

SADCAS Admitted Full Member in AFRAC

SADCAS is proud to announce its admission as **Full Member** of the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC). The admission is in acknowledgement of SADCAS having fulfilled the requirements of AFRAC full membership, and committing itself to support the objectives of AFRAC, and abiding by the requirements of the AFRAC Bylaws.

According to the AFRAC Bylaws, Full members are accreditation bodies appointed or recognised by the government of the Member State or sub-regional block and legally established and operating in the African region and that declare in their membership application that they are operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 and the relevant ILAC/IAF documents and the requirements of AFRAC.

The membership certificate was signed and presented at a gala dinner hosted on Thursday 26 September 2013 in conjunction with the 4th AFRAC General Assembly. Six other accreditation bodies namely EGAC (Egypt), ENAO (Ethiopia), KENAS (Kenya), MAURITAS (Mauritius), TUNAC (Tunisia) and SANAS (South Africa) were also admitted as Full members at the same occasion.



Mrs Maureen P Mutasa receiving the signed SADCAS Full Member MOU from Mr Ron Josias—AFRAC Chairman

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Highlights from 2013 IAF/ILAC Seoul Meetings

The 2013 joint annual meetings of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) were held at Lotte Hotel, Seoul, South Korea from 2013-10-16 to 2013-10-25. Over 390 delegates attended the meetings with the following economies from the Africa region attending the meetings: SADC countries represented by SADCA; Egypt; Ethiopia; Kenya; SADCAS; South Africa; and Tunisia. The meetings started on 16 October 2013 with a series of IAF working groups meetings followed by ILAC and IAF committee meetings which were held in parallel. The ILAC and IAF General Assemblies and the joint ILAC/IAF General Assembly were held during the last 3 days of the meeting from 23 to 25 October 2013.

The 2013 ILAC/IAF annual meetings were hosted by the 3 accreditation bodies operating and providing accreditation in the areas of calibration, testing and inspection as well as management systems and product certification in South Korea namely: KOLAS, KAB and KAS. The South Korean accreditation bodies are active players in relevant international and regional accreditation fora and are signatory to the international accreditation recognition arrangements.

Membership and Secretariat issues – Two regional co-operations namely: African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) and the Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC) were admitted by the IAF as Special recognition Organizations – Regional Accreditation Bodies. Five accreditation bodies including KENAS (Kenya) were admitted to the IAF Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) since the last General Assembly. Two members resigned from the IAF. This brought the total membership of the IAF to 62 accreditation body members, 2 regional group members and observer members. Mr John Owen announced his retirement from the IAF Secretariat having served 3 chairs over a period of 11 years.

On the other hand, 1 regional cooperation (ARAC) and 7 accreditation bodies were admitted into the regional co-operations and associate categories of ILAC membership respectively since the 2012 annual meetings. The total ILAC membership of 148 bodies now covers 112 different economies worldwide broken down as 83 full members, 17 associate members from 29 economies, 18 affiliates from 22 economies, 6 regional co-operations and 24 stakeholder members. Approximately 44,000 laboratories and over 7500 inspection bodies are accredited by the 83 ILAC Full Members who are signatories to the ILAC Arrangement.

New IAF Multilateral Arrangement (MLA) and ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement Signatories - Since the 2012 annual meetings, the IAF welcomed 7 new IAF MLA signatories for the main scopes of ISO/IEC 17065 (4) and ISO/IEC 17021 Sub – scope and ISO 14001 (3). This brings the number of IAF MLA signatories to 58, 49 for the main scope for product certification in accordance with ISO/IEC Guide 65 and ISO/IEC 17065; 53 for the main scope of management systems certification in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021 sub scope for quality management systems and sub scope of environmental management systems. The IAF approved the endorsement of the Global Gap Integrated Farm assurance Scheme as a sub-scope under the main Scope of ISO/IEC Guide 65 or ISO/IEC 17065.

The ILAC General Assembly welcomed 17 new signatories to the ILAC Arrangements, 2 of which are for calibration, 3 testing (ISO/IEC 17025) including JANAC (Jamaica), 3 testing (ISO 15189) and 12 Inspection. Representatives of the signatory accreditation bodies signed their respective MLAs /MRAs at a ceremony held during the signing ceremony and gala dinner on 24 October 2013.

SADCAS Value Proposition

- ✓ Delivering confidence
- ✓ Assuring competency
- ✓ Guaranteeing quality

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Transition periods - The IAF General Assembly acting on the recommendation of the Technical Committee endorsed the following:

- ❑ **ISO/IEC TS 17021: Part 3 : 2013** : Conformity assessment requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems, as a normative document to be applied in conjunction with ISO/IEC 17021 for quality management system. The General Assembly further agreed that the deadline for conformance to ISO/IEC TS 17021: Part 3 be 2 years from the date of publication.
- ❑ **ISO/IEC 27001: 2013**: Information Technology – Security Techniques – Information security management systems – Requirements as a normative document. The General Assembly further agreed that the deadline for conformance to ISO/IEC 27001: 2013 will be 2 years from the date of publication. One year after publication of ISO/IEC 27001: 2013, all new accredited certifications issued shall be to ISO/IEC 27001: 2013.
- ❑ The next revisions of **ISO/TS 22003: 2007**: Food safety management systems – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food management systems as a normative document. The General Assembly further agreed that the transition period for the next revision of ISO/TS 22003: 2007 will be 3 years from date of publication.
- ❑ The next revision of **ISO 9001: 2008**: Quality management systems – Requirements, as a normative document. The General Assembly further agreed that the transition period for the next revision of ISO 9001:2008: will be 3 years from date of publication.

Joint Working Group (WG) on Maintenance of A-Series – This Joint WG is responsible for the IAF/ILAC Joint publications including IAF/ILAC A1, A2 and A5 the latter 2 of which have been recently revised. The revisions are designed to improve the peer evaluation process. The WG also looked at ILAC P 11, IAF ML 4 and IAF/ILAC A5 used to monitor performance of peer evaluators. A workshop was held on 18 October 2013 to discuss A1 and A2 the tools for regional evaluations. The workshop was attended by peer evaluators from 5 regional accreditation co-operations.

ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) - The inspection committee meeting held in Seoul was attended by 63 participants. Most of the countries in attendance confirmed that they had now published ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 in their respective countries' language. In reviewing progress made by the Committee since its establishment it was noted that transition period of 3 years to the 2012 version of ISO/IEC 17020 had been established, brochures on inspection had been published and inspection committee page had been established on the ILAC website. Review of applicability of ILAC documents had been completed and applicability of Proficiency Testing (PT) to inspection had been defined and included in ILAC P4 and P5 and were approved at the Seoul meetings. The Communiqué on ISO/IEC 17020 and ISO 9001 was updated and published. Draft ILAC A4: Application of ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 for the accreditation of Inspection Bodies was circulated to members for comment by 12 December 2013. A new working Group 3 (WG 3) was established to develop guidance on how to describe inspection scopes. SADCAS represented by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa will be participating in this WG which should bring sanity and consistency to the wide scopes of inspection activity. Another working group namely WG 4 was established to develop guidance to clarify testing performed as part of inspection. The work will be limited to testing during inspection and should provide guidance as to which standard shall be used for accreditation. The AFRAC is represented on this WG by Mr Mahmoud Eltayeb from Egypt.

ILAC Laboratory Committee (LC) – The Seoul meeting was attended by nearly half of members and identified the need for stakeholder representation in certain areas. The Committee urged accreditation bodies from the Asia Pacific region and South America to encourage their respective laboratory associations to participate in the ILAC LC. The ILAC LC participates in a number of WGs of the AIC, ARC, and IC. The LC re-enacted its link with the Proficiency Testing Working Group (PTWG). Regarding the case studies project, the ILAC Executive Committee approved a budget of US\$20,000 to progress the case studies project. At the Seoul meetings, the LC had long discussions on ISO/IEC 17025 and proposed that since ILAC is a liaison with ISO, ILAC should submit a new work item proposal to ISO to comprehensively revise ISO/IEC 17025 as soon as possible. However during discussions at approval of resolution stage at the General Assembly members felt that the accreditation bodies should be given time to consult with their accredited laboratories before ILAC

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can submit a new work item proposal (NWIP) to ISO CASCO. Thus the General Assembly agreed to allow accreditation bodies to have a 90 day consultation period with their accredited laboratories commencing 1 November 2013. A letter ballot based on one vote per member will be commenced on 1 February 2014.

ILAC Accreditation Committee – The ILAC AIC is supported by 12 working groups the newest of which is the PTWG. Nine out of the 12 WGs are active. ILAC P10: 01/2013: ILAC Policy on traceability of measurement results was published but based on feedback received a clarification on in house calibrations has been prepared and may be issued as a stand-alone document rather than as a clarification to ILAC P 10. ILAC P14:01/2013: ILAC Policy for uncertainty in calibration was revised to include clarification. The OIML has taken the leadership in revising ILAC G 24: 2007: Guidelines for the determination of calibration intervals of measurement instruments. This document is a joint publication between OIML and ILAC and gives laboratories guidance on how to determine calibration intervals. ILAC G 26: 07/2013 Guidance for the implementation of medical laboratory accreditation system which was only published last year will be revised following the publication of a new edition of ISO 15189. The PTWG revised ILAC P9: ILAC policy for participation in Proficiency testing Activities in a limited way to clarify its applicability to inspection. New work on revising ILAC G7: Accreditation Requirements and Operating Criteria for Horseracing Laboratories have been initiated. Discussions are still ongoing on the revision of ILAC G17: Introducing the concept of uncertainty of measurement in testing in association with the application of the standard ISO/IEC 17025. The AIC resolved to carry out a survey on how in house calibrations are being treated. An AIC mirror group is being established to revise the VIM. A working group was established to collect proposals for inclusion in the revision of ISO/IEC 17025. In view of the cooperation that the World Health Organization (WHO) has with accreditation bodies particularly in developing countries, the AIC recommended that the WHO membership category be upgraded.

Arrangement Committee Report - WG 2 is responsible for the maintenance of ILAC P4: ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Policy Statement, ILAC P5: ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement) and ILAC P 11: Monitoring Performance of ILAC Evaluators. The WG revised ILAC P4 to incorporate clarifications on use of PT in inspection and to include information on the process for gaining signatory status for an accreditation body that is a signatory to a regional mutual/multilateral arrangement that is recognized by ILAC. The ballot closed 17 October 2013 with the revised document being approved and is to be published shortly. Similarly ILAC P 5 was revised to include clarification regarding the use of the proficiency testing in inspection and the changes to Annex B as agreed at the ARC meeting in held in Frankfurt earlier in October 2013 and will be published shortly. The ARC approved ILAC general statement for transition to revised standards. Mr Warren Merkel was appointed as the convenor of WG 3. The WG 3 will be meeting the US Nuclear Regulatory Agency to continue discussing their interest in working with ILAC and recognizing laboratories accredited by ILAC signatories. Working Group 8 which was recently established has finalized a survey questionnaire which will be circulated regarding cross frontier practices. Working Group 9 has finalized first draft guidance to accreditation bodies and their accredited facilities for the management of extraordinary events. Draft will be circulated to members for comment.

ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee and the IAF Communications and Marketing Committee – Communications is a living issue and key to ILAC/IAF strategy. The theme for the 2013 World Accreditation Day (WAD) was "Accreditation facilitating world trade". A poster, joint press release and promotional brochure were issued for use in the commemoration activities. During the period under review 2 electronic newsletters were produced. Although subscription to the newsletter has increased and stands at 1200 is still low considering that there are over 44,000 laboratories that are accredited by ILAC signatories. The ILAC/IAF websites have been improved with promotional brochures translated into 12 languages. Website visits have increased by 12%. Further improvements such as best practice principles, file sharing, electronic balloting and online document commenting are set to be made. The revamped website will be launched in 2014. A number of promotional brochures were published during the period under review, such as ISO/IEC 17025 vs ISO 9001, brochures in line with WAD themes for the last 2 years. Looking ahead IAF welcome pack and route to signing the arrangements and increasing the evidence base through the capturing of case studies, promotion of ILAC and IAF logos, guidance for members' use in order to counter fraudulent websites will be the focus. The theme for 2014 WAD is "Accreditation: Delivering confidence in the provision of energy".

IAF/ILAC Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC) - The JDSC meeting was attended by over 60 delegates. The meeting agenda comprised of a review of activities undertaken by JDSC since the 2012 Rio meeting, presentations from

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OIML, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), ISO/CASCO, JANAC (Jamaica) who are a new signatory to the ILAC MRA, SADCAS and regions. The OIML presentation outlined the support provided by the OIML to developing countries. Whilst the UNIDO presentation outlined UNIDO' initiatives and support for developing countries in the area of SQAM in particular accreditation where UNIDO has been assisting accreditation bodies in working towards signatory status in international accreditation arrangements and also preparing CABs for accreditation. UNIDO is also now working with emerging regional accreditation co-operations, notably the Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC).

On developments in CASCO the meeting was informed of the approval by ISO of a NWIP on management system for anti corruption. It was also noted that within CASCO there is now a good representation of developing countries. ISO/IEC 17000 has just undergone systematic review and reconfirmed. ISO/IEC 17011 has also undergone systematic review and the results were tight. A decision on whether or not to revise the standard will be made in April 2014. ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 was published. A lot of documents which are related to ISO/IEC 17021 including road safety management system are under development such as ISO/TS 17067: Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes, ISO/IEC 17023: Guidelines for determining the duration of management system certification audits, ISO/IEC 17021: Parts 4 and 5, ISO/IEC 17026, ISO/IEC 17027 and ISO 22003. A systematic review of ISO 17030 and ISO 17040 will be undertaken in 2015. The MOU between ISO and IAF/ILAC is being revised. The ISO Policy Committee for Developing Countries (DEVCO) with funding mainly



Mr Ron Josias—SANAS CEO, Mr Robin Gopee—MAURITAS CEO and Mrs Maureen P Mutasa—SADCAS CEO chatting during a break at the 2013 Annual Meetings

from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) is sponsoring attendance to ISO technical committee meetings and training in prioritized areas such as energy management, food safety, social responsibility, and environmental management systems. With sponsorship from ISO DEVCO a training course on the new edition of ISO/IEC 17020 has been held in Jamaica with one scheduled to be held in Kenya. ISO has developed a one year Masters Degree course in standardization, social regulation and sustainable development and is also developing a Masters course with Georgia Technology in the USA in collaboration with ANSI.

In her presentation entitled "Journey to MRA: Jamaican Experience" Mrs Margurite Dunhill, Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation shared their experience in working towards signatory status which was achieved in August 2013. In her presentation on "Survey of conformity assessment bodies operating in the SADC Region" Mrs Mutasa shared with delegates the results of the survey and how the survey information was being used for strategic planning purposes and also in the development of technical assistance projects to prepare CABs for accreditation. She called upon international co-operating partners to develop technical assistance projects on preparing conformity assessment bodies for accreditation.

Presentations were also made by 2 emerging accreditation co-operations namely AFRAC and ARAC followed by discussions on future JDSC activities.

IAF/ILAC Strategic Plans

- ❑ **IAF Strategic Plan** – A survey was conducted on 3 top priorities that IAF should focus on in the next 5 years. A 2 days strategic planning session was held in May 2013. A new vision, mission and proposed strategic directions and actions were developed. Six strategic directions in order of priority were identified as follows:

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- ⇒ Improve MLA structure and process to accelerate expansion to meet growing demand from the market. Three actions have been identified to bring this into effect one of which is to review the MLA infrastructure including revising the MLA documents and rules for use of MLA mark. Recently MLA sub-scopes extended into FSMS and information security management system (ISMS) with applications already received for FSMS and ISMS.
- ⇒ Improve availability of competent Peer Evaluator resources. Two actions identified including a proposal that accreditation bodies pay fees for the peer evaluators in addition to paying the travel and subsistence costs and to appoint specific Peer Evaluators to serve as team leaders for a designated time (paid) as per the above.
- ⇒ Promote accreditation and the IAF MLA to major stakeholders e.g. regulators and end users for wider acceptance. Four strategic actions identified.
- ⇒ Improve consistency of accreditation practices amongst accreditation bodies. Three actions identified including obtaining feedback from customers regarding potential.
- ⇒ Increase support for the development of accreditation in developing economies. Two actions identified.
- ⇒ Reduce the duplication and variation of work between IAF and regional groups. Three actions identified including the need to improve communication between IAF and regions, review IAF process of conducting peer evaluators of regions and to establish an internationally recognized and documented system of peer evaluation.

There was a general discussion on the draft and the general comments were that the strategic plan should focus on outcomes rather actions. Members were requested to submit comments on the draft by 20 December 2013. A 2nd strategic planning session of the IAF Executive will be held in April 2014. The idea is to have the final strategic plan submitted for approval at the next IAF General Assembly.

- **ILAC Strategic Plan** - A strategic planning Task Force was established in May 2013 and appointed Graham Talbot as the facilitator. In July 2013 a questionnaire was sent out to membership. During the 2013 Annual meetings the ILAC Executive committee held a brainstorming session and reviewed responses to the questionnaire and agreed on a work plan for the Task Force to consolidate output of the questionnaire, formulate strategies and articulate new strategies. A 1st draft strategic plan is to be formulated by end January 2014 followed by consideration of the draft in February 2014. The ILAC Executive aims to consider the 2nd draft by April 2014. In June 2014 a draft strategic plan would be circulated to members for 60 day comment then presented at the next ILAC General Assembly for approval.

SADCAS Core Values

- **Impartiality** – We are organized and operate so as to safeguard objectivity and impartiality of our services.
- **Transparency** – We are dedicated to provide complete transparency in our work by communicating effectively with our clients.
- **Non-discrimination** – We treat our clients fairly and in an equitable manner.
- **Integrity** – We act with honesty and integrity.
- **Innovation** – We generate new ideas and utilize creative approaches to problems for continuous improvement.
- **Diversity** – We respect the diversity of our clients and ensure balance of interest in representation.

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ILAC/IAF Joint General Assemblies - The Joint ILAC/IAF General Assemblies were held on 24 October 2013 during which 7 resolutions were passed. Various reports were presented by international organizations IEC, ISO CASCO, OIML and UNIDO during which members were updated on developments in their respective organizations. A report on the Symposium on **"The Role of Conformity Assessment in facilitating International Trade"** which was held in conjunction with the annual meetings. The conformity assessment market has grown by 7.7% worldwide and similar trends were being noted in South Korea. In order to take advantage of the opportunities presented South Korea would like to set up an IT based testing and certification system to increase confidence, minimize duplication of domestic certification, expand MRA and MLA and bilateral MRA, increase participation of Korean experts in international meetings and host global meetings. In collaboration with UNIDO Korea is providing support to developing countries seeking the establishment of their own conformity assessment systems, training to developing countries, sharing of PTs. Reports of the joint IAF/ILAC Committees such as the JDSC, the MLA/MRA Joint Management Committee (JMC), Joint WG on Maintenance of A Series were also presented at the ILAC/IAF Joint General Assemblies. Reports from regional accreditation co-operations APLAC, EA, IAAC, PAC, AFRAC, ARAC and SADCA were also presented.

During the Joint General Assembly a report was presented on further harmonization of activities within the IAF, ILAC and the Regions by the convener of the Task Force (TF) which was established in 2010 following the vote on merger and comprises members from the regions. The terms of reference of the TF are to harmonize work at international and regional levels. In its deliberations the TF considered the various inputs i.e. comments from members during 2009 ballot, responses from regions in 2008. The TF further noted that new regions have been established since that time, number of members in both IAF and ILAC, key deliverables of ILAC/IAF i.e. The MRA/MLA and increased global confidence in accreditation and challenges faced especially availability of resources, further harmonization, need for regional flexibility in serving regional markets, models for implementation of regional and global responsibilities, efficiency in decision making processes and monitoring of compliance. The TF prioritized activities that should be effected at international level including leadership, vision, promotion and support to developing countries so as to serve the future market for accreditation and conformity assessment which wants one accreditation system with one mark.

Election of Directors - Mr R Dougherty (ANAB, USA) and Mr X Jianhua (CNAS, China) will complete their second terms as IAF Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively at the 2015 General Assembly. Dr T Facklam (DAkkS, Germany) will complete his second term at the 2015 General Assembly, as Director representing Accreditation Body members located in a high income economy. Mr M Stadler (BDI) will complete his second term at the 2015 General Assembly, as Director representing industry and user association members. Mr Roger Bennett (IIOC) will complete his second term at the 2014 General Assembly, as Director representing Conformity Assessment Bodies Association members. The IAF General Assembly appointed Ms Leena Tikkanen (FINAS) for a second term of 2 years as a member of the Financial Oversight Committee for 2014 and 2015. The rest of the IAF Directors namely Mr E Romyanon (NSC, Thailand) who was elected as IAF Technical Committee Chairman, Mr S Keeling (JAS-ANZ) was elected unopposed as IAF MLA Chairman and Mr J Murthy (UKAS) was elected unopposed as IAF Communications and Marketing Committee Chairman are serving their first terms of office. Mr B Venkataram completed his second term as IAF Development Support Committee Chairman at the 2013 General Assembly.

No elections were held for the following positions at the ILAC General Assembly as the Directors are still serving their terms of office: Mr P Unger, Chairman ILAC, Ms M Malqvist Nilsson Vice Chairman respectively; Ms I Martinez, Chair Arrangement Committee; Ms R Robertson, Chair Accreditation Committee; Mr L Ilan, Chair Inspection Committee; Mr J Murthy, Chair Marketing and Communications Committee; Ms I Somma, Chair JDSC; Mr E Feller Unaffiliated Representative; and Mr S Sidney, Chair Laboratory Committee. Ms Etty Feller (ISRAC) was appointed Chair of the Arrangement Management Committee to complete the current term until the 2014 General Assembly and as a replacement for Mr Andreas Steinhorst who resigned from the position. The ILAC General Assembly paid tribute to Mr Alan Squirrel who will be retiring from the ILAC Secretariat having served since its inception.

The 2013 ILAC/IAF meetings were once again a good opportunity for networking, sharing experiences and keeping up to date with accreditation developments worldwide. Thanks to the Joint IAF/ILAC JDSC for sponsoring SADCAS Chief Executive Officer's attendance to these very important meetings. The 2014 ILAC/IAF Annual meetings will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 8 to 17 October 2014.

