



APLAC News Notes

February 2015

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APLAC is an organisation of 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.

Cooperation is to include:

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

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

Secretariat for APLAC:

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Level 1
675 Victoria Street
Abbotsford VIC 3067
Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9274 8200
Fax: +61 3 9421 0887
Email: aplac@nata.com.au

This issue is published by Dr W L Richards, Chief Executive, **International Accreditation New Zealand**

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From the Secretariat

APLAC MRA Council

The APLAC MRA Council met on 8 January 2015 in Hong Kong, China and we are very pleased to announce that BAB (Bangladesh) was accepted into the APLAC MRA as a signatory for testing. We are also pleased to advise that the scope of recognition CNAS (China) was extended to include PTP.

Congratulations also go to the following members for the continuation of their scopes of recognition in the APLAC MRA:

- Standards Malaysia (Malaysia) for testing, calibration and ISO 15189;
- A-S-B (USA) for testing and calibration.

The scope of recognition of Standards Malaysia (Malaysia) will be extended to include inspection after they sign the APLAC MRA at the June 2015 meeting.

There are now 37 signatories to the APLAC MRA from 23 economies including 34 for testing, 26 for calibration, 16 for inspection, 16 for ISO 15189, 10 for RMP and 8 for PTP. Full details of the scopes of recognition for each of the APLAC MRA signatories can be found on the APLAC website: www.aplac.org

APLAC Training Courses

A successful workshop on the best practice of implementing ISO/IEC 17011 was hosted by SAC, Singapore from 18 to 20 November 2014.

We thank our presenters for their time and efforts in facilitating the workshop:

- Mr J E J (Ned) Gravel, A-S-B, United States of America;
- Mr Jason Tan, SAC, Singapore.

We also thank Ms Ruchi Guntuku, NABL the rapporteur for this workshop, and Ms Alicia Choong and the other SAC staff for their fine efforts in organising, and assisting participants in, the workshop.

A successful workshop to train lead evaluators on changes to ILAC documents and accreditation standards was held in Hong Kong, China from 8 to 9 January 2015 hosted by HKAS.

We thank our presenters for their time and efforts in conducting the workshop:

- Mr J E J (Ned) Gravel, A-S-B, United States of America
- Ms Colleen Cotter, CALA, Canada
- Ms Roxanne Robinson, A2LA, United States of America

We also thank Mr Alan Chu and the other HKAS staff for their fine efforts in organising, and assisting participants in, the workshop.

APLAC cooperation with APMP

Mr Nigel Jou and Mr Michael Fraser meet with Dr Peter Fisk and Ms Noleen Grogan at the 2014 APMP General Assembly and related meetings in Daejeon, South Korea on Tuesday 23 September. Nigel also gave a presentation at the APMP Symposium on the Cooperation between Metrology and Accreditation in the Asia Pacific Region.

The first meeting of the APMP - APLAC Joint PT Working Group was held on Sunday 21 September 2014 and Dr Koichi Nara and Mr Yoshinobu Uematsu represented APLAC.

Future APLAC events

The next Joint APLAC General Assembly/PAC Plenary will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 13 to 20 June 2015.

Best regards
Michael

International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ)

New Zealand welcomed a delegation from the People's Republic of China, progressing developments under the Free Trade Agreement between China and New Zealand on Electrical and Electronic Equipment.

This Agreement is operational, with New Zealand Designated Certification Bodies able to certify manufacturers for meeting CCC (China Compulsory Certification) requirements.

Discussions focussed on changes to the requirements documents, and on progressing the Agreement into new product sectors.



New Zealand has entered into an Arrangement with Taiwan, which will enable IANZ and TAF to recognise each other's OECD GLP compliance programmes. As Taiwan is not a member of the OECD, it is not able to automatically participate in the GLP Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) programme.

Evaluations of each economies GLP systems are expected to occur later this year.

The Arrangement will facilitate enhanced cooperation between the Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF) and International Accreditation New Zealand



BAB Achieved APLAC MRA

Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB) has signed the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Testing Laboratory Accreditation (ISO/IEC 17025) at the 34th APLAC MRA Council meeting held in Hongkong, China on 8 January 2015.

Ministry of Industries of Bangladesh Mr. Amir Hossain Amu MP disclosed this news to Bangladeshi media and stakeholders during his visit to BAB office on 18 January 2015. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that international acknowledgment of BAB's laboratory activities would boost the export of Bangladeshi products. Directing the BAB authority to uphold the accreditation authorities, the industries minister hoped that if the quality is maintained, international buyers would accept testing reports from Bangladesh as well as foreign laboratories would be interested to get BAB accreditation.

