

SADC Countries Commemorate World Accreditation Day

World Accreditation Day is a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation. It is celebrated on 9 June each year with the inaugural world accreditation day having been celebrated in 2008.

To commemorate 2010 world accreditation day various activities were held in SADC countries ranging from press releases and conferences. A press release on world accreditation day adapted by SADC Accreditation Services (SADCAS) based on the IAF/ILAC 2010 world accreditation day joint statement was circulated to the network of National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) who in turn all circulated the press release to stakeholders in their respective countries and the local newspapers. The press release was widely publicized in the newspapers in **Botswana, Malawi, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe**.

In **Mozambique** interviews were held with 2 of the most popular television channels during which the NAFP talked about the importance of accreditation and the process of accreditation. Some of the Mozambique radio stations announced the commemoration of world accreditation day.



Participants attending the World Accreditation Day Celebrations in Gaborone, Botswana

In **Lesotho** a meeting was held to establish a laboratory association during which a steering committee was appointed to spearhead the establishment of the Association. In addition, an interview with the national radio station was held to explain the importance of accreditation and what world accreditation day is all about.

In **Botswana**, a world accreditation day conference was held at the Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) Headquarters in Gaborone to commemorate the day. The conference was jointly organized by SADCAS, the BOBS ISO/IEC 17025 Forum and the NAFP-Botswana which is housed within the Department of Industrial Affairs Ministry of Trade and Industry. Over 120 stakeholders mainly from conformity assessment bodies i.e. calibration/testing laboratories, medical laboratories as well as certification and inspection bodies attended the conference whose theme was "Global Acceptance" in line with the IAF/ILAC theme for 2010.

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The conference which was the first of its kind held not only in Botswana but in the whole of the SADC region was officially opened by Mrs Banny Molosiwa, Permanent Secretary Botswana Ministry of Trade and Industry with Mr Graham Talbot, Chairman of the ILAC/IAF Joint Marketing and Communications Committee and also Chairman of the European Cooperation in Accreditation (EA) giving the key note address. In her opening address, Mrs Molosiwa applauded the creation of an international network for accreditation bodies which removes the need for repetitive testing, certification and inspection which is not only time consuming but costly, as certificates issued by accredited organizations can be accepted throughout the world. She said that accreditation is paramount as it provides assurance and confidence that traded products and services not only conform to specifications but also meet legal and regulatory requirements thus serve to protect public interests in general. Mrs Molosiwa also commented SADC for the establishment of SADCAS, a multi economy accreditation body which provides SADC Member states without own national accreditation bodies, with ready access to cost effective accreditation services. She encouraged Botswana calibration/testing laboratories and certification and inspection bodies to take up SADCAS services so as to improve the competitiveness of Botswana products and services as the country diversifies its economy and adds value to its products.



Mr Talbot delivering the key note address

In his key note address Mr Talbot noted that the use of accreditation is widening and expanding into new sectors. "We are seeing a continual growth of accreditation into areas that up to now have not relied on accreditation to provide users with confidence such as healthcare, forensic science, climate change, sustainability, food safety and son", he said.

The opening ceremony was followed by a session during which delegates were updated on regional and international developments in accreditation by various experts including Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu the SADC SQAM Expert, Mrs Masego Marobela the Chairman of SADC Cooperation in Accreditation(SADCA), Mr Ron Josias the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) and Mr Talbot in his capacity as the Chairman of EA. The session which was chaired by Mrs Maureen Mutasa the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer ended with lively interactive discussions with participants wanting to know more about the linkages between the regional (SADCA) and African Cooperation in Accreditation (AFRAC)

which is due to be launched in September 2010. Participants also discussed the implications of the new European regulation 765/2008 on accreditation and market surveillance on trade with SADC countries.

The second session of the conference which was chaired by Mr Josias was on sharing experiences in the journey towards global acceptance of technical competence. The session started with a paper by Mrs Mutasa who gave an overview of SADCAS, briefly outlined the prerequisites and requirements for the ILAC/IAF Arrangements as well as the process followed to achieve international recognition. She then informed participants about progress made by SADCAS so far in its journey towards global acceptance of certificates accredited by it. Very informative and lively presentations by Mr Tebogo Kajane BOBS Manager Laboratory Services, Dr Kitenge Kalenga a local hospital superintendent, Dr Kekgonne Baipoledi Deputy Director Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory and Mrs Oliviah Zimba Director Quality Assurance Standards Association of Zimbabwe outlined the respective conformity assessment bodies triumphs and tribulations in their journey towards accreditation.



