

APLAC News Notes

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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.

Cooperation is to include:

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

APLAC News Notes is published four times a year to facilitate the exchange of information among members and interested parties. It may be reproduced in full and experts should reference *APLAC News Notes* specifically. Wide copying and distribution are encouraged.

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

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財團法人全國認證基金會
Taiwan Accreditation Foundation



From the Secretariat

We hope that all our members have visited the APLAC 2008 web site and are registering for the meetings that are being held from 6-12 December 2008, hosted by SAC. The web site address is: www.aplac2008.com/index.html. There is also a link to the web site from the APLAC web site.

Just a reminder that if you or any of your staff wish to attend the meeting of a committee of which you and/or they are not members you do need to seek the agreement of the committee Chair. Similarly if members of your staff other than the official APLAC MRA Council delegate and alternate wish to attend the APLAC MRA Council meeting you need to seek the agreement of the APLAC MRA Council Chair.

APLAC welcomes Indecopi, Peru as a Full member of APLAC.

Members will have received invitations to participate in two APLAC workshops within the next couple of months:

- inspection accreditation workshop in Taipei, Chinese Taipei on 27-29 October, followed by an optional 2 day visit to inspection bodies on 30-31 October;
- RMP train the trainers workshop in Hong Kong China on 17-19 November

It is disappointing that, at the time of going to press, we have received so few registrations. APLAC organises workshops and training courses that the members have requested so it is important that members support participation in the activities that they have asked APLAC to provide.

In the near future invitations will be sent out to nominated evaluators and other evaluators to participate in a 3 day APLAC training course for evaluators in Singapore on 3-5 December, immediately before APLAC 2008. The course presenters will be Ned Gravel of CALA, Barry Ashcroft of IANZ and Panadda Silva of DMSc. Some funding support will be provided by APLAC for attendance by the evaluators being trained.

Those members that are signatories to the APLAC MRA for ISO 15189 are reminded that their status reports on implementation of ISO 15189:2007 must be provided to the APLAC secretariat by 30 September.

Members are advised when updated APLAC documents are placed on the APLAC web site. Updates since June include:

APLAC MR 001, issue no. 15
APLAC MR 002, 06/08
APLAC MR 003, issue no. 13
APLAC MR 004, issue no. 9
APLAC Quality Manual, issue no. 3
APLAC PR 007, issue no. 24
APLAC PR 008, issue no. 35
APLAC SEC 038, issue no. 38
APLAC SEC 039, issue no. 22
APLAC SEC 042, issue no. 4

We look forward to seeing you all in Singapore

Helen and Janet



TAF Celebrated Its 5th Anniversary



On 16 September 2008, the Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF) celebrated its 5th anniversary with a tune in "gratitude". Some 700 guests, including Assessors, Technical Committee Members and representatives from governmental sectors as well as accredited organisations, were invited to joint the celebration ceremony. The TAF President, Dr Jay-San Chen, expressed the sincere gratitude, on behalf of TAF, to everyone who has been supporting or contributing to the accreditation system in Taiwan. 79 prizes in 9 different award categories were awarded to the contributors from the accredited organisations, accreditation personnel and authorities. A retrospective film featured TAF's achievements, including signing of MRA with Inspection and ISO 15189 and MLA with EMS and Product, was played during the ceremony.



◀ Left: Dr Jay-San Chen, TAF President

Since its establishment by the merger of CNLA and CNAB in 2003, TAF has grown bigger in its size as well as accreditation capacity, and, most importantly, more matured in its overall accreditation performance as well as contribution capabilities. During the past 5 years, TAF had launched new accreditation services in various fields, such as Inspection Body Accreditation, OECD GLP Compliance Monitoring Programme, Forensic Science Testing Accreditation, Product Certification Body Accreditation and Personnel Certification Body Accreditation. With almost 25 % growth in the number of the accredited, TAF is proud to able to enhance the quality level of the accredited conformity assessment bodies and consequently improve the degree of security of people's lives. Moreover, TAF has been trying to be a more dedicated contributor to issues concerning international accreditation and be a supportive partner to APLAC member colleagues.

