

Mnazi Mmoja Hospital's Pathology Laboratory Accredited

To celebrate its accreditation Mnazi Mmoja Hospital's Pathology Laboratory held a ceremony on Tuesday 20 September 2016 at the Hospital Cafeteria in Zanzibar during which the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer handed over the accreditation certificate to the Honorable Dr Mahmoud Thabit Kombo the Minister of Health for Zanzibar.



Honourable Dr Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, Minister of Health and Honourable Mrs Harusi Said Suleiman, Deputy Minister of Health and guests



Dr Marijani, Laboratory Director and Dr Ali, Executive Director Mnazi Mmoja Hospital and guests

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Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Pathology Laboratory is the 15th medical laboratory to be accredited by SADCAS and has been accredited in the scopes: Haematology; Tuberculosis; and Parasitology in accordance with ISO 15189: 2012. Through this accreditation, Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Pathology Laboratory has been granted the unique accreditation number: MED 015; indicating that Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Pathology Laboratory is now a SADCAS accredited medical laboratory. The certificate which was issued on 26 July 2016 is valid for 5 years until 27 July 2021. Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Pathology Laboratory is in fact the 1st facility in Zanzibar and the 6th medical laboratory in the United Republic of Tanzania to be accredited by SADCAS.



Honourable Dr Kombo emphasizing a point in his key note address

In his welcome remarks Dr Muhidin, the Master of Ceremonies welcomed guests and outlined the event's programme. The Laboratory's Nominated Representative Mr Mohamed Soud Mohamed shared with guests the journey towards accreditation which started in 2008 with the help of CDC through the ICAO and Zanzibar Aids Control Programme, undergoing initial assessment in July 2015 and achieving accreditation almost a year later in July 2016. He shared with guests the challenges faced during the journey towards accreditation in particular inadequate technical knowledge to address some aspects of the standard, stock supplies and equipment calibration, enrolling tests with External Quality Assurance (EQA) providers and the accreditation costs. He then appealed for collaborative efforts between the Hospital and Ministry of Health in order to maintain accreditation for which equipment has to be serviced and maintained, the Laboratory has to participate in EQA and meet the cost of accreditation fees. He also advised of the Laboratory's intention to extent scope of accreditation to other tests and urged the Ministry to also consider the accreditation of district hospital laboratories in Zanzibar such as Makunduchi, Kivunge, Abdalla Mzee, Chake Chake, Wete and Vitongoji.



Mrs Maureen Mutasa, SADCAS CEO making her remarks

In her remarks before handing over the certificate, Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer noted the role of medical laboratories in providing diagnosis and management system for the physician to use in the care of patients. "The competence and efficient operation of a medical laboratory as well as timeous delivery of medical laboratory services to the physician is therefore critical. Accreditation which is the process of independently evaluating competency is the strategy for medical laboratories to achieve this" she said. She noted that a number of countries in the region, including the United Republic of Tanzania have embraced accreditation as a strategy for the competence of medical laboratories and this has spurred interest in the SADCAS Medical Laboratories Accreditation Programme with 27% of the accredited facilities and 21% of the applications under process being medical laboratories. Mrs Mutasa encouraged Mnazi Mmoja Pathology Laboratory to maintain their accreditation throughout the validity period of the accreditation certificate during which SADCAS would undertake surveillance assessments annually to ensure continued compliance. In congratulating the Pathology Laboratory for the noble achievement Mrs Mutasa in Swahili said, "Hongera Sana".

Speaking during the certificate handover ceremony, and after being welcomed and introduced by the newly appointed Executive Director of Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Dr Ali Salum Ali, the guest of honor Honourable Dr Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, the Zanzibar Minister of Health congratulated Pathology Laboratory for the achievement and urged them to safeguard the hard earned accreditation achievement. He further committed his Ministry's continued support to the Hospital in its efforts to improve patient care and strengthen community confidence in results and urged the other district Hospitals' laboratories to implement laboratory management systems benchmarking from Mnazi Mmoja Hospital's Pathology Laboratory.

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Mrs Maureen Mutasa handing over the certificate to Honourable Dr Kombo

Proudly displaying the certificate are Dr Marijani and Mr Mohamed Soud Mohamed the Nominated Representative of Pathology Laboratory Mnazi Mmoja Hospital

Mr Mohamed proudly displaying the certificate

The ceremony started off and ended with Moslem prayers. After the ceremony, the SADCAS CEO briefly toured the accredited Laboratory.

SADCAS Publishes TR 13: Criteria for Accreditation of Inspection Bodies Performing Inspection for Metallic Tanks

SADCAS is ready and looking forward to the accreditation of Inspection Bodies performing inspection on metallic tanks. As the scope of "Metallic tanks" is new and with some facilities having expressed their intention to apply for accreditation, SADCAS has published document SADCAS TR 13: Criteria for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies Performing Inspection of Metallic Tanks. The document which was published on 29 September 2015 was prepared by SADCAS based on the input of the Advisory Committee for inspection in Zimbabwe.



Various Types of Metallic Tanks

The document which is structured into 4 main clauses outlines the criteria for the accreditation of independent inspection bodies performing inspection of metallic tanks.

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General Requirements

Under Clause 3, the document lists the requirements for the approval of an independent inspection authority by the regulatory authority as follows:

- Registration as a legal entity;
- Registered offices located in a designated area;
- Adequate and appropriate equipment to cover the scope of inspection activities;
- Access up to date information on appropriate inspection methods and codes;
- Development and maintenance of standards, codes and procedures to cover its scope of inspection activities. The document further lists some of the standards and codes of practices that may be used in the inspection of metallic tanks;
- Personnel who undertake the inspection having the appropriate technical and professional qualifications; and
- The organisation's accreditation by a recognised accreditation body.

Personnel Qualifications, Training and Experience

Under Clause 4 the document outlines the technical and professional qualifications, and experience that the inspection body's personnel undertaking inspections should have.

The personnel requirements for the following areas below, applicable to metallic tanks are outlined in detail in the document:

- Manufacturing Inspection
- In-service Inspection
- Design Verification

In assessing the inspection body's competence, the criteria in the SADCAS TR 13 document and the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020 shall apply.

Benefits of Accredited Inspection Services

Inspection is the examination of a product design, product service, process or plant and the determination of conformity with specific requirements on the basis of professional judgment. Inspection involves examination by qualified personnel using techniques including visual examination, dimensional checks and examinations using gauges and instruments. Accreditation which is the process of providing recognition to a conformity assessment body for its competence in performing specific tasks is the strategy for inspection bodies to achieve this. Accreditation of an inspection body of metallic tanks in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020 and SADCAS TR 13 provides a number of benefits:

- It is a means of providing independent assurance of inspection bodies' technical competency and integrity;
- It provides confidence in the quality of services provided by inspection bodies;
- It enhances credibility and reputation of inspection bodies;
- It reduces costs associated with repetitive inspections and lost time is minimized;
- It provides a benchmark with international best practices;
- It reduces risk associated with accidents and injuries;
- It can be used as a defence against litigation;
- It improves acceptance of goods internationally thus facilitates trade and economic development.

SADCAS TR13 Criteria for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies Performing Inspection of Metallic Tanks is available and can be downloaded from the SADCAS website: http://www.sadcas.org/policies_n_procedures.php

The SADCAS Board Holds Strategic Planning Session

The SADCAS Board of Directors and Management held a strategic planning session to develop the strategic plan for the next five years. The session was held on 6 September 2016 at the Elegant Lodge in Pretoria, South Africa. The strategic planning session was facilitated by Mr Steve B Sidney, the Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors. The session was attended by all the 7 SADCAS Board members and SADCAS management.

The session which took the whole day started off with opening remarks from the Facilitator who articulated what a strategy is and encouraged all members to actively participate in the discussions. This was followed by a review of progress made in each of the 5 key result areas of the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan. An analysis of the challenges faced and lessons learnt, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) was undertaken after which the SADCAS vision, mission, values, value proposition and tagline were reviewed resulting in changes to the vision and the SADCAS value proposition. A discussion on the 2017 to 2022 goals, key strategic objectives and key operational initiatives ensued after which an analysis of the risks was undertaken.



Strategic planning meeting in session.

Members were highly engaged and participated fully in the session providing management with the strategic direction to draft the 2017 -2022 Strategic Plan with the theme '**Towards Continual Sustainability**' which was subsequently approved on 23 November 2016. This 3rd SADCAS strategic plan draws on the successes so far to endorse further efforts that are needed to achieve SADCAS goals and being able to put SADCAS at the forefront of accreditation globally. It reflects the company's continuous improvement philosophy designed to ensure that SADCAS continually operates as a sustainable, dynamic and customer focused organization. The approved strategic plan was subsequently presented to the SADC Secretariat's TIFI Directorate on 2 December 2016 and to the NAFPs at their 10th meeting held on 6 December 2016.

SADCAS Value Proposition

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

Highlights from the 7th AFRAC General Assembly

The African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) held its 7th General Assembly meeting on 28 September 2016 at Reiz Continental Hotel in Abuja, Nigeria. The meeting was hosted by the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON). A number of workshops and meetings were held before and during the week as follows:

- ❑ Executive Committee Meeting held on 25 and 29 September 2016;
- ❑ Marketing and Communications Working Group meeting on 25 September 2016;
- ❑ ILAC P 10 Workshop and Evaluators Working Group meeting held on 26 September 2016
- ❑ Certification, Calibration, Testing and Inspections Working Groups and MRA Documents Working Group meetings held on 27 September 2016
- ❑ Technical Committee and MRA Committee MRA Council meetings held on 28 September 2016
- ❑ MRA Council held on 29 September 2016; and
- ❑ AFRAC General Assembly (GA) held on 30 September 2016

The 7th AFRAC General Assembly meeting was officially opened by the Honourable Minister of State, Industry, Trade and Investment, Ms Aisha Abubakar at a ceremony held on Monday 26 September 2016 and attended by over 40 delegates from African countries mainly from accreditation bodies, regional trading blocs, international development partners such as Physikalisch - Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) Germany, and accreditation cooperation partners such as the Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC).