Industries Secretary M. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan also spoke while BAB Director General Md. Abu Abdullah chaired the occasion.



Ministry of Industries of Bangladesh Mr. Amir Hossain Amu MP formally declaring the BAB achievement of APLAC MRA amongst the Bangladeshi Stakeholders and Media on 18 January 2015 in Dhaka.



BAB Director General Md. Abu Abdullah (middle) signing the APLAC MRA in the 34th MRA Council meeting in Hong kong, China, on 8 January 2015, with APLAC Chair Nigel Jour (left) and APLAC MRA Council Chair Roxanne Robinson (right)

FIRST Medical Laboratory Accreditation

BAB granted the first accreditation for medical laboratory according to ISO 15189:2012 to United Hospital Pathology laboratory in December 2014. United Hospital is one of the largest private sector healthcare providers in Bangladesh established across a total covered area of over 400,000 sft with a capacity of 450 beds and state of the art laboratory testing facilities.



BAB MARK for United Hospital Pathology Lab



BAB Chairman Prof. Dr. Altaf Hussain handing over the accreditation certificate to the delegate of the United Hospital Limited while BAB board members were also present.

BAB initially accredited nineteen tests of its Clinical Biochemistry and Hematology laboratories. The laboratory is working to achieve accreditation for more tests. BAB launched the medical laboratory accreditation service in the beginning of last year as it developed the program in line with the latest version (2012) of the ISO 15189.

BAB Trainings to Make Sustainable Accreditation Programs

BAB Assessor Training Course on ISO/IEC 17043

BAB arranged Assessor Training Course on ISO/IEC 17043 during 23-26 November 2014 in Dhaka with a view to developing new assessors for Proficiency Providers Accreditation as BAB is planning to open up this service in near future. Dr. Khalid Syeed, Accreditation Expert, Norwegian Accreditation and Anne Graendsen, Technical Director, Norwegian Accreditation conducted the training as resource persons. Seventeen participants including BAB officials attended the training.

BAB Assessor Training Course on ISO/IEC 17025:2005

BAB organized the Assessor Training Course on ISO/IEC 17025:2005 during 23-27 November 2014 in Dhaka. Around twenty participants from different testing laboratories attended the course. Ned Gravel, Accreditation Expert, UNIDO and BAB Assessor Mustakim Billah conducted the course.

Technical Trainings for Laboratory Experts and Assessors

Due to increasing demand from the laboratories and need to enrich the knowledge of BAB assessors, BAB arranged a series of technical training program in November 2014. Dr. Khalid Syeed, Accreditation Expert, Norwegian Accreditation and Anne Graendsen, Technical Director, Norwegian Accreditation were the resource person for the trainings.



Training course on Traceability, Internal and external quality control program was held on 19 November 2014 in Dhaka. Twenty five participants took the training.



Training course on Method Validation was held on 20 November 2014 in Dhaka. Twenty participants from different laboratories and BAB assessors attended the course.



Training course on Understanding & Evaluating Measurement Uncertainty was held during 17-18 November 2014 in Dhaka. Twenty participants were present in the training.



Training course on Understanding & Evaluating Measurement Uncertainty was held during 21-22 January 2015 where two BAB officers Md. Nasirul Islam and Mohammed Abbas Alam delivered the course.

HKAS hosted the APLAC MRA Council Meeting and Extraordinary General Assembly

HKAS had the honour to organise the 34th APLAC MRA Council meeting and the first Extraordinary General Assembly in Hong Kong on 8-9 (am) January 2015.

At the APLAC MRA Council meeting, members deliberated on evaluation results of accreditation bodies. They also reviewed progress of various working groups and discussed about the accreditation work in different regional bodies. Based on the results of an intensive evaluation of each accreditation body, the MRA Council concluded:

- BAB (Bangladesh) be accepted as a signatory for testing
- CNAS (China) to extend the APLAC MRA scope to cover PTP
- Standards Malaysia (Malaysia) to continue as signatory for testing laboratories, medical laboratories (ISO 15189) and calibration laboratories; and to extend the scope to cover inspection bodies
- A-S-B (USA) to continue the signatory status for testing and calibration

Warmest congratulations to them! A signing ceremony took place immediately after the meeting except for Standards Malaysia, the signing ceremony for which will take place during the next APLAC General Assembly at Sri Lanka in June 2015.



