

Accreditors around the globe move together

Report about the 2nd ILAC Conference '98 as well as General Assembly (GA) and the 12th IAF GA



The ILAC Conference as well as the ILAC Committee Meetings and the ILAC General Assembly took place in Sydney, Australia, from 19 to 23 October 1998.

Accreditation bodies, laboratories, clients of the laboratories and of the Authorities discussed the following main topics:

- Value of the accreditation to the laboratories and their clients
- ISO/IEC Guide 25 - The next generation
- Multilateral recognition of accreditations granted.

The following ideas have been particularly emphasised:

- Accreditation gives an added value to the laboratories and inspection bodies as well as their clients especially in the following cases: if a technology transfer takes place, if the laboratories establish an effective quality system and take part in international benchmark tests.
- The future ISO standard 17025 shall represent more clearly and transparent the requirements for traceability, validation and statement of uncertainty for all laboratories.

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- Multilateral agreements signed between accreditation bodies may be a way for a mutual recognition of test results worldwide.
- There exist an increasing demand for participation in interlaboratory comparison tests to ensure the laboratories' quality systems and the comparability of the results.

At the General Assembly the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as well as the Bylaws have been endorsed, according to which three categories of members are possible:

- *Full Members* (presently 45 accreditation organisations)
- *Regional Groups* (APLAC, EA, IAAC confirmed)
- *Associate Members* (accreditation systems under constitution)
- *Stakeholder Members* (presently 15 associations; international, regional and national associations of laboratories, inspection bodies or other clients or organisations involved or interested in accreditation)

A further topic of interest was the future merger of ILAC and IAF.

Mrs *Belinda Collins* (NIST, USA) has been elected new Chair and Mr *Mike Peet* (SANAS, South Africa) deputy.

Further results:

- A Multilateral Agreement between regional groups of accreditation organisations is under preparation.
- Decision to draw up an interpretation paper for implementing the standard ISO/IEC 17025 as well as an information document to support the assessors with regard to comparison between ISO Guide 25 and the new standard 17025
- Revision of the document "*Requirements for the Competence of Reference Materials Producers*" together with a discussion paper for implementing the ILAC requirements for the assessment of reference materials (RM) producers (in cooperation with ISO REMCO and IAF) as a basis for requirements for RM producers

- Preparation of the ILAC document *ILAC Requirements for the Competence of Providers of Proficiency Testing Schemes*

All ILAC-Guidelines as well as documents are published at and can be downloaded from ILAC's Website at <http://www.ilac.org>. The next ILAC Conferences will be held in Washington in 2000 and in Berlin in 2002 with detailed exchange of experience and discussions among all interested parties.

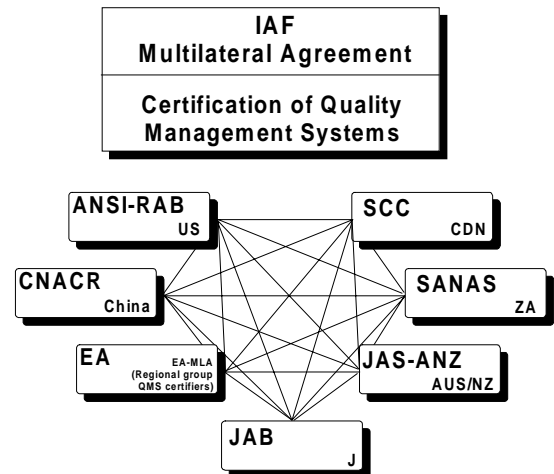
IAF

The 12th Meeting of the IAF General Assembly and the Working Groups Meetings took place from 24th to 30th Oct. 1998 in Australia. IAF has been founded as a "legal entity" in Delaware/USA with the name "IAF Incorporation" (IAF Inc.) as the first international organisation of the accreditors. According to the valid Bylaws, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman have been elected from the group of accreditation bodies and another four directors from the category of Full Members, accreditation bodies under constitution, accredited certification bodies as well as from the industry. New Chairman is Dr. *Takashi Ohtsubo* (JAB), new Vice-Chairman is Dr. *Thomas Facklam* (DAR/TGA). Just as ILAC also IAF decided not to establish a permanent secretariat before the merger with ILAC.

INMETRO/Brazil will continue to provide the Secretariat of IAF.

