



APLAC is an organization 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
- Harmonization of requirements
- Mutual recognition of systems meeting harmonized requirements

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The next issue will be published in September, 2008, by the Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF).

## Notes from the Secretariat

APLAC congratulates a new signatory to the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and a new full member.

Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation Inc (PJLA), USA became the 28th signatory to the APLAC MRA for testing on June 6, 2008.

APLAC also congratulates Peru's National Institute for the Defense of Competition and for the Protection of Intellectual Property (Indecopi), which has become a full member of APLAC.

APLAC membership now covers all APEC economies except Chile. In addition APLAC also covers the economies of Bangladesh, India, Mongolia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

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For years, the APLAC Public Information Committee and the ILAC Marketing and Communications committee have sought anecdotes that emphasize the benefits of APLAC's and ILAC's mutual recognition arrangements.

The ILAC website now has a hotlink

to these "MRA Success Stories".

Please visit the site via the "News" section of the APLAC website. And if you have more success stories to share, please do not hesitate to email Ian Roy, [iroy@ianz.govt.nz](mailto:iroy@ianz.govt.nz).

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Helen and Lilian have been very busy preparing agenda papers for the mid-year Board of Management meetings and the MRA Council. We look forward to a successful round of meetings.

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Preparations continue for the 14th General Assembly and 2008 technical meetings taking place Dec. 6 to 12, in Singapore.

The event will be hosted by SAC, and meetings are open only to APLAC member organizations and their staff, and invited observers. The venue for all meetings is the Swissotel the Stamford. Registration will be available in the second half of 2008.

Organizers hope the website for the event will be launched in June.

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## SCC bids farewell to Executive Director after 9 years Clark retires after three terms with organization

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC)'s Executive Director, Peter Clark, has retired from the position after serving three consecutive terms and nine years at the helm of the organization.

During his time as Executive Director, Mr. Clark set a course for the SCC that involved giving the organization a stronger presence, both within Canada and internationally.

"My time at SCC was incredibly rewarding both professionally and personally," says Mr. Clark. "I, along with the organization have grown and learned from the experiences and challenges over the last decade."

Since joining the SCC in 1999, Mr. Clark led the organization through a number of changes and developments that have shaped its identity. He oversaw the introduction of the ISO 9000 management system program, and the creation of SCC's policy shop, the Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade branch (IGAT). Also under Mr. Clark's leadership, the SCC increased the number of international technical committees with Canadian involvement by 25 per cent.

Mr. Clark was focused on raising SCC's profile within Canada, and as part of his efforts to raise awareness of the organization's role and purpose, the SCC created the National Standards System Conference, a biennial event that allows members of Canada's standards community to meet and discuss issues and developments.

It was also under his leadership that SCC implemented the Canadian Standards Strategy in 2000. The strategy details the strategic roadmap for Canada's

standardization community.

"The SCC has expanded its services and continues to evolve. The organization takes on challenges and always rises to the occasion," says Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark has been instrumental in raising the international profile of the organization. Under his guidance, the SCC hosted the meetings and conferences of many of the world's international and regional standardization bodies.

A large part of Mr. Clark's focus was on ensuring that Canada's

the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT).

Prior to joining SCC, Mr. Clark held a number of high profile positions in both the private and public sectors, including mayor of the Town of Cumberland, Ontario, during the 1980s, senior economist with the Canadian Transport Commission, and manager of his own consulting firm.

His plans beyond SCC include continuing his active involvement in the community. In the past, he has sat on several local boards of



**Peter Clark finished his third and final term at SCC in April.**

voice is represented at regional and international policy-making tables. He worked hard to recruit industry experts, who can speak to Canada's interests, to sit on numerous technical committees.

Mr. Clark has also been an active participant within the standards community. He has served as a member of the IEC Council Board, ISO Technical Management Board and as President of

directors, including that for the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre Foundation, and the national board of Operation Go Home.

In April, members of Canada's National Standards System, and SCC staff bid farewell to Mr. Clark at a reception held in his honour in Ottawa.

The Government of Canada has not yet named a successor to the post of SCC Executive Director.

## Australian Federal Government renews NATA agreement

Australia's National Association of Test Authorities (NATA) and the Australian Federal Government have again renewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) detailing the importance with which the government sees NATA's activities.

"This renewal underpins NATA's relationship with government and our credibility as an accreditation body rests on this agreement, locally and internationally," Alan Patterson, the Chief Executive of NATA, said.

The memorandum was signed on April 7, 2008, between Mr. Mark Paterson, Department Secretary of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, and Dr Barry Inglis, NATA's Chair.

