

# APLAC News Notes



ISSUE NO. 97

**APLAC**

Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

December 2008

APLAC is an organization of accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific area that have expressed a desire to cooperate in fostering the development of competent laboratories, inspection bodies and reference materials producers in member economies.

Cooperation is to include :

- Exchange of information
- Joint training programmes
- Proficiency testing
- Harmonisation of requirements
- Mutual recognition of systems meeting harmonized requirements

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The next issue will be published in Mar 2009 by ACLASS.



## APLAC Meets in Singapore

SPRING Singapore and the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) General Assembly and Technical Meetings from 6-12 December 2008. This is the second time that the APLAC meetings were held in Singapore and attended by over 100 delegates from more than 20 countries in the Asia Pacific.

At this meeting, APLAC welcomes new extension to the MRAs for 2 accreditation bodies. NABL, India has extended its MRA to cover medical testing (ISO 15189) while ACLASS, USA has extended its MRA for reference materials accreditation.

In conjunction with the APLAC meetings, SAC organized an Industry Seminar entitled “Accreditation : Enabling Market Access”.

The speakers from APLAC, ILAC, the United Kingdom, United States of American, People’s Republic of China and Singapore, shared the regulatory regimes in their respective economies and of how the MRA in ILAC and APLAC in facilitating market access.

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Mr Terence Chan, the Chair of APLAC said, “APLAC remains committed to reducing technical barriers to trade by maintaining a network of MRAs. This ensures that users of the services of accredited conformity assessment bodies continue to enjoy reduced cost through the removal of duplicative testing and shorter time for access to markets.”



## SAC launches a new Accreditation Programme in Medical Imaging



Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) was established in 1996. To date, SAC has accredited about 263 laboratories, 9 inspection bodies and 15 certification bodies. It works with more than 250 volunteers from the industry, professional bodies, tertiary institutions and government agencies. These volunteers assist SAC in committee work and as experts and assessors in the assessment of conformity assessment bodies.

The SAC laboratory accreditation programme (SAC-SINGLAS) was first started in 1986. To meet the changing needs of the industry,

SAC needs to be dynamic in its accreditation services and in offering new accreditation programmes to support the industry growth.

In November 2007, the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) launches a new accreditation programme in Medical Imaging. This programme was launched to support the Singapore's Ministry of Health in the Public Hospital and Private Clinic Act (PHMC Act).

The Medical Imaging Accreditation Programme will help boost public confidence in Singapore's radiology services especially with the push for Singapore to be the Centre of Medical Excellence in the region.

In this new accreditation programme, the standard, ISO 15189—Particular Requirements for a Medical Laboratory is used. The imaging facility is expected to have a management system in place and have the competence to produce images that exudes confidence in the technical soundness of image and reports. A Technical Committee for Medical Imaging has been set up to develop the programme and it comprises experts in various related disciplines.

In end Sep 2008, SAC held a seminar on Medical Imaging. More than 49 practitioners and experts attended the seminar. Representatives from the Ministry of Health, local experts spoke of the accreditation process, the PHMC regulations and various perspectives from practicing radiologist and radiographers.

## More Pictures from APLAC Meetings...



# Regulatory Acceptance of Accreditation and MRA in Singapore

Over the years, there has been an increasing awareness in the benefits of utilising the MRA network established by APLAC and ILAC as a basis for trade. Through SAC, Singapore has been a founding member of APLAC since 1997 and has been working continuously towards establishing, developing and expanding mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) among accreditation bodies both in Asia Pacific and internationally. The membership has helped SAC to promote international confidence and acceptance of Singapore's accredited laboratory data. The cross-border recognition of testing, calibration and inspection results helps to reduce the need for re-testing when products are exported to countries in the MRA network, hence resulting in cost savings and trade facilitation.



In Singapore, SAC has put in tremendous effort in promoting the use of the APLAC and ILAC MRA to its local regulatory authorities and industry. In the recent survey by ILAC on the regulatory acceptance of accreditation and test reports from MRA partners, the level of acceptance by each economy is classified using the colours of a traffic light. From the results of this survey, SAC is classified under "General Acceptance (Green)" and this is an indication of the level of acceptance of SAC accreditation or its MRA partners by the regulators in Singapore. The outcome of this survey also indicates the effectiveness of the promotional and out-reach efforts by SAC.

