

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 harmonized requirements

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

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China National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (CNAL)

The next issue will be published in **February 2006** by **CAEAL**

APLAC Training on RMP Accreditation Will be Held in Beijing

Dear Members,

As agreed at the 11th APLAC GA in Chiang Mai, a training course on accreditation of RM Producers will be hosted by CNAL in China. I am now advising you that the dates for the training are 10-12 April 2006 and the venue is in Beijing.

The objective of the training is to support the coming APLAC MRA in RM Producers. Participants are expected to be experienced technical assessors for testing and calibration or assessors in RM Producer accreditation from member ABs.

The training is for 3 days and opens to all APLAC members. One representative from each member AB is invited. Representatives from other regions are also welcomed.

There is no registration fee required from participants. APLAC will furnish a fund for the costs of venue, training materials, travel and accommodation of presenters (facilitators). Participants should be responsible for the costs of their own travel and accommodation.

Look forward to your attendance.

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Wei Hao

Chair

APLAC Training Committee

News from APLAC

Secretariat

Helen, Janet and Jane

Congratulations and thank you to our combined hosts, TISI, DMSc and DSS, for their wonderful arrangements and organisation for the APLAC 2005 meetings in Chiang Mai, Thailand, last month. These arrangements ensured everything ran very smoothly, and contributed to a very successful week of meetings.

Ms JoAnne Dupont of SCC, Canada and Dr Katuo Seta, IAJapan were elected to fill the two vacant positions on the Board of Management.

Jeffrey Horlick advised that he would not be seeking re-election to the Board of Management as he is retiring from NVLAP and thus will no longer be the NVLAP delegate to the General Assembly. APLAC wishes to thank Jeffrey for his contributions over many years as General Assembly delegate, Board of Management member and evaluator.

The main items covered during the General Assembly and other meetings were:

- approval of the final draft of the APLAC Constitution to come into effect on the incorporation of APLAC
- in principle approval for a restructure of APLAC documentation following incorporation of APLAC
- reports from the APLAC committee Chairs, and endorsement of work programs for 2006
- reports from ILAC and other ILAC regional bodies, and from the other APEC Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs)
- endorsement of proposed MOUs between APLAC and APMP and APLAC and PAC
- approval of APLAC's budget for 2006

- approval of 3 APLAC training courses in 2006: evaluator training; inspection accreditation workshop; RMP assessor workshop

As of 16 November there are now 23 signatories to the APLAC MRA, 10 of which are recognised for inspection. Congratulations to the new signatories that are as follows:

- CAEAL, Canada (testing only)
- ema, Mexico (testing, calibration and inspection)
- BPSLAS, Philippines (testing and calibration)

Signatory recognition for TAF, Chinese Taipei has been extended to include inspection.

JAS-ANZ, a trans-national organisation covering both Australia and New Zealand is APLAC's newest Full member, and NIL, People's Republic of China is the newest Associate member.

The next meetings of the MRA Council and Board of Management will take place in Singapore during the week of 22-26 May 2006.

A training course for new evaluators who have not yet done a course will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 29-31 May 2006. Invitations will be sent out by the secretariat in February.

We wish all APLAC members and their families all the very best for the festive season and for 2006.

APLAC Website Survey

Ian Roy

Following the decision at the 2005 General Assembly to review the usefulness and layout of the APLAC website, a survey was issued to all APLAC members in December. The response to the survey has been very strong. Early January will be spent collating the responses which will be used to help develop the new

look APLAC web site later in the New Year. Thank you very much to all those members who responded to this survey.

Updates of CNAL

CNAL and CNAB Will Merge into CNAS

According to the decision of Chinese Government, CNAL and CNAB (China National Accreditation body for Certifiers) , will merge into a new single accreditation body ——China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS). The new accreditation body is authorized by Chinese government to operate national accreditation schemes for laboratory, inspection and certification bodies, as well as for other conformity assessment bodies.

As the successor of CNAL, CNAS will continue to conduct accreditation activities against international standards, and to operate its system according to ISO/IEC 17011 and APLAC MR001. CNAS will fully recognize the accreditation results of CNAL, and all other APLAC and ILAC MRA signatories.

