



Agenda Item 13.1:

Organisation, management and staff of the BIML

Contents:

Report by the BIML Director

Annex A - BIML Director's report for 2017

Annex B - BIML Director's report for 2018

Annex C - BIML Director's report for 2019

Annex D - BIML Director's report for 2020

Annex E - BIML Director's report for 2021

Agenda Item 13.1:

Organisation, management and staff of the BIML

Introduction

This Addendum provides background on the organisation, management, and staff of the BIML.

Additional details are available in the reports provided to the CIML by the BIML Director which detail matters concerning the operations, personnel, and functions of the BIML for the years 2017–2021. These are included in this Addendum as Annexes A to E.

Executive summary

The strategic and operational management of the BIML during this period has focussed on delivering the core objectives, products and services of the Organisation as outlined in OIML B 15:2011 *OIML Strategy* and the three-pillar approach (technical work, OIML-CS and CEEMS) to the work of the Organisation. Simultaneously, the BIML has heavily focussed its activities on budget management, corporate governance, and planning for the future.

In recent years, the BIML has also actively contributed its expertise and knowledge to shaping the Organisation for the future, initially through Taskgroup 2023 and more recently through the OIML-BIPM Joint Task Group.

The operations of the BIML throughout this period have been managed with no increase in staff numbers. The number of staff remains stable at nine, and changes to staff over the period concerned include the appointment of a new Director, a new Assistant Director, and the reappointment of an Assistant Director.

The BIML's outreach to and collaboration with Members and other key stakeholders has also been a focus during this period, with a number of Memoranda of Understanding having been renewed and examined. Proactive work has also been undertaken by the BIML with various members, Regional Metrology Organisations, Regional Legal Metrology Organisations and prospective members to enhance the levels of engagement, collaboration and coordination.

Relatedly, the BIML has continued to lead the Organisation's engagement with the International Network on Quality Infrastructure (INetQI) and across the spectrum of Quality Infrastructure by engaging with many varied International Organisations and stakeholders.

The period has also been focussed on the financial management and the implementation of new and innovative cost-saving, austerity and reform measures to reduce expenditure and return the budget to expectations. The corporate governance of the BIML has also been strengthened with additional procedures and also additional audits implemented in addition to monitoring and reporting initiatives.

Critically, the BIML has very successfully navigated one of the largest impacts and disturbances in recent times – the COVID-19 global pandemic. Through its commitment, professionalism and innovation, the BIML has been able to continuously and successfully deliver its services and support to Members and stakeholders throughout this period, often delivering more than it had ever previously delivered.



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Organisation, management and staff of the BIML

Contents:

Report by the BIML Director

Annex A - BIML Director's report for 2017

Annex B - BIML Director's report for 2018

Annex C - BIML Director's report for 2019

Annex D - BIML Director's report for 2020

Annex E - BIML Director's report for 2021



Agenda item 7

Report by the BIML Director on BIML activities

52nd CIML Meeting

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

A word from the BIML Director

Stephen Patoray

One of the most important CIML meetings in the recent history of the OIML will take place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia during the week of October 9, 2017. This is the first time the CIML meeting will be held in South America since 1997 and will therefore be a key opportunity to network with many potential OIML Member States from South and Central America and the Caribbean.

There are many other reasons why this meeting is so important for the future of our Organization, not least of all on the staff and personnel level:

- firstly, the election of the new CIML President will have an effect on the strategy and direction our Organization follows for the next six years and beyond;
- secondly, the CIML will also be appointing a new BIML Assistant Director, who will fill the gap left by the untimely passing of Willem Kool;
- thirdly, the CIML will identify the members of the Selection Committee for the new BIML Director; and
- finally, the CIML will determine the reappointment of the current BIML Assistant Director, Ian Dunmill.

This year the CIML will not only approve the accounts for 2016, it will also review the final figures concerning the budget surplus for the past budget period. It will review the progress made on using some of that surplus to train the Conveners and Secretaries who lead the technical work of the OIML.

Several publications and systems will also be discussed and approved, including:

- the revised B 18 and the implementation of the OIML-CS;
- the revised B 6;
- the revision of three widely used OIML Recommendations, R 60, R 61 and R 80; and
- discussion on the approval of a new project proposal to revise OIML D 1, widely used as the basis for national legislation in many countries.

Beyond these items for approval, there will be discussion related to CEEMS (Countries and Economies with Emerging Metrology Systems) and the plans of the CEEMS Advisory Group (AG). The activity around CEEMS has continued to become clearer and there will be a discussion followed by the approval of a Basic Publication related to the terms of reference for the AG. With this, the AG can continue to develop policies and programs to further assist CEEMS.

There will be discussion on the Guide for prepackages that has been under development for several years, and which has now come to fruition thanks to the hard work and perseverance of the convener.

There may also be an opportunity to discuss the increasing interest in Quality Infrastructures and how the OIML can increase its involvement in this very important area.

In the area of technical work there will be a report on progress in training Conveners. There has been improvement in how we track and review the progress (or sometimes lack of progress) on the technical work but this should not stop here. There will be discussion at the CIML meeting on a set of new tools that are being developed to better understand and track this progress. The continuing improvements to and usage of the OIML website will also be discussed, and the Bureau is always attentive to the needs of our Members and active technical participants.