Highlights from the 4th AFRAC General Assembly Meeting

The African Cooperation in Accreditation (AFRAC) held its 4th General Assembly meetings from 21 to 26 September 2013 at La Mada Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya. The 4th General Assembly was hosted by the Kenya National Accreditation Service (KENAS). Two workshops namely: Refresher workshop for AFRAC committee members and peer evaluators and ISO/IEC 17011 were held in conjunction with the 4th General Assembly on 21 to 22 and 23 September 2013 respectively, followed by AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and Technical Committee meetings which were held concurrently on 24 September 2013, the AFRAC Executive Committee meeting which was held on 25 September 2013 and the 4th General Assembly on 26 September 2013 culminating with a gala dinner on the same day.

Opening Ceremony

The 4th AFRAC General Assembly meeting was officially opened by the Honourable Adan Mohamed the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development at a ceremony held on Monday 23 September 2013 and attended by over 50 AFRAC members, cooperating partners, such as Physikalisch- Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) Germany, stakeholders from Kenya, senior Kenyan government officials from the Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development, representative of JICA, the Japanese International Cooperating Agency. The New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) was also represented at the meeting. The ceremony started off with a prayer and welcoming remarks by the Chief Executive Officer of KENAS, Mr Sammy Milgo. This was followed by welcoming remarks from the KENAS Board Chairman, Professor Marion Muriqi.



Delegates at the 4th AFRAC General Assembly opening ceremony

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In his speech, Dr Wilson Songa, the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development noted the important role that accreditation plays in promoting intra and inter African trade and acknowledged that this will go a long way towards ultimately improving the quality of the lives of the African people. He thanked AFRAC as one of the pillars of the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) for the role it was playing in the development of accreditation across the continent and challenged AFRAC to hasten its development so that it plays a greater role in facilitating trade.

In his key note address, Honourable Adan Mohamed started off with a request to the august body for a minute's silence in remembrance of all those who had died and injured as a result of the terrorist attack at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi on Saturday, 21 September 2013 just as the AFRAC General Assembly meetings were starting. He highlighted the important role of trade in the continent's development. "Although Africa has 10% of the world population, Africa only contributed 2% to world trade", he said. He noted that Africa is endowed with a lot of resources and that there was great opportunity for economic development. "Just doubling Africa's contributions to world trade will have a great impact on the quality of the lives of our people." he said. The Cabinet Secretary noted that the challenge is therefore to enhance the competitiveness of African goods and services so as to enhance trade. He said that in order to meet this challenge, it is imperative for countries to invest in the necessary infrastructure and to have the institutional reforms in the area of standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology. Countries need to formulate industrial policies which take into account SQAM infrastructure. He encouraged accreditation bodies to enhance their work and urged the business community to use accreditation services and governments to support accreditation bodies in order to realize growth in economic and social development. In his concluding remarks Honourable Adan Mohamed thanked AFRAC for choosing Kenya as the venue of its 4th General Assembly and declared the 4th General Assembly opened.



From Left Mr Ron Josias AFRAC Chairman, Professor Marion Mutugi KENAS Board Chairman, Honourable Adan Mohamed Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development and Dr Wilson Songa Principal secretary of the same Ministry



Mrs Maureen Mutasa and Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo in attendance at the 4th AFRAC General Assembly Meeting

In her statement to the General Assembly, Ms Kathrin Wunderlich outlined the support that PTB Germany had and continued to provide to the establishment of PAQI including the set up and operationalization of AFRAC. The AFRAC Chair, Mr Ron Josias informed delegates about the achievements that AFRAC had made since its launch in Cairo, Egypt in 2010. He acknowledged that there was still a lot of work to be done in order to ensure that the AFRAC MRA is operational and recognized. He encouraged emerging African accreditation bodies to work towards international recognition by going for peer evaluations. "If we can contribute to the 7% growth required in order to reduce poverty then we can all be proud", he said.

In the last presentation of the opening ceremony, the Chief Executive Officer of KENTRADE informed delegates of the implementation of the Kenya National electronic single window system project.

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The opening ceremony of the 4th AFRAC General Assembly ended with a vote of thanks by the Director of ceremonies Mrs Susannah Muniyiri Ochieng the Deputy Director of KENAS.

MRA Committee Meeting

The MRA Committee meeting was held on 24 September 2013 during which the meeting considered the recommendations from the refresher workshop on the MRA policies, procedures and forms held from 21 to 22 September 2013, deliberated on the report of the KENAS evaluations, considered the reports on the performance of trainee evaluators who had participated in peer evaluations, and developed the 2013/14 peer evaluation plan and the Committee's work plan for the year 2013/14. A total of 10 resolutions were adopted including amongst others the establishment of an MRA Document Working Group to look into the changes proposed in the MRA documents and the development of a peer evaluator guide for use by AFRAC peer evaluators and qualification of peer evaluators.

Technical Committee Meeting

The Technical Committee which was also held on 24 September 2013 was attended by 16 delegates. Noting that only 7 responses had been received out of 24 circulated the Technical Committee resolved that the gap analysis questionnaire be re-circulated. Three Working Groups were established to assist the Technical Committee in executing its duties namely: Working Group on calibration and traceability, Working Group on Proficiency Testing (PT) and Working Group on International documents implementation. The Technical Committee also reviewed progress on the development of a tool kit on the establishment of accreditation bodies especially multi economy accreditation body and the Technical Committee resolved to work with speed in the development of the tool kit for the benefit of emerging accreditation bodies. It was further recommended that a workshop on sharing experiences be organized in conjunction with the 5th AFRAC General Assembly and to ensure that emerging accreditation bodies are invited to attend the workshop.



Delegates to the AFRAC Technical Committee Meeting

The 4th AFRAC General Assembly Meeting

The 4th AFRAC General Assembly which was held on 26 September 2013 was attended by over 50 delegates. Amongst which were 7 accreditation bodies namely EGAC (Egypt), ENAO (Ethiopia), KENAS (Kenya), MAURITAS (Mauritius), SADCAS (SADC), SANAS (South Africa) and TUNAC (Tunisia).

In the Chairman's report, Mr Josias highlighted a number of activities that had been undertaken during the period of reporting. He informed the meeting that the MOU with the other 3 pillars of the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) had been concluded with the MOU being signed in June 2013. The Chairman also attended CAMI, Council of African Ministers of Industry meeting held in June 2013 during which the CAMI approved the PAQI. The PAQI was subsequently launched in August 2013 supported by African Union Commission (AUC). Final approval of the PAQI by the Heads of States is expected early 2014. Going forward The AUC will be represented at all PAQI meetings. The MOU with APLAC was also concluded during the period under review and 2 of AFRAC trainee evaluators Mr Mahmoud Altayeb and Mrs Maureen Mutasa attended an ISO/IEC 17020 course organized by the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC). APLAC also provided the Lead Evaluator for the KENAS evaluation. APLAC has registered 3 of AFRAC evaluators amongst them Mrs Mutasa of SADCAS in order to fast track their evaluation experience. A Technical Agreement was signed with ARAC in order to fast track both regions' achievement of recognition in ILAC/IAF arrangements. AFRAC is in,

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the process of concluding the MOU with the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) with AFRAC having already benefited from the training of its Secretariat and sharing of experiences and assistance in the development of AFRAC MRA documentation. The Chairman reported that AFRAC' application as a member of IAF had been approved. AFRAC is now a recognized region and what is left is for AFRAC to prove our compliance with relevant IAF documents. Regarding representation at meetings, AFRAC was represented by Mr Robin Gopee at TUNAC World Accreditation Day (WAD) commemorations, by Mrs Mutasa at the launch of the Nigeria accreditation body whilst the Chairman attended the ARSO and AFSEC General Assemblies. AFRAC also participated at ILAC/IAF 2012 annual meetings, the April 2013 ILAC meetings, the May 2013 EA General Assembly and the June 2013 ILAC/IAF mid- term meetings. The Chairman informed the General Assembly of the KENAS peer evaluation which had been undertaken from 26 to 30 August 2013 with 4 AFRAC trainee evaluators being exposed to the process. The Chairman concluded his report by thanking PTB Germany for the funding most of the activities undertaken during the period of review and also the Government of South Africa through the Department of Trade and Industry for funding the Secretariat and some of the activities. He then presented the Executive Committee's Work plan for the period 2013/14 for approval by the General Assembly.

In his report to the General Assembly the AFRAC Treasurer noted that AFRAC since its inception has been supported by partners mainly PTB Germany and SA dti and that financial reports had been presented in the reporting formats of the respective donors. He then presented the 2014 budget amounting to US\$ 378,400 comprised of project budget of US\$ 232,700 and Secretariat budget of US\$ 145,700, for approval by the General Assembly. On membership fee structure the Treasurer reported that the Executive Committee had come to the conclusion that the fee structure needs further consideration but nevertheless proposed that the next AFRAC meeting be subject to registration fees. He said that the fees will be kept as low as possible. Concern was expressed during the General Assembly that registration fees may deter stakeholder participation at a time when AFRAC is trying to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible.

In her report to the AFRAC General Assembly, the PTB Germany representative Ms Kathrin Wunderlich outlined the support provided to AFRAC amounting to US\$126,000 during the period under review and committed further support to AFRAC for the 2014 year. She explained that the funds were provided by the German Federal Ministry of Economy.

A total of 35 resolutions were adopted at the 4th AFRAC General Assembly with elections being held for the various positions. Mr Robin Gopee was elected as the Vice Chairman, Boughalmi Moez as the Chairman of the MRA Committee and Mr Sammy Milgo as the Chairman of the Technical Committee, all serving their second terms. The SANAS maintained its position as the Secretariat of AFRAC. The AFRAC General Assembly approved 7 accreditation bodies to the category of Full members namely: EGAC (Egypt), ENAO (Ethiopia) SADCAS (SADC), MAURITAS (Mauritius), KENAS (Kenya), SANAS (South Africa and TUNAC (Tunisia). The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for AFRAC membership was held at a gala dinner held at La Mada Hotel during which delegates were treated to Kenya hospitality under the stars.

The AFRAC General Assembly was a great success and many achievements were made during the year. SADCAS was represented at the 4th AFRAC General Assembly by Mrs Maureen Mutasa the Chief Executive officer and Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager. The next AFRAC General Assembly will be hosted by ENAO in Addis Ababa Ethiopia in 2014 at dates still to be confirmed.

AFRAC Holds Refresher Workshop for AFRAC MRA Committee Members and Peer Evaluators

The Refresher workshop for AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Committee members and peer evaluators was held from 21 to 22 September 2013 in conjunction with the 4th AFRAC General Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop was attended by 14 participants. This was the first workshop to be organized by the AFRAC MRA Committee. The objective of the workshop was to review the AFRAC MRA Committee documents and to share experiences from the KENAS pre peer evaluation which was undertaken in August 2013 so as to improve the MRA process.

On the first day of the workshop participants reviewed AFRAC MRA policies, procedures and forms and made a number of recommendations for consideration by the MRA Committee at its meeting subsequently held on 24 September 2013.

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peer evaluation to be undertaken by AFRAC. The report was presented by Mr Mahmoud Eltayeb with interjections from Mrs Maureen Mutasa who both participated in the evaluation. The KENAS peer evaluation was conducted in accordance with the AFRAC requirements for the evaluation of a single accreditation body and was undertaken from 26 to 30 August 2013 by a team of 6 members lead by Mr Geoff Hallam. In sharing experiences, a number of issues were highlighted and formed the basis of the discussions with a number of recommendations for improvement to the MRA process being recommended for consideration by the MRA Committee.

AFRAC Holds ISO/IEC 17011 Workshop

The ISO/IEC 17011 Workshop was held on 23 September 2013 following the opening ceremony of the 4th AFRAC General Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop was attended by over 45 participants from both developed and emerging accreditation body members of AFRAC, conformity assessment bodies and government representatives.