(from left to right) Mr Nigel Jou, APLAC Chair, Md Abu Abdullah, Director General, BAB and Ms Roxanne Robinson, APLAC MRA Council Chair.



Dr Song Guilan, Deputy Chief Executive, CNAS (middle) signed the APLAC MRA for PTP.

APLAC MRA Council also noted that ISO/IEC 17011 – the foundation for an accreditation body's quality management system – is under review. ISO-CASCO-WG42 responsible for the revision of ISO/IEC 17011 held its first meeting in Geneva Switzerland in November 2014 and the next meeting will be held in February 2015.

The Extraordinary General Assembly on 9 January 2015 was a half-day meeting in which members decided the way forward for APLAC on several important and time-sensitive issues.

The APLAC family will meet again at its 21st General Assembly and associated meetings hosted by SLAB from 13-20 June 2015 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



Group photo

PTB-APLAC Training Course on Statistical Methods for Proficiency Testing

HKAS hosted an APLAC-PTB training course on “Statistical methods for proficiency testing” on 12-14 November 2014 in Hong Kong. The training was organized by APLAC and sponsored by PTB (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt) of Germany, with Mr Dan Tholen, the Convener of ISO/TC69/SC6/WG 9 (working group for revision of ISO 13528), and Dr Kunchit Judrason, Assistant Professor of the Institute of Nutrition at Mahidol University of Thailand, as the trainers. A total of 16 participants from proficiency testing providers and accreditation bodies in the Asia-Pacific region attended the training course.

The training course focused on the revision of ISO 13528: Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparison. The revised standard was expected to be published in 2015. The course was a combination of lectures, exercises and discussions.

The training course started with a welcoming remark from the course coordinator, Mr Wong Wang-wah, Executive Administrator, HKAS. Mr Dan Tholen began by giving an introduction on the top ten changes in the revision of the standard, with emphasis on the linkages between the statistical methods chosen and the objectives of proficiency testing schemes. He then explained in detail the contents of the revised standard, covering the general principles and guidelines for statistical design of proficiency testing schemes. Dr Judprasong also guided the participants, step by step, to implement common robust statistical technique using Excel spreadsheets following the examples in the revised standard.

In the following days, the trainers continued to go through the revised standard, deliberating on topics such as techniques for assessment of homogeneity and stability, procedures for determination of assigned values, review of robust statistical methods, procedures for calculation of performance statistics, review of graphical methods and guidelines for qualitative techniques. Exercises on selected topics were also conducted. At the end of the training, Mr Tholen further demonstrated the concepts in the revised standard using real APLAC proficiency testing programmes as examples. Most participants found the training very fruitful and practical.



Mr Wong Wang-wah delivering a welcoming speech at the PTB-APLAC Training Course on Statistical Methods for Proficiency Testing



Mr Dan Tholen (left) and Dr Kunchit Judprasong (right)



Trainers and participants of the APLAC-PTB Training Course on Statistical Methods for Proficiency Testing

Seminars on the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Technical Regulations on Conformity Assessment

On 12 & 13 January 2015, Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS), the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) and the GCC Accreditation Centre (GAC) jointly organised two half-day seminars on the GCC Technical Regulations on Conformity Assessment in Hong Kong, with focus on manufacturers & traders (on 12 January) and accredited organisations (on 13 January) as the target participants respectively. Mr Abdesselam Ben Yaich, Senior Conformity Assessment Specialist of GSO, was the principal speaker of both seminars.

The seminars aimed at introducing to participants the regulations and procedures governing the safety and other aspects of toys and low voltage electrical products on the market of the GCC Member States, which consist of six Arab countries (including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar and State of Kuwait) with economic integration, customs union, common standards, regulations and conformity assessment procedures, resulting in free trade of goods and services among the Member States in the Arabian Gulf Region. In the seminars, Mr Ben Yaich introduced to participants in detail about the GCC, GSO, the standards and conformance infrastructure in the GCC Region, the GSO Standards & Technical Regulations as well as conformity assessment procedures.

In the 12 January seminar, apart from Mr Ben Yaich, the organisers also invited representatives from two local accredited laboratories to share their experience cooperating with GSO.

