

SADCAS Signs MoU with ASCOLAB

The SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association Congolaise des Laboratoires (ASCOLA/NLA) of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The objective of the MOU is to inform and support future cooperation of their activities. The MOU was signed on 2 April 2017 in Frankfurt, Germany in conjunction with the mid-term ILAC IAF Meetings and was witnessed by Mr Steven Bruce Sidney the Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors and Chairman of the ILAC Laboratory Committee and Mr John Wilson Chairman of the National laboratory Association of South Africa.



From Left to Right: Mr Sidney, Mrs Mutasa, Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama President of ASCOLAB and Mr John Wilson Chairman of NLA SA



Displaying the signed MOU

ASCOLAB is a National Laboratory Association (NLA) and non-government association of the DRC aimed at promoting accreditation, organizing trainings and information exchange, coordinating scientific and technical cooperation between the Congolese laboratories, carrying out Testing, Calibration and Medical analysis. ASCOLAB offers credible laboratory services, raises the profile of the laboratory profession, and contributes to the growth of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) economy and enhanced scientific research and quality laboratory services.

On the other hand **SADCAS**, a subsidiary organization of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), is a non-profit, multi-economy accreditation body whose mission is to provide credible, cost effective accreditation services for SADC Member States aimed at supporting trade; enhance the protection of consumers and the environment; and improve the competitiveness of SADC products and services in both the voluntary and regulatory areas. SADCAS offers programs for the accreditation of testing/calibration laboratories, medical laboratories, certification bodies (management systems/product/personnel) and inspection bodies.

Recognizing the need to strengthen and coordinate their actions in respect of accreditation SADCAS and ASCOLAB have agreed to cooperate by:

- Communicating and sharing technical information on matters of common interest and develop suitable linkages to facilitate easier access to information available from the 2 organizations;
- Mutual representation at each other's annual general meetings;
- Promoting accreditation as a strategy for the competence of calibration/testing laboratories;
- Advocating for the need for policy makers to embrace accreditation as a tool for economic and social development and growth;
- Complimenting each other's training support for laboratories. ASCOLAB shall focus on specific laboratory skills whilst SADCAS shall focus on generic accreditation standards' requirements;
- Endeavour to formulate a common position on issues of mutual interest at international for a; and
- Cooperating in other activities or projects that are of mutual interest and in support of the implementation of the terms and conditions stated herein

The MoU negotiations started in September 2016 when SADCAS received a proposal from ASCOLAB and was subsequently approved by the SADCAS Board of Directors at its meeting held on 16 February 2017.

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