From left to right: Dr Paul Angya Acting Director General SON; Honourable Ms Abubakar, Minister of State, Industry, Trade and Investment; Mr Ron Josias, AFRAC Chair; Dr Dahiru Adamu Chairman Board of Directors NINAS and Mr Martin Kaiser, PTB Germany Representative

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Delegates at the 7th AFRAC GA opening Ceremony held on 26 September 2016

The Acting Director General of SON, Dr Paul Angya welcomed delegates to the 7th AFRAC Annual meetings and thanked the AFRAC for the opportunity afforded to SON to host the AFRAC Annual meetings in Nigeria. Noting the importance of accreditation in reducing technical barriers to trade Dr Angya advised of the initiative started by SON to establish NINAS the Nigeria National Accreditation Service and informed delegates about the UNIDO project which is not only capacitating conformity assessment bodies to prepare for accreditation but is also providing expertise to NINAS which was echoed by Mr Raymond Tavares in his remarks during the opening ceremony.

In his remarks Mr Ron Josias the Chairman of AFRAC outlined the developments in AFRAC over the years and in particular that AFRAC had already submitted its application to join the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement and the IAF Multilateral Arrangement. He also informed the delegates about the benefits of the Cooperation to the continent such as supporting the development of accreditation bodies and serving as the voice for Africa in accreditation matters in international accreditation fora. He then thanked Nigeria for hosting the 7th AFRAC General Assembly meeting and also thanked PTB Germany and ACP TBT Programme for the support provided to AFRAC thus far.

In her speech Honourable Ms Abubakar welcomed all delegates to Nigeria and highlighted the need for Africa to diversify their economies and move away from over dependency on primary commodities and evolve policies and plans that enhance the development of strong, sustainable and competitive industrial base so as to generate employment, create income opportunities and above all guarantee the socio economic well-being of the citizenry. She noted the importance of a robust quality infrastructure which is mostly neglected yet critical to enhance speedy industrial development and competitiveness in the global market. She then informed the delegates about the efforts underway under the auspices of UNIDO with funding from the EU, to create Quality infrastructure in Nigeria in particular the establishment of NINAS. She then encouraged AFRAC to diligently work to achieve its mandate. The Chairman of NINAS Board of Directors Dr Dahiru Adamu then detailed the developments in the establishment of NINAS. The ECOWAS Commissioner Mr Kalilou Traore also gave a goodwill message during the ceremony.

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Immediately after the ceremony a workshop on ILAC P 10 was held with Mr Neville Tayler as the presenter.



Delegates attending the workshop on ILAC P 10

At the same time as the workshop was being conducted the Evaluators Working Group meeting chaired by Mrs Yolanda Vinnicombe and attended by Mrs Susan Munyiri and Mrs Maureen Mutasa reviewed extension of peer evaluators' scopes, considered the scopes of trainee evaluators and monitored the performance of peer evaluators culminating in the review and updating the Peer Evaluator's Register.

Before the opening ceremony on Sunday, 25 September 2016 the Marketing and Communications Working Group (MCWG) met and finalized its 2016/17 work plan and reappointed Mrs Munyiri as the editor of the AFRAC Newsletter. The MCWG also made a number of recommendations including that more time be allocated for future meetings of the WG. All these recommendations were considered by the AFRAC Executive Committee at its 2nd meeting held on 29 September 2016. The MCWG adopted 8 resolutions.

On the following day 27 September 2016, the Technical Committee Working Groups, MRA Committee Documents Working Group and MCWG met. At the same time the reconstituted MRA Documents Working Group (MRA DWG) chaired by Mrs Maureen Mutasa met and developed terms of reference (TORs) of the DWG, reviewed the TORs of the MRA Committee and MRA Council, reviewed all the findings from the 2nd Internal Audit of AFRAC related to MRA documents, reviewed updated documents and developed new documents.

The Technical Committee met on 28 September 2016 during which they conditionally approved the TORs of the Inspection and Certification Working Groups and recommended the approval of 2 documents TP 002-01: Internal Audits of Laboratories and Inspection Bodies and TP 003-01: Method of Stating Test and Calibration Results and Compliance with Specifications. The Technical Committee also finalized its 2016/17 work plan and agreed to develop a number of technical publications for use by conformity assessment bodies. The Technical Committee adopted 8 resolutions. A site visit to a pipe manufacturing company in Abuja was undertaken in conjunction with the AFRAC GA.

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AFRAC delegates on a site visit of a pipe manufacturing company

On the same day the MRA Committee also met and also finalized its work plan for 2016/17 where a number of peer evaluations are scheduled to be held including the SADCAS' scope extension to Testing (ISO 15189) and Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020). The MRA Committee also resolved that AFRAC submits an application for extension of scope to the IAF to include Food Safety Management Systems and agreed that a number of MRA documents reviewed by the DWG be finalized and circulated for comments and subsequent approval as per AFRAC Document Control procedure. The MRA Committee adopted 12 resolutions.

Following on the MRA Committee the MRA Council held its 2nd meeting and reconfirmed the approval of SANAS' AFRAC MRA signatory status based on the outcome of the peer evaluation without condition and that re-evaluation take place in 4 years from the date of the evaluations of 8 to 12 December 2014. Having reviewed the KENAS pre-peer evaluation's final report electronically, the MRA Committee confirmed that KENAS proceed to a joint AFRAC/ILAC peer evaluation. The MRA Council also reviewed the 2015 IAF GA resolutions and adopted IAF Resolution 2015-12 and IAF Resolution 2015-13 on transition for ISO/IEC 27006: 2015 and ISO 13485 and IAF resolution 2015-14 on non accredited certification where the certification Body is accredited for the same scope.

The Committee and Working groups meetings were followed by the 7th AFRAC GA Meeting during which a total of 33 resolutions were adopted. In his report to the General Assembly the AFRAC Chairman, Mr Ron Josias reviewed the progress made since the 6th annual general meeting held in Tunisia. He noted that substantial progress had been made towards recognition with AFRAC MRA fully operational and cooperation policies in place. Peer evaluations of ENAO and SADCAS and MAURITAS had been undertaken. Regarding membership he noted that AFRAC now had 4 Arrangement members, 3 Full members, one Associate member SOAC and 4 Stakeholder members. The 2nd internal audit was undertaken and efforts were underway to implement the corrective action and for which a management review of the results of the internal audit was held during the week of meetings. On Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI), he informed the meeting that a tender for NQI guidance document had been floated and he reminded the GA that 2017 was the Africa year of quality. He also informed the GA about the AFRAC E-learning tool which was launched in conjunction with the GA and he thanked the EU and ACP for funding the project.

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The GA received the reports of the MRA Committee and Technical Committee and approved their respective 2016/17 work plans as presented by the respective Committees Chairmen. The GA also approved the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2015 and the 2017 budget as presented. Various reports were presented to the General Assembly by PTB Germany, ARAC, IAAC, APLAC, ILAC, IAF, PAC and SADCA. The GA elected Mr Araya Fesseha (ENAO - Ethiopia) as the AFRAC Chair and re-elected Eng. Mahmoud Eltayeb as the MRA Committee vice Chairman, Mr Mpho Phaloane as the Technical Committee Vice Chairman and Mr Mensan Lawson – Hechelli as the Treasurer for terms of office in accordance with the AFRAC Bylaws. SANAS was reelected as the AFRAC Secretariat for a term of office in accordance with the AFRAC Bylaws. The GA thanked SON for hosting the 7th General Assembly of AFRAC, for the excellent arrangements and hospitality. The gala dinner held at the venue of the meeting marked the end of the GA meeting.



Some of the AFRAC GA delegates pose for a photo all donned in African Attire



TBT PROGRAMME
OVERCOMING TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE



AFRAC
AFRICAN ACCREDITATION COOPERATION

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Outgoing AFRAC Chair Mr Ron Josias, Mr Sammy Milgo AFRAC Technical Committee Chair and Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo SADCAS Technical Manager enjoying a dance during the gala dinner



The Host Task Force Members displaying the certificate of appreciation presented to them by the incoming AFRAC Chairman Mr Fesseha 2nd from left

Once again the AFRAC GA was a success and great progress was made during the 2016 year towards the achievement of the 2012 to 2017 strategic plan and in particular AFRAC achieving signatory status in both the ILAC and IAF arrangements. The 8th AFRAC Annual meeting will be held in Egypt in 2017.

AFRAC Launches E-learning Programme

The African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), at its 7th General Assembly held in Abuja, Nigeria launched the AFRAC E-Learning Programme. The Programme brings together knowledge of Accreditation, Conformity Assessments and Mutual Recognition Arrangements in one user-friendly, easily and freely accessible platform available online via the AFRAC website: www.intra-afrac.com. The E-Learning Programme is aimed at building capacity for accreditation in Africa.

There are six modules which have been customized in a systematic way to facilitate knowledge transfer efficiently, effectively and in a convenient manner. Stakeholders, leaders, decision-makers, influencers and workers within the accreditation and conformity assessment fraternity, can enroll for one or all of the six courses which have been provided in a modular format. This self-study programme allows learners to



Delegates during the launch of the AFRAC E-learning Programme in Abuja, Nigeria

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acquire knowledge and complete each course at their own pace and from anywhere in the world. The modules provide ample information, reading material as well as video interviews. Upon successful completion of each course, learners will receive certification which is an essential pre-requisite for other courses and further AFRAC training. The modules are:

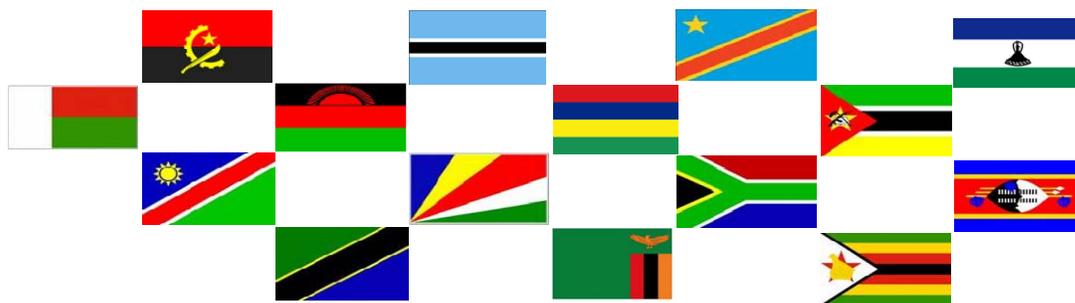
1. **Accreditation in International Trade:** Provides a general understanding of how accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies plays a role in supporting international trade in goods and services
2. **Introduction to the principles of ISO/IEC 17011 – General requirements for operation of accreditation bodies that accredit conformity assessment bodies:** Provides a general understanding of the principles of the requirements and application of accreditation to conformity assessment bodies
3. **Establishing and efficiently managing a new accreditation body:** Provides a generic understanding of the inputs required for establishing and efficiently managing a new AB.
4. **Training of National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs):** Provides training for NAFP's to promote and participate in the work of AFRAC, raise awareness about the importance of accreditation among national stakeholders that have an interest in quality and support the CAB's in their respective economies that want to apply for accreditation.
5. **Toolkit for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in the process of preparing for accreditation:** Provides a generic understanding of the route towards accreditation for CABs.
6. **Peer Evaluator Training:** Provides preliminary training for Peer Evaluators to obtain the necessary background knowledge as a pre-requisite for AFRAC's Classroom Peer-Evaluator Training Course.

