

APLAC

News notes

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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 harmonised requirements

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APLAC also maintains an Internet site at:

www.aplac.org

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News from the APLAC Secretariat

By Helen Liddy and Janet Clark
APLAC Secretariat

We are just back from a most successful week of APLAC 2007 meetings in Kuala Lumpur (1-7 December 2007). Congratulations are due to several groups for the achievements of the week:

Congratulations and many thanks to Standards Malaysia and its staff for organising such a good week of meetings and social activities; thanks especially to Ridzwan, Shaharul, Mariam, Razif, Fariza, Roslan, Mahadir and Mahendra. Fadilah must be proud of her team.

Congratulations to L-A-B (USA) on being accepted into the APLAC MRA for testing and calibration.

Congratulations to CNAS (People's Republic of China) for an extension of its scope of APLAC MRA recognition to include ISO 15189.

Congratulations to the four inaugural signatories to the extended APLAC MRA to include RMP: A2LA (USA), NATA (Australia), CNAS (People's Republic of China), IAJapan (Japan).

This year APLAC celebrated its 15th birthday and the "founding father", John Gilmour, was invited to APLAC 2007 to join in the celebrations. It was nice to welcome him once more to our meetings. Standards Malaysia provided a surprise birthday cake (with 15 candles) as part of the celebrations at the official dinner.

It was nice to see that there were so many APLAC members in attendance – 101 registrants, not including the Standard Malaysia staff.

For the first time the secretariat used the members only area of the APLAC web site to distribute the agenda papers for the meetings. We hope all members found it easy to access the documents. Please send any comments on and suggestions for the web site to the secretariat.

Farewell to Some Dear Colleagues

Sadly, at our meeting in KL we said farewell to some dear and well-respected colleagues.

Tony Russell, Immediate Past Chair of APLAC, has recently retired as NATA's Chief Executive: this was his last APLAC meeting. Tony has been involved with APLAC since its inception and has served terms as a member of the Board of Management, as APLAC MRA Council Chair (2003-4), and APLAC Chair (2005-6). We thank him for all his contributions to the development of APLAC. His breadth of knowledge and experience will be missed.

Joanne Dupont, a retiring member of the APLAC Board of Management, retires from SCC, Canada in late January 2008. JoAnne has attended APLAC meetings, representing SCC, since 1999. She has made many contributions to APLAC, including as an evaluator, lead evaluator and member of the BoM. We all wish her well in her retirement.

Panadda Silva has stepped down as the representative of DMSc, Thailand to the APLAC General Assembly, following her promotion within DMSc, and the KL meeting was her last meeting. Panadda's smile, her expertise in ISO 15189, and her championing of developing economies will be sadly missed. APLAC would particularly like to acknowledge her contributions to progressing within APLAC accreditation of medical laboratories to ISO 15189: we would not be at the stage we are, with an MRA scope specifically for ISO 15189, signed by 9 MRA signatories, without Panadda's contributions as evaluator, trainer and mentor. Panadda was also an entertaining and valuable presenter at APLAC evaluator training courses over the last few years. The good news for APLAC is that she will still be available to participate in evaluations (covering ISO 15189), and assist with evaluator training courses. Our best wishes to Panadda in her new role.

ACCREDITATION BODY NEWS

News from JAB -Japan



JAB PROFILE

The Japan Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (JAB) is a private non-profit foundation and the only organization in Japan responsible for accreditation of almost all types of conformity assessment.

JAB conducts accreditation activities related to conformity assessment under Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS), international standards, or statutory and technical requirements. The objective is to develop and establish a reliable

conformity assessment system in Japan and a network of mutual/ multilateral recognition arrangements with accreditation bodies abroad, through which to promote and contribute to the sound development of Japanese industry and the economy.

JAB is a signatory to MRA/MLA groups for the accreditation of QMS and EMS registration bodies and for testing, calibration and ISO 15189 laboratories.

