

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

APLAC NEWS NOTES is published six times a year to facilitate the exchange of information among members and interested parties. It is not copyrighted and may be reproduced in full. Excerpts should reference **APLAC News Notes** specifically. Wide copying and distribution are encouraged.

APLAC also maintains an Internet site at:
www.aplac.org

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The next issue will be published in **October 2005** by **SCC**.

Chiang Mai eagerly awaits APLAC 2005

The Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) and its APLAC 2005 co-hosts: the Department of Medical Sciences (DMSc) and the Department of Science Service (DSS), look forward to welcoming all delegates to APLAC's 11th General Assembly and Technical Meetings in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The APLAC 2005 organizing committee, chaired by TISI Deputy Secretary-General, is progressing with the concerted efforts of all the 3 hosts to ensure that delegates and their accompanying persons, families and friends, are well cared for during their stay in this tourist destination city. Taking place during 12-18 November with the Sheraton Chiang Mai Hotel as venue, APLAC 2005 opportunely will also be celebrating the nationwide Loy Krathong festival on 16 November.

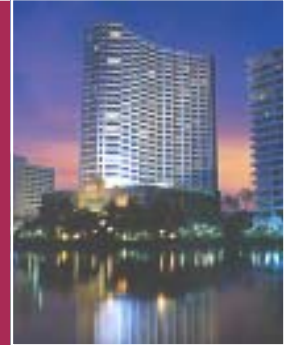
Chiang Mai is eagerly awaiting your arrival and would like to make sure nothing prevents the success of your visit.

On meeting arrangement, delegates had been requested earlier to pre-register with TISI via the internet and a number of pre-registration forms already came in, which greatly facilitated preparation on the part of the organizing committee. Though deadlines for pre-registration has been set at 31 August, TISI must urge other members who have not done so **to send in their pre-registration forms soonest as possible, preferably now**, so that appropriate arrangement for their participation can be made.

Of no less importance is early flight and hotel reservation. While choices of flights and hotels for Chiang Mai seem numerous now, delegates can and will find that reservation for either can be easily impossible the more the Loy Krathong period approaches. This is truly the peak of the tourist season where the city is filled with worldwide tourists each year. **Delegates are seriously cautioned to make flight and hotel reservation NOW** to guarantee, on top of their participation in the meetings, a nice place to stay in Chiang Mai.

Providing useful information on both the country and the host city Chiang Mai, TISI webpage "www.tisi.go.th/APLAC" invites all delegates to visit. Any inquiry will be answered.

Please help us make sure everybody will be pleasantly present at APLAC 2005: **SEND IN THE PRE-REGISTRATIONS AND MAKE THE NECESSARY RESERVATION NOW, PLEASE.**



Programme for the Week

Date	Time	Activities
Saturday 12 November 2005	13.00 - 18.00	Registration
Sunday 13 November 2005	09.00 - 17.00 09.00 - 17.00 19.00	Registration Board of Management Meeting Welcome Reception
Monday 14 November 2005	09.00 - 12.30 13.30 - 17.00 13.30 - 17.00	Opening Ceremony / Seminar Proficiency Testing Committee Meeting Training Committee Meeting
Tuesday 15 November 2005	09.00 - 10.30 09.00 - 10.30 07.30 - 12.00 11.00 - 17.00 11.00 - 17.00	Proficiency Testing Committee Meeting Training Committee Meeting Doi Suthep Study Tour Technical Committee Meeting Public Information Committee Meeting
Wednesday 16 November 2005	09.00 - 17.00 18.30	MRA Council Meeting Welcome Dinner / Loi Krathong Festival
Thursday 17 November 2005	09.00 - 12.30 13.30 - 17.30 18.30 19.00	MRA Council Meeting General Assembly Meeting MRA Signing Ceremony Conference Dinner
Friday 18 November 2005	09.00 - 17.30	General Assembly Meeting

Upon arrival, delegates are invited to register at the registration desk in the lobby of the Sheraton Chiang Mai Hotel. Registration fee is payable at the time of registration **in USD and in cash only at the rate of 600 USD per delegate and 200 USD per accompanying person.** Included in the registration fee are lunch and coffee breaks each day and all social events.

