

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

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

Secretariat for APLAC:

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)

71-73 Flemington Road
North Melbourne VIC 3051
Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9329 1633
Fax: +61 3 9326 5148
Email: aplac@nata.asn.au

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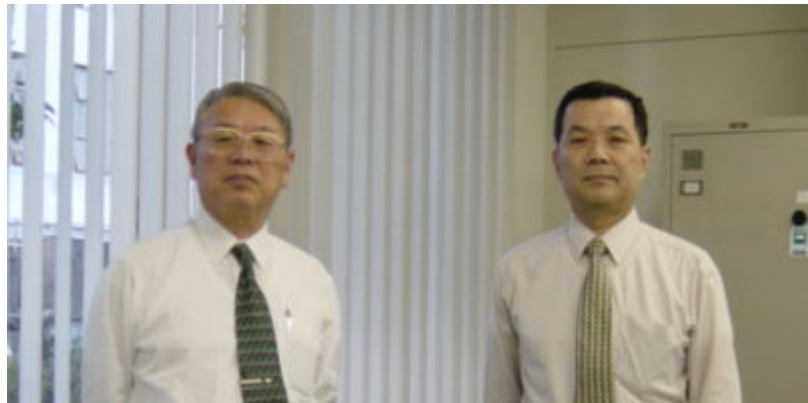
Osaki West Bldg. 1st floor
8-8 Osaki 2-chome, Shinagawa-ku
Tokyo 141-0032
Japan
Telephone: +81 3 5487 0546
Fax: +81 3 5487 2050
Email: yisu@jab.or.jp

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JAB

JAB's 10th Anniversary



Yuichiro Isu
Executive Director

Douji Kokuten
*Director-General,
Laboratory Accreditation Div.*

JAB celebrated its 10th anniversary on November 1, 2003. Looking back, JAB reconfirmed its vital role in the development and enhancement of accreditation programs for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs), users of CABs, and the general public in Japan. The number of JAB accredited organizations has steadily increased, including accreditation of registration bodies for quality management systems and environmental management systems, as well as accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories. Conformity assessment schemes, which started ten years ago in Japan, have, however, not yet gained full understanding and acceptance. JAB will continue its endeavors to disseminate information as often as possible. These efforts will also be directed towards global acceptance of APLAC activities in collaboration with other APLAC members. With these objectives in mind, JAB is moving forward confidently to the next ten years.

Yuichiro Isu
Executive Director

Douji Kokuten
*Director-General,
Laboratory Accreditation Div.*

JAB's 10 Year History

1993 - 2004

1993-11

JAB was established in November 1993 as a private and nonprofit accreditation body for quality system registration bodies in Japan. The creation of JAB was approved by both the Minister of Transport and the Minister of International Trade and Industry. Its establishment was also supported by 35 industrial organizations under the auspices of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations - Nippon Keidanren: www.keidanren.or.jp. Accreditation activities began with 7 staff members.

(As of Feb. 2004, JAB has about 50 staff members.)

1994-07

Granted the first accreditation of a QMS registration body. Since then, 49 QMS registration bodies have been accredited by JAB. (As of Feb. 2004)

1996-12

Granted the first accreditation of an EMS registration body. Since then, 40 EMS registration bodies have been accredited by JAB. (As of Feb. 2004)

1997-09

Granted the first accreditation of a laboratory. Since then, 143 testing and calibration laboratories have been accredited by JAB. (As of Feb. 2004)

1998-11

JAB's 5th Anniversary



JAB Staff at JAB's 5th Anniversary Party

2000-11

The ILAC MRA was established with 37 bodies from 28 economies, including JAB.

2001-11

ILAC General Assembly/ IAF Plenary Meeting 2001 in Kyoto.

The first joint General Meeting of the two international accreditation organizations was held in Kyoto, Japan. JAB was one of the hosts for this first combined event.



ILAC/IAF 2001 Kyoto - Party



ILAC/IAF 2001 Kyoto - Signing Ceremony

2003-11

In commemoration of its 10th anniversary, JAB held a symposium and a party.