In an increasingly competitive and challenging global market, it is imperative for Africa to fast-track the development of national and regional accreditation infrastructure on the continent. The development of internationally recognized accreditation structures is critical for ensuring full integration into the world trading system; enhanced global and regional market access thereby accelerating economic growth within the continent. These were the remarks made by the AFRAC Chair at the Launch. He re-affirmed AFRAC's commitment to implementing its own activities including capacity and capability enhancement on accreditation matters in order to develop desired synergies geared towards African economic development.

It is interesting to note that the E-Learning Modules were launched in Abuja, the same city that saw a treaty signed in 1994 that committed to strengthening of integration at a continental level through harmonizing activities that promote trade. The launched E-learning Modules are an enabler to achieving this desire. You therefore need not be left behind log on to www.intra-afrac.com.



A Multi-economy Accreditation Body!!



Highlights from 2016 IAF/ILAC Annual Meetings held in India

The 2016 joint annual meetings of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) were held at The Lalit Hotel New Delhi, India from 26 October to 4 November 2016. Over 345 delegates attended the meetings with the following economies from the African region attending the meetings: AFRAC and ARAC represented by some members of the regional co-operations' executive members; and accreditation bodies ENAO (Ethiopia); KENAS (Kenya); MLSCN (Nigeria); SADCAS (13 SADC Member States); SANAS (South Africa); SEMAC (Morocco) and TUNAC (Tunisia). As usual the meetings started 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 meetings from 2 to 4 November 2016.

The 2016 ILAC/IAF annual meetings were jointly hosted by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) and the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). The NABCB provides accreditation to certification and inspection Bodies based on assessment of their competence as per the Board's criteria and in accordance with International Standards and Guidelines. The NABCB is signatory to the PAC and IAF Multilateral Arrangements (MLAs) and also to the ILAC Mutual recognition Arrangement (MRA) in the scope inspection in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020. The NABL is an autonomous body under the aegis of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, and is registered under the Societies Act 1860. The objective of the NABL is to provide Government, Industry Associations and Industry in general with a scheme for third-party assessment of the quality and technical competence of testing and calibration laboratories. The NABL is recognized by the Government of India as the accreditation body for Testing and Calibration Laboratories and provides laboratory accreditation services to laboratories that are performing tests/calibrations in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and ISO 15189:2007 for medical laboratories. The NABL is signatory to the Asia Pacific laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and ILAC MRA for testing in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189, and calibration in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025. Both the NABCB and NABL represent the interests of the Indian industry, industry associations and Governments at international forums through membership and active participation in IAF and ILAC Committees and working groups. The meetings dates were planned such that "Diwali", the festival of lights, India's most important festival, fell during the period of the meeting and we had a chance to experience the rich tradition, culture and heritage of India. Interesting social activities including Saree draping, hand painting and culinary lessons were also held for delegates to unwind before or after the extensive technical meetings.



Hand painting for women



Mrs Maureen Mutasa SADCAS CEO and Dr Aparna Dhawan Joint Director NABCB dressed in Sarees



Head dressing for men

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Schedule of Meetings attended - The following is a list of the meetings which the SADCAS representative attended:

Date	Meeting attended
2016-10-26	IAF WG Product Certification (ISO/IEC 17065)
2016-10-27	IAF WG Food (ISO 22000)
2016-10-28	IAF Technical Committee (TC)
2016-10-29	ILAC Inspection Committee (IC)
2016-10-30	ILAC AIC
2016-10-31	IAF Executive Committee (Committee Members Only)
2016-10-31	Joint IAF- ILAC Executive Committees (JEC) (Committee Members Only)
2016-11-01	Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC)
2016-11-02 and 04	IAF and ILAC General Assemblies
2016-10-03	Joint General Assembly

Membership and Secretariat issues – Six accreditation bodies namely: NABET (India); International Personal Certification Association (IPC); ENAO (Ethiopia); BAS (Bulgaria); SADCAS (SADC); and United Accreditation Foundation (UAF) were admitted to the IAF Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) since the 2015 General Assembly held in Milan, Italy. This brought the total membership of the IAF to 103 of which 78 are accreditation body members, 18 Associate members, 6 regional group members and one observer members.

On the other hand and since the 2015 General Assembly, ILAC upgraded membership status of 3 accreditation bodies' members to full member namely: DPA (Albania); EA BAS (Bulgaria) having been accepted as an Associate member during the year and GCC Accreditation Center (GAC), the latter being a multi economy accreditation body in the Gulf region. One regional body CRESAC (Cote D'Ivoire) was admitted into the Affiliate category, and 2 bodies namely NTC (Sudan) and International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) based in Switzerland were admitted as stakeholder members. Two members withdrew their membership since October 2015 namely: NAT (Hungary); and NLAZ (Zimbabwe). This brought the total membership to 150 of which 90 are Full Members (signatories to the ILAC MRA) representing 94 economies; 15 Associates representing 15 economies; 13 Affiliates representing 17 economies; 6 Regional Cooperation Bodies; and 26 Stakeholders.



IAF General Assembly in session on 2 November 2016

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ILAC General Assembly in session on 4 November 2016

New IAF Multilateral Arrangement (MLA) and ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Signatories - Since the 2015 annual meetings the IAF welcomed one new member BAS (Bulgaria) in the main scope certification of persons (ISO/IEC 17024) and one new member NACI (Iran) in the main Scope Management System Certification ISO/IEC 17021-1 in the Sub-scope Level 5 ISO 9001. Scope extensions were granted to the following accreditation bodies:

- ❑ 22 accreditation bodies from Europe in the Main scope Certification of persons – ISO/IEC 17024 following the extension of the EA scope to the main scope.
- ❑ BOA (Vietnam) in the Main scope Management System Certification –ISO/IEC 17021-1 Sub-scope level 5 ISO 14001
- ❑ DAC (Dubai) and INN (Chile) in the main scope Product Certification ISO/IEC 17065.
- ❑ PCA (Poland) and TAF (Chinese Taipei) in the main scope Product Certification ISO/IEC 17065 Sub- scope Levels 4 and 5 GLOBALG. A. P.

The ILAC General Assembly welcomed 8 new signatories to the ILAC MRA Arrangements, one of which is for calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), 3 for testing (ISO/IEC 17025) including the GAC, 2 to testing - ISO 15189 and 4 to Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020). Representatives of the signatory accreditation bodies as well as the IAF MoU signed their respective MLAs/MRAs/MoU at a ceremony held during the signing ceremony and gala dinner on 3 November 2016.



Delegates at the signing ceremony



Mrs Maureen Mutasa poses for a photo with Mr Tom Arnold after receiving the IAF MoU which she signed in April 2016

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Transition/Migration/Implementation Periods

- ❑ The IAF and ILAC Joint General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Joint Executive Committee that the transition period of the revised **ISO/IEC 17011: Conformity assessment—General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies** which is due for publication in August 2017 will be 3 years from the date of publication of the revised standard.
- ❑ With the revised version of **ISO/IEC 17025** scheduled for publication in 2017, the ILAC General Assembly endorsed the recommendation from the AIC that a transition period of 3 years from date of publication be endorsed. At the end of the transition period accreditation of a laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 will not be recognized under the ILAC Arrangement.
- ❑ Revision of **ISO/IEC TS 17021-2:2012** Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems Part 2: Competence for auditing and certification of environmental management systems will be 2 years from date of publication of the revised standard.
- ❑ The period for migrating accreditations from OHSAS 18001: 2007 to **ISO 45001** Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements with guidance for use will be 3 years from date of publication of ISO 45001. The IAF General Assembly further endorsed the soon to be published ISO 45001 as a normative document. ISO 45001 is expected to be published in 2017.
- ❑ The application date of **IAF MD 19: Mandatory document for the audit and certification of a management system operated by a multi-site organization (where application of site sampling is not appropriate)** was extended to 31 March 2018.
- ❑ As a result of the publication of **ISO 17034: General requirements for the competence of reference materials producers** in November 2016 which now replaces ISO Guide 34, ILAC agreed that the accreditation of reference materials producers be conducted in accordance with ISO 17034 and that an implementation period of 3 years be adopted.

IAF MLA and ILAC MRA Extensions - The IAF General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the MLA Committee, resolved to endorse the **extension of the IAF MLA** under the Main Scope ISO/IEC 17021-1 to the Sub-scope **Energy Management Systems (EnMS)** with ISO/TS 50003:2014 Energy management systems – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of energy management systems as level 4 document and ISO 50001:2011 Energy management systems—Requirements with guidance as Level 5 document. ISO 50003 was also endorsed as the normative document for the accreditation scope and grouping of sectors for witnessing of energy management systems. For the extension of the sub-scope to EnMS, individual accreditation bodies that are signatory to the IAF MLA with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1, are required to provide a self-declaration that the scope has been introduced and that relevant requirements as defined by IAF have been met. For an accreditation body that is signatory to the IAF MLA but not for the main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1 a full evaluation will have to be undertaken. In the case of regional groups signatories with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1 and at least one MLA signatory, a document review would have to be undertaken whilst for a region that is signatory to the IAF MLA but not for a Main Scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1 a full evaluation will have to be undertaken.

The ILAC General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the ARC to extend the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement to include **accreditation of reference materials producers** to the criteria specified in ISO 17034. ILAC therefore now accepts applications for recognition once the appropriate peer evaluation documents are updated to cover this new scope.

Accredited Management System Certification - In 2015 the IAF General Assembly acting on the recommendation of the Technical committee resolved that the IAF accreditation body members shall have legally enforceable arrangements with their accredited certification bodies that prevents the accredited certification bodies from issuing non-accredited and management systems certificates in scopes for which they are accredited. A one-year transition period was also

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agreed upon from the date of the endorsement. Further to this resolution the IAF General Assembly at the 2016 meeting resolved that in order for a management system certification document to be considered accredited, it must display the accreditation symbol, and/or, reference the accreditation status of the certification body including the identification of the accreditation body. The General Assembly further agreed that management systems certification bodies:

1. Must transition certification documentation to include the accreditation symbol, and/or, reference the accreditation status of the CB including the identification of the AB, at the time of recertification decision; no later than 06 November 2019;
2. When granted initial accreditation (for a standard or scope), as of 06 November 2016, the certification body must transition (re-issue) previous unaccredited certification documents, within one year after the accreditation decision;
3. Must apply this resolution to all management system standards.