With all of these items requiring discussion and approval by the CIML, it is imperative that a quorum be achieved at this meeting. If for some reason you are unable to attend, we strongly recommend that you contact one of your colleagues to discuss giving a proxy.

On a personal level, this will mark the beginning of my final year as BIML Director. During these past seven years much work has been completed. The OIML website has been completely redesigned and the PG workspace and online voting have been implemented for all technical and non-technical decisions. We now have a completely upgraded information system which includes new dedicated state of the art servers, in-house website hosting, full backup capabilities, and optical fiber connections.

The first of the OIML Pilot Training Center Seminars has been held and a plan for future work in this area is now under the guidance of the CEEMS AG mentioned earlier.

The OIML Certification System has been revised and improved and is now under the guidance of a Management Committee. You will hear much on this subject during our meeting.

We have continued to enjoy improved relations with other international organizations, in particular with the BIPM. The working relationship between the OIML and RLMOs has improved significantly and there is also now a plan for the RLMOs and the CEEMS AG to work more closely on CEEMS-related matters.

Finally, the vast improvements to the Bureau premises are reaching a conclusion. While the Bureau building may not be the ideal office space, it has been reconfigured to make it as up to date, safe and secure as well as structurally sound as possible so that it is ready for many years of productivity and efficiency.

It is my hope that I will see you in Cartagena de Indias and that we can together continue this very important work of the OIML.



Agenda Item 13.1:

Organisation, management and staff of the BIML

Contents:

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Annex B - BIML Director's report for 2018

Annex C - BIML Director's report for 2019

Annex D - BIML Director's report for 2020

Annex E - BIML Director's report for 2021



53rd CIML Meeting – Working Document

Addendum 6

Version 1 - 2018-07-05

Agenda item 6

Report by the BIML Director on BIML activities



53rd CIML Meeting – Hamburg, Germany

Stephen Patoray

A word from the BIML Director

It is time for yet another important CIML meeting. This year we are meeting in Hamburg in Germany, a city very well known to CIML President Dr. Roman Schwartz. The CIML last met in Germany in 2004 in Berlin for the 39th CIML Meeting.

There are many reasons why this meeting is so important for the future of our Organization:

- firstly, you will appoint the new BIML Director, whose leadership will affect the operation of our Organization over the coming years;
- secondly, you will have the opportunity to elect a new First Vice-president;
- thirdly, you will take the final decision on the reappointment of the current BIML Assistant Director, Ian Dunmill.

This year you will not only approve the accounts for 2017, you will also be reviewing the progress made on utilizing some of the budget surplus identified for use in training Secretariats and Conveners who lead the technical work of the OIML. In addition, you will also begin discussions on the amount of funds held in reserve, as well as contributory classes for Corresponding Members.

Several publications, projects and systems will also be discussed with a view to their approval, including:

- the revised B 18 and R 139;
- projects to revise R 51, R 134, D 14, D 19, a new Recommendation on Soot particle number (PN) measurements in vehicle exhausts, a new Document to replace G 20, a new Document on Petroleum measurement tables, and a new Document on Pipe provers for testing of measuring systems for liquids other than water.

With all of these items requiring discussion and your approval, it is imperative that a quorum be reached at this meeting. If for some reason you are unable to attend, we strongly recommend that you contact one of your colleagues to give a proxy.

On Monday, a seminar focused on Quality Infrastructure will be held. This coincides with an increased interest in Quality Infrastructure as well as with the work of the CEEMS Advisory Group on the revision of D 1. Space is limited, so you must make certain you are registered.

Looking back over the past year

This past year has been a very busy one for myself as well as for the staff of the BIML and we have made very good progress in many areas of work. Some of the key achievements that have taken place during this past year are highlighted below:

- One of the most important areas of work for the BIML is the support that it provides to the technical work of the Organization and most notably to the Secretariats of TCs/SCs and Project Group Conveners. In support of this has been the delivery of the training to Secretariats, Project Group (PG) Conveners and others interested in the technical work of the OIML. Since the 52nd CIML Meeting, Assistant Director Ian Dunmill and contractor Gilles Vinet have completed five different training workshops, with almost 60 participants, and at least one additional training workshop is scheduled to take place before the 53rd CIML meeting. A report will be provided on this under agenda item 12.3.
- The OIML Certification System (OIML-CS) was successfully implemented and was launched on 1 January 2018 with the support of BIML Assistant Director Paul Dixon, the new MC Chairperson Cock Oosterman, the new Deputy MC Chairperson Bill Loizides and all the members of the Management Committee. There are already 12 OIML Issuing Authorities, with 25 associated Test Laboratories, and 22 Utilizers and Associates. A report will be provided on this under agenda item 11.
- In support of CEEMS, the BIML has welcomed Guo Su from P.R. China on a two-year secondment. With Guo Su working at the BIML, and the continued support of CEEMS AG Chair Pu Changcheng and CEEMS AG Vice Chair Peter Mason, it is expected that activities in the area of CEEMS will continue to make significant progress. A report will be provided on this under agenda item 10.
- An activity that has involved many of the BIML staff over this past year is the continuing work to improve the OIML website. Changes to the menu and to the layout of several webpages have improved navigation on the site. In addition, a great amount of effort has gone into updating all of the areas of the site, in particular the PG Workspaces, to ensure that the website aligns with the changes implemented in B 6-1:2017. An increasing number of webpages are now also totally or partially available in French.
- Finally, it has been a year of learning how to operate under the leadership of the new CIML President Dr. Roman Schwartz. He has brought his own unique style and focus to the work of the BIML. For all of us, it is an honor and pleasure to support him as he works to improve many areas of the work of the CIML and the OIML.