In the future, TAF will continue to pursue better and sounder provision of accreditation services, be an active partner to governmental authorities and build good relationships with other Accreditation Bodies in the world.



Thesis Seminar on Conformity Assessment and Accreditation

TAF held its 13th successive "Thesis Seminar on Conformity Assessment and Accreditation" on 16 September 2008.

Prof. Chien-Kuo Pang, the Advisor to the Straits Exchange Foundation, was invited as the guest of honour to deliver keynote speech titled "The Perspective on the Cross-Straits Co-operation in Accreditation and Certification" at the opening.

In total, TAF received 88 theses in 9 technical groups: civil engineering/construction, mechanical, electrical, quality assurance/conformity assessment, food/biological, environmental/chemical/ionising radiation, medical laboratory science, calibration uncertainty evaluation and calibration techniques.

The thesis review committee selected one best thesis and the audience selected one favourite thesis from each technical group. The authors of the selected theses were then awarded a certificate and rewards. TAF will continue to hold such thesis seminars relating to accreditation concept, which help to collect different viewpoints and to communicate with people from various sectors.



▲ Top: Prof Chien-Kuo Pang

NATA to assist Gulf with technical infrastructure

Australia is assisting the Gulf States to ensure their laboratory technical procedures meet international standards.



NATA announced it has signed a contract to provide consulting services to help with the establishment of a Gulf Accreditation Center.

The center will ensure member technical facilities meet international standards in their testing procedures. By doing so, the facilities concerned assist the development of trade links and reliable technical infrastructure.

The contract between NATA and Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf was hailed by NATA Chief Executive Alan Patterson as “an important event in helping promote accreditation globally.”

In his speech to the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, distinguished guests and local media, Mr Patterson emphasised the importance of NATA's consultative role and the positive effects on removing technical barriers to trade.

“Today presents a great opportunity for all parties concerned with the project and marks another milestone along the path to the successful launch of the Gulf Accreditation Center. NATA is proud to assist in this important process.

“But today is not just about facilitating the removal of external technical trade barriers. There are practical local reasons why this is an important occasion.

“It means the region—already actively involved in and cognisant of accreditation and its benefits—is determined to not only ensure its technical infrastructure meets the highest possible internationally agreed standards, but facilitates trade between member countries and the GCC aim of regional economic integration.



“It means the citizens of the Gulf Countries can be assured that the tests they require across a very wide range of activities are undertaken with a high degree of quality assurance in mind. It provides greater confidence in and across markets and allows Government, industry and business to better manage risk. It effectively enhances business opportunities for industries and manufacturers in the region.

“Technical accreditation is something that touches all our lives, whether we are aware of it or not. We rely on machines, home goods, measuring devices and instruments to be safe, accurate and reliable. Technical accreditation delivers that reliability. It ensures that our medical tests are accurate, that pipelines won't burst, that forensic evidence is accurate, that roads won't crumble, that bridges won't collapse, planes continue to fly and that racing horses and camels compete fairly, NATA Chief Executive, Alan Patterson said during his presentation to the Gulf States.

According to Mr Patterson, NATA through its 60 plus year history has been to a large degree responsible for establishing international frameworks by which technical facilities can assure their customers that their results are reliable.

“It's immensely pleasing to be able to pass on the expertise we have gained in this field to new accreditation bodies such as the Gulf Accreditation Center.”



The center will provide all accreditation services required by a regional conformity assessment scheme to Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

The project will also establish policies and operational documentation such as operating manuals, quality manual, job descriptions and technical, administrative and financial procedures.

The project is expected to take four months to complete, and will involve a team of NATA managers, consultants and technical experts.

Changes for CAEAL

During the 2007 CAEAL Annual General Meeting, members voted to amend the Letters Patent of the Corporation to allow CAEAL to respond to requests for accreditation in areas other than environmental. A corporate strategic plan was being developed at that time and a Brand Audit had been commissioned which recommended a number of changes to the CAEAL Brand.