REPORT FROM APLAC SECRETARIAT

1 APLAC 2005

A reminder to all APLAC members to ensure that they register for APLAC 2005 and book their accommodation as soon as possible, if they have not already done so, and certainly by no later than 31 August 2005. Registration can only be done via the APLAC 2005 web site and the registration fee must be paid in cash in USD on arrival at APLAC 2005. The web site address is: <http://www.tisi.go.th/APLAC>.

2 Postal Ballots

The secretariat would like to remind members that they should respond to requests to vote on postal ballots as quickly as possible. For some recent ballots we have had difficulty in achieving a valid ballot because of the number of non-returns. It is part of a member's responsibilities to return ballots, and all signatories to the APLAC MRA have accepted this as a requirement upon them. If we do not have valid ballots we are not able to operate as effectively as we should.

3 Comment Period on Draft APLAC Constitution

The draft APLAC Constitution has been sent out to members for comment, with comments due back by 15 August 2005. To date we have received replies from only 2 members. Members are requested to discuss the draft, if necessary, with their legal advisor, and to send back any comments they have.

4 Updates on APLAC Web Site

The secretariat has recently advised members of the following updates to documents available via the APLAC web site:

APLAC SEC 039
APLAC SEC 045
APLAC SEC 049

In addition, the following are available via the "members only" section of the web site. If you have forgotten the log on and password for the "members only" section, please contact the secretariat.

Report on the APLAC RM Workshop, March 2005
Agenda papers for December 2004 meeting of APLAC Technical Committee
Performance logs for APLAC lead evaluators and evaluators (Word version)

Helen Liddy, Janet Clark and Jane King
APLAC Secretariat

DSS Insight

The Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation is empowered, through the Ministerial Regulation B.E. 2545 (2002) reorganizing the Department of Science Service, to develop the capability of laboratories by providing assessment and accreditation services in physical, chemical, and biological testing laboratories both government and private sectors to comply with ISO/IEC17025.

Activities of Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation

The Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation is responsible for the activities provided by its 4 operating sections.

1. Laboratory Accreditation Section
2. Proficiency Testing Section
3. Laboratory Performance Database Section
4. Information and Promotion Section

International participation of Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation

The Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation has been a full member of APLAC since July 2004 and participated in APLAC activities as follows:

1. APLAC 2004 Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam in December 2004.
2. Training course on ISO/IEC 17011 and the APLAC MRA Council meeting held in Narita, Japan on 22-26 April 2005.
3. APLAC RM Producer Workshop held in Hong Kong, China on 11-12 March 2005.

Recent seminars, training courses and harmonization meetings of BLA

To promote the accreditation of laboratory in Thailand and provide the assessment and accreditation services following ISO/IEC17011 and in harmonization within BLA staff and assessors, many seminars, training courses and harmonization meetings have been arranged by the BLA.

1. Seminar on the internal calibration for testing laboratory in volumetric glassware and temperature measurement apparatus was held in Bangkok on 24-25 February 2005.
2. Assessor training course following APLAC TR001 was held in Nakornphathom province on 21-26 March 2005.
3. Harmonization meeting on validation of method has been held for 3 times, lastly on 9 May 2005 in Bangkok.

4. Seminar on benefits of international mutual recognition arrangement of accreditation body was held in Bangkok on 22 November 2004.



Seminar on benefits of international mutual recognition arrangement of accreditation body held in Bangkok on 22 November 2004

5. Harmonization meeting on uncertainty of testing was held in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province on 13-15 June 2005.



Harmonization meeting on Uncertainty of testing held in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province on 13-15 June 2005.