New Executive Director of JAB

The JAB Board of Directors has appointed Mr. Shinichi Iguchi as the new Executive Director, effective April 1, 2007, succeeding Mr. Yuichiro Isu who has stepped aside.

Mr. Iguchi joined JAB as a Managing Director in May 2000 and has since been responsible for accreditation programs for certifiers of management systems, personnel, products and training providers*.

After receiving his Master's degree in Metallurgy at Kyoto University in 1973, he joined a steel company. The main areas of his work were in the fields of R&D, Integrated Quality Control, Quality Planning and Assurance for the company. Mr. Iguchi is the current Vice-Chair of PAC and Chair of the PAC MLA Management Committee.

*The program for the accreditation of training providers was terminated in 2006.

Mr. Shinichi Iguchi, the new Executive Director of JAB

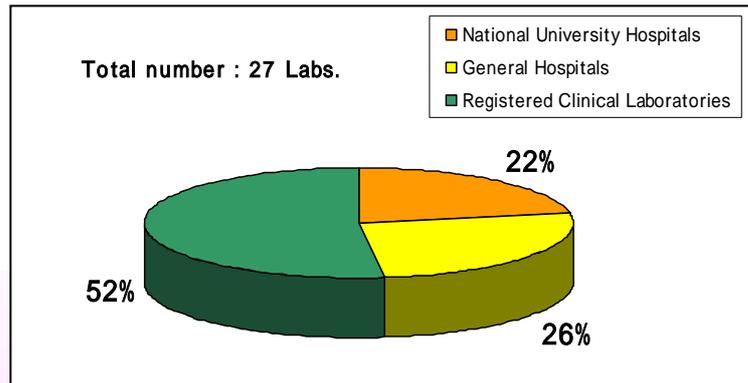


Accreditation of Medical Laboratories

Various countries in the world are now accrediting medical laboratories based on ISO 15189.

In Japan, the Japan Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (JAB) has been undertaking accreditation activities for medical laboratories since August 2005.

As at October 2007, a total of 27 medical laboratories (6 university hospital laboratories, 7 general hospital laboratories and 14 registered clinical laboratories) are accredited by JAB.



Shinichi Iguchi, JAB Executive Managing Director, signed a mutual recognition document in the presence of the APLAC chairman and APLAC MRA chairperson at the signing ceremony on 18th of April held at the time of the APLAC MRA Committee. JAB is one of the founding signatories to the APLAC MRA for the accreditation of medical laboratories.

Medical laboratory accreditation is a new field for the APLAC MRA, and, through joining this MRA, our accreditation activities based on ISO 15189 receive global recognition. Medical laboratories accredited by JAB can now be assured that their competence and quality is of international standing.

New Scope of Accreditation (Laboratories for Specified Health Checkup)

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare announced that, from April 2008, all insured persons aged 40 to 74 years old must undertake a specified health checkup focused on visceral fat type obesity.

In accordance with this announcement, JAB has launched a new accreditation program for medical laboratories based on ISO 15189. This program, which commenced in October

2007, is similar to the existing medical laboratory accreditation program, but limits the scope of accreditation to specified health checkups.

ISO 15189 is the standard which sets out requirements for the quality and competence of medical laboratories. The new program is designed to assure the quality of medical laboratories which conduct medical examinations. Accredited medical laboratories are recognized as able to produce reliable medical examination data by applying professional competence and quality management.



News from TLAS -Thailand

On 2-7 September 2007, Thai Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (TLAS) conducted a 5 days Assessor training course for targeted assessors in various fields of testings and calibrations at the Springfield Village Golf&Spa, Cha Um, Petchaburee. For this years TLAS has planned to conduct 4 assessor courses in April, July, September and November 2007.



Attendees at the recent Assessor course held at Springfield Village Golf&Spa, Cha Um, Petchaburee.