From left to right: Mrs M P Mutasa; Dr O S Chinyamakobvu; Mrs Masego Marobela; Mr Graham Talbot; and Mr Ron Josias during question time

In her vote of thanks, Ms Verily Molatedi SADCAS Board member thanked all the speakers for their excellent and informative presentations and more important for sharing their experiences in accreditation with other stakeholders at the conference. Judged by the level of attendance, interactions and feedback from participants the workshop was indeed a success.

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In the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** a half day workshop was held in Lubumbashi to commemorate world accreditation day on 9 June 2010 thus raise awareness on the importance of accreditation in the minerals rich southern region of DRC. The workshop which was attended by 200 participants was organized by the Congolese Control Office where the NAFP is housed. The workshop was graced by Honourable Tsiakwiza, DRC Minister of Trade, Finance and Economy and Honourable Christian Mwando Nsimba, DRC Provincial Minister of Industry and Small and Medium Enterprises.

In **Seychelles** in addition to the press release, an article on accreditation was published in the local newspaper and an awareness training workshop was conducted on 15 June 2010 at the Seychelles Bureau Of Standards in Mahe.



Participants attend the World Accreditation Day celebrations in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)



Participants at an awareness training workshop during World Accreditation Day in Seychelles

Vision

SADCAS vision is to be a leading, regionally accepted and internationally recognized regional accreditation body aimed at supporting and enhancing industry and government's efforts and to be at the cutting edge of accreditation.

Mission

SADCAS mission is to provide internationally recognized cost effective, regional accreditation services for SADC member states aimed at supporting regional and international trade, enhance the protection of consumers and improve the competitiveness of SADC products and services in both the voluntary and regulatory areas.

Values

- Impartiality
- Non-discriminatory
- Transparency
- Integrity

SADCAS Trademark Registered in Zambia



The SADCAS' trademark which forms the core of the SADCAS accreditation mark has now been registered in Zambia in Class 16 under No. 1023/2009. The registration process was facilitated by DH Kemp and Company.

Registration is also well underway in Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe through the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO). The 12 months' period for examination by designated states elapsed on 27 April 2010 without notification of refusal by all. The application was subsequently published as accepted in the ARIPO journal of 30 April 2010 and open for opposition for a 3months' period until 31 July 2010. If no opposition is lodged, then the mark will be registered.

The SADCAS trademark has already been registered in Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique and Angola with the latter country having issued interim registration certificates. The process is well underway in DRC and Seychelles.



SADCAS CEO Attends ZINQAP Annual Scientific Conference

The SADCAS Chief Executive Officer Mrs Maureen P Mutasa attended the 2010 ZINQAP Annual Scientific Conference held from 19 to 20 May 2010 at Meikles Hotel, Harare Zimbabwe. The conference which was organized by the Zimbabwe National Quality Assurance Program (ZINQAP) Trust and sponsored by various companies was attended by over 200 delegates mainly from the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, public and private laboratories mainly medical laboratories, research laboratories, institutions of higher learning and representatives from funding partners. ZINQAP Trust is a non-profit organization registered in Zimbabwe in 1998, ZINQAP's mandate is to provide accredited proficiency testing services and continuous professional development program for medical laboratory experts so as to attain and maintain a high level of quality testing. ZINQAP is an accredited proficiency service provider.

One of ZINQAP's calendar events is the annual scientific conference which attracts a wide audience mainly from the medical laboratory fraternity. The 2010 conference was held after a 4-year break due to the economic hardships faced by Zimbabwe over the years. The theme for the 2010 conference was "Quality for every season". In her opening remarks the Director of ZINQAP, Mrs Sibongile Zimuto assured delegates that from now on the ZINQAP annual Scientific Conference would be held annually. A diverse range of presentations on quality systems, accreditation and medical research were made by the presenters from South Africa, Korea, Zimbabwe as well as speakers from regional and international bodies such as SADCAS and the World Health Organization's (WHO) regional office. These were followed by interactive discussions covering aspects of the conference theme.

Mrs Mutasa, in the session on accreditation, presented a paper entitled "SADCAS : regional Tie post for Credible and Reliable Public Health Laboratory Services" during which she highlighted the need and benefits of accreditation to a public health laboratory, gave an overview of SADCAS and updated delegates on the progress made with the set up and operationalization of SADCAS. Dr Fatim Cham presented the WHO AFRO Laboratory Accreditation program and outlined the challenges medical laboratories were facing in achieving international accreditation.



