



## **APLAC**

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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 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](http://www.aplac.org)**

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## **IAS**

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# IAS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After the February 2003 edition of the APLAC News Notes was published by the International Accreditation Service (IAS), it indeed is a privilege to be given another opportunity to update the APLAC fraternity on our progress as one of the three recognized accreditation bodies in the United States.

IAS accreditations are providing a significant benefit to regulatory bodies and other users of conformity assessment services by raising the level of quality and competence in the practices of testing, calibration and inspection.

I would like to take this opportunity to greet my friends within the APLAC family as they gather in Taipei for the 2006 annual meeting and wish them very successful technical sessions, another opportunity to build long-lasting professional relationships and a safe journey home. This perhaps is the first annual meeting of APLAC that I have not been able to attend and I deeply regret not being there with all of you in beautiful Taipei to enjoy the outstanding hospitality of the Taiwan Accreditation Foundation.

Special thanks are due to our APLAC MRA partners for their support and continuing trust in the quality of service IAS provides. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors, Accreditation Committee, Technical Advisory Councils and the IAS staff for their outstanding contributions to the organization.



C.P. Ramani  
President

# AN UPDATE ON IAS

*IAS last published News Notes in February 2003, shortly after the consolidation of the U.S. model code agencies and the renaming of IAS's parent organization to the International Code Council (ICC). The forming of IAS from the former Field Services Group of ICBO Evaluation Service resulted in transfer of all accreditation activities exclusively to IAS. In that brief time span, IAS has experienced steady growth and expansion while sustaining APLAC's principal objectives of fostering the development of competent laboratories and inspection bodies in member economies.*

*For the benefit of fellow APLAC members who may not have had a chance to follow IAS's progress, we are providing a summary of significant activities and milestones over the last three years.*

## 2003

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This was a formative period for IAS and a year of rapid progress that saw the appointment of an independent Board of Directors to guide IAS policy and programs, the incorporation of IAS as a nonprofit, public-benefit corporation and the incorporation of IAS as an organization solely devoted to accreditation under international standards. During this hectic period, IAS staff continued to perform their tasks of providing high-caliber accreditation services, as they had been doing since 1999 as an APLAC-recognized body and as they had been doing for accredited testing laboratories and inspection bodies since 1975.

## 2004

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This was a year of expansion for IAS in several areas: signing of agreements and partnerships to do international work, the development of training curricula to support all of our accreditation programs, the extension of our scope with APLAC to include inspection, the development of an accreditation program for calibration laboratories, efforts to develop the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) and increasing recognition of IAS accreditation by regulators across the United States.

Some of the significant milestones included the formation of a partnership with the New Zealand Quality College to offer training in several areas of conformity assessment; raising the level of competence of IAS-accredited calibration laboratories by requiring certification of calibration technicians by the American Society for Quality; signing the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement for inspection agencies; applying to APLAC for recognition of the IAS calibration laboratory accreditation program; achieving accreditation by NACLA for the full four-year term; and gaining recognition of IAS accreditations by several governmental regulators across the U.S. It was truly a banner year for IAS, setting the tone for expansion in the years to come.

# AN UPDATE ON IAS

## 2005

2005 presented new opportunities for IAS with the launching of two new accreditation programs, unique to the U.S. building code system, and created at the request of regulators charged with enforcing building codes. While not falling under the auspices of international cooperative arrangements such as ILAC or APLAC, the programs were developed based at least partly in line with international standards.

In April, after a successful APLAC peer evaluation, IAS joined the APLAC MRA for calibration, rounding out our accreditation services and enabling IAS also to expand its recognition under the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) MRA for testing and calibration. IAS recognition by APLAC and ILAC has helped many U.S. manufacturers reach foreign markets without having to repeat testing or inspection activities which have already been conducted by IAS-accredited entities. When U.S. manufacturers have their products tested and/or inspected by an IAS-accredited laboratory or inspection agency, they gain the international recognition needed for access to the worldwide market.

Several leading metrology experts from different countries served the IAS calibration accreditation program as technical consultants. Also in 2005, IAS metrologists conducted four workshops on uncertainty of measurement in testing and calibration. The distinguished team of instructors who delivered the training, and the practical, hands-on approach of the workshop, created demand for additional training (which IAS has planned for the future). On the international front, IAS offered several training programs for other accreditation bodies. IAS delivered a training program on ISO/IEC Standard 17020, on inspection bodies, in Chennai, India, at the request of the Quality Council of India. In spring 2005, under a contract from the U.S. National Institute for Standards and Technology, IAS trained executives of the Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) on international conformity assessment standards. In July 2005, IAS delivered workshops on ISO/IEC Standard 17020 in New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore, India, again at the request of the Quality Council of India. The IAS Board of Directors Chair, Majed Dabdoub, gave a keynote address at the 50th Anniversary of the Housing and Building Research Center, Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, Arab Republic of Egypt. His paper, entitled "Future Vision and Challenges for Urban Development," was very well received. These exercises clearly demonstrate the recognition and respect IAS enjoys internationally in the accreditation field.