In the international circumstances, CNAS is to take over all the rights, responsibilities and duties of CNAL and CNAB, particularly those with APLAC and ILAC. CNAS will wish to inherit and maintain CNAL's MRA Signatory status in APLAC and ILAC.

In February 2006, the founding ceremony for the new accreditation body—CNAS will be held in Beijing.

CNAS will soon re-issue documents for its accreditation system, and the policy for transition from CNAL system to the CNAS system.

New Accreditation Programs Provided by CNAL

CNAL commenced three new accreditation programs in 2005: medical laboratory accreditation against ISO

15189; reference material (RM) producer accreditation against ISO Guide 34 and ISO/IEC 17025; and bio-safety laboratory accreditation against China national mandatory standard GB19489 *Laboratories- General Requirements for Bio-safety*.

Up to 31 December 2005, CNAL has accredited 5 medical laboratories, 1 RM producer and 2 bio-safety laboratories.

CNAL Launches Its English Website

CNAL has updated its website to increase many new functions including the launch of its English website. A hotlink to the English version is established in its Chinese website: www.cnal.org.cn. The English website provides general information, news and current activities of CNAL and directory of CNAL accredited laboratories. Viewers are able to search for any laboratories accredited by CNAL with detailed description of accreditation scope at the following URL hyperlink:

<http://eng.cnal.org.cn/col244/index.html?colid=244>

Recent Activities of CNAL

International Seminar on Proficiency Testing (PT) & the Key Techniques of Food Safety Testing Held in Dalian



International Seminar on Proficiency Testing (PT) & Key Techniques of Food Safety Testing was held in Dalian on September 5, 2005 by CNAL co-hosting

with Liaoning Entry-Exit Inspection & Quarantine Bureau of the People's Republic of China (LNCIQ).

About 150 delegates, from 17 economies around the world, attended the seminar. These delegates included internationally well-known professionals or scholars, including Mr. Philip Briggs, Chairman of APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee, Mr. Daniel W. Tholen as the convener in ISO/TC69, Dr. Rajeshwar Utkhede, Premier Scientist of Agriculture and Agri-food of Canada. This activity showed that China had paid high attention to the food safety testing and relevant laboratory accreditation.

The seminar focused on the following topics:

- a) Food safety laboratory accreditation, quality assurance (QA) and proficiency testing VS. international food trade;
- b) PT techniques for food safety laboratory;
- c) Developments and key techniques of food safety testing

Workshop on Measurement Uncertainty (MU) in Medicine Testing Held in Beijing

On 10--11 November 2005, a workshop on MU in medicine testing was held in Beijing by Medicine Sub-committee of CNAL Technical Committee. Over 80 representatives from Chinese medicine testing laboratories attended the meeting.

In the two-day's workshop, international and domestic development trend of the MU estimation was introduced, relevant international technical documents (including APLAC TC005) on MU estimation was circulated, and relevant policies on MU and assessment requirements of CNAL was explained.

To date, 30 medicine testing laboratories have passed the on-site assessment conducted by CNAL.

Wider Use of CNAL's Accreditation Results by Government of China

CNAL's accreditation results are now recognized and used more and more widely in the recent years, by regulators in China, the following are the examples in this respect.

- a) General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) requires that the following government laboratories be accredited by CNAL:
 - national product quality testing center and provincial product quality testing institutes undertaking market supervision;
 - provincial professional fiber testing stations;
 - laboratories undertaking the testing of entry-exit products.
- b) Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense requires their laboratories be accredited by CNAL;
- c) General Administration of Customs requires that the custom laboratories be accredited by CNAL;
- d) State Council requires that the high level (P3 and P4) bio-safety laboratories be accredited by CNAL;
- e) Standing Committee of National People's Congress ordered that the laboratories undertaking Judicature Appraisal be accredited by CNAL.

News from NATA

NATA Signs Memorandum with ACT Government

The National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) has signed another memorandum of

understanding with an Australian government.

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government has committed its laboratories to meeting international accreditation standards by signing the memorandum.