6. Seminar on the accreditation of laboratory by ISO/IEC17025 and the strategy in the efficiency development of the competence of laboratory has been held 3 times, lastly on 8 July 2005 in Eastern part, Rayong province.

7. Training on the requirements of BLA quality system complying to ISO/IEC 17011 was held on 12 and 15 July 2005.

8. Training on ISO/IEC 17025:2005 was held in Bangkok on 16 August 2005.

9. Training on ISO/IEC 17011 was held in Bangkok on 17 August 2005.

Proficiency testing programmes

For the past 2 years, BLA has organized several PT programmes as follows:

- chemical composition analysis of carbon and low alloy steel
- waste water analysis (COD, heavy metals, pH, suspended solids)
- aerobic plate count in starch, proximate analysis in feeding stuffs
- calibration of vernier
- calibration of micrometer
- calibration of dial gauge
- calibration of electric balance
- calibration of volumetric flask and pipette etc.

Over 500 laboratories participated in those programmes. After completion of each programme, the BLA conducted seminar for participating laboratories to share their technical experiences. Feed back, suggestion and comments reported from the seminars have been raised to the PT staff so that they ensure continual improvement of their PT service following ISO/IEC Guide 43.

BLA has also nominated laboratories to join APLAC PT programs in APLAC T019, APLAC T041, APLAC T043 and APLAC T044.

CNLA/TAF Update Acceptance by the Taiwanese Regulator CDC

Starting from 1 August 2005, the Taiwanese regulator, the Centre for Disease Control, Department of Health, Executive Yuan, will commence the employment of hospitals whose laboratories were granted accreditation by CNLA/TAF as designated hospitals for employed foreigners' medical examination.

The required applying items of such designated hospitals include the following five examinations:

1. Immunoserology: RPR/VDRL test, TPHA/TPPA test, HBs Ag and HIV antibody-screening
2. Pregnancy: β -HCG or Urine pregnancy test
3. Parasites: Ova examination, Identification of morphology and Amoebic smear/stain examination
4. Chest X-ray
5. The process and moving path for health

In addition, such designated hospitals shall also be compliant with ISO 15189.

NEW PROGRAMMES FROM THE SINGAPORE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

It has been a busy and exciting year for the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) in 2004, with many of the activities continue on to 2005. Several new accreditation programmes are launched and some currently being developed to meet the emerging needs of the industries. In addition, SAC has been reviewing and streamlining its various activities and programmes to ensure greater efficiency and value add to its customers, and to ensure full compliance with the international requirement of ISO/IEC 17011.

Two new accreditation programmes in the area of inspection have been developed and launched early this year, with several others in the pipeline.

Accreditation of Motor Vehicle Inspection

The Motor Vehicle Inspection Scheme was launched in January 2005. It is open to inspection bodies that perform motor vehicles inspection for local road worthiness, in-house fleet of motor vehicle and/or export of second hand motor vehicles.

Accreditation of Structural Steelwork Inspection

The structural steelwork inspection scheme was launched in March 2005 to support the National Productivity and Quality Specifications (NPQS) of Singapore. NPQS is a set of standard specifications for building projects that provides a platform for achieving greater efficiency and quality in the design and construction process. The scheme will facilitate the appointment of independent Inspection and Testing Agency (ITA) in structural steel works.

Accreditation of Occupational Safety and Health Management System (OSHMS) certification

SAC has also launched an accreditation scheme for OSHMS certification in July 2005. The scheme will upgrade the competence of certification bodies in certification of organisations for a safer and healthier work environment in Singapore.

Programmes under development

SAC will be launching the joint accreditation programme with the College of American Pathologists (CAP) for medical testing in August 2005. This joint programme intends to support those laboratories in Singapore that require acceptance of results for drug trials by the US FDA.

In addition, SAC is currently developing a programme for Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification, and a programme for facilities providing medical imaging services such as general radiography, ultrasound, mammography and computerized tomography.