If there is an exception to this, the client must justify the exception to the certification body and accreditation body, and if accepted, the certification is still considered accredited. Although SADCAS has not yet accredited any certification bodies SADCAS draws the attention of all applicant certification bodies under process and potential applicants to this requirement.

ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) - Various reports were presented by the regions on accreditation of inspection activities. The APLAC is developing a new document on the assessment of multi-site inspection bodies. This document will clarify the multi-site issue and it was agreed that once finalized, ILAC IC would like to have a presentation on it for consideration at international level. The meeting also reviewed ongoing revisions of ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17025 and how the revisions will affect the work of the Committee. In a review of DIS ISO/IEC 17011 the meeting noted that in Clause 7.8.3 on fixed scopes not much had changed but noted the inclusion of Clause 7.9.6 on **flexible scopes** where the revised standard is requiring that the accreditation bodies have documented procedures on how it manages flexible scopes. The changes introduced on **Qualification of personnel** could affect the accreditation bodies and the transition period. The standard requires that competence criteria for assessors be defined at scheme level. Therefore besides qualifying assessors by standard there will be a need to qualify assessors by schemes. On **extent of assessment** the standard now requires that all sites be assessed whereas previously this was not the case. Whilst the current version of ISO/IEC 17011 version does not disallow **remote assessments** and does not go into details about it, the revised version goes into more detail about remote assessments and there may be a need to have a guidance document on remote assessments. In a review of the ongoing revisions of ISO/IEC 17025, the meeting noted that the standard now includes options A and B for the management system aspects and that the wording used in the revision is the same as that used in ISO/IEC 17020. The revised version can be used for the accreditation of sampling as a stand-alone activity. The EA has already passed a resolution to the effect that sampling can be accredited as a stand-alone activity in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025. The clause on PT has been elaborated on. Independence is not included in the revised standard and there are no major changes on traceability, validation and monitoring.



Delegates at the ILAC IC Meeting

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Some discussions were held on the upcoming systematic review of ISO/IEC 17020 during which it was noted that the EA had reviewed ISO/IEC 17020:2012 and agreed that there was no need for the immediate revision of the standard which agrees with the review done by the SADCAS Advisory Committee for inspection. However there were mixed feelings on this with some members saying that the standard needs to be revised to clarify the requirements of Type B and C which are confusing regulators. When the matter was put to a vote two thirds of the members felt that the standard should not be revised. Members were therefore requested to input into the review of the standard in their national ISO CASCO mirror committees. Working Group 3 which is developing a **Guidance on expressing inspection scopes in accreditation documents** reviewed the comments received and updated the draft which was then subsequently circulated to members for approval. The updated draft will now be circulated to all members of the IC. Noting the anticipated delays in the publication of ISO/IEC 17011 the meeting agreed to go ahead and publish the document and maybe revise it when ISO/IEC 17011 is published. The decision also took into account the probable revision of ILAC A5. Working Group 4 which is preparing a **Guidance on examinations performed as part of an inspection process** considered comments received after the 60 days comment and made the necessary changes. The document will now go to ballot stage. Working Group 5 – Accreditation of bodies performing NDT activities held its 2nd meeting and agreed to use EA - 4/15 as a basis for the development of the document. The WG will decide whether the document shall be a Policy document "P" or a Guidance document "G". The ILAC IC also reviewed the brochure on "How does accredited inspection benefit government and regulators" and agreed to add a paragraph on the accreditation of governmental authorities.

ILAC Laboratory Committee (LC) - Allows stakeholders i.e. laboratory associations to have an input into ILAC activities. The ILAC LC members have no voting rights in ILAC. The LC confirmed its terms of reference and membership subscription fee and presentations were made to the meeting by the ILAC Chair and ILAC Committees Chairs. The meeting was also an opportunity to update members on the ongoing revisions of ISO/IEC 17025 and review the LC's input into the revisions. A total of **70 case studies** have been collected and are being collated to be uploaded on ILAC web site within 2 to 3 months. The case studies will be useful in training assessors. A call was made to accreditation bodies to continue submitting case studies.

ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC) has a total of 13 WGs which have liaison roles in major international bodies for input into AIC work. On the ongoing **revisions of ISO/IEC 17025** the Committee were updated on the changes made to CD2 and discussed aspects of the changes in particular under Clause 6.4 on Equipment which are not quite in line with ILAC P 10 and make additional statements redundant, the extension of measurement uncertainty to sampling raising the question of maturity of laboratories to evaluate uncertainty for sampling which may limit accreditation for standalone sampling to ISO/IEC 17025. Members were therefore encouraged to comment on the Draft International Standard (DIS) through their respective countries' mirror committees. A presentation was made on the application of **Decision Rule** to support ISO/IEC DIS 17025 especially in reporting statements of conformity (Clause 7.8.5). A decision rule flow chart was provided and delegates were walked through it. The meeting agreed to have a more simplified training of assessors on the decision rule flow chart and talked about the possibilities of using You-tube for the training. An update on the revision of **ISO Guide 34: 2009 General Requirements for the Competence of Reference Materials Producers** was provided. The new standard will be in the common structure of the ISO 17000 series and covers the requirements for the production of all types of reference materials (RMs) and specific requirements for certified reference materials (CRM). It has also been harmonized with revisions of ISO Guides 30, 31, 35 and ISO/IEC 17025. In preparing for the revision of **ILAC G18:04/2010 Guideline for the formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Laboratories**, a small survey was undertaken to verify all aspects in the terms of reference for the Working Group 4. An analysis of the survey and discussions thereof held during the AIC meeting concluded that the revised document shall give guidance to scoping of testing, calibration and medical, PT, Reference Materials (RM) and shall include flexible scopes as well as Opinions and Interpretations. The meeting also noted the need to harmonize the document with the work of the ILAC IC.

The Working Group also noted that a number of documents are available on scoping which could be used as a basis for the revision such as EA 4/17: EA Position Paper on the description of scopes of accreditation of medical laboratories, EA-2/15 Flexible scopes, EA 2/18 Guidelines on the content of scopes for PTP, EA-4/17 Medical scopes etc. Regarding scoping for inspection it was agreed to merge the revised document at its next revision noting that the development of the inspection scoping document was well advanced. Regarding the work of Working Group 5 on **Accreditation of sampling as a stand - alone activity** it was agreed to wait for the publication of the revised ISO/IEC 17025 before passing

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resolution on the applicable standard. On accreditation in the **medical field**, it was noted that ISO TC 212 had published various relevant standards such as **ISO 20658** Requirements for collection transport receipt and handling of samples and **ISO 17511** on traceability for medical laboratories. A number of standards are being revised such as **ISO 35001**: Bio risk management for laboratories and related organizations with efforts underway to push ISO 35001 to a competence standard and ISO 15195: Requirement for Reference Measurement Laboratories which is currently at CD ballot ending 13 Dec 2016. The standard ISO 15190: Requirements for safety is to be updated. Accreditation of Sampling as a stand - alone activity in the medical field is heavily opposed and so is Option B (ISO 9001) which has been incorporated in ISO/IEC DIS 17025. Following issuance of the revised ISO/IEC 17025, a systematic review of 15189 will be initiated but the general feeling is that the standard shall be maintained. Based on a survey undertaken by the AIC and whilst most accreditation bodies are accrediting medical collection centres and Biobanks to ISO 15189, it was agreed that ILAC should be involved through Working Group 6 in the development of an international standard by ISO TC 276 on Biobanks which takes into account the ongoing revision of ISO/IEC 17025. Regarding Green House Gases (GHG) it was noted that ISO 14064-3 is being revised with an expansion of scope to include carbon foot print.



Delegates chatting during tea/coffee break from the AIC meeting on extreme right is Mr Steve Sidney Chairman of ILAC LC and also Board Chairman of SADCAS

Arrangement Committee (ARC) - WG 2 on Maintenance of P4 and P5 and P11 reported that the documents had been updated and published in February 2016. An update was presented by **WG 11 on the revision of ISO/IEC 17011** was circulated for comment until December 2016 after which the WG 42 Drafting Group will meet to consider the comments followed by the main WG 42 meeting in February 2017 during which a Final Draft International standard (FDIS) will be issued. The revised standard is scheduled to be published in August 2017. The WG 42 may agree that no FDIS is issued hence go straight to publication which means the publication date may very well be earlier than August 2017. **WG 12** will initiate the revision of P8 once ISO/IEC 17011 has been published. The document on **Extraordinary events** is still under development. On **Medical Imaging (Radiology) MRA** it was noted that many different standards are being used for the accreditation and that the AIC is looking into this matter and wait their advice before recommending a way forward. The same applies to **Sampling** where many standards are being used and the meeting agreed to wait for the publication of ISO/IEC 17025 before deciding on recommendation on MRA.

IAF/ILAC Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC) - The JDSC meeting was attended by 65 delegates. JDSC is important in implementation and achievement of SD#5 of the ILAC Strategic Plan. At the New Delhi meeting Mr Sean MacCurtain ISO CASCO provided updates on the ongoing revisions of ISO/IEC 17925 and ISO/IEC 17011 highlighting the key changes made and the expected dates of publication. Various presentations were made by cooperating partners such as UNIDO and PTB Germany. In his presentation Dr Bernardo Calzadilla Sarmiento - Director UNIDO, outlined the role of accreditation in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and noted that many countries are redefining this in the context of quality infrastructure including a accreditation. He also outlined the numerous

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projects on accreditation from conformity assessment bodies mapping in the ECOWAS, CEMAC and SADC regions of which a study was undertaken and whose report is being compiled, preparing conformity assessment bodies for accreditation in Malawi and Namibia, establishment of a metrology system in Myanmar and accreditation bodies in Cambodia and Vietnam to supporting regional accreditation cooperation ARAC. UNIDO has published a guide on setting up accreditation bodies in developing countries which includes a write up on SADCAS the first multi economy accreditation body in the world. The guide is available on the UNIDO website. As part of the UNIDO presentation, Dr Nigel Croft presented the survey on the impact of ISO 9001 in Brazil with 98% of participants considering the investment in QMS as a very good move and concluding that accreditation is a wonderful tool to support the SDGs. This was followed by a presentation by Dr Marion Stodt who shared with delegates the accreditation projects that PTB Germany was funding highlighting SADCAS and their pride in being associated with such a successful body. PTB Germany is also funding the development of new accreditation programmes such as EnMS in Myanmar, attachment training and advocating for more cooperation amongst accreditation bodies in any region, training of certification bodies on ISO/IEC 17021-1 and funding initial peer evaluations of accreditation bodies in Africa and also supporting AFRAC. Mr Fernay Chaparro outlined the improvement plan of the National Accreditation Body of Colombia - ONAC to achieve reliance on accredited conformity assessment as a strategy which opens the way to global markets. In her presentation on the benefits of "Home Hosting International meetings", Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO gave a background to the decision of hosting the ILAC Marketing and Communications (MCC) and IAF Communication and Marketing Committee (CMC) meetings, the preparations made and the hosting of the workshop and meetings which were held in April 2016 in Pretoria, South Africa. She then outlined the benefits realized from hosting such as networking with international marketing professionals and contributing towards the development of the ILAC and IAF marketing strategy thus ensuring that marketing strategies adopted suit developing regions such as SADC. Hosting the meeting also presented an opportunity to take advantage of the presence of marketing professionals who are actively involved in the communications and promotion of accreditation to be resource persons for the one day marketing and communications workshop. The knowledge gained from the workshop and attendance to the meetings was used to develop the SADCAS marketing plan. Mrs Mutasa concluded her presentation with a word of encouragement to other accreditation bodies from developing regions to host international meetings.