News from SAC -Singapore

SAC launches Two New Accreditation Schemes for Medical Imaging and Cargo Inspection

SAC is pleased to announce the launch of two new accreditation schemes for Medical Imaging and Cargo Inspection at the SPRING's Quality & Standards 2007 in November 2007.

Medical Imaging Scheme

With the launch, patients in Singapore using diagnostic services such as MRI, CT scan, mammography and ultrasound can soon be assured of technical "soundness" of images and reports being performed at SAC-SINGLAS accredited imaging facilities.



The Medical Imaging Accreditation Programme is based on ISO 15189 *Medical Laboratories – Particular Requirements for the Quality and Competence* standard. This standard specifies that facilities offering imaging services should have a documented management system and that every care should be taken to provide quality diagnostic imaging service.

Cargo Inspection Scheme

Similarly, with the new Cargo Inspection Accreditation Programme, buyers and sellers of cargoes can be assured of the competence of SAC-accredited inspection bodies. They will also save time and money, as their cargoes will not need to be inspected again at the importing countries.

"The Medical Imaging Accreditation Programme will boost public confidence in

Singapore's radiology services. With the push for Singapore to become a centre of medical excellence in the region, this will also contribute to the growth of medical tourism here," said Mr Heng Chiang Gnee, SAC Chairman. "The Cargo Inspection Accreditation Programme will enhance our cargo inspection capabilities and contribute to the development of Singapore as a trans-shipment hub."

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News from TAF -Chinese Taipei

Forum on Quality of Public Construction and Credibility of Accreditation

By Wanji Yang, TAF



TAF has long been in close cooperation with the Public Construction Commission (PCC) in the Civil Engineering Testing Field. To reinforce the critical role that TAF accredited laboratories play in ensuring the quality of public construction work and to respond to public expectation in the credibility of accreditation, TAF, under supervision of the PCC, held a forum on the above-mentioned issues on 1 October 2007 in Taipei. The Chairperson to the PCC, Mr Wu, Tse-Cheng, gave a keynote speech on the "Credibility of Accreditation and Quality Management of Public Construction". In the first session, Mr Hsu, Min-Huang from

the Taiwan Construction Research Institute, Mr Hung, Chia-Chi from TAF and Ms Lin, Sylvia from TAF talked about the "Quality Management of Construction Materials", "Credibility of Accreditation and Laboratory Management" and "Applications of Proficiency Testing to Construction Materials Testing" respectively. In the second session, 8 experts from government, private and academic sectors also presented their viewpoints in the forum. Then, a panel discussion was open to the 200 attendees from authorities, TAF accredited laboratories and Assessors.

Among all the good proposed ideas, there were 2 important issues for TAF to follow:

1. TAF will develop a sampling method, especially designed for the Civil Engineering Testing Field, to ensure the quality of public construction work.
2. TAF will conduct a research in the practicability of integration of inspection and civil engineering.

Mr Wu, Tse-Cheng, Chairperson to the Public Construction Commission (middle front)



MEDIA RELEASE: NEW JAS-ANZ CEO APPOINTED



Dr James Galloway has been appointed Chief Executive of the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ).

Dr Galloway was most recently Director, Industry and Government Liaison at the research organisation National ICT Australia (NICTA). Previously he has held a range of positions in government and industry associations with a focus on the role that technical infrastructure organisations such as JAS-ANZ play in promoting trade and delivering economic benefit.

In announcing the appointment JAS-ANZ Chairman David Peaston commented; “Dr Galloway will bring a unique blend of technical conformity assessment knowledge and government and industry liaison skills to JAS-ANZ.”

“This will be especially valuable in creating opportunities to extend the benefits accredited certification and inspection schemes offer to government, industry and the community.”

Dr Galloway received his PhD in history at the University of Adelaide, and has a Master of Government and Commercial Law (Australian National University). Dr Galloway will commence with JAS-ANZ on 21 November 2007.

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About JAS-ANZ

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

www.jas-anz.com.au