third training course for Technical Assessors in April 2006.

Secretariat Staff

The Secretariat farewelled Florence Fung in early January 06. Florence began working with the Secretariat in 2000, after many years working for NATA. Many members will have exchanged regular emails with Florence during her five plus years with the Secretariat. We wish Florence well in her future endeavours.

We are pleased to advise that Alison Hay, who has been working with the Secretariat since April 2005, now occupies the position of Administrator—ILAC Secretariat, following the departure of Florence. We also welcome Nilla Merrigan, who joined the Secretariat in May 06. Nilla comes from a background of many years experience in local government and the financial services sector.

The work of the ILAC Secretariat

The ILAC website is, as always, subject to regular review and is currently being upgraded.

The ILAC-MRA Mark registration process continues and, as at 21 September 2006, 39 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. The Secretariat continues to receive a variety of enquiries on various aspects relating to the registration, licensing and use of the ILAC-MRA Mark. To assist in this area, a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" on ILAC-MRA Mark matters, was compiled earlier in the year. It can be downloaded from the Member's area of the ILAC website.

Other on-going activities for the Secretariat include the ILAC accounts, general and specific enquiries, publications, updating membership and liaison activities.

ILAC Membership

ILAC membership at 21 September 2006 is as follows:

- 56 Full Members (Signatories to the ILAC Arrangement) representing 45 economies;
- 13 Associates representing 12 economies;

- 20 Affiliates representing 19 economies;
- 5 Regional Cooperation Bodies
- 1 National Coordination Body
- 21 Stakeholders

The ILAC membership, now totalling 116 bodies and covering seventy-eight different economies worldwide and approximately 30,000 laboratories and inspection bodies are accredited by the sixty-nine ILAC Full Members and Associates.

Further information on ILAC can be obtained from the ILAC website at www.ilac.org, or email the Secretariat on ilac@nata.asn.au.

Alan Squirrel and Annette Dever

ILAC Secretariat

21 September 2006

Changes to ILAC Membership

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

Full Members

- Instituto Português de Acreditação (IPAC), Portugal.
- Turkish Accreditation Agency (TURKAK), Turkey.
- Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation, Department of Science Service, Ministry of Science and Technology (BLA-DSS), Thailand.
- Assured Calibration and Laboratory Accreditation Select Services (ACLASS), USA.

Affiliates

- Libyan National Centre for Standardization and Metrology (LNCSM), Libya.

Stakeholders

- CEOC International (CEOC), Belgium.
- Croatian Laboratories (CROLAB), Croatia.
- European Network of Forensic Science Institute (ENFSI), Netherlands.

Victor Gandy, IAAC Secretary visits ILAC



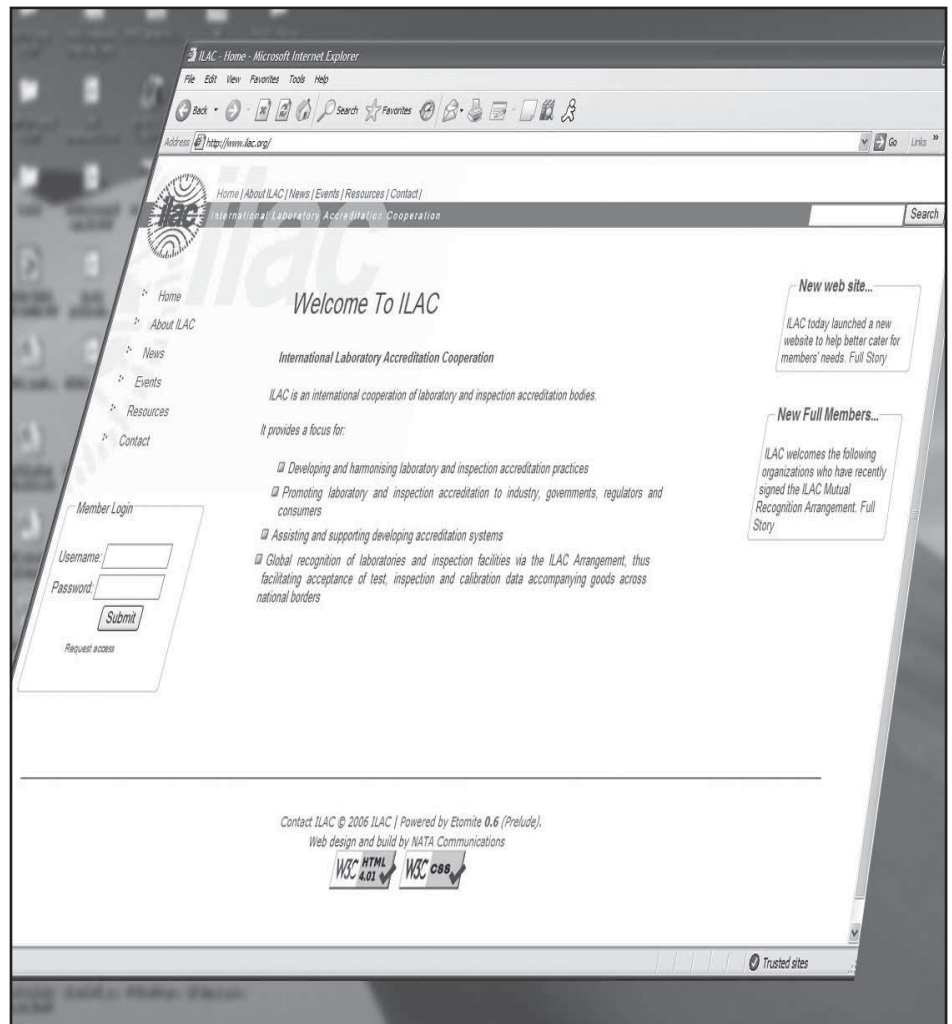
(Left to right) Alan Squirrel, ILAC Secretary; Annette Dever, ILAC Secretariat; Victor Gandy, IAAC Secretary; Alison Hay, ILAC Secretariat and John Owen, IAF Secretary.

About ILAC— did you know?

- ILAC first started as a conference in 1977.
- In 1996 ILAC became a formal cooperation with a charter to establish a network of mutual recognition agreements among accreditation bodies that would fulfill this aim.
- ILAC membership now totals 116 bodies covering seventy-eight different economies worldwide.
- Approximately 30,000 laboratories and inspection bodies are accredited by the sixty-nine ILAC full members and associates.

ILAC is an international cooperation of laboratory and inspection accreditation bodies. It provides a focus for:

- Developing and harmonising laboratory and inspection accreditation practices.
- Promoting laboratory and inspection accreditation to industry, governments, regulators and consumers.
- Assisting and supporting developing accreditation systems.
- Global recognition of laboratories and inspection facilities via the ILAC Arrangement, thus facilitating acceptance of test, inspection and calibration data accompanying goods across national borders.



ILAC's new website www.ilac.org

The new ILAC web site—launched last month—is intended to make it easier for ILAC members and the general public to find information regarding ILAC and its activities.

The site has both a members and a public area, and includes all the content of the former site. It was built and designed by the Communications Department at the National Association of Testing Authorities, Sydney, Australia.

In addition, the new site features email friendly web addresses and a powerful search facility on every page.

From an administration point of view, the new site allows enormous flexibility

and ease of use for the secretariat to maintain the site.

All ILAC members who had a password for the previous site were sent an email detailing login names and passwords for the site in mid October. Members who did not receive notification of their new login name and password should email the ilac secretariat at ilac@nata.asn.au.

Launched in conjunction with the ILAC site is ILACIAF2007.com which gives details of the upcoming ILAC-IAF conference to be held in Sydney in October 2007.

Feedback on both sites is welcome, and can be made by emailing the secretariat at ilac@nata.asn.au.

ILAC committee news

Laboratory committee

Tony Anderson, Chair, Laboratory Committee

At ILAC's Laboratory Committee welcomed a new organisation when it held its half-yearly meeting in Madrid last May.

The European Network of Forensic Science Institutes, (ENFSI) has joined ILAC as a Stakeholder member.

The meeting was well attended by representative bodies from a number of economies, including NCSLI, EURACHEM, NATA, AOAC, JQA, ACIL, NLA (SA), UILI and CAEAL.

Also attending the meeting were Merih Malmqvist the ILAC AIC Chair, Phillip Briggs Chair of the APLAC PT Committee, Jane Gunn Monroe with the Quality Management Program-Laboratory Services of Canada (QMP-LS) and Gokhan Birbil from TURKAK.

Discussion centred on how to expand the laboratory committee and encourage other laboratory organisations around the world to join ILAC as stakeholders and participate in the Laboratory Committee.

The committee is also actively pursuing laboratory organisations in fields not currently represented on the committee and was very pleased when ENFSI joined the committee to represent Forensic laboratories.