The year 2005 also brought several scope expansion requests from accredited testing laboratories, covering electrical safety standards under the European Certification Body (CB) scheme; fiber optics; electrostatic testing for the microchip industry; and testing of firefighter clothing and equipment. The IAS accreditation program for inspection agencies maintained its core group of leading inspection agencies in the United States, but also saw steady growth. IAS enjoyed the distinction of being the only accreditation body in the Americas (North and South) with international recognition in the testing, calibration and inspection fields, providing one-stop shopping for entities operating in multiple conformity assessment fields.



C.P. Ramani presenting accreditation certificate to a new laboratory



IAS staff metrologist B.N. Taranath delivering measurement uncertainty training

# AN UPDATE ON IAS

In other areas of international cooperation during 2005, IAS participated in the ILAC General Assembly in Auckland, New Zealand, and the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) general assembly and technical committees. IAS was active in supporting IAAC in 2005, by participating in its general assembly meeting; having a staff member (Pat McCullen) hold the position of Inspection Body Subcommittee chair; and providing a team member (Raj Nathan) for the evaluation of EMA, the Mexican accreditation body. Lastly, IAS formed a new Technical Advisory Council (TAC) for inspection bodies, chaired by Chuck Ramani. This new council is the counterpart to the IAS TAC on laboratories, chaired by Pat McCullen, that advises IAS on matters concerning testing and calibration.

## 2006-Present

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Building on the momentum generated during the previous year, IAS programs took a sharp upward curve with increased demand for accreditation in all areas. Demand for IAS training programs and scope expansion requests from testing laboratories increased during the same period. This year, the IAS accreditation program for calibration laboratories continues to grow steadily, and IAS staff metrologists continue a very active training schedule, with workshops on Uncertainty of Measurement in Whittier, California; Chicago, Illinois; Cairo, Egypt; and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. IAS staff also presented workshops on laboratory accreditation at the 2006 Measurement Science Conference, and attended the National Conference of Standards Laboratories International. IAS staff co-moderates an on-line discussion board that includes the topic of laboratory accreditation. A three-day workshop on the new ISO/IEC Standard 17011, entitled "Conformity assessment—General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies," was presented in Cairo, Egypt; and a paper entitled "Assessment of Minimally Staffed Test and Calibration Laboratories" was presented in Bahrain at the Middle East Metrology Conference. **APLAC members [click here to download the "Assessment of Minimally Staffed Test and Calibration Laboratories" paper](#)**. Demand for training on topics related to conformity assessment is increasing worldwide, and IAS trainers are in considerable demand for these services.

IAS will participate in the 2006 ILAC General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico, and the APLAC General Assembly in Taipei, Taiwan, later this year.

The technical aspects of IAS's accreditation operations continue to be monitored by an Accreditation Committee, which had its most recent meeting in Los Angeles, California, in August. Of particular interest was the committee's adoption of a new accreditation criteria for the Field Evaluation of Unlisted Electrical Equipment (AC354). The estimated date of implementation of this criteria is early November 2006. While the IAS accreditation staff continues to refine this criteria, the basic requirements are well defined. To earn accreditation through this program, field equipment evaluation entities must show that personnel meet minimum personnel certification qualifications and operate under well-documented policies and procedures addressing national, state and local codes. They must demonstrate in real-world field applications that their inspectors have the technical expertise and industry knowledge to complete jobs satisfactorily and prepare comprehensive reports for



Hershhal Brewer  
IAS Accreditation Officer

# AN UPDATE ON IAS

submittal to regulatory agencies. "This is an extremely rigorous process," explains Hershall C. Brewer, Accreditation Officer with IAS. "Regulators that require this accreditation will know that the field evaluators and processes of an electrical equipment evaluation firm have been extensively screened."

