

APLAC PUBLICATIONS LIST

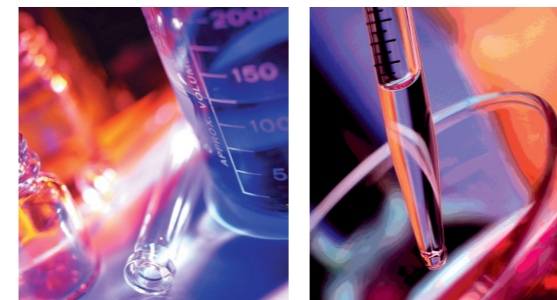
Most of the following APLAC documents are available from the APLAC web site. They can also be emailed out by the APLAC Secretariat as PDF files.

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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 – PowerPoint Presentation
APLAC PR008	International Recognition of Accredited Test and Inspection Reports
APLAC PR009	APLAC Procedures for Editors of <i>APLAC News Notes</i>
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 ¹
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
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

(Footnotes)

¹ This document is updated on a constant basis and is available from the APLAC Secretariat upon request.



May 2002 - APLAC news notes - Issue no.060 May 2002 - APLAC news notes - Issue no.060 May 2002 - APLAC news notes - Issue no.060

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 June 2002
by KOLAS.**

From the APLAC Secretariat

by Helen Liddy APLAC Secretary and Janet Clark APLAC Administration Co-ordinator

Plans are well advanced for the APLAC evaluator's training course to be held in Hong Kong from 17-19 June. The successful applicants for APLAC funding have already been notified and, in addition, some self-funded trainee evaluators are attending.

The course will be held in conjunction with meetings of the APLAC MRA Council (June 20) and the APLAC Board of Management (June 21-22). Agenda papers for both meetings will be sent out in mid-May. Members are asked to advise the secretariat as soon as possible if they will be attending the MRA council meeting. The major topic for discussion will be the revision of the APLAC MRA documents, MR001, MR002, MR003.

APLAC MRA signatories have recently been invited to apply to extend their MRA recognition to include inspection body accreditation. Those who wish to apply for an extension should complete form MR003 (that can be downloaded from the APLAC website) as soon as possible and return it to the secretariat. Extension of the MRA to include inspection activities will also be discussed at the MRA Council meeting.

As advised in the February 2002 edition of "APLAC News Notes", funding by the Australian government to support the APLAC Proficiency Testing programs and Proficiency Testing secretariat ceases on 30 June 2002. APLAC wishes to record its gratitude to the Australian government for its generous funding of these APLAC activities over the last several years.

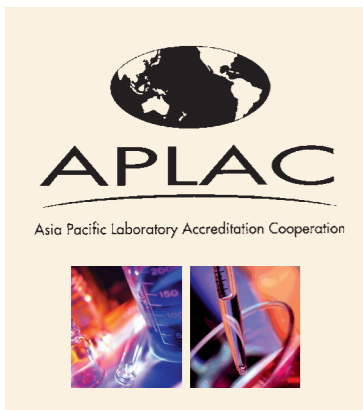
APLAC submitted proposals for APEC TILF (Trade and Investment Liberalisation and Facilitation) funding for 3 years to support APLAC PT activities. These proposals were considered at the February meeting of APEC SCSC and we were requested to review the proposals and resubmit. We have reviewed the proposals and combined two separate funding requests into one. The amount of funding sought has also been reduced. Once again, each APLAC member is asked to urge their economy's SCSC representative to support the funding requests, emphasising the importance of ongoing Proficiency Testing programs, especially in areas related to trade and APEC MRAs, in enhancing regulator confidence in the APLAC MRA.

APLAC had also sought APEC TILF funding for a series of technical seminars/workshops involving APEC regulators, technical assessors and accreditation bodies. This request has been withdrawn by APLAC and will now be presented by the New Zealand representative on SCSC.

The following APLAC documents have recently been added to the APLAC web site (www.aplac.org):

- NC001 [Guidelines on APLAC Nominations Process](#)
- PR009 [Guidelines for Publishers of "APLAC News Notes"](#)
- SEC040 [Procedure for Issuing Invoices for Annual Fees](#)

We look forward to seeing you in Hong Kong in June.



HKAS Extends its Scope of Accreditation to Medical Testing

Hong Kong Accreditation Service is happy to announce that the scope of accreditation of the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme will be expanded to include medical testing. With a view of providing recognition to competent laboratories and upgrading the standard of medical testing in Hong Kong, the government will provide accreditation service to medical testing laboratories, under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS). It is expected that this accreditation service will be available in 2003.

Preliminary preparative and planning work for setting up the accreditation programme for medical testing laboratories is already underway. A representative from the medical testing community has been invited to join the Accreditation Advisory Board (AAB) to provide advice on matters regarding medical testing accreditation. Working Party and task forces will be formed to formulate specific technical criteria for individual fields of medical testing.

