



ABOUT APLAC

APLAC is an organisation of laboratory accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific area that have expressed a desire to cooperate in fostering the development of competent laboratories in member economies.

Cooperation is to include:

- Exchange of information
- Joint training programs
- Proficiency testing
- Harmonisation of requirements
- Mutual recognition of systems meeting harmonized requirements

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Wide copying and distribution are encouraged.

APLAC also maintains an Internet site at:
www.aplac.org

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Words from TAF's New President Dr. Jay-San Chen

In June 2006, Dr. Jay-San Chen had been elected by the Board of Director of TAF as the new President of TAF, in replacement of the former President, Mr. Neng-Jong Lin.

It was with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I took the position as President of TAF, which attains its present achievements under the concerted efforts of the TAF colleagues and the excellent leadership of the former President, Mr. Neng-Jong Lin, over the past years. The development of TAF is important to support the domestic technical infrastructure of conformity assessment, which regulators, industries and consumers rely on for different purposes including aspects of products related to safety, quality, performance and environmental protection. Having recognized this, the TAF have taken a number of initiatives in recent years to strengthen the bonds with key players in this field, particularly by constantly looking into policies taken by regulatory authorities, challenges faced by industries and concerns raised by consumers, so that the services provided by the TAF could meet the needs of the market.



The initiatives mainly covers four areas, including enhancement of the public's awareness of accreditation activities and their importance in everyday life, the development of cooperation programs on the acceptance of accreditation results by regulatory authorities, the creation of a communication platform to facilitate exchange of ideas with technical associations and the development of green accreditation programs to assist the industry in responding to environmental requirements that are increasingly imposed by foreign countries. It is the quality of TAF accreditation that underpins the success of these initiatives and the TAF spares no efforts in assuring the competence of its staff, assessors, technical experts and technical committee members.



APLAC

Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

Accreditation has been taken up in discussions at the meetings of international organizations such as the WTO and OECD as one of the means to reduce technical barriers to trade. The mutual recognition arrangements (MRA/MLAs) developed by the IAF, ILAC, PAC and APLAC could effectively achieve this goal by ensuring an accreditation network of reliability and credibility that can be trusted and recognized by regulatory authorities in different countries. The TAF, as a signatory to these MRA/MLAs, would continue to support and substantially maximize the effectiveness of the international and regional system through the various initiatives it launched domestically. Besides, in return for the invaluable assistance that the TAF has received from its international colleagues, we will be ready to provide technical assistance to developing countries in setting up accreditation systems.

The 2006 APLAC General Assembly & Technical Meetings will be held in Taipei. I sincerely invite you to come to Taipei and enjoy the fine cuisines as well as interesting events that we have arranged for you. Please come and join us!

ABOUT TAF

Established on 17 September 2003 by integrating CNLA and CNAB, TAF is now a NPO and also the only accreditation body in Taiwan. Formerly known as CNLA, the beginning of TAF's accreditation services can be traced back to 1990. TAF is a signatory to ILAC, APLAC, IAF and PAC MRA/MLA. It has collaborative relationships with a number of government sectors, such as Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection, Department of Health, National Communications Commission, National Treasury Agency, Public Construction Commission, etc. TAF currently has 1,137 accredited laboratories, 9 inspection bodies, and 12 QMS, 7 EMS, 12 product, 3 ISMS, 3 HACCP and 1 OHSAS certification bodies.

FROM THE APLAC SECRETARIAT – JUNE 2006

APLAC's program for 2006 is well underway with activity in the following areas.

Reference Material Producers Workshop

A very successful Reference Material Producers Workshop was held in April in Beijing. The secretariat would like to warmly thank the course presenters Dr E W B de Leer (NMI, Netherlands), Mr W W Wong (HKAS, Hong Kong) and Ms R Robinson (A2LA, USA) for their contribution.

Evaluator Training Course

A course for new evaluators is in progress at the time of writing this report. The course is designed for evaluators who have not yet participated in an evaluator training course and a further report will provide in the next edition of APLAC News Notes. We would like to thank Mr E (Ned) Gravel of CAEAL, Canada, Dr P Silva of DMSc, Thailand, Mr B Ashcroft of IANZ, New Zealand and Mr P Unger, A2LA, USA for their input to the course.

Inspection Training Course

An Inspection Training Course is planned for September 2006 in Singapore. More details and invitations to participate will follow shortly.