Brewer adds, "They'll know that an IAS-accredited firm understands and applies national and local codes and that final reports will provide all the detail a regulator needs to approve or deny a site with confidence." The call for development of this criteria began as a grassroots call to action from top electrical equipment field evaluators across the country. Since then, building regulators have expressed a keen interest in the IAS accreditation criteria program. For years, many of these jurisdictions have had to deal with lack of consistency and in many cases minimal detail from laboratories and inspection agencies conducting field evaluations. AC354 provides a common procedural and reporting framework. In essence, IAS has raised the bar for electrical equipment evaluators across North America. The first release of AC354 will include over fifteen field categories of electrical equipment evaluation, including HVAC systems, X-ray installations, power substations and information technology networks. IAS has also had requests from various jurisdictions to expand AC354 to apply to additional field categories. The AC354 criteria will be available on the IAS website at [www.iasonline.com](http://www.iasonline.com) by early November.

## IAS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

IAS accreditation programs have gained national and international recognition largely because of the contributions and efforts of the members of our Technical Advisory Councils (TACs). At the present time, IAS's TACs on laboratories and inspection bodies are comprised of the following individuals:

**Laboratories:** Chaired by IAS Vice President Patrick McCullen, with members Javier Garcia, INyMET, Mexico; Doug Geralde, CSA International, Canada; Hiroharu Habu, The Building Center of Japan; Marc Janssens, Southwest Research Institute; Ayman Mosallam, University of California, Irvine; Keith Mowry, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.; George Smith, Jr., FM Approvals; Jeffrey Turcotte, Intertek Testing Services NA, Inc.; and J.D. Waldman, RADCO; Amr El Hefnawy, Housing & Building National Research Center – Egypt; and Annette Machock, Field Calibrations, Inc.

**Inspection:** Chaired by Michael Bouse, City of Henderson, Nevada, with members John Chrysler, Masonry Institute of America; Terry Eglund, Testing Engineers, Inc.; William Fitzjohn, Jr., Construction Inspection Training & Research; Thomas Ginsbach, Northwest Geotech, Inc., dba Northwest Testing, Inc.; Keyvan Irannejad, City of Milpitas, California; John Latiolait, Smith-Emery Laboratories; Earl Russell, City of Las Vegas, Nevada; William Taylor, GeoTek, Inc.; and Randy Webb, Professional Service Industries, Inc.



2006 TAC meeting

# AN UPDATE ON IAS

## PROFICIENCY TESTING (PT) PROGRAMS

During 2006, IAS conducted PT testing in the mass and dimensional fields of calibration for the laboratories in our accreditation program. IAS has also coordinated several PT programs offered by our APLAC member partners. Currently IAS is conducting a PT program for wood testing under ASTM D 143-94(2000), Standard Test Methods for Small Clear Specimens of Timber.

Twelve laboratories from the IAS Laboratory Accreditation program are participating in this exercise, including one laboratory in Europe. These laboratories are accredited by IAS to conduct tests under ASTM D 143. The Technical Advisor for this project is Dr. Edwin J Burke who is Professor of Wood Science at the University of Montana. Dr. Burke is assisted by Dr. David M. Carradine, Research Engineer, Wood Materials and Engineering Laboratory, Washington State University.

To obtain the test sample for this PT program, a 65-year-old live Ponderosa pine from the University of Montana College of Forestry Lubrecht experimental forest was harvested. The tree's lower 16 feet of log were milled into test specimen parent blocks and transported to the laboratory on campus where they were placed in covered cold storage. During the following week, static bending test specimens were milled in sufficient quantity to provide three replicate specimens for each of the twelve participating laboratories. All specimens came from the outer 2 inches at two locations in the stem cross-section, and from wood between 4 feet and 12 feet above the ground. The specimens were closely matched to ensure that they had well-oriented growth rings so as to enable application of the bending loads to the tangential face nearest the pith, as specified in ASTM D 143.

All the program participants have completed the testing and have returned their data for collation by IAS staff. Once collated, the data will be forwarded to Drs. Burke and Carradine for statistical analysis. IAS will provide an interim report to each participant in August, and a final report by mid-September 2006. IAS is a strong supporter of PT and will continue to participate in APLAC PT programs and seek to develop new programs for testing and calibration laboratories in disciplines where no programs currently exist.

## IAS REQUIRES CCT FOR ACCREDITATION BY 2009

IAS accreditation criteria has stipulated that all IAS-accredited calibration laboratories must have their technicians certified under the American Society for Quality (ASQ) Certified Calibration Technician (CCT) program by December 2009, a move that is expected to raise the bar and provide great benefit to the industry. IAS believes that since the requirement is placed on calibration laboratories, then IAS should lead by example. Hershel Brewer, who leads the IAS accreditation program for calibration, was recently recertified by ASQ under the CCT program.