To date, there is a total of 16 regulatory authorities in Singapore that accept SAC accreditation, 13 out of the 16 regulatory authorities require SAC accreditation in support of their regulatory function and 7 out of 16 require accredita-

For example, the Public Utilities Board (PUB) and the National Environment Agency (NEA) have specified the use of SAC-SINGLAS accredited laboratories and/or the laboratories accredited by SAC's MRA partners for the testing of pipes/fittings and electrical appliances respectively.

Through regular dialogue sessions with the regulatory authorities, SAC shared on the globally recognised system to accept accredited reports and how it would help them in meeting their own legislated responsibilities. Apart from the dialogue sessions, regulators were also invited as speakers and facilitators in many of SAC's events to share on their experiences. In the recent industry seminar held in conjunction with the APLAC meetings in Singapore in December 2008, Mr Chan Yew Kwong from the Ministry of Manpower of Singapore shared on the ministry's use of accreditation and MRA. He said "*We cannot legislate for best practice but accreditation can deliver it*".

SAC also works very closely with regulatory authorities who plan to stipulate the use of SAC accreditation or its MRA partners in their regulations. SAC renders support by providing small group sharing sessions for their staff on how accreditation works and provide assurance of quality and competence as well as provide guidance on identification of endorsed reports. SAC is currently working with the Casino Regulatory Authority (CRA) of Singapore regarding gaming machines. SAC facilitated a meeting for CRA with SAC's MRA partners in Australia and USA recently to have an in depth understanding of accreditation for gaming machines in their countries.

SAC will continue to promote the use of the APLAC and ILAC MRAs to the regulatory authorities and industry. SAC's strong network with international accreditation bodies such as APLAC and ILAC also ensures that Singapore's interests are taken into consideration in policies and decision making in the accreditation and MRAs.

# News from NVLAP

## New BIPM Publications

The International Bureau of Weights and Measures (Bureau International des Poids et Mesures, in [French](#)), is an international standards organization, established by the Convention du Mètre (Metre Convention) to ensure worldwide uniformity of measurements, and for ensuring the basis for a single, coherent system of measurement traceable to the International System of Units (SI). The organization is usually referred to by its name in French-BIPM and is proud to announce the publication of the 3rd edition of the International Vocabulary of Metrology (VIM3), and Supplement 1 to the GUM (Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement), on its website, <http://www.bipm.org/en/publications/guides/>.

## Newly Accredited Personal Body Armor Laboratories

NVLAP has accredited seven laboratories for Personal Body Armor. The laboratories are accredited for National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standard 0101.06, Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor, July 2008, Sections 5, 6, and/or 7. A particular laboratory's scope of accreditation is available on the NVLAP web site, where you will also find contact information. For information on the program, contact Hazel M. Richmond at (301) 975-3024 or <[hazel.richmond@nist.gov](mailto:hazel.richmond@nist.gov)>.

## NVLAP Evaluation by APLAC (July 21-25, 2008)

NVLAP, as a signatory of the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) MRA, hosted a team of evaluators from APLAC the week of July 21. The team members were Chin Poh Yin of the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC), C.K. Cheung of the Hong Kong Accreditation Service, Sergio Hurtado of entidad mexicana de acreditación, a.c. (ema), and Rajesh Maheshwari from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) India. The evaluation was performed to assess NVLAP's compliance with ISO/IEC 17011 and included a visit to several laboratories to observe NVLAP assessors as they performed assessments to ISO/IEC 17025. Each team member was accompanied by a program manager. The observed laboratories were located in Texas, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Rhode Island, and India.