MRA Council Meeting

The mid year MRA Council Meeting was held in Singapore from 22-24 May 2006. Two key outcomes from this meeting are:

- DSS was accepted as a signatory to the APLAC MRA for testing and is congratulated on this achievement.
- The ISO/IEC 17011 self-declarations made by all APLAC MRA signatories that were not evaluated in 2005 against 17011 were successfully reviewed during the meeting.

ILAC evaluation of APLAC

APLAC has signed off on ILAC's report on the evaluation of APLAC. The report will now be considered by the ILAC AMC.

MOUs

Progress is being made in preparing the text for MOUs with both APMP and PAC. It is hoped that these will be finalised before the end of the year.

Incorporation of APLAC

APLAC is progressing in its goal to become incorporated by the end of 2006. As a consequence of

incorporation, a number of changes will need to be to the current structure of APLAC's documentation. At the recent MRA Council Meeting, in principle agreement was received to start this process.

APLAC Documents

Please take the opportunity to visit the APLAC website at www.aplac.org as documents are constantly updated and posted on the site.

IAAC

The secretariat staff recently met with Mr Victor Gandy, the IAAC Secretary. Mr Gandy was visiting Australia and it was a good opportunity to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest to regional cooperations.

Helen Liddy, Jane King and Janet Clark
APLAC Secretariat

NEW APLAC MRA SIGNATORY

Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation, Department of Science Service (BLA-DSS)

During the APLAC MRA Council Meeting on 22nd May 2006 in Singapore, the Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation, Department of Science Service (BLA-DSS), Ministry of Science and Technology was accepted as a signatory to the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement in the scope of testing laboratory accreditation.

The BLA-DSS is an accreditation body empowered through the Ministerial Regulation B.E. 2545 (2002) on the



reorganisation of the Department of Science Service to provide laboratory accreditation services according to ISO/IEC17025 for the scope of accreditation in the fields of physical, chemical, and biological testing.

The BLA-DSS began to provide laboratory accreditation service in September 2003, applied for APLAC full member in July 2004 and applied for APLAC MRA in October 2005.

FIGURE

In memory of Jack H. Garside Director of Telarc - September 1979 to December 1996



Jack Garside, second Director of Telarc, died at his home in Nelson on Thursday 16 February 2006 aged 72.

In the seventeen years that Jack was Director, the number of accreditation clients (mostly laboratories) grew from 134 to 440. Jack and Telarc played a significant part in the dramatic changes to the nature and importance of accreditation and certification, nationally and internationally, that occurred during that period.

Pioneer in Accreditation

Those years saw rapid growth in the range of services offered by Telarc (now split into the separately-operated International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) and Telarc Ltd). Significant change also took place in the philosophy, practice and procedures of accreditation and in its relationship with the international accreditation community. Jack built a very sound and important part of New Zealand's scientific and technical infrastructure on the foundations left by John Gilmour, the first Director.

In 1979 there were only three accreditation bodies offering coverage of a wide scope of testing and calibration activities. They were NATA (the first - in 1947), the Danish national scheme, STP and Telarc (1973). Because John Gilmour went on to run NATA, he and Jack were always destined to make a major contribution to the procedures for the operation and recognition of accreditation bodies worldwide. That proved to be the case once national accreditation body numbers started to grow in the 1980s. Telarc and NATA were founder members of the International Laboratory Accreditation Conference (ILAC) and Jack attended his first meeting soon after he joined in 1979 (the third meeting of ILAC which took place in Sydney). He ran a very successful 10th ILAC meeting in Auckland in 1988.

NATA and Telarc carried out the first mutual evaluations, culminating in the first mutual recognition agreement in 1981. The procedures used were to be the genesis of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement system that now covers 46 countries.

A less well understood area of change and development was in the area of definition of terms. John and Jack helped to formulate some of the key definitions of auditing and recognition of conformity assessment bodies. Terms such as accreditation, certification, inspection, and related terms did not exist in their current sense, or were not well defined, up to this time. Jack and John Gilmour played a major part in the negotiation of the European Union mutual recognition agreement on conformity assessment with both Australia and New Zealand. The language and definitions surrounding those agreements helped to solidify understanding of the everyday terms now used in conformity assessment.

Within Telarc, Jack's tenure saw the extension of accreditation to medical laboratories (a world first), gas cylinder test stations, radiology practices, inspection bodies, development of proficiency testing and training services. The latter eventually led to the formation of the New Zealand Quality College, now a division of IANZ. A number of specific criteria documents had been developed for the basic testing fields during the late 1970s and these were supplemented with technical guides and technical notes during the 1980s. When Telarc was set up in 1972, its criteria for assessment of laboratories were those inherited from NATA (Guide 25 did not exist until 1978). From 1988 Telarc used the New

Zealand Code of Laboratory Management Practice as its general criteria, which later became the basis of ISO/IEC 17025.