Essential results:

- Extension of the IAF MLA (new members see Figure below); Election of the MLA Committee



- Revision of the document "MLA Policies and Procedures" for endorsement at the next IAF Plenary Meeting
 - Passing of the IAF Guide for interpretation of the IAF/IEC Guide 65 (as a basis for the accreditation of product certification bodies)
 - Planning of a Guide for interpretation of the standard for certification of personnel (as a basis for an international MLA in the field of product and personnel certification under the direction of IAF)
- Dr. M. Wloka, BAM-S.42*

News from the DAR

6th Tutors' exchange of experience within the DAR

From 4th to 5th March 1999 the DAR Secretariat carries out at BAM on behalf of the DAR Committee "Training of Assessors" (ABT) the 6th Tutors' Exchange of Experience among representatives from the D-A-CH countries (German-speaking countries).

All tutors involved in the training of assessors work on the basis of the joint D-A-CH training program, ie the *Framework program for assessors in the German-speaking area*. This program has been elaborated, tested and harmonised in close cooperation between these three countries and is part of their accreditation systems.

The regular meeting of the Tutors suits the flow and experience of information as well as the updating of information in the field of accreditation both in Europe and internationally.

The traditional "Tutors' Exchange of Experience" continues to bear international character. The participation of representatives from other accreditation systems serves the mutual establishment of confidence in qualification and education of the assessors.

The program of this years Tutors' Exchange of Experience focuses on the following main subjects:

- Qualification of assessors
- Up-to-date information in the field of accreditation, a.o. information from EA, IAF, ILAC
- Technical issues in accreditation, such as proficiency testing, reference materials, traceability
- Exchange of practical experience, e.g. in the fields of environment, Regulation on Used Cars (car recycling), diverse CERTIF documents

Read more about the Tutors' Exchange of Experience in our next issue of DAR-aktuell. Complete documentation can be requested at the DAR Secretariat.

N. Bendix, BAM-S.42

News from the ATF

- The first revision of DAR-EM10 "Recommendation for the assessment of measuring and test equipment in testing laboratories in view of calibration and traceability - Reference for use by the assessors" was made under the direction of Dr. Daum (BAM) and will include the verification certificates or special test certificates as national

evidence of traceability. The first revision of DAR-EM18: "Guideline for traceability in testing" will be completed under the direction of Dr. Hinrichs (AMSE) and endorsed at the next ATF meeting.

- The DAR Committee ATF confirms Prof. Zschunke (BAM) as new Chair of the DEED-RM (national mirror group of EEE-.PT).
- The ILAC document draft 12/98 "ILAC Requirements for the Competence of Providers of Profi-

ciency Testing Schemes" will be discussed within the ATF and the national group DEED-EP.

- The ATF suggests the DAR to take up the EA document EA2-05 ("The Scope of Accreditation and Considerations of Methods and Criteria for the Scope in Testing.") into the DAR Handbook and thus to recommend the accreditation bodies to handle the flexible accreditation.

Dr. N. Presser, BAM-S.42

News from international organisations

EUROLAB General Assembly at BAM

Following a preliminary meeting of the national members of EUROLAB on 28th January, the 12th EUROLAB General Assembly took place at BAM on 29th January 1999. The previous EUROLAB President, Prof. Dr. Claes Bankvall (Figure, left), has finished his presidency regularly after a four-year Secretariat. During the General Assembly the President of BAM, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h. c. Horst Czichos (Figure, right), was unanimously elected new President. Prof. Dr. Jarl Forstén was appointed Vice-president.



Figure: Handing over the presidency of EUROLAB

In concern therewith the Technical Secretariat, which had been held in the Swedish National Testing and Research Institute (SP) up to this time, changed hands to BAM. The Head of the new Technical Secretariat at BAM is now Dr. Manfred Golze.

Also the members of the Board of Administrators of EUROLAB were partly new elected. Currently it consists of the following persons:

Claes Bankvall (Sweden), *Luc Beernaert* (Belgium), *Alan Bryden* (France), *Horst Czichos* (Germany), *Fritz Eggimann* (Switzerland), *Jarl Forstén* (Finland), *Carlos Ganopa* (Portugal), *Jaroslav Veselý* (Czech Republic), *Richard Worswick* (Great Britan).

After a short presentation of the Bulgarian organisation BULLAB by Mrs. Aneta Ewers, BULLAB was affili-

ated as a new associated member of EUROLAB. The European association of certification, inspection and testing bodies in the field of building, Eurocer-building, gained the status of an observer.

The realisation of the Workshops listed in Table 1 met with universal approval.

Alan Bryden, representative of EUROLAB in the EA Advisory Board (EAAB) and elected Vice-Chairman of this important Board, reported on the constituent assembly. Together with CEOC (European Confederation of Inspection Organisations), EUROLAB will organise an information network. It shall also include all those associations of conformity assessment bodies that are not represented in EAAB and will represent their opinions towards EA.

