



Inter American Accreditation Cooperation

IAAC Report to APAC

This report includes IAAC activities from October 2018 to May 2019.

Recent IAAC meetings

IAAC held its beginning of the year meetings in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in March 2019. These meetings which are shorter than the annual meetings include the Executive Committee, MLA Group, MLA Committee, Peer Evaluators Management Subcommittee, and the Stakeholders Committee.

This year the IAF/ILAC mid-term meetings were held in the region of the Americas, in Mexico City, during the month of April 2019. A significant group of IAAC members attended and contributed to the technical discussions in the different Committees and Workshops.

During these meetings IAAC members recorded the voices in Spanish and Portuguese of the 2019 World Accreditation Day video, designed and produced in house by the IAF/ILAC CMC/MCC. The videos are publicly available in YouTube and at the IAAC and IAF/ILAC websites.

Issues under discussion

The IAAC MLA Committee agreed on the evaluation criteria and methodologies to carry out documentary evaluations to confirm compliance with ISO/IEC 17011:2017, for those ABs that will not have an evaluation by March 2020. A document was drafted regarding the use of IAF/ILAC A3, classification of findings, competence of personnel, evaluation of risks, and the accreditation cycle.

The IAAC Executive Committee held a half day meeting to brainstorm ideas for a new IAAC Strategic Plan for 2020-2025. As a result of this meeting a SWOT analysis was drafted and the discussions will continue during the next IAAC meetings. The Executive Committee will make sure that the discussions at the regional level are in line with the discussions at the IAF and ILAC level.

IAAC Membership

IAAC currently has a total of 59 members, 24 of which are full members, 4 are associate members and 31 are stakeholders.

IAAC MLA Signatories

IAAC has a total of 20 MLA signatory members from 17 countries. Even though the amount of signatories has not changed, it is worthy to note that every year there has been a steady increase in MLA scope extensions approved by the IAAC MLA Group.

New IAAC MLA signatories

In March 2019, four IAAC MLA signatories extended their MLA scopes: ema of Mexico was accepted as an MLA signatory for Persons and Energy



Inter American Accreditation Cooperation

Management Systems Certification Bodies. We congratulate ema for being the first IAAC MLA signatory in the region for Persons. ANAB of USA was accepted as an MLA signatory for Medical Laboratories. OAA of Argentina was accepted as an MLA signatory for Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies by a self-declaration. SCC of Canada was accepted as an MLA signatory for the scopes of Energy Management Systems (EnMS), Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS), and Medical Devices Management Systems (MDMS) Certification Bodies by self-declarations.

IAAC MLA recognition by IAF and ILAC

IAAC is a Recognized Regional Cooperation for the main scopes of Testing (including Medical) and Calibration Laboratories; Inspection Bodies; Management Systems Certification Bodies (with subsopes QMS, EMS, FSMS, ISMS, MDMS and EnMS), and Product Certification Bodies (with subscope Global G.A.P).

IAAC submitted an application to ILAC to extend its MRA recognition for the scopes of Proficiency Testing Providers (PTP) and Reference Materials Producers (RMP). This year, IAAC will also submit an application to IAF to extend its MLA recognition for the scopes of Persons Certification and Green House Gases (GHG) Validation/Verification.

During 2018 and the beginning of 2019, an IAF and ILAC peer evaluation team has been carrying out the re-evaluation and MLA scope extension evaluations of IAAC.

The IAAC officers

The current key IAAC officers are:

Liliane Somma of OUA, Uruguay, IAAC Chair

Andrea Melo of Cgcre, Brazil, IAAC Vice-Chair

Elias Rafoul of SCC, Canada, IAAC Treasurer

Ferney Chaparro of ONAC, Colombia, as MLA Group and MLA Committee Chair

Barbara Belzer of NVLAP, USA, as MLA Group and MLA Committee Vice-Chair

Training

IAAC carried out a training workshop for experienced peer evaluators on ISO/IEC 17011:2017, in March 2019, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. There were 38 peer evaluators from the region and 13 additional peer evaluators attended remotely via an online connection.