Looking towards the future

On a personal note, after eight years this will mark my final CIML meeting as your BIML Director. I look forward to providing the new BIML Director with the necessary tools and insight into the workings of the BIML so he will be able to build on the significant progress already made.

With the support and guidance of the CIML President, the Presidential Council members, all of the CIML Members, together with the drive and enthusiasm of the BIML Staff and the leadership of the new BIML Director, I expect great things to happen in the next years at the BIML.

It is my pleasure to meet you in Hamburg so that we can enjoy an opportunity to reflect on the successes that we have all experienced over these past eight years and to wish each other continued success in the future.



Agenda Item 13.1:

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Contents:

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Annex B - BIML Director's report for 2018

Annex C - BIML Director's report for 2019

Annex D - BIML Director's report for 2020

Annex E - BIML Director's report for 2021



Agenda item 4
BIML matters and activities

Agenda item 4.1
Report by the BIML Director



54th CIML Meeting – Item 4.1

BIML matters and activities Report by the BIML Director

It is my pleasure to present you with my first report as BIML Director.

I wish to acknowledge the excellent level of support that I have received from the CIML President, Dr Roman Schwartz, the first and second Vice-Presidents, Presidential Council members, CIML Members and Corresponding Member Representatives. I also wish to express my gratitude to all the members of the BIML staff, who have continued to provide exemplary service and support to myself, the Organisation and its members over many years. I look forward to this level of support and cooperation continuing far into the future.

Observations on an evolving Organisation

From what I have witnessed since taking up my role, the OIML is at a pivot point in its long and esteemed history. The Organisation continues, as defined in the Convention, to enhance its development of model draft laws, Recommendations and other international publications, as well as providing other services. Yet, at the same time, it is imagining a future for an Organisation that is growing in size, relevance and impact.

The Organisation have just commenced this journey. Through Task Group 2023 (TG2023) and other strategic planning initiatives, ideas and reforms have been generated to improve the planning, action and coordination of a number of activities relating to different aspects of legal metrology that go beyond the development of publications.

The OIML Certification System (OIML-CS) is an example. The OIML-CS has built upon and enhanced the beneficial elements of its predecessors. Direct consideration has been given to how it can reduce technical barriers to trade, behind-the-border trade impediments and the need for economies to invest in expensive testing facilities. Its existence also accelerates access to and the penetration of new measuring instruments, technology and practices across economies on a global scale. This assists industry, governments and consumers, while at the same time maintaining the sovereignty of Member States to make independent decisions in an environment of multilateral agreements.

For those Member States and Corresponding Members that are not yet participants in the OIML-CS, I strongly encourage you to join the system in order to realise the benefits that the OIML-CS has to offer. For those participants who are already OIML Issuing Authorities, Utilisers or Associates in the system, I encourage you to participate more actively in the system and to engage your industry more dynamically, including manufacturers, to promote the system. The system's growth and potential is significant, yet for this potential to be realised it needs the commitment of all OIML members and their industry to the system.

To continue with this theme of being at a pivot point and defining the future of the Organisation, work also continues on the revision of OIML D 1 *Considerations for a Law on Metrology*. This is a critical publication regarding the future relevance and impact of legal metrology, considering it in a systematic, collaborative and holistic manner across a global platform. We welcome input from all OIML members and stakeholders on the revision of OIML D 1 to make it as contemporary, relevant and applicable as possible to reflect the role of legal metrology in a wider quality infrastructure context for modern economic systems.

During the week in Bratislava, in continuing with the theme of looking to the future and developing and delivering value for our stakeholders, we will be convening a very interesting workshop on e-Learning. The objective of the workshop is to learn from expert practitioners and to understand what your needs and



54 CIML Addendum 4.1

2019-06-28

expectations are, to discuss what is feasible and achievable, and to look at how we can deliver on outcomes rather than just outputs. This workshop will complement the wide range of training activities that the BIML has undertaken, and will continue to undertake, at the international level for the benefit of OIML members. It will reflect the consideration that has been applied to the future of the Organisation to ensure that it continues to create and deliver value which is relevant and meets the needs of its members.