From left to right: Jeffrey Horlick (NVLAP), Sergio Hurtado (ema-Mexico), Barbara Belzer(NVLAP), C. K. Cheung (HKAS-Hong Kong), Hazel Richmond, Betty Ann Sandoval, Sharrill Dittmann, Vanda White, Tom Hettenhouser (all NVLAP), Poh Yin Chin (SAC-Singapore), Sally Bruce (NVLAP), and Rajesh Maheshwari (NABL-India). (Courtesy of C. K. Cheung)

## Asia Regional Workshop an Accreditation Cooperation 10-11 November 2008

Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB) is organizing the above-mentioned workshop jointly with European Union, UNIDO, Norad, IAF and ILAC. The hon'ble Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor, Govt. of Bangladesh Mr. Mahboob Jamil is scheduled to inaugurate the workshop and Mr. Sheikh Enayetullah, Secretary, Ministry of Industry is scheduled to make a closing of the workshop as Chief Guests.

International experts on accreditation Mr. Kukuh S. Achmad of KAN, Indonesia, Mr. John Gilmour, ex-president of IAF, Mr. B. Venkataram, IAF representative, Ms. Nirmala M. Pieris, UNIDO expert, Mr. Devi SaranTewari, ex-director of NABL, India and Mr. Khalid Saeed, Technical Director of Norwegian Accreditation are the resource persons of the workshop.

Participants are from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The workshop programme is designed to cover the needs of various groups interested in accreditation. Policy makers, industrialists, public administration personnel, testing and calibration laboratory managers and personnel are aimed to attend the 2 days event.

Mr. M. Liaquat Ali, DG of BAB will chair the workshop and give a presentation on the present status of BAB and accreditation in Bangladesh. At the end of the workshop on 12 November 2008 the international accreditation experts alongwith UNIDO Project Manager will make a visit to BAB. On that day international experts and BAB officials will jointly review the progress of BAB and exchange views with the Bangladesh Government officials for its sustainability and independent operation.

It may be mentioned that BAB has been established through the Bangladesh Accreditation Act, 2006 to accredit testing and calibration laboratories, inspection and certification bodies, training institutions and assessors working in the field of conformity assessment.

Some technical assistance is being provided by EU-UNIDO and NORAD through a project called the Bangladesh Quality Support Programme since late 2006. DG BSTI Mr. Md. Azmal Hossain, Project Director of BQSP QMS Component and a member of BAB board will chair the inaugural session of workshop. BAB is an associate member of APLAC. Legal status of BAB is autonomous with the Ministry of Industry and having a secretariat with 24 personnel.

## New ILAC Document :How does using an accredited laboratory benefit Government and Regulators ?

An updated version of the popular brochure "How does using an accredited laboratory benefit Government and Regulators?", is now available to members through the ILAC website ([www.ilac.org](http://www.ilac.org)). The brochure explains the role and benefits of accreditation in government activities.

While the broad substance of the brochure remains the same, a new section has been added called "Accreditation in support of regulation".

The new section explains the recent historical shift of the use of accreditation from the voluntary sector to also the mandatory (government) sector. The additional text refers to accreditation by pan-regional bodies in their activities such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as the Council for European Union and the European Parliament.

In APEC, for example, accreditation is now used to underpin the conformity assessment component of the APEC agreements. The ASEAN MRA for electrical and electronic equipment has included accreditation as a means of

meeting the mandatory requirements of each member, and to facilitate the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

In Europe, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament have agreed on a regulation that from 2010 will cover the use of accreditation as a means to show compliance with mandatory requirements.

The mainstream acceptance of accreditation by these bodies, and domestic regulators within individual governments, also helps member governments of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to meet their responsibilities of the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT Agreement), and the sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Agreement (SPS Agreement) too.

Emphasis is also given to the recognition and increased coordinating roles of the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), European cooperation for Accreditation (EA), and the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), by regional and domestic government bodies.

## TAF Hosts the APLAC Training Workshop on Inspection Body Accreditation



On 27-29 October 2008, TAF hosted the very first APLAC Training Workshop on Inspection Body Accreditation in the Leader Hotel, Taipei. The idea of arranging this training workshop was to accommodate APLAC Members' needs in seeking comprehensive understanding of the criteria relating to inspection accreditation and to reach harmonisation, consensus and consistency of the conduct of inspection assessment. The Working Group on this training workshop was comprised Mr

Terence Chan, Mr Wei Hao and Mr Nigel Jou.