Delegates attending the 2010 ZINQAP Annual Scientific Conference

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Dr Cham WHO AFRO Laboratory Program and Mrs Maureen P Mutasa SADCs CEO giving a speech

The session was not only a good platform to promote accreditation and market SADCAS service offerings but also an opportunity to clarify the SADCAS accreditation program for medical laboratories versus the WHO stepwise and point accreditation program which is designed to assist medical laboratories to achieve international accreditation standards. The system recognizes the challenges medical laboratories in Africa face in meeting international standards. Being a stepwise and point system the WHO program motivates medical laboratories to meet international standard ISO 15189 at which stage SADCAS comes in to assess competence. The session also provided an opportunity to lay out SADCAS accreditation fee structure.

The ZINQAP Annual Scientific Conference provided a unique opportunity for learning and sharing experiences on best practices and latest developments in the medical laboratories' fraternity. The Ministry of Health and Child Welfare taking advantage of the cap-

tive audience launched its laboratory policy which gives direction on how laboratories should function. The conference was a great success and SADCAS is proud to have been represented at the conference for the first time.



SADCAS Training Services

SADCAS provides training for conformity assessment bodies' staff (calibration and testing laboratories, medical laboratories and management system certification bodies).

Trainers – SADCAS draws its trainers from a pool of qualified and experienced experts who have up to date involvement in accreditation matters, be it system implementation and/or assessments.

Courses on offer – Currently SADCAS offers the following training courses:

- ISO/IEC 17021 Requirements and Internal Auditing
- ISO/IEC 15189 Requirements and Internal Auditing
- ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements and internal Auditing

Course Structure - Each of the above courses is 5 days' long. SADCAS courses are made relevant and practical as they include case studies and exercises that reflect the respective professional disciplines.

In order to objectively assess participants, an examination is written at the end of the course.

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Smart Partnership Dialogue held in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

Mrs Maureen P Mutasa SADCAS Chief Executive Officer attended the Smart Partnership Movement's think tanking dialogue on quality and standards inclusion for enhancing trade, business, technology and sustainability held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 14 to 15 June 2010. This was the first think tanking of the Smart Partnership Movement's initiative and also the first dialogue which Mrs Mutasa attended at the invitation of the Movement. The aim of the initiative is to:

- ❑ Enhance the cooperative approaches at national, regional and international levels for implementing national strategies for quality infrastructure; and
- ❑ Promote at the highest level of government and business, an application of smart partnership approach for dealing with interdependencies and interoperability for achieving sustainability and market access through quality and standards.

The dialogue was jointly hosted by the Smart Partnership Movement, Standards Malaysia and MIGHT. The dialogue was attended by over 50 participants from trade, business, national standards bodies, regional bodies and governments from Southern and East African Countries including High Commissions from Uganda, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia. Representing the trade sector were members of the Malaysian Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers and Malaysian External Trade Development Cooperation amongst others. The private sector was represented by SIRIM Berhad a Malaysian conformity assessment body amongst other private Malaysian companies, LCM Systems an Australian company, Schoemans Office Systems a Namibian company and Theta



Delegates to the Smart Partnership Dialogue held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 14 to 15 June 2010.

Consulting a Botswana company. The Namibian Standards Institute, Standards Association of Zimbabwe, Swaziland Standards Authority and Standards Malaysia were the national standards bodies that participated in the dialogue. From the accreditation side, SADCAS a multi economy accreditation body and Standards Malaysia a national accreditation body were represented at the dialogue.

Mrs F Baharin, the Director General of Standards Malaysia gave the welcoming speech and together with Dr Mihaela Smith the Smart Partnership Executive, made the introductory remarks about the initiative. This was followed by opening remarks by Honourable Fadillah the Malaysian Deputy Minister for Science and Technology and Innovation. The dialogue started with the main intervention made by Mr Alan Bryden the immediate past Secretary General of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) who highlighted the importance of standards and quality in support of competitiveness, trade and sustainability and the need for standards and quality infrastructure and laid out a road map for the quality and standards inclusion initiative.

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This was followed by interventions from various experts including an advisor from the EU Directorate for Trade, senior specialists from national standards bodies, SADCAS and the East African Community. Bringing to the discussions the perspective from the civil service was a senior member of the Office of the President and Cabinet in Zimbabwe. Discussions were also enriched by the contributions from members of the Bank Negara Malaysia and the Executive Director of the Uganda Investment Authority. The first day of the dialogue culminated in the launch of the initiative followed by a dinner hosted by Standards Malaysia during which the Chairman of Standards Malaysia gave a speech on Malaysia’s experience in enhancing quality infrastructure for better market access.