Reflections on key achievements

As I write this report, six months into my term as BIML Director, I would like to reflect upon and inform you of a few key initiatives that the BIML has recently implemented, and will continue to implement, in order to maintain the level of efficiency and effectiveness of the operation of the Organisation:

- We have prioritised and refocused our publication development work to provide enhanced levels of support to TCs, SCs and PGs. This work has yielded some good results, has been extremely rewarding and remains a core deliverable for the Organisation.
- We continue to refine our IT strategy with an increased focus on the long-term needs of the Organisation, considering future technologies and approaches to problems. Progress is being made to automate more processes in the back-end of our IT systems to make publications, TC/SC and PG activities, reporting and record-keeping as seamless as possible and to reduce the level of manual data-entry and processing.
- We continue to deliver on CEEMS priorities and projects, and to monitor the impact of CEEMS activities; this is incorporated into broader QI initiatives delivered by and through other International Organisations, Inter-Governmental Organisations, donors and Member States.
- We have taken further steps in 2019 to transition to a digital strategy. This has commenced with the *OIML Bulletin* which is now predominantly published online (except for one edition per year in January), and we also regularly update our [LinkedIn page](#) with key events. The support from OIML Member States and Corresponding Members for transitioning to an online format was overwhelmingly positive. This initiative represents a cost saving in the order of € 25 000 per year and also decreases the impact on the environment.
- We continue to explore ways to better elevate the importance, impact and resonance of legal metrology in the broader international community. We continue to look at how we align our activities and outputs with the outcomes of TG2023 and with the [2030 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) of the United Nations](#).
- We continue to recognise and honour the official language of the OIML, as defined in the OIML Convention, through the translation of three publications in 2019 into French from the working language of the Organisation, English. These are R 59 *Moisture meters for cereal grains and oilseeds*, R 60 *Metrological regulation for load cells* and the 15th OIML Conference minutes. We appreciate and thank our partners in the French government for their support in finalising these translations, and for their ongoing collaboration and assistance.
- We continue to evolve and deepen our relationship with Organisations in Liaison and to collaborate with our partner organisations, in particular the BIPM, with whom we enjoy a very special relationship and with whom we collaborate very closely on World Metrology Day (WMD) events.
- WMD 2019, for which the theme was *The International System of Units - Fundamentally better*, was the most successful year on record in relation to the penetration and impact of our online presence. Through persistent and careful stakeholder targeting initiatives, we were able to increase our penetration rate by an incredible 270 %, with the WMD website receiving almost three times as many visits on 20 May 2019 as it did on 20 May 2018. This year also witnessed a media release for WMD being sent to all OIML Member States and Corresponding Members for them to tailor and issue in their domestic economies.



54 CIML Addendum 4.1

2019-06-28

- We have worked proactively and tirelessly to identify prospective new OIML Member States and Corresponding Members, engaging enthusiastically in various international fora to help grow the membership of the Organisation. While this is often a long and slow process, this activity is critical to the future and the sustainability of our Organisation. Furthermore, we have actively been working with Member States who have resigned from the Organisation to assist them to re-integrate wherever possible.
- We have implemented reforms and initiatives in the BIML to place the Organisation on a more sustainable financial trajectory. These reforms and initiatives include reducing costs and implementing savings by using existing resources more efficiently and effectively. Practical measures to reduce some overheads, and exploring areas where productivity can be achieved through automated processes, continue to be investigated. These changes are not without their own challenges. However, they assist in creating a more financially sustainable Organisation for its members and will allow resources to be used in the most effective manner.
- Throughout 2019 the BIML has worked hard to foster the better alignment of objectives and a better shared understanding and future with our Regional Legal Metrology Organisation (RLMO) partners. Better alignment, coordination and communication with RLMOs ensures wider consistency, and creates efficiencies by avoiding duplication. Explicit support has been given to AFRIMETS, APLMF, COOMET, GULFMET, SIM and WELMEC in this reporting period on a variety of different matters, including governance and institutional matters, collaboration on in-country assistance to develop the OIML-CS, and joint events. We look forward to strengthening the relationship with all the RLMOs and to seeing this collaboration grow in the future.

Matters for consideration

The BIML is adopting a very forward-looking ethos to all aspects of the work that we perform and the approach we take to it. We are continuously seeking new ways to improve the efficacy, advocacy and impact of the work that we do. However, our core role remains to support the CIML President and you, the Members of the Committee.

As such, a matter that the CIML will need to consider at our October meeting is the future policies with regard to Member State contributions and the membership structure for Corresponding Members of the Organisation. Moreover, consideration will need to be given to identifying additional revenue streams for the Organisation to support an international legal metrology system for all.

You also have before you a number of new or revised publications for your consideration. They are the result of the hard work and dedication of the Project Group (PG) conveners and members, and also the commitment of BIML staff, who also perform a PG convener role for a number of these projects. The BIML also plays a key support role in the production of OIML Publications by supporting the PG conveners to the greatest extent possible during all the publication development stages.

These are but some of the important matters before the CIML at this meeting. I ask that you give them the necessary attention and be prepared to vote on them in October. I look forward to seeing you in Bratislava in October 2019 and to discussing our actions, policies and projects with you so that together we can look towards an exciting future.

