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APLAC News Notes

Issue No. 103

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, inspection bodies and reference material producers in member economies. *APLAC News Notes* is published four times a year to facilitate the exchange of information among members and interested parties. It is not copyrighted and may be reproduced in full. Excerpts should reference *APLAC News Notes* specifically. Wide copying and distribution are encouraged.

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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APLAC also maintains a web site at:
www.aplac.org

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The next issue will be published in September 2010 by The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA).

From the Secretariat.....

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

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

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

Members are advised when new or revised APLAC documents are placed on the web site. Updates since March include:

- APLAC Quality Manual issue no. 8
- APLAC TR 004, issue no. 1
- Draft Minutes from both the Proficiency Testing and Training Committee meetings held in December 2009 (in the "Members only" area)
- 3 reports on completed APLAC Proficiency Testing programs (in the "Members only" area)
- List of Completed, Underway and Planned Proficiency Testing programs
- Report and presentations from the ISO 15189 Medical Testing Workshop held in June 2009

We are now able to advise the dates for the ISO 17043 Workshop. This will be held from 14-16 September in Chinese Taipei. We hope to have further information for members about this soon.

Planning is well in progress for the RMP Workshop to be held later in the year.

Registrations for APLAC 2010 will open in early July and members will be advised when this happens. In the meantime please visit the web site as there is already information there that may help you with your travel plans:

www.aplac2010osaka.jp

This is the last APLAC News Notes before Helen Liddy starts her very well-earned retirement on 1 July so it is fitting we leave the last word to Helen.

Well done Helen and enjoy!

From Michael and Janet

Good-bye from Helen...

I joined the APLAC Secretariat in mid-1999, and my first APLAC GA week was in Delhi in December of that year, hosted by NABL. I was appointed as APLAC Secretary in February 2000 when Ann-Margret Gilmour retired from the position.

When I joined the Secretariat there were 24 Full members from 19 economies, and 3 Associate members from 2 economies. There were 11 signatories to the APLAC MRA that, at that time, covered only testing and calibration. In just over 10 years APLAC has grown to 38 Full members from 24 economies, 8 Associate members from 5 economies, and 32 signatories to the APLAC MRA that now covers inspection, ISO 15189 and RMP, in addition to the original testing and calibration scopes. During that time there were also mergers of 2 Full members and MRA signatories in China (CNAACL and CCIBLAC) to form what is now CNAS, and of 2 Full members and MRA signatories in Japan (JCSS and JNLA) to form what is now IAJapan.

In 1999 there were still 2 groups to cover MRA matters: the APLAC MRA Advisory Committee and the APLAC MRA Council. The former had representatives from all Full members and dealt with all MRA matters except entry into or continuation in the APLAC MRA; the latter consisted mainly of representatives from APLAC MRA signatories, endorsed the work of the MRA Advisory Committee and made decisions on entry into or continuation in the MRA. The APLAC structure had been set up such that, once the number of MRA signatories amounted to 50% plus 1 of APLAC Full members, the MRA Advisory Committee would be merged with the MRA Council to become one body, the APLAC MRA Council, that we know today. The first meeting of the merged entity took place in Delhi in December 1999 when CNAACL (China), JCSS (Japan) and IAS (USA) became signatories to the MRA.

The growth of APLAC since then is a tribute to the energy and enthusiasm of accreditation bodies in the APLAC region. APLAC covers a diverse range of economies: large developed economies like the USA through to developing economies like PNG, our newest APLAC MRA signatory. Our growth areas are most likely to be in emerging economies in Central Asia (“the ‘Stans”) and non-APLAC ASEAN economies (CLM). Many different languages are spoken, different cultures are involved and, yet, we all speak the “language” of accreditation. APLAC members work cooperatively together, respect each other, help each other. APLAC is a family.

No matter where one works it is the people who make the work enjoyable or a chore. The people of APLAC have made my work for them most enjoyable. I have seen places I never expected to see; made wonderful friends. I will miss you all. I know, though, that you will all continue to support Janet, and you have already made Michael welcome.

