

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 program
- Proficiency testing
- Harmonization of requirements
- Mutual recognition of systems meeting harmonized 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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This issue is published by:

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The next issued will be published in August 2002 by IANZ, International Accreditation New Zealand

The Future of ILAC

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) is the global forum for:

- ◆ the recognition of competent laboratory accreditation bodies which oversee and monitor the competence of testing/calibration laboratories and inspection bodies world-wide;
- ◆ the development and implementation of sound accreditation principles and practice,
- ◆ the promotion of laboratory accreditation to protect the health, safety and the environment, to ensure interoperability, and to facilitate global trade.

After successfully making the transition from conference to cooperation, ILAC is now entering a significant stage in its evolution. ILAC will incorporate by the end of 2002, enhancing its ability to represent the interests of laboratory accreditation with established global counterpart organizations. The articles of incorporation will include improvements in the definition of the membership categories. The bylaws are simultaneously being revised to reflect the new corporate structure.



Several other important activities have been initiated. Under the conscientious leadership of Mike Peet, Chair of ILAC, a strategic planning process has begun. A clear definition of ILAC's mission, an ILAC vision, six strategic goals and several strategies identified to achieve these goals are being proposed. The Executive Committee, composed of volunteers throughout the world of accreditation, has provided the bulk of the energy to create this document. The ILAC Executive (see photo, from left to right, sitting: Hans Mittmann, Chair, Accreditation Policy Committee; John Gilmour, ILAC Past Chair and Consultant; Mike Peet, ILAC Chair; Belinda Collins, ILAC Immediate Past Chair; Peter van de Leemput, Chair, Technical Accreditation Issues Committee; standing: Annette Dever, ILAC Secretariat; Orna Dreazen, Unaffiliated Bodies Representative; Llewellyn Richards, APLAC Chair; Peter Unger, Chair ILAC Arrangement Management Committee; Alan Squirrell, ILAC Secretariat; Maribel Lopez, IAAC Chair; Daniel Pierre, EA Chair; David Stanger, Chair, Laboratory Committee; and Paul Davies, Chair Public Affairs Committee).

The ILAC strategic plan is intended to guide ILAC's activities for the next several years building upon the successful start in 2001 of the multi-lateral mutual recognition arrangement (simply known as the ILAC Arrangement). The strategic and business plan will enable more effective development of detailed action/work plans with a uniform focus. ILAC desires to be the preferred mechanism through which the recognition of competent laboratories and inspection bodies is carried out.

To achieve this vision, the first strategic goal is to enhance acceptance of the ILAC Arrangement among users of laboratory services in government, industry, and the professions. This is a significant challenge but vital to achieve the ideal of "one test accepted everywhere, one accreditation accepted

everywhere."

ILAC also needs to address all global needs for accreditation services in economies without recognized laboratory accreditation infrastructure. Other goals address effective communications, increased use of technology, developing further strategic alliances, and maintenance of sufficient administrative resources.

The ILAC Secretariat continues to be very effectively managed by NATA Australia, which over the years has significantly subsidized its operation. ILAC needs to move forward to the day when its operation is fully funded by fees and other sources of revenue.

The first joint general assembly of ILAC and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF, cooperation for accreditation of certifiers) was held in Kyoto in November 2001. The two organizations are seeking ways to harmonize policies, positions and procedures of mutual interest and to reduce costs. The Japanese hosts provided a terrific venue and adroitly managed to accommodate a very large number of people into one room. Considering the perceived and real differences in the cultures of the two bodies, this first meeting can be considered a success. Tangible savings of these joint general assembly meetings accrues to liaison organizations which now only have to provide one report to both bodies and to those accreditation bodies having membership in both ILAC and IAF. The major outcome of the meeting was agreement to formally establish a Joint Committee on Closer Cooperation (JCCC) which will provide the management of all other joint activities. Joint committees for inspection body accreditation and developing country activities were also endorsed. Progress on the harmonization of peer evaluation processes was also reported. The next general assembly meeting of ILAC

will be held in Berlin, Germany from 22-26 September 2002. Check out www.ilac.org for more details.

Peter Unger
President of A2LA

News from JAB

New Director of Laboratory Accreditation Division

Mr. Douji Kokuten took office as Director of Laboratory Accreditation Division on April 2002. He is expected to play an active role in expanding laboratory accreditation in Japan. Since April 1999, the Executive Director of the Board, Mr. Yuichiro Isu had been serving concurrently as Director of the Laboratory Accreditation Division. Mr. Isu remains as Executive Director of the Board and the representative of JAB on ILAC and APLAC matters.