The symposium took place in October 2003 and was entitled: Resurgence of "Made in Japan" - Beat the Competition with ISO Standards -. The public broadcaster, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK), broadcast this symposium nationwide.



The symposium broadcast by NHK



Dr. Kanai, Chairman of JAB, delivers the opening speech at the Party



JAB staff at JAB's 10th Anniversary Party

About JAB

The Japan Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (JAB) was established in 1993 and is now responsible for almost all aspects of accreditation of conformity assessment bodies within Japan. This includes laboratory accreditation, accreditation of, QMS and EMS registration bodies and accreditation of product and personnel certification bodies.

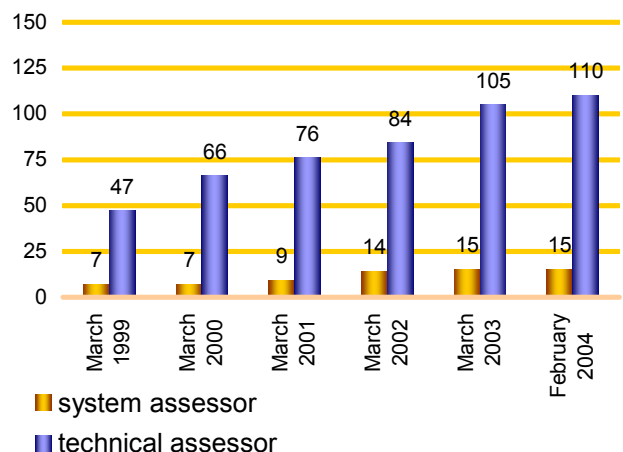
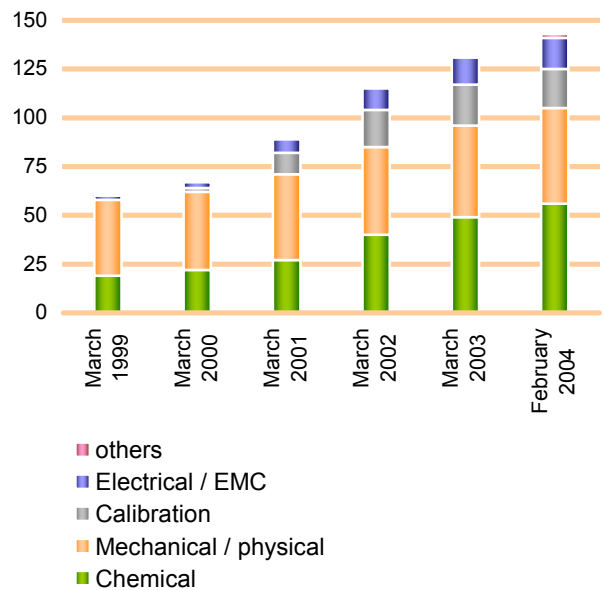
The number of bodies accredited by JAB is shown below. JAB implements activities related to accreditation and registration of CABs for management systems as well as accreditation of laboratories. It is one of the objectives of JAB to promote and contribute to the sound development of mutual recognition schemes with accreditation bodies abroad.

CABs		Number	Membership
Testing Laboratories		123	APLAC/ILAC MRA
Calibration Laboratories		20	APLAC/ILAC MRA
QMS	Registration Bodies	49	PAC/IAF MLA
	Auditor Training Bodies	16	IATCA MLA
	Auditor Certification body	1	N/A
EMS	Registration Bodies	40	PAC MLA
	Auditor Training Bodies	20	N/A
	Auditor Certification Body	1	N/A
Personnel Certification Bodies		2	N/A
Product Certification Body		1	N/A

Number of CABs accredited by JAB - As of Feb.5, 2004

JAB Accredited Labs

The number of JAB accredited laboratories has steadily increased and the fields have been extended.



Laboratory Assessors

Currently JAB has 15 systems assessors and 110 technical assessors including technical experts. JAB holds seminars for laboratory assessors to share knowledge and disseminate information and to improve their performance.