Mrs Maureen Mutasa SADCAS CEO with Mr Shaharul Sadri Alwi Principal Assistant Director, Accreditation Division at the Department of Standards Malaysia offices Division at the Department of Standards Malaysia offices.

The second day of the dialogue started off with a closed working session to consolidate the way forward of the launched initiative followed by visits to various Malaysian organizations including a tour of Standards Malaysia. Standards Malaysia also serves as the national accreditation body therefore Mrs Mutasa held discussions with the Director for accreditation services and received some valuable information and publications. The highlight of the day was the visit to the Prime Minister’s Office where the group was welcomed by the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on International relations who was briefed on the successful outcome of the dialogue i.e. the launch of the Quality and Standards Inclusion Initiative.



Courtesy Call to the Botswana Meat Commission

In their continuous efforts to market and promote the importance and benefits of accreditation and services offered by SADCAS, the SADCAS CEO accompanied by NAFF- Botswana paid a courtesy visit to Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) on the 30th June 2010. The meeting was attended by personnel from the quality assurance and human resources departments. It provided an interactive forum for the two organizations and also an opportunity for SADCAS to note the efforts made by BMC regarding accreditation.

Botswana Meat Commission is a government owned abattoir that slaughters cattle and exports beef mainly to the EU market and South Africa. It has a quality assurance department with three main functions namely laboratory with microbiology and chemistry disciplines; quality control for on-line monitoring of processes and quality and food safety management system. The laboratory personnel have been trained on ISO/IEC 17025 requirements and implementation. Quality control and laboratory functions conducts inspection of incoming raw materials e.g. cleaning chemicals, ingredients and packaging materials; in process and final product inspection to establish compliance with national and international regulatory requirements. The laboratory participates in inter laboratory comparisons such as the Botswana Bureau of Standards’ (BOBS) National Quality Control Sample Exchange System for both chemistry and microbiology disciplines.

Botswana Meat Commission’s Quality Management System is certified to ISO 9001 by the South African Bureau of Standards. The organization’s food safety management system is certified to BRC’s Global Standard for Food Safety by SAI GLOBAL/EFSA. The visit to BMC ended with a tour of the laboratories and the Engineering department.



Courtesy Call to the Department of Geological Survey Botswana

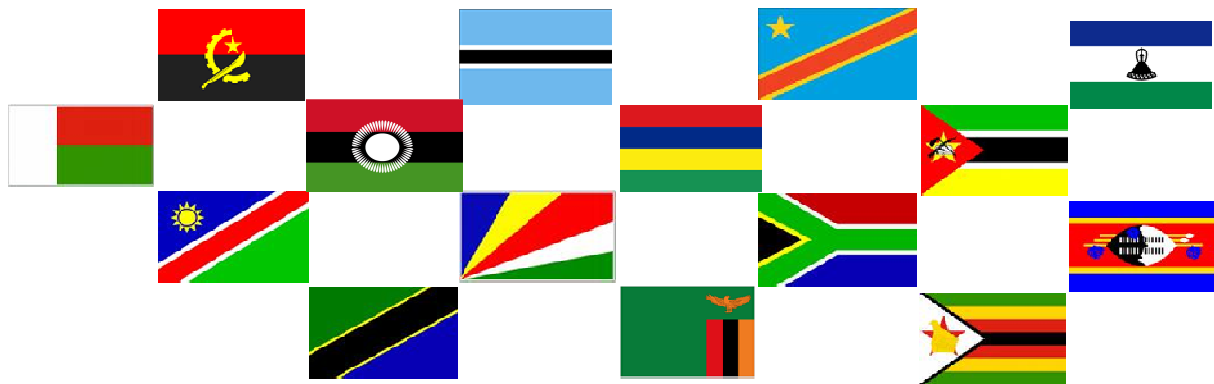
As part of its marketing and promotional activities the SADCAS CEO Mrs Maureen P Mutasa paid a courtesy visit to the Department of Geological Surveys in Lobatse, Botswana on 30 June 2010. Mrs Mutasa was accompanied by Mr Goitesone Seitshiro NAFP- Botswana on the visit to the Department of Geological survey. The delegation was welcomed by Mr Ogopotse Motsewathata the Principal Chemist on behalf of the Director. This was followed by a presentation on the services offered by the Department of Geological Survey made by Ms Masego Laetsang, a Principal Chemist. The Department of Geological Survey's mandate is to collect, assess, advice on and disseminate geo scientific data related to rocks, minerals and water resources of Botswana. The Department which falls under the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources operates Chemistry and Minerals Dressing Laboratories and offers laboratory services to internal and external customers. The laboratories undertake analyses on water (domestic water as well as waste water) and geochemical analyses on soil and rocks and analyses on vegetation. Both laboratories are working towards accreditation in accordance to ISO/IEC 17025. Most of the Department's laboratories staff and management have already undergone training on ISO/IEC 17025.