From UK to New Zealand; from teaching to accreditation

Jack was born and educated in the United Kingdom where he gained a PhD in chemistry. His early career was in teaching and, after coming to New Zealand with his Kiwi wife, Margaret, he taught at the Central Institute of Technology in Lower Hutt before becoming involved in the cement and concrete industry. He directed both the Portland Cement Association and the Concrete Research Association before moving to Telarc.

Jack was also very community minded and served at high levels in Rotary, JCI and the Stroke Foundation.

He retired to a small farm at Appleby near Nelson, which he had wanted to do for some time, and spent nearly nine happy years there. Both of his daughters eventually moved to the Nelson area.

Jack is survived by his wife Margaret, his two daughters, Sue and Kathy and their respective families.

NEWS FROM APLAC MEMBERS

Japan Accreditation Council (JAC) - Kicked off by IAJapan

In response to the recommendation of Japan Industrial Standards Committee (JISC), Japan Accreditation Council (JAC) was launched on 16th May 2006. The purpose of this council is to contribute to uplift the reliability of the whole conformity assessment system in Japan, by means of a) sharing the experience of accreditation among accreditation bodies, b) improving technical competence of accreditation bodies, and c) cooperating to promote accreditation systems to the market.



As of 16th May 2006, JAC consists of 12 organizations including IAJapan, JAB, JCLA, VLAC, and central government ministries accrediting product certification bodies, such as METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), MHLW (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare), and MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery). IAJapan is functioning as the secretariat of JAC. Japan Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (JLAC) that had served for laboratory accreditation was integrated into a working group on laboratory accreditation under the Technical Committee of JAC.

As a first step, JAC has planned to open its official website and discuss the interpretation of ISO/CASCO documents (e.g. ISO/IEC 17011, ISO/IEC Guide 65, ISO/IEC 17025, etc.) among its member bodies.

PNAC Update

Since the establishment of Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) in 1998 and becoming functional in 2001, PNAC has successfully accredited more than 21 labs and has become a full member of APLAC and PAC. PNAC has already applied for peer evaluation to complete the final stage of becoming MRA signatory of APLAC and will complete its final stage in 2007.

In early years not even a single Proficiency Testing (PT) provider was available in Pakistan, so labs had to participate in the proficiency testing schemes around the world, which was quite costly. Now PNAC is in the process of identifying labs which can provide PT schemes within the country, and hopefully by the mid of 2006 there would be PT providers which are trained to run PT schemes according to international requirements within Pakistan. This will be very economical as compared to foreign PT schemes.

It is hoped that the signing of APLAC MRA in 2007 will assist manufacturers of Pakistan in shipping products tested by accredited laboratories to the economies of MRA signatories without further testing.

Cancun esta Listo TRADUCCION Cancun, Mexico is ready for visitors by ema

As it is of your knowledge the next Joint General Assembly of the two maximum Accreditation organisations: the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) will be held in Cancun, Mexico from the 6th to the 14th of November 2006. After Hurricane Wilma vastly affected the southeast region of Mexico in October 2005; the Government, companies and people of Cancun have arduously worked to receive ones again its thousands of visitors. A little more than six months after the meteorological phenomenon, we can proudly state that 100% of the urban works in the hotel area which is around the Caribbean coast is fully reestablished. There are 17 thousand hotel lodgings completely remodeled, 85% of the restaurants are operational and there are more and better products and services to embrace our guests.

The Cancun Hilton Hotel, which will be the venue of the ILAC/IAF Joint General Assembly, has put in great efforts for its redesign. The hotel opened its doors on May 1st 2006 and has taken advantage of what happened with Wilma to optimize its facilities and services, as well as to prepare its staff to offer the very best.



At ema, we wanted to make sure of the advance and redesign of Cancun; therefore, Verónica Solórzano, our Senior Manager in Technical and Foreign Affairs, visited Cancun in the month of May to verify that the innovations and quickness in which the southeast has resurged still make it the centre for tourism and forum of great international events which has being known for.

With pride, we reiterate the invitation for you to accompany us in the next Joint Assembly in the month of November, where you will be witnesses of the new and renovated Mexican Caribbean coast fully recovered, its white sand beaches and turquoise blue sea.