The committee would like to see the accreditation body membership of ILAC encouraging its accredited laboratories to have any laboratory organisations they are members of to join ILAC as Stakeholders.

The results of two surveys on proficiency testing intervals were presented. One was from APLAC and another carried out by the laboratory committee surveying ILAC accreditation bodies.

The results from both surveys showed a wide variation in intervals, with little consensus. The once every four years requirement is totally inadequate for some disciplines.

Three recommendations from discussion about the surveys were:

- ILAC-P9 should not focus solely on a minimum frequency (no encouragement to go beyond; no

certainty for PT providers).

- Ideally, in the long run, targets might be set for disciplines and sub-areas such as in the APLAC survey.
- In the meantime ILAC-P9 could include a requirement that ABs need to have a plan for achieving frequencies that are scientifically acceptable. The LC supports the work being carried out within ILAC on this issue and endorses the need for harmonisation.

Other topics covered at the meeting included, the exposure of ISO 17025 in the market place, the Laboratory Committee still has concern about the lack of marketing for ISO 17025 but welcomes the current discussion on the inclusion of normative references to ISO 17025 in ISO documents.

There was discussion about the revision of G21, Cross Border Accreditation, and the committee cautions that laboratories should not be restricted in obtaining the services they need and should have access to a free market for those services.

The committee thanked hosts Beatrice Rivera and the ENAC staff for their hospitality.

Marketing and Communications Committee

By Graham Talbot, Chair ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee

The Marketing & Communications Committee met in London for its second meeting of 2006 on 30 and 31 August. Although the meeting was only attended in person by six committee members, two further members joined the meeting from the US and Australia via an internet enabled meeting facility.

This allowed real-time simultaneous display of documents in each location via the internet with on-screen amendment and communication facility, supplemented by a teleconferencing link.

This was the first time that we have used this facility and it proved successful.

The committee intends to use it again in the future with a view to more formal use in due course, as it is particularly useful for small meetings or drafting groups to minimise the need for long-haul travel and

face-to-face meetings.

ILAC Marketing Workshop

A major topic at the meeting was the planning and preparation in advance of the ILAC Marketing Workshop to be held during the meetings in Cancun, Mexico on 11 November.

The aim of this workshop is to help ILAC members to be able to successfully promote accreditation and to provide some tools to successfully market accreditation in their economies.

The workshop will cover: Strategies for marketing of accreditation, Tools and templates for carrying out marketing campaigns, Sharing experiences and case study examples and Improving marketing capabilities.

Come and learn from the experiences of your ILAC colleagues (see the details already distributed to accreditation bodies).

ILAC presentation material and publications

The on-going review of ILAC presentational material and publications has continued in order to be as up to date as possible prior to the Marketing Workshop. A copy of all the presentation material and supporting documents will be given to all participants.

The ILAC Banner

The ILAC Banner has been completed! Some examples will be displayed in Cancun. All ILAC Members will be provided in Cancun with a CD containing the design plus instructions on how to change the layers of the design to incorporate translated versions.

Survey of ILAC News in 2007

As the style of ILAC News was updated in early 2006, the MCC intends to carry out a survey for the readership of ILAC News, and this has been prepared in readiness for distribution in the first quarter of next year.

Revised ILAC website

By the time that this edition of ILAC News is published, you should see the results of a revised ILAC website which is to be launched on 15 October. As with



Marketing and Communications Committee members meet in the Tower of London: Back row left to right—Jon Murthy, Maria Oldegarde, Ian Roy. Front left to right—Monika Wloka, Martine Blum,

any new website, we expect that there may be the odd glitch to resolve and the period from 15–30 October has been set aside for dealing with any of these. We welcome your feedback on what should be a much improved and easier to navigate site.

ILAC Tagline shortlisted

Further brainstorming has taken place to refine ideas for an ILAC Tagline. A shortlist has been prepared that will be presented to the ILAC Executive, prior to a wider circulation to Members for comment.

2006 ILAC Regulator Survey

The 2006 version of the ILAC Regulator Survey has been circulated; the results have been compiled and will be presented at the General Assembly in Cancun.

Proficiency Testing Consultative Group

Tony Russell, Chair, PT Consultative Group (PTCG)

Who should be eligible for membership of the group, how best to assist developing countries, and issues regarding access to proficiency testing data were just some of the topics under discussion when ILAC's Proficiency Testing Consultative

Group held its second meeting in Madrid last May.

The newly formed group discussed the most appropriate structure and representation for proficiency testing providers in the group to achieve its goals. There was agreement on the need to allow the consultative group to continue to have input from proficiency testing providers in all sectors and geographical regions for the purpose of sharing experience.

Participants were asked to consider the most suitable way to achieve representation and continuity in the consultative group from all relevant sectors, given that proficiency testing provision was an increasingly commercial activity and that providers are taking an increasingly global view.

This also means they are coming into contact with different accreditation bodies, which highlights the need for a harmonised approach for the accreditation of proficiency testing providers.

One of the major work items for the Madrid meeting was revisiting the text of ILAC G13 which currently provides the basis for harmonised criteria for the accreditation of proficiency testing providers. Significant progress was made in the revision and the document is

currently undergoing a 60-day comment period by ILAC members.

The meeting also discussed ways of enhancing assistance for developing countries to access relevant proficiency testing programs.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has indicated it prefers that it survey and prioritise needs, but will consider the direct funding of participants.

The meeting was very supportive of any possibility for assistance, and hopes to formalise a potential offer by UNIDO to host a meeting of the group in Vienna which may provide an opportunity for a half to full day discussion on the means by which the needs for proficiency testing programs in developing countries can be provided.

Issues concerning the access of proficiency testing data by accreditation bodies were also on the agenda.

The next meeting of the group will be on 8 November in Cancun, Mexico as part of the 2006 ILAC General Assembly.

Report from the Accreditation Committee of ILAC

Merih Malmqvist, Chair

Another year has passed and we are very close to our yearly meetings.

It has been a very busy year for the Accreditation Committee and its members.

The committee has had and still has a number of very important topics on the agenda.

Accreditation of laboratories in the medical sector

The Accreditation Committee has been closely involved in the discussions in ISO TC 212 which drafts the standards relevant for this area. There has also been close cooperation with sector organisations like the EC4 discussing the scope of accreditation and the needs for harmonisation between different accreditation bodies when implementing ISO 15189.

During the next meeting on 5 and 6 November in Cancun, the committee will devote substantial time discussing these issues. To that end, representatives of both ISO TC 212 and EC4 have been

invited to participate in the meeting of the Accreditation Committee in Cancun.

The results of those discussions will be available for the wider accreditation and conformity assessment community after the Cancun meetings.

Accreditation of National Metrology Institutes

In cooperation with BIPM, the Accreditation Committee is discussing harmonised procedures for the accreditation of the national metrology institutes.

Among the crucial parameters on this topic are the use of key comparisons and the expression of CMC and BMC.

Progress has been made on both issues and more detailed information will also be available after the Cancun meeting.

Accreditation of RM producers

The accreditation committee is discussing harmonised criteria for the accreditation of RM producers. The WG will present a draft for discussion at the meeting in Cancun.

When the committee agrees on harmonised criteria the document will be presented to the wider ILAC membership for comments and votes. Finally the issue of a future MRA in this area will be discussed in the Arrangement Committee.

Guidance for assessment of fire testing

During the Cancun meeting the Accreditation Committee will also discuss the first draft of the guidance document for the assessment of fire testing laboratories.

We expect that there will be views which will need to be incorporated before the document can be sent to the wider accreditation and conformity assessment community for comments.

Documents out for comments and votes

The Accreditation Committee has had a number of documents and votes out for comments during 2006. The most recent ones circulating for comments are the two guidance documents drafted in cooperation with International Electrotechnical Commission—System for Conformity testing and Certification of Electrical Equipment (IECEE). More

information is available on the ILAC website in the members' area.

More news from the Accreditation Committee will be available after the Cancun block of meetings in November.

I am looking forward to a fruitful period of work in Cancun and wish you all a safe trip.

ILAC JDSC Activities

Maribel López, chair

On February 2006, ILAC's Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC) chaired by Maribel López of ema (the Mexican accreditation entity), proposed a Programme to assist new ILAC members during the General Assembly and Executive Meetings, it was named the *Big Sister/Big Brother Programme: Adopting a new member during ILAC meetings*. The Programme was reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee in Helsinki, Finland, last June.

As a result, six organisations from developing accreditation bodies will have their registration fee sponsored to attend the ILAC/IAF Joint General Assembly (JGA) to be held in Cancun, Mexico, in November. OGA from Guatemala, CONACYT from El Salvador, ONARC from Cuba, EGAC from Egypt, ECA from Costa Rica and ONA from Nicaragua will have the opportunity to attend this event for the first time.