APLAC invited 4 trainers from the Asia-Pacific and European regions; Mr

Geoffrey Hallam (IANZ), Mr Julian Wilson (NATA), Mr Nigel Jou (TAF) and Mr Per Lundmark (SWEDAC). In total there were 20 participants from 5 continents: NATA, CAI, HKAS, KAN, KAS, SM, ema, IANZ, SANAS, SWEDAC, TAF, ONAC, BoA and JAS-ANZ. In addition to the trainers' lectures on international standards, inspection accreditation and current status in the world, the interactive experience sharing session also gave participants a good chance to exchange ideas among different accreditation bodies.

Following the workshop, TAF spontaneously sponsored a 2-day observation tour on 30-31 October. 15 participants joined to visit two TAF accredited inspection bodies: the Electronics Testing Center, Taiwan and the Taiwan Gas Appliance Research and Development Center.

The training workshop and the associated activities was a useful step in achieving harmonisation in inspection accreditation. All participants were happy about the outcomes of the valuable workshop and will share with their colleagues the updates and different viewpoints obtained from it.

## TAF Held a Seminar on Measurement Traceability in Laboratory Medicine

TAF initiated a 3-year project (2008-2010) named "Development and Promotion of the Clinical Reference Measurement Laboratory". Thus, TAF invited Dr Graham Jones, ILAC Representative in JCTLM, to deliver a speech in the "Seminar on Measurement Traceability in Laboratory Medicine" on 3 November 2008 in Taipei. Dr Jones talked about "the Importance of Traceability for Medical Laboratories" and "the Structures of Traceability - JCTLM and other organisations", and gave some examples of traceability in laboratory medicine.

There were about 160 participants from TAF accredited medical testing laboratories and some research institutes. TAF will blend in the viewpoints collated from the panel discussion, and carry on developing the environment for clinical reference measurement laboratories.



# CALA Laboratories Re-affirm Commitment to Competence



CALA member laboratories gathered in 10 separate celebrations across Canada from 6 to 10 October to reaffirm their commitment to competence in their work. 27 member laboratories received new versions of PT Recognition Certificates and Accreditation Certificates from the hands of CALA Board Members and Members of the CALA Accreditation Council.

In Burnaby, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Ottawa, Fredericton, Halifax and St. John's, small celebrations were held to mark the occasion of the change of the name of the association from CAEAL to CALA.

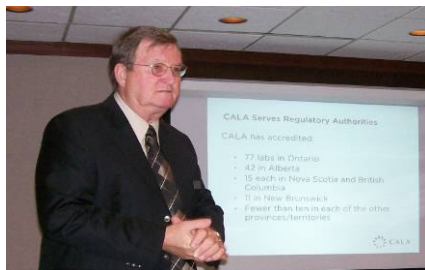
Those federal and provincial regulatory agencies that help shape these two programs gathered with laboratory members from both the private and not-for-profit sectors to mark the transition of the name of their association from CAEAL, formed in 1989, to CALA.

With an expanded mandate from the membership and Industry Canada, CALA hopes to meet the needs of those members who seek accreditation for more than just environmental testing.

New programs in mineral analysis, petroleum and construction materials testing are currently being planned or delivered. In keeping with best practice, CALA will first acquire the expertise and the appropriate regulatory/public sector input before any new program is offered in response to member demand.

CAEAL spent 19 years earning the trust of Canadians and CALA is working to retain it. The volunteers and staff that deliver CALA programs to members are the same people that delivered CAEAL ones. The name has changed to reflect the new mandate.

**The aim is the very same as when CAEAL was created..... Building Laboratory Excellence**



# Winners Of NATA Young Scientists Award Announced



Students from Esperance Primary School in Western Australia and Galilee Regional Catholic School in Victoria have been named as the first and second prize-winners respectively in the nationwide NATA Young Scientists Award.

The schools won prizes totalling AUD\$10,000 in science equipment.

The award, which is now in its second year, was established to address the declining interest in science and technology careers among young Australians. Entries were invited from year five and six classes (ages 9 - 11) across the country. Finalists submitted posters with the results of their experiments for determination by the judges.