The SADCAS CEO gave an overview of SADCAS outlining the services that SADCAS offers and SADCAS' readiness to process accreditation applications. This was followed by a presentation by Mr Seitshiro who outlined the role of the NAFP and the activities underway in Botswana to promote accreditation and to market SADCAS service offerings. A lively discussion ensued during which delegates wanted to know more about SADCAS accreditation process and the costs involved as well as the relationship between SADCAS and SANAS which was aptly responded to by Mrs Mutasa. The session was attended by 13 laboratories staff and management.

The Department of Geological Survey appreciated the courtesy visit and the information shared and reaffirmed its commitment towards accreditation of the Chemical and the Minerals Dressing Laboratories albeit implementation time challenges. A tour of the laboratories guided by Ms Laetsang, a SADCAS trained assessor rounded off the visit.



A Multi-economy Accreditation Body!!



Marketing, Communication and Presentation Skills Workshop

In an effort to enhance the marketing and public relations skills of National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) and SADCAS staff, a Marketing, Communication and Presentation Skills workshop organized by SADCAS was held from 19 to 21 July 2010 at Hotel 224 – Pretoria, South Africa. Twenty participants comprising of sixteen (16) NAFPs, three (3) SADCAS staff members and one SANAS staff member attended the workshop. The three-day intensive and practical workshop was facilitated by Mr Andrew Brough of Andrew Brough Communications and was designed to provide NAFPs and SADCAS staff an insight into the basics of marketing and the development of marketing plans as well as to provide an insight into the dynamics of effective presentation. Mr Andrew Brough the workshop facilitator is a Chartered Marketer, the top professional marketing designation in South Africa and has a wealth of experience in delivering company specific marketing and financial management training programmes.



Participants at the workshop

The workshop included an opportunity for self assessment, peer assessment and facilitator’s assessment where participants were given personalized feedback on their presentations. Presentations were also recorded onto DVDs to allow each presenter to identify individual strengths and potential growth areas. Participants received the DVDs at the end of the programme.

Generally participants felt that the training was very good and very relevant to NAFPs in their key role of marketing SADCAS’ services in the region.



SADCAS a multi-economy Accreditation Board poised to deliver confidence, assure competency and guarantee quality in line with its value proposition

Developments in AFRAC

The African Cooperation in Accreditation (AFRAC) is set to be launched in September 2010 following a decision made at the third meeting on the establishment of AFRAC held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Cairo, Egypt from 14 -15 April 2010.

The third meeting on the establishment of AFRAC which was attended by 19 delegates from Africa and cooperating partners from PTB Germany and the Inter American Cooperation in Accreditation (IAAC) was hosted by the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC) and sponsored by PTB Germany. Mrs Maureen Mutasa the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer attended the meeting. The meeting was officially opened by Mr Hassan Shaarawi the Executive Director of EGAC on behalf of the Honourable Rachid Mohammed Rachid, the Minister of Trade and Industry, In his welcoming and opening remarks, the Minister emphasized the need for the timeous establishment of a cooperation in accreditation in Africa and encouraged the region to enter into twinning arrangements as a means of enhancing skills transfer and development in Africa's accreditation infrastructure.



Participants at the workshop

This third meeting was a follow up to two other meetings held in April 2009 to further develop the establishment of AFRAC. Draft by laws which define the formal structure and rules of procedure for the cooperation of AFRAC which were drafted at the third meeting in Cairo are being reviewed before finalization and approval at the first AFRAC general assembly to be held in conjunction with the launch of AFRAC. The AFRAC trademark whose guidelines were agreed upon in Cairo has been designed and finalized. Identification and selection of experts for training as peer evaluators is also underway. In the meantime the AFRAC project document is being finalized taking into account all the issues discussed at the Cairo meeting. The project document will be presented to donors for funding of the operationalization of AFRAC.

AFRAC will provide a platform for a coordinated approach in Africa on accreditation matters and a strong and unified voice on accreditation in the international accreditation fora. AFRAC aims to harmonize accreditation practices within the regions, facilitate mutual recognition of African produced conformity assessment results, establish mutual recognition arrangements amongst accreditation bodies in Africa and assist in the establishment of accreditation bodies and knowledge transfer.