ILAC surveys Developing Countries

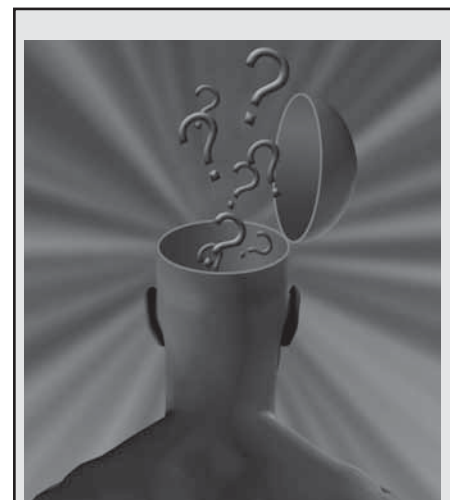
During March 2006 a *Survey for Detection of RM & PT needs* was sent to ILAC's developing countries accreditation bodies. Upon receiving the responses to this survey, conclusions were made about the RM and PT needs of each region. Taking these results and a study from IAAC into consideration it was determined the areas where IAAC countries needed more support was in PT. Regarding APLAC, the Secretariat informed us that they would look into the needs of their members.

Considering that many bodies from developing countries will be attending the meetings in Cancun, the JDSC has organised the Developing Countries Seminar, to be held on the 16th of November.

Developing countries seminar

The seminar will deal with current issues

in accreditation such as: PT and RM Programs, ISO/IEC 17020 and ISO/IEC 17024. Speakers for the seminar are: Anthony Russell, ILAC's PTCG Chair; Bertha Munguia, IAAC's Laboratory Committee Chair; Merih Malmqvist, ILAC's Accreditation Committee Chair; Lalith Goonatilake, UNIDO's Officer-in-charge, Trade Capacity Building Branch; Monika Wloka, Managing Director of DAR; and Roy Swift, ANSI Programme Director of Personnel Certification Accreditation. Anyone with an interest in the topics mentioned is also invited to attend this seminar.



ILAC Marketing Workshop

Will be held in Cancun, Mexico—11 November, 2006.

To assist ILAC members to promote accreditation.

Workshop topics will be:

- Strategies for marketing of accreditation.
- Tools and templates for carrying out marketing campaigns.
- Sharing experiences—case study examples.
- Improving marketing capabilities.

Come and learn from the experiences of your ILAC colleagues.

International update

BIPM News

Work at the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM)—France

BIPM advises that a copyrighted logo is now available which signatory laboratories can use on their calibration certificates.

This will help the work of accreditors and regulators as there now is no further need for investigation on the proficiency of the laboratory.

The Metre Convention currently has 51 Member States and 20 Associate States and Economies.

The International Committee of Weights and Measures (CIPM) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) has now been signed by the representatives of 67 institutes, from 45 Member States, 20 Associates of the Conference of Weights and Measures (CGPM), and two international organisations, and covers a further 113 institutes designated by the signatory bodies.

Annual Meeting CIPM

In 2006, the International Committee of Weights and Measures (CIPM) had its yearly meeting at the BIPM, preceded by meetings of the Directors of National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) and the Joint Committee of the Regions and the BIPM.

Twenty-Third General Conference of Weights and Measures (CGPM)

A large proportion of BIPM work is directed towards organising the twenty-third General Conference of Weights and Measures (CGPM) which will take place in November, 2007.

The CGPM is made up of representatives of governments from the member states and observers from the Associates of the CGPM.

Members attending the General Conference receive a report from (CIPM) on work accomplished.

They discuss and examine the arrangements required to ensure the propagation and improvement of the International System of Units (SI); endorse the results of new fundamental metrological determinations and various

scientific resolutions of international scope as well as make decisions on all major issues concerning the organisation and its development. Agenda items also include confirming four-year budgetary arrangements for the BIPM.

For the strategic planning session, to define the future work of the BIPM, 'Kaarls' report', highlighting progress and outlining ways to improve metrology has been prepared to stimulate discussion.

During the past year, joint declarations concerning the importance of mutual recognition arrangements (with the International Organisation of Legal Metrology and ILAC) and the relationships between NMIs and National Accreditation Bodies (with ILAC) have been published.

The link between BIPM and OIML has been reinforced and will result in a common statement on metrology and joint short papers on specific technical matters.

A revision of the SI brochure has been published, and revised versions of the International Vocabulary in Metrology (ViM) and Guides on the expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM) will be published shortly.

Discussions are currently under way between working groups and specialists in different areas of metrology, to redefine of some of the SI Base Units.

The BIPM continues to maintain important scientific research activity, notably the Watt balance which may lead one day to the replacement of the present artefact-based definition of the kilogram.

For more information contact: Dr Rainer Köhler, web: www.bipm.org

Quality Manager and Liaison to ISO and ILAC, e-mail: rkohler@bipm.org, Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), 92312 Sèvres, Cedex, France

New developments at EPTIS (Manfred Golze—BAM)

European Proficiency Testing Information System (EPTIS) is the information system on proficiency testing schemes. It has been available on the internet since 2000 and is located at www.eptis.bam.de.

EPTIS started as a European network of 16 countries which was supported by the European Commission.

Today EPTIS is managed by a consortium of 22 regional or national coordinators. They represent Australia, Canada, the USA, the Caribbean, Central America, South America and 19 European countries. Six international organisations including ILAC among them are supporting the information system.

EPTIS nowadays is a real international cooperation which is globally used as an important source of information on PT schemes.

Recently a new version of the database was launched. It reflects the increasing number of proficiency testing providers that have been accredited for their services in recent years.

Change to database

Due to a change of the database structure it is now possible to reproduce the scope of accreditation properly.

Proficiency testing schemes covered by the scope of accreditation can be distinguished from others which are not included in the accreditation.

Additionally, following a request from ILAC a new filter was introduced which allows users to search for accredited or otherwise recognised proficiency testing schemes.

At present their number is still rather small, compared with the overall number of approximately 880 schemes listed in the database.

However, it is anticipated that the rate of accredited schemes will grow considerably in the near future.

Regional cooperations



South African Regional Accreditation Cooperation (SADCA)



Front row, left to right John Gilmour, International accreditation expert, Masego Marobela, Botswana; Annemarie Lötter, South Africa; Marie Chilcott, South Africa; Oswald Chinyamakobvu, Zimbabwe. Back row left to right, Maureen Mutasa, Zimbabwe; Mike Peet, South Africa; Othy Kaakunga, Namibia and Ron Josias, South Africa.

New Regional Coordinator for SADCA

On 1 June Mr. Ron Josias was appointed as the South African Regional Accreditation Cooperation (SADCA) Regional Coordinator, taking over from Mr. Mike Peet who held the position from SADCA's inception in 1997.

The Project Management Committee (PMC) of SADCA met in June 2006. Apart from the routine strategic issues discussed, a large portion of the meeting was spent discussing SADCA's Strategic and Business Plan and future donor funding for the activities of both SADCA and SADCAS.

Mr. Peet co-chaired the meeting of the *International Task Group between Global Accreditation and Metrology Communities* held in August in the USA.

He also represented SADCA at this meeting.

Two trainee assessors, one from the SADC region and one from the East African Community (EAC) attended an initial assessment as observers of a metrology laboratory in the region.

The lead assessor was full of praise for the two trainees.

SADCA has continued to approach donors to assist with the funding of a further nine SADC trainee assessors.

These trainees attended a technical assessor course after attending the 2005 Test and Measurement workshop.

Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation— APLAC

Draft constitution approved

Helen Liddy, Jane King, Janet Clark, APLAC Secretariat

APLAC Secretariat reported that the 2006 APLAC General Assembly and associated meetings were held in Taipei from 10–15 September. The meeting covered approval of the final draft of the APLAC Constitution.

The constitution is due to come into effect on the incorporation of APLAC in New Zealand before the end of this year.

Other important items were reports from the APLAC Committee Chairs, and endorsement of the Committees' work programs for 2007, reports from ILAC and other ILAC regional bodies and other APEC Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs).

Finalising the text of an important MOU between APLAC and APMP, and approval of APLAC's budget for 2007 were other key decisions undertaken at this year's General Assembly, along with discussions on training programs and projected needs for 2007.

Delegates reviewed APLAC's responses to the ILAC Business and Strategic Plan and endorsed the ILAC/BIPM statement.

Another vital MOU was signed between APLAC and PTB to cooperate in assisting APLAC members from developing economies to participate in APLAC training activities.

By far one of the most popular items was the passing, by acclamation, of a resolution thanking Peter Unger, who will complete his term as APLAC Immediate Past Chair on 31 December, 06, for all his contributions over the years to APLAC.

APLAC welcomed Graham Talbot, Vice-Chair of EA, and Orna Dreazen, representing the ILAC unaffiliated bodies,

who attended the week of meetings.

