

## From the Secretariat

John Gilmour attended the General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur. APLAC was able to get a shot of previous chairpersons.

Membership fees are due by 31 March 2008, individual reminders will be sent.

Meeting registration and hotel reservation forms for the June Board of Management and MRA Council meetings will be sent shortly. Information about shuttle bus

services will be included. The venue for both meetings is the Westin Long Beach Hotel, Long Beach, California.

APLAC welcomes Lilian Luiyf, she joined the APLAC Secretariat and will be assisting Helen and Janet over the next five to six months. Lilian is on the [aplac@nata.asn.au](mailto:aplac@nata.asn.au) email address. She will be sending correspondence to members, on behalf of APLAC.



APLAC chairs: Llew Richards (IANZ, New Zealand), Tony Russell (formerly NATA, Australia), John Gilmour (NATA, Australia) and Terence Chan, (HKAS, Hong Kong, China).

## APLAC News Notes

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

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 excerpts should reference *APLAC News Notes* specifically. Wide copying and distribution are encouraged.

APLAC also maintains a web site at: [www.aplac.org](http://www.aplac.org)

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## Former APLAC Chair Tony Russell retires from NATA

Immediate Past Chair of APLAC, Tony Russell, retired as NATA's Chief Executive in November last year.

He served as APLAC Chair in 2005 and 2006, as APLAC MRA Council Chair in 2003 and 2004 and as a Board of Management member from 2000.

Mr Russell, who has been Chief Executive Officer of NATA for the past seven years, said he was happy to have been part of the organisation's history.

However, Mr Russell will continue his various commitments to ILAC, including his chairing of the ILAC Proficiency Testing Consultative Group, continuing as an ILAC liaison to ISO CASCO WG 28 and as a member of the ILAC Executive Committee.

"I have certainly enjoyed the challenges of the past seven years and, indeed, those of my whole 34 years at NATA. I am also proud to have been involved in the growth and development of ILAC and APLAC during that time," Mr Russell said.

Mr Alan Patterson is Mr Russell's successor. He formally took on the position of Chief Executive position on 5 November 2007.

Mr Patterson brings more than 30 years experience in senior strategic and

operational management roles in both the private and public health sectors.

He specifically asked Mr Russell to continue his ILAC duties to ensure the transition went as smoothly as possible.

"Mr Russell has a vast store of expertise on international matters. It would be remiss of me as a new Chief Executive designate not to use that knowledge," Mr Patterson said.

Mr Patterson said he was attracted to NATA because of its international standing, history, and proud record of innovation and leadership, both nationally and internationally.

"In every sense of the word, we live in a global environment, where business is conducted across markets and economies in differing stages of maturity, regulation and sophistication. Industries and organisations are faced with escalating pressures to market their products and services in an increasingly competitive environment. As such there is a continuing need for vigilance and due diligence, to ensure the community is protected, and that individuals can have confidence when accessing products and services from an increasingly diverse range of options and sources," Mr Patterson said.



*Dr Belinda Collins, Director of Technology Services and Dr James Turner, Acting Director of NIST present the NIST Bronze Medal Award to Vanda White of NVLAP.*

## Vanda White receives NIST Bronze Medal

Vanda White, NVLAP's Quality Manager, received the bronze medal for her work on the NVLAP Quality System, at the NIST awards ceremony held on 5 December, 2007.

"Ms White directed and supervised the establishment of a comprehensive set of administrative procedures and instructions that ensures a uniform approach to determining laboratory competence, consistent with international practice and relevant standards. The robust quality management system comprising these procedures and instructions underpins

every aspect of NVLAP operations, providing assurance to customers and users that NVLAP accreditations are technically sound and rigorous. This management system, recognised internationally through laboratory accreditation cooperations, contributes to wide reciprocity of acceptance of calibration and test reports from NVLAP accredited laboratories in other economies", a representative of NVLAP said.

NVLAP extends their congratulations to Vanda.

## NATA Training Services delivers GLP training for Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC)

NATA's Training Services and SAC have agreed to a three-year contract to deliver training in OECD Principles in Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) in Singapore. NATA's GLP Program Manager, Louise Calder will continue to deliver the courses over the arranged time.

Louise said NATA conducted a successful course in July this year.

“The course comprises a three-day workshop assisting people with their document operations and activities in accordance with OECD GLP requirements.

“It also includes planning and conducting a study that meets the OECD GLP requirements, how to effectively record the raw data and to complete a study report that is GLP compliant,” Louise said.