With kind regards,

Anthony Donnellan
BIML Director



Agenda Item 13.1:

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Contents:

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Annex C - BIML Director's report for 2019

Annex D - BIML Director's report for 2020

Annex E - BIML Director's report for 2021



Agenda item 6:

**Report by the BIML Director
on BIML matters and activities**



55th CIML Meeting – Item 6

**Report by the BIML Director
on BIML matters and activities**

Perseverance and resilience in a year of disruption

Introduction

It has been a challenging year for most. The BIML's best wishes are with the international legal metrology community and all those who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated social and economic effects. However, disruption allows us to focus on what is truly important on the personal, social and professional levels. In my 2020 update, I would like to focus on the latter, the professional level.

Throughout these disruptions, the BIML has continued to function efficiently, effectively, innovatively and communicatively to fulfil the strategy and objectives of the OIML, and provide a high level of service to our 123 Members and to multiple and varied stakeholders.

These disruptions have tested the resilience of the BIML but have also encouraged greater levels of adaptability, innovation and consideration in the ways that we operate, collaborate and communicate as a member-based International Organisation.

Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

As an International Intergovernmental Organisation with its headquarters in France, the BIML has complied with the decrees, directives and guidance of the French Government throughout the pandemic.

This has had only a limited impact on the provision of services by the BIML. Our governing rules and procedures are robust yet sufficiently flexible, allowing us to function and provide high-quality services to our Members and to other stakeholders throughout the crisis period.

The BIML's policies and procedures were utilised, limiting and protecting those that needed to travel. Additionally, the BIML's secondee from the People's Republic of China had to return to China a month earlier than contracted, and a significant BIML team effort guaranteed his safe repatriation.

Resilience of systems and networks

The BIML implements, maintains and supports the critical IT infrastructure needed for the OIML to function for its Members and other stakeholders. The resilience of the infrastructure and network ensured its continuous operation and seamless continuity for BIML staff and the more than 1 500 users of the network. This meant that the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic had no noticeable effect on the BIML, the network it maintains and the services provided through it.



Addendum

55 CIML Addendum 6

2020-07-15

The BIML has provided support to TCs/SCs/PGs for convening meetings electronically in order to make progress with OIML technical work. A number of PGs have used the new way of working to hold meetings and progress with drafting publications. By using videoconferencing systems, the BIML has also provided support for a number of governance and committee meetings as well as internal staff meetings.

A further initiative implemented in 2020 was an update to the OIML's website. This upgrade enhanced the infrastructure, underpinning the operation of the website and its interaction with the various databases that the BIML maintains to enable the ongoing development of publications and the provision of services. All of this ultimately enhances the functionality and user experience when interacting with the website as well as the security of the websites that the BIML manages, maintains and operates for other partner organisations.

Membership

No Member States nor Corresponding Members were delisted from the OIML in 2020 and we have gained one new Corresponding Member. We warmly welcome the Republic of Mali to the OIML.

The BIML has also been actively working to assist with the potential transition of a number of Corresponding Members to Member State status. Good progress has been made in this area, despite the difficult international circumstances. Moreover, initiatives to promote membership of the OIML continue to be strongly pursued by the BIML, proactively seeking prospective new Members and liaising with ministries and diplomatic missions on an ongoing basis.

Debt recovery and payment

The BIML has worked very hard in 2020 to recover the persistent outstanding debts of Member States and Corresponding Members, as well as unpaid OIML-CS certificate registration fees. We are in a difficult economic and financial situation, but non-payment and late payment by Member States, Corresponding Members and other debtors places the future functioning of the OIML at risk.

Budget preparation

A new budget has been prepared for the Organisation. The budget-setting process commenced in 2019, with a budget prepared for 2021–2024 and a supplementary budget prepared for 2025–2028.

Unfortunately, due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the presentation of the 2021–2024 budget for the Organisation will be delayed, and a 2022–2025 budget proposal will be presented in 2021 when the 56th CIML Meeting and 16th International Conference on Legal Metrology will be convened. While this is disappointing, with a large volume of work undertaken to prepare a budget to be presented in 2020, there are nevertheless contingency measures in place to accommodate such unforeseen circumstances. In this instance, the approved budget for 2020 will be used again in 2021.



Addendum

55 CIML Addendum 6

2020-07-15

Technical work

Despite the disruption caused by COVID-19, this year has been a positive year for the Organisation's technical work. At the time of writing, six new or revised publications have progressed to Committee Draft (CD) status and there are seven publications for consideration by the CIML. An eighth publication (the revision of D 30) was approved by direct CIML online approval in July 2020.

The BIML continues to work proactively and systematically to ensure that all OIML publications are reviewed in accordance with procedures, with a focus on the high-priority publications through the application of the new periodic review procedure approved by the CIML in 2019. All of the OIML publications approved by the CIML in October 2019 were published on the website.

OIML Certification System (OIML-CS)

The OIML-CS continues to grow. In 2020 two Associates (Uganda and Kiribati) were added to the System. However, at the time of writing this report, we have witnessed a considerable slowing in the number of OIML-CS certificates issued by OIML Issuing Authorities (IAs) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The BIML looks forward to an improved situation regarding OIML-CS certificates in the second half of 2020. It is important that all members of the international legal metrology community demonstrate genuine commitment to the OIML-CS and promote it within their organisation, to industry, and to the community.