In the workshop opening remarks, Mr Ron Josias, the Chairman of AFRAC welcomed all participants to the workshop and outlined the objectives of the workshop which was to go through the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011, the international standard which accreditation bodies have to comply with in order to be internationally recognized under the international accreditation arrangements of the ILAC and the IAF. The workshop was also designed to provide a platform to share experiences in implementing ISO/IEC 17011. The AFRAC Chairman noted that this was the first such workshop to be organized by AFRAC and hoped that participants benefit from the workshop. The AFRAC Chairman encouraged participants to actively interact during the workshop so as to achieve the objectives of the workshop following which he declared the workshop open.

The workshop was chaired by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS). In her opening remarks Mrs Mutasa outlined the workshop programme and introduced the resource person for the workshop Mrs Yolanda Vinnicombe, the Quality Manager of the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS).

In 2 sessions Mrs Vinnicombe walked participants through the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 focusing on the following clauses of ISO/IEC 17011:

- ❑ 4: Accreditation Body;
- ❑ 6: Human Resources;
- ❑ 7: Accreditation Process; and
- ❑ 8: Responsibilities of the Accreditation Body and the CAB.

In her presentation on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011, Mrs Vinnicombe also walked participants through the requirements of ILAC A3 and A5. During the sessions, participants were given the opportunity to share experiences in the implementation of these clauses of the standard with conformity assessment body's participants also having their share of time to give their perspectives on the receiving end of the accreditation services. Judged from the outline of the requirements, the ensuing lively discussions and sharing of experiences, the workshop objectives were met. The workshop resolved to recommend to the AFRAC Technical Committee that a Proficiency Testing (PT) Group be established to look into the challenges faced in the PT area including the facilitation of the movement of PT/ILC artifacts across borders. The participants found the workshop to be a very good platform for sharing experiences in the implementation of ISO/IEC 17011 and recommended that in future more time be allocated for such workshops.

In her closing remarks, Mrs Mutasa emphasized the need for accreditation bodies to fully comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 and the relevant ILAC/IAF documents in order to ensure credibility of accreditation bodies' services and to achieve signatory status in international accreditation recognition arrangements. She then thanked Mrs Vinnicombe and participants for their active interactions.

SADCAS CEO Amongst Qualified AFRAC Peer Evaluators

Based on the recommendations of the Evaluators Working Group, the AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Committee at its meeting held on 24 September 2013 qualified the following peer evaluators:

- ❑ Mrs Christinah Leballo (SANAS);
- ❑ Mrs Sonia Mahdoui (TUNAC);
- ❑ Mrs Maureen Mutasa (SADCAS); and
- ❑ Mr Mahmoud Eltayeb (EGAC)

These are the first group of peer evaluators to be qualified by AFRAC. The SADCAS CEO and Mr Mahmoud Eltayeb have also been qualified as peer evaluators for the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) in their respective scopes of expertise.



Mrs Maureen Mutasa has over 31 years' diverse experience in the food industry, lecturing and agricultural research, standards development and management, conformity assessment and accreditation. Mrs Mutasa joined SADCAS in June 2008 as its first Chief Executive Officer. Prior to joining SADCAS, Mrs Mutasa was with the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) for 20 years, 8 of which she was the Director General. Mrs Mutasa has held various leadership positions regionally and internationally and was Chair of ISO Policy Committee for Developing Countries (ISO DEVCO); a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Joint Implementation - Accreditation Panel and Clean Development Mechanism - Accreditation Panel. Mrs Mutasa chaired the SADC Cooperation in Standardization (SADCSTAN) and SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) and has served on various Boards including the SANAS Board of Directors, Standards Association of Zimbabwe, Food Standards Advisory Board of Zimbabwe, Agricultural Research Council of Zimbabwe, Dairibord Holdings Board, Standard Chartered Board etc. She is an Executive member of the SADCAS Board of Directors.

With a first class BSc Honours, Degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Wolverhampton (UK) and MSc Food Science with Distinction from the University of Zimbabwe, Mrs Mutasa is a "Beit Scholar" and attended management development and leadership training programmes in Singapore and in the USA as a Singapore International Foundation Scholar and Eisenhower Fellow respectively.

SADCAS Staff and NAFPs Trained on ISO/IEC 17011

As SADCAS is working towards international recognition it is necessary that all staff should be familiar with ISO/IEC 17011: Conformity Assessment – General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies (ABs) Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs). SADCAS therefore engaged SANAS to conduct a training course on ISO/IEC 17011. The training course was facilitated by Yolanda Vinnicombe, the Quality Manager of the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). The course which was attended by SADCAS staff and some of the National Accreditation Focal Points from Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe was undertaken on 22 and 23 August 2013 at the Cresta Lodge in Gaborone.

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Participants to the ISO/IEC 17011 Training Course

In her opening remarks the SADCAS CEO, welcomed everyone in particular the NAFPs and the course presenter Mrs Vinnecombe whom she said has a wealth of experience in implementing and monitoring compliance to ISO/IEC 17011 as she is the Quality Manager at SANAS. The SANAS has been in existence for over 35 years and is already signatory to the international accreditation arrangements. She noted that ISO/IEC 17011 is the international standard that SADCAS has to comply with in order to be signatory to international accreditation requirements. All participants were encouraged to actively participate throughout the course.

During the two days, the Trainer went through the ISO/IEC 17011 standard clause by clause with discussions on how the SADCAS Quality Management System had addressed the requirements of the standard. During the first day of the training course the Trainer covered Clauses 1: Scope; Clause 2: Normative References; Clause 3: Terms and definitions; Clause 4: Accreditation body; Clause 5: Management; Clause 6: Human Resource; and Clause 8: Responsibilities of the accreditation body and the CAB. On the second day, the focus

was on the technical requirements of the standard as contained in Clause 7: Accreditation process. This was particularly useful to NAFPs as they were better able to understand the accreditation process on which they do receive a number of enquiries from stakeholders in their respective countries.

In preparing for the course all participants were required to undertake a "hot potato" on line test in order to gauge the understanding of all participants of the standard before the course and to determine areas requiring focus. At the end of each day to reinforce and revise the material covered the participants went through the relevant questions from the hot potato. The course was interactive and beneficial to all those who attended.

In her closing remarks Mrs Lauren Gudo the SADCAS Financial Administrator thanked the Trainer and all those who had attended especially those coming from outside Botswana. For SADCAS staff it was an opportunity for those not familiar with ISO/IEC 17011 to familiarize with the standard and it was also an opportunity to identify areas of improvement in the SADCAS QMS especially as SADCAS prepares for a pre peer evaluation which is a step towards international recognition. For NAFPs it was an opportunity to also understand accreditation and SADCAS processes better.

NAFPS were also thankful for the opportunity to have been in the training and said the course had been an 'eye opener' as it had enhanced their understanding of what an Accreditation body does and this would help them in carrying out their duties.

NAFPS Attend ISO/IEC 17011 Course

A total of 12 National Accreditation Focal Points from Angola (1), Botswana (2), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (1), Lesotho (2), Malawi (1), Mozambique (1), Namibia (1) and Seychelles (1) attended an ISO/IEC 17011 training course held in Gaborone, Botswana from 10 to 11 December 2013. The training course was facilitated by Mrs Yolanda Vinnicombe, the Quality Manager of the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS).

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In 2 days, the facilitator Mrs Vinnicombe went through the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 clause by clause with discussions on how the SADCAS Quality Management System has addressed the requirements of the standard. During the first day of the training course, Ms Vinnicombe covered Clause 1: Scope; Clause 2: Normative References; Clause 3: Terms and Definitions; Clause 4: Accreditation Body; Clause 5: Management; Clause 6: Human Resources; and Clause 8: Responsibilities of the Accreditation Body and the CAB. On the 2nd day of the course, the focus was on technical requirements of the standard as contained in Clause 7: Accreditation Process. SADCAS management and staff were present to support the facilitator in the discussions on how SADCAS QMS addresses the various requirements. Towards the end of the course the National Accreditation Focal Points were appraised on the status of the SADCAS Quality management System.



NAFPs at the ISO/IEC 17011 training course pose for a photo with Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo SADCAS Quality Manager

This course was held as part of the SADC EU EDF 10 REIS programme. In her closing remarks Ms Kuena Molapo the SADC Programme Officer SQAM thanked the facilitator and all those who had attended. Judged from the level of participation, the course was very interactive and beneficial to all those who attended. It was an opportunity for National Accreditation Focal Points to understand accreditation and SADCAS processes better thus enhance their effectiveness as they undertake their duties in their respective countries.

Financial Administrator Attends Tax Update Seminar

The SADCAS Financial Administrator, Mrs Laureen Gudo attended a tax update seminar held at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC) on 18 September 2013. This was part of the SADCAS Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme for 2013. The seminar which was organized by the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants was well attended with about 400 people attending the seminar.

The purpose of the seminar was to update all accountants practicing in Botswana of the following:

- ❑ Recent tax amendments and implications on the tax payer
- ❑ Proposed VAT & Banking Act Changes and their implications.
- ❑ Progress update on the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) new initiatives such as e-filing
- ❑ Challenging areas of tax legislation
- ❑ Payroll planning
- ❑ Most common VAT errors and exposure minimization
- ❑ Self Assessment Tax (SAT) for individuals



This was a very useful seminar to keep one abreast with developments and changes and to clarify on areas where many professionals are making errors as representatives from BURs, tax consultancy firms and lecturers were presenting issues. A certificate was granted for 8 hours verifiable CPD.

Update on Assessor Training/Mentoring and Registration

The assessor mentoring project which is funded under the PTB Germany fund to the SADC Program for Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) was completed in October 2013. Among the 43 trainee assessors, 10 Lead Assessors from Botswana (2), DRC (1), Malawi (1), Mauritius (1), Namibia (2), Tanzania (1), Zimbabwe (2) and 17 Technical assessors from Botswana (3), DRC (4), Malawi (2), Mauritius (1), Namibia (2), Seychelles (2), Tanzania (1) and Zimbabwe (2) were qualified after the mentoring stage and have since been registered as part of the pool of assessors who will undertake assessments on behalf of SADCAS. A total of 8 trainee assessors are to undergo further training/mentoring before being qualified.

As at 30 November 2013 SADCAS had registered 19 Lead Assessors and 36 Technical Assessors.