Louise Calder, NATA's GLP Program Manager delivering a successful training in OECD Principles in GLP in Singapore in July 2007.



## NEWS FROM TAF

### First accreditation certificate granted to forensic science testing laboratory—the Criminal Investigation Bureau

By Wanji Yang

TAF granted the very first accreditation certificate in forensic science testing field to the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB), National Police Agency, Ministry of the Interior on 17 January 2008. The assessment was conducted in accordance with ISO/IEC

17025:2005 and ILAC G19:2002. TAF launched its accreditation service in the forensic science testing field in January 2007 based on two years preparatory work, including signing a MoU with the ASCLD/LAB, holding assessor training courses and setting up the accreditation system for this particular field.

This is an achievement of the

CIB and a milestone in Chinese Taipei's progressive development in forensic science. TAF hopes to encourage more forensic science testing laboratories to enhance their competencies by applying for accreditation, and looks forward to more professionalism in the forensic science environment in Chinese Taipei.



Left to right: Mao-Sui Huang (Commissioner of CIB) and Dr Jay-San Chen (President of TAF).



Sharon Coutinho (left) from Fremantle Hospital's Radiology Unit receives the RANZCR/NATA accreditation certificate from Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health John Hyde, and NATA CE Alan Patterson.

## WA public hospital recognised for medical imaging

Fremantle Hospital was recently recognised as the first public facility in Western Australia (WA) to have its radiology department accredited to technical standards for medical imaging. The accreditation means that diagnostic medical imaging at the hospital meets international standards in terms of technical competence and quality assurance. At present, such accreditation is voluntary, although the Australian Federal Government has a process in place to bring such facilities under a yet-to-be-defined accreditation system.

The accreditation was awarded through a program run jointly by The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists

(RANZCR) and National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA).

Mr John Hyde, the WA Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Minister for Health, praised the hospital's efforts in gaining medical imaging accreditation.

"Fremantle Hospital Radiology Department is leading the way in this national accreditation process which recognises the world-class standard of the radiological procedures performed at Fremantle Hospital.

"The Radiology Department has had to meet the rigorous technical standards set out by the National Association of Testing Authorities and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

"As part of the accreditation process, the Radiology Department has made improvements to its administration systems and operational procedures and I congratulate them on this achievement," Mr Hyde said.

The Australian Federal Government is in the process of implementing a legislative requirement for imaging services to be accredited in order to receive Medicare funding. NATA believes that should such legislation incorporate the accreditation offered by the RANZCR/NATA program, Australia will have ensured quality standards are met by all medical imaging facilities seeking Medicare funding.

The certificate presentation ceremony was attended by NATA Chief Executive Alan Patterson, and RANZCR president Professor Mark Khangure.

Mr Patterson said "Its accreditation under the voluntary scheme is testimony to the high standards the hospital endeavours to achieve." "Medical imaging is an expanding clinical field in Australia; it involves increasingly sophisticated imaging technology and is relied upon across the health sector to provide crucial clinical information to support decision making in the management of patients. Both RANZCR and NATA believe it is vitally important that such facilities meet—and exceed where possible—the range of clinical, technical and quality management standards designed to ensure the quality of the images and reports these facilities produce. Accreditation to standards such as that offered by the RANZCR/NATA program is an important quality assurance measure.

"Fremantle should be very proud of its achievement in becoming the first public facility in Western Australia, to demonstrably do so".

## IANZ provides technical advice for trade negotiations

Recognition in China of New Zealand accredited laboratories will be greatly improved when the first New Zealand/China Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement is signed in this month.

Under the agreement, most electrical and electronic goods may be tested and certified in New Zealand to go straight on to the market in China. The control process for goods coming into New Zealand from China will also be strengthened.

IANZ Chief Executive, Dr Llew Richards, who has been a delegate at the discussions at the request of the Ministry of Economic Development, provided technical advice on the recognition of testing such products in the regulated environment.

IANZ and the China National Accreditation Services (CNAS), through the ILAC and APLAC MRAs, already have mutual recognition arrangements in place where each party recognises test results from each others accredited laboratories. The level of recognition is now raised to a significantly new level by way of the formal obligation of both governments under this new Agreement to recognise accredited tests results.

Future negotiations are expected to include mutual recognition agreements for agricultural equipment and machinery and a wide range of other products.