Delegates at the JDSC meeting



Mrs Mutasa presenting a paper at the JDSC meeting

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Thereafter the meeting brain stormed on a number of issues in particular how to fund developing accreditation bodies and use of IT tools to support the participation of developing accreditation bodies in the development of IAF and ILAC documents. To this end 2 Working Groups were established to look into funding so as to complement the very limited ILAC and IAF budgets and IT tools to support developing countries participation.

ILAC MCC and the IAF CMC – The theme for 2017 World Accreditation Day is **Accreditation supporting confidence in construction** and the commemorations promotional material is under preparation such as the ILAC and IAF Chairs statement and a brochure. Members from developing countries were encouraged to submit more cases for the public sector assurance site whilst all members were encouraged to submit examples of the benefits of standards and accreditation. The next meeting of the ILAC MCC and IAF CMC will be held in New Zealand in its efforts to help spread accreditation to all parts of the world having held the last meeting hosted by SADCAS in Pretoria, South Africa.

MLA/MRA Joint Management Committee (JMC) –The meeting was advised that the reevaluation of the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) had been set for September 2017 and the team approved. The Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC) application was approved and the office evaluation and observation of one accreditation body had been undertaken. AFRAC application approved and team set up. The EA and SANAS reevaluations had been finalized and balloted on and in both cases readmitted as signatories. The MAURITAS evaluation is under process with the closing out findings raised in the pre peer evaluation. The evaluation of KENAS is scheduled to be undertaken in November 2016 whilst the re-evaluation of EGAC is scheduled to be undertaken in 2017. SADCAS application for scope extension to Testing (ISO 15189) and inspection (ISO/IEC 17020) was accepted and the team is now being set up.

The Joint Working Group on maintenance of A-Series (JWG A-Series) – IAF ILAC A1 and A2 were updated based on the comments evaluated. In the new version Clause 2.6.9 was clarified. Regions need to have at least 3 signatories to be eligible for application and scope extension to ILAC/IAF MRA/MLAs. An electronic ballot on the updated versions will be undertaken in the near future. IAF ILAC A3 template for reporting on peer evaluations once published shall be used mandatorily based on IAF ILAC A1 and a workshop is being organized to be held on 30 March 2017 in Frankfurt, Germany during the 2017 mid - term meetings.

Election of Directors IAF - Mr Vu Xuan Thuy (BOA, Bangladesh) was elected as Director representing Low and Medium Income Accreditation Body Member for the second and final 3 year term and automatically becomes Co-Chair of the Accreditation Body Information Exchange Group (ABIEG). Mr Eric Janssens was appointed FOC Association Member for a third and final 2 year term whilst Mr Shinjiro Fujimaki was appointed for an initial 3 year term as Accreditation Body member. Mr Jan van der Poel was appointed FOC Chair to complete 2 years 2017 and 2018. **ILAC** – The ILAC General Assembly endorses the election of the following officers to the ILAC Executive Committee for two years: Chair - Ms Merih Malmqvist Nilsson; Vice-Chair - Ms ETTY Feller; Arrangement Committee Chair - Ms Ileana Martinez; Accreditation Committee Chair - Mr Erik Oehlenschlaeger; Inspection Committee Chair - Mr Arne Lund; Marketing & Communications Committee- Mr Jon Murthy; Joint Development Support Committee Co-Chair - Ms Liliane Somma; Arrangement Management Committee - Ms Jennifer Evans; and Laboratory Committee Chair - Mr Steve Sidney. The ILAC General assembly also expressed its appreciation to all the outgoing Chair of ILAC Me Pete Unger and all other Chairs of Committees.

The 2016 ILAC/IAF meetings which were hosted jointly by the NABL and NABCB were not only a good opportunity for networking, sharing experiences and keeping up to date with accreditation developments worldwide but also provided an invaluable opportunity to enhance collaborations and strengthen the credibility of accreditations worldwide. We all had a chance to experience the rich tradition, culture and heritage of India which helped us to unwind before or after the extensive technical meetings.

Many thanks to ILAC for sponsoring SADCAS Chief Executive Officer's attendance to these very important meetings. The 2017 ILAC/IAF Annual meetings will be held in Vancouver, Canada.

SADCAS Participates at the ASLM Conference

The 3rd African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) Conference was held at Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa from 3 to 8 December 2016. The theme of the conference was “Combating Global Health Threats in Africa.” It was a conference where over 1,500 leaders and professionals from Africa and across the world met to discuss current global health threats, and the contributions that medical laboratories can make to accelerate the development of solutions. The conference programme was packed with 50 seminars, 400 plenary symposia, roundtable, oral and poster presentations to facilitate discussions and collaborative thinking. During the conference, there were reports of successful collaborations and progress made towards strengthening laboratory systems. New collaborations were made to harness the diversity and vast knowledge of participants to develop innovative, pragmatic solutions to address global health threats.

SADCAS representative Mrs Eva Muronda attended the conference which included the very informative 2-day SLIPTA/SLMTA Symposium held on the 3rd and 4th of December 2016. She was privileged to be part of a panel that discussed the topic on “Bridging SLIPTA Stars and ISO Accreditation”. It was a panel discussion between accreditation bodies SADCAS, SANAS and KENAS, and accredited laboratories. It was concluded that medical laboratories can achieve accreditation as seen by the already accredited laboratories. This was an encouragement to other laboratories working towards accreditation. Other discussions during the symposium included advocating for political support for accreditation as well as partner support for laboratory accreditation programmes. There was also the launch of SLMTA 2 that is aimed at propelling laboratories towards accreditation i.e. transitioning from SLMTA to accreditation.



Panel discussions with Mrs Eva Muronda on the left

During the conference, there were discussions on Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) and its unprecedented transformative effect on healthcare. It was noted that although POCT technologies had scaled-up rapidly worldwide, corresponding quality assurance programs had not kept pace and were therefore necessary to move forward the field. This demonstrated a great need to strengthen quality assurance of POCT technologies including accreditation. Discussions on Bio-banking in Africa: H3 African Bio-repositories were also undertaken. The Bio-banking seminar examined the need and utility of bio specimen storage to drive research and policy development to respond to public health challenges.

Discussions on working together to detect, prevent and respond to global health threats effectively were also conducted. It was acknowledged that medical laboratories face unique challenges

in the context of health systems strengthening as they deliver and deploy appropriate high quality and cost effective tools and service. ASLM has played and continues to play an important role in strengthening laboratory networks and improving Quality services. In one of the sessions The Director for CDC Africa Dr John Nkengasong pointed out the ASLM vision and strategic goals which include “*To transform laboratory testing quality by enrolling 2,500 laboratories in accreditation and quality improvement programmes, enabling 250 laboratories to achieve accreditation by international standards by 2020.*”

The need for accreditation of medical laboratories was a very clear message and continued to echo throughout the conference. It was pleasing to note that efforts were being made to ensure accreditation of medical laboratories as they play a pivotal role in determining clinical decisions and providing clinicians with information that assists in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases.

Commenting on the conference Mrs Muronda said she found the conference to have been very informative and enlightening. “It was a great opportunity to network with fellow Medical Laboratory Professionals” she said. She also had the opportunity to have meetings with some medical laboratory professionals from the SADC region who were eager to understand the SADCAS accreditation process and to work towards accreditation of their medical laboratories.

The 8th SADCAS Annual Report Published

SADCAS 8th annual report for the year ended 31 March 2016 was approved by the Board of Directors at a special meeting held on 23 November 2016. Some of the highlights contained in the annual report are as follows:

- ❑ SADCAS is the first multi-economy accreditation body to be accepted as a signatory to the ILAC and AFRAC MRAs for the testing and calibration laboratory accreditation programmes.
- ❑ Chairman's Statement;
- ❑ Chief Executive Officer's Report;
- ❑ Reports from the Chairs of the two Board Committees namely Human Resources and Remuneration Committee and the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee; and
- ❑ Audited Annual Financial Report.

The full Annual Report is available to all stakeholders from NAFPs, the SADCAS offices and on the SADCAS website on www.sadcas.org/annual_report.php

Dr Mike Peet Visits SADCAS

The SADCAS CEO Mrs Maureen Mutasa met with Dr Michael Peet and Dr Ignatius Ndzinge at SADCAS New Offices on Friday, 7 October 2016. The two are short term experts engaged to undertake a study to analyse Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and the sanitary phyto-sanitary aspects of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) which was signed on 10 June 2016. The experts commenced their work on 3 October 2016 in Botswana and as part of the study interviewed Mrs Mutasa who in her own right is a food scientist who worked in the agricultural research, academic as a lecturer in food and animal microbiology and the food processing sectors for a number of years.

SADCAS was very delighted to welcome the experts in particular Dr Mike Peet who together with the late Beatrice Mutabazi, Mrs Masego Marobela, Othy Riunja Kaakunga, Dr Elsabe Steyn, Ron Josias and Mrs Mutasa were the group of the experts that over a good 10 years conceptualized and developed the SADCAS model. The Group of Experts further advocated for the acceptance of the model in the region and internationally at which time Dr Peet was the CEO of SANAS and also at some point during this period was the Chairman of the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation. In particular Mike's leadership, with the unwavering support of the other experts from the region in pushing for the acceptance of the multi economy accreditation body model internationally and sourcing funds for the set up and operationalization of SADCAS from the Norwegian Government is always appreciated.