New Office Bearers from 1 January 2007

APLAC congratulated new office bearers for 2007 in Terence Chan of HKAS, elected as the new Chair of APLAC. Barry Ashcroft of IANZ, takes on the role of MRA Council Chair.

Roxanne Robinson of A2LA and Regina Robertson of NATA were elected to the APLAC Board of Management. Wei Hao of CNAS was re-elected to the Board of Management.

Members who were re-elected during the General Assembly meeting included Wei Hao of CNAS—Chair of the Training Committee, Yoshinobu Uematsu of IAJapan—Chair of the Technical Committee. Philip Briggs of PTA (representing NATA) Chair of the PT Committee and Ian Roy of IANZ Chair of the Public Information Committee.

APLAC Awareness Seminar

An initiative of the APLAC Training Committee was to organise an awareness seminar as part of APLAC 2006. The seminar was well attended and provided a forum for the newer members of APLAC and newer staff of older APLAC members—to become more familiar with the APLAC structure, APLAC MRA, and future directions of APLAC.

The APLAC Taipei meetings and general assembly were a great success thanks to Nigel Jou, Wanji Yang and all the staff at TAF for their magnificent organisation.

APLAC MRA Update

APLAC congratulated the new signatories including ACLASS, USA (testing and calibration) and JAS-ANZ, AUSTRALASIA (inspection only).

Signatory recognition for A2LA, USA has been extended to include inspection.

During the APLAC MRA Council meeting the MRA Council Chair, Terence Chan, presented evaluator pins to APLAC lead evaluators and evaluators, and certificates of appreciation to lead evaluators.

The APLAC MRA now has 26 signatories, 12 of which are recognised for inspection.

Welcome to New APLAC Members

APLAC warmly welcomed two new full members whose applications were

endorsed by the APLAC General Assembly the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (SLAB), Sri Lanka and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), USA.

APLAC Workshops held in 2006

A very successful Reference Material Producers Workshop was held from 10–12 April 2006 in Beijing. The course presenters Dr E W B de Leer of the Nederlands Meetinstituut, W Wong of HKAS and Roxanne Robinson of A2LA were appreciated by attendees.

Another successful evaluator training course was held from May 29–31 2006 in Bangkok, the presenters were Barry Ashcroft of IANZ, Panadda Silva of DMSc, Ned Gravel of CAEAL, with Peter Unger of A2LA as course facilitator.

An inspection training course held in Singapore on 6–7 September was presented by Julian Wilson of NATA and Geoff Hallam of IANZ. APLAC thanked presenters for their input to this successful course that included participation by PAC member organisations.

Forthcoming Meetings

The next meetings of the APLAC MRA Council and Board of Management are planned for late April 2007, with exact dates and venue yet to be confirmed.

APLAC 2007 will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (hosted by DSM) on 2–7 December 2007.

EA Report

Composition of EA

EA now has 34 full members and two associate members. Sixteen contracts of cooperation have been signed, including five contracts with accreditation bodies located in economies in Europe that are not members of the European Union. Out of these 16 contracts, nine have been transformed into bilateral agreements. Bilateral agreement signatories and the EA MLA signatories commit themselves to recognising as equally reliable the results issued by the bodies they accredit. To date, there are 26 EA countries in the MLA out of which twenty have signed for all MLA scopes.

A Future Role for EA

Accreditation has now reached the stage in Europe of being institutionally

recognised as a service of general interest, representing the last authoritative level of control of the conformity assessment services in both the voluntary and regulatory fields. It is expected that accreditation will be delivered at a national level on a suitable mandate from Governments as a non-profit distributing, and non-competitive activity with full accountability towards all interested parties. This is an outcome of the project undertaken by the European Commission concerning the revision of the New Approach to technical harmonisation in Europe.

Quality expected

Quality is now a widespread expectation. Third party conformity assessment services have been steadily growing in response to the increasing need for an impartial, and transparent demonstration of the conformity of products and services exchanged in the European market. Regulators, industry and society place confidence in these services particularly through meeting the requirements of European Directives and Regulations. But such achievement may be jeopardized if the European conformity assessment infrastructure does not maintain and enhance its credibility, both in the voluntary and the regulated sectors. The European policy on conformity assessment must therefore be directed towards strengthening the infrastructure and improving its operation. European accreditation is being asked to play a central role in this context.

New task for EA

The European accreditation policy that is being established within the New Approach to technical harmonisation in Europe, is expected to give EA a new task - to serve as a cooperative network, offering a framework to use accreditation as the basis for underpinning the validity of conformity assessment services, not only in the voluntary area (which is a market driven area), but also in the future, in the mandatory or legally regulated area. It is intended that accreditation will in future provide the basis for the recognition of conformity assessment bodies attesting conformity to the requirements of the European Directives and Regulations.

It is expected that EA will also be given formal authority backed by the European Institutions for this role. EA will sign specific agreements with the European Commission and EFTA to reflect its new role in the revised European infrastructure

for accreditation and conformity assessment.

Stimulated by both the confidence that the European Commission is placing in EA, and by the views expressed by EA members at the beginning of the year, EA started an ambitious development project aimed at enhancing European accreditation.

Five sub-project groups have been set up to address key issues for the future to:

1. Enhance the peer evaluation process for the regulated area. This work has already started in the EA MLA Committee (MAC).
2. Provide a means for the harmonisation of the technical and system assessment of the competence of notified bodies to evaluate and attest conformity to the essential requirements of the European Directives. A task force group has also been established between EA and the EA Advisory Board (EAAB) to feed in recommendations to this sub project.
3. Improve communication with the European Commission and set up communication processes and routes with the bodies of the Commission, including membership of the EC's coordinating committees.
4. Provide a process by which EA members share the responsibility for ownership of information and knowledge in the different Directives.
5. Help develop communication at the national level between accreditation bodies and national authorities.

The leaders of the sub-project groups will present their progress reports at the next EA General Assembly meeting in October. Their mandate consists of identifying, analysing and discussing issues of concern, implementation and harmonisation problems, and other items pertinent to the assessment and accreditation of notified bodies. The General Assembly will then consider a detailed "road map" outlining possible actions to be undertaken to adapt the EA structure to the future challenges.

The Executive Committee

The EA Complaints and Appeals Procedure has been revised in close cooperation with the EAAB. The document is now out for comments and should be distributed for voting by the end of the year.

An EA cross-frontier policy is also being finalised. This important document is a key element of the future European infrastructure for accreditation and has been developed in consultation with the

European Commission. The last draft will be discussed at the EA General Assembly in Istanbul in October.

The EA Advisory Board

Elections took place in the EAAB at its last meeting in September. Martin Stadler, Siemens, representing Industry, was elected Chairman and Guy Jacques and Alexander Sakarik-Pstrosz representing respectively the CABs and the National Authorities were elected Vice Chairmen. The Board also appointed two observers to the EA MLA Committee: Sasa Presern representing the Slovenian national authorities and Dita Collinsova representing the Commission.

The EAAB has asked EA to create a mechanism at the EA level to collect and analyse feedback on surveys conducted nationally for the evaluation of customer satisfaction. EA Members will be requested to feedback the results of national initiatives. A first survey of the surveys will be distributed early 2007.

EA—IT and Communications

The Communications and Publications Committee (CPC), has now completed the creation of an EA press kit, which is an impressive set of four specific press sheets targeted to Government officials, Commission officials, direct and potential customers, and Industry.

EA have just started to work on a welcome kit. This will be designed as a toolbox containing the 'keys to the EA house' for all new EA members, EA Advisory Board members, or other new contact persons starting cooperation with EA in order to help them feel at home and be able to find all the necessary practical information about EA in an easy and friendly way.

The EA Secretariat continues to extend the facilities available through the EA intranet: electronic voting, online questionnaires and database for members will be used in a more systematic and structured way in the future. These facilities open up many possibilities. We also are looking at a new facility for online commenting on documents under preparation.

A new project has also just started to set up an EA IT Forum for members to exchange views, experience and feedback on accreditation-related IT issues. It is proposed to organise a first meeting at SWEDAC in early 2007.

EA Search Facility for

Accredited Services

The project started with the successful implementation of an EA search facility that enables data held nationally on accredited calibration laboratories to be accessed through the EA website. Initially three ABs linked their national data for accredited calibration laboratories with the EA website and this grew quickly to five, comprising Denmark, Finland, France, Germany and UK.

Since then, the project management group in conjunction with the EA Laboratory Committee (LC) has reviewed and simplified the links to scopes for calibration and we are now pleased to report that four more ABs (CAI, Czech Republic, IPAC, Portugal, SNAS, Slovakia and INAB, Ireland) are in the process of linking their data on accredited calibration laboratories into the EA search facility.