Not really “good-bye” – more like the French “au revoir” or the German “auf wiedersehen” – until we meet again.

Helen



TAF 20th Anniversary of Laboratory Accreditation

Transformation and Leap Forward



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

By Dr Jay-San Chen, TAF President

TAF would like to share the joy of celebrating the 20th anniversary of its laboratory accreditation services. For the purposes of facilitating trade, delivering the national metrology standards and promoting product quality, the concept of “laboratory accreditation” was introduced to the market as early as 1989 by the “National Calibration Service (NCS)”, which provided accreditation assessment for calibration laboratories. Later the “Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP)” was set up in 1990 for similar purpose. These two units, established by the Central Standard Bureau (the predecessor of Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection)

and the Industrial Development Bureau respectively, were then merged by the Ministry of Economic Affairs in 1990, renamed “Chinese National Laboratory Accreditation (CNLA)”. CNLA started to provide laboratory services since 1990, and had grown step by step following its development strategies:

Extending route – from calibration to testing

CNLA first cooperated with the National Measurement Laboratory to provide laboratory accreditation services in calibration field, and then expanded, on the basis of experiences in calibration, to provide accreditation services in testing field, such as ionising radiation, etc.

Earning recognition – from international accreditation society to domestic market

CNLA learned from experiences shared by other matured accreditation bodies and actively participated in international accreditation activities. CNLA signed its first MRA with SANAS in 1993, and became one of the first seven signatories to the APLAC MRA in 1997, and one of the signatories to ILAC MRA in 2000. International recognition helped in promoting third-party accreditation concept in domestic market and the use by regulatory agencies. CNLA grew steadily and the number of accredited laboratories reached 1,000 in 2003.

使命

提供優質之認證服務，
建立認證之公信力，促使
認可機構產生出可信賴
之檢測與驗證結果，並獲
得國內外承認與接受，
進而促進民生福祉、
社會安定及經貿發展。

Mission

To facilitate public welfare, social stability, and economic development by ensuring the quality and credibility of our accreditation services, thereby spurring accredited organisations into providing reliable results, for testing, calibration, inspection and certification, that are recognised and accepted both domestically and internationally.

國內外顧客認同之專業
與卓越的國際認證品牌。

持續成長的精英團隊
與優質的工作環境。

Vision

To establish a distinguished accreditation brand that is recognised and trusted by both domestic and international customers.

To sustain the growth of an elite team working within a professional environment.

願景



財團法人全國認證基金會
Taiwan Accreditation Foundation
實驗室認證處
Department of Laboratory Accreditation

Transformation, incorporation & services re-organisation

In order to have a single window for comprehensive accreditation services, the CNLA and CNAB (Chinese National Accreditation Board) merged in September 2003, transforming to the Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF), a not-for-profit incorporated organisation providing accreditation services for laboratories and certification bodies. To cope with changes in domestic market, TAF integrated its laboratory accreditation services and re-organised four major fields – calibration, testing, civil engineering testing and medical testing.



Leap forward

Based on the hard work in the first few years, TAF accreditation influences more and more industries, regulatory agencies and end users. It is grateful for all the support from international colleagues, domestic regulatory agencies and accredited organisations. Moreover, it deeply appreciates the core of accreditation – trust, and understands its social responsibilities from accreditation. Standing on the 20-year foundation and looking ahead at the next 10 years, TAF will surely continue to provide and promote the value of accreditation services following the impartial, independent and objective principles.

Strategies for Developing Accreditation in Taiwan

By Nigel Jou, TAF CEO

Being an accreditation disciple and the top management of Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF) and its predecessor, Chinese National Laboratory Accreditation (CNLA), for 20 years, there has been so much to consider and persist in order to build up/maintain the credibility and accountability of accreditation as well as to ensure the smooth running of accreditation body operations. On the other hand, as the social and economic situations change, the provision of TAF accreditation also has to be flexible to be able to accommodate the needs of its customers.