The memorandum means the ACT Government will use NATA accredited facilities wherever possible, and ACT laboratories whose principal function is to provide testing services to either government or outside agencies will obtain and maintain accreditation by NATA.

The memorandum was signed by Chief Minister Jon Stanhope for the ACT, and NATA Chair, Dr Barry Inglis. Memorandums are now in place between NATA, the Australian Federal Government, the States of Victoria and Tasmania as well as the ACT.

"The memorandum provides an umbrella for the development of more specific memoranda, if required, to serve the particular needs of individual ACT departments or agencies," Dr Inglis said.

NATA CEO Tony Russell said in addition to providing reliable testing and inspection services for ACT industry and the community, NATA accreditation helps smooth the way for goods from the ACT entering foreign markets.

"This is because NATA has negotiated an extensive range of mutual recognition arrangements with its international counterparts," said Mr Russell, "and these help to underpin government-to-government mutual recognition agreements regarding trade matters."

JAS-ANZ Policy on Traceability Revised

The Joint Accreditation System for Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) has released a revised policy on the Traceability of Physical Measurements.

The National Association of testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) requested the policy be updated in light of the updating of the ISO 9001/2/3 series to a single standard ISO 9001:2000. In response, JAS-ANZ initially withdrew policy 1/96 without replacement, but ultimately issued a revised policy, called JAS-ANZ Policy 3/04: Traceability of Physical Measurements. The policy is available on the JAS-ANZ website: www.jas-anz.com.au.

This is an important policy as it has implications for businesses certified under all accredited conformity assessment programs where the conformity assessment standard or normative document defines the requirements for the control of monitoring and measurement equipment. ISO 9001:2000 certification is just one of these conformity assessment programs.

It also has implications for the certifiers of these businesses as they need to ensure that the requirements for traceability are being met, and for facilities providing calibration services.

NATA awards first R&D accreditation

The National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) has given its first accreditation in research and development.

The accreditation was awarded to Queensland based company TetraQ-ADME, which provides preclinical research and testing services to pharmaceutical companies in the areas of drug absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination.

TetraQ-ADME initially volunteered to pilot an assessment of research and development by NATA. The pilot eventually developed into the accreditation program.

The company has previous experience with application of the OECD Principles of Good

Laboratory Practice in the medical testing program, and was attracted to a system that could reliably recognise the application of "good research practices."

Australian academics have been encouraged by recent Federal policies to conduct commercial research and development. Clients and users of R&D have various expectations of R&D quality but there is currently no commonly agreed standard, although particular standards are applied by regulatory authorities in certain areas such as the testing of pharmaceutical drug candidates. However, accreditation of research and development appears problematic to most researchers. While its potentially detrimental effects on creativity are voiced by opponents, accreditation is increasingly attractive to companies that seek to outsource R&D work.

News from JAB

JAB's New Office

JAB moved to a new, prestigious, modern facility within Tokyo at the beginning of November 2005. The new office is more spacious and has better physical security as well as improved internet security. More than 100 people were invited to a reception held at JAB's new office on November 22, 2005.



The postal address, telephone and fax numbers have been changed, but email addresses remain as before.

The new address and contact numbers are:

Gotanda AN Bldg. 3F

22-1 Higashigotanda 1-Chome,

Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0022

JAPAN

Tel: +81 (3) 3442 1210

Fax: +81 (3) 5475 2780

New Accreditation Program provided by JAB

JAB has commenced two new accreditation programs: medical laboratory accreditation based on ISO 15189; and inspection body accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17020.

To date, nine medical laboratories and one inspection body have been accredited by JAB.

Accredited bodies can be found on the JAB website at www.jab.or.jp/

Current Activities of KOLAS

Hosting inter-laboratory comparisons of proficiency testing program between KOLAS and IAJapan

KOLAS hosted a Proficiency Testing commencing from 15th March, 2005 between KOLAS and IAJapan on testing and calibration fields, making sure the testing reliability of participating laboratories.

As for testing KOLAS has sent to 40 laboratories the final reports on 'Rockwell Hardness Test' in October this year, while 130 laboratories have been currently taking comparative tests on five items regarding calibration fields.