In the 13 January seminar, which was tailored for local accredited laboratories, Mr Ben Yaich explained in detail the GCC conformity assessment process, including pre-market assessment, post-market control, obligations of manufacturers and importers, the notification process as well as the requirements for Notified Bodies in the GCC regulatory framework. Mr Nick Leung, Accreditation Officer of HKAS, also gave a detailed account of the cooperation mechanism between HKAS and GAC in the assessment of local laboratories applying for GCC Notified Body.

In total, both seminars attracted over 120 participants, consisting of manufacturers and traders in the toy, electrical & electronic sectors, accredited laboratories as well as technical assessors.



Mr Abdesselam Ben Yaich, Senior Conformity Assessment Specialist of GSO



Participants of the Seminar on the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Technical Regulations on Conformity Assessment



Mr Nick Leung, Accreditation Officer, HKAS, giving details on the cooperation mechanism between HKAS and GAC.

Sharing Session on Physical Tests of Soil and Rock

Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) organised a seminar 'Sharing Session on Physical Tests of Soil and Rock' on 19 December 2014. The aims of this seminar were to share the common non-conformities on physical tests of soil and rock identified in laboratory assessments and to enhance the standard of accredited construction materials testing laboratories in conducting related tests.

Ir Denis Kin-man HEUNG, Senior Accreditation Officer of HKAS, shared common non-conformities on physical tests of soil and rock. Our technical assessors, Mr Kam-kwong NG, Mr Wai-pong CHAN and Mr Ping-piu FAN, Ex-Chief Technical Officers of Public Works Central / Regional Laboratories of Civil Engineering and Development Department, also shared their experience on the subject in the seminar.



Ir Denis K.M. HEUNG, Senior Accreditation Officer of Hong Kong Accreditation Service, shared common non-conformities with participants.



Participants attending the Sharing Session on Physical Tests of Soil and Rock

More than 80 participants attended the seminar, most of them were from construction materials testing laboratories and government departments. The feedback received was positive, and most participants found the seminar very valuable and useful.



Group photo of all speakers



PRESENTING...

CGL PROFICIENCY TESTING

We would like to invite all coal laboratories accredited by APLAC members to participate in the “CGL PT Coal”, the second round of coal proficiency testing scheme organized by Central Geological Laboratory of Mongolia.

Participants are free to determine parameters according to their laboratory possibilities.

Time schedule of PT will be as follows:

- Deadline for registration : end of February 2015
- Shipping of sample : March 2015
- Deadline for submitting the results : April 2015
- Draft report : July 2015

WHO WE ARE

Central Geological Laboratory (CGL) founded in 1957, is the leading professional organization in Mongolia to offer a comprehensive range of mineral analysis techniques as well as environmental testing. CGL, a state owned company, is accredited at national and international levels according to ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO Guide 34. Customers in Mongolia and abroad appreciate CGL's unbiased activities, and expertise.

CGL is delighted to announce the start of new professional PT activities designed for chemical laboratories operating for the mineral and energy resource sector and related mining and processing industries.

FEATURES OF CGL PROFICIENCY TESTING

- Mongolia is a country rich in mineral and energy resources, ranging from deposits of Copper, Molybdenum, Gold, Rare Earths and Fluorspar to Uranium and various kind of Coal.

CGL PT samples are based on mineral resources from **MONGOLIA**, prepared and homogenized in our own laboratories in Ulaanbaatar under ISO Guide 34 accreditation.

- As accredited producer of Certified Reference Materials CGL looks back to years of experience in organizing and evaluating international inter-laboratory trials. The evaluation of PT data and performance characteristics is done by experts, trained on the “Prolab Plus-specialized software for method inter-laboratory comparison and proficiency testing programs”.



- A special laboratory coding system and limited access by a small group of experts assures high confidentiality for individual performance data.

CGL PT SCHEMES outlook

CGL PT activities started in 2014 with a COAL PT scheme. Our PT program is under development and will be extended gradually with the aim to cover the need of all kind of laboratories operating in the mineral and energy sector. We would be grateful for any kind of feedback helping us to optimize our program and to identify those PT schemes which are most useful for the analytical community.

Please don't hesitate to suggest the type of sample you are interested in.

Name of PT scheme	Round Name	Planned date
COAL	COAL (Round 2)- 2015	February – July 2015
ORE	COPPER ORE (Round 1)-2015	June-November 2015
COAL	COAL (Round 3)-2016	February – July 2016
ORE	COPPER ORE (Round 2)-2016	June-November 2016