

APLAC REPORT TO APLMF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SEPTEMBER 2010

APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

At the APLAC MRA Council meeting on 9-10 December 2009, SLAB (Sri Lanka) was accepted as a signatory to the APLAC MRA for testing and ISO 15189. At the same meeting the recognition of NSC-ONAC (Thailand) in the APLAC MRA was extended to include inspection.

At the mid-year MRA Council meeting on 12-13 May 2010 in Seoul, Korea PNGLAS (Papua New Guinea) was accepted as a signatory to the APLAC MRA for testing, and the recognition of A2LA (USA) was extended to include ISO 15189.

There are now 32 signatories to the APLAC MRA from 22 economies, including 13 for inspection, 12 for ISO 15189 and 5 for RMP. Full details of the scopes of recognition of each APLAC MRA signatory can be found on the APLAC web site.

APLAC General Assembly

The very successful 2009 APLAC General Assembly and associated meetings were held in Bali, Indonesia, hosted by KAN, in the week 5-11 December 2009. We thank KAN very much for their excellent arrangements for the week.

The main issues arising from the General Assembly and other meetings were:

- the election of Ms Chang Kwei Fern (SAC) and Mr Nigel Jou (TAF) to the 2 vacancies on the APLAC Board of Management
- review of draft action plans in support of the APLAC strategic plan
- discussion on how APLAC can best support developing accreditation bodies in the region that are not yet members of APLAC
- endorsement of a 2 day workshop on ISO/IEC 17011
- endorsement of a 3 day workshop on the recently issued ISO/IEC 17043
- endorsement of a 3 day workshop on ISO Guide 34:2009
- approval of the APLAC budget for 2010 that includes USD 70K funding support for the conduct of APLAC PT programs
- acceptance of reports and workplans for 2010 from the Training, Technical, Proficiency Testing and Public Information Committees.

The 2010 APLAC General Assembly and associated meetings will be held in Osaka, Japan, jointly hosted by IA Japan, JAB, JCLA and VLAC, in the week 4-10 December 2010.

Administration of APLAC

The members of the APLAC Board of Management are now:

Mr Terence S S Chan (Chair)	HKAS (Hong Kong China)
Mr Barry Ashcroft (MRA Council Chair)	IANZ (New Zealand)
Ms Regina Robertson	NATA (Australia)
Ms Chang Kwei Fern	SAC (Singapore)
Mr Nigel Jou	TAF (Chinese Taipei)
Ms Roxanne Robinson	A2LA (USA)
Mr Vu Xuan Thuy	BoA (Vietnam)

The APLAC Committee Chairs remain as:

Proficiency Testing	Mr Dan Tholen (representing A2LA, USA)
Public Information	Mr Alan Patterson (NATA, Australia)
Technical	Mr Trace McInturff (A2LA, USA)
Training	Ms Zhang Mingxia (CNAS, People's Republic of China)

APLAC Secretariat

Helen Liddy retired from the position of APLAC Secretary on 30 June 2010. Michael Fraser officially commenced work as the APLAC Secretary on 1 July 2010.

APLAC Membership

Full details of APLAC members (38 Full members; 8 Associate members) can be found on the APLAC web site. Since our report to the 2009 Forum Meeting, QMP-LS (Canada) has been accepted as a Full member, and RRA (Korea) and KASTO (Korea) have been accepted as Associate members.

APLAC Training Courses

APLAC is holding 3 training courses/workshops in 2010.

The first workshop was held on 10-11 May in Seoul, Korea. It was on ISO/IEC 17011 with the target audience being new accreditation body staff who wish to become more familiar with the Standard. A component of the workshop covered the discussion of questions provided in advance by the "students". PAC was invited to send a representative from a non-APLAC PAC member.

A workshop on the recently issued ISO/IEC 17043 (conduct of proficiency testing programs) will be held in Taipei, Chinese Taipei on 14-16 September. The workshop will update accreditation body staff on the differences between this new Standard and ISO/IEC Guide 43.

The final workshop for the year will be held in Beijing, People's Republic of China, on 20-22 September. The workshop will cover ISO Guide 34:2009 (requirements for reference material producers), including examining the impact on accredited RMPs and their accreditation bodies in terms of the timeframe for demonstrating compliance with the revised Standard.

APLAC Cooperation with APLMF

APLAC cooperation with APLMF has largely been through participation, wherever possible, in APLMF's meetings (this year APLAC will be represented by Mr Trace McInturff of A2LA, United States of America) and through joint work on APEC's Specialist Regional Body (SRB) Forum that meets once a year in the margins of APEC SCSC1.

In September 2009 APLAC wrote to the APLMF seeking to initiate discussion between the two organisations about ways for closer cooperation. Areas particularly identified by the APLAC Board of Management for closer cooperation were liaison between APLMF and the calibration sub-committee of APLAC's Technical Committee, and ways in which the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for accreditation of calibration laboratories could be used by and support the legal metrology infrastructure in the APEC region. APLMF may well have identified other areas that it feels warrant closer cooperation.

APLAC has already signed separate Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with APMP and PAC. Following the May 2010 APLAC Board of Management meeting work has commenced on drafting an MOU between APLMF. The MOUs commit our organisations to closer cooperation on matters of mutual interest, and include provision for separate annual meetings between the APLAC Chair and the Chairs of each of the other organisations.

Future APLAC Events

APLAC General Assembly and associated meetings (2010)	4-10 December	Osaka, Japan
APLAC General Assembly and associated meetings (2011)	10-16 September	Manila, Philippines

Michael Fraser
APLAC Secretary
2 September 2010