This search facility is now being expanded into testing. A scope based on two lists of objects/products and tests has recently been approved which will offer the user facilities for combining objects and tests in the same query, for one or several ABs in one or several countries. This approach puts little extra burden on EA Members who only have to set up equivalence tables between their existing websites and the EA search facility. It is planned that full text searching will also be implemented by early 2007. The project management group is also liaising with the EA Certification Committee to agree proposed scopes for management systems and personnel certification.

Following a request from the ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee, the EA Executive Committee has asked the EA CPC to look at conditions for opening the EA search facility to non- EA members.

More information at www.european-accreditation.org, email: secretariat.EA@cofrac.fr. Chairman: Lorenzo Thione, email: l.thione@sincert.it, Vice Chairman: Graham Talbot, email: Graham.Talbot@ukas.com, Secretariat: Martine Blum, email: martine.blum@cofrac.fr. Ph: +33 1 44 68 82 25.

Next meetings of EA

2007	
17–18 January	Executive Committee
19 February	EA, Eurachem, Eurolab, Euromet and CEOC meeting of the Chair and Vice Chair persons

8–9 March	Laboratory Committee
15–16 March	Executive Committee
28–29 March	MLA Committee (MAC)
12–13 April	Communications & Publications Committee (CPC)
19 April	EA Advisory Board (EAAB)
4 May	EA Search Facility Project Management group
29 May	Executive Committee
30–31 May	General Assembly
10–11 September	Certification Committee
12 September	Inspection Committee
18–19 September	Executive Committee
4–5 October	Communications & Publications Committee (CPC)
19 October	EA Advisory Board (EAAB)
19 November	Executive Committee
20–21 November	General Assembly combined with a workshop

EA Publications

Recently distributed for comments	
1/06	EA Multilateral Agreement with templates contracts of cooperation and bilateral agreements
2/12	Procedure for the Development of EA guidance documents and the Adoption of ILAC/IAF documents
Under revision	
3/01	Conditions for the use of Logos and accreditation symbols, reference to accreditation and MLA signatory status
EA 6/03	EA guidance for the recognition of verifiers under the EU ETS directive
To be approved soon	
EA 7/XX	The relationships between ISO 14001 management systems conformity assessments and regulatory compliance
New document to be distributed for comments	
	Rules for use of the EA logo

Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)

(IAAC) activities from the 10th IAAC General Assembly, which took place in San Jose, Costa Rica in May 2005, and up to the 11th IAAC General Assembly held on August 11th, 2006, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The 2006 year marked the 10th anniversary of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to create the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation. IAAC was created in 1996, during a meeting held in Montevideo, Uruguay, and was incorporated in 2001 as a civil association according to Mexican law.

The great force behind this cooperation was Reinaldo Figuereido, first IAAC Chair, from 1996 to 2000. Many others supported IAAC from the beginning such as John Donaldson, Carmina Londoño, Augusto Melo and Alcides Erice. Ileana Martínez and Peter Unger have also been involved with IAAC from the early days, supporting activities, developing new ones, and always with their best disposition.

Ana María Coro, IAAC Chair, expresses her appreciation to all mentioned above for their generous contribution towards the growth and maturity of IAAC. She also thanks all of those who were later integrated into IAAC, and who have been contributing with their work and ideas for several years: Maribel López, who was IAAC Chair from 2000 to 2004, Elizabeth Cavalcanti, Fabián Hernández, Freddy Nuñez, Mauricio Soares, Maritza Madriz, Lira Jiménez, Berta Munguía, Randy Dougherty and Pat Paladino.

Mission for IAAC

IAAC's mission is to promote cooperation among accreditation bodies and interested parties of the Americas, aiming at the development of conformity assessment structures to achieve the improvement of products, processes and services.

IAAC Membership

IAAC is a not-for-profit body that functions on the basis of cooperation by its members and interested parties. IAAC obtains resources from membership fees, voluntary contributions of its members, and project-based donations from regional organizations (particularly the Organization of American States). IAAC's basic documents are the Memorandum of

Understanding and Bylaws.

IAAC has grown to 22 full members, 7 associate members, and 11 stakeholder members, which totals 40 members from 22 countries in the Americas.

IAAC website

The website is in constant evolution and now has a new permanent address www.iaac.org.mx, where we have included a new Laboratories section with information on EPTIS (International System on Proficiency Testing) and some proficiency testing programs sponsored by IAAC.

In the IAAC MLA section there is a new page for Cross frontier accreditation, which includes a list of contacts that are responsible for this area in each accreditation body.

Additionally in the Documents section you may find a package of documents for IAAC peer evaluators.

Technical Cooperation Projects

2005–2006 OAS Project

The 2005-2006 OAS project is the fourth project executed by ema of Mexico with a budget of US\$ 192.304, almost twice the funds of the previous project. This project is being undertaken from July 2005 until November 2006.

The project activities performed to date include: 2 witnessings, 2 peer evaluations of ABs, 2 training courses, 1 consultancy to a developing AB, 2 internships for staff of developing ABs, a seminar on accreditation and 2 proficiency testing programs. Activities to be completed include 2 peer evaluations, 1 training course, 2 consultancies and 1 internship.

2007–2011 OAS Project

A technical cooperation project proposal was formally submitted by the CGCRE/ INMETRO of Brazil, to the Organisation of American States (OAS), for the 2007–2011 term.

2005–2006 IDB Project

The Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, project titled *Reduction of Technical Barriers to Trade Through the Strengthening of Accreditation Systems*, with the participation of Mexico, Paraguay, Costa Rica and Trinidad & Tobago, has finalised its funds execution stage with the last activities to be completed by November 2006.

To date the following activities have been undertaken; training courses for evaluators of laboratories of participating accreditation bodies, technical advice to laboratories, certification bodies

and inspection bodies, participation of laboratories in proficiency testing programs, joint evaluations of CABs for accreditation purposes, and IAAC pre-evaluations of TTBS, Trinidad & Tobago and of ONA, Paraguay.

2007 IDB Project

The Accreditation Body of Uruguay (OUA), will soon submit a technical cooperation project proposal regarding accreditation to the Inter-American Development Bank, (IADB), which also includes the participation of Instituto Nacional De Normalizacion (INN) of Chile, OGA of Guatemala and ONA of Nicaragua.

2005–2006 PTB Project

Between May 2005 and August 2006, as a part of the IAAC-PTB project, the following activities were performed with the support of PTB of Germany:

- A training course “ Exercise of a Laboratory Evaluation” held in Lima, Peru, from August 8 to 12, 2005.
 - A course to train peer evaluators on the application of Standard 17011 was organised jointly between IAAC/ APLAC/NACLA, in Ottawa, Canada, on October 5–7, 2005.
 - A course was held to train peer evaluators on the application of Standard 17011, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on December 3 to 5, 2005.
 - The witnessing by ILAC and IAF of the IAAC peer evaluation of INN of Chile, which covered the travel expenses of the witnessing evaluators and the simultaneous interpretation.
 - Training of the IAAC Secretary at the IAF, ILAC, and APLAC Secretariats, in Australia, in May 2006.
 - Participation of the IAAC Chair in the ILAC Executive Committee meeting, the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (AMC) and the Joint ILAC AMC and IAF MLA MC Committee, held in Helsinki, Finland, in June 2006.
- The proposal of an IAAC-PTB project for next year includes activities to carry out regional proficiency testing programs.

Inter-institutional relations

APLAC

APLAC has invited IAAC members to participate in its proficiency testing programs during 2005 and 2006. Several of our Region’s countries are participating in practically all of the programs that were offered.

IAAC also invited APLAC members to participate in its proficiency testing program for volume organised by the OAA and INTI of Argentina which began

in March 2006. Currently 7 accreditation bodies of APLAC are participating in this program.

IAAC, APLAC and NACLA jointly organised a training course for peer evaluators in Canada in October 2005.

The IAAC Secretary visited the APLAC Secretariat in May 2006 to discuss issues of mutual interest for both regional cooperations.

SADCA

Within the Statement of Cooperation between IAAC and SADCA, CGCRE/ INMETRO of Brazil provided training for two technical staff, one from Angola (Angolan Institute of Standards and Quality—IANORQ) and another from Mozambique (Ministry of Industry and Commerce) from 22 August to 2 September, 2005.

EPTIS

Mauricio Soares and Pablo Roberto de Fonseca Santos of CGCRE/Brazil completed the tests for the EPTIS database. A new page with information and documents regarding EPTIS was placed on the IAAC website www.iaac.org.mx in the Laboratories section.

COPANT

Last year we held meetings on the same week as COPANT in San Jose, Costa Rica, and a joint meeting of our Executive Committees, which is where we decided to organise training activities for IAAC and COPANT members. A training course was held regarding *Standards ISO/IEC17025 and ISO/IEC17021* in Caracas, Venezuela, from 24 to 27 October, 2005. This course was organised with the sponsorship of COPANT, IAAC, SENCAMER and FONDONORMA.