APLAC 2002 - News from SCC

APLAC 2002 will be held between 10 –15 November at the Sutton Place Hotel, Vancouver, Canada. Detailed information will be available shortly.

NABL UPDATE

1. CURRENT STATUS OF ACCREDITATION

As on 31st March 2002, 428 testing and 138 calibration laboratories have been accredited by NABL.

2. PEER REVIEW OF NABL BY DEPT. OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EXPERT COMMITTEE

An expert team from DST examined the degree of compliance by NABL to its stated aims and objectives as defined in the Memorandum of Association. The team expressed the satisfaction in the progress made by NABL in this direction.

3. NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTER-LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

A two day workshop on Inter-Laboratory Proficiency Testing was organised in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry, Quality Council of India and National Physical Laboratory at Calcutta during 22nd & 23rd of February 2002. Speakers were chosen from NPL, accredited testing as well as calibration laboratories. Participants from laboratories took active part in the deliberations of the workshop. Awareness on technical requirements appears to have increased considerably since conducting such workshops in different parts of the country.

4. AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON ACCREDITATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES

In order to increase the awareness of NABL accreditation amongst the Clinical Laboratories in South India, a one-day workshop was held in Kochi on the 20th of January 2002 with the organising efforts by Sophisticated Test and Instrumentation Centre (STIC), Kochi. The key issue of ISO/IEC 17025 and Specific Criteria for Clinical Laboratories were discussed during the workshop. 225 professionals including Scientists and Technicians attended the workshop. This workshop is expected to motivate more laboratories in the southern part of the country to apply for NABL accreditation.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF ISO/IEC 17025 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

The earlier general criteria for accreditation (NABL-101) based on ISO/IEC Guide 25 (1990) has been

formally discontinued and has now been replaced by ISO/IEC 17025 International Standard as per earlier announced policy so that the new standard is fully implemented by the accredited laboratories by 31st December 2002 - the internationally agreed deadline. Any new assessment of laboratories is now based on ISO/IEC 17025 (1999) International Standard. Refresher Courses for assessors are being conducted so that assessors are equipped for conducting the evaluation in accordance with this new standard.

6. NABL PARTICIPATION IN THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC) MEETING ON QUALITY, METROLOGY, ACCREDITATION & STANDARDISATION

India is the only country to have an Accreditation Body and also a body, which has received international recognition amongst the all the SAARC countries.

A SAARC Secretariat has been set up at Kathmandu, Nepal. This secretariat has received a proposal from PTB Germany for providing assistance to SAARC countries in these areas. A follow up meeting was organised by BIS in New Delhi on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs and this was attended by India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. Director, NABL was invited to make a presentation on the current mechanism of Mutual Recognition Arrangement of accredited laboratories under ILAC and APLAC umbrella.

Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka expressed their desire to set up Accreditation Bodies in their respective countries.

7. WORKSHOP ON ISO/IEC 17025 AND UNCERTAINTY IN MEASUREMENT

A workshop on Uncertainty in Measurement in collaboration with National Physical Laboratory and Vimta Labs, Hyderabad was conducted in the premises of Vimta Labs during 24th – 25th November 2001. Nearly about 50 participants attended this workshop at the end of which, detail exercises were conducted in different groups followed by presentation. Such workshops will be conducted again in different parts of India in order to fill up the gaps in knowledge amongst the laboratory as well as technical assessors.

8. SEMINAR ON UNCERTAINTY IN MEASUREMENT FOR TESTING LABORATORIES

The new ISO/IEC 17025 standard requires the testing laboratories to estimate uncertainty in measurement. Where such requirements are the part of the national or international standards, the laboratories are required to comply with the same. NABL has written to all accredited laboratories to adopt Eurachem Guide **Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement** for Chemical Testing Laboratories. NABL has also provided the

references to other international guides available on the subject. Current efforts of APLAC to develop sector-specific guidelines on this subject have been also communicated to the laboratories. In response to this, several accredited laboratories have already made good progress and presented some examples to NABL. In order to ensure that all laboratories develop the requisite capability in this matter, NABL is planning to hold workshop on this subject in different regions of the country. Accredited and applicant laboratories will be informed about the venue and time schedules for such workshop in near future. NABL is also planning to hold an International Seminar on this subject in early 2004.

