

DRC CELEBRATES WAD ON 23 AUGUST 2019

2019 World Accreditation Day (WAD) was celebrated in the Democratic Republic of Congo on 23 August 2019 instead of 9 June 2019 due to some administrative and technical reasons. The celebrations were organized by the National Accreditation Focal Point for DRC in collaboration with the Federation of Enterprises of Congo (FEC) under the theme “Accreditation adding value to supply chains”. The NAFF – DRC is housed within the within the Congolese Control Office (OCC). The celebrations were graced by Mr Camille Engwanda Tuabu, the Provincial Director for OCC in Katanga Province of DRC who represented the Director General of OCC, Dr Celestin Risasi at the event. The purpose of the celebrating WAD in DRC is to raise awareness on the importance of accreditation in removing of non-tariff barriers, whether under the terms of the SADC Trade Protocol or in relation to the commitments made by member state under the World Trade Organization (WTO); Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). In order to show the importance of standards in accreditation activities the WAD celebrations this year coincided with the setting up by OCC of 3 ISO mirror committees namely: ISO/ TC 82 Mirror Committees (Mining); ISO / TC 262 Committee (Risk Management Committee); and the ISO / TC 304 (Health Management).



WAD Banner

The celebrations which were held at attended by 102 participants from the mining, health, producers and distributors of materials and inputs of medical and biomed lab academic, logistics, conformity assessment bodies, manufacturers local press etc.

The program started off with welcoming remarks by the President of the FEC, Mr Lambert Tshiswaka who in his opening remarks the importance of accreditation in trade facilitation and areas of application to stakeholders. This was followed by opening remarks Mr Camille Engwanda Tuabu, the Provincial Director for OCC in Katanga Province who explained the purpose of the celebrations and outlined the role of OCC as the national conformity assessment body for DRC and as the national Accreditation Focal Point for DRC. He reiterated the commitment of the Director General Mr Risasi T M and his deputy Mrs. Isabelle Kasongo Omba in the promotion of accreditation of testing laboratories; certification and inspection bodies and

calibration service providers. In conclusion and with globalization of markets the OCC Provincial Director noted the need for nations to put in place a common system of standards for trade facilitation.



Mrs Apauline Feza Matata NAFP-DRC making her presentation

The opening session was then followed by a technical session during which presentations were made starting with the presentation by Mr Yenge Bitumu of the OCC who explained the new developments that have occurred since May 20, 2019 on the definition of the units of Measures which will lead to results more accurate than before. While knowing that the finer measures are the bedrock in the reliability of the results of the measurements of the testing and calibration laboratories.

The second presenter Mrs. Apauline Matata Feza the NAFP-DRC presented on the theme of WAD Accreditation adding value to supply chains whilst the third presenter spoke about the supplier's criteria for carrier evaluation. This was followed by 2 other presenters Mr Muyumba Kahozi, OCC and Mr Kalume Ilunga, MEPHARTEC who spoke on the responsibility of the suppliers and distributors in the validity of the results. The final presentation was made by Ms Mwepu, GCM who expressed their Company's commitment and efforts towards accreditation.

The presentations were followed by questions and answers demonstrating the interest shown by the audience, who at the same time asked for future meetings on scientific issues related to accreditation; Standards and topics that reflect the OCC's missions. Being in a mining province, the OCC Standards Department seized this opportunity to launch 3 national mirror committees in the field of health and mines and risk management. Thus the 2nd day of the celebrations 24 August 2019 was devoted to standardization matters.



Delegates enjoying lunch during the celebrations

The 2019 WAD celebrations were an opportunity for the OCC to demonstrate its leadership in the field of accreditation and also to raise awareness on the importance of accreditation and the need for conformity assessment bodies in DRC to be accredited. Coinciding the celebrations with the establishment of national mirror committees brought to the fore the close relationship between standards and accreditation.

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