For further information on registration and working program please visit: www.ilaciaf2006.com

NEWS FROM APLAC INTERESTED PARTIES

EA Update

EA membership

EA now brings together 34 full member AB's and 2 associate members representing 34 European countries. HAA, the Croatian Accreditation Body, was accepted as a full member following the decision by the European Council to accept Croatia as a candidate country. With JAC, the Jordanian Accreditation Commission, signing a contract of cooperation in November, EA has developed 16 such contracts out of which 9 have entered into a bilateral agreement.

Out of the 32 full member countries, 18 have signed for all scopes, 6 have signed for only part of the scopes and 8 have not yet signed the EA MLA.

EA Multilateral Agreement

TURKAK, Turkey and IPAC, Portugal have signed the EA MLA for all scopes.

LATAK, Latvia, has signed for an extension to inspection and becomes a signatory for all scopes of the MLA.

SA, Slovenia, has signed for Products, QMS and EMS certification.

EA and its relations to the European accreditation policy

Discussions are continuing with the European Commission (DG Enterprise and Industry) in the framework of its ongoing project for a new horizontal legislative approach to technical harmonization in Europe. The Commission's view of the future status of accreditation is becoming much clearer.

According to the Commission's proposal, accreditation will be defined as a **service of general interest** representing the last authoritative level of control of the conformity assessment services delivered in both voluntary and mandatory spheres.

Accreditation should be provided at national level on the basis of appropriate recognition and empowerment by the competent National Authorities, in a competent, transparent, independent and impartial way, with full accountability towards all the interested parties, as a non-profit activity and without competition ("European way of accreditation").

It is also proposed that EA should be given a formal authority, backed by the European institutions. EA will sign specific agreements with the Commission and EFTA to reflect its new role and mission in the future revised European framework for conformity assessment.

Lorenzo Thione and Graham Talbot, the EA Chairman and Vice Chairman, received a very valuable input as a result of the visits they conducted to all EA members between January and June. The information collected will be used to update the EA strategic agenda and carry out an ambitious development project in close cooperation with the members.

The EA Executive Committee decided to reinforce **liaison activities**. Liaison persons have been appointed to strengthen cooperation within the regions and all ILAC and IAF committees. A specific procedure was approved and published and the Executive identified a list of issues of key interest for EA to be concentrated on in the liaison activities.

In order to consolidate the permanent secretariat of EA which started its operations on January 1st, a comprehensive **EA management system** is being established and documented.

The **EA logo** and name have been registered as a European individual mark and rules for use of the EA logo are being drafted. Basically, the rules will specify the conditions for the mark to be used to promote EA and demonstrate EA membership by the EA Executive Members, Secretariat and EA members.



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A **press kit** is being created. It is made up of several press sheets targeted at Governments, European Commission, Society (end users), Industry and conformity assessments bodies (ABs direct customers). The kit has been designed to be used as a “toolbox” not only by the EA secretariat but also and above all by the EA members according to their various communication needs with the press media at national level.

The Executive agreed on creating an **EA IT working group**. The objective is to create and manage a forum for exchange of views and sharing of experience among the members facing or having faced problems in developing, implementing an information system. The IT group will be convened under the aegis of the Communications and Publications Committee.

EA Database for Accredited Bodies

EA set up an international database for accredited bodies on its web site. The database contains data about accredited calibration laboratories from 8 countries: Denmark, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Finland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Ireland. An EA common scope for calibration was defined and can be used to find out accredited laboratories for one or several calibration fields in all or only part of the 8 countries whose data are on line. A **full text** search will also be available soon for data concerning not only accredited laboratories but also accredited inspection and certification bodies.

A common **scope for testing**, based on two lists of products/objects and tests is being evaluated and should be used soon on the web site.

More information available at <http://db.european-accreditation.org>

2006 APLAC GA & TECHNICAL MEETINGS



Together Grow in Accreditation



Date : 10 – 15 September 2006

Venue : The Grand Hotel, Taipei

Host : Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (www.taftw.org.tw)

Contact : Mr. Nigel Jou (nigel_jou@taftw.org.tw)

See more details at www.2006aplac.org.tw



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Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

APLAC PUBLICATIONS LIST

APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement Advisory Committee

APLAC MR001 #	Issue No.10 03/06	Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Agreements Between Accreditation Bodies
APLAC MR002 (Rev 1) #	Issues No 11/05	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement
APLAC MR003	Issue No. 10 01/06	Application for Signatory Status in the APLAC Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APLAC MRA)
APLAC MR004	Issue No.5 02 /06	APLAC Evaluators - Qualifications and Monitoring Performance.
APLAC MR006	Issue No.1 07/04	Procedure for conduct of joint evaluation for another region.
APLAC MR007	Issue No.1 01 /06	APLAC Evaluation Checklist