## New Zealand Government finds IANZ sound

In the Standards and Conformance Infrastructure Review, which was concluded in late 2007 by the Ministry of Economic Development, it was found that New Zealand has a 'world-class' infrastructure that is fundamentally sound. Within this infrastructure, IANZ successfully supports the New Zealand economy through their accreditation services.

IANZ is now involved in the initiative by the Ministry of Development to create a regulatory forum of policy makers, regulators, other government departments, as well as standards and conformance infrastructure bodies.

Dr Llew Richards, IANZ Chief Executive, says this will only enhance IANZ's current efforts to improve the understanding of conformance assessment with these sectors of the economy.

In another initiative from the review, Ian Roy, IANZ Manager International Affairs and Government Liaison, is actively involved with the Ministry in establishing a web-based information clearing house. This will greatly help Ian deal with the many trade enquiries he receives each week mainly from importers seeking information about testing products and obtaining test reports from their suppliers.

## 2008 ILAC Survey on regulatory acceptance to begin soon

The ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC) has undertaken a survey every two years since 2002 on the level of acceptance by government of a domestic accreditation body's reports, as well as reports from the accreditation body's MRA partners.

The MCC will be circulating a survey later this year to see what changes have taken place since the 2006 survey. The 2006 survey results were made available at the ILAC General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico. The task of completing the survey for most accreditation bodies should not be too burdensome as most of the work will have been done for the previous surveys, and only updating with additions will be required. The MCC looks forward to presenting the results of the 2008 regulator survey to the ILAC General Assembly in Stockholm in October 2008.



New postgraduate courses—Back row; Macquarie University's Dr Chris McRae, Dr Danny Wong and NMI's Marian Haire. Front row: Dr Laurie Besley, NMI, Acting Dean of Division of Environmental and Life Sciences at Macquarie University, Associate Professor Kevin McCracken and Graeme Drake, General Manager, Corporate Services, NATA.

## NATA on course with Macquarie Uni

An agreement reached between the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) and Macquarie University means that NATA together with the National Measurement Institute will develop course materials for the post-grad Laboratory Quality Systems course.

Agreements were signed in January between Macquarie University and NATA, and NMI. Signatories were the Acting Dean of Division of Environmental and Life Sciences at Macquarie University, Associate Professor Kevin McCracken, NMI Chief Executive, Dr Laurie Besley, and NATA's General Manager, Corporate Services, Mr Graeme Drake.

NMI's Chief Executive, Dr Laurie Besley said that a collaborative activity such as this one with Macquarie University is a win-win situation for all involved.

Associated with developing course initiatives were Dr Danny Wong, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, Dr Christopher McRae, lecturer, Department of Chemistry and Biomolecular Sciences, Macquarie University, Marian Haire, Section Manager, Training and Technical Transfer, NMI, and Macquarie University solicitor Jennifer O'Brien.

Mr Drake said that NATA was very pleased to be involved with this initiative. "It helps to expose students to 'real world' quality systems. It is the sort of thing they will be working in," he said. The new postgraduate degree program in Laboratory Quality Analysis and Management aims to produce graduates at the postgraduate certificate level with an appreciation of, and hands-on laboratory experience in basic analytical chemistry.

Dr Danny Wong, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry said that at present, the world of chemical measurement is undergoing major changes on an international scale.

"International free trade means that initiatives are being taken at the international level and across measurement sectors to ensure measurement science issues are being applied in a systematic and consistent manner. For practising analytical chemists, this means training in quality assurance and metrology is essential to ensure that the quality of chemical measurements is within their international acceptance level," Dr Wong said.

More information on the courses is available for download at [www.nata.asn.au](http://www.nata.asn.au).

## Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) 2008 Plenary

The 13th annual meetings of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) will be held at the Traders Hotel in Kuala Lumpur from 21 to 28 June 2008, hosted by Standards Malaysia. The program contains a good mixture of presentations, training, a review of technical issues and open discussion. The week will begin with a seminar relating to various aspects of conformity assessment including product certification, implementation of ISO/IEC 17021, and consumers' perspectives on issues and benefits of conformity assessment. An open forum will follow, during which future directions of PAC will be discussed by members and stakeholders. A series of technical and committee meetings and a gala dinner with a signing ceremony will be held. The week will culminate with the PAC Plenary and an election of office bearers for a number of positions on the Executive.

Key issues to be discussed during the week include strategic directions for PAC, and the ILAC/IAF closer cooperation paper.

PAC intends to hold a two-day training course on ISO/IEC 17024 and a workshop for peer evaluators during the week. The one-day workshop to train peer evaluators will be open to PAC team members and team leaders, with other participants being agreed on by a case-by-case basis with the convenor.