JAB Proficiency Testing Programs for EMC

JAB has conducted two Proficiency Testing programs for electromagnetic compatibility (EMC). The first PT program, held from August 1999 to February 2000, attracted forty-three (43) participating laboratories. The second program, from August 2000 to April 2001, attracted fifty-six(56) participating laboratories. The programs were based on a measurement comparison design where the test items were sequentially distributed around the group of participating test houses. Two CNEs (comparison noise emitters) were used in the programs in

order to reduce the duration of the testing cycle.

Radiated emissions were measured at specific frequencies between 30 MHz and 1000 MHz, using a CISPR quasi-peak detector. There was no reference laboratory for this proficiency testing program and the results were evaluated using Z-scores determined from average/median and standard deviation/NIQR, calculated from the laboratories results.

The test reports are publicly available and may be useful, especially to participating test laboratories who can check their PT results and investigate the cause of any problems. In conjunction with these proficiency testing programs, JAB has been studying the factors affecting emission test results and researching the best measurement conditions for the tests. The research project was supported by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) from the budget for fiscal year 2001. A third PT program for EMC is currently underway, with fifty-four(54) participating test laboratories.

Proficiency Testing programs are being conducted once per year for measurement comparison (calibration of DC/AC Digital Multimeters(DMM), standard resistance, length and mass; testing of EMC, chemical analysis of metals and environmental and mechanical tests of metals).

Participation in JAB's Proficiency Testing Programs is open to foreign laboratories.

For further details, please contact:

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NEWS FROM SCC

The Standards Council of Canada is pleased to host this year's APLAC meeting.

The meeting will take place in Vancouver, British Columbia at the Sutton Place Hotel. Our meeting will begin on Sunday November 10, 2002 at 19:00 with a Welcome Reception. The event runs through to Friday November 15 at 16:00 hours. An official announcement and program including accommodation and conference registration forms will be sent out in June. An invitation letter will soon be available for those of you who must obtain visas from the Canadian embassy. We urge you to apply early for your visas because longer than normal delays have recently been reported in some cases. Should you need an invitation letter please contact Stephen or Piernella at the coordinates provided below.

If you have any other questions feel free to e-mail Stephen Cross, Manager Conformity Assessment at scross@scc.ca, or Piernella Chabot, Administrative Officer at pchabot@scc.ca.

The Standards Council looks forward to welcoming you to beautiful British Columbia.

NEWS FROM SAC

Transfer of SAC to SPRING Singapore

The Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) is now a program under the Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board (SPRING Singapore). The transfer of SAC to SPRING Singapore took

effect on 1 April 2002.

The transfer took place due to a rising need for Singapore to have a national standard and accreditation regime that can represent Singapore internationally across the whole spectrum of industries. Moreover, having a government national accreditation body will facilitate the establishment of a government-to-government mutual recognition agreement, which is an essential feature of the free trade agreements with Singapore's major trading partners. Hence, the Singapore Government has decided to transfer SAC to a government function under SPRING Singapore.

The transfer of SAC will not affect its independence in the operation of its programs. The Council and committee structure will be retained. The management and staff of SAC have also been transferred to SPRING Singapore. The continuity of the accreditation programs with the expertise and competence are therefore assured.

The new address of SAC is SPRING Singapore, 2 Bukit Merah Central, Singapore 159823. The contact telephone numbers and email addresses of SAC officers may be obtained from the new SAC website at www.sac-accreditation.org.sg

NEWS FROM KOLAS

Change in Contact point of KOLAS

The contact point of KOLAS was changed to Mr. Dong-Yong Kim as of 27 February 2002, replacing Mr. Hyun-il Kim. This change was due to the personnel changes in our government. Before joining KOLAS, Mr. Dong-Yong Kim had

served as commercial attache' in Vietnam for 4 years.

The detailed information of contact point is as follows.

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Promoting accreditation to Korean government regulators

More regulators in Korea are accepting accreditation from KOLAS. Recently, couple of government laws have been or are being revised to require

accreditation as a prerequisite of granting various authorizations for carrying out conformity assessment concerning items including gas cylinders, LPG, tobacco etc.