# AN UPDATE ON IAS

Jerry Schwarz, President of one of IAS's accredited calibration laboratories, states: "This certification gives technicians legitimacy. Customers understand that our technicians are professionals, thus they have more confidence in our services. Certification is a valuable credential and it's good for the technician, for both personal pride and peer recognition." A-Cal, Mr. Schwarz's organization, currently has ten technicians. As each becomes eligible for the CCT exam, they go through the training and testing.

## DUBAI HOSTS MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY TRAINING

IAS conducted an Uncertainty in Measurement training course in the United Arab Emirates on May 27-28, 2006. This training, spearheaded by Mr. B. N. Taranath, IAS staff metrologist, was jointly hosted by a Dubai-based testing laboratory and IAS. The training course was geared toward technical professionals in the construction products and materials industry. It focused on the principles of measurement uncertainty, statistical concepts and tools to calculate uncertainty, and the relevance of measurement uncertainty to testing and calibration laboratory accreditation.

## IAS JOINS NCSLI EXPO

Over 1,000 attendees at the National Conference of Standards Laboratories (NCSL) International Workshop & Symposium in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 6-10, 2006, had an opportunity to learn more about IAS testing and calibration accreditation services at a booth located on the showroom floor.

NCSL International is a nonprofit organization with over 1500 member organizations from academic, scientific, industrial, commercial, and governmental bodies around the world. NCSL is open to any entity with an interest in the science of measurement and its application in research, development, education, and commerce.

For more about the NCSL International expo, visit <http://www.ncsli.org/conference/2006/>

## IAS PROVIDES SPEEDY INSPECTION AGENCY ACCREDITATION SERVICE TO TESTING LABORATORY

For over 25 years, OMNI-Test Laboratories, Inc., has provided a full service testing laboratory for hearth products. With state-of-the-art emissions and safety measurement and analysis equipment, the laboratory tests such products as wood-stoves, fireplaces, pellet stoves, outdoor cooking appliances, hydronic water heating systems, masonry heaters, and gas appliances.

While OMNI-Test Laboratories has accreditation by IAS as a testing laboratory, and recognition by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a certification agency, they recently found that this was not enough to satisfy a building inspector in California.



# AN UPDATE ON IAS

A contractor wanted to install OMNI-approved, fuel-burning appliances. The inspector, however, noting that OMNI did not have accreditation as an inspection agency, stopped the work. OMNI contacted IAS and, within a few days, IAS auditors arrived to conduct an on-site assessment to ISO/IEC Standard 17020. Not long after, IAS assessors completed field assessments to evaluate OMNI's inspection procedures. The summary report was written immediately following the assessments, and within seven days OMNI had accreditation as an inspection agency. Alana Smith, Accreditation Manager for OMNI-Test Laboratories, recalls, "The contractor was under a tight deadline. I called IAS that day and found out from Raj Nathan that IAS could add the needed accreditation quickly and would have auditors at OMNI's laboratory on the weekend, if necessary, to help out. OMNI has had accreditation with IAS as a testing laboratory for many years, and IAS has always been very responsive to all of our questions and concerns."

## APLAC 2006 TECHNICAL MEETINGS COMING SOON

The highly anticipated APLAC 12th General Assembly and Technical Meeting in Taipei, Taiwan, September 10-15, 2006, is expected to deal with a wide range of technical issues. The meeting will be attended by delegates from over 40 countries, in addition to various observers and participants from international trade and conformity assessment groups. Hosted by the Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF), the meeting will set policies and objectives that affect the testing and calibration laboratories and inspection agencies, and set requirements for reference material producers.

IAS will contribute to the following groups: Proficiency Testing (PT) Committee, Training Committee, Technical Committee and Public Information Committee, as well as the MRA (Mutual Recognition Arrangement) and the General Assembly. Of particular interest to IAS, the Proficiency Testing Committee will review the results of the PT program and its effectiveness in ensuring consistency in test results and procedures across borders among all test and calibration laboratories.

## IAS PRESENTS TRAINING SESSIONS IN EGYPT

Raj Nathan, IAS Accreditation Manager, recently conducted a two-day training seminar entitled Conformity Assessment—General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies. The training session, focused on helping attendees understand the issues involved in ISO/IEC Standard 17011, was attended by 40 senior management and technical staff members from the Housing and Building National Research Center (HBNRC) of Cairo, Egypt. In addition, Raj Nathan and an IAS technical expert visited various testing facilities within the HBNRC facility to observe their testing capabilities.