The MoU has been in existence since 1988 and was originally created to underscore the ongoing partnership between NATA

and the Australian Federal Government.

The new memorandum recognizes NATA as the national authority for accreditation of laboratories conducting tests and measurements in all technical fields, including laboratories performing tests and studies in accordance with the OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice. It also recognizes NATA as Australia's national authority for the accreditation of producers of reference materials, and recognizes NATA as a peak authority for the accreditation of proficiency testing scheme providers as well as a peak authority for the accreditation of inspection bodies.

According to Mr. Patterson, these central features of the memorandum demonstrate that the Australian Federal Government looks to NATA to provide leadership and

guidance, and recognizes NATA as Australia's key organization for the development of knowledge, international experience and recognition in those fields. The memorandum also recognizes NATA's role in accrediting facilities that play a crucial role in assuring public health, safety and environmental quality.

The primary purpose of the memorandum is to recognize NATA as the National Authority for accreditation and accompanies the grant in aid. It is renewed in principle every five years.

NATA is a not-for-profit association funded principally through its membership. It receives a small amount of funding from the Australian Federal Government to assist with its work representing Australian technical infrastructure interests in international forums.

## PNAC and National Productivity Organization ink MoU

The Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) has signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Productivity Organization (NPO).

The MoU indicates both organizations commit to jointly work to improve industrial and human quality and productivity in that country.

Director General PNAC Engr. Abdul Rashid Khan and NPO Chief Mr. Tariq Bajwa signed the MoU.

The main purpose of this MoU is to establish working relationship between the PNAC and the NPO for the ultimate aim of enhancing exports and ensuring accelerated economic development.

The two organizations also agreed to coordinate and



**Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) Engr. Abdul Rashid Khan and National Productivity Organization (NPO) Mr. Tariq Bajwa signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).**

organize joint training seminars and courses on Conformity Assessment, Quality and Productivity under the

project "Awareness Raising and Training."

## SCC completes standardization projects in Costa Rica

For the past three years, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) has been working with the Ente Costarricense de Acreditación (ECA), Costa Rica's national accreditation body.

The ECA project was one of three capacity-building projects designed to improve Costa Rica's national quality system, including standards, conformity assessment and technical regulations.

Begonia Lojk, manager of standards governance at SCC, oversees the assistance projects. She says the projects were a re-sounding success.

"From the outset, the commitment, professionalism and enthusiasm of management and staff were evident—it impressed us, and helped ensure success," she says.

The projects started in 2004 when the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) approached the SCC to take the lead as the Canadian partner in projects funded by the Canada-Costa Rica Competitiveness Development Fund. This fund helped build institutional capacity in the public sector to result in better services for the private sector of Costa Rica. This is expected to help them be more competitive and better positioned for global trade.

The ECA project focused on the accreditation programs for laboratories, product certification, quality and environmental management systems.

The project was launched in concert with two others where SCC provided an awareness-building workshop on the value of accreditation. This workshop brought together stakeholders from various sectors including private companies, business chambers, government ministries and others. The workshop also raised awareness of the need to



Members of SCC and ECA during a visit to Costa Rica

collaborate within a country to ensure a strong national quality system.

Eighteen Canadian experts were involved in the training, which included a total of 16 trips to Costa Rica and five trips by ECA personnel to Canada.

"The visits to Canada is where the Costa Rican partners saw firsthand how theory was put into practice in a mature system," says Ms. Lojk. "The Canadian trainers who visited Costa Rica developed competencies in assistance work that SCC hopes to use in future projects."

Fifteen individuals from ECA and outside auditors were trained, and SCC worked with ECA to develop operations manuals and procedures to train new staff in the future.

SCC also worked with ORT—the technical regulations unit of Costa Rica's Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade—and INTECO, the national standards body and

Costa Rica's member body to ISO.

The ORT project included the development of a manual on the principles of good regulatory practice, training on the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) obligations, and the development of an electronic system for WTO notifications.

SCC worked with INTECO to make Costa Rica's standards information and standards development system more efficient and effective. The standards information system was enhanced to provide a modern, automated service. The two organizations developed procedures and implemented changes to ensure good standards development practices.

The projects wrapped up in February with the final visit to Costa Rica.

SCC is now considering other possible projects, including one being discussed with Peru.

## SAC launches new accreditation scheme

The Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) launched the accreditation scheme for the certification of Good Distribution Practice for Medical Devices in Singapore (GDPMDS) on April 28, 2008.

The scheme has been introduced to support the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) of Singapore to implement its Health Products Act 2007 which requires medical devices to be regulated with respect to the supply/distribution chain (manufacturer, importer and wholesaler), product registration and advertising and promotion.