Prof. Dr. *Hans-Ulrich Mittmann* as representative of EA at this Assembly, reported on the current development of this organisation.

During the discussion the representatives of EUROLAB expressed the following problems of the laboratories and product certification bodies with accreditation matters as well as their requests to the accreditation bodies:

- The national accreditation bodies do not keep their rules consistently.
- EA does not react to complaints about discrepancies between accreditation bodies and accredited bodies.
- Due to high costs, accreditation leads to competitive disadvantage. EA should present the value of an accreditation to the public in a better way.
- A sufficient difference between accredited and non-accredited laboratories is not ascertainable.
- During an accreditation procedure too much value is attached to formal aspects. Other ways for increasing quality should be used.
- Assessors from other countries should also be appointed, if there is not the necessary competence in the own country.

Workshop	Date	Responsible organisation / contact person	Venue
The impact of the European and international legal environment on the liability of laboratories	December 1999	EUROLAB-France, Jean-Marc Aublant	Paris
Quality Assurance of Computer Systems in Laboratories	30.09.-01.10.1999	EUROLAB-Germany, Manfred Golze	Berlin
Cooperation between Laboratories and Accreditation Bodies – The permanent Liaison Group (PLG)	presumably in November 1999	EA-EUROLAB Workshop in cooperation with EURACHEM	presumably in Athens
Implementing ISO/IEC 17025 in Testing and Calibration Laboratories	Autumn 1999	Nordtest, EUROLABs of the Nordic countries	Nordic capital

V. Hinrichs, EUROLAB Secretariat / BAM

News from EA

EA-Advisory Board (EAAB)

The EA Advisory Board took up its activities with the first meeting on 16th Nov. 1998. It consists of 21 members. Chairman is *Anthony Davies* (CEPMC, Council of European Producers of Materials for Construction). Vice-Chairman is *Alan Bryden* (EUROLAB). German representatives are the following for the organisations mentioned in brackets: Mr *Steck* (EURACHEM/EUROMET), Mr *Beer* (ORGALIME, Liaison Group of the European Mechanical, Electrical, Electronic and Metal Working Industries), Mr *Becker* (BMA, German Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs).

Information from EA

- The General Assembly decided to declare EA as legal entity with seat in Great Britain. The Secretariat shall continue to be run at the location of the EA Chairman.
- Documents endorsed by the General Assembly shall be soon made available to all interested parties via the Internet. An up-to-date survey of all EA Committees and Working Groups can be found on EA's Homepage on the Internet at <http://www.european-accreditation.org>.

- In November 1998 an EA Working Group "Peer Evaluation" has been founded under the leadership of the DAR Chairman Prof. Dr. *Mittmann*. Members of this Working Group are representatives each one of ILAC, IAF, APLAC (Asian Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Conference) and EA. The aim of this Working Group is to make the Peer evaluations of the signatories to the mutual recognition agreements of EA (MLA) more efficient, ie cost and time effective. It shall propose criteria that enable an unbureaucratic evaluation of the accreditation bodies' operation, on the basis of which confidence in their activities can be gained. The technical competence of the Peers will have high significance.
- In connection with efforts of globally acting enterprises to have their products tested only once and therewith to reach a worldwide recognition of the test results and certificates ("Once tested - Accepted everywhere"), for the first time a common meeting of the MLA Committees of EA and APLAC will be held in Paris in April 1999.
- The interpretation document for ISO/IEC Guide 65 "Guidance of the Application of ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996, General Requirements for Bodies operating Product Certification Systems" (6th draft) has been distributed for comments ultimately and is just before its last endorsement by EA and IAF.

Dr. J. Thiele, BAM-S.42

Draft Certif 1/98 published "Guide to the Implementation of Directives Based on New Approach and Global Approach"

The Certif document shall be applied to users of tests, inspections and certifications operating within the frame of EU-Directives. It focuses all these procedures which have to be observed fundamentally, eg during the EC conformity assessments, with the respective criteria of the EN 45000 standards series.

Users of different kind - manufacturers, importers, notified bodies, the State - receive instructions from the Guide how to fulfil their different responsibility and role for attaining an EC certificate of conformity as well as for its maintenance.

Thus for current and future activities in the context of EC Guidelines information and guidance are given for all parties involved.

A functioning Quality System of the notified bodies according to the EN 45000 standards series should be the basis for their operation in the context of the different modules of the EC conformity assessment, without necessarily having to prove an accreditation.

Dr. R. Schmidt, BAM-S.41

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