Figure 1 - Breakdown of Registered Lead Assessors According to Field

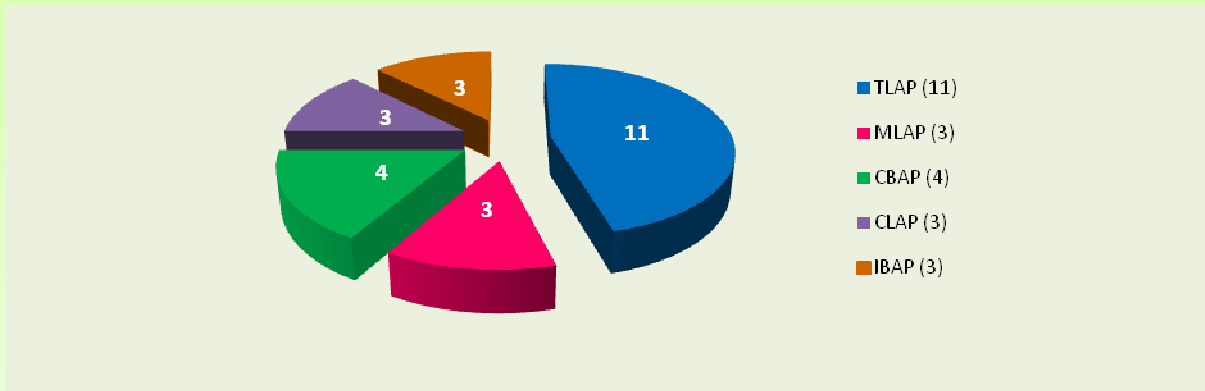
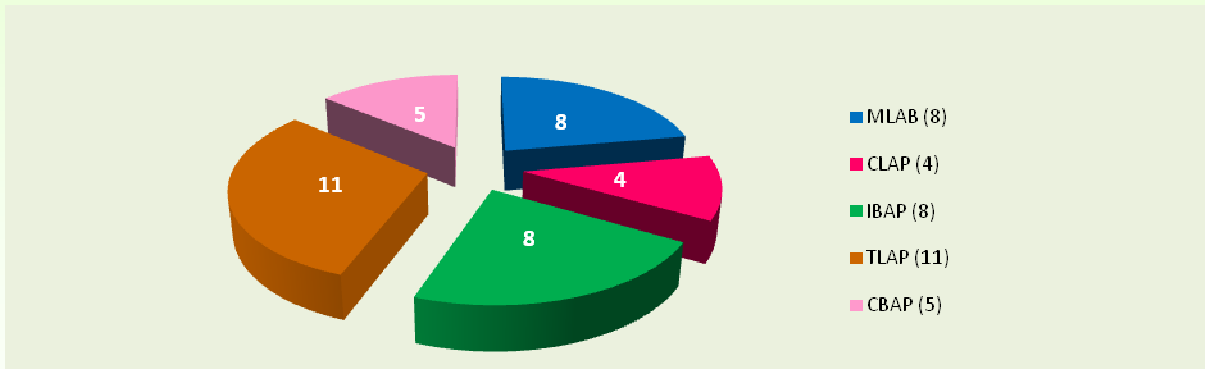


Figure 2 - Breakdown of Registered Technical Assessors According to Field



The cost of travel of the assessment team who undertake assessment in the countries serviced by SADCAS constitutes about 50% of the cost of accreditation. As much as possible assessors should be locally based so as to minimize the cost of accreditation. Training of assessors is therefore an ongoing activity in SADCAS. A further pool of experts are expected to undergo training as assessors under the auspices of the SADC EU EDF 10 REIS project which is now underway. Training of assessors will be prioritized based on scope of demand and the anticipated scopes of demand and taking into account the current pool of registered assessors.

SADCAS Holds 3-Day ISO 15189:2012 Bridging Course in Tanzania

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was engaged by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) to conduct a 3-day bridging training course on the requirements of the new version of the ISO 15189:2012 for staff from the Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The course was held from 21 to 23 October 2013 at the VETA Training Centre in Dodoma, Tanzania.

The objective of the course was to train management and staff of medical laboratories on the requirements, implementation and internal auditing to the new edition of the ISO 15189:2012 and to draw comparison between the new and previous edition. The course also elaborated on SADCAS TR 10 – SADCAS Policy ISO 15189:2012 Transition.

Twenty-six participants attended the training course most of whom were laboratory quality officers or laboratory safety officers from different institutions/hospitals such as Dodoma Hospital, Bombo Hospital, Amana hospital, Tumbi Hospital, Amana Hospital, Morogoro Hospital, Mt Meru, Kahama Laboratory, Ndanda Hospital, Kigoma Hospital, Musoma Regional Hospital, Agakhan Hospital, Hydom Hospital, Iringa Regional Hospital, Muhimbili National Hospital, Mbeya Reference Hospital, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, National Health Laboratory – Quality Assurance and Training Centre (NHL-QA&TC) and MNH Zanzibar.

In his opening remarks Mr Abdul Mwanja – Logistic Laboratory Officer of the Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare welcomed participants and guests – Mr Patrick Mateta – Senior Programme Coordinator CLSI, Mr Wilson Mtotela – Mentor & CLSI Lead Assessor, and the SADCAS Trainer Dr Hemraj Farojdeo. In his opening remarks Mr Majige representing the higher official from the Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare was pleased to note the high attendance and in particular to see laboratory quality officers and laboratory managers from respective zones and regional hospitals as well as from some district laboratories amongst the participants. Mr Majige thanked the CLSI for the technical support provided to the Ministry and wished all participants fruitful discussions during the training.

Judged by the feedback from participants, the course was well organized, very useful and met participants' expectations.

First ISO 15189 Course Held in Botswana

SADCAS held its first ISO 15189 training course at Oasis Motel, Tlokweng in Gaborone, Botswana from 12 to 16 August 2013. The course was based on the new ISO 15189:2012: Medical laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence published on 1 November 2012. This 3rd edition of the standard cancels and replaces the 2nd edition ISO 15189:2007. The objective of the course was to train management and staff of medical laboratories from Botswana on requirements, implementation and internal auditing of the new edition of the standards.

Eight participants from 4 medical laboratories namely; Botswana Harvard Aids Institute Partnership for the HIV Research and Education; Diagnofirm Medical Laboratories; Medi-Path Medical Laboratory; and National Health Laboratory – Ministry of Health, attended the course. Participants comprised of management, supervisors and laboratory technologists.



Participants at the ISO 15189 training course held in Botswana

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The SADCAS Accreditation Administrator – Ms Linda Dirorimwe welcomed participants, Mr Edward Mmatli, the NAFP for Botswana and the Trainer, Dr Hemraj Ferojdeo, outlined the objectives of the course and introduced the trainer. During the closing session Mr Keabetswe Ramalepa on behalf of the participants, expressed their gratitude to SADCAS for organizing the course. He also expressed participants' appreciation to the Trainer who, whilst making the understanding of the ISO 15189 standard easy, illustrated many clauses with several life examples in laboratory practice.

ISO/IEC 17025 In-house Course held in Mozambique

SADCAS was engaged by Kenmare Mine to conduct a five-day training course on ISO/IEC 17025 requirements, implementation and internal auditing for Kenmare laboratory staff comprising of laboratory superintendents, chemists and trainee chemists. The training course was held at Kenmare Mine in Moma, Mozambique.

Kenmare Mine which is located in Moma District of Mozambique extracts and processes titanium dioxide, rutile, zirconium, alumina and other related minerals. The mine is adjacent to the Mozambican Channel and it ships its products to different continents of the world. The mine's laboratory performs x-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometry for most of their chemical testing. They also do some wet chemical determination of iron and sieve analysis for particle size determination. Top management at the mine made a decision for the laboratory to be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025.

Ms Daleen Wohler gave the welcome remarks and urged participants to ask for clarity whenever necessary and to ensure that they leave the course with a very thorough understanding of ISO/IEC 17025. After introductions, the participants wrote the pre-course quiz, which is designed to determine areas of focus for the course.



Kenmare Laboratory staff during the course with Mr Benson Gabi, SADCAS Trainer
(extreme right)

The objective of the 5 day ISO/IEC 17025 requirements and internal auditing course is to promote a thorough understanding of ISO/IEC 17025 standard requirements and to impart internal auditing knowledge and skills to calibration/testing laboratories staff so as to monitor compliance with ISO/IEC 17025. During the closing session, the Trainer, on behalf of SADCAS, thanked Kenmare Mine management for choosing SADCAS to conduct the course. He also thanked participants for their active participation and wished them success in their accreditation efforts.

One of the course participants Mr Nelson Machai gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the participants. He thanked

the Trainer for all the knowledge offloaded during the five days and expressed that participants were now fully aware of the requirements hence the objectives of the course had been met.

Third ISO/IEC 17020 Course held in Tanzania

SADCAS conducted its third five day ISO/IEC 17020 training course in Tanzania. The course was held from 4 to 8 November 2013 at Millennium Sea Breeze Resort Hotel in Bagamoyo, about 70km from the capital Dar es Salaam. The course was attended by 11 participants from three (3) conformity assessment bodies.

The course which was conducted by Mr Dominic Mwakangale a SADCAS Trainer started with welcoming remarks from the trainer who gave a brief background on SADCAS, highlighted SADCAS membership in regional and international accreditation fora and progress with training/registration of assessors and trainers who undertake assessments and training respectively on behalf of SADCAS. He also highlighted the number of facilities that had been accredited by SADCAS under the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement which is designed to assure the credibility of SADCAS accreditation services.



Participants at the ISO/IEC 17020 course held in Bagamoyo, Tanzania

During the course the Trainer elaborated on each clause of ISO/IEC 17020:2012. The course helped participants to understand the importance of competence evaluation of personnel, facilities, traceability of measurements, environment conditions, inspection methods and procedures as vital tools towards accreditation. Participants were also appraised on why procedures need to be documented by all the staff performing specific tasks and why they are consolidated into a single document called Quality Manual and why procedures should be available at all locations of their work places. The reasons for undertaking internal audits, the audit process and competence requirements for auditors were also covered.

The enthusiasm to learn was very much felt during the training and the daily attendance of the participants. Based on the feedback from participants, the course was well organized and met participants' expectations.

Another ISO/IEC 17025 Course Held in DRC

The newly launched Association of Congolese Laboratories (ASCOLAB) engaged SADCAS to conduct a 5 days' training course on ISO/IEC 17025 requirements and internal auditing in French for laboratory staff from the agriculture and mining sectors from the southern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The course which was held from 22 to 26 July 2013 at Gecamines Laboratories located in Likasi was attended by 25 participants drawn from ASCOLAB membership.

The training course was jointly funded by PTB Germany through the SADC Programme for Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology and ASCOLAB. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has prioritized quality as a key factor in support of national economic development and growth targets. The main objective of ASCOLAB is to assist Congolese laboratories to achieve accreditation thus making DRC test certificates acceptable regionally and internationally. ASCOLAB aims to support its member laboratories by facilitating training in various aspects of good laboratory practice including the development of management systems based on relevant accreditation standards such as ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189.



Course participants—Members of ASCOLAB

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The five day course was designed to promote an understanding of the accreditation standard requirements, implementation and to monitor compliance thereof. The participants comprised of management, supervisors, laboratory technicians, sampling personnel and laboratory administration staff.

The overall response from participants was that the course was well planned, very useful and very relevant to the laboratory personnel.

Zambia Bureau of Standards Accredited

Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) has been accredited by SADCAS in the scope of Mass Metrology and Volume Metrology in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025. Zambia Bureau of Standards accreditation covers mass pieces: 1-20mg, 20-50mg, 50-100mg, 100-200mg, 200-500mg, 100mg-1g, 1-2g, 2-5 g, 5-10g, 10-20g, 20-50g, 50g, 100g, 200g-2kg, 5kg, 10kg and 20kg; weighing instruments self – indicating: 0-5g, >5-100g, >100-200g, >200g-1kg, >1-2kg, >2-5kg, >5-10kg, >10-20kg, >20-40kg, >40-2000kg; and on-site calibration for item 2 and volume measures: micropipettes, volumetric flask and volumetric dispenser. Through this accreditation, Zambia Bureau of Standards has been granted the unique accreditation number CAL-8 003 and CAL-9 002 indicating that Zambia Bureau of Standards is a SADCAS calibration accredited Laboratory for Mass Metrology and Volume Metrology respectively. The ZABS is the second facility in Zambia to be accredited by SADCAS.