9. CURRENT STATUS OF NABL PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAMMES

There are 12 on going programmes as follows:

- Chemical Analysis of Heavy Metal Residue in Fish
- PNA Analysis of Transformer Oil
- Testing of Coal
- Mechanical Testing of Cured Rubber Slab
- Mechanical Testing of Plastic Raw Material
- Mechanical Testing of Leather
- Twist and Tensile Testing of Yarn
- Hardness Testing of Steel
- Determination of Shore - A Hardness of Vulcanised Rubber
- Testing of Soil
- Measurement of Flow-rate by Two Orifice Meter
- Ultrasonic Testing of Steel Bars

NABL is also conducting Three programmes on Calibration as follows:

- Measurement for Conducted Emission (EMC/EMI)
- Measurement of AC/DC Voltage Parameter
- Measurement Capability of Inductance at 1KHz

NABL has an MoU with NPL, New Delhi for conducting Proficiency Testing programmes for Calibration Laboratories. So far the following programmes have completed the first round.

- Mass (1,10,124,200,1000g)
- Length (Gauge Blocks 1,3,8,40,100mm)
- Temperature (Glass Thermometers 0-300°C)
- Electro-Technical (100pF Capacitor)
- Temperature (Thermocouple, 0-1000°C)
- Electro-Technical (AC Resistance 1,100,1000,10000 Ω)

NABL is monitoring the performance of the participating laboratories. More such programmes are expected to be initiated during the year 2002.

10. INTERACTION OF NABL WITH THE REGULATORY BODIES

Recently NABL was invited to address the technical personnel engaged by Export Inspection Council (EIC) under Ministry of Commerce, which undertakes inspection and testing of products being exported to all over the world. EIC also conducts pre-inspection activities in countries such Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal etc. Director of EIC was convinced that it should recognise the role of NABL accredited laboratories in this regard. NABL accredited textile testing laboratories are already covering the regulatory requirements of the European economy and these are being evaluated by NABL during the assessment of the laboratories. Drug Controller General of India being the regulatory authority for drugs and pharmaceuticals is encouraging the pharmaceutical laboratories to prepare for NABL accreditation. 18 such laboratories have already been accredited by NABL.

A representative from Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be visiting New Delhi to discuss the regulatory requirements of testing of industrial garments, which are used for personal protection and being currently produced by a private manufacturing company in India. NABL will encourage such visits to have close dialogue with the representative of regulatory authorities from different countries.

Web Based Training Course on Measurement Uncertainty

NATA is pleased to announce the launch of a web based training course on Measurement Uncertainty, now available at www.muttraining.com.

NATA developed the training course in association with Dr Bernard King, Measurement Uncertainty Consultant, and AGAL NARL (Australia's National Analytical Reference Laboratory). The course provides training in the concepts and practices of measurement uncertainty and includes a discussion of accreditation policy in relation to this topic. It is arranged in 6 modules:

- Introduction to MU
- An Integrated Approach to Quality Assurance – The Big Picture
- Evaluating and Reporting MU
- Requirements of ISO/IEC 17025
- How much is enough?
- Quiz

The course provides an overview of the different approaches to the evaluation of MU and additional material is provided in the Library and references. It does not, however, provide detailed instructions on how to evaluate MU.

The course presumes a working knowledge of elementary statistics, ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation requirements and good laboratory practices.

There is a charge of AUD 120.00 for the course. Once a person has registered for the course, there is unlimited access for one week from the date of registration and payment. Material can be printed for retention. It is expected that the average student would take between half and one day to complete the course. Once a student has completed the course, there is the option to request that a statement be emailed out for personal training records.

A preview of the course can be seen, free of charge, at www.muttraining.com.

NEWS FROM IANZ

1. In February, IANZ hosted the ILAC Executive and Accreditation Policy Committee meetings in Auckland. There was very strong attendance from APLAC members.
2. The results from the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) proficiency testing programme are being collated. IANZ, with technical advice from the New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research, has co-ordinated a proficiency programme amongst laboratories through their national accreditation organisations. Tests included a number of common chemical determinants related to the analysis of rice flour, fish paste, skim milk powder and edible oil. Laboratories chose their own test methods but brief details of these were reported back to the programme organisers. 16 economies and 82 laboratories participated in this particular programme.

Laboratories must take part in proficiency testing programmes if their methods are to be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 by their national accreditation bodies. They must be able to demonstrate consistency between their results and those of their national and international peers.

3. The APLAC document PR008, International Recognition of Accredited Test & Calibration Reports, is now available on the APLAC website (www.aplac.org). This document is the APLAC version of the IANZ international recognition document which is widely distributed (and frequently requested) by regulators and the business community in New Zealand. The four page document provides an overview of accreditation, the role of APLAC and the MRA network. The document identifies the names, contact details and logos of all APLAC MRA signatories. Please use this document to promote the work of APLAC to your regulators. It also assists the business community when they make international orders, as they can check to see who is a signatory to the APLAC MRA, and which test reports will be immediately accepted in New Zealand. This document has been very well received in New Zealand.