Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

DECEMBER 2001 APLAC NEWS NOTES ISSUE No. 059

APLAC is an organization 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

- Harmonization of requirements

- Mutual recognition of systems

meeting harmonized requirements

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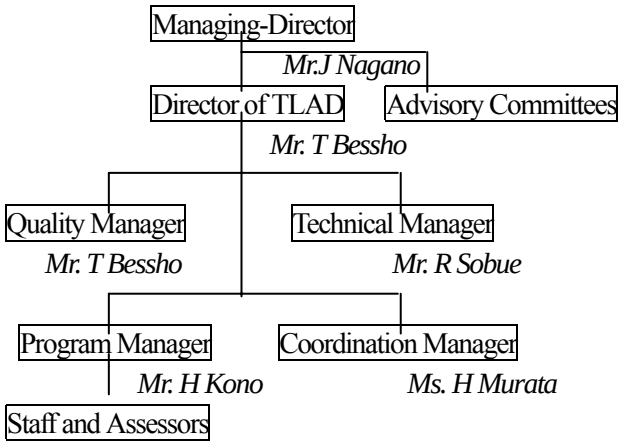
The next issue will be published in February 2002 by ICBO, USA.

News from JNLA

Organizational Change of JNLA

JNLA had been transferred from METI to Testing Laboratory Accreditation Division, Conformity Assessment Center of NITE in April 1, 2001 (organizational structure is as below).

Last year, JNLA included anti-microbial testing for ceramic and textile products to its scope. From the first accreditation of this sub-field in June, the number of accredited labs is successfully increasing, and as of December 5, the total number of accredited labs is 69 in 7 fields (see the next page) . JNLA co-hosted ILAC2001 Kyoto General Assembly with JCSS and JAB.



Promotion Videos Developed by METI

METI developed some promotional videos in cooperation with NMIJ and NITE. 3 videos are available in Japanese and English as follows;

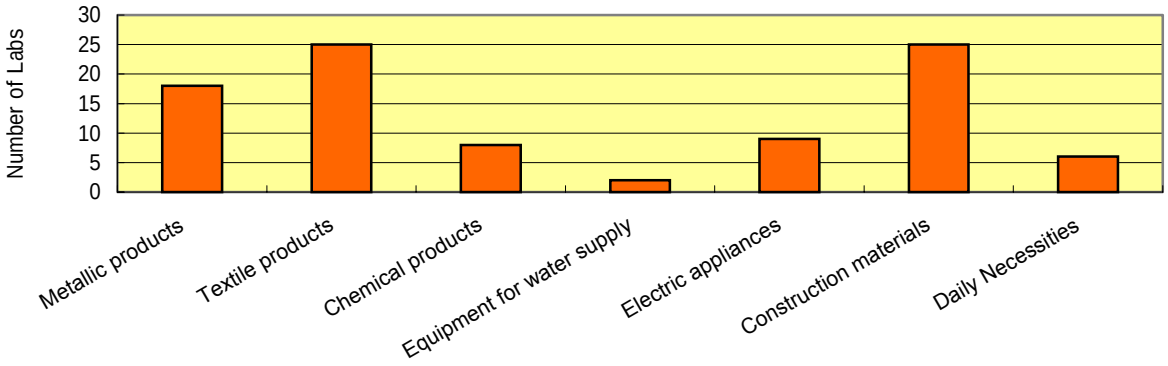
-Traceability of Measurement (including promotion of JCSS)

- Uncertainty of Measurement

- Reference Materials (at present, Japanese version available only)

These are free-charge. If you are interested in them, please contact JNLA or JCSS. We will arrange to distribute.

Number of JNLA Accredited Laboratories in each field



Proceeding of JNLA Proficiency Testing Program

Recent proceeding of JNLA Proficiency Testing Program is as follows;

Code of PT	Testing Field	Type of Testing	Number of Participants	Note
JNPT12-01	Metallic Materials	Rockwell Hardness Test	87 (including 48 from APLAC &30 from EA)	APLAC T027
JNPT12-02	Textile Products	Color Fastness Test to UV Carbon arc Lamp Light, Shrinkage Percentage Test & Length of Thread	49	
JNPT12-03	Chemical Products, Daily Necessities & Equipment for Water Supply Service	Chemical Analysis of Metals in water (As, Fe, Na, Zn)	13	
JNPT12-04	Chemical Products	Tensile Test of plastic and rubber	11	
JNPT12-05	Electrical Appliances	Thermal Test	7	
JNPT12-06	Construction Materials	Compressive Strength Test of Concrete	35	
JNPT12-07	Daily Necessities	Counting & MIC Test	37	
JNPT13-01	Metallic Materials	Tensile Test	24	
JNPT13-02	Textile Products	Color Fastness Test to Laundering and Perspiration, Fiber Mixture Test & Bursting Strength Test	54 (including 2 from HK)	
JNPT13-03	Chemical Products, Daily Necessities & Equipment for Water Supply Service	Chemical Analysis of Metals in water (As, Fe, Na, Zn)	9	
JNPT13-04	Chemical Products	Tensile Test of plastic and rubber	16	
JNPT13-05	Electrical Appliances	Thermal Test	10	
JNPT13-06	Construction Materials	Compressive Strength Test of Concrete	32	
JNPT13-07	Construction Materials	Strength Test of Cement	11	
JNPT13-08	Daily Necessities	Anti-microbial test	up to 30	

CCIBLAC Signs the APLAC And ILAC MRA

Jointly hosted by CNACL and CCIBLAC, the 15th APLAC General Assembly was successfully held in Beijing from 22nd to 26th of October, 2001 with nearly 80 delegates from 24 laboratory accreditation bodies in the Asia-Pacific region. On October 25th, CCIBLAC signed the APLAC MRA.