The PAC Executive Committee and members welcome its friends in the accreditation and conformity assessment communities to join them in Kuala Lumpur.

The invitation and brochure for the meetings are available from the PAC Secretary on [pacsecr@email.com](mailto:pacsecr@email.com).



◀ Front row: Ms Hemapattawee, Colleen Cotter (Accreditation manager), Rick Wilson (CEO), Ms Abu Samah, and Erinn Cummins (Program Administrator). Back row: Andrew Morris (Data and Information Manager), Ken Middlebrook (PT Manager), Heidi Scurrall (Training and General Assistant), Ned Gravel (Quality and Training Manager), and Mr Abd Rahim.

## Integrating proficiency testing into laboratory accreditation

By JEJ (Ned) Gravel, Manager, Quality and Training, CAEAL

Recently, CAEAL received visitors from two APLAC MRA partners to discuss experiences in monitoring the proficiency testing (PT) performance of accredited laboratories. The discussion was based on the CAEAL integrated model. CAEAL requires accredited laboratories to participate in PT more frequently than is suggested in ILAC P9—and maintains a comprehensive database of performance results.

On 4 February 2008, Mr Ahmad Razif Abd Rahim of Standards Malaysia, Ms Nor Azian Abu Samah of Chemistry Malaysia, and Ms Rachada Hemapattawee of DSS Thailand visited CAEAL and spent four days examining how such integration could be accomplished.

From theory to practical, the group examined the processes and files that demonstrate implementation. On the final day, they visited The National Laboratory for Environmental Testing (NLET). NLET is part of the Canada Centre for Inland Waters (CCIW), one of the laboratories belonging to the federal government

department responsible for environmental matters, Environment Canada and one of the collaborator laboratories that supplies samples for the CAEAL PT program.

The time spent with MRA partners from warmer climates was made more interesting by the current snowfall rate in Canada's National Capital Region. Flights to Ottawa delayed the arrival of the team from Malaysia and the trip from Ottawa to CCIW delayed that visit by one day. Such is travel in Canada in winter.

All visitors were able to board their return flights on time and it is reported that they arrived home safely.

From the point of view of training, the subject is one where disagreement still exists throughout the laboratory accreditation community. As the members of ILAC and APLAC strive to come to consensus on the question of accreditation bodies coordinating their own PT programs, this visit was timely in examining the issues surrounding a program that enjoys such success and the formal recognition of full signatory status in both arrangements.

## More than 100 inspection bodies accredited by CNAS

The accreditation of inspection bodies developed rapidly since China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS) signed the APLAC MRA for inspection since 2004. More than 100 inspection bodies have been accredited and nearly 20 are in the process of being assessed. The areas of CNAS inspection accreditation extend from the initial mechanical and electrical equipment manufacturing supervision and factory inspection to special equipment inspection, electrical apparatus for explosive atmospheres explosion protection and safety inspection, building and construction inspection, commodity inspection, information security evaluation, factory inspection for CCC and others, dangerous goods transport conditions inspection, architectural fire protection facilities inspection, road and traffic engineering inspection, vehicle safety inspection, health examination, forensic science and so on. As a result, CNAS inspection accreditation gains wide attention from the society and its influence increases greatly in these years.

## APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement Advisory Committee

APLAC MR001 #	Issue No. 12 11/06 Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Agreements Between Accreditation Bodies
APLAC MR002	(Rev 1) Issue Date 09/06 Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement
APLAC MR003	Issue No. 12 11/06 Application for Signatory Status in the APLAC Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APLAC MRA)
APLAC MR004	Issue No. 8 09/07 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. 1 11/06 APLAC MRA Council—Rules for Operation
APLAC MR009	Issue No. 1 02/07 APLAC Evaluation Report Template APLAC Quality Manual
APLAC QM	Issue No. 2 10/07 APLAC Quality Manual

## APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee

APLAC PT001	Issue No. 4 01/06 APLAC Calibration Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT002	Issue No. 5 01/06 APLAC Testing Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT003	Issue No. 9 09/07 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 Public Information Committee

APLAC PR007	Issue No. 22 02/07 Power Point Presentation—APLAC Its Role And Structure
APLAC PR008	Issue No. 30 06 /07 International Recognition of Accredited Test, Calibration and Inspection Reports
APLAC PR009	Issue No. 5 07/04 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

## APLAC

Presentation

Power Point Slide Template