Human resources are regarded as the major asset of TAF. In addition to the expertise of accreditation related criteria or assessment techniques, I always encourage my colleagues to try new things and build connections with international society in order to be experienced or accessible when facing new challenges. From personal experiences, I can say that professionalism comes from not only the hard work but also the attitude. Of course, there must be room for tolerating mistakes. As the top management, I believe in the “people-oriented” philosophy, and have been trying to cultivate elites that respect others, know themselves well and try hard in living and working.

Accreditation process is the main element that affects how customers perceive the accreditation quality. As an accreditation services provider, TAF practices the “PDCA” cycle to continuously improve its accreditation process, including shortening the handling time, better mapping the technical background of assessment team with the nature of applicant, enhancing the consistency of assessors, etc. A web-based information system, employed by TAF staff, TAF assessment team and applicants, has also been implemented to facilitate the smooth running of the accreditation since 2006.

TAF has dedicated itself to promote the accreditation concept and its values, i.e. helping CABs to monitor the operations of quality management system and technical competences, enhancing customers’ trust in products/services and eventually facilitating the trade. To achieve the ultimate goal “Global Acceptance”, there is no doubt that TAF will keep doing more promotions as needed.

Persistence in one mind

20 years is a long time to observe the development of the accreditation society and to make necessary adjustments to cope with the changing world. From time to time we encounter external pressure, such as political and monetary forces, regarding compromising the accreditation standard and granting accreditation upon request. Although there are so many chances for TAF to be “bought”, I am proud to say that, the only way for a CAB to obtain TAF accreditation is to be competent. That’s also what TAF colleagues believe and persist.



It takes lots and lots of communications to make people with different backgrounds and characters work together. So, being persistent in one mind – that is, sharing the same core values – is crucial for harmonisation. Only with one mind can TAF spread out its influences, as the ripple effect, in promoting accreditation.

I am really grateful for all the help that CNLA/TAF has received from numerous people and organisations on the way. TAF will certainly continue to serve its customers in a professional manner and be an active contributor in the international accreditation society.



Positioning of Laboratory Accreditation

By Sylvia Lin, TAF Director

At this 20-year anniversary point, CNLA/TAF is pleased to announce that it has made its way transforming from a government-funded unit to a self-sufficient not-for-profit organisation, and become a matured accreditation body. In addition to the efforts made by CNLA/TAF colleagues and assessment manpower, external support, such as from governmental authorities

and technical groups, also played an important role in the development and transition of laboratory accreditation. Currently, TAF accreditation has been accepted or adopted by 11 regulatory agencies in calibration, testing or inspection fields, and has signed a MoU with 9 professional associations or societies.

With wider adoption and higher acceptance of TAF accreditation by regulatory agencies, TAF re-positions itself from a provider of accreditation services to a facilitator of the use of accreditation. That is, more focus will now be placed upon the stakeholders of accreditation, including end users. TAF clearly knows that, the credibility and accountability are the cores of sustainable operations of laboratory accreditation. And, the keys to such operations are the competence of TAF and its human resources, the internal and external monitoring mechanism and the transparency. With high commitment, TAF will strike for promoting the credibility and accountability of accreditation and making its missions and visions better recognised.

20th Anniversary Celebration of Laboratory Accreditation

By Wanji Yang, TAF International Affairs



TAF has organised a series of events to celebrate its 20th anniversary for laboratory accreditation in 2010. Various promotional materials, such as 2010 calendar, were made and distributed to its customers and related regulatory agencies. Although the first CNLA accreditation was actually granted in July 1990, TAF held the 20th anniversary celebration ceremony on the same day as the World Accreditation Day to celebrate these 2 big events. The whole-year celebration events include:

- ✓ Slogan Competition
 - TAF called for submissions of 20th anniversary slogan in October 2009. Among the 77 submitted slogans, the best 3 ones, voted by TAF colleagues, were granted cash as prizes. The chosen Slogan is used in all TAF activities in 2010.
- ✓ Articles in the Quality Magazine
 - TAF submitted 6 articles to the June 2010 issue of the Quality Magazine, published by the Chinese Society for Quality. The contents include TAF growing path, the debut of laboratory accreditation in Taiwan, the developing strategies and the applications of TAF accreditation in various aspects.