Dr Peet and Dr Ndzinge pose for a photo in the SADCAS Boardroom in Gaborone, Botswana

Mrs Mutasa took the opportunity during the interview to brief the experts on the developments in SADCAS in particular the achievement of signatory status and shared with the experts SADCAS future plans.

SADCAS CEO Meets with Permanent Secretary Tanzania

The SADCAS Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mrs Maureen Mutasa met with the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Professor Adolf F Mkenda on 21 September 2016 at the Ministry's Office at NSRF Waterfront Building in Dar es Salaam. The meeting was held en route from Zanzibar where she attended an accreditation certificate handover ceremony for Mnazi Mmoja Hospital's Pathology Laboratory held on 20 September 2016 in Zanzibar.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce SADCAS to the new Permanent Secretary, update him on developments in SADCAS and in particular Governments' contributions towards SADCAS' sustainability and to appeal to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to pay its contributions timeously. In attendance at the meeting were Mrs Hilda Mwamupeta, Acting Director Trade and Marketing, Ms Sekela Mwasela, Assistant Director Trade Integration, Mr Turuka Economist from the Department of Trade and Marketing and Mr Baraka Eligaesha from the Department of SMEs. The SADCAS CEO was accompanied to the meeting by Mrs Stella Mrosso National Accreditation Focal Point - Tanzania.



From Left to Right: Mrs Mrs Mwamupeta, Mrs Mrosso, Professor Mkenda, Mrs Mutasa, Ms Mwasela and kneeling is Mr Turuka.

The Permanent Secretary welcomed the SADCAS delegation and introduced his team following which the SADCAS CEO introduced herself and Mrs Stella Mrosso. She then gave a brief overview of SADCAS, the need and importance of

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accreditation and the achievements so far highlighting the achievement of signatory status in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation's Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) and what this means to the 13 SADC Member States that are serviced by SADCAS including Tanzania. She further outlined how SADCAS was addressing Tanzania's accreditation needs highlighting the previous representation of Tanzania in the governance of SADCAS, the numbers of facilities in Tanzania that are accredited by SADCAS, the operational support provided to the NAFFP, the training courses held so far in Tanzania and the experts trained/registered as assessors. Mrs Mutasa also advised the Permanent Secretary that SADCAS business is growing steadily not only in terms of field and scope of accreditation but also in terms of geographical coverage. Dependency on Government funding had reduced from 100% in 2008 to 31% as at 31 March 2016, She however noted that break even on operational costs had not yet been achieved to which the Permanent Secretary was interested to know when SADCAS was likely to achieve break even on operational costs. In ensuing discussions and in response to Professor Mkenda's question Mrs Mrosso informed the meeting of the facilities in Tanzania and Zanzibar which had been accredited by SADCAS and elaborated on her activities in promoting accreditation and marketing SADCAS services in Tanzania and in particular the tertiary institutions' laboratories which are of particular interest to the Permanent Secretary who has a background in that sector.

On Governments' contributions towards SADCAS sustainability, Mrs Mutasa noted that United Republic of Tanzania had not yet paid its contribution amounting to US\$ 158,198 towards SADCAS operational budget deficit of US\$ 1.171 million for the 5-year period beginning 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2017. Making reference to the Committee of Ministers of Trade's decisions: SADC/CMT/24/2012/2.2 - Decision 9.15; SADCA/CMT/25/2013/2.2 - Decision 3.8; SADC/CMT/27/2015/2.2 - Decision 8.7 and the latest SADC/CMT/28/2016/2.2 Decision 5.3 I) and all communications from SADCAS and the SADC Executive Secretary copies of which were given to the Permanent Secretary, Mrs Mutasa appealed to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to pay its contribution so as to ensure SADCAS sustenance. She further referred to the meeting held in June 2014 when she was advised that United Republic of Tanzania would pay its contribution during the 2014/15 financial year.

In his response Professor Mkenda underscored the importance of SADCAS services to the United Republic of Tanzania and reiterated Tanzania's commitment towards SADC and noted that Tanzania traded more with SADC countries than with the EAC countries. He appreciated the meeting as it was a good opportunity to learn more about SADCAS and assured of his Government's commitment towards SADCAS sustainability. The meeting which started at 13:15 hours ended at 14:45 with thanks to the Permanent Secretary for his time.

Targeted Marketing visits in Zimbabwe

As part of SADCAS promotional and marketing plans for 2016/17 and follow up on actions arising from the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement review meetings, the SADCAS CEO and Technical Manager met with the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) and visited 6 Conformity assessment bodies in Zimbabwe namely Technon International Metrology, Central Veterinary Laboratory, Scientific Industrial Research and Development Centre's National Metrology Institute (SIRDC NMI), Standards Association of Zimbabwe, Doubletime and ISOCAL. For cost effectiveness the visits were undertaken in conjunction with the Advisory Committee meeting held on 14 September 2016. Some of the conformity assessment bodies visited by SADCAS are still accredited by SANAS hence the purpose of the visit was to convince the facilities to changeover to SADCAS.

Meeting with NSSA

The meeting with NSSA was held on 15 September 2016 and was attended by Mrs Maureen Mutasa – SADCAS CEO, Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo – SADCAS Technical Manager, Mr Mpho Phaloane – SANAS Senior Accreditation Manager, Dr Betty Isabel Nyereyegona – NSSA Director of Occupational Health & Safety and Mr John Mutswatiwa – NSSA Chief Inspector of Factories. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce SADCAS to the newly appointed NSSA Director of Occupational Health & Safety; inform her about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NSSA and SADCAS concerning the accreditation of inspection bodies in Zimbabwe that fall under the regulatory domain; inform about the Advisory Committee for inspection set up in Zimbabwe; and inform about the accreditation of inspection bodies in Zimbabwe.

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From Left to Right: Mr Mutswatiwa Chief Inspector of Factories, Mrs Mutasa, Dr Nyereyegona, Mr Mpho Phaloane and Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo

Mrs Mutasa gave a brief overview of SADCAS and the achievements thus far. She then gave a brief overview of the MoU which SADCAS and NSSA entered into in 2012. The objective of the MOU is to provide assurance of technical competence of service providers involved in the inspection of equipment and machinery. The MOU took a good 18 months to finalize and spells out the operational relationship between SADCAS as an accreditation body and NSSA as the delegated authority for occupational safety and health in Zimbabwe. To facilitate the implementation of the MOU, NSSA appointed members to the Advisory Committee for inspection in Zimbabwe and a Technical expert to be part of the assessment team when assessing inspection bodies in Zimbabwe. Mrs Mutasa mentioned that SADCAS was happy with the model set up however a number of issues relating to Technical experts, NSSA representation on the Advisory Committee, hosting of Advisory Committee meetings and set up of assessment teams that undertake assessments on inspection bodies that operate under the factories and Work Act in Zimbabwe. The meeting took the advantage of Mr Mpho Phaloane Senior Accreditation Manager for SANAS to share experiences on the various issues raised during the meeting and other issues concerning training on calibration of equipment.

Dr Betty Nyereyegona thanked SADCAS/SANAS representatives for the visit as well as for the information provided. As she had attended the first part of the AC meeting held on 14 September 2016 during which the overview of SADCAS was presented, she understood the roles and responsibilities of SADCAS and the need of accreditation.

Visit to Technon International Metrology Laboratory

On 15 September 2016 the SADCAS delegation met with management and staff of Technon International Metrology. Mr Blessing Mubaiwa, the Laboratory Manager, Mr Admond Tonderai Magwaza the Senior Technician and Mr Bradder Siwandima Technician. Technon International Metrology Laboratory has a calibration laboratory and has expressed interest in being accredited by SADCAS. The purpose of the visit was therefore to establish progress with the application for accreditation and to clarify procedural issues.

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Technon International Metrology Laboratory is based in Harare and undertake many activities such as occupational hygiene surveys, statutory air quality tests, SHEQ management systems consultancy in accordance with ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001; and calibration of measurements which include volumetric, linear, pressure, temperature, mass, hygiene and environmental equipment measurements. The personnel has been trained on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025. During the visit, Mr Mubaiwa advised that Technon International Metrology Laboratory was ready to submit the application for accreditation to SADCAS. To this regard, Ms Ranorovelo walked them through the accreditation process. After which a tour of the Laboratory for which accreditation is to be sought. Subsequent to the visit Technon International Metrology Laboratory submitted its application for accreditation which is now under consideration.



Technon staff in the laboratory



Some of Technon International metrology Laboratory Equipment



SADCAS delegation and Technon International metrology Laboratory pose for a photo

Meeting with CVL Zimbabwe

Following on from the meeting with Technon International Metrology Laboratory the SADCAS delegation proceeded onto an impromptu meeting with Mrs Wedzerai Makaya, the Quality Manager of the Central Veterinary Laboratory. This was a follow up meeting to the meeting held on 18 September 2015 to establish progress with changeover of CVL accreditation from SANAS to SADCAS especially that SADCAS had achieved signatory status in the ILAC MRA for Testing. Mrs Makaya informed that CVL had no objection to move to SADCAS but had not yet submitted an application to SADCAS. She raised the challenge faced in the registration and getting approval of foreign currency by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe which took time hence were cautious to avoid any disruption in its accreditation.

Mrs Mutasa then informed CVL of the developments following the achievement of Signatory Status to ILAC MRA for Testing and Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025 by SADCAS that SANAS was in the process of advising all facilities accredited by SANAS in SADCAS operational boundaries, that SANAS will no longer be legally able to continue to offer accreditation services at the expiry of their accreditation certificates. This is why SADCAS was advising such facilities to changeover. Mrs Mutasa mentioned that the changeover can be undertaken at any stage even though the best time is at re-assessment stage. She also informed CVL about the meeting held on 13 June 2016 with the Reserve Governor of

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Zimbabwe, Dr John Mangudya who assured that payments to SADCAS will be given the appropriate considerations noting that SADCAS was a regional accreditation body servicing the accreditation needs of 13 SADC Member States including Zimbabwe and further noting the importance of accreditation and role of SADCAS in facilitating trade and regional integration and economic and social development.