Under the scheme, importers and distributors are required to comply with the Good Distribution Practice for Medical Devices (GDPMDS) requirements from the second quarter of 2008. A transition period of one and a half years has been given for importers and wholesalers of medium- and high-risk medical devices,

and two years for low-risk medical devices to comply with the GDPMDS requirements and be licensed by HSA.

HSA only recognizes the SAC-accredited GDPMDS certification of importers and wholesalers of medical devices.

Besides supporting HSA to implement its regulation, the scheme will provide third-party assurance that certification bodies are competent in providing certification for GDPMDS. SAC-accredited certification will in turn assist to ensure the quality and integrity of medical devices throughout the distribution process.

SAC will accredit certification bodies to ISO/IEC Guide 62: 19961 and CT 04: 2008 – SAC Criteria for Certification Bodies (Good Distribution Practice for Medical Devices). The application form and related documents of the scheme are available in the SAC

website at <http://www.sac-accreditation.gov.sg>.

Certification bodies will certify organizations to the HSA Medical Device Technical Specification TS-01: Good Distribution Practice for Medical Devices in Singapore—Requirements, a copy of which can be down-loaded from the HSA website at <http://www.hsa.gov.sg>.

Existing SAC-accredited QMS certification bodies would have to apply for extension of scope to the existing QMS accreditation scheme. A timeframe of about six months would be required to conduct document review, office assessment and witnessed assessment. QMS certification bodies not accredited by SAC can also apply for accreditation.

Please contact the SAC secretariat at tel. 6279 1855 / 1856 (email: [sac@spring.gov.sg](mailto:sac@spring.gov.sg)) if you need more information about the accreditation scheme.

## On the Rock: Conference provides inspiration and renewal

Delegates from all over Canada gathered in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, from June 2 to 4, to take part in the 2008 National Standards System (NSS) Conference, organized by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).

In keeping with the conference's theme, "Strategies for an Evolving World," attendees heard presentations from various experts on topics having an impact on Canada's standardization community, such as public security, alternative energies, and technological development.

Participants also took part in a workshop that discussed the problem of counterfeit products in the Canadian marketplace, and a plenary session that gave an overview on how standardization benefits the Canadian economy.

SCC Chairman Hugh Krentz says the conference was a chance for people who work in Canada's standards and conformity assessment community to get together to discuss the issues that affect them most, and to work together in finding solutions.

"The NSS Conference has reinforced my optimism for the National Standards System, and the role standardization plays within Canada and internationally," says Mr. Krentz.

The 2008 conference also saw the introduction of a new component to the NSS Conference—a Student Poster Competition. In March, children in Grades 3 to 6 in elementary schools within Newfoundland and Labrador's Eastern School District

were invited to design posters that illustrated what standards meant to them and their communities.

Three schools and 47 children took part in the competition, and their designs were displayed during the conference.

The students who designed the top three posters—selected based on originality, clarity of message, and comprehension of the subject matter—were presented with awards during a lunchtime ceremony.

Cape St. Francis Elementary student MacKenzie Cheeseman received the third prize ribbon; the second prize ribbon went to Tal Volkozha of St. Andrew's Elementary; and Caroline Gehue of

**Continued on Page 7**

## Advisory committee wins two standardization awards

SCC recognizes team for contribution to Canadian standards community

The Canadian Advisory Committee of an ISO technical committee that developed new standards relating to the assessment of drinking water and wastewater systems received two Standards Council of Canada (SCC) Awards in early June.

The Canadian Advisory Council (CAC) of the ISO technical committee responsible for developing quality criteria of the service and performance indicators in service activities relating to drinking water supply systems and wastewater systems (ISO/TC 224) received the SCC Special Achievement Award. This award recognizes a committee's notable contributions—such as the de-

velopment or completion of a national or international standard or action—in support of Canada's National Standards System.

T. Duncan Ellison, the chair of CAC/ISO/TC 224, also received the SCC Leadership Award, which recognizes notable contributions made by a chair, co-chair, vice-chair and/or convener of a standards-related committee that have benefited Canadian standardization.

ISO/TC 224 was charged with developing standards relating to a framework for the definition and measurement of service activities relating to drinking water supply systems and wastewater systems.

The technical committee published three standards in late 2007.

The standards set out a three-part framework for assessment that includes outlining the most universally applicable service objectives of utilities, examples of service assessment criteria, and examples of performance indicators.

“These standards will provide valuable guidance for the assessment of water and wastewater services in both the developed and developing worlds and are equally applicable to large sophisticated utilities and small utilities,” says Mr. Ellison. “The objectives relate to public health, protecting the environment and ensuring sustainability.”