NACLA

IAAC, APLAC and NACLA jointly organised a training course for peer evaluators in Canada in October 2005.

The IAAC Secretary also participated in the NACLA Forum, in March 2006, providing a presentation regarding IAAC and the IAAC MLA.

International Recognition of the IAAC MLAs

IAAC Evaluation by IAF and ILAC

Evaluation by IAF and ILAC began two years ago, the activities performed up to date are listed below:

- In March 2004, an evaluation of the IAAC Secretariat was performed by ILAC and IAF.
- During 2005, two witnessings were performed by ILAC and IAF of IAAC

peer evaluations. The first one was a joint IAF and ILAC witnessing the evaluation of OAA, Argentina, and the second one was a witnessing by ILAC of the evaluation of ECA, Costa Rica.

- In January 2006, IAF and ILAC carried out a witnessing of the peer evaluation of INN, Chile and performed a follow up visit to the IAAC Secretariat.
- In August 2006, IAF and ILAC carried out a witnessing of the IAAC MLA Committee meeting in order to observe the decision making process.

IAAC has completed the corrective actions to all non conformities found during the visits, therefore we are fully confident that during this year we should achieve international recognition of our Multi-lateral Recognition Arrangements.

Entry of new signatories into the IAAC MLA

Four IAAC members became new signatories to the IAAC Multilateral Recognition Arrangement in August 2006, they are:

- CRT-INDECOPI of Peru for the Certification Bodies Quality Management Systems (QMS) MLA.
- ema of Mexico for the Testing and Calibration Laboratories MLA.
- ACLASS of the United States for the Testing and Calibration Laboratories MLA
- ECA of Costa Rica for the Testing Laboratories MLA.

Peer evaluations and pre-evaluations performed during 2005–2006

- Initial Evaluation/Testing and Calibration Laboratories, QMS Certification Bodies—INN (Chile). Also the scope of Certification Bodies EMS was evaluated.
- Initial Evaluation/Testing and Calibration Laboratories.- ACLASS (USA)
- Initial Evaluation and follow Up/ testing Laboratories—ECA (Costa Rica)
- Surveillance Evaluation/Testing and Calibration Laboratories—A2LA (United States)
- Surveillance Evaluation/QMS Certification Bodies—EMA (Mexico)
- Surveillance Evaluation/Testing and Calibration Laboratories—SCC (Canada)
- Surveillance Evaluation/QMS Certification Bodies—SCC (Canada)
- Initial Evaluation and follow up/ QMS Certification Bodies—CRT-

- INDECOPI (PERU)
- Pre-evaluation of TTBS (Trinidad & Tobago)
- Pre-evaluation of ONA (Paraguay).

Strengthening of the IAAC Peer Evaluation Registry

Last year two training and updating courses were held for existing IAAC peer evaluators and trainees. A course was held jointly with APLAC and NACLA, in Canada in October 2005. The second one was conducted in Brazil in December 2005. More than 30 people participated, many of which submitted their application to be considered as new peer evaluators, therefore the IAAC peer evaluator registry has increased within the last year.

IAAC has few qualified peer evaluators, especially leader evaluators. Our permanent challenge is to increase the amount of evaluators while maintaining their knowledge and competence in accreditation requirements at regional and international level.

In Mexico, in October 2006, another peer evaluator training course will be held and we have anticipate holding at least two peer evaluator training courses every two years.

Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS)

The newly elected SADCAS Board of Directors held its first meeting on 25 May 2006. At this meeting items such as procedures, consultants, finances, auditors, the business plan and the application for subsidiarity status of SADCAS were discussed.

It was agreed that the new Board members were to receive training in corporate governance, and that the full Board would receive training in audit and risk management as well.

The challenge ahead of SADCAS is indeed to make it operational and all the donors are eager to ensure its success. There are various schemes for assisting emerging accreditation bodies offered by ILAC and IAF and other international organisations which will be approached.

National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs)

To date only five SADC member states are yet to launch their NAFPs: they are Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland.

Marketing and publicity

The NAFP-subgroup for Marketing and Publicity comprising of the NAFPs

from Tanzania, Lesotho, Zambia and Mauritius were updating the SADCAS brochure. Angola, Mozambique and DRC were thanked for their translation of the brochure. The Chair requested further assistance with the translation of the updated brochure. With the inclusion of Madagascar, assistance could be given to the DRC with the French translations.

Accreditation



International Seminar on Accreditation

Mexico City/November 3, 4 and 17, 2006

The Mexican accreditation entity, entidad mexicana de acreditación, a.c. (ema), will host the Annual ILAC-IAF Joint General Assembly, to be held in Cancun, Quintana Roo. Considering how rarely events like this take place in Mexico or Latin America, ema seized the opportunity to organise this Seminar in Mexico City where it will receive expert facilitators on accreditation from around the world.

Some of those contributing facilitators will be: Orna Dreazen of ISRAC (Israel Laboratory Accreditation Authority), Merih Malmqvist of SWEDAC (Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment), Graham Talbot and Lorraine Turner of UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service), Llew Richards of IANZ (International Accreditation New Zealand), Ignacio Pina of ENAC (Spain's accreditation body), Monika Wloka of DAR (German Accreditation body), and Maribel López of ema.

The ILAC/IAF 2006 Joint General Assembly (International Seminar on Accreditation) in Cancun, Mexico will consist of four plenary sessions.

The first session takes place on 3 November, where joint chairs Orna Dreazen, Merih Malmqvist, Graham



Venue for this year's seminar

Talbot and Maribel Lopez, of ILAC's Arrangement, Accreditation, Marketing & Communications and Development Support Committees will give brief descriptions of their committee activities. Also during this session facilitators will cover the subjects Reference Materials and Proficiency Testing. Session two, to be held on the afternoon of day one, looks into clinical laboratories and ISO standard 15189:2003.

On 4 November, session three of the joint general assembly will cover the many issues around inspection bodies. During the fourth and final session, to be held on Friday 17 November, the subject of discussion will focus on ISO/IEC 17021, the standard for certification bodies.

ema has invited its clients and other bodies interested in accreditation in Mexico, as well as across Latin America, to attend and add to the success of this seminar, organisers are expecting over 200 attendees.

The ILAC/IAF 2006 Joint General Assembly committee are working hard with the arrangements, Mexico is looking forward to receiving many renowned and experienced participants on accreditation. This international event promises to be a unique opportunity for anyone interested in hearing the latest and most up to date information on accreditation.

For more information on the seminar visit www.ema.org.mx/

Central American Accreditation Forum (FOCA)

By Alexander Pineda M.Sc., Coordinator

A project called 'Accreditation and Management Environmental in Central America' has been established by the Central American Accreditation Forum (FOCA), comprising accreditation bodies from Costa Rica (ECA), El Salvador (CONACYT), Guatemala's Oficina Guatemalteca de Acreditacion (OGA), Honduras (OHA/COHCIT), Nicaragua's (ONA) and Panama's (CNA).

The project follows the framework of the Physikalisch-Techn. Bundesanstalt (PTB) German PTB/CCAD Project.

FOCA's purpose is to establish mechanisms of analysis, promotion, cooperation and coordination among the accreditation bodies of the Central American region, aiming at strengthening and consolidating the accreditation structures of these countries.

During the General Assembly of the IAAC recently held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in August 2006, the representative of ECA from Costa Rica signed the MLA for testing laboratories.

As well, OHA/COHCIT from Honduras and ECA established an agreement to support accreditation activities in Honduras.

The other accreditation bodies doing their own, CONACYT, ONA and CNA who have been pre-assessed by the IAAC. OGA has already applied to be part of the MLA of IAAC for testing laboratories.

There was a defined action plan, including training activities such as courses of measurement uncertainty and validation of methods.

The exchange of ideas between delegates and technical assessors was extremely useful.

For further information, please contact the Coordination of the FOCA at ppineda@mineco.gob.gt



Developing a new scheme...participants at the HAA seminar: 'Understanding and implementing ISO 15189 and links to ISO 17025'. Pictured here: Norbert Bechtold, Petr Zdilna, Zdenko Franic, Elizabeta Topic, Slobodan Galjanic, Zlata Flegar-Mestric, Visnja Mulic-Filipovic, Ana Cop, Ada Sapunar, Dijana Kristo, Martina Bednarova, Vatroslav Seric, Nada Vrkic, Dubravka Cvoriscec, Dunja Rogic, Ana-Maria Simundic, Jadranka Wagner, Ines Vukasovic, Marijana Pericic, Biljana Perica

The Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA) develops new accreditation scheme



Hrvatska akreditacijska agencija
Croatian Accreditation Agency

Croatia's Accreditation Agency (HAA) is in the process of developing a new accreditation scheme for assessment of medical laboratories.