- ✓ World Accreditation Day Activities
 - Seminar on the Benefits of MRA/MLA: TAF invited representatives from the trade department, TAF accredited laboratory and certification body, to share the actual benefits of employing TAF accreditation or becoming accredited. More than 70 people participated in the seminar.
 - “Accreditation Once, Accepted Globally” Forum: representatives from various governmental and private sectors shared their views on how to promote the ultimate goal of global acceptance.
- ✓ 20th Anniversary Celebration Ceremony and Gala Dinner
 - TAF specially organised a big event and a Gala dinner, inviting representatives from accredited laboratories, regulatory agencies, associations and societies and those who had played an important role in the history of TAF (CNLA) accreditation to attend the celebration ceremony and the Gala dinner.
 - A 20-min tape was edited for recording the moments in the past 20 years. A few TAF’s good friends were invited to say a few words in the tape, including Dr Helen Liddy, Mr Terence Chan and Mr Barry Ashcroft from APLAC.
 - A made-to-order lamp was given as a unique gift to thank those who had helped TAF to achieve a milestone.
 - And, a speech on the use of accreditation from the consumer’s perspective was delivered by Mr Tien-Jen Hsieh, TAF Director.

Some 830 participants attended the celebration ceremony and the Gala dinner.



- ✓ Field Trip
 - TAF is organising a field trip to hike in the mountains in November. This event is meant to encourage more exercise and to build up closer relationships with its customers as a family.

News from TAF



(right to left) Dr Jay-San Chen, President of TAF & Prof Yong-Chien Ling, President of CEAS

MoU Signing between TAF and CEAS

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 30 April 2010 between the Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF) and the Chinese Environmental Analytical Society (CEAS), underscoring their commitment to work together to facilitate the harmonisation of standards and criteria relating to environmental analytical technologies. This partnership reflects the closer relationship between the TAF and the CEAS and the collaborative efforts to exchange expertise of relevant technical skills by means of co-sponsoring workshops/trainings, participating in each other's working groups and committees and building communication channels between

both parties' manpower.

Both TAF and CEAS will strive for enhancing the accreditation capacity and the quality of environmental analytical laboratory.

International Workshop on Worldwide Accreditation and Certification of Telecommunications Equipment

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



China National Accreditation Service Delegation visits International Accreditation Service

Representatives from the China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS) met with the International Accreditation Service (IAS) on May 19th at the IAS headquarters in Whittier, California. Both the CNAS and IAS provided presentations about their accreditation programs and discussed opportunities to further strengthen relations between the organizations.



CNAS and IAS are signatory members of the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). The APLAC MRA facilitates manufacturers, whose products are tested in laboratories accredited by an APLAC MRA signatory, to have the test reports recognized by regulatory agencies around the world subject to any further regulatory requirements that must be fulfilled. CNAS and IAS have cooperated in the past on acceptance of test reports in their respective economies and will continue to cooperate in this and several other areas related to accreditation, training and conformity assessment.



Caption (L to R) Lingling Zhang, CNAS; Raj Nathan, IAS Vice President; Pat McCullen, IAS Vice President and Chief Technical Officer; Chuck Ramani, IAS President; Liu Xin, CNAS Deputy Chief Executive; Huang Jixian, Deputy Director General, Administrative Office, Senior Economist (Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China- CNCA); Cen Weiqun, CNAS Deputy Director; Zhou Jie, CNAS

IAS accredits testing and calibration laboratories, inspection agencies, product certification agencies, special inspection agencies, inspection programs for metal building manufacturers, fabricator inspection programs, training agencies, curriculum developers, field evaluation bodies, building departments, and building department service providers. A recognized accreditation body since 1975, IAS is a nonprofit, public benefit corporation and a subsidiary of the International Code Council. IAS is one of the leading accreditation bodies in the United States and a signatory to several international mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs). For more information about IAS, visit <http://www.iasonline.org/>.