NATA's challenge was to encourage students to look at how science impacts on people's daily lives. In response, many of the entries focused on some very practical investigations.

First-prize winners from Esperance Primary School examined what happens to the levels of dissolved oxygen in water with differing salinity levels when the water temperature increases.

NATA Chair Dr Barry Inglis, who judged the competition, said that all finalists' entries were of a high standard and that determining the winner was a difficult decision.

"I was impressed by the range of complex issues that the students addressed," Dr Inglis said. "Clearly primary schools are concerned about current environmental issues affecting Australia and the world.

"Esperance Primary School showed real leadership with their project. They obviously understand the impact changes in water oxygen levels can have on future generations. This is of course an important issue at present.

"Young people's interest in science today will be crucial to maintaining Australia's technical infrastructure into the future," Dr Inglis added. "It was a great pleasure to have been involved in judging the entries. The students and their teachers are to be congratulated."

The 2009 NATA Young Scientists Award is open now. The competition has been extended to include year seven (the first year of high school). Individuals as well as classes will be invited to submit entries.

# ILAC Survey on Regulatory Acceptance of Accreditation and the ILAC MRA (2008)

An ILAC survey on regulatory acceptance of accreditation was conducted in mid 2008 by the ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC) and the findings displayed at the ILAC General Assembly held in Stockholm, Sweden, during October 2008.

Signatories to the ILAC MRA were asked if regulators in their economies required and/or accepted accredited laboratory and/or inspection body reports.

ILAC MRA signatories were also asked if regulators in their economies accepted laboratory and/or inspection body reports from MRA partners. The survey results indicate a steady and significant growth in the acceptance of accreditation by domestic regulators as well as improved recognition of the ILAC MRA.

The survey also took place in 2002 (Berlin), 2004 (Cape Town) and 2006 (Cancun). The 2008 (Stockholm) survey results reveal improved regulatory acceptance of accreditation and acceptance of the ILAC MRA over the period 2002- 2008.

The table clearly shows that the number of survey respondents in the General Acceptance category increased from 41% in 2002 to 68% in 2008. Conversely, the number of respondents in the Limited Acceptance category decreased from 34.5%

in 2002 to 24.5% in 2008, and in the Limited Acceptance category, decreased from 24.5% in 2002 to 7.5% in 2008.

The results were pleasing with more accreditation bodies reporting an increase in the interest of regulators to accept accredited test and inspection reports.

Regulators need confidence that businesses comply with regulations. A cost effective means of ensuring this confidence is provided through accreditation. In some instances, regulators will accept manufacturer's self declaration. In others, regulators

may require accredited test and inspection results. Sometimes the regulators may do their own assessment of laboratory or inspection body compliance. In some instances the regulator may even require product certification (product compliance with a particular standard), or may require evidence of certification to ISO 9001.

Where accurate test and inspection reports are required, the most cost effective, trans-

parent and non-discriminatory assurance of compliance is by accepting test and inspection reports from accredited laboratories and inspection bodies where the accrediting body is a signatory to a Mutual Recognition Arrangement such as the ILAC MRA or the APLAC MRA.

## ILAC REGULATOR ACCEPTANCE RESULTS BY YEAR (02 -08)

<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>	2002	2006	2008
GENERAL	41.0 %	55.0 %	68.0 %
LIMITED	34.5 %	33.0 %	24.5 %
RESTRICTED	24.5 %	12.0 %	7.5 %

# New U.S Legislation to have Global Impact

On August 14, 2008, United States President, George W. Bush, signed into law H.R. 4040; better known as the “Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008” (CPSIA). This legislation was prompted by many recently publicized recalls of children’s products, particularly for excessively high levels of lead in painted surface coatings. The CPSIA has amended the previous “Consumer Product Safety Act”, and imposes more stringent requirements on the testing of children’s products, which will likely have a great impact on the demand for third-party testing labs, as well as the accreditation bodies who accredit them. With the CPSIA in place, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) now has expanded authority to implement testing requirements for nearly all children’s products. The legislation contains an imbedded timeline which calls for the CPSC to provide guidance on the testing requirements for each individual children’s product for which there is a CPSC regulation. In order to receive recognition by the CPSC for testing these products, and be published on their website list, testing labs shall in turn receive their accreditation from an accreditation body who is a full member signatory to the ILAC MRA, and must maintain the requirement published by the CPSC for each product being tested on their scope of accreditation. Upon implementation of each supplemental requirement, any product that is manufactured in, or imported into the United States, will need to have a certificate that indicates it was tested and meets the relevant published requirement.