On November 3rd, CCIBLAC also signed the ILAC MRA during the ILAC General Assembly in Kyoto, Japan.

The successful signing of the APLAC and ILAC MRAs by CCIBLAC demonstrates that the laboratory accreditation policies established by CCIBLAC meet the requirements of international standards and the testing reports issued by its accredited laboratories will be recognized by APLAC and ILAC MRA signatories as equivalent. It will also bring about positive effect on elimination of technical barrier to trade and promote the development of China foreign trade and international economic cooperation.

News from IANZ

IANZ has held its strategic planning session with senior management and Council members and reaffirms its commitment to full participation in APLAC and ILAC activities.

This included representation of the CEO of IANZ as Chair of APLAC and a member of the Executive of ILAC. The Chair of APLAC position also means regular attendance at APEC Sub Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) meetings. The meeting also reaffirmed the involvement of Dr Max Robertson as Chair of the APLAC Technical Committee and his continued involvement with the ILAC Technical Committee, a number of ISO CASCO working groups, and continued activity in ISO/IEC 17025 assessor training throughout the APLAC region. It also reaffirmed continued involvement of Ian Roy in the APLAC PIC, the ILAC PAC, and his continued activities in the overall promotion of accreditation on a global basis.

The Chair of the IANZ Council, Dr John Buckingham, is also a regular attendee at APLAC and ILAC General Assemblies. Dr Buckingham is also writing (in conjunction with Klaus Brinkmann) a more user friendly guide to uncertainty of measurement.

This commitment is from one of the smallest economies in the APLAC region and represents a serious commitment on behalf of New Zealand. No funding support for this activity is received from the New Zealand Government.

New Member of APLAC: VLAC

VLAC (VOLUNTARY EMC LABORATORY ACCREDITATION CENTER) is the Laboratory Accreditation Body which specialized in the EMC (Electro Magnetic Compatibility) field in Japan.

In the Beijing general assembly of APLAC on October 26, 2001, VLAC was recognized the member of APLAC as a FULL Member, and prepare to become an APLAC/MRA Member from now on.

Please see about the outline of VLAC at following URL: http://www.vlac.co.jp (VLAC Home Page) .

News from JCSS

Introduction of hierarchic structure

Until March 2001, the use of JCSS logo on the calibration certificate had been limited to the calibrations of the measurement standards or of the measuring instruments with high accuracy by using reference standards that were directly calibrated by the national measurement standards. However, revision of the Measurement Law was in effect in April 2001, and JCSS can now grant accreditation to all laboratories which calibrate measuring instruments and testing equipment in downstream calibration level e.g. micrometers or electronic force balance by using reference standards or working standards traceable to the national

standards. JCSS has been received a number of applications in the extended accreditation scope since April 2001 and already accredited a certain laboratories of them. Furthermore, a number of laboratories will be expected to be accredited soon for their new or extended scope including major fields such as electrical, dimensional and force calibration.

Scope of Accreditation

As of December 2001, the accreditation scope covers 18 calibration fields (see the below). JCSS aims to establish the standard provision system and cover the full 23 fields within several years.

- Length - Mass - Force, Torque
- Pressure - Flow-rate - Heat
- Electrical - Temperature
- Attenuation of Electromagnetic wave
- Photometry - Sound - Vibration
- Radiation and Radioactivity - Hardness
- Humidity - Reference Materials
- Acceleration - Density

As of December 1, 2001, the number of accredited laboratories is 86 (including multi-scope laboratories).

Proficiency Testing Program

Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Division of NITE is also in charge of coordinating JCSS Proficiency Testing. It is conducted in compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide43, under the technical support from NMIJ and JEMIC. Some of JCSS Accredited Calibration Laboratories also participated in APLAC Proficiency Testing.

Contact point of JCSS

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List of Recent JCSS Proficiency Testing Programs

[Completed Programs]

Program ID	Fields/type	Ref. lab	Period of circulation
JCPT10-09	Humidity/Dew Point Meter	NRLM	Feb 2000 – May 2000
JCPT11-23	Mass/weight	NRLM	Oct. 2000 - Dec. 2001

[On-going Programs]

	Fields/type	Ref. lab	Period of circulation
JCPT10-10-3	Thermal/PRT	NRLM	Jun. 2000 – Jul. 2000
JCPT12-24	RM/Standard Solution	NITE	Aug. 2000 – Oct. 2000
JCPT11-18	Flow/Low Flow Rate of Gas	NRLM	Aug.2000(measurement audit)
JCPT10-11-1	Thermal/PRT	NRLM	Sep. 2000 – Nov. 2000
JCPT11-19	Flow/Breeze Speed	NRLM	Dec.2000(measurement audit)
JCPT10-11-2	Thermal/PRT	NRLM	Dec. 2000 – Mar. 2001
JCPT12-25	Sound-Level/Standard Microphone, etc.	NRLM	Jan. 2001 – Mar. 2001
JCPT12-26	Photometry/ Illuminance	NMIJ	Jul. 2001 – Aug. 2001

[On-going programs: Downstream Calibration Level]

	Fields/type	Ref. lab	Period of circulation
JCPT12-27-1	Electrical/DCV,DCA,ACV,ACA	JEMIC	May 2001 – June 2002
JCPT12-27-2	Electrical/DC Resistance	JEMIC	May 2001 – June 2002

Abbreviation: NRLM National Research Laboratory of Metrology
NMIJ National Measurement Institute of Japan
JEMIC Japan Electric Meters Inspection Cooperation

Remarks: NMIJ was established in Jan. 2001, with merging ETL (Electro Technical Laboratory), NRLM and other national institutes maintain national standards. JEMIC is the designated calibration laboratory that has national measurement (primary) standards and Sub-Primary standards.