Mrs Makaya then advised that CVL plans to changeover its accreditation during the 2018 surveillance assessment as the 2017 surveillance is already scheduled in February 2017 and CVL has effected all necessary payments to SANAS. Mrs Mutasa explained that for a smooth changeover CVL would have to submit its application at least 9 months before the expiry of the certificate and noted that CVL could still changeover to SADCAS at this stage as the fees paid to SANAS could be transferred to SADCAS. On the way out the SADCAS met Dr Makaya who assured SADCAS of changeover.

Meeting with SIRDC-NMI

On the same day after the meeting with CVL, the SADCAS delegation proceeded to hold another impromptu meeting with SIRDC-NMI. The meeting was held with Mr Mathew Ranganai, SIRDC-NMI Director and Mrs Gladys Mudyahoto the SIRDC Financial Controller. The meeting discussed the upcoming re-assessment of SIRDC – NMI scheduled on 5 and 6 October 2016 and the requirements to be met before the assessment could be undertaken.

Meeting with Standards Association of Zimbabwe

On 16 September 2016 SADCAS delegation, SANAS Senior Manager Accreditation, Mr Mpho Phaloane met with Mrs Eve Gadzikwa the Director General of the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) and Mr John Mapani Member of SAZ Executive Committee and representing the Technical Sub Committee. The meeting discussed the changeover of SAZ Quality Assurance from SANAS to SADCAS giving the reasons why SAZ QA was being encouraged to changeover to SADCAS and outlining the process of changeover.



From left to right: Mrs Mutasa, Mr Ranganai, Mrs Mudyahoto and Ms Ranorovelo

Meeting with Doubletime Investments t/a Non-Invasive Technologies

Following on from the meeting with SAZ, the SADCAS delegation met with Doubletime Investments t/a Non-Invasive Technologies at its premises in Southerton, Harare. The meeting was attended by Mr Tichafa Mukurazhizha Managing Director and Mr Allan Mari Technician. Doubletime Investments t/a Non-Invasive Technologies is an inspection body which submitted an application for accreditation to SADCAS for the pressure vessels and boilers scopes. Doubletime Investments t/a Non-Invasive Technologies also undertakes inspection activities in the mining sector for lifting equipment and in the general industries for manufacturing scope. The company was established in January 2014 with 4 shareholders and currently has 2 personnel. The company has undertaken quite a number of inspections especially in the mining sector for which it is awaiting payment from its clients. The meeting discussed the upcoming assessment of the inspection body and the requirements that have to be met for the assessment to go on.

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SADCAS Management with Doubletime Management and Inspectors



Doubletime Staff pose for a photo with some of their inspection equipment

Meeting with ISOCAL Calibration Laboratories

An impromptu visit was made to ISOCAL Calibration Laboratories but regrettably Mr Felix Kawenda the Managing Director of ISOCAL was not available.

The targeted marketing visits to the 6 conformity assessment bodies in Zimbabwe accredited and under process as well as the stakeholder engagement with NSSA were worthwhile. The meetings were an opportunity to understand the challenges that clients are facing in Zimbabwe and to negotiate a way forward on each of the cases. Being accompanied to some of the meetings by Mr Phaloane, the SANAS Senior Accreditation Manager really helped to explain to clients the nature of the Twinning Partnership Arrangement and the need to changeover to SADCAS accreditation. One of the conformity assessment bodies visited subsequently submitted an application having been taken through the procedure.

Many thanks to the Mrs Mildred Machiri NAFP – Zimbabwe for the support provided to facilitate the visits.

SADCAS Value Proposition

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

NAFP-Zambia Promoting Accreditation and Marketing SADCAS Services

The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in Zambia hosts the National Accreditation Focal Point which provides the administrative link between clients and potential clients in Zambia and SADCAS. The NAFP is mainly responsible for promoting accreditation and marketing SADCAS services in Zambia. The NAFP Office is manned by 2 Officers Mr Moses Ngosa and Mrs Gladys Bwalya Banda. Since April 2016 up to date, the NAFP has undertaken a number of activities in line with the 2016/2017 Approved Annual Work plan.



Mr Moses Banda

Mrs Gladys Bwalya Banda

- ❑ The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry where the NAFP is housed, and the Zambia Bureau of Standards undertook a nation - wide consultation on the implementation of the Pre Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) programme on general goods in Zambia. During the nation - wide consultations it came to light that accreditation of conformity assessment bodies can play a critical role in consumer confidence for the regulated products.
- ❑ National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO) a water sector regulator in Zambia has issued a directive to all water utility companies to have their testing laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025. In that regard, NAFPs and UNIDO held a meeting with NWASCO to see the way forward in assisting the regulator achieve its objective. In that regard, an awareness workshop on the importance of participating in Proficiency Testing Schemes was held. NAFP's made a presentation during the Water Profanely Testing (PT) Scheme workshop organized by Zambia National Laboratory Association (ZNLA) with support from UNIDO- Trade Capacity Building for Zambia.
- ❑ On the achievement of signatory status in testing and calibration in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025, the NAFPs facilitated the release of the Press Statement in the Zambia Daily Mail. With this achievement the accreditation certificates issued by SADCAS are internationally recognized thus remove the need for repetitive testing.
- ❑ The Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) testing laboratories was accredited by SADCAS in the Scope of chemical analysis of potable water and animal feeds, and physical testing of latex condoms. The NAFPs facilitated and witnessed the handover ceremony which was officiated by Honourable Margaret D. Mwanakatwe, MP, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry on 11th March, 2016 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Zambia.
- ❑ NAFPs Participated in the review of National Quality Infrastructure Bills which are expected to be forwarded to Parliament for enactment. Once enacted this will facilitate the re-engineering of the Zambia National Quality Infrastructure in line with international best practice.
- ❑ NAFPs attended the Annual General Meeting of the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI) where a presentation was made on the WTO /TBT Agreement and the National Quality Policy.
- ❑ NAFPs participated in the Standards Needs Assessment for the Leather and Leather Products Sector in Western and Southern Provinces from 11th to 16th September, 2016. The overall objective is to accelerate leather industry participation in regional trade for enhanced regional economic integration through the production of leather products that meet national, regional and international markets requirements.
- ❑ NAFPs are Committee members to the Zambia National Technical Barriers to Trade Committee. The 2 NAFPS attended a Workshop to review WTO/TBT Notifications and complaints 2nd to 5th August, 2016. The objective of the Zambia Technical Barriers to Trade Consultative Committee is to provide a national level consultation between all stakeholders on matters arising from the obligations and rights of the WTO TBT Agreement.

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NAFPs participated in the Sensitization on COMESA Harmonized Standards and Training on WTO/TBT matters on the Copperbelt Province. ZABS conducted a sensitization to Private Stakeholders on COMESA Harmonized Standards on 19th July, 2016 and training of Government Agencies on WTO/TBT matters on 20th to 21st July, 2016 in Kitwe, Copperbelt Province

NAFPs Participated in the Risk and Impact Analysis training for regulators in Zambia. SADC Secretariat through PTB organized a three (3) day retreat to roll out the Risk and Impact assessment training to all regulatory authorities in Zambia from the 11th to 13th July, 2016. The overall objective was to raise awareness of the importance of conducting Risk and Impact assessment when developing Technical Regulations.

[This article was compiled by Mr Moses Ngosa the 1st NAFP – Zambia]

NAFPs Holds 10th Annual Meeting

The 10th SADCAS – NAFP Annual meeting was held at Birchwood Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa on 6 December 2016. The meeting was attended by 7 NAFPs from 6 out of the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS and 3 SADCAS staff. National Accreditation Focal Points from Angola (1); Botswana (1), Democratic Republic of Congo (1), Namibia (1), Swaziland (2) and Zimbabwe (1) attended the meeting.

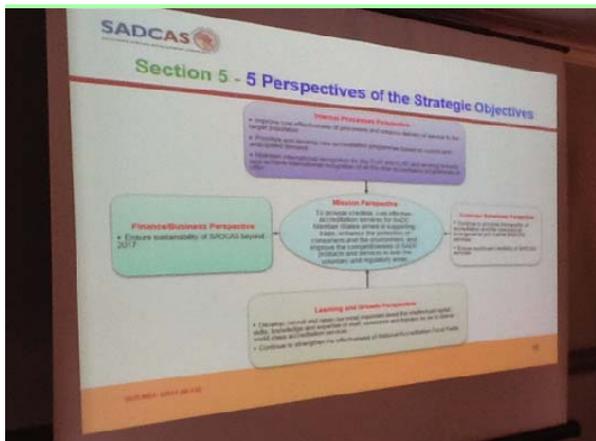
The main purpose of the meeting was to present the 5-year SADCAS Strategic Plan covering the period 2017 to 2022 and to advise the NAFPs of the funding requirements thereof from Governments of SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS so that they can pre sensitize their respective Governments of the indicative levels of contributions ahead of the SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade meeting scheduled to be held in February 2017. The other main purpose of the meeting was to develop the 2016/17 SADCAS Marketing Plan framework. The developed 2017/18 Marketing Plan framework shall be populated, finalized and circulated to NAFPs by 24 April 2017 for comment by 5 May 2017 following which the Marketing Plan shall be finalized by 8 May 2017.



NAFP meeting in session on 6 December 2016

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The meeting was also an opportunity to update NAFPs on developments in SADCAS, to review Governments Contributions' inflows. Some time was spent in reviewing the roles and responsibilities of NAFPs noting that 2 new NAFPs had been appointed in Angola and Namibia and that they were attending the meeting for the first time. On NAFP activities, the meeting reviewed the activities undertaken in the 2nd quarter and their performance thus far in the financial year. Progress with the development of databases of conformity assessment bodies and regulators operating in the 13 SADC Member States was also reviewed. It was noted that whilst NAFPs from 7 SADC Member States namely Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia had submitted their countries' databases, 6 NAFPs Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zimbabwe were yet to submit their databases which shall be submitted based on

the template provided by 28 February 2017. On training needs the meeting developed and finalized a template for the submission of training needs which the NAFPs shall use in submitting 2017/18 training needs for incorporation into the SADCAS training calendar for the year. It was agreed that the training needs shall be submitted on the developed template to SADCAS by 28 February 2017.

A total of 15 resolutions were passed during the meeting which was chaired by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO. The resolutions adopted from the meeting were immediately circulated to all NAFPs with attention being drawn to **Resolution 7 – NAFP M10 [2016-12-06]** on outstanding Governments contributions towards SADCAS sustainability and **Resolution 9 – NAFP M10 [2016-12-06]** on the need for NAFPs to pre sensitize their respective Governments ahead of the Committee of Ministers of Trade meeting on funding of SADCAS for the next strategic period and to advise their respective Governments of the indicative levels of contributions as per the following Schedule.