Sharing a lighter moment during the Ceremony from left to right: Dr David Nama—Chairman ZABS Standards Council, Mr Stephen Mwansa—Permanent Secretary Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, SADCAS CEO and Mr Manuel Mutale, ZABS Director

The certificate was handed over during a ceremony held on 16 August 2013 at the Southern Sun Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia. In his opening remarks the Director of ZABS, Mr Manuel Mutale gave a background to the establishment of the ZABS, the services that ZABS offers highlighting its status as the national standards body of Zambia which offers a one stop shop for Standardization, quality assurance and metrology services. He also briefed the delegates present on the ZABS accreditation roadmap and plans for the future.

The Chairperson of the ZABS Standards Council Dr David Nama, welcomed guests to the cocktail party and highlighted the significance of the accreditation achievement to both the ZABS and the Zambian economy and congratulated management and staff of the ZABS for the achievement. He also thanked the government of Zambia for its unwavering support to the ZABS over the years and also thanked the other partners in particular the EU who had provided equipment for the ZABS laboratories and the United Nations Industrial

Development for its technical assistance throughout the accreditation process.

Speaking during the certificate handover ceremony Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer said that the accreditation assessment of the ZABS Mass and Volume Laboratories was undertaken jointly by SADCAS and the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) under the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement in order to ensure the credibility of SADCAS certificate whilst at the same time benefiting from skills transfer. She thanked the Government of Zambia for its support in promoting the acceptance of SADCAS in Zambia as well as its support towards sustainability of SADCAS. In congratulating the ZABS, Mrs Mutasa reminded the ZABS that the certificates which were issued on 10 July 2013 are valid for 5 years until 9 July 2018. And that SADCAS would undertake periodic surveillance assessments throughout the validity period of the accreditation certificates. She noted that the ZABS already had plans to extend the scope of accreditation to the other scopes of calibration and that the ZABS also had plans to have its testing services accredited.

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In his key note address the guest of honour, Mr Stephen Mwansa Permanent Secretary Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, acknowledged the importance of accreditation to the national economy and outlined his government's support to the ZABS a key element of the Zambian quality infrastructure. The Permanent Secretary also outlined his government's support to the multi economy accreditation body SADCAS including the establishment of the National Accreditation Focal Point for Zambia which is now housed within his Ministry having relocated from the ZABS. He further informed delegates present about the achievements of the NAFFP. He then congratulated the ZABS not only for its accreditation achievement but for the valuable role that the organization is playing in the Zambian economy as the national standards body of Zambia and encouraged local companies to utilize ZABS services.



Guest of Honour Mr Stephen Mwansa Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Zambia delivering the key note address

In between the speeches guests were entertained by vibrant performances by a traditional group of dancers and melodious singing and guitar work by the Director of Ceremonies, Mr Pontiano Kaiche a renowned folklore singer in Zambia. A vote of thanks was given by a representative of manufacturers Mr Victor Kanyika from TAZAM Pipelines who applauded ZABS for the accreditation and encouraged ZABS to extend its scope to the other areas of operation such as temperature and pressure to name a few. The handover ceremony was attended by over 40 stakeholders including representatives of industry, cooperating partners, government officials, ZABS Standards Council members, management and staff and the media.

SADCAS Accredits NDT Inspection Solutions P/L

The NDT Inspection Solutions' certificate handover ceremony was held on 12 September 2013 at Conquerar House, Harare, Zimbabwe at 14:30 hours. The NDT Inspection Solutions is the first inspection body to be accredited by SADCAS. NDT Inspection Solutions was accredited in the scope "Type A – Inspection of Pressure Equipment" in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020:1998 and SADCAS TR 05:2012. The accreditation covers the field inspection of pressure equipment as defined in the Factories and Boiler Regulations, Zimbabwe Government Notice No. 279 of 1976 and Pressure Vessel Regulations, Zimbabwe Government Notice No. 303 of 1976 as amended. Through this accreditation, NDT Inspection Solutions P/L has been granted the unique accreditation number INSP-5 001 indicating that it is now a SADCAS accredited Type A (third party) inspection authority for modifications, repairs and statutory examination and tests of pressure equipment and vessels.

Speaking during the ceremony which was attended by Engineer Samuel Kundishora the Permanent Secretary Ministry of ICT, Dr Mapuranga the Acting Director Occupational Safety and Health, National Social Security Authority (NSSA) commended NDT Inspections Solutions for being the first Inspection body to be accredited by SADCAS. He acknowledged the important role that inspection bodies play in safeguarding the health and safety of workers and the public at large. He noted that through accreditation inspection bodies' competence is assured and hence the requirement by NSSA for all inspection bodies operating under the Factories and Works Act to be accredited. He commended SADC for the establishment of SADCAS which provides ready access to cost effective accreditation services and congratulated NDT Inspection Solutions management and staff for the achievement. The Acting Chief Inspector of Factories, Mr Gilbert Mhangwa outlined the accreditation process which NDT Inspection Solutions had gone through highlighting all the key accreditation stages in particular the pre assessment and initial assessment stages during which he himself participated as an expert of the applicable Act and regulations in Zimbabwe.

In her remarks Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer articulated what inspections involve and the need for inspection bodies to ensure that they have the people, facilities, technical expertise and management systems in order to undertake inspections professionally and competently thus deliver technically accurate inspection results to

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client. "Machines are known to cause accidents from time to time of industrial revolution and the worst culprits are boilers and other pressurized vessels. Although laws and standards are available, the hazard remains. What is needed is a system to assure the competence of inspection bodies that examine this machinery" she said. Accreditation which is defined as the process by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition to an organization or person's competence to carry out specific tasks involves the creation of confidence in the work carried out by inspection bodies amongst other conformity assessment service providers. "Accreditation is the basis of trust" she added. The Chief Executive Officer of SADCAS then gave a brief background to the Memorandum of Understanding which was developed following NSSA's requirement that all inspection bodies be accredited in order to be registered as an inspection authority. She noted that out of the 9 applications, SADCAS has accredited 3 inspection bodies with NDT Inspection Solutions as the first followed by the Standards Association of Zimbabwe - Engineering and Veritec Engineering the latter having been accredited on 10 September 2013. Mrs Mutasa encouraged NDT Inspection Solutions to maintain their accreditation throughout the validity period of 5 years for the accreditation certificate. She further encouraged other sectors to embrace accreditation so as to safeguard the health and safety of workers and the public at large.

In his speech, Mr Godwell Zimondi, Managing Director, NDT Inspection Solutions outlined the journey towards accreditation which started in 2010 culminating in the Company, an SME being the first to be accredited by SADCAS. Mr Zimondi paid tribute to the staff of NDT Inspection Solutions especially Ms Jacqueline Gonye, the Quality Manager who had worked tirelessly to make the accreditation dream a reality. He also thanked NSSA, the regulator for making accreditation a requirement as he noted that with accreditation the competence of his Company in inspection services has been assured by an independent authoritative body SADCAS.



Mrs Mutasa SADCAS CEO pose for a photo with Ms Jacqueline Gonye (Left) and Mr Godwell Zimondi (Right)



Delegates at the NDT inspection Solutions Certificate Handover Ceremony

The certificate handover ceremony, whose master of ceremonies was Mr Morisio Jaya, was attended by over 40 stakeholders including clients, other inspection bodies' representatives, regulators, the press etc. After the ceremony delegates were treated to a cocktail party in celebrations of NDT Inspection Solutions P/L achievement.

Water Utilities Corporation Mmamashia Laboratory Accredited

The Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) Laboratory at Mmamashia Water Treatment Plant has been accredited in the scope of microbiology and chemical analyses of water in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 by SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS).

Mr Gaselemogwe Senai, WUC Infrastructure Director, in his welcoming remarks, at the certificate handover ceremony held on 10 October 2013, explained that though the journey to accreditation had not been easy and started in 2008, it was fulfilling for the team to achieve accreditation as they felt that being accredited would assist in assuring the public that the WUC water was safe to drink. He invited all the guests to drink the tap water that had been provided, instead of bottled water as water provided by WUC was indeed safe to drink.

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Mrs Maureen Mutasa the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer said WUC Mmamashia laboratory was the second testing laboratory in Botswana to be accredited by SADCAS. "Through this accreditation Mmamashia Laboratory has been granted the unique accreditation numbers TEST-1 0004 and TEST-5 0009 indicating that Mmamashia Laboratory is now a SADCAS accredited testing laboratory for microbiological and chemical analyses of water" she said. Mrs Mutasa defined accreditation as a process by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition of an organization or person's competence to carry out specific tasks. She explained that in many economies accreditation is being embraced by governments as a mandatory activity in many regulated areas because of the benefits accreditation brings to help governments meet their responsibilities and safeguard the public and protect the environment. Mrs Mutasa said that SADCAS accreditation services kick started through a Twinning Partnership Arrangement with the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) which involves joint assessments. This is meant to ensure the credibility of SADCAS certificate whilst at the same time benefiting from skills transfer. In conclusion Mrs Mutasa congratulated Water Utilities for the achievement but reminded them that periodic surveillance assessments would be undertaken during the validity of their accreditation certificate to ensure they maintain the accreditation. She encouraged Mmamashia laboratory to extend its scope of accreditation to other methods of test and WUC to extend accreditation to other WUC laboratories.



From left to right: Mr Mginani Mbayi, Deputy CEO WUC, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, CEO SADCAS, Mr Godfrey Mudanga, CEO WUC and Mr Gaselemogwe Senai, Director Infrastructure WUC



Mrs Mutasa—SADCAS CEO handing over the accreditation certificate to Mr G Mudanga—WUC CEO

The WUC Chief Executive Officer, Mr Godfrey Mudanga said testing forms part of a quality management system and can be used to eliminate trade barriers. He said during the process of implementing the Quality Management System (QMS), "the ethos of our laboratories has undergone significant transformation to an institution that has set in place professional practices and now has its competence recognised internationally." Mr Mudanga went on to say that because of their commitment to quality they had implemented ISO/IEC 17025, the international standard to which they have been accredited. Mr Mudanga said they had seen an increase in the use of the WUC laboratory service and through accredited testing services, would be able to increase public confidence in their ability to make reliable and valid decisions on water quality vis-à-vis the safety, health and welfare of the public. He also said Botswana was privileged to have SADCAS set up its offices in the country thus provide ready access to accreditation. In conclusion, Mr Mudanga congratulated and thanked all the WUC staff who had worked tirelessly to make accreditation, a major milestone in the history of the corporation, a reality.

A vote of thanks was given by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr Mginani Mbayi who encouraged staff to ensure that the fruits of accreditation to come to fruition as the Corporation intended to have more of their laboratories accredited.

The ceremony which was attended by over 20 staff, invited guests and the media fraternity ended with a tour of the WUC Mmamashia Laboratories.