One year later, during the 2008 CAEAL Annual General Meeting, members unanimously approved an application to change the association name to Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation Inc. (CALA, pronounced "kayla"). The recommendation for the name change had arisen as a result of the Brand Audit. Specifically, the broader scope of accreditations requested by members produced the need for a name

that did not include the word "environmental". CAEAL then applied to the Minister of Industry for approval of the name change, which was expected within a month or so.

In mid-July the Ministry informed CAEAL that they had officially changed our name under the Canada Corporations Act to Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation Inc. (CALA) effective 23 June 2008.

The approval came much earlier than we had anticipated (just 3 weeks after the vote at the AGM!) so we have had to start a transition to the new name rather than implement a complete switch. New accreditations and contracts will be issued under the name CALA, and by October our existing web site will be replaced with a



new fresh look on www.cala.ca. In the meantime we will continue to use CAEAL stationery and www.caeal.ca and our existing email addresses. We will transition entirely to the new name by November.

Accreditation and PT certificates, as well as licenses to use the CAEAL accreditation symbol and the (ILAC) Laboratory Combined Mark, continue to be valid although these will eventually be changed. Both APLAC and ILAC have been notified so any lab conducting international work should experience no difficulties.

By November we will look very different, but we will be the same organisation – delivering the services that members need, in the manner they have come to expect.

J.E.J. (Ned) Gravel, CD, PEng, CA-LS, CAE
APLAC Delegate

Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation



Ibero-American Award in Honor of Educational Quality

Last August 7, Maribel Lopez, **ema**'s Executive Director, traveled to Guayaquil, Ecuador, to receive the 2008 Ibero-American Award in Honor of Educational Quality. This award is given every year by the Ibero-American Council on Educational Quality.

The distinction is given to organizations that promote educational excellence and project this into an integral education that develops happy, prosperous and successful human beings.



▲ Maribel Lopez (middle), **ema**'s Executive Director, receiving the Award

Why did the Mexican Accreditation Body receive such an award?? There were several contributions:

- A series of Video-Conferences which allowed a better knowledge of our Mexican System on Metrology, Standardization and Conformity Assessment (SISMENEC).
- Training projects and assistance to other Accreditation Bodies in Latin America.

- Collaboration with the Academic, Technological and Research sectors through a National Accreditation Compact.
- Collaboration Agreements and work done with: the National College on Professional Technical Education (CONALEP); the National Technical Institute (IPN); and Mexico's National Autonomous University (UNAM).
- Ibero-American Congress, carried out on 8 and 9 November 2008, where training was given to participants from over 16 Ibero-American countries.
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) project, run and coordinated by **ema** to strengthen the accreditation and conformity assessment systems of Mexico, Paraguay, Costa Rica and Trinidad & Tobago.
- Constant training, on-site and through a Virtual Classroom, to: members of the National Assessors' Registry; Conformity Assessment Bodies; and Interested parties.

In view of this award, and all the effort that **ema**'s staff has put into all the activities carried out; we believe this is a reason to keep up with these contributions and to come up with others that will keep strengthening accreditation and all it involves, including education.

María José Mesén
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ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE VETERINARY LABORATORY SERVICES UNIT (VLSU), UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

Universiti Putra Malaysia's Veterinary Laboratory Services Unit (VLSU), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, recently became the first veterinary medicine laboratory of a university to gain accreditation from the Department

of Standards Malaysia (STANDARDS MALAYSIA), under the Laboratory Accreditation Scheme of Malaysia (*Skim Akreditasi Makmal Malaysia - SAMM*).

VLSU now joins the other two veterinary testing laboratories which have obtained such accreditation.

A certificate presentation ceremony was held on 30 July 2008 to mark the laboratory's achievement. Present at the ceremony was STANDARDS MALAYSIA's Director General, Ms. Fadilah Baharin who presented the

accreditation certificate to the university's Vice Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr. Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah.