At the end of the meeting Ms Linda Dirorimwe the SADCAS Accreditation Administrator, distributed the 2015/16 annual report, the 8th annual report to be published by SADCAS. Each NAFP was given 10 copies of the 8th Annual Report for distribution to the Minister responsible for Trade/Industry, Permanent/Principle Secretary in the Ministry responsible for Trade/Industry, their respective representatives on the Trade Negotiation Forum, to other senior officials in the Ministry responsible for Trade/Industry and to the NAFP supervisor.

The meeting which started at 09:00 hours ended at 17:00 hours. Regrettably a number of NAFPs could not attend the meeting due to budget constraints.

SADCAS offers accreditation programmes for:

- Calibration laboratories in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025;
- Testing laboratories in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025;
- Medical laboratories in accordance with ISO 15189;
- Management systems certification bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021;
- Product certification bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065; Personnel certification bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17024; and
- Inspection bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020.

An Assessor's African Assessment Adventures

In 2014 I was privileged to join the SADCAS Medical Laboratory assessment team as a Technical assessor, firstly as part of the Twinning Partnership Arrangement with SANAS and then later as a registered SADCAS Technical Assessor.

As I have always loved travelling and experiencing the culture in African countries I was thrilled to be given this opportunity to assess laboratories outside the South African borders. I also hoped that I would maybe be able to add value to laboratories that were starting out on their journey of quality. As an assessor in the scope "Microbiology" it has always been apparent that laboratories really struggle with the accreditation of this section. On the initial assessments for SADCAS, the Microbiology sections lived up to the difficulties with many applicants not achieving accreditation, but what has really become noticeable is the steady improvement I have seen in these laboratories that have gone on to achieving accreditation. Many of these laboratories are in isolated areas with severe logistic problems, where basic items that we all take for granted are not available and to see how these laboratories have embraced accreditation and persevered until they have achieved the goal is really great. Having come from a large accredited laboratory in a developed urban area I have been humbled by what has been achieved under often difficult conditions by these facilities.

To my travelling companions on our often long African safaris I have really enjoyed all the laughter and companionships on our travels in our taxi, (house music and all), the bugs that love a certain Lead Assessor, the traffic jams in Dar es Salaam and then the professionalism when we are assessing, to all the laboratories for welcoming us, to the SADCAS team for all the logistical arrangements that help to make our travels smooth and hassle free THANK YOU.

[This article was compiled by Ms Vanessa Pearce]



Ms Vanessa Pearce

In the Words of an Assessor



Ms Janita Martins is a Lead assessor for testing and calibration and has conducted assessments on behalf of SADCAS in Tanzania, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Personally I am very excited when I am selected to assist SADCAS to attend the assessments within Africa as I love travelling and meeting new people and appreciating the adaptation of people to the environments and challenges and perhaps my experience will sound biased. The input from the other assessors have confirmed my experience of feeling privileged and appreciated.

Based on the various cultural, economic and political diversity of the different countries that SADCAS serves, the administrative process has many challenges and is managed professionally. All documents and travel arrangements have been met on time for the attendance of the assessment and I shall not dwell on this process. Thank you to all the personnel at SADCAS for their dedication and assistance even after working hours and whilst they are on leave. The manner in which the process is handled shows commitment and this is further extended to the facilities when we conduct assessments.

Assessment is the process of making decisions of the competence of the personnel at the facility in consistently achieving the accurate results through matching evidence collected to the appropriate outcomes related to the standard, ISO/IEC 17025.

In order to ensure assessments are fair, valid and reliable there are various principles that must be adhered to. These are discussed in detail and the related experience in conducting the assessments is noted as follows:

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- ❑ **Good communication:** Once we receive the confirmation of the notification for the assessment there is timely acknowledgement from the facility and they also acknowledge receipt of the agenda and assessment plans. Timely arrangements are made for the transport of the assessors to the facility and back to the hotels. From the time the driver collects you from the accommodation you are treated with respect and friendliness. During the assessment there is an impeccable understanding of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard, as well as, SADCAS requirements and also what need to be in place for the QMS system to be effective and their process to produce accurate reliable results and guaranteeing quality and commitment to growth and development of their country. They record their meeting minutes in detail and allows one to be able to verify the contents of the communication and monitoring of the processes. There are clear directives pertaining to the client and regulatory requirements.
- ❑ **Appropriate, Valid and Fair: The method of assessment is suited to the outcome being assessed and evidence is made available in all areas to establish if the criteria have been met.** As long as the assessment is conducted honestly, fairly and within the accreditation and SADCAS requirements there are no problems with accepting the nonconformities and improving the system. The responses are intelligent and rational and one can appreciate the debate pertaining to the management of resources and personnel.
- ❑ **Integrated and current: Evidence collection is integrated into the work completed where appropriate and feasible.** You are graced with the senior government officials at the opening and closing meetings and there is line of concern and impact about the accreditation status and the fact that the results can be internationally accepted. Personnel at the facilities are acutely aware that in competing in the global market they have a distinct advantage with ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation and as such need to have professional well trained personnel, equipment and accommodation and the documentation to ensure that they consistently provide correct results. Furthermore, they maintain processes and test methods to meet the changing technological requirements and updated international standards.
- ❑ **Systematic: The overall process ensures assessment is fair, effective, repeatable and manageable.** When one is required to complete a document review for an initial or re-assessment, the documentation submitted includes the quality manual, procedures, test methods, validation/verification reports, and competency documents for their personnel, proficiency test results and job descriptions. This allows for detailed review of the process.
- ❑ During the assessment process the personnel are very accommodating, answer questions honestly, friendly, complete the tests in line with their test methods and are willing to learn and improve their services to the clients. In some cases, the laboratories equipment is not of the most recent or advanced, but the Proficiency Testing Scheme results obtained indicate their performance is competent and they do not need to stand back for anybody. Based on the political and financial challenges that some of the facilities face there is a burden upon the personnel with supplies, services and equipment requiring planning well in advance, to minimize the impact on the accreditation and the service to their clients. On completion of the assessment the corrective actions are completed to ensure that the root cause is identified and appropriately addressed even if they are required to resubmit the evidence.
- ❑ **Transparent: The process is transparent i.e. personnel understand the entire process and the criteria that apply and can contribute to the planning and accumulation of evidence.** Personnel are informed of documentation that has to be maintained for traceability and records. Sometimes there is a delay in acquiring the records as the Quality Manager keeps all the documentation and records and there is a waiting period for the technical assessors as the quality manager is busy with the lead assessor.
- ❑ **Reliable and Consistent: The same assessor or another assessor would make the same conclusions in similar circumstances.** In sum one must be able to appreciate the diversity, respect the personnel, behave ethically and conduct the assessment professionally in acquiring evidence then there would be an effective outcome for the facility and the assessment team and we will be able to ensure that we contribute to delivering confidence, assuring competency and guaranteeing quality.

In conclusion I find the assessment process very rewarding in the sense that there is contribution to allow facilities to enhance their capabilities and minimize barriers to trade and being able to compete globally. Enjoy the diversity and respect the personnel for their commitment and cooperation during the assessment.

[This article was compiled by Mrs Janita Martins with input from Mr T Seleko and Mr P Botes all of whom are SADCAS registered assessors]

Advisory Committee for Inspection in Zimbabwe Meets

The 6th meeting of the SADCAS Advisory Committee for Inspection in Zimbabwe was held on 14 September 2016 at the Standards Association of Zimbabwe Boardroom in Harare, Zimbabwe. The meeting was chaired by Eng. Ngoni Chirinda and attended by 21 members from inspection bodies, regulators, users, academic institutions, SADCAS and SANAS. The purpose of the meeting was to provide updates on developments at SADCAS and in the ILAC Inspection Committee; to undertake a systematic review of ISO/IEC 17020; to consider extending scope of accreditation to "Lifting Equipment" and to review inspection signatories' requirements.

Updates on Developments at SADCAS - SADCAS offers accreditation services and generic training on accreditation related activities. In her presentation on the update of developments in SADCAS, Mrs Maureen Mutasa the SADCAS CEO highlighted that SADCAS's business is growing both in terms of field, sector and scope of accreditation as well as geographical coverage. Income from operations is increasing whilst dependency on government funding is reducing. SADCAS the first multi economy accreditation body in the world achieved a major milestone in the short history of its existence. In October and November 2015, SADCAS was accepted as a signatory to the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) and the International Laboratory Accreditation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) for the testing and calibration laboratories accreditation programs having undergone a pre-peer evaluation in June 2014 followed by the rigorous peer evaluation in May 2015. With this achievement, the accreditation certificates issued by SADCAS for testing and calibration of laboratories are now internationally recognized. Meanwhile SADCAS is working towards the signatory status of its other accreditation programs whose credibility currently hinges on the Twinning Partnership Arrangements with the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) and the Tunisia Accreditation Council (TUNAC). She advised the meeting that SADCAS is set to undergo peer evaluation of its Medical Laboratories and Inspection bodies accreditation programmes in 2017. As part of continuous improvement strategy, SADCAS undertakes customer satisfaction surveys to evaluate the overall satisfaction of the customer on services provided. Based on the analysis of the 2015/16 results, the overall satisfaction on accreditation services was rated from very good to excellent. She then presented the objectives and key strategies for the 2016/17 financial year and the achievements thus far in the year.



Members of the Advisory Committee for Inspection in Zimbabwe

Developments in ILAC Inspection Committee - Two ILAC documents were considered during the meeting, with the objective of advising members of the changes made in **ILAC P 15:07/2016** "Conformity Assessment – Requirements for the Operation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection" and the progress in the drafting of **ILAC G XXX** – "Guidance on Measurements Performed as Part of an Inspection Process". ILAC P 15 provides information for use by both accreditation bodies and inspection bodies on the application of ISO/IEC 17020. The previous version of ILAC P 15 was published in June 2014 and had an implementation date of 18 months from the date of publication (i.e. December 2015). The ballot preceding the publication of ILAC P 15 resulted in a significant number of "no-votes" due to differing opinions concerning the meaning of the included application notes for this clause. Therefore an amendment to clarify

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Mr Mpho Phaloane presenting the new draft ILAC Guidance

Mr Danmore Mabambe presenting on ILAC P 15

Mr Gilbert Mhangwa emphasizing a point during his presentation

Clause 8.1.3 was proposed by the ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) and endorsed by the ILAC membership in July 2016. The draft ILAC G XXX – “Guidance on Measurements Performed as Part of an