APLAC Nominations Committee

APLAC NC001	Issue No.6 01 /06	APLAC Nominations Committee and the APLAC Nomination Process
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APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee

APLAC PT001	Issue No.4 01 /06	APLAC Calibration Inter laboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT002	Issue No.5 01 /06	APLAC Testing Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT003	Issue No.7 03 /06	APLAC Proficiency Testing Directory
APLAC PT004	Issue No.5 01 /06	APLAC Measurement Audits
APLAC PT005	Issue No.1 06 /04	Artefacts for Measurement Audits



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APLAC Public Information Committee

APLAC PR001	Issue No.2 02 /05	APLAC Publications Numbering Policy
APLAC PR003	Issue No.3 02 /05	Procedure for Adoption of APLAC Documents
APLAC PR007	Issue No.18 02 /06	Power Point Presentation - APLAC Its Role And Structure
APLAC PR008	Issue No.22 06/06	International Recognition of Accredited Test, Calibration and Inspection Reports
APLAC PR009	Issue No.5 07 /04	APLAC Procedures for Editors of APLAC News Notes
APLAC Presentation		Power Point Slide Template

APLAC Secretariat

APLAC SEC001*	Issue No.3 12 /03	APLAC Memorandum of Understanding, second edition
APLAC SEC004*	Issue No.6 07 /05	APLAC Rules of Procedure
APLAC SEC009	Issue No.86 06 /06	APLAC Publications List
APLAC SEC017	Issue No.10 05 /05	APLAC Application for Membership
APLAC SEC020	Issue No.59 06 /06	APLAC General Assembly and MRA Council Delegates List
APLAC SEC021	Issue No.23 06 /06	APLAC Board of Management Membership List
APLAC SEC022	Issue No.16 02 /06	Committee Chairs and Secretaries
APLAC SEC023	Deleted	APLAC MRA Council Membership List (see SEC 020 above)



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APLAC SEC036	Issue No.2 08 /03	APLAC Complaints Handling Procedures
APLAC SEC037	Issue No.2 02 /05	APLAC Document Control and Document Format
APLAC SEC038	Issue No.27 06 /06	APLAC Membership Summary List
APLAC SEC039	Issue No16 06 /06	APLAC MRA Signatories Summary List
APLAC SEC040	Issue No.4 07 /04	APLAC Procedure for Issuing Invoices for Annual Fees
APLAC SEC041	Issue No. 3 08/04	APLAC Guidelines for Hosts of the APLAC General Assembly and Associated Meetings (only available from the Secretariat)
APLAC SEC042*	Issue No.2 07/03	Code of Ethics
APLAC SEC043	Issue No.3 01 /06	Requirements for APLAC Funding Requests
APLAC SEC044	Issue No.2 08 /03	Procedure for Appeals and Alternative Dispute Resolution Process.
APLAC SEC045	Issue No.3 06/05	APLAC Procedure for Management Review and Internal Audits
APLAC SEC046	Issue No. 1 12 /03	Guidelines for use of the APLAC Logo
APLAC SEC047	Issue No. 1 12/03	Processing Notification of Changes within an APLAC MRA Signatory Organisation
APLAC SEC048	Issue No. 1 12/03	APLAC Register of Delegated Responsibilities
APLAC SEC049	Issue No.7 10 /05	Maintenance and Archiving of APLAC files
APLAC SEC050	Issue No. 1	Guidelines for APLAC MRA signatories when accrediting laboratories or inspection bodies within the economy of
APLAC SEC051	Issue No. 1 12/04	Overview of APLAC management system documentation



APLAC

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APLAC Technical Committee

APLAC TC002	Issue No.3 5 /06	APLAC Internal Audits for Laboratories and Inspection Bodies
APLAC TC003	Issue No.3 5 /06	APLAC Management Review for Laboratories and Inspection Bodies
APLAC TC004	Issue No.2 03/04	APLAC Method of Stating Test and Calibration Results and Compliance with Specification
APLAC TC005	Issue No.2 03 /04	Interpretation and Guidance on the Estimation of Uncertainty of Measurement in Testing
APLAC TC006	Issue No.1 07 /04	APLAC Guidance notes on ISO/IEC 17020
APLAC TC007	Issue No.1 10/05	APLAC Guidelines for Food Testing Laboratories.

APLAC Training Committee

APLAC TR001	Issue No.1 12 /01	Guidelines on Training course for Assessors
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*	Adherence to these APLAC documents is mandatory for all APLAC members (Full and Associate)
#	Adherence to these APLAC documents is mandatory for all signatories to the APLAC mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)