Detail information on the SAC accreditation programmes can be viewed from the recently enhanced SAC's website, www.sac-accreditation.org.sg.

Medical Laboratory Accreditation

Accreditation of Medical Laboratories to ISO 15189 Has Been Introduced to China Through CNAL

On 22-23 May 2005, China National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (CNAL) conducted its first on-site medical laboratory assessment, which marked the completion of CNAL's R&D and pilot assessment of the medical laboratory to ISO15189 and the initiation of CNAL's actual medical laboratory accreditation process.

CNAL has been following and studying the international standard ISO15189 *Medical Laboratories-Particular Requirements for Quality and Competence* since 2001. In 2003, after obtaining approval from the Standardization Administration of China, CNAL organized and completed the translation of this standard into identical national standard. In 2004, CNAL set up its medical laboratory accreditation system, selected and trained the first batch of ISO15189 assessors.

The initiation of CNAL's accreditation of medical laboratories to ISO 15189 has gained positive response from medical laboratories and relevant government departments. Many medical laboratories have showed their intention of application for medical laboratory accreditation. Up to June 2005, CNAL has received formal application from 5 medical laboratories. In light of the tremendous social and market demand in China, CNAL's medical laboratory accreditation is expected to develop rapidly in the near future. As a result, more and more medical laboratories in China will benefit from accreditation to ISO 15189.

Congratulations !

The Department of Clinical Pathology, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University was proudly granted the ISO 15189 laboratory accreditation certificate on 17 March 2005 from the Bureau of Laboratory Quality Standards, the Department of Medical Sciences, the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand.



Congratulations !

Executives and staffs, Mongkutwattana General Hospital, gatheringly photoed in occasion on ISO 15189 accreditation of their medical laboratory, granted by the Bureau of Laboratory Quality Standards, the Department of Medical Sciences, the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, on 20 May 2005.

*This ISO 15189 accreditation for Mongkutwattana General Hospital's laboratory is covering in the areas of microbiology, immunology, serology, chemistry, hematology, microscopy and blood bank, included in 105 tests, **which is the first ISO 15189 accredited laboratory of private hospitals, in Thailand.***

APLAC PUBLICATIONS LIST

Most of the following APLAC documents are available from the APLAC web site. They can also be emailed out by the APLAC Secretariat as PDF files.

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APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement Council

APLAC MR 001#	Issue No. 7, 12/04	Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Agreements Between Laboratory Accreditation Bodies
APLAC MR 002 (rev 1)#	04/05	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) text
APLAC MR 003	Issue No. 9, 05/05	Application for Signatory Status in the APLAC Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APLAC MRA)
APLAC MR 004	Issue No. 3, 06/05	APLAC Evaluators – Qualifications and Monitoring Performance
APLAC MR 005	Issue No.1, 09/03	Procedure for Training of APLAC MRA Evaluators
APLAC MR 006	Issue No.1, 07/04	APLAC Procedure for the Conduct of Joint Evaluation with Another Region

APLAC Nominations Committee

APLAC NC 001	Issue No. 4, 02/05	APLAC Nominations Committee and the APLAC Nomination Process
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APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee

APLAC PT 001	Issue No. 3, 03/03	APLAC Calibration Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT 002	Issue No. 4, 12/03	APLAC Testing Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT 003	Issue No. 5, 03/05	APLAC Proficiency Testing Directory
APLAC PT 004	Issue No. 4, 03/05	APLAC Measurement Audits
APLAC PT 005	Issue No. 1 06/04	Artefacts for Measurement Audits

APLAC Public Information Committee

APLAC PR 001	Issue No. 2, 02/05	APLAC Publications Numbering Policy
APLAC PR 003	Issue No. 3, 02/05	Procedure for Adoption of APLAC Documents
APLAC PR 007	Issue No. 14, 03/05	APLAC – Its Role and Structure – PowerPoint Presentation
APLAC PR 008	Issue No. 17, 12/04	International Recognition of Accredited Test, Calibration and Inspection Reports
APLAC PR 009	Issue No. 5, 07/04	APLAC Procedures for Editors of <i>APLAC News Notes</i>

