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APLAC News Notes

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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

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

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News from IANZ

1. IANZ has extended its accreditation programmes to include the accreditation of the following:

Quality Management Systems Certifiers (Guide 62)
Environmental Management System Certifiers (Guide 66)
Product Certifiers (Guide 65)
Personnel Certification (17024)

These services will enable IANZ to offer efficient accreditation packages to clients engaged in multifaceted conformity assessment body activities.

2. APLAC has completed its evaluation of IANZ over the period 31 March-04 April. Radiology services have been included in the testing programme scope, and for the medical programme the APLAC team observed an assessment against ISO 15189. All IANZ medical laboratories will be expected to comply with ISO 15189 by March 2005.

3. Dr Robertson has run three successful training courses for a MRA partner. The courses were:
The Application of 17025 for Laboratory Managers
Internal Auditing for Laboratory Managers
Expert Assessor Training in 17025 and Assessment Techniques

Phil Barnes, the Medical Programme Manager at IANZ has also run courses overseas for medical testing laboratory managers and assessors based on ISO 15189. Further training courses for our overseas colleagues are planned.

CNLA Owns More Government's Confidence

Taiwan Weather Authority amended Meteorology Act and took it into effect on 6 Feb 2003. Concurrently, the Regulation of the Calibration for Meteorology Instrument was ready to be amended. One of the amendments is that regulator accepts the calibration reports issued by the accredited calibration laboratories which conforms to the ISO/IEC 17025.

Clause 20 of Chapter 4 in the Meteorology Act requires that specific meteorological instruments used in the meteorological observatory stations must be calibrated by the laboratory of Central Weather Bureau, the laboratory accredited by Chinese National Laboratory Accreditation, CNLA (the national accreditation system) or the partners of APLAC MRA or ILAC MRA. Meanwhile, CNLA, Central Weather Bureau and Institute of Meteorology plan to hold the seminar in May 2003 to explain the influence of the amendment on the Meteorology Act and the availability of the resource of the calibration on the meteorological instruments.

After continuous cooperation and coordination with the Government authorities, CNLA gets more and more confidence from the authorities. In the meantime, the society has given more confidence to the quality of the accredited laboratories. The calibration and testing reports issued by the CNLA accredited laboratories have been accepted not only by the Central Weather Bureau but also by the Public Construction Commission of Executive Yuan, the Directorate General of Telecommunication, BSMI (Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection) and Center Disease Control Department of Ministry Of Health. In addition, the template contract of Taiwan High Speed Rail Corp. also requests that all the testing of the materials and samples shall be executed by the laboratories accredited by CNLA.

These records of success were built up by CNLA continuous insistence on the fairness and independence in the process of accreditation and the understanding as well as the confidence with the quality and technical capability of the accredited laboratories. In the future,

CNLA will keep on promoting the Government Authorities and private sectors accept the calibration and testing reports issued by the accredited laboratories.

For more information about Meteorology Act please visit MOTC website, <http://www.motc.gov.tw>. And for more information about CNLA please visit our website, <http://www.cnla.org.tw> or contact with Mr. Bruce LI, e-mail: 870075@itri.org.tw

News from ACLASS

Assured Calibration and Laboratory Accreditation Select Services (ACLASS), a new associate member of APLAC, operates a comprehensive accreditation system and accredits calibration, testing, and inspection bodies to ISO/IEC 17025. We are committed to providing recognized, competent, efficient, affordable, and openly available laboratory accreditation and assessment services to various national and international standards in a timely manner with the highest integrity. ACLASS will give its customers the best laboratory accreditation and assessment services possible while helping its customers stay focused on achieving and providing value from their calibration, testing, and inspection services.

We strive for quality and reliable accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 by engaging the customer as a partner and providing evaluation of compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 standards by assessing people, skill, and knowledge. Not only do we help our customer understand the value added benefits of accreditation, but our customers' customer.

Recently, ACLASS has submitted an application for recognition as an unaffiliated body under ILAC-P3:2003. Additionally, ACLASS has been going through the recognition process with NACLA for approximately three years. ACLASS is incorporated in the State of Ohio and headquartered in the Washington, DC metro area.

For further information about ACLASS visit our web site: www.aiclasscorp.com, email: info@aclasscorp.com, or call 703.351.9139.

NEWS from KOLAS

Lead assessor workshop

Lead assessor workshop was held from February 13 to 14. The workshop was established to provide feedback to lead assessors about the assessment process to help improve the consistency in assessment process between assessments.

PT programs including estimation of measurement uncertainty in chemical testing field

KOLAS recently conducted two proficiency testing programs using certified reference materials, heavy metals in milk powder and voc in water. The CRMs had been prepared by Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS, NMI in Korea). Estimation of measurement uncertainty was requested in the programs. A workshop was held from March 20 to 21 addressing estimation of measurement uncertainty

in the chemical testing field of the PT programs. Most of the participating laboratories in those two PT programs attended the workshop and participated in active discussion in dealing with measurement uncertainty and accuracy issues of test results. The results of PT programs were quite satisfactory that the consensus values (median) were well agreed with the relevant certified values. Workshop on measurement uncertainty in other fields will be organized after finish of relevant PT programs this year.

APLAC Seoul Meeting

KOLAS is pleased to host this year's APLAC meeting. The APLAC 2003 meeting will be held in Seoul, Korea from November 9 to November 14. The meeting venue is Lotte Hotel which is located at the center of Seoul. Meeting brochure including accommodation and meeting registration forms will be sent out in June. KOLAS looks forward to welcoming you to Seoul.

2003 KOLAS Proficiency Testing Programs (Testing)

Program	Test Item	Tests	Proposed Starting Date
PT2003-2	Lap-top computer	EMC	May
PT2003-2	Plastics	Physical properties and mechanical tests	May
PT2003-3	Gas	NO, SO ₂ , CO	June
PT2003-4	Lard	Residual pesticides	July
PT2003-5	Stainless steel	Inorganic elements	September
PT2003-6	Steel bar	Mechanical test	October
PT2003-7	Food(oyster)	Heavy metals	November

2003 KOLAS Proficiency Testing Programs (Calibration)

Program	Field/Type	Ref. Lab.	Period of circulation
PM2002-1	Cylindrical square	KTL	Oct. 2002 - Apr. 2003
PM2002-2	Digital Multimeter	KTL	Oct. 2002 - Apr. 2003
PM2002-4	Cylindrical plug gauge	KTL	Oct. 2002 - Oct. 2003
PM2002-5	Roughness standard specimen	KTL	Oct. 2002 - May. 2003
PM2002-6	Wet gas meter	KTL	Jan. 2003 - Apr. 2003
PM2002-7	Analog type torque wrench	KTL	Jan. 2003 - Apr. 2003
PM2002-8	Coaxial fixed attenuator	KTL	Jan. 2003 - Apr. 2003
PM2002-9	Gap gauge	KTL	Feb. 2003 - May. 2003
PM2003-1	1kg weight & unknown artifact	KTL	In preparation
PM2003-2	Decade capacitor	KTL	In preparation
PM2003-3	Digital thermometer	KTL	In preparation
PM2003-4	Accelerometer	KRISS	In preparation