CNAS is the national accreditation body of China unitarily responsible for the accreditation of certification bodies, laboratories and inspection bodies, which is established under the approval of the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China (CNCA) and authorized by CNCA in accordance with the *Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Certification and Accreditation*. For more information about the CNAS, visit <http://www.cnas.org.cn/index.htm1>.

Accreditation Assures the Quality of Bunkering in Singapore

The bunkering industry is an integral part of Singapore's growth as a premier global port and international maritime centre. It is therefore critical for Singapore to ensure the quality and safety in the delivery of marine fuels to ships calling at Singapore's port.



Strict bunkering procedures are integrated into the fuel management programmes of operators and regulated by the Maritime Port Authority (MPA). The MPA leverages on the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC)'s accreditation programmes to ensure quality and safety in the bunkering supply chain.

First, bunker suppliers have to be licensed before they can operate at Singapore's port. One of the licensing requirements is that the bunker suppliers need to be certified based on Singapore Standard for Quality Management for Bunker Supply Chain (QMBS), or SS 524 by SAC-accredited certification bodies. The certification body assesses the management system of the bunker supplier for its entire bunker supply chain -- from procurement to delivery of the bunker to vessels. The unbroken chain of control helps to maintain the quality of marine fuel supplied in Singapore.

Next, SAC-accredited inspection bodies and testing laboratories will ascertain the quality and quantity of marine fuel that is transferred from the barge to the vessel. The inspection body, also known as a bunker surveyor, will verify the volume difference in the barge and vessel, to confirm the quantity delivered. It will also send fuel samples to an SAC-accredited testing laboratory to check on the quality of the fuel delivered.

The endorsement by the accredited organisations ensures that both the quality and quantity of the marine fuel delivered are in accordance to what was agreed between the barges (suppliers) and charterers (vessels). This helps to mitigate any dispute that may arise in terms of fuel oil quality or the loaded quantity.

To date, the SAC has accredited 13 inspection bodies for bunkering inspection, 21 testing laboratories for providing fuel oil testing and four certification bodies for certifying the bunker suppliers. By accrediting these inspection, testing and certification bodies, the SAC has contributed to the assurance of quality and safety for the entire bunkering supply chain in Singapore.

Enhanced Collaboration between TAF and SAC

The first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) and Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF) was inked on 20 May 2010. This MOU formalises an agreement for closer co-operation between the two accreditation bodies in the sharing of information and resources for proficiency testing, joint activities in the development of the OECD GLP Compliance Monitoring Programme and joint development of new accreditation programmes such as certification of greenhouse gases (GHG), food safety and information technology security.



Dr Chen Jay-San (TAF) and
Mr Teo Nam Kuan (SPRING Singapore)

The signing of the MOU took place in the Grand Hotel in Chinese Taipei. With this MOU, both TAF and SAC will create a formal joint communication mechanism for the facilitation of common approaches in the interpretation and application of international standards and guidance such as ISO/IEC 17011, ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 15189, ISO/IEC 17020, and the OECD GLP Guidelines. Both parties will encourage laboratories and inspection bodies to participate in relevant proficiency programmes under the auspices of SAC and TAF, and will also cooperate and promote each other's activities to maximise the benefits of accreditation.

In the next few months, there will be more collaboration in the GLP activities between the two organisations. There are plans for joint TAF-SAC GLP inspections and participation in the year end GLP training course for field studies in Chinese Taipei. SAC will also share its OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) experience with TAF. SAC looks forward to active collaboration with TAF in the near future.

News from EA

EA MEMBERSHIP AND COOPERATION: STATE OF PLAY IN MID-2010

German and Italian regulatory adjustments

In accordance with European Regulation no 765/2008 which states that each national authority in EU Member States shall establish one single national accreditation body in charge of all accreditations, some adjustments have been carried out within the EA membership.