APLAC T033 Geochemical Proficiency Testing Program coordinated by KOLAS

The process of APLAC T033 Geochemical Proficiency Testing Program is being delayed due to difficulties in custom clearance of the sample package in certain economies. While the PT program had been commenced in the middle of April, some laboratories did not receive the sample package until end of May. Due to the delay of the sample receipt and returning of result sheets from those laboratories the interim report is expected to be ready around the middle of July.

KOLAS Proficiency Testing Programs (Testing)

Program	Test item	Tests	No. of Participants	Note
PT2002-1	Concrete	Mechanical tests	24	Completed
PT2002-2	Geochemicals	Chemical tests	60	APLAC T033
PT2002-3	Steel moldings	NDT	12	On going
PT2002-4	Computer monitor	Electric safety	20	In preparation
PT2002-5	Textile	Mechanical and chemical tests	9	Completed
PT2002-6	Milk powder (heavy metals)	Chemical tests	15	In preparation
PT2002-7	Water(VOC)	Chemical tests	20	In preparation

KOLAS Proficiency Testing Programs (Calibration)

Program	Field/Type	Ref. Lab.	No. of Participants	Period of circulation
PM2001-1	Liquid-in-glass thermometer	KRISS	20	Aug. 2001 - Oct. 2001
PM2001-2	Standard Piston Gauge	KRISS	15	Aug. 2001 - May 2002
PM2001-3	Rockwell hardness	KRISS	10	Nov. 2001 - Jan. 2002
PM2001-4	Ring gauge	KTL	21	Oct. 2001 - Aug. 2002
PM2002-1	Cylindrical square	KTL	11	In preparation
PM2002-2	DMM	KTL	48	In preparation
PM2002-3	Material testing machine	KRISS	51	In preparation
PM2002-4	Plug gauge	KTL	28	In preparation
PM2002-5	Surface roughness	KTL	20	In preparation



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 MR001	Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Agreements Between Laboratory Accreditation Bodies
APLAC MR002	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement
APLAC MR003	Application for Signatory Status in the APLAC Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APLAC MRA)
APLAC MR004	APLAC MRA Council Working Group on Evaluation Performance Policy and Procedures
APLAC Nominations Committee	
APLAC NC001	APLAC Nominations Committee and the APLAC Nomination Process
APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee	
APLAC PT001	APLAC Calibration Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT002	APLAC Testing Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT003	APLAC Proficiency Testing Directory
APLAC Public Information Committee	
APLAC PR001	APLAC Publications Numbering Policy
APLAC PR003	Procedure for Adoption of APLAC Documents
APLAC PR007	APLAC-Its Role and Structure-Power Point Presentation
APLAC PR008	International Recognition of Accredited Test and Inspection Reports
APLAC PR009	APLAC Procedures for Editors of APLAC News Notes
APLAC Secretariat	
APLAC SEC001	APLAC Memorandum of Understanding
APLAC SEC004	APLAC Rules of Procedure
APLAC SEC009	APLAC Publications List
APLAC SEC014	APLAC: Background and Recent Developments
APLAC SEC017	APLAC Application for Membership
APLAC SEC020	APLAC General Assembly Delegates List
APLAC SEC021	APLAC Board of Management Membership List
APLAC SEC022	APLAC Committee Chairs and Secretaries List

This document is updated on a constant basis and is available from the APLAC Secretariat upon request.

APLAC SEC023	APLAC MRA Council Membership List
APLAC SEC026	APLAC Nominations Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC027	APLAC Public Information Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC028	APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC029	APLAC Technical Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC030	APLAC Training Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC035	APLAC MRA Signatories List
APLAC SEC036	APLAC Complaints Handling Procedures
APLAC SEC037	APLAC Document Control and Document Format
APLAC SEC038	APLAC Membership Summary List
APLAC SEC039	APLAC MRA Signatories Summary List
APLAC SEC040	APLAC Procedure for Issuing Invoices for Annual Fees
APLAC SEC041	APLAC Guidelines for Hosts of the APLAC General Assembly and Associated Meetings (only available from the Secretariat)
APLAC Technical Committee	
APLAC TC001	APLAC-EA Policy on Traceability of Measurements
APLAC TC002	APLAC Internal Audits for Laboratories
APLAC TC003	APLAC Management Review for Laboratories
APLAC TC004	APLAC Method of Stating Test Results and Compliance with Specification
APLAC Training Committee	
APLAC TR001	APLAC Guidelines on Training Course for Assessors