APLAC Secretariat

APLAC SEC 001*	Issue No. 3, 12/02	APLAC Memorandum of Understanding
APLAC SEC 004*	Issue No. 5, 02/05	APLAC Rules of Procedure
APLAC SEC 009	Issue No. 64, 07/05	APLAC Publications List
APLAC SEC 017	Issue No. 10, 05/05	APLAC Application for Membership

APLAC Secretariat

APLAC SEC 020	Issue No. 47, 07/05	APLAC General Assembly and MRA Council Delegates List
APLAC SEC 021	Issue No. 18, 01/05	APLAC Board of Management Membership List
APLAC SEC 022	Issue No. 13, 01/05	APLAC Committee Chairs and Secretaries List
APLAC SEC 023	Deleted	APLAC MRA Council Membership List (see SEC 020 above from 01/05)
APLAC SEC 036	Issue No. 2, 08/03	APLAC Complaints Handling Procedures
APLAC SEC 037	Issue No. 2, 02/05	APLAC Document Control and Document Format
APLAC SEC 038	Issue No.21, 06/05	APLAC Membership Summary List
APLAC SEC 039	Issue No. 13, 06/05	APLAC MRA Signatories Summary List
APLAC SEC 040	Issue No. 4, 07/04	APLAC Procedure for Issuing Invoices for Annual Fees
APLAC SEC 041	Issue No. 3, 08/04	APLAC Guidelines for Hosts of the APLAC General Assembly and Associated Meetings (only available from the Secretariat)
APLAC SEC 042*	Issue No. 2, 07/03	APLAC Code of Ethics for Laboratory and Inspection Body Accreditation Organisations
APLAC SEC 043	Issue No. 2, 12/04	APLAC Requirements for APLAC Funding Requests
APLAC SEC 044	Issue No. 2, 08/03	APLAC Procedure for Appeals and Alternative Dispute Resolution Process
APLAC SEC 045	Issue No. 3, 06/05	APLAC Procedure for Management Review and Internal Audits
APLAC SEC 046	Issue No. 1, 12/03	Guidelines for the Use of the APLAC Logo
APLAC SEC 047	Issue No. 1, 12/03	Processing Notification of Changes Within an APLAC MRA Signatory Organisation
APLAC SEC 048	Issue No. 1, 12/03	APLAC Register of Delegated Responsibilities
APLAC SEC 049	Issue No. 4, 07/05	Maintenance and Archiving of APLAC Files
APLAC SEC 050	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 SEC 051	Issue No. 1, 12/04	Overview of APLAC Management System Documentation

APLAC Technical Committee

APLAC TC 002	Issue No. 2, 02/04	APLAC Internal Audits for Laboratories and Inspection Bodies
APLAC TC 003	Issue No. 2, 02/04	APLAC Management Review for Laboratories and Inspection Bodies
APLAC TC 004	Issue No. 2, 03/04	APLAC Method of Stating Test and Calibration Results and Compliance with Specification
APLAC TC 005	Issue No. 2, 03/04	APLAC Interpretation and Guidance on the Estimation of Uncertainty of Measurement in Testing
APLAC TC 006	Issue No. 1, 07/04	APLAC Guidance Notes on ISO/IEC 17020

APLAC Training Committee

APLAC TR 001	Issue No. 1, 12/01	APLAC Guidelines on Training Course for Assessors
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* Adherence to these APLAC documents is mandatory for all APLAC Full and Associate members

Adherence to these APLAC documents is mandatory for all signatories to the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)

APLAC 2005

Chiang Mai, Thailand
12-18 November 2005

hosted by