Botswana Testing Laboratory System Limited

The Botswana Testing Laboratory System (BTLS) was launched on 13 August 2013 at the Gaborone International Conference Centre (GICC) in Gaborone, Botswana. The launch which was sponsored by PTB Germany under the SADC project on "Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Trade Enhancement, Competitiveness and Consumer Protection in SADC" was attended by over 30 stakeholders from both private and public laboratories, government and the private sector. The Chairman of BTLS Dr Bonang Nkoane welcomed guests to the launch, gave an overview of the BTLS in which she highlighted the BTLS objectives and the importance of quality assurance and accreditation to the Botswana economy. and introduced the Patron of the BTLS, Engineer Neo Moroka who was also the guest of honour at the launch. This was followed by a presentation by Mr Pilot Masunga who gave a



background on the establishment of the BTLS, outlined the progress made, the challenges faced and the BTLS plans for the future. In her remarks made on behalf of PTB Germany the sponsor, Dr Elsie Meintjies, the SADC Senior Programme Officer for Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM). She underscored the importance of the BTLS as the voice of Botswana in regional and international fora in the area of testing. She also commended Botswana on its strong participation in SADC SQAM activities and noted that Botswana had hosted a number of regional meetings over the years and also played leadership roles in the various SADC SQAM structures. In conclusion Dr Meintjies encouraged laboratories in Botswana to work towards accreditation and seek accreditation from none other than their own conceived multi economy accreditation body SADCAS whose offices are based in Gaborone, Botswana.



In the official launching speech the guest of Honour Mr Neo Moroka informed delegates that he had accepted to be Patron of the BTLS because of the need and importance of enhancing the quality of laboratory services in Botswana. He said that the timing of the launch of the BTLS was opportune noting the economic diversification drive in Botswana so as to reduce dependency on the mining sector. He noted the importance role that the BTLS will play in the economic development of the country thus contributing towards the President's vision of raising Botswana's bar to a fully developed country. Engineer Moroka thanked the sponsor and the press for their presence and encouraged them to promote the BTLS and educated the public on the importance of SQAM issues to the country economic development. His speech was followed by the launch of the BTLS when the Patron marked the

launch by setting the colourful balloons free and signed a launch certificate. The vote of thanks was given by My Theko Fako the Deputy Managing Director of the Botswana Bureau of Standards.

The BTLS was established in 2009 as an association of testing laboratories with the main objective of promoting quality laboratory services and enhancing laboratory capacity within the country. It was formed from the National testing System, which was previously under the coordination of the Botswana Bureau of Standards. The Association was officially registered in January 2013 as an independent entity following the fulfillment of the requirements of the Registrar of Societies for an association. The BTLS is governed by a 12 member Executive Committee and 3 co-opted members representing the various sectors of industry within the country. The current Secretariat of the association is with BOBS and the chair is the University of Botswana, Chemistry Department.

The launch of the BTLS brings to 8 the number of laboratory associations established in the SADC region with the NLA South Africa being the oldest followed by the NLA Zimbabwe. Other countries within the SADC region namely DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia have also established laboratory associations. The laboratory associations which provide a platform for all laboratories to share experiences and information aimed at improving the credibility of laboratory services and raising the profile of the laboratory profession, play a key role in the social economic development of countries, a role which is commonly shared with SADCAS and other accreditation bodies operating in SADC. The SADCAS Chief Executive Officer Mrs Maureen Mutasa and the NAFB –Botswana, Mr Edward Mmatli amongst other guests attended the launch of the BTLS.

SADCAS CEO and Technical Manager Visit CABs in Zimbabwe

As part of SADCAS promotional and marketing plans for 2013/14, the SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa and Technical Manager Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo were in Zimbabwe from 11 to 13 September 2013 where they met with representatives of 5 conformity assessment bodies. For cost effectiveness, the targeted marketing visits to conformity assessment bodies in Zimbabwe were undertaken in conjunction with the third meeting of the Advisory Committee for Inspection Bodies in Zimbabwe which was held on Tuesday 11 September 2013.

On 11 September 2013, the SADCAS CEO and Technical Manager met with 4 representatives of the CIMAS Laboratory at its offices in Harare, Zimbabwe. The meeting was attended by Mrs R Magaramombe, the Laboratory Manager, Mrs E Chidziva, the internal Audit Coordinator and Head of Serology Department, Mrs S Mavuto the Quality coordinator and Chief Laboratory Scientist and Mrs S Sibanda the Chief Accountant. The CIMAS Laboratory provides a range of medical tests in five scopes bacteriology haematology, biochemistry, serology and histology/cytology and collectively the laboratory has a wealth of over 100 years experience. The consulting pathologists are Dr ME Chitiyo and Dr D Madziwa. The purpose of the visit was to clarify any issues related to SADCAS accreditation.

After the visit to CIMAS Medical laboratories, the SADCAS team met with 3 representatives of the Biomedical Research and Training Institute (BRTI) at its new offices in Mt Pleasant Harare, Zimbabwe. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify issues related to SADCAS accreditation services.



A laboratory technologist poses for a photo during the tour of UZ-UCSF Central Laboratory

The visit to UZ UCSF Central Laboratories was undertaken on 12 September 2013 when the SADCAS CEO and Technical Manager met with three representatives of the UZ UCSF Central laboratory at its offices in Harare at Parirenyatwa Hospital. The meeting was attended by Dr Munjoma, the Laboratory Nominated Representative, the Quality Manager and the Laboratory Coordinator, Mr Tinashe Chidemo. The UZ UCSF Central Laboratory which is situated at the College of Health Sciences within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Medicines and Paediatrics provides centralized high complexity testing to the four Clinical Research Sites and has 6 on site laboratories that perform rapid tests and ensure that the right specimens are collected. The laboratory is accredited to ISO 15189 by SANAS. The laboratory offers testing in the scopes of serology, hematology, cytometry, immunology, molecular biology, clinical chemistry, microbiology and cytology and TB testing. The laboratory has up to date medical testing equipment and uses the laboratory data management system, laboratory information system and freezer works for electronic management of specimens. The purpose of the visit was to request the Laboratory to consider transferring its accreditation from SANAS to SADCAS now that SADCAS is operational and to explain the changeover process.

On Friday 13 September 2013, the SADCAS CEO visited ANTECH Laboratory in Kwekwe, Zimbabwe. Antech Laboratory offers geological, metallurgical and environmental tests mainly to the mining sector in and around Kwekwe and services some of the mining giants Anglo Platinum, Metallon Gold, Zimplats, Duration Gold etc. The laboratory has been accredited by SANAS for about 10 years now and was reaccredited in 2008. The laboratory employees 49 staff and has been in operation for over 20 years. The laboratory is owned by Clarity Minerals based in Canada. Noting that the laboratory was accredited by SANAS and that SADCAS is now operational, the purpose of the visit was to request the Laboratory to consider transferring its accreditation from SANAS to SADCAS and to explain the changeover process. After the meeting the SADCAS CEO toured the laboratory.



A laboratory technician busy at work at ANTECH Laboratory

The targeted visits to Zimbabwe were successful and all undertaken as per schedule. The meetings with laboratories' representatives were worthwhile as it was an opportunity to clarify the accreditation process to clients, clarify the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement changeover process to potential clients.

NAFP-Botswana Visit Medical and Testing Laboratories in the Southern Part of Botswana

The National Accreditation Focal Point for Botswana visited 4 laboratories in the southern part of the country namely; Department of Geological Surveys Laboratory; National Drug Quality Control Laboratory; Scottish Livingstone Memorial Hospital Laboratory and National Food Technology Research Centre (NFTRC). This initiative is a continuous exercise by NAFPs as part of the SADCAS marketing strategy to promote and market the importance and benefits of accreditation and SADCAS services in Botswana.

A visit to Department of Geological Surveys Laboratory was undertaken on 6th August 2013 and first NAFP representative for Botswana, Mr Edward Mmatli met with the Laboratory Manager, Mrs Masego Laetsang. The Laboratory of the Department of Geological Surveys, Ministry of Minerals Energy and Water resources is based in Lobatse where departmental Headquarters are located. The Department of Geological Survey is currently in the process of restructuring into an autonomous government owned research institution. The laboratory intends to apply for accreditation and is in the process of submitting the application. The Departmental management has embraced accreditation as it is supportive of the Laboratory's accreditation efforts. The Laboratory is involved in testing of geological samples, including soil, water and rock samples for the presence of trace metals, rare-earth metals anions and oxides. The Laboratory has a staff complement of 5 chemists, 5 technician and 2 artisans and it is made up of the following sections: main laboratory, water analysis, geology, petroleum products analysis. The Department also has another laboratory, Mineral Dressing which deals with physical parameters of geological samples, construction materials such as aggregates and clay. The laboratory participates on water analysis PT scheme and geological analysis PT scheme for the quality assurance of its tests.

The National Drug Quality Control Laboratory was visited on the 7th August 2013 and the Chief Pharmacist, Mrs Koketso Motalaote of the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory (NDQC) met with Mr Edward Mmatli (NAFP-Botswana). The NDQC Laboratory falls under the Ministry of Health and is based in Gaborone. It analyses medical drugs and related substances in accordance with international practices, particularly, US pharmacopeia, UK pharmacopeia, WHO for medicinal drugs and ISO especially for medical devices to ISO standards for the latter. All medicines entering the country are analysed to ensure their safety and efficacy. The medicines and related substances act that was recently approved in the last session of Parliament (2013) will result in establishing the Medicines Regulation Authority and widening the mandate of NDQC to include veterinary and cosmetics. The Laboratory has a staff complement of 15; 3 pharmacists, 10 Bachelor of Science graduates (chemists and microbiologists), 1 pharmacy technician and 1 supplies officer. The NDQC is expected to merge with the Drug Regulatory Unit to form the envisaged Medicines Regulatory Authority. The Laboratory analyze drugs and related substances from both the government and private sector and reports to Ministry of Health. All chemists and microbiologists have participated in ISO/IEC 17025 training. The NDQC laboratory is made up of the following laboratories: physicochemical Laboratory (physical and chemical tests on medicines and related substances); microbiology laboratory (microbiological tests on medicines and related substances); medical devices laboratory (tests on medical devices such as gloves, condoms, syringes, etc.); and pharmacognosy and phytochemical laboratory (tests on natural medicines and their constituents, e.g., digoxin, opium) and research and development laboratory which coordinates research requirements on medicines and related substances. It participates in an inter comparison scheme for condoms every year.

NAFP-Botswana representatives Mr Edward Mmatli, and Ms Boikhutso Pheto and the SADCAS Technical Manager Jeanne Francoise Ranorovelo visited Scottish Livingstone Memorial Hospital Laboratory on the 3rd September 2013 and met with the Laboratory Management Team headed by Principal Medical Scientific Officer, Ms Julia Ngidi. Scottish Livingstone Memorial Hospital Laboratory is based in Molepolole at the Scottish Livingstone Memorial Hospital and it has 22 technical staff members, 3 auxiliaries, 1 store keeper and 1 cleaner. The laboratory provides tests in 7 scopes namely; CD4, viral load, chemistry, haematology, microbiology, serology, and blood bank. The health care auxiliaries are based at the reception and they register all patients and receive samples from other clinics including bleeding outpatients. The Laboratory analyze all samples from its large catchment area made up of 56 clinics located in Kweneng East and some other clinics from Kweneng West regions. It uses an inter-grated laboratory information management system. The laboratory can receive about 1000 samples in a day.

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A visit to National Food Technology Research Centre (NFTRC) was undertaken on 11 September 2013 by the two NAFP-Botswana representatives who met with Dr Mary Binta. The NFTRC is based in Kanye and is a food research center focusing in food processing, quality and safety. Almost all of its staff members have been trained on ISO 9001 as the institution want to obtain ISO 9001 certification. However some laboratories have already been earmarked for accreditation as demanded by its customers and the Laboratories participate in water and food analysis PT scheme in microbiology, biotechnology and genetically modified organisms (GMO) testing for quality assurance of its tests.