To be at the cutting edge of accreditation service

ILAC/IAF Technical Committee Meetings held in Brazil



Participants during the meeting

Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager attended International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Technical Committees (TC) meetings held in Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 13 to 21 March 2010. The meetings were attended by the representatives of accreditation and certification bodies from Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Japan, Kenya, Norway, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, U.S.A and from ISO/CASCO in Geneva. The meetings were jointly organized by the IAF and the Brazilian Accreditation body INMETRO. Rio de Janeiro TC meetings embraced discussions on certification issues. The discussions were all focused on the competence of accreditation assessors as well as auditors involved in certification activities especially on how to select the best persons who have the required qualifications and expertise for the relevant field in order to give more confidence to the market, all end-users as well as the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

The meetings also discussed the Joint ILAC and IAF Marketing and Communication Committee’s strategic plan. Planned marketing and promotional activities include updating the ILAC/IAF websites and some brochures, to conduct an end-users survey, to increase the visibility of the outcomes of the peer evaluation, to develop more promotional materials and to allocate more monies for the Multilateral Arrangement (MLA) promotion budget.

ISO/CASCO participated actively in the IAF TC meetings because these meetings contribute a lot towards the elaboration/revision of ISO/CASCO standards. Ms Ranorovelo’s attendance to the IAF meetings was sponsored under the auspices of the SADC SQAM/EU project.



SADCAS Registers its 5th Assessor

Ms Kezia Mbwambo is the 5th technical assessor to be registered by SADCAS. Ms Mbwambo was registered in the technical scope Chemical- water under the testing laboratories accreditation program. Ms Mbwambo a Tanzanian national gained her technical experience at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), where she has worked as an analytical chemist and Head of Chemistry Laboratory for the past 23 years. Currently she is heading the Quality Management Department.



Ms Kezia Mbwambo

Ms Mbwambo successfully participated in the two stage assessor training program. She underwent assessor stage 1 theoretical training program in 2005 and acquired a thorough knowledge of the international standard ISO/IEC 17025 and assessment procedures and techniques. This was followed by stage 2 training which involved participation in assessment as a technical assessor under close supervision of a mentor.

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In March 2006, Ms Mbwambo participated in an assessment of a chemistry laboratory in Kenya undertaken by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). This was followed by participation in an assessment of a microbiology laboratory in Uganda and of a water laboratory in South Africa, both of which were undertaken by SANAS. Talking about her experience in assessment, Ms Mbwambo said she enjoyed conducting assessments and verifying laboratory technical competence using the knowledge she acquired.

Now that she is registered as a SADCAS technical assessor, Ms Mbwambo is looking forward to participating in assessments by the SADCAS.



SADCAS Facilitates Training of Hwange Colliery Staff

Hwange Colliery Company staff attended a 5- day training course on ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements and Internal Auditing held from 31 May to 4 June 2010 at the company premises in Hwange, Zimbabwe. The course which was organized by SADCAS was conducted by a SADCAS expert and attended by 20 staff.

Hwange Colliery is a mining company which explores, mines, processes and markets coal, coke, and associated by products. It is the largest producer of coal in Zimbabwe. The company aims to increase its production of coal per annum in order to meet domestic and export demands. Hwange Colliery Company is certified to ISO 9001. As part of its quality assurance program the company operates its own testing and calibration laboratories. The testing laboratory is responsible for quality control of raw materials, in process control, monitoring the quality of the final product/by products as well as monitoring the quality of water. The Engineering division is responsible for the maintenance of equipment throughout the Company including calibration and verification of laboratory equipment.

The objective of the course was therefore to strengthen the laboratory's ability to meet the accreditation requirements in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025. As part of the course program, participants carried out an internal audit of the laboratory. This audit practical exercise gave participants an understanding of how a vertical audit is carried out in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025.



NAFP-Tanzania Hosts ISO/IEC 17025 Training Course

The National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Tanzania which is housed within the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) hosted an ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements and Internal Auditing training course. The 5 days' training course which was jointly organized by SADCAS and the NAFP- Tanzania was held from 11 to 15 July 2010 at TBS office in Dar es Salaam and is the first open course to be jointly organized by SADCAS and an NAFP. The course which is designed to provide an insight into the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 as well as guide laboratory personnel on how to prepare and carry out an internal audit was attended by 18 participants. Mr Thomas Mnunguli, TBS Head Engineering Standards Department welcomed delegates to the course. In her opening remarks, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer informed delegates about the progress made thus far in making SADCAS operational and highlighted the fact that SADCAS is now handling accreditation applications as well as offering training services on accreditation related activities. She mentioned that SADCAS already had 7 accreditation applications at various stages of consideration and had undertaken 6 training courses in Seychelles, Botswana and Zimbabwe with the Tanzania course being the seventh. In her remarks the NAFP Tanzania, Mrs Stella Mrosso outlined the role and responsibilities of the NAFP and the achievements made to date since its establishment.