These activities would enhance the meaningful reliability of testing laboratories of both countries.

KOLAS training for government officials ASEAN countries

KOLAS in cooperation with KATS (Korea Agency for Technology and Standards) provided training courses to 14 civil servants from six countries such as Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippine and Vietnam from Oct 5th to Oct 11th of 2005.

The training courses focused on the significance of accreditation system and the correlation between accreditation system and economic development. The relevant topics of the training courses are as follows:

Accreditation system, the overview of KOLAS scheme, and its procedures

The testing methods for measurement uncertainty

The training courses on conformity assessment

Driving toward vigorous acceptance of KOLAS accreditation system by relevant Korean ministries

KOLAS has been propelling Korean testing and inspection bodies, which have been operated by their own standards not relevant internationally accepted rules. Over the past three years, the designation of testing and inspection institutes had formerly been operated by 10 ministries according to 38 laws.

For the past three years KOLAS has consistently persuaded relevant Korean ministries to revise laws introducing KOLAS system, making a big breakthrough. As a result of these efforts, 24 laws from six ministries enabled the acceptance of KOLAS system a success. The six ministries are as below.

The Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Ministry of

Construction and Transportation, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Information and Communication, the Ministry of Information and Communication.

Until 2007 the operation of KOLAS system is to run in order that all the testing and inspection bodies could utilize KOLAS System as an internationally recognized one.

Hosting an Workshop for Promoting the Reliability of Testing Analysis on the Computation of Measurement Uncertainty

In the 2nd quarter of 2005 KOLAS got the information that there is a need for training courses of measurement uncertainty in each field. On November 8-9, 2005 a workshop on electric, chemical and mechanic fields was held in Yongin, Korea,

This workshop was held to uplift the reliability of testing certificates of KOLAS along with competence as an internationally recognized institute. It was a successful workshop, in which 120 people participated.

The workshop had several constructive discussions regarding the general rules and guidelines and the estimation of measurement uncertainty according to each testing field. The output of workshop is expected to be of valuable help in the case of revision of relevant laws on technical regulations in the near future. Excellent cases from each field would be selected and printed in publications for a reference book.

APLAC PUBLICATIONS LIST

Most of the following APLAC documents are available from the APLAC website. 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 Advisory Committee

<u>APLAC MR001 #</u>	Issue No.8 09 /05	Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Agreements Between Accreditation Bodies
<u>APLAC MR002</u> (Rev 1) #	04/05	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement
<u>APLAC MR003</u>	Issue No. 9 05 /05	Application for Signatory Status in the APLAC Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APLAC MRA)
<u>APLAC MR004</u>	Issue No.4 09 /05	APLAC Evaluators - Qualifications and Monitoring Performance.
<u>APLAC MR005</u>	Issue No.1 09/03	Procedure for Training MRA Evaluators
<u>APLAC MR006</u>	Issue No.1 07/04	Procedure for conduct of joint evaluation for another region.

APLAC Nominations Committee

<u>APLAC NC001</u>	Issue No.5 07 /05	APLAC Nominations Committee and the APLAC Nomination Process
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APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee

<u>APLAC PT001</u>	Issue No.3 03 /03	APLAC Calibration Inter laboratory Comparisons
<u>APLAC PT002</u>	Issue No.4 12 /03	APLAC Testing Interlaboratory Comparisons
<u>APLAC PT003</u>	Issue No.5 03 /05	APLAC Proficiency Testing Directory
<u>APLAC PT004</u>	Issue No.4	APLAC Measurement Audits

03 /05

[APLAC PT005](#)

Issue No.1 Artefacts for Measurement Audits
06 /04

APLAC Public Information Committee

[APLAC PR001](#)

Issue No.2 APLAC Publications Numbering Policy
02 /05

[APLAC PR003](#)

Issue No.3 Procedure for Adoption of APLAC Documents
02 /05

[APLAC PR007](#)

Issue No.17 Power Point Presentation - APLAC Its Role And
12 /05 Structure

[APLAC PR008](#)

Issue No.18 International Recognition of Accredited Test,
10 /05 Calibration and Inspection Reports