To date, in 2020 the OIML-CS Management Committee (MC) met three times via videoconference to progress important matters related to the System. This included the selection of a candidate for the position of MC Chairperson, the re-appointment of the Deputy MC Chairperson and a recommendation regarding the marking of measuring instruments with the OIML certificate number. These matters will be put to the CIML for consideration.

CEEMS

In 2020 a number of activities of interest and benefit to CEEMS have been able to progress. These include the revision of *D 1 Considerations for a Law on Metrology*, which will be submitted for online consideration by the CIML, and the BIML's continued work on the development of the e-Learning platform.

It is also intended that the CEEMS Advisory Group will hold an online meeting prior to the 55th CIML Meeting.

Liaison activities

The prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of continued liaison activities, collaboration and communication.

In 2020, significant work continues with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the 50 other International Organisations (IO) forming the IO Partnership. This period has involved work on developing the draft of the *Compendium of IO practices*. The BIML has contributed to this work on behalf of the OIML through representation on three Working Groups.



Addendum

55 CIML Addendum 6

2020-07-15

The BIML participated in the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM) committees in 2020. Together with other OIML delegates, the BIML participated in the online meetings of the JCGM Working Group on the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (JCGM-WG1:GUM).

The BIML has also worked with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on the development of a laboratory policy guide, which is due to be published this year, as well as taking part in a series of webinars on COVID-19-related quality infrastructure issues.

World Metrology Day

Each year the BIML and the BIPM work in close cooperation on World Metrology Day. The theme for 2020 was *Measurements for Global Trade*. This theme was chosen to create awareness of the important role that measurement plays in facilitating fair global trade, ensuring that products meet standards and regulations, and satisfying customer quality expectations.

This year was again highly successful, surpassing expectations especially in the disrupted environment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020 there were:

- 37 posters submitted by National Institutes and other Organisations;
- 23 events published, mostly “virtual events”;
- Videos by the CIML and CIPM Presidents;
- Video of the BIML and BIPM Directors’ message;
- 5426 visitors to the website on 20 May 2020.

The poster was designed by AFRIMETS in 2020 and is available in English, French and many other languages, as provided by other countries.

e-Learning

Following a highly successful workshop on e-Learning in Bratislava in October 2019 in conjunction with the 54th CIML Meeting, the BIML continues to advance the development of e-Learning initiatives.

The BIML has developed a strategic development agenda for the platform in conjunction with our stakeholders. In 2020, despite the ongoing logistical challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked to upgrade the supporting infrastructure and technology underpinning the e-Learning platform.

The BIML is also working closely with the BIPM to explore how this platform can be used as a common resource by the two Organisations.

The importance of multilateralism

The health and resulting economic and financial crises that the world is experiencing also draw attention to the fundamental importance of multilateralism and one of its foundational principles, which is that we are stronger together, in an open rules-based system. The ability to maintain and administer a system that aims to harmonise legal metrology internationally to serve the community is fundamental in difficult and challenging times, but also in better times. It is through multilateral



Addendum

55 CIML Addendum 6

2020-07-15

collaboration that we are able to deliver outcomes aimed at assisting and improving the quality of life for all.

However, effective multilateralism and the international legal metrology system is only as good as its component parts. Currently, the BIML is witnessing a slowing in contributions from Members in certain aspects crucial to the operation of the OIML. These include voting, responding to enquiries, making financial contributions as prescribed by the Convention, and contributing to the OIML Bulletin. It is hoped that this trend will quickly be reversed.

The future

In 2021 there will be much to consider as the OIML progresses towards the 56th CIML Meeting and 16th Conference.

The year ahead will present an opportunity to collectively reflect on our Organisation, the value that we deliver in a globally connected multilateral environment, and to consider how and where we wish to position the OIML for the future. The Organisation must continue to explore possibilities to increase its agility, adaptability and responsiveness, in accordance with the governing rules contained in the Convention.

As it has always done, the BIML will continue to adapt and respond to the challenges and to the opportunities and will continue to provide its high level of service to all Members and stakeholders even in the most difficult of times.

The BIML is looking forward to continue to providing ongoing support to you and to working with you to achieve our common goals and to further elevate the importance of the OIML and international legal metrology.

Stay safe, and I look forward to your participation in the online 55th CIML Meeting.

Anthony Donnellan
BIML Director



Agenda Item 13.1:

Organisation, management and staff of the BIML

Contents:

Report by the BIML Director

Annex A - BIML Director's report for 2017

Annex B - BIML Director's report for 2018

Annex C - BIML Director's report for 2019

Annex D - BIML Director's report for 2020

Annex E - BIML Director's report for 2021



Agenda item 5:

**Report by the BIML Director
on BIML matters and activities**

56th CIML Meeting – Item 5

Report by the BIML Director on BIML matters and activities

A year of transition and planning for the future

Introduction

The BIML has focussed its activities since the 55th CIML Meeting on responding to the short-term needs and priorities of the OIML and also on planning for the Organisation's future growth and evolution.