The restructuring process of the German accreditation system has been successfully completed. The merger of DACH, DAP and TGA to form DGA has been accepted by EA as a full member. EA MLA signatory status has also been transferred to DGA. The joint transfer of full EA membership from DKD and DGA to a new legal entity named DAkKS (Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle GmbH) was also agreed at the 24th EA General Assembly held in November 2009. DAkKS has been formally entrusted with public tasks of the German national accreditation body by the Federal Republic of Germany.

The restructuring process is also fully achieved for the Italian accreditation system. The EA full membership and signatory status have been jointly transferred from SINCERT and SINAL to ACCREDIA (responsible for the accreditation of testing, product and quality system certification, personnel certification, EMS certification and inspection). Similarly, the EA full membership and signatory status of SIT has been transferred to COPA, responsible for the accreditation of calibration. On 8 January 2010, EA was informed that ACCREDIA has been appointed as the Italian national accreditation body for all scopes, including calibration. At last, after calibration activities were taken over by ACCREDIA in April 2010, the General Assembly confirmed the termination of COPA's full membership at its last meeting in May 2010, making ACCREDIA the single national accreditation body in Italy.

To date, the EA family numbers 33 full members.

New EA MLA signatories

HAA and NAT, i.e. the Croatian and Hungarian NABs respectively, have just been accepted among the signatories to the EA MLA for all accreditation scopes presently covered by the agreement.

BAS, the Hungarian NAB, has just been allowed to become an EA MLA signatory in the fields of inspection and product certification as well.



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

EA was also very pleased to welcome Roxanne Robinson (APLAC), Ileana Martinez (IAAC), Annabel Brewka (European Commission), Tore Nyvold Thomassen (EFTA), Hoang Liauw (CEN), Guy Jacques (Eurolab – Chair of the EA Advisory Board), Martin Stadler (Business Europe – Vice-Chair of the EA Advisory Board), Pavel Klenovsky (EURAMET), Jean-Marc Aublant (Eurolab), Natasa Mejak-Vukovic (WELMEC), Hinrich Schaub and Herbert Egolf (CEOC International), and Erik Janssens (EOQ).

ACCREDIA's new MLA signatory status is not accepted in the calibration field yet.

To date, 29 EA full members are signatories to the EA MLA, out of which 20 have signed for all accreditation activities presently covered by the EA MLA.

Extended EA cooperation with non-European countries

Twenty non-European accreditation bodies have signed a contract of cooperation with EA. The last four signatories include the accreditation bodies of Montenegro (ATCG), Kazakhstan (NCA), Georgia (GAC) and Kosovo under the UNSC Resolution 1244/1999.

Eleven of these contracts of cooperation have developed into bilateral agreements with EA.

Future expansion of the EA MLA: Accreditation of Reference Material Producers

A survey conducted in April 2010 showed that EA members have an interest in having an MLA in the field. The results of this survey can be consulted on the EA website, section "Online News", page "Surveys".

At its meeting held in Zürich, Switzerland in May 2010, the EA General Assembly agreed the principle that EA should expand its MLA to cover accreditation of RMPs. It was further decided to move forward, through the EA Laboratory Committee, looking also at the work already achieved within APLAC.

EA IS STANDING ON ITS OWN TWO FEET



Signing of the COFRAC-EA transfer agreement between Graham Talbot, EA Chairman (left), and Daniel Pierre, COFRAC Managing Director (right), on 17 December 2009 in Paris.

To effectively carry out its new role, as defined in Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 coming into effect from 2010, EA has gained full independence from COFRAC, the French national accreditation body. Taking the appropriate legal advice, EA has formally declared that the Paris offices accommodate the EA Secretariat and that EA becomes the direct employer of its current three members of staff. A fourth person is soon expected to join the team so as to reinforce administrative resources in support of the EA committees.

In 2006, the EA Secretariat was established as a permanent structure in France. Following a 4-year pilot phase from 2006 to 2009, the EA General

Assembly agreed on the transfer of staff from COFRAC to EA in May 2009. The signing of the agreement with COFRAC and the three individual employment contracts took place on 17 December 2009, which will remain a red-letter day in EA's story. All agreements became effective on 1st January 2010.