[APLAC PR009](#)

Issue No.5 APLAC Procedures for Editors of APLAC News
07 /04 Notes

[APLAC
Presentation](#)

Power Point Slide Template

APLAC Secretariat

[APLAC SEC001*](#)

Issue No.3 APLAC Memorandum of Understanding,
12 /03 second edition

[APLAC SEC004*](#)

Issue No.6 APLAC Rules of Procedure
07 /05

[APLAC SEC009](#)

Issue No.74 APLAC Publications List
12 /05

[APLAC SEC017](#)

Issue No.10 APLAC Application for Membership
05 /05

[APLAC SEC020](#)

Issue No.52 APLAC General Assembly and MRA Council
12 /05 Delegates List

[APLAC SEC021](#)

Issue No.19 APLAC Board of Management Membership
10 /05 List

[APLAC SEC022](#)

Issue No.15 Committee Chairs and Secretaries
12 /05

[APLAC SEC023](#)

Deleted APLAC MRA Council Membership List (see
SEC 020 above)

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<u>APLAC SEC036</u>	Issue No.2 08 /03	APLAC Complaints Handling Procedures
<u>APLAC SEC037</u>	Issue No.2 02 /05	APLAC Document Control and Document Format
<u>APLAC SEC038</u>	Issue No.25 12 /05	APLAC Membership Summary List
<u>APLAC SEC039</u>	Issue No.14 12 /05	APLAC MRA Signatories Summary List
<u>APLAC SEC040</u>	Issue No.4 07 /04	APLAC Procedure for Issuing Invoices for Annual Fees
<u>APLAC SEC041</u>	Issue No. 3 08/04	APLAC Guidelines for Hosts of the APLAC General Assembly and Associated Meetings (only available from the Secretariat)
<u>APLAC SEC042*</u>	Issue No.2 07/03	Code of Ethics
<u>APLAC SEC043</u>	Issue No.2 12 /04	Requirements for APLAC Funding Requests
<u>APLAC SEC044</u>	Issue No.2 08 /03	Procedure for Appeals and Alternative Dispute Resolution Process.
<u>APLAC SEC045</u>	Issue No.3 06/05	APLAC Procedure for Management Review and Internal Audits
<u>APLAC SEC046</u>	Issue No. 1 12 /03	Guidelines for use of the APLAC Logo
<u>APLAC SEC047</u>	Issue No. 1 12/03	Processing Notification of Changes within an APLAC MRA Signatory Organisation
<u>APLAC SEC048</u>	Issue No. 1 12/03	APLAC Register of Delegated Responsibilities
<u>APLAC SEC049</u>	Issue No.7 10 /05	Maintenance and Archiving of APLAC files
<u>APLAC SEC050</u>	Issue No. 1 08/04	Guidelines for APLAC MRA signatories when accrediting laboratories or inspection bodies within the economy of another APLAC MRA signatory
<u>APLAC SEC051</u>	Issue No. 1 12/04	Overview of APLAC management system documentation

APLAC Technical Committee

<u>APLAC TC002</u>	Issue No.2 2 /04	APLAC Internal Audits for Laboratories and Inspection Bodies
<u>APLAC TC003</u>	Issue No.2 2 /04	APLAC Management Review for Laboratories and Inspection Bodies
<u>APLAC TC004</u>	Issue No.2 03/04	APLAC Method of Stating Test and Calibration Results and Compliance with Specification
<u>APLAC TC005</u>	Issue No.2 03 /04	Interpretation and Guidance on the Estimation of Uncertainty of Measurement in Testing
<u>APLAC TC006</u>	Issue No.1 07 /04	APLAC Guidance notes on ISO/IEC 17020
<u>APLAC TC007</u>	Issue No.1 10/05	APLAC Guidelines for Food Testing Laboratories.

APLAC Training Committee

<u>APLAC TR001</u>	Issue No.1 12 /01	Guidelines on Training course for Assessors
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* Adherence to these APLAC documents is mandatory for all APLAC members (Full and Associate)

Adherence to these APLAC documents is mandatory for all signatories to the APLAC mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)