A three-day seminar was organised for potential assessors of medical-biochemistry laboratories. Following a similar format to the CARDS 2003 project, 'Development of accreditation systems and support to national testing and calibration laboratories' the HAA looked at 'Understanding and implementing ISO 15189 and links to ISO 17025.'

The seminar followed agreement between the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the HAA, where HAA will perform accreditation of medical laboratories, particularly medical biochemistry laboratories. This seminar is the first of a series of seminars which HAA will organise for assessors and experts of medical laboratories.

Previously, the HAA formed a working group for medical laboratories with the task of developing an accreditation

scheme for medical laboratories according to the ISO 15189.

Members of the working group and the HAA staff will represent the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists, the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemist and clinical hospitals.

The Croatian Standards Institute supported organising a seminar to distribute the recently adopted Croatian standard HRN EN ISO 15189:2006, Medicinski laboratoriji—Posebni zahtjevi za kvalitetu i osposobljenost (ISO 15189:2003; EN ISO 15189:2003) to all participants.

The seminar was led by Mrs. Martina Bednarova and Mr. Petr Zdilnar from CAI (Czech Accreditation Institute). Good cooperation between CAI and HAA continues.

Eighteen participants from different clinical hospitals, HAA and other organisations evaluated the seminar as very useful.

New national standards for Russian Federation

Adopting an international standard as a national standard requires a lot of time and work.

It is essential to have an official national standard operating in order for any economy to function smoothly.

Recently a Russian Federation ILAC Associate Member, AAC 'Analitica' (Association of Analytical Centers — 'Analitica') decided to undertake the preparation of an official draft of national standard GOST R ISO/IEC 17025-2006. (From the International Electrotechnical Commission, the International standards writing group in Geneva, Switzerland).

After issuing ISO/IEC 17025:2005 AAC Analitica translated a new version of this document for implementation in its own accredited laboratories' practice documentation.

Agreement between interested organizations, lead institutions and federal agencies on technical regulating and metrology means the work is now complete.

The final draft of GOST R ISO/IEC 17025 is soon to be distributed as a new national standard.

This is not the Russian Federation's first experience in national standardisation.

In 2005 AAC Analitica issued a national standard GOST R 52361-2005, *Analytical control. Terms and definitions*. This standard has become a great help for Russian Federation national laboratories, as this document contains all terms and definitions used in analytical laboratories' practice.

At the present moment, the ILAC Associate member is also working on the Russian version of ISO/IEC 17011.

Next on the list will be GOST R ISO/IEC 17011.



South African National Accreditation System (SANAS)

Building closer relationships with the Department of Health

The South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) adopted its new Articles of Association at an Annual General Meeting in 2005.

As a direct consequence of that change in its constitution, the constituency of the SANAS Board of Directors also changed. Some members of the board stepped down, and other new members were elected. This is in line with an Accreditation Act that is currently being tabled in parliament, following which SANAS will become a public entity.

SANAS also continues to work closely

with local regulatory authorities in matters where accreditation can play a supporting role.

To this effect, a Memorandum of Agreement has been signed with the Department of Labour.

Discussions are also underway for a similar agreement to be concluded between SANAS and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

SANAS continues to build closer relationships with the Department of Health to assist them to further improve standards of health across South Africa.

CITAC Report 2005–2006

CITAC—the Co-operation on International Traceability in Analytical Chemistry—was conceptualised by a group of experts at the Pittsburgh Conference in Atlanta in March 1993.

It was created based on the views of some chemistry researchers regarding the need for more effort, and improved co-operation, to ensure the validity and comparability, at any time and in any place, of chemical measurement results on a global basis.

So, with this purpose in mind, actions were developed by CITAC members, many associated with other organisations, to support the need for traceability. Moreover, the focus is on providing traceability for field laboratories that are the point of delivery of measurements to the user community.

CITAC's Current Executive Board

2004–2007: **Chair:** Vera M. L. Ponçano, Director, Center for Metrology in Chemistry, Institute for Technological Research (Brazil); **Vice-chair:** Ilya Kuselman, Scientific Director, National Physical Laboratory (Israel), **Secretary:** Laurie Besley, General Manager, Chemical & Biological Metrology, National Measurement Institute (Australia); **Treasurer:** Wolfhard Wegscheider, Rector of the Leoben University (Austria)

CITAC's Members

CITAC members are accepted as individual experts, not as representatives of their organisations or nations. Nowadays CITAC is composed by thirty five (35) members from twenty three (23) different countries including: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and the USA. Some members act as representatives for regional or worldwide organisations.

New members 2005/2006: Philippe Charlet (France), Maire Walsh (Ireland), Henrik Emons (Belgium), Miloslav Suchanek (Czech Republic) and Cathy Burns (USA). **Candidate:** Chainarong Cherdchu (Thailand). **Observer:** Bradley

Miller (USA), Office of International Affairs, American Chemical Society (USA). **Resignations:** Wolfgang Richter (Germany) and Werner Hasselbarth (Germany)—Due to retirement.

CITAC's activities include:

- Education, Training and Dissemination: through workshops, seminars, meetings and courses, like at ICAS in Moscow, International Conference on Metrology in Israel, APMP meetings in India, Metrosul in Brazil and Euromet/Metchem in Spain.
- Interaction and Cooperation with International Organizations like Eurachem, ISO REMCO, ILAC and IUPAC.
- Contributions on guides like: a Guide to Uncertainty and Traceability Issues in Qualitative Analysis and Fitness for Purpose of Chemical Measurements.
- Translations: Some CITAC/Eurachem publications have been translated to the Portuguese language like Traceability in Chemical Measurement —A guide to achieving comparable results in chemical measurement (2003), Quality Assurance for Research and Development and Non-routine Analysis (1998) and Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement, The Second Edition (2000).
- Procedure for annual nomination of papers on metrology in chemistry with the aim of electing relevant articles in this field—proposed and approved in the last meeting (June 2006).
- CITAC News.

Next Events

- CITAC members Meeting will take place in India, in association with the 6th International Conference on Advances in Metrology (AdMet-2006) – December/2006.
- 22nd CITAC members Meeting in Paris in conjunction with the CCQM meetings—April/2007.
- CITAC Workshop in Brazil—June/2007.

References: CITAC website: www.citac.cc
CITAC Mission, Objectives and Strategies (2004)—In: Journal Accreditation and Quality Assurance. Vol. 9:172





Venue of the second international conference *Laboratory Competence* to be held in 2007 at Cavtat, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

CROLAB's national conference surrounded by beauty

Croatia's CROLAB organised its national conference *Laboratory Competence* on 11 and 12 September, in the beautiful national park of Brijuni, near the city of Pula.

The quality and competitiveness of products and services is the main driver of every economy and competent laboratories are an

inevitable part of it. The aim of the conference was to provide a platform for delegates to exchange experiences and for wide networking.

The conference attracted more than 70 participants and was judged to be very successful

The CROLAB Annual Assembly was also held during the conference.

The second international conference 'Laboratory Competence' organised by CROLAB will be held from 17 to 21 October, 2007 in Cavtat (Dubrovnik) Croatia. The first announcement and call for papers will be sent in due time.

National Laboratory Association (NLA)

ILAC Laboratory Committee and Accreditation Committee

Since last May's Board Meeting, South Africa's National Laboratory Association (NLA) has made progress with the re-writing of the Laboratory Committee's Terms of Reference.

The document that is now being discussed has been welcomed by all concerned and the NLA's role in this recognised.

A formal decision regarding the nomination of the NLA as the new chair will be taken at the upcoming NLA Board Meeting.

Steve Sidney, a NLA representative, attended both the Laboratory Committee (LC) and Accreditation Committee (AIC) meetings held in May and reported on these at the May NLA Board Meeting.

The NLA is the representative body that evolved from the previous National Laboratory Accreditation service, after overall responsibility for accreditation was assumed by the South African National Accreditation System. (SANAS) during 1998.

The National Laboratory Association looks after the interests of the large number of laboratories in South Africa. This includes measuring, testing, calibration, verification and other bodies, as well as laboratories which operate in well-defined areas of Research & Development in the natural and applied sciences.

Steve also attended the Proficiency Testing Consultative Group (PTCG) meeting and has been elected to the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) Committee working group to draft the new ISO standard 17043, which will replace the former Guide 43.

This should once again provide South Africa with an opportunity of making a direct contribution to international standards writing and development.

Positive feedback for NLA's website

The National Laboratory Association of South Africa (NLA) website has been receiving some positive feedback.

The most visible part of the web site has been the conference pages and there have been many compliments on the ease with which abstract submissions can be made, as well as the general layout.

The development of the laboratory database for the Food Safety Initiative has also made good progress.