HBNRC lab, Egypt

# AN UPDATE ON IAS

## IAS WITHDRAWS FROM NACLA

Effective July 1, 2006, IAS withdrew from the U.S. National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

Pat McCullen, Vice President of IAS, said, "Based on the findings of our Technical Advisory Council, the IAS Board has advised IAS to concentrate its resources on domestic regulators and its international commitments as these serve the needs and interests of our accredited laboratories."

This announcement comes on the heels of the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program's (NVLAP) withdrawal from the NACLA MRA in April 2006. NVLAP cited the need to increase efficiencies and reduce redundancy in its participation in laboratory accreditation cooperations. IAS continues to maintain international recognition and signatory status as an accreditation body through the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC). IAS will maintain its membership in NACLA for the present, and continues to support NACLA's goals.



# APLAC MEMBER NEWS

## IANZ APPOINTED FOR BUILDING CONSENT ACCREDITATION

The New Zealand Department of Building and Housing (DBH) have announced that it has appointed International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) as the New Zealand building consent authority accreditation body. Building consent authorities are generally city councils' building approval departments. The appointment is part of the Department's commitment to improve control of, and encourage better practices in, building design, construction and building control.

The New Zealand "Building Act 2004" sets standards and procedures for people involved in building work to ensure buildings are built properly. To strengthen the decision-making process at the critical building consent and inspection stages of the building process, building consent authorities will be accredited to a standard based on ISO/IEC 17020. DBH staff has been working closely with IANZ, city councils and territorial authorities, as well as private-sector organizations, to establish criteria for accreditation. IANZ has employed two new assessment staff to help with this work.

The APLAC MRA is referenced in the text of the Agreement between IANZ and the Department of Building and Housing, with the continued participation of IANZ in the MRA a prerequisite for the Agreement to continue. While the APLAC MRA provides IANZ with the ability to accept test and inspection reports from its MRA partners, the DBH sees participation in the APLAC MRA as providing evidence of competence of the IANZ assessment process.

The appointment of IANZ as the independent accreditation body will bring greater consistency in regulatory building control across New Zealand.

## TAF ESTABLISHES NEW INSPECTION BODY ACCREDITATION SERVICE

Since the inauguration of TAF's inspection body accreditation service, there are now nine accredited inspection bodies in four fields: factory inspection, metrology instrument inspection, safety inspection and non-destructive inspection. To expand the service to a wider scope, TAF has been cooperating with the Child Welfare Bureau, Ministry of the Interior, in respect of the accreditation service for playground equipment safety inspection since early 2005. Two public hearing on inspection criteria were just organized in Taipei and Kaohsiung, in July. The hearings, chaired by Ms. Huang Pi-hsia, the Director of the Child Welfare Bureau, drew 150 interested participants from inspection bodies, regulators, producers, schools and research institutes.



Chairperson:  
Ms. Huang Pi-hsia

# FROM THE APLAC SECRETARIAT—AUGUST 2006

The second half of the year is a busy time for APLAC.

## **INSPECTION TRAINING COURSE**

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An APLAC Inspection Training Course is being held on 6-7 September 2006 in Singapore. The presenters will be Mr. Julian Wilson (NATA) and Mr. Geoff Hallam (IANZ), and we thank them for their work to date in preparation for the course. APLAC has invited PAC members to participate also.

## **EVALUATOR TRAINING COURSE**

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We would like to thank Mr. Ned Gravel of CAEAL, Canada; Dr. Panadda Silva of DMSc, Thailand; Mr. Barry Ashcroft of IANZ, New Zealand; and Mr. Peter Unger, A2LA, USA, for their contributions to the smooth running and success of the recent new evaluator training course. Seventeen new evaluators and provisional evaluators successfully completed the course.

## **APLAC BALLOTS**

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We urge members who have not yet done so to return their ballot papers for postal ballots on four APLAC documents (PR 010, PR 011, MR 001, MR 003) as soon as possible.

## **APLAC DOCUMENTS**

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Please take the opportunity to visit the APLAC website at [www.aplac.org](http://www.aplac.org), as documents are constantly updated and posted on the site. Members are advised by e-mail of any updates to documents available.

## **APLAC 2006**

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We are looking forward to APLAC 2006, and our preparations are well underway for the busy week of meetings. Agenda papers were sent out by courier in the second week of August.

Thank you to Nigel Jou, Wanji Yang and all the TAF staff for all their diligent planning for APLAC 2006.

We look forward to seeing you again, in Taipei.

Helen Liddy, Jane King and Janet Clark



Taipei 2006