The EA accounts, which were previously included in the COFRAC reporting system during the pilot phase, have subsequently been transferred to an independent accounting company in Paris.

The employment of the EA Secretariat proves a significant milestone for the Association, which has now clearly entered into a new phase of its existence as Europe's accreditation structure in order to meet both the challenges of its new role and the expectations of its numerous stakeholders.

IAAC MLA scope extension

The Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) has submitted an application to extend its IAF MLA for the scopes of accreditation of Product and Environmental Management Systems Certification Bodies, and for Inspection Bodies. Currently, IAAC is a Regional Cooperation Body signatory of the ILAC MRA with a scope in Testing and Calibration Laboratories, and also a signatory of the IAF MLA with a scope in QMS. IAAC has started operating MLAs for the scopes of EMS Certification Bodies, Product Certification Bodies and Inspection Bodies.

New Signatories of the IAAC MLA

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

IAAC Membership

IAAC currently has a total of 41 members from 23 countries in the Americas. 21 are full members, 9 are associate members and 11 are stakeholders.

Training

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

- Workshop on ISO/IEC 17021 Part 2 to be held in the United States, between October and November 2010.
- Peer evaluator training workshop for experienced evaluators to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on August 20, 2010
- Workshop on Accreditation Best Practices to be held in Asuncion, Paraguay in June 14-16, 2010.
- Workshop on ISO/IEC 17024 was held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, in March 9-10, 2010

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Cooperation with IAF:

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

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

Cooperation with ILAC:

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

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

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

Cooperation with PAC:

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

IAAC and PAC representatives held a meeting in Vancouver, Canada, on October 2009, during the IAF-ILAC meetings, and agreed on carrying out joint actions and activities aimed at strengthening ties between the Regions and its members. IAAC and PAC shared files regarding MLA activities, procedures and documents.

In 2009, PAC and IAAC carried out the joint peer evaluation of ema, Mexico.

Anneke Olvera of SCC represented PAC at the IAAC General Assembly meetings held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in September 2009.

Cooperation with APLAC:

Laboratories of 8 APLAC members and 2 SADCA members are participating in the IAAC regional proficiency testing program on "Fatty Oils" that was finalized in November 2009, and was organized by INTI and OAA of Argentina.

Laboratories of 5 APLAC members are participating in the IAAC regional proficiency testing program on "Wine Analysis" organized DTA-IBMETRO of Bolivia in 2009.

APLAC has invited IAAC members to participate in its proficiency testing programs during 2009.

In 2009, APLAC and IAAC carried out the joint peer evaluations of AIHA LAP, USA; NVLAP, USA; and ema, Mexico.

Cooperation with EA:

Graham Talbot, EA Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings in San Jose, Costa Rica, in September 2009, and delivered a presentation on the EU Accreditation system. In May 2009, Ileana Martinez of NIST, USA, represented IAAC at the EA General Assembly.

Cooperation with SADCA:

Victor Gandy, IAAC Secretary, attended the 2nd workshop regarding the creation of the African Regional Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) which was held in Cairo, Egypt, in April 2010.

Laboratories of 2 SADCA members participated in the IAAC regional proficiency testing program on "Fatty Oils" organized by INTI and OAA of Argentina.

IAAC meetings

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

IAAC Information and Publications

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

APLAC PUBLICATIONS LIST

MR Series

APLAC MR001 #	Issue No.17 06/10	Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Agreements Between Accreditation Bodies
APLAC MR002 (Rev 2) #	12/09	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement
APLAC MR003	Issue No. 16 01/10	Application for Signatory Status in the APLAC Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APLAC MRA)
APLAC MR004	Issue No.10 06/10	APLAC Evaluators – Qualifications, Training and Monitoring Performance
APLAC MR006	Issue No.2 07/06	Procedure for the Conduct of Joint Evaluation with Another Regional Cooperation
APLAC MR007	Issue No.2 05/09	APLAC Evaluation Checklist
APLAC MR008	Issue No.4 06/10	APLAC MRA Council – Rules for Operation
APLAC MR009	Issue No.3 07/09	APLAC Evaluation Report Template
APLAC MR010	Issue No.1 02/10	Guidelines for an APLAC MRA Signatory When Requested to Accredite a Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) Within Another Economy Where There is an APLAC MRA Signatory
APLAC MR011	Issue No.1 06/10	A Guide for APLAC Evaluation Teams for the Planning and Conduct of Evaluations