From the Secretariat

Helen Liddy
Janet Clark
APLAC Secretariat

Congratulations and thanks to KOLAS for their excellent arrangements and organisation for the APLAC 2003 meetings in Seoul last November. In particular we would like to thank Dr Gyung-Ihm Rhyu and Mr Jeun Seung-Ju and their friendly and enthusiastic team of assistants in the secretariat office.

Congratulations also to VLAC on becoming a signatory to the APLAC MRA for testing, and to KAN and DSM for the extension to their signatory status to include calibration.

Inspection MRA

It is pleasing to note that APLAC achieved the implementation of the APLAC MRA for inspection in November 2003 when NATA, HKAS, IANZ and SAC were accepted as the inaugural signatories.

APLAC Documents

The secretariat advised members by email in December about the issue of new and/or revised documents that are available in PDF format from the "Documents" section of the APLAC web site. These documents are:

APLAC	MR 001	issue 5	Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining MRAs
APLAC	NC 001	issue 3	APLAC Nominations Committee Procedure
APLAC	PT 002	issue 4	APLAC Testing Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC	PT 004	issue 3	APLAC Measurement Audits
APLAC	PR 008	issue 11	International Recognition of Accredited Reports
APLAC	SEC 004	issue 4	APLAC Rules of Procedure
APLAC	SEC 046	issue 1	Guidelines for Use of the APLAC Logo
APLAC	SEC 047	issue 1	Processing Notification of Changes Within an APLAC MRA Signatory Organisation
APLAC	SEC 048	issue 1	APLAC Register of Delegated Responsibilities

In future we will email members and APLAC lead evaluators whenever APLAC documents are updated on the web site. Membership lists are also regularly updated as members advise us of changes of address or other contact details. Please visit the web site from time to time to make sure you have the current information.

New Members

We welcome ACLASS, USA as a Full member of APLAC, following a recent successful postal ballot. ACLASS had previously been an Associate member. We also, rather belatedly, welcome DSS, Thailand as an Associate member.

New APLAC MRA Lead Evaluators

Congratulations to the following who were appointed as lead evaluators at the November 2003 APLAC MRA Council.

- Chang Kwei Fern, SAC
- C K Cheung, HKAS
- Warren Merkel, NVLAP
- Mary Ryan, NATA
- Panadda Silva, DMSc
- Julian Wilson, NATA

APLAC MRA Council

The APLAC MRA Council will meet in Columbia, MD, USA on 21 and 22 April 2004. Invitations were sent out to members in the first week of February.

Most members will require a visa to enter the US so you are urged to complete your registration form as soon as possible and return it to Berta Hakes of A2LA so that a letter supporting your visa application can be prepared. All those who require visas will also be finger printed and photographed at the immigration counter on arrival. The finger printing is done digitally, and our advice is that the process may delay your progress through immigration by up to half an hour.

ILAC Regulator Forum on Laboratory Accreditation

On 20 April APLAC will be hosting (and funding) an ILAC forum for US regulators on laboratory accreditation. APLAC members are welcome to attend and NIST will be sending out separate invitations. There is no charge for attendance at the forum.

APLAC Board of Management

The APLAC Board of Management will meet in Columbia, MD, USA on 18 and 19 April 2004.

Farewell and Thank You

It is with regret that we say farewell and thank you to the following members who have either retired from their organisation and who have moved to another area of work. They will be missed very much:

- Lay Har Ng, HKAS
- A K Chakrabarty, NABL
- Juichi Nagano, IAJapan

Lay Har and Ashok were “founding members” of APLAC and have contributed much over the years to APLAC. In particular Lay Har has served with distinction for several years on the Board of Management. Juichi has done sterling work as Convenor of the APLAC MRA Council’s Documentation Working Group. His attention to detail and wording has been invaluable.

We would also like to express our thanks to Liu Anping who, while remaining as CNAL’s representative to the General Assembly, is no longer on the Board of Management. His contributions over 4 years on the Board have been very much appreciated.

A Correction

In the April 2003 edition of APLAC News Notes it was stated that ACLASS accredits inspection bodies to ISO/IEC 17025. ACLASS advises that this was a typographical error and that it does not accredit inspection bodies to ISO/IEC 17025.

