

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

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2002 APLAC General Assembly

APLAC 2002

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) hosted the 2002 APLAC meeting and General Assembly at the Sutton Place Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 10-15 November, 2002.

The week's activities began with a meeting of the APLAC Board of Management. The first day of the full conference featured presentations from Canadian regulators regarding the role of accreditation in their agencies. Following introductory remarks from Stephen Cross, SCC Manager, Conformity Assessment, and Pat Paladino SCC Director, Conformity Assessment, speakers represented the Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and SCC. The speakers all emphasized the expanding recognition and utilization of accreditation in the Canadian regulatory system.



Dr. Rick Wilson, Executive Director, CAEAL, speaking at the 2002 APLAC seminar.



Left to right: Panadda Silva, Director, Bureau of Laboratory Quality Standards, DMSc, Thailand; Llew Richards, APLAC Chair; Peter Unger, MRA Council Chair; Fadilah Baharin, Director of Accreditation, DSM, Malaysia

Two New Signatories to the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

During the APLAC MRA council meeting, two accreditation bodies were accepted as signatories to the APLAC Mutual Recognition arrangement: Department of Medical Sciences (DMSc), Thailand, and the Department of Standards, Malaysia (DSM) both signed the MRA for testing. Also during the meeting, the signatory status of the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) was reaffirmed for an additional four years.



Laboratory Accreditation Scheme of Malaysia (Skim Akreditasi Makmal Malaysia or SAMM) was first established by the Government on 15 August 1990. The SAMM scheme now comes under the purview of the Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM).

SAMM is a unified national laboratory accreditation scheme and is multi-disciplinary in its scope of accreditation activities. It covers both calibration and testing.

For more information regarding DSM, visit their website at www.dsm.gov.my.



The DSM delegation to APLAC 2002.



The Bureau of Laboratory Quality Standards (BLQS) was established by Royal Decree in July 1997 under the Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health to act as the national accreditation body for testing laboratories in the area of medical and health products. The scope of the accreditation scheme includes physical, chemical, biological and clinical testing for food, beverages and water, pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, medical devices, toxic household products and clinical specimens.

Since 1998, BLQS has granted accreditation certificates to seventeen health product testing laboratories and four medical testing laboratories. It has also conducted proficiency testing programs in all disciplines of medical laboratory services. At present, a variety of programs are being conducted in clinical chemistry, immunology, microbiology, hematology, microscopy, and blood banking.

For more information regarding the DMSc BLQS, visit their website at www.dmsc.moph.go.th





Left to right: Warren Merkel, outgoing chair, PIC; Alan Squirrell, outgoing chair, PT Committee; Philip Briggs, incoming chair, PT Committee; Max Robertson, chair, Technical Committee; Peter Unger, incoming APLAC chair; Llew Richards, outgoing APLAC chair; Lay Har Ng, outgoing chair, Training Committee; Ian Roy, incoming chair, PIC; Wei Hao, incoming chair, Training Committee; Helen Liddy, APLAC Secretary. Not pictured: Anthony Russell, incoming chair, MRA Council

Election of New APLAC Leadership

In accordance with the APLAC Rules of Procedure, several leadership positions within APLAC were open for election this year. Following is a list of the newly elected positions, whose terms begin in 2003.

APLAC Chair	Peter Unger, A2LA, USA
APLAC Secretary	Helen Liddy, NATA, Australia
Chair, MRA Council	Anthony Russell, NATA, Australia
Chair, Nomination Committee	Chuck Ramani, IAS, USA
Chair, Proficiency Testing Committee	Philip Briggs, NATA, Australia
Chair, Public Information Committee	Ian Roy, IANZ, New Zealand
Chair, Technical Committee	Max Robertson, IANZ, New Zealand
Chair, Training Committee	Wei Hao, CNAL, People's Republic of China

Three seats were also open on the APLAC Board of Management. Elected to those positions were Chang Kwei Fern, SAC-SINGLAS, Singapore; Nigel Jou, CNLA, Chinese Taipei, and Terence S.S. Chan, HKAS, Hong Kong, China.

APLAC Welcomes New Members

The APLAC General Assembly approved two new Full Members and one Associate Member.

Japan Chemical Laboratory Accreditation (JCLA), Japan, was accepted as a full member. JCLA was established in 1998, and at the time of application, had accredited 26 chemical testing laboratories. NQA Laboratory Services, USA was also approved for full APLAC membership. NQA was established in 1999, and at the time of application had accredited 45 calibration laboratories and 5 testing laboratories.

Assured Calibration and Laboratory Accreditation Select Services (ACLASS), USA, was accepted as an associate member. ACLASS was established in 2000, and at the time of application had 18 laboratories accredited.

NCSLI 2003

The General Assembly approved funding for APLAC to have a display at the NCSL International Conference, held 17-23 August, 2003. This conference is a leading international event for the field of metrology. In the past, APLAC has shared exhibit space with the Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP) and ILAC. The display materials generated for this show will be made available for all APLAC members for promotional opportunities.

Training Workshops Approved

The APLAC General Assembly approved funding for two training workshops in 2003. Recognizing that the APLAC MRA will soon be extended to include inspection accreditation, a workshop on that topic will be conducted. The aims of the workshop will be harmonization of interpretation of ISO/IEC 17020, ISO/IEC 17010, and clauses in APLAC MR 001 pertaining to inspection body accreditation, also taking into consideration guidelines being drafted by the ILAC/IAF Joint Working Group; and to consider the training needs of APLAC members in this regard. Target participants will be full-time staff, lead assessors, and technical assessors of APLAC members. The workshop will take place in China in the second half of 2003.

Funding was also approved for a workshop of lead evaluators, concentrating on evaluation schedule planning, Key Performance indicators, classification of findings and report writing.

Future APLAC Meetings

The next APLAC Technical Meetings and General Assembly will be hosted by KOLAS on 9-14 November, 2003, in Seoul, Korea. The 2004 meeting will be hosted by VILAS-STAMEQ in Hanoi, Vietnam, in November, 2004.

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	<u>APLAC Memorandum of Understanding</u>
APLAC SEC004	<u>APLAC Rules of Procedure</u>
APLAC SEC009	<u>APLAC Publications List</u>
APLAC SEC014	<u>APLAC: Background and Recent Developments¹</u>
APLAC SEC017	<u>APLAC Application for Membership</u>
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 SEC042	APLAC Code of Ethics for Laboratory and Inspection Body Accreditation Organisations (still in draft, not yet available)
APLAC SEC043	APLAC Requirements for APLAC Funding Requests
APLAC SEC044	APLAC Procedure for Appeals and Alternative Dispute Resolution Process (still in draft, not yet available but please see APLAC MR001, section 13)
APLAC Technical Committee	
APLAC TC001	APLAC-EA Policy on Traceability of Measurements (withdrawn, 1 September 2002; replaced by ILAC P10)
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

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