The new law sets very ambitious deadlines for enactment of these testing requirements by the CPSC. The first of these is lead in paint, which will be a mandatory test for children’s products starting 90 days after the CPSC posted its requirement in the Federal Register. This posting was published in the Federal Register on September 22, 2008; thus, any children’s product manufactured or imported after December 21, 2008 will be subject to the lead in paint

testing requirement.

The second set of requirements was published on October 22, 2008, and mandates testing requirements for full-size cribs, non-full-size cribs, and pacifiers. As per the timeline of the lead paint requirements, this testing will be mandatory beginning January 20, 2008 (90 days after publication). Future requirements will include testing on small parts, children’s metal jewelry, baby bouncers, walkers, jumpers, and eventually nearly all children’s products. The Commission will vote on accreditation requirements for other children’s products regulations in the coming months.

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), was aware of this legislation from its inception, and currently has staff devoted to keeping apprised of the new requirements set in place by the CPSC. “The CPSC was very adamant about adhering to the timeline for accreditation, and A2LA and hopefully other ILAC MRA signatories are taking the steps necessary to provide first-class, responsive service, to our laboratories that will allow them to meet the CPSC’s timeline.” said Peter Unger, President of A2LA. “We are happy to see that the CPSC is relying on internationally recognized accreditation of testing laboratories to ensure accurate testing is being conducted.”

A2LA is proud to have worked directly with the staff of the CPSC during the early implementation period of the CPSIA, and feels that through direct communication, the CPSC realized the importance of a global recognition arrangement for accrediting bodies, since the law not only impacts products manufactured in the U.S., but also those that are imported into the country from foreign regions throughout the world.

More detailed testing and accreditation requirements for the products listed above, along with information on registering as a Third-Party Testing Laboratory, can be found on the CPSC website, [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). A tab at the top of the homepage links to

## SADCA Report To APLAC



### SADCA OVERVIEW

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual SADCA meeting took place on 07 May 2008 in Cape Town, South Africa during the annual SADC SQAM meetings which were held from 05 to 10 May 2008. A number of regional cooperations also attended the meeting, with Mr Graham Talbot, Vice Chairman of EA making a presentation on the new legislative framework for Accreditation in Europe. The official opening was followed by a technical workshop which was open to the public

where the theme was appropriately “Food Safety – 2010” in view of the upcoming World Cup soccer show piece to be held in South Africa in 2010. Five papers were presented at the workshop by internationally renowned experts and all of them demonstrating the complexity of dealing with feeding large numbers of people and the role that food safety standards and management systems can play.

SADCA members and NAFFPs are playing an important role in the SADC region in preparing organisations for accreditation. Swaziland, one of the SADC Member States recently hosted a workshop on ISO/IEC 15189 and with donor funding the SADCA Secretariat was able to arrange for an expert to officiate at this workshop.

The SADCA Chairperson attended the 2008 IAAC General Assembly in Asunción, Paraguay in September 2008.

### SADCAS OVERVIEW

The Annual General Meeting of SADCAS was held on 07 May 2008 in Cape Town, South Africa during the annual SADC SQAM meetings which were held from 05 to 10 May 2008.

The three founding members of SADCAS have moved into their offices and a large number of initial activities in setting up the organisation have already taken place.

### INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

The SADCA Chairperson, Mrs Marobela, and the Regional Coordinator, Mr Ron Josias, attended the ILAC and IAF General meetings in Paris in July 2008.

## New US Legislation to have Global Impact (cont'd)

....continued from Page 10

“Information on the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA)”, and allows the reader to view the actual CPSIA legislation as enacted by President Bush on August 14, 2008. Requirements for testing deadlines of several different children’s products can be found in Section 102. The CPSC also has formatted an automated email system that will provide updates of the CPSIA to any individual who signs up.