In her opening remark, Ms. Fadilah congratulated the university for its achievement in gaining accreditation and hoped that VLSU continues to maintain this achievement and become an example for other laboratories in the university to follow suit.





▲ STANDARDS MALAYSIA's Director General, Ms. Fadilah Baharin presenting accreditation certificate to the university's Vice Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr. Nik Mustapha R.

STANDARDS MALAYSIA organises Proficiency Testing Training Course

STANDARDS MALAYSIA recently organised a three-day proficiency testing training course for its assessors and PT Providers, held from 13-15 August 2008 at the National Metrology Laboratory, SIRIM Berhad.

The trainer was Mr. Philip Briggs from Proficiency Testing Australia (PTA), whom many of us in APLAC know him very well as the APLAC PT Committee Chair.

The first day of the course, tailored for STANDARDS MALAYSIA assessors, provided an overview on the fundamental aspects of PT design and operation in the respective areas of testing and calibration and its inter-relationship with the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 43, ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17025.

It was a good turnout with 91 participants attended, 79 of whom were assessors who came from all over the country while 12 of STANDARDS MALAYSIA staff also participated in the course.

Also witnessing the presentation ceremony was the faculty's dean, Associate Professor Dr. Bashir Ahmad Fateh Mohamed, the Head of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology Department, Associate Professor Dr. Noordin Mohamed Mustapha, the faculty's staff and guests.

Dr. Noordin said efforts to obtain accreditation commenced since 2006 by the formation of the VLSU Accreditation Committee.

STANDARDS MALAYSIA

On 14-15 August 2008, another session was held specifically for the PT Providers. The response was an inspiring one as 32 participants throughout Malaysia attended this session. This session was aimed to enable participants to develop and operate their own proficiency testing programs, which will meet the needs of their participating laboratories and the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 43 besides preparing them for PT accreditation at a later stage in the future.

Participants were also informed on APLAC activities and how the PT Providers from Malaysia can effectively participate in APLAC PT.

This training was very beneficial to STANDARDS MALAYSIA as it facilitated to harmonise the understanding of PT among its assessors. The training also provided an avenue for STANDARDS MALAYSIA to obtain feedbacks and suggestions from its assessors for further improvement regarding PT activities.

A survey, seeking views from participants, concluded that they were very satisfied with the conduct and

content of the course. The course received many positive responses and comments from them. They



"This is in line with the Faculty's vision to become the referral centre for veterinary science in Asia Pacific and efforts in gaining international recognition has started since 1999," said Dr. Noordin.

A total of nine tests at the Bacteriology and Biologics Laboratories are accredited.

▼ Participants of the PT Training Course for PT Providers. Front row: Mr. Philip Briggs, PTA (centre). On his right, Mr. Abd. Rashid Zainal Abidin, Senior General Manager, National Metrology Laboratory, SIRIM Berhad and on his left, Ms. Siti Mariam Mohd Din, Principal Assistant Director of Accreditation, STANDARDS MALAYSIA.



agreed that Mr Briggs' lectures and workshops were very informative as they provided insight and knowledge on how to conduct PT programmes in an effective and efficient manner.

They also requested STANDARDS MALAYSIA to organise a follow-up session in the future.

STANDARDS MALAYSIA wishes to thank Mr. Briggs for the successful conduct of the course.

NEWS FROM BLA-DSS THAILAND BLA-DSS launches new accreditation scheme

To extend the scope of accreditation in Thailand, Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation, Department of Science Service (BLA-DSS) launched the accreditation scheme for Proficiency Testing Provider (PTP), in accordance with the ISO/IEC Guide 43 and ILAC-G 13. The scheme has been introduced to support the recognition of PTP in Thailand.