QM Series

APLAC Quality Manual	Issue No.9 06/10
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PT Series

APLAC PT001	Issue No.5 03/08	APLAC Calibration Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT002	Issue No.6 03/08	APLAC Testing Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT003	Issue No.13 05/09	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
APLAC PT006	Issue No.1 09/08	Proficiency Testing Frequency Benchmarks

PR Series

APLAC PR007	Issue No.29 05/10	APLAC – Its Role And Structure – PowerPoint Presentation
APLAC PR008	Issue No.44 05/10	International Recognition of Accredited Test, Calibration and Inspection Reports
APLAC PR009	Issue No.8 02/09	APLAC Procedures for Editors of APLAC News Notes
APLAC PR010	Issue No.1 08/06	Encouraging Accredited Laboratories and Inspection Bodies to Use Their Accreditation Body's Accreditation Symbol on Reports
APLAC PR011	Issue No.1 08/06	Guidance for the Promotion of the APLAC MRA

SEC Series

APLAC SEC017	Issue No.13 02/10	Application Form for Membership of APLAC
APLAC SEC038	Issue No.46 05/10	APLAC Membership Summary List
APLAC SEC039	Issue No29 05/10	APLAC MRA Signatory List
APLAC SEC041	Issue No.7 03/09	APLAC Guidelines for Hosts of the APLAC General Assembly and Associated Meetings (only available from the Secretariat)
APLAC SEC042*	Issue No.5 04/09	APLAC Code of Ethics for Laboratory and Inspection Body Accreditation Organisations
APLAC SEC046	Issue No. 2 03/08	Guidelines for the Use of the APLAC Logo
APLAC SEC052*	Issue No.2 08/09	APLAC Constitution
APLAC SEC053*	Issue No.1 08/09	APLAC Strategic Plan

TC Series

APLAC TC002	Issue No.3 05/06	APLAC Internal Audits for Laboratories and Inspection Bodies
APLAC TC003	Issue No.3 05/06	APLAC Management Review for Laboratories and Inspection Bodies
APLAC TC004	Issue No.3 12/06	APLAC Method of Stating Test and Calibration Results and Compliance with Specification
APLAC TC005	Issue No.3 12/06	APLAC 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.2 01/08	APLAC Guidelines for Food Testing Laboratories
APLAC TC008	Issue No.2 01/10	APLAC Requirements for and Guidance on the Accreditation of a Reference Material Producer and the Resulting Scope of Accreditation
APLAC TC009	Issue No.1 01/08	APLAC Guidelines on Assessing to Foreign Regulatory Requirements
APLAC TC010	Issue No.1 02/09	General Information on Uncertainty of Measurement
APLAC TC011	Issue No.1 10/08	Why are these test results so different? The importance of testing methods in chemical and microbiological testing

TR Series

APLAC TR001	Issue No.2 05/08	Guidelines on Training Course for Laboratory and Inspection Body Assessors
APLAC TR002	Issue No.1 09/09	Guidelines for Formulating Training Proposals, Obtaining Funding and Delivering Training
APLAC TR003	Issue No.1 11/09	Cross-Posting of Staff Among APLAC Member Accreditation Bodies
APLAC TR004	Issue No.1 03/10	Guidelines for Sharing Assessment Personnel Among APLAC Member Accreditation Bodies

* Adherence to these APLAC documents is mandatory for all APLAC Full and Associate members

Adherence to these APLAC documents is mandatory for all signatories to the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)