## SCC-accredited laboratories in the news

At first glance, a fire-fighting equipment manufacturer, a data-protection software developer, and a national police force, wouldn't seem to have much in common. What they share is a need to deliver accurate, trustworthy test results, and the foresight to choose laboratories accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) as the means to do so.

A Nova Scotia fire-truck manufacturer has been building and refurbishing fire department pumpers, tankers and mini-tankers in that province for 26 years. In 2008—having achieved certification from the SCC-accredited, Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada—the company is taking its business nationwide.

DOMUS (an SCC-accredited Canadian IT security laboratory) is helping a global leader in enterprise data protection tap into a lucrative market by providing consistent, cost-effective encryption testing and evaluations to its high-profile clients.

For DNA and forensic analysis, Canada's national police force also relies on SCC-accredited laboratories. The analysis of sample decomposed remains by Molecular World Inc. (one of only a few testing laboratories that is accredited by SCC to conduct all types of genetic testing) recently helped solve a 17-year-old cold case.

Tests conducted by an SCC-accredited PEI-based laboratory are being used by a Vancouver developer of yeast-fermented foods and beverages to develop an innovative production method that is tailored to the global wine market.

Likewise, accreditation by SCC of one of Canada's largest independent laboratories, Maxxam Analytics, reinforces that company's ability to provide, among other things, defensible timely data, air quality analysis and technical support, to clients across a range of sectors.

For its ability to perform DNA identification tests for immigration purposes, an SCC-accredited Quebec-based medical laboratory has been recognized by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

And under SCC's newly launched national Medical Laboratories Accreditation Program, the Public Health Agency of Canada National Laboratory for HIV Reference Services is able to ensure Canadians receive the highest level of quality in HIV and Human T-cell Leukemia Virus I/II serology and molecular reference services.

## From the Secretariat

We have just returned from a very successful week of APLAC 2008 meetings in Singapore (6-12 December). Our congratulations go to many. Congratulations and thank you to SAC and its staff for organising the program of meetings and very enjoyable social events. Our special thanks go to Chang Kwei Fern, Chin Poh Yin, Lee Ham Eng, Karen Yeo and Jason Tan.

Congratulations go to the following members:

- PAO (Philippines) for the lifting of the suspension of its APLAC MRA recognition for testing and calibration;
- ACLASS for an extension of its scope in the APLAC MRA to include RMP;
- NABL for an extension of its scope in the APLAC MRA to include ISO 15189.

APLAC has held three successful training courses/workshops this year:

- Inspection Accreditation Workshop in Chinese Taipei on 27-29 October, followed by an optional 2 day visit to inspection bodies on 30-31 October. Thank you to Nigel Jou (TAF), Geoff Hallam (IANZ), Per Lundmark (SWEDAC) and Julian Wilson (NATA) who were the trainers. Per and Julian were late replacements for two of the original trainers who were unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. APLAC appreciates their assistance very much. Thanks also to Wanji Yang for her assistance with the organisation of the workshop.
- RMP Train the Trainers Workshop in Hong Kong China on 17- 19 November. Thank you to Ales Fajgelj (IAEA), Randy Querry (A2LA) and Jeff Ruddle (UKAS) who were the trainers. Thank you to W W Wong for his good work in organising this workshop.
- Evaluator training course for nominated evaluators in Singapore on 3-5 December. We thank Ned Gravel (CALA) and Barry Ashcroft (IANZ) for again being the facilitators, assisted by Helen. Thank you also to Lee Ham Eng who assisted with the organisation of the course.



Members are advised when updated APLAC documents are placed on the APLAC web site. Updates since September include:

- PT 006, issue no. 1,
- PR 008, issue no. 36
- SEC 038, issue no. 39
- TC 011, issue no. 1

An early notification that the mid-2009 APLAC MRA Council meeting will be Hong Kong China on 21-22 May, preceded by a 2 day lead evaluator workshop.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to APLAC in 2008. It has been another busy and successful year for us all.

We wish everyone a peaceful festive season and all the very best for 2009.

Helen Liddy and Janet Clark

**APLAC SECRETARIAT**