A New Member of the APLAC Secretariat

We are pleased to announce that, from May 2004, Ms Jane King will be working part-time in the APLAC Secretariat. Jane has recently been appointed to a part-time position within NATA’s International Relations section. She comes to us with 11 years experience working for NATA as a Scientific Officer, mainly in Medical Testing.

NEWS from APLAC members

NABL (India)

NEW DIRECTOR AT NABL

Mr. D. S. Tewari has taken over as new Director of NABL w.e.f. 31st October'2003. Mr. Tewari has been closely associated with Indian laboratory accreditation programme (NCTCF) since 1986 and was responsible for transforming it to NABL. Mr. Tewari has been training NABL Assessors since 1994 and also the laboratory personnel on Laboratory Quality System Management & Internal Audit. So far he has conducted more than 150 training courses including 32 courses for Assessors.

11th QUALITY SUMMIT OF CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY – PARTICIPATION OF NABL

11th Quality Summit of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Quality & Competitiveness was held in November'2003 at Bangalore. NABL participated in this programme as a Co-sponsor and actively took part in its technical proceedings.

NABL TRAINING COURSES

One 5-day Assessors Training Course and one 4-day Laboratory Quality System Management & Internal Audit Course was conducted by NABL in the month of December'2004.

SYMPOSIUM ON ACCREDITATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES

NABL co-sponsored One day Symposium on Accreditation of Clinical Laboratories, which was organised by Christian Medical College, Ludhiana during December 2003. This symposium was attended by around 125 participants from various clinical laboratories.

NABL ASSESSORS CONCLAVE

NABL has organised 4th NABL Assessors Conclave during 18th – 19th January'2004 at New Delhi with an objective to harmonise the assessment process and to remove the perceptual differences amongst assessors thus removing ambiguities in the assessment reports. It also enabled assessors to share their thoughts, experiences & difficulties in conducting assessments. Most of the assessors expressed

that they have developed better clarity on various issues in line with the requirements of NABL. In this event more than 100 Lead Assessors & Technical Assessors actively participated. As per its plan NABL will be conducting more such Assessors Conclave in other parts of the country in the coming months.

TLAS (Thailand)

High customer satisfaction on TLAS service

Reported by Panuwong K.

Having as an aim to increase the efficiency of its services, the Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) was among the pioneers in the Ministry of Industry to introduce the concept of result-based management (RBM) to its work. The annual research survey of 2003 revealed that the consumers were satisfied with the service quality and the staff competency of the Thai Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (TLAS) of TISI.

In the survey conducted by CHULA UNISEARCH of Chulalongkorn University on consumer satisfaction of TISI services during the fiscal year 2003 (October 2002-September 2003), 95 laboratories accredited by TLAS comprising 49 testing laboratories and 42 calibration laboratories as well as 4 testing/calibration laboratories were included in the survey representing 100 percent survey. The responses to the questionnaire on the quality of service and the staff competency were given the following rating: very satisfactory (5), satisfactory (4), neutral (3), unsatisfactory (2) need improvement (1)

It was interesting to note that the consumers gave the satisfactory rating for TLAS activity, i.e. the average of 4.03 for the overall satisfaction, the maximum of 4.32 and the minimum of 3.72. The top three outstanding qualities were staff integrity (4.32), staff courtesy (4.24) and transparency of accreditation process (4.14).

In the year 2004, TLAS intends to improve its accreditation service even more. The ISO/IEC assessor training courses will be organized to produce more assessors. Additionally, in 2004, consumers will be able to download TLAS application form and publications via Internet.



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.

Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Secretariat, 71 – 73 Flemington Road, North Melbourne, VIC 3051, Australia.
Tel: +61 3 9329 1633; fax: +61 3 9326 5148; email: aplac@nata.asn.au

APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement Council

APLAC MR001	Issue No.5, 12/03	Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Agreements Between Laboratory Accreditation Bodies
APLAC MR002	11/03	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) text
APLAC MR003	Issue No. 7, 12/02	Application for Signatory Status in the APLAC Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APLAC MRA)
APLAC MR004	Issue No. 2, 08/03	APLAC MRA Council Working Group on Evaluation Performance – Policy and Procedures
APLAC MR005	Issue No. 1, 09/03	Procedure for Training of APLAC MRA Evaluators

APLAC Nominations Committee

APLAC NC001	Issue No. 3, 12/03	APLAC Nominations Committee and the APLAC Nomination Process
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APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee

APLAC PT001	Issue No. 3, 03/03	APLAC Calibration Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT002	Issue No. 4, 12/03	APLAC Testing Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT003	Issue No. 3, 02/03	APLAC Proficiency Testing Directory
APLAC PT004	Issue No. 3, 12/03	APLAC Measurement Audits

APLAC Public Information Committee

APLAC PR001	Issue No. 1, 01/01	APLAC Publications Numbering Policy
APLAC PR003	Issue No. 2, 02/01	Procedure for Adoption of APLAC Documents
APLAC PR007	Issue No. 7, 11/03	APLAC – Its Role and Structure – PowerPoint Presentation
APLAC PR008	Issue No. 11, 11/03	International Recognition of Accredited Test and Inspection Reports
APLAC PR009	Issue No. 4, 01/04	APLAC Procedures for Editors of <i>APLAC News Notes</i>

APLAC Secretariat

APLAC SEC001	Issue No. 3, 12/02	APLAC Memorandum of Understanding
APLAC SEC004	Issue No. 4, 12/03	APLAC Rules of Procedure
APLAC SEC009	Issue No. 31, 01/04	APLAC Publications List
APLAC SEC017	Issue No. 8, 07/03	APLAC Application for Membership
APLAC SEC020	Issue No. 31, 11/03	APLAC General Assembly Delegates List
APLAC SEC021	Issue No. 12, 01/04	APLAC Board of Management Membership List
APLAC SEC022	Issue No. 9, 12/03	APLAC Committee Chairs and Secretaries List

APLAC SEC023	Issue No. 30, 12/03	APLAC MRA Council Membership List
APLAC SEC026	Issue No. 9, 11/03	APLAC Nominations Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC027	Issue No. 11, 11/03	APLAC Public Information Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC028	Issue No. 13, 11/03	APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC029	Issue No. 18, 12/03	APLAC Technical Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC030	Issue No. 15, 11/03	APLAC Training Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC035	Issue No. 23, 11/03	APLAC MRA Signatories List
APLAC SEC036	Issue No. 2, 08/03	APLAC Complaints Handling Procedures
APLAC SEC037	Issue No. 1, 02/01	APLAC Document Control and Document Format
APLAC SEC038	Issue No. 11 11/03	APLAC Membership Summary List
APLAC SEC039	Issue No. 9, 11/03	APLAC MRA Signatories Summary List
APLAC SEC040	Issue No. 2, 06/03	APLAC Procedure for Issuing Invoices for Annual Fees
APLAC SEC041	Issue No. 1, 06/03	APLAC Guidelines for Hosts of the APLAC General Assembly and Associated Meetings (only available from the Secretariat)
APLAC SEC042	Issue No. 2, 07/03	APLAC Code of Ethics for Laboratory and Inspection Body Accreditation Organisations
APLAC SEC043	Issue No. 1, 10/02	APLAC Requirements for APLAC Funding Requests
APLAC SEC044	Issue No. 2, 08/03	APLAC Procedure for Appeals and Alternative Dispute Resolution Process
APLAC SEC045	Issue No. 1, 09/03	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 Technical Committee

APLAC TC002	Issue No. 1, 01/01	APLAC Internal Audits for Laboratories
APLAC TC003	Issue No. 1, 01/01	APLAC Management Review for Laboratories
APLAC TC004	Issue No. 1, 09/01	APLAC Method of Stating Test Results and Compliance with Specification
APLAC TC005	Issue No. 1, 03/03	APLAC Interpretation and Guidance on the Estimation of Uncertainty of Measurement in Testing

APLAC Training Committee

APLAC TR001	Issue No. 1, 12/01	APLAC Guidelines on Training Course for Assessors
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