Since the policy of PTP accreditation has been set out, the preparatory work, including training courses, on-site observation and setting up the accreditation system for this particular field had been done, in order to improve

the competencies of our staff. The PTP training courses were held with the kind corporation of the APLAC members as following:

- Training course of "Accreditation of PT Providers" by Dan Tholen Statistical Consulting,
- Domestic workshop training in short time curriculum of "Accreditation of PT Providers" by the expert of National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) and "PT Program Running & PT Provider Accreditation" by Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF), respectively.
- International workshop training of "On-site Observation & Training on PTP Accreditation" in Hsin Chu & Taipei, Taiwan in July - August 2008 (by TAF)

At present, the first applicant for PTP accreditation in the field of medical testing is in the process of assessment and it will be successful in the near future.



Training course of "Accreditation of PT Providers" by Mr. Dan Tholen



PTP Training Course led by Mr. Hung-Chang Huang, TAF



NVLAP Open House

NVLAP celebrated the first International Accreditation Day on June 9, 2008, by inviting NIST staff to an open house where we served light refreshments and shared information about NVLAP programs with NIST staffers. Many of those in attendance are currently technical advisors for NVLAP programs. The theme for this year's International Accreditation Day was "Accreditation: Delivering Trust in the Global Market" — chosen to highlight how accreditation practices are harmonized at a worldwide level to underpin global trade.



▲ NVLAP staff Barbara Belzer, Tom Hettenhouser and Sherrie Wentzel

APLAC PUBLICATIONS LIST

APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement Advisory Committee

APLAC MR001	# Issue No.15, 07/08	Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Agreements Between Accreditation Bodies
APLAC MR002	# (Rev 2), 06/08	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement
APLAC MR003	Issue No. 13, 07/08	Application for Signatory Status in the APLAC Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APLAC MRA)
APLAC MR004	Issue No. 9, 07/08	APLAC Evaluators - Qualifications and Monitoring Performance
APLAC MR006	Issue No.2, 07/06	Procedure for conduct of joint evaluation for another region
APLAC MR007	Issue No.1, 01 /06	APLAC Evaluation Checklist
APLAC MR008	Issue No. 2, 04/08	APLAC MRA Council – Rules for Operation
APLAC MR009	Issue No. 2, 10/07	APLAC Evaluation Report Template

APLAC QM Series

APLAC Quality Manual	07/08	Describes the APLAC quality system
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APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee

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.11, 05/08	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

APLAC Public Information Committee

APLAC PR007	Issue No. 24, 06/08	APLAC – Its Role And Structure – PowerPoint Presentation
APLAC PR008	Issue No. 35, 08/08	International Recognition of Accredited Test, Calibration and Inspection Reports



APLAC PR009	Issue No. 7, 02/07	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 Symbol on Reports
APLAC PR011	Issue No. 1, 08/06	Guidance for the Promotion of the APLAC MRA

APLAC Secretariat

APLAC SEC038	Issue No. 38, 06/08	APLAC Membership Summary List
APLAC SEC039	Issue No. 22, 06/08	APLAC MRA Signatories Summary List
APLAC SEC041	Issue No. 5, 07/07	APLAC Guidelines for Hosts of the APLAC General Assembly and Associated Meetings (only available from the Secretariat)
APLAC SEC042	*Issue No. 4, 07/07	Code of Ethics
APLAC SEC046	Issue No. 2, 03/08	Guidelines for use of the APLAC Logo
APLAC SEC050	Issue No. 1 08/04	Guidelines for APLAC MRA signatories when accrediting laboratories or inspection bodies within the economy of another APLAC MRA signatory
APLAC SEC052	*Issue No. 1 10/06	APLAC Constitution

APLAC Technical Committee

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	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. 1, 07/07	APLAC Guidelines on the Approach to the Assessment of the Reference Material Producers and the Resulting Scope of Accreditation
APLAC TC009	Issue No. 1, 01/08	APLAC Guidelines on Assessing to Foreign Regulatory Requirements

APLAC Training Committee

APLAC TR001	Issue No. 2, 05/08	Guidelines on Training Course for Laboratory and Inspection Body Assessors
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