While 2021 has in many ways revealed the true impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic on the international legal metrology community, it has also provided an opportunity to reconsider how the OIML's services are delivered and how to position ourselves for the future.

Part of this repositioning is reflected in the Organisation's preparation for the 56th CIML Meeting and 16th Conference in 2021. The BIML has adapted to the changing demands and evolving landscape required of it as an International Intergovernmental Organisation. Many of these changes have been discussed with you in an ongoing, communicative and consultative way. I look forward to this continuing and to exploring more ways of making this communication more efficient as the OIML evolves.

Planning for the future

This period has been focussed on orientating the functions and operations of the BIML to be a modern and adaptive secretariat of an International Organisation (IO). This has involved developing the ideas and solutions to enable the Organisation to be future-focussed and to provide it with sufficient flexibility to be operationally effective and to also create an environment for strategic focus and activity. By establishing a sustainable financial framework and associated budget it will create such an environment to enable the BIML to deliver the priorities of the Organisation into the future.

Part of the strategic planning for the future involves considering the digital evolution of the Organisation. This journey has already started for the Organisation with a dialogue on the topic included as part of the BIPM-OIML Joint Task Group. This dialogue has advanced with our partner and liaison organisations, particularly through the quadripartite alliance.

Practically, this has been demonstrated through the various workshops, seminars and conferences on digital metrology in which the BIML has participated and supported as well as our work on developing the Organisation's e-Learning strategy. All of this strategic work continues despite the restrictions and limitations imposed by the global pandemic.

Lastly, to look to the future we must also consider the impact of the actions, products and outputs of the Organisation. This has been exemplified by the BIML contributing a high number of good-practice examples of our procedures, processes and systems to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) *Compendium of International Organisations' Practices: Working Towards More Effective International Instruments* and its related web-interface. Furthermore, the BIML is working with a United Nations (UN) agency to examine the impact and utilisation of OIML publications (standards) as well as the OIML Certification System (OIML-CS).

Ongoing adaptability during the pandemic

The ongoing nature of the global pandemic has posed challenges and opportunities for most organisations, and the BIML is no different. However, the BIML has risen to and responded to these challenges positively and supportively with a 'can-do' attitude, building on what it did throughout 2020. This has been achieved with flexible and adaptive work practices which have minimised the impact of the pandemic on the outputs and outcomes produced by the BIML. Additionally, many compliments and votes of appreciation have been received from numerous and varied stakeholders, including our Members, regarding the dedication and support provided by BIML staff members.

Following the 55th CIML Meeting, the BIML commenced work on planning and developing a strategy to cater for the various possibilities regarding the 56th CIML Meeting and 16th Conference in 2021. This was, and remains, a significant initiative for the BIML to deliver in a regularly changing environment. The adaptability in planning for the 56th CIML Meeting and 16th Conference will serve the Organisation well in the future.

Supporting infrastructure

The BIML continues to provide a high-level of support to the Technical Committees (TCs), Subcommittees (SCs) and Project Groups (PGs) for convening meetings electronically in order to make progress with OIML technical work. A growing number of PGs are using this new way of working to hold meetings and to progress with the drafting of publications. By using videoconferencing systems, the BIML has also provided support for a number of governance and committee meetings.

This period has also seen an upgrade to the software platform operating the OIML website and online architecture. This major upgrade has significantly enhanced the infrastructure underpinning the operation of the website and its interaction with the various databases that the BIML maintains to enable the ongoing development of publications and the provision of services in the most secure and reliable way possible.

Membership

No OIML Member States were delisted in 2020. Only one OIML Corresponding Member was delisted at the beginning of 2021 due to non-payment of outstanding arrears to the OIML, despite extensive and sustained dialogue by the BIML with the Corresponding Member to facilitate payment.

Since the 55th CIML Meeting, the BIML has been working very closely with the government of Ukraine to assist with their accession to the Convention establishing an International Organisation of Legal Metrology. I am delighted that Ukraine has acceded to become a Member State of the Organisation after many years of being a Corresponding Member.

The BIML has also received and processed an application for readmission from the Gabonese Republic (Gabon) and an application from the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (Guyana) to join the Organisation. It is my pleasure to welcome both Gabon and Guyana to the Organisation. The BIML announced and celebrated their joining of the OIML to the international legal metrology community at the time.

The BIML has also been actively working to assist with the potential transition of a number of Corresponding Members to become Member States of the Organisation. Good progress has been made in this area, despite the very difficult international circumstances. Moreover, initiatives to promote membership of the Organisation continue to be strongly pursued by the BIML. This has involved proactively seeking prospective new Members and liaising with ministries and diplomatic missions on an ongoing basis.

Debt recovery and payment

The BIML continues to devote an increasing amount of internal resources and deploying new strategies to recover the persistent outstanding debts of Member States and Corresponding Members, as well as unpaid OIML-CS certificate registration fees.

In early 2021 the BIML implemented a new procedure for the early identification and case-management of Members at risk of defaulting on their contributions to the Organisation, thus contravening the Convention and putting themselves at risk of being delisted from the Organisation. The procedure has already produced good results.