The course which was successfully conducted by one of the SADCAS trained trainers was made relevant and practical by including case studies and exercises that reflect the testing laboratory discipline. Course participants drawn from various testing laboratories in Tanzania found the course very well organized and useful to their jobs and applauded SADCAS and the NAFP-Tanzania for organizing the course.

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Plans are now underway for the NAFP to host an ISO/IEC 15189 Requirements and Internal Auditing course for medical laboratories to be held in September/October 2010 in Dar es Salaam.



SADC/EU SQAM Project Trains Trainers for SADCAS

The accreditation component of the SADC/EU SQAM project is mainly focused on the development of a pool of accreditation experts in the SADC region who will, upon successful completion and registration, undertake assessments/conduct training on behalf of SADCAS. In 2009 the capacity development program started off with the training of technical experts on the various key accreditation standards i.e. ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17020, ISO/IEC 17021, ISO/IEC Guide 65 and ISO 15189. This was then followed by technical assessor courses. Those who successfully completed the technical assessor course proceeded on to do the lead assessor course. During these courses a number of experts, 19 in all, were identified as potential trainers for SADCAS thus selected to attend the train the trainer course.



Participants pose for a photo during the training

The train the trainer course is in 3 phases. The first phase of the training which has now been completed was mainly theoretical with a few practical sessions and covered an in depth training on all the clauses of the key accreditation standards for a thorough understanding of the requirements of the standards. The second phase of the training undertaken from 28 June to 2 July 2010, focused on presentation skills during which participants prepared and made presentations on various aspects of the standards. The resource person for the train the trainer program is Mr John Peart an accreditation expert assisted by Mrs Marie Chilcott and Ms Onalenna Kethaetswe from the SADC/EU SQAM project team.

In phase three of the train the trainer course which started on 26 July 2010, trained trainers will conduct one day awareness seminars in their respective countries. The awareness seminars which will be sponsored by the

SADC SQAM/EU project are designed to provide exposure to the candidate trainers while at the same time offering awareness to stakeholders on accreditation issues. The awareness seminars will be held in 5 SADC member states. Once qualified the trainers will undertake training on behalf of SADCAS.



SADCAS Financial Administrator goes on Attachment Training

Mrs. Laureen Gudo the SADCAS Financial Administrator attended attachment training funded by SADC/SQAM/EU project at the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). The attachment was held at the SANAS offices in Pretoria, South Africa from 17 to 21 May 2010. The purpose of the attachment training was to familiarize with the overall set up and functioning of a Finance Department in an accreditation body. The training program covered financial reporting, budgeting techniques, debtors and creditors management, audit preparation and human resources management.

The Financial Administrator found the attachment beneficial. Mrs. Gudo was particularly interested in seeing how an accounting department is set up and functions in the accreditation industry, especially how the finance personnel contribute to the core business of the organisation.

Mrs Gudo would like to thank all who contributed to the success of her attachment namely the SADC/EU SQAM project, SANAS personnel and SADCAS' staff.



Training on EDNA at the Norwegian Accreditation

From 28 June to 5 July 2010, Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo the Technical Manager and Ms Linda Dirorimwe the Accreditation Administrator attended a training at the Norwegian Accreditation body "Norsk Akkreditering" (NA) in Oslo, Norway. The training was focused on the understanding of the NA quality system and the familiarization and implementation of the Electronic Accreditation Process Package (EDNA). EDNA is an IT software package for the coordination and management of the elaborate accreditation. The software was provided and installed on SADCAS network as part of an agreement between SADCAS and NA. During the training, Ms Ranorovelo had an opportunity to witness a certification audit carried out by a certification body that looks after a distribution of medicines, medical equipment and healthy products. Further training on the use of EDNA will be undertaken at SADCAS offices in Gaborone Botswana in August 2010. The training on EDNA is being funded under the auspices of the SADC/EU SQAM project.

NA is an internationally recognized accreditation body and has supported many developing countries in the establishment and operationalization of accreditation activities. Being a new accreditation body, the training received by SADCAS staff in Oslo was very useful and practical.



Proficiency Testing Issues

Proficiency Testing Australia (PTA) has issued its proficiency testing program schedule for July 2010 up to June 2011. Proficiency Testing Australia a subsidiary of the National Association of Testing Authorities Australia (NATA) offers Proficiency Testing programs for testing laboratories ranging from biological to chemical, construction materials, electrical, mechanical and non destructive. Proficiency testing Australia also offers proficiency testing programs for calibration laboratories ranging from acoustic and vibration, electrical, heat and temperature, physical and dimension to optics and radiometry.