The first version of the user interface was posted in August.

The collection of the information as well as the input into the system has gone smoothly and the co-operation between the NLA and the FSI has been effective.

A further value adding opportunity is also being considered which is to provide access to all the papers and presentations of past T&M Conferences via the NLA web site. The site can be found at www.nla.org.za



NLA quarterly report

South Africa

A number of significant developments have taken place since NLA's last report, firstly NLA submitted a proposal to the Water Research Council to conduct a survey and make recommendations on how the services provided by water

laboratories in South Africa can be improved.

Various individuals within the Provincial Road Agency Laboratory community approached the NLA to investigate NLA operating a personnel certification scheme for Materials Testers in civil and construction test laboratories.

The creation of this scheme could pave the way for the NLA to provide similar schemes to register laboratory personnel who might otherwise not qualify for professional recognition such as that run by ECSA.

Discussions are ongoing, however, the initial reaction has been very favourable.

Further progress towards the registering of the National Certificate for Metrologists took place in early August 2006.

Unfortunately, we continue to see small numbers attending the training courses this year and this still remains a concern.

Training

Public courses

The following courses were conducted, Introduction to Measurement with 5 attendees,

Introduction to Uncertainty of Measurement catered for 13 attendees and DCLF (Electrical) had 7 attendees.

In-house courses

The National Laboratory Association of South Africa (NLA) conducted the Introduction to Estimation of Uncertainty (GUM) course in Tanzania during the last quarter period with 11 attendees.

Judging by the comments of both the attendees and the lecturers, this was a successful venture, and will perhaps lead to similar courses in the future.

Unit Standards and Professional Recognition Metrology

Although it was last reported that NLA had to re-submit the metrology qualification in a different format, SAQA have in fact been able to accommodate the original submission, since a number of critical Unit Standards have now been developed.

This change provides a route for a Unit Standards-based qualification to be

submitted as originally envisaged.

In early August, as part of the ESGB, SAQA invited the Metrology SGG to attend a Consultative Committee Meeting give views on the qualification. Two very minor clarifications were required and once these are submitted, SAQA will send the qualification to the next level for consideration.

Successful recommendations by that committee will then see the qualification presented to SAQA exco for ratification and registration on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

Conferences/Events

Technical and Measurement Conference/Exhibition 2006, 23 to 25 October 2006

The T&M Conference/Exhibition was held from Monday 23 October, 06 to Wednesday 25 October 06 at Emperors Palace , Johannesburg International Airport.

Of significant interest to Laboratory Management, Calibration & Analytical Laboratory Staff, Quality Practitioners, the conference and exhibition was open to all conference attendees as well as registered members of the public.

This Conference provided attendee's with a vital update on critical issues related to making quality measurements both for trade as well as health and safety purposes.

Areas as diverse as Food, Medical & Pharmaceutical, Environmental, Automotive, Military, Telecommunications, Electrical and Legal are affected by the work performed in laboratories that provide these services and their importance cannot be minimised.

It is vital that a sound and integrated measurement system is in place, and that the traceability of all measurements can be relied upon.

The Conference format had various streamed presentations and interactive discussion sessions, as well as combined plenaries.

There were a number of hands-on demonstrations and training sessions which took place between the close of the day's proceedings and dinner.

The exhibition afforded the laboratory community an opportunity to be updated on the latest equipment and services that can be provided by the laboratory supplier community.



Eurolab—Sweden workshop participants discuss flexible scope in accreditation

From Magnus Holmgren—SPA joint EA, EUROLAB and EURACHEM workshop was attended by more than 80 participants representing 26 countries.

The workshop, entitled 'Flexible scope of Accreditation; Experience and future prospects' was held in Borås, Sweden on May 15, 2006.

Views and experiences were presented by accreditation bodies, laboratories and industry.

The views of the European Commission was presented by a letter from Jacques McMillan EC DG Enterprise.

In the letter Mr McMillan said, "it means that the accreditation bodies must adapt their scopes of accreditation to allow room for modifications and adaptations

to the scope of activity of the conformity assessment bodies.

Laboratories and certification bodies should be able to adapt their test methods and measurement programmes to the needs of the products, manufacturers and conformity assessment procedures as well as to the technology involved."

The general conclusion from presentations and discussions at the workshop was, 'that all participants agree on the need and the benefit of a flexible scope in accreditation, but there is not yet full consensus in how to interpret the term flexible scope, and how to use it in the daily activities of laboratories, clients and accreditation bodies.'

The full proceedings are available at the EUROLAB website www.eurolab.org.

ILAC Publications

The following is a listing of titles of all ILAC public documents at 04 July 2006. These can be downloaded from the relevant section (hyperlinked) in the Publications area of the ILAC website

Brochures

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

Information Documents (I Series)

ILAC-I1:1994 Legal Liability in Testing
ILAC-I2:1994 This document is currently under review
ILAC-I3:1996 The Role of Testing and Laboratory Accreditation in International Trade
ILAC-I4:1996 Guidance Documents for the Preparation of Laboratory Quality Manuals

Guidance Documents (G Series)

ILAC-G3:1994 Guidelines for Training Courses for Assessors
ILAC-G7:1996 Accreditation Requirements and Operating Criteria for Horseracing Laboratories
ILAC-G8:1996 Guidelines on Assessment and Reporting of Compliance with Specification
ILAC-G9:2005 Guidelines for the Selection and Use of Reference Materials
ILAC-G10:1996 Harmonised Procedures for Surveillance & Reassessment of Accredited Laboratories
ILAC-G11:07/2006 Guidelines on Assessor Qualifications & Competence of Assessors and Technical Experts
ILAC-G12:2000 Guidelines for the Requirements for the Competence of Reference Material Producers
ILAC-G13:2000 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 ILAC Evaluator Training Courses

Secretariat Documents (S Series)

ILAC-S1:2003 Guidelines for the Proposal, Drafting, Approval and Publication of ILAC Documents
ILAC-S2:2003 Rules
ILAC-S3:2004 ILAC Strategic and Business Plan
ILAC-S5:2005 ILAC Procedure for Disputes, Complaints and Appeals

Procedural Documents (P Series)

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

Joint ILAC IAF Documents (A series)

IAF/ILAC A1:2006 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Evaluation of a Regional Group
IAF/ILAC A2:2006 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body
IAF/ILAC A3:2006 IAF/ILAC MRAs: Key Performance Indicators
IAF/ILAC A4:2004 Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020



Joint General Assembly IAF/ILAC 2006 November 6–14, Cancun, Mexico

Cancun is Mexico's world famous tourist resort and venue for this years Joint General Assembly and related committee meetings of IAF/ILAC.

Proudly hosted by the Mexican Accreditation Entity (ema) this event brings together some of the world's most knowledgeable people in the subject of accreditation of conformity assessment bodies.

The meetings will be attended by approximately more than 210 delegates

from more than 51 different countries, newcomer organisations ECA- Costa Rica, OGA — Guatemala, ONA —Nicaragua, I BMETRO—Bolivia and ONARC—Cuba attending.

Ema worked very hard to insure productive business meetings for delegates at the Hilton Cancun Beach and Golf Resort at the Boulevard Kukulcan, Km 17, Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

Quintana Roo state is where the ancient Mayas settled down and learned to coexist

with the jungle. The area is famous for its chain of powder-white beaches and secluded palm-lined bays protected by the Mesoamerican Reef.

For details on the 2006 IAF/ILAC program go to:

<http://www.ilaciaf2006.com/contenido/programe.php>

See the gracious sails of the Sydney Opera



ILAC/IAF 
SYDNEY 19–31 October 2007

Your invitation to Sydney, Australia

Venue for 2007 ILAC/IAF Joint Annual Meetings

Sharing ideas, confirming actions,
planning for future work.

Organisers are already promising the 2007 ILAC/IAF Joint Annual Meetings, scheduled for 19–31 October, 2007 will give participants an opportunity to exchange new ideas, confirm activities and to have a say in planning for the organisations' future work activities and action.

Hosted by the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) and the Joint Accreditation System of

Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ), the venue is the Amora Hotel Jamison, Sydney.

Amora Hotel Jamison is conveniently located in the city's central business district and close to the historic 'Rocks' area, Circular Quay, Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge. The hotel is in easy walking distance to cafes, nightclubs and shopping precincts. Major corporate headquarters and business support providers (including banks and legal firms) are also at close hand.

Register your interest now for the 2007 ILAC/IAF Joint Annual Meetings in Sydney by visiting www.ilaciaf2007.com and completing the registration form.

About the event

The 2007 ILAC/IAF theme: *'A tradition of accreditation'* reflects the maturing of accreditation internationally.

Hosted by NATA and JAS-ANZ, the event will provide an informative agenda including eminent presenters and an exciting social program of uniquely Australian experiences.

A tradition of accreditation