Technical Cooperation Projects

Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency Project (R3E)

The technical cooperation project titled "Quality Infrastructure Services for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (R3E) in Latin America and the Caribbean" is being implemented by the 3 regional organizations for



Inter American Accreditation Cooperation

accreditation, standards and metrology: IAAC, COPANT and SIM. Sponsor organizations include PTB of Germany and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Under the framework of this project, a workshop on “Border Control and Market Surveillance: Instruments, experiences, lessons learnt” was held in Montevideo, Uruguay from September 9-14, 2018. 90 representatives attended from organizations of conformity assessment, accreditation, standards, metrology, customs, government officials and regulators.

Biodiversity and Climate Change Project

IAAC together with COPANT and SIM, the Regional organizations for standards and metrology, participates in a project aimed at strengthening the regional quality infrastructure through programs related to biodiversity and climate change. Sponsor organizations include PTB of Germany and the Organization of American States (OAS). The project includes 3 accreditation subprojects:

- An Eco-labelling and Product Certification program carried out by ema of Mexico, ECA of Costa Rica, and ONAC of Colombia.
- A subproject on Sustainable Forests Certification carried out by ema of Mexico, ONAC of Colombia and SAE of Ecuador.
- A subproject regarding Green House Gases (GHG) Validation and Verification Bodies, and GHG inventories certification, managed by ONA of Paraguay, ONAC of Colombia and INACAL-DA of Peru.

The Eco-labelling subproject includes a workshop on the ISO 14067 standard to be held in June 2019, in Costa Rica, Colombia and Ecuador. This standard is closely linked to Eco-labelling and to the Environmental Seal of America initiative that is being implemented by the 3 countries.

Innovations for a Green Economy project

IAAC together with COPANT and SIM, the Regional organizations for standards and metrology, participates in a project aimed at strengthening the regional Quality Infrastructure through programs related to Innovations for a Green Economy. Sponsor organizations include PTB of Germany and the Organization of American States (OAS). The project focused on 3 sectors: Hazardous Waste and E-Waste, Air quality Monitoring in Cities, and Life Cycle Assessment. A final meeting and project evaluation will take place in June 2019 to analyze the outcomes and plans for a future project.

Cooperation with International and Regional Organizations

Cooperation with APAC:

Representatives of IAAC and APAC informally met in April 2019 to discuss the arrangement of upcoming joint IAAC/APAC peer evaluations. IAAC and APAC are in close communication to share evaluator resources as needed, particularly in the scopes where evaluators are scarce. APAC generously shared a peer evaluator for the scopes of FSMS and ISMS Certification who participated as an IAAC team member during an IAAC peer evaluation in 2019. IAAC wishes to



Inter American Accreditation Cooperation

thank Mr. Bruce Li of TAF, Taiwan, APAC evaluator, for his valuable contribution and hard work during this IAAC evaluation.

Cooperation with ARAC, AFRAC and SADCA

IAAC regularly exchanges information with AFRAC, SADCA and ARAC regarding best practices in MLA management.

Cooperation with EA

IAAC regularly exchanges information with EA on the latest developments in the region.

The Quality Infrastructure Cooperation of the Americas, (QICA)

QICA is a partnership of regional bodies with the objective of promoting the strengths of a Quality Infrastructure in the region of the Americas. QICA includes a representative from the regional standards body (COPANT), the regional accreditation cooperation (IAAC) and the regional metrology body (SIM). A QICA awareness event was held in August 2018, in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The speakers included the CEO of the Jamaican Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC), and the Chief Technical Director of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, (MICAFA). The Chairs of IAAC and COPANT and SIM representatives gave presentations and discussed successful cases studies on the use of the QI which were presented as a way to show practical ways that QI can contribute to regulatory solutions. The event was attended by approximately 18 persons.

IAAC Meetings

You are invited to attend the next IAAC General Assembly meetings to be held in Mexico City, Mexico, from August 14-20, 2019.