SCC presents eight awards, every two years, as a way to acknowledge the outstanding efforts and commitment of volunteers in the NSS. The 2008 awards were presented at a gala ceremony during the 2008 NSS Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, on June 3.

Hugh Krentz, the Chairman of the SCC, says Canada's standardization community depends on these volunteers to develop and maintain standards and conformity assessment systems in the country, and to provide Canadian input on international committees.

“Our volunteers form the backbone of the NSS. Their hard work has contributed greatly to Canada's position as a world leader in the area of standardization,” says Mr. Krentz. “I would like to congratulate each of our award recipients and all those nominated. They represent the very best of our National Standards System.”



SCC Chairman Hugh Krentz (left) stands with CAC/ISO/TC224 Chairman T. Duncan Ellison (centre), and Advisory Committee Member Daniel Pelletier during the SCC Awards ceremony in St. John's, NL. Mr. Ellison won the SCC Leadership Award, while Mr. Pelletier accepted the SCC Special Achievement Award on behalf of his committee.

## Canada's NMI completes accreditation process

The National Research Council's Institute for National Measurement Standards (INMS) is Canada's internationally recognized National Metrology Institute (NMI). As of March 2008, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) had accredited its 11 laboratories in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025.

The implementation of an appropriate quality assurance system, based on ISO/IEC 17025, is an initiative prompted by the Comité International des Poids et Mesures-Mutual Recognition Arrangement (CIPM MRA). Before this, national level metrology institutes could have their Calibration and Measurement Capabilities (CMCs) recognized by becoming a signatory to the CIPM MRA and participating regularly in international comparisons of measurement standards.

Metrology institutes have the option to either self-declare compliance or become accredited by an Inter-

national Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation-Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) signatory. Also, in order to have their capabilities included in the CIPM database, NMIs need to receive formal acceptance of their Quality Management System and Technical Capabilities by their regional metrology organization. For the Americas, this body is the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM).

In early 2003, the INMS selected the SCC to accredit its laboratories. Between 2003 and 2006, the SCC assessed the INMS's 11 fields of calibration.

Each measurement capability such as parameter, range and uncertainty, is reviewed at each assessment by a team of experts, who hail from several countries including Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands and the USA.

"The NMI community is not large, and among the CIPM MRA sig-

natories in the world, there are often fewer than three or four measurement experts available to assist in conducting the technical assessment for many measurement capabilities," says Isabelle Amen, senior program officer responsible for the INMS accreditation files at SCC.

"The high level of cooperation among measurement experts and peers from different NMIs has been really helpful in the accreditation process," she adds.

The process also includes the review of inter-NMI comparisons. INMS has been very active in the planning and implementation of inter-NMI comparisons including those under the auspices of SIM.

The INMS has undergone a SIM peer review for its CMCs, and its capabilities are now published in the international database at [www.bipm.org](http://www.bipm.org).

### NSS Conference (Cont.)

Rennie's River Elementary School won the first-place ribbon for her poster that featured the slogan, "Standards Rock."

All students who took part in the competition were presented with certificates of achievement.

"This is the first time the NSS Conference has included such a project," says Mr. Krentz. "It has given us a glimpse of a future generation that will join and strengthen the standardization community."

On behalf of the students who took part in the competition, the SCC made a \$1,000 donation to the School Lunch Association, an organization that provides nutritious meals to children who may otherwise go without.

The SCC will host the next NSS Conference in 2010.



Students who designed posters for the 2008 NSS Conference Student Poster Competition admire their work before the awards presentation ceremony.

## APLAC Publications List

Documents, by committee, published since the last issue of  
APLAC NEWS NOTES:

### APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Council

APLAC MR 001      Issue No. 14, 04/08

*Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Agreements  
Between Laboratory Accreditation Bodies*

APLAC MR 008      Issue No. 2, 04/08

*MRA Council – Rules for Operation*

### APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee

APLAC PT 001      Issue No. 5, 03/08

*APLAC Calibration Inter-laboratory Comparisons*

APLAC PT 002      Issue No. 6, 03/08

*APLAC Testing Inter-laboratory Comparisons*

APLAC PT 003      Issue No. 11 05/08

*APLAC Proficiency Testing Directory*

### APLAC Secretariat

APLAC SEC 046      Issue No. 2, 03/08

*Guidelines for the Use of the APLAC Logo*

### APLAC Training Committee

APLAC TR 001      Issue No. 2, 05/08

*Guidelines on Training Course for Laboratory and Inspection Body Assessors*