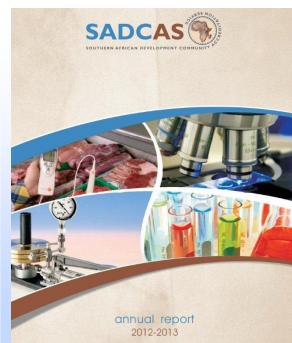
NAFP-Swaziland Participate in a Trade Fair

In an effort to promote the benefits and importance of accreditation as well to market SADCAS services, the NAFP – Swaziland participated in an international trade fair which was held from the 30th August- 7th September 2013 in Mbabane, Swaziland. Approximately 200 stakeholders from industry, conformity assessment bodies, general public and also policy makers visited the Regulatory and Quality Infrastructure Development Section stand of which the accreditation unit forms part of. During the Fair SADCAS promotional materials were distributed to the various stakeholders who visited the stand. The NAFPs also handled enquiries and explained what accreditation is all about and its benefits and importance. The NAFP also informed stakeholders about SADCAS a multi - economy accreditation body established to meet the accreditation needs of SADC Member States especially those without own national accreditation bodies including Swaziland. The Fair contributed to increasing awareness on accreditation and SADCAS. Up to date SADCAS has one application for accreditation that is under process.



NAFP-Swaziland—Ms Sybil Dlamini talking to stakeholders during the Fair

The 5th SADCAS Annual Report Published



The 5th SADCAS annual report, including the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2013 has been published. Also included in the annual report is the Independent Auditors Report, Chairman's statement and the Chief Executive Officer's report on the activities for the year.

The full Annual Report is available to all stakeholders from SADCAS offices, National Accreditation Focal Points offices in the respective SADC Member States that are serviced by SADCAS. The annual report is also available on the SADCAS website on then link http://www.sadcas.org/doc/sadcas_annual_report2012-13.pdf

SADCAS Additional Promotional Materials Available in French and Portuguese

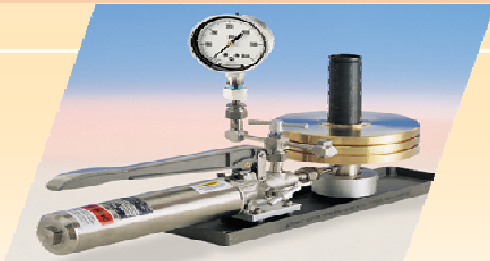
In an effort to ensure that SADCAS captures the entire SADC market the SADCAS has published its new pamphlets in French and Portuguese. The pamphlets are intended to provide a microcosm to stakeholders on the SADCAS' accreditation programmes and accreditation process.

The four pamphlets are on the Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Programme, Inspection Bodies Accreditation Programme, Medical Laboratory Accreditation Programme and Testing Laboratory Accreditation Programme.

The pamphlets briefly explain the background to accreditation, the need for accreditation, the fields or scopes of accreditation on offer, the accreditation criteria, the accreditation process, assessors, the accreditation certificate and the appeals process.

The pamphlets can be downloaded from the SADCAS website by following link:

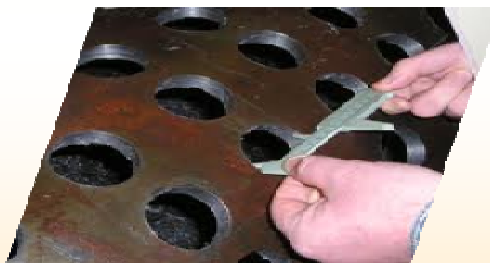
<http://www.sadcas.org/promotionalMaterial.php>



- Programme d'accréditation des laboratoires d'étalonnage (CLAP)
- Programa de Acreditação de Laboratórios de Calibração (CLAP)



- Programme d'accréditation des laboratoires d'essais (TLAP)
- Programa do SADCAS de Acreditação dos Laboratórios de Ensaios (TLAP)



- Programme d'accréditation des organismes d'inspection (IBAP)
- Programa do SADCAS de Acreditação dos Organismos de Controlo (IBAP)



- Programme d'accréditation des laboratoires de biologie médicale (MLAP)
- Programa da SADCAS de Acreditação de Laboratórios Médicos (MLAP)

Upcoming Training Courses—February to March 2014

NO.	COURSE	DATE(S)	VENUE COUNTRY/CITY
1.	ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements & Internal Auditing (In-house)	10 to 14 February 2014	Botswana (Gaborone)
2.	ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements & Internal Auditing	17 to 21 February 2014	Swaziland (Mbabane)
3.	ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements & Internal Auditing	10 to 14 March 2014	Namibia (Windhoek)

New Training Course Introduced

SADCAS has introduced a new training course on **ISO 15189:2012 Requirements & Internal Auditing [Bridging]**. The objective of the 3-day training course is to impart internal auditing knowledge and skills to laboratory staff. The course is designed to cover the requirements of the new standard and highlight the changes made. For the benefit of those laboratories which are already at the various stages of the accreditation process the course will also elaborate on SADCAS TR 10: ISO 15189:2012 Transition Policy :

The course is made practical as it includes a practical internal auditing session.

The resource person for the course is drawn from a pool of SADCAS qualified and experienced experts who have up to date involvement in accreditation matters and in particular undertaking internal audits of laboratory systems.

For more information please contact SADCAS:

Email: info@sadcas.org

NOTICE!!

Christmas and New Year Holidays!!

SADCAS office will be closed from Monday, 16
December 2013 and re-opens on
Monday, 6 January 2014

SADCAS Training Courses

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) provides training for conformity assessment bodies' management and staff. Conformity assessment bodies (CABs) include calibration/testing laboratories, medical laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.

SADCAS Trainers

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

Training Programmes

SADCAS currently offers the following accreditation training courses:

Five-Day Requirements and Internal Auditing Training Courses on the Various Key Accreditation Standards

- ISO 15189 Requirements and Internal Auditing **for medical laboratories**
- ISO 15189:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing [Bridging course] **for medical laboratories**
- ISO/IEC 17020 Requirements and Internal Auditing **for inspection bodies**
- ISO/IEC 17021 Requirements and Internal Auditing **for management systems certification bodies**
- ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements and Internal auditing **for calibration/testing laboratories**

The objective of the 5 days courses is to provide an insight into the respective system standard's requirements and implementation as well as to guide CAB's personnel on how to prepare and carry-out an internal audit so as to monitor compliance with the system standard. These 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 each course. Participants are also evaluated throughout the course.

Three-Day ISO/IEC 17025 International Auditing

The objective of the 3-day training course is to impart internal auditing knowledge and skills to laboratory staff. The course covers the following main topics:

- ✓ Introduction to Auditing
- ✓ The Audit process
- ✓ Reporting and corrective actions
- ✓ Auditor competence
- ✓ Benefits of an auditing

One-day Awareness Training Courses on the Various Key Accreditation Standards

- ISO 15189 for **medical laboratories**
- ISO/IEC 17020 **for inspection bodies**
- ISO/IEC 17025 **for calibration/testing laboratories**

The objective of the one day awareness training courses is to create awareness on the benefits and importance of accreditation and the requirements of the respective accreditation standards.

The SADCAS courses can be conducted in-house. In-house courses have the following benefits:

- ✓ You choose the venue of the course in
- ✓ You choose the date of the course
- ✓ Cost effective as a number of staff can be trained at the same time
- ✓ Promotes team work as members have access to the same consistent information

For more details please contact SADCAS
Email: info@sadcas.org

Status of Key Accreditation Standards and IAF/ILAC Documents

STANDARD	STATUS
ISO/IEC 17000:2004 Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles	Close of review
ISO/IEC 17007:2009 Conformity assessment – Guidance for drafting normative documents for use for conformity assessment	Standard confirmed
ISO/IEC 17011:2004 Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies	Close of review
ISO/IEC NP 17021-1 Conformity Assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems	New project approved
ISO/IEC TS 17021-4 Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 4: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of event sustainability management	International standard published Available as at 2013-09-30
ISO/IEC DTS 17021-5 Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 5: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of asset management system	Close of voting/ comment period
ISO/IEC TS 17023 Conformity assessment – Guidelines for determining duration of management system certification audits – to the bodies providing audit and certification of management systems and to those that develop and maintain certification schemes	International standard published Available as at 2013-07-25
ISO/IEC TS 17024-2 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons - Part 2 : Terminology	Comment period
ISO/IEC AWI TR 17026 Conformity assessment – Guidance on a third party certification system for products	New project registered in TC/SC Work programme
ISO/IEC DTS 17027 Terminology related to competence of persons used for certification of persons	Close of voting/ comment period
ISO/IEC 17067 Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes	International standard published Available as at 2013-07-31

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STANDARD	STATUS
ISO 13528:2005 Statistical methods for proficiency testing by inter laboratory comparisons	International standard to be revised
ISO/IEC 27006:2011 Information Technology – Security Techniques – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of information security management systems	International standard to be revised
ISO Guide 27:1983 Guidelines for corrective action to be taken by a certification body in the event of misuse of its mark of conformity	Close of review
ISO/IEC Guide 28:2004 Guidance on a third-party certification system of products	International standard to be revised
ISO/IEC Guide 53:2005 Conformity assessment – Guidance on the use of an organization’s quality management system in product certification	International standard to be revised
ISO/IEC Guide 60:2004 Conformity assessment – Code of good practice	International standard confirmed
ISO/IEC Guide 67:2004 Fundamentals of product certification	International standard to be revised
ILAC P4:10/2013 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangements) Policy statement	This document provides details on the objectives, foundation management, procedures & decisions associated with the ILAC MRA
ILAC P5:10/2013 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangements)	This document describes the elements of a MRA (hereinafter referred to as the Arrangements) for testing and calibration laboratories and inspection body accreditation
ILAC/IAF A5:11/2013 IAF/ILAC Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangements) – Application of ISO/IEC 17011:2011	The purpose of this document is to enable accreditation bodies to better harmonize their application of the standards against which they assess conformity assessment bodies
IAF MD 12:2013 Assessment of certification activities for cross frontier accreditation	Issue 1, issued on 4 September 2013 Application from 4 September 2014 This document provides requirements for the application of Clause 7 of ISO/IEC 17011 regarding an accreditation body’s assessment of conformity assessment bodies that provide certification in countries outside the country in which their head office is located

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Diary of Upcoming Events

DATES	MEETINGS	VENUE
3 December 2013	SADCAS/SANAS TPA M15 meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
2-4 December 2013	JCGM WG 1 & Plenary meeting	Paris, France
December 2013	9 th Tripartite Trade Negotiating Forum	TBA
11 December 2013	E-SALAMA Conference	Gaborone, Botswana
February 2014	5 th SADC SPS Coordinating Committee meeting	South Africa
3-5 February 2014	SADCA EXCO Meeting	Port Louis, Mauritius
5-7 February 2014	ILAC MCC and IAF CMC	TBA
10 February 2014	SADCAS FRAC meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
12 February 2014	SADCAS/SANAS TPA M16 meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
20 February 2014	SADCAS HRRC meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
20 February 2014	SADCAS Board of Directors	Pretoria, South Africa
2-7 March 2014	Forum on Accreditation & Competitiveness in Africa	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
17-22 March 2014	SADC SQAM meetings	Gaborone, Botswana
18 March 2014	SADCAS Board of Directors	Gaborone, Botswana
18 March 2014	SADCAS General Assembly	Gaborone, Botswana
31 March – 3 April 2014	CAFMET Conference	Pretoria, South Africa



SADCAS Management and Staff would like to wish you

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New!!



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