Budget preparation

A new sustainable and future-orientated draft budget has been prepared for the budget period 2022–2025. This involved an extensive analysis of cost structures as well as ways to reduce operating costs for the Organisation. Included in this process were considerations as to how costs can be reduced, yet still enable the BIML to deliver on the expectations and strategic priorities of the Organisation.

Technical work

To ensure that the work of the Organisation continues, the BIML has assumed responsibility for (co-)convening certain PGs, when, despite attempts to seek conveners from Member States, they have not been forthcoming.



As foreshadowed at the 55th CIML Meeting in 2020, the impact of the global pandemic has been more pronounced in 2021. Fewer draft publications are presented to the CIML in 2021, which reflects the slowing of activity by some PGs throughout 2020 and in 2021.

Nevertheless, 2021 will see a number of publications presented to the CIML for consideration.

At the time of writing, one new or revised publication has progressed to Committee Draft (CD) stage and there are two publications for consideration by the CIML.

The BIML continues to work proactively and systematically to ensure that all OIML publications are reviewed in accordance with OIML procedures, with a focus on the high-priority publications. All of the OIML publications approved at the 55th CIML Meeting have been published.

OIML Certification System (OIML-CS)

The OIML-CS continues to provide the international system for OIML Members, industry and national economies to implement an effective internationally harmonised type approval framework.

In 2021, the OIML Issuing Authorities and their associated Test Laboratories have continued to extend their scopes to include new editions of OIML Recommendations and/or to address the transition of measuring instrument categories to Scheme A. In addition, Iran has joined the OIML-CS as a new Utilizer.

The number of certificates issued under the OIML-CS remains broadly consistent since the system's inception on 1 January 2018, despite the disruption caused by the global pandemic.

At the Sixth OIML-CS Management Committee Meeting in March 2021 it was pleasing to witness a number of discussions about the structure and efficacy of a number of the system's sub-committees. This demonstrates a focus on the future and internal reflection on the operations and function of the system.

I continue to emphasise and advocate the importance for all stakeholders of the international legal metrology community to demonstrate a genuine commitment to the OIML-CS and to promote it nationally within their economy, their organisation, to industry, and to the community.

Countries and Economies with Emerging Metrology Systems (CEEMS)

A number of activities to benefit CEEMS have been undertaken in 2021. These include the development of a publication on the *Application of online technology to capacity building and other CEEMS activities* and preliminary work to revise OIML D 14 *Training and qualification of legal metrology personnel* and OIML D 19 *Pattern evaluation and pattern approval*.

The CEEMS Advisory Group will hold an online meeting prior to the 56th CIML Meeting.

e-Learning

In conjunction with our stakeholders, the BIML is preparing a strategic development agenda for the OIML e-Learning platform. In 2021, planning meetings were held and work progressed to advance the system that the OIML currently makes available.

Liaison activities

The external liaison function that the BIML provides for the OIML has continued throughout 2021, underscoring the importance of collaboration and communication.

Since the 55th CIML Meeting significant collaboration and coordination has occurred with many organisations in liaison, including our quadripartite partners (Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO)), as well as other organisations in the standardisation, accreditation and conformance sectors.

The BIML has also engaged with many other organisations and entities to advance the work and priorities of the OIML, including the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), OECD, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The BIML also participated in the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM) committees.

The BIML continued to give many online tailored presentations to Regional Legal Metrology Organisations (RLMO) on a wide range of topics. These were part of specific seminars, annual general meetings and technical events.

Importantly, in 2021 the BIML represented the Organisation's interest in many online workshops, forums, round tables and events, many of which were organised in conjunction with World Metrology Day.

The BIML's informative, detailed and engaging presentations have been highly appreciated by the external organisations with which we liaise, with positive feedback being received.

World Metrology Day

The BIML and the BIPM have again worked collaboratively this year to prepare for World Metrology Day. The theme for 2021 is *Measurement for Health*. This theme was selected to create awareness of the important role that measurement plays in many aspects of our health and wellbeing.

In 2021 there were:

- 34 posters submitted by National Institutes and other Organisations;
- 35 events published, mostly online;
- Videos by the CIML and CIPM Presidents;
- Videos of the BIML and BIPM Directors' message;
- 6063 distinct visitors to the World Metrology Day website on 20 May 2021.



The 2021 poster was designed by SASO under the auspices of GULFMET and is available in English, French and many other languages, as provided by other countries.

The year to come

The BIML continues to pursue strategic initiatives for the benefit of the Organisation and its Members. Many of these items will be discussed as part of the agendas for the 56th CIML Meeting and the 16th Conference.

The period after the 56th CIML Meeting and the 16th Conference will provide an opportunity to build on these initiatives and to develop a strategic future-orientated action agenda. This will include a focus on adaptative and innovative ways to deliver outcomes for our stakeholders and to create meaningful impact internationally, regionally and nationally.

As has already been adeptly demonstrated, the BIML will continue to adapt and respond to the demands and challenges which it faces. In addition, the BIML will continue to provide its high level of service to all Members and stakeholders even in the most difficult of times.

I look forward to your participation in the 56th CIML Meeting and 16th Conference.

Anthony Donnellan

BIML Director