The PTA proficiency testing program schedule for July 2010 up to June 2011 is available on the PTA website www.pta.asn.au



Towards global recognition of SADC industry's competence

Vision

To be a leading, regionally accepted and internationally recognized regional accreditation body aimed at supporting and enhancing industry and government's efforts and to be at the cutting edge of accreditation service

Mission

To provide an internationally recognized, cost-effective, regional accreditation service for SADC Member States aimed at supporting regional and international trade, enhance the protection of consumers and improve the competitiveness of SADC produced products and services, in both the voluntary and regulatory areas.

SADCAS Objectives are to provide:

- ↪ Accreditation services to Member States who do not have a national accreditation body, for their laboratories, certification and inspection bodies
- ↪ Accreditation services to Member States whose national accreditation body only service a limited scope of accreditation
- ↪ International recognition of conformity assessment results produced by organizations accredited by it
- ↪ Accreditation service that promotes, develops and maintains good regulatory practices
- ↪ An opportunity for SADC Member States to participate in multilateral arrangements for recognition of conformity assessment results
- ↪ A database of all organizations accredited by it
- ↪ Accreditation expertise, qualifying, registering and using experts from amongst SADC Member States
- ↪ A national focal point for accreditation for those SADC Member States using its service

Status of Key Accreditation Standards/Guides under Development

STANDARD		STATUS
ISO/IEC CD 17020:1998	General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.	The document was approved by Working Group (WG) 31 as a Committee Draft (CD) and the ballot was launched on 2010-05-27. The balloting period is 3 months so the result will be known on 2010-08-27.
ISO/IEC FDIS 17021-2	Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems and requirements for third – party certification auditing of management systems – Part 2	The document has been approved for Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) stage by WG 21. It is currently undergoing translation for the FDIS ballot which will be launched on 2010–09-16 for a 2 months' period. The result will be known on 2010-11-16.
ISO/IEC CD 17024	Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of persons	The CD was launched on 2010-07-22 for a period of 3 months.
ISO/IEC 17025: 2005	General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories	The document is currently under systematic review for a period of 5 months. The result of the systematic review will be known on 2010-09-15.
ISO/IEC CD 17065	Conformity assessment – Requirements for certification certifying products, processes and services	The document will be launched as a second CD during the second week of August 2010 for a period of 3 months.
ISO/IEC 17067	Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of product certification	This project is still in the early stages and WG 32 is currently busy working on a working draft document
ISO 15189: 2007	Medical Laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence	The standard is under revision, ballot was initiated and the CD could move to a Draft International standard (DIS)
ISO 13 528: 2005	Statistical methods for proficiency testing by inter laboratory comparisons	The revision of this international standard was approved
ILAC/IAF A1:07/2010	MRA/Requirements and procedures for evaluation of a regional group	In accordance with Stockholm ILAC resolutions GA 12.18 and GA 13.20 ILAC P1 and ILAC P2 have been withdrawn. The new version was published on 2010-07-07
ILAC/IAF A2:07/2010	MRA/Requirements and procedures for evaluation of a single accreditation body	

Diary of Upcoming Events

DATES	MEETING	VENUE
5 August 2010	Quality Awareness: Accreditation Seminar	Mountain Inn—Mbabane, Swaziland
17 August 2010	SADC Summit	Windhoek, Namibia
18 August 2010	Quality Awareness: Accreditation Seminar	Pestana Rovuma Hotel—Maputo, Mozambique
18 August	Quality Awareness: Accreditation Seminar	Standards Association of Zimbabwe Headquarters Harare, Zimbabwe
19 August 2010	Quality Awareness: Accreditation Seminar	Port Louis, Mauritius
19 August 2010	SADCAS Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
19 August 2010	SADCAS Human Resources and Remuneration Committee (HRRC) meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
20 August 2010	SADCAS Board of Directors meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
24 August 2010	Quality Awareness: Accreditation Seminar	Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo
30 August 2010	Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) General Assembly	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
7 September 2010	SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership review meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
15—17 September 2010	ISO/CASCO meeting	Geneva, Switzerland
22 September 2010	SADCAS/NORAD Annual Meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
28 September	European Accreditation (EA) meeting	TBC
29—30 September 2010	African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) Launch and General Assembly	Cairo, Egypt
20—30 October 2010	ILAC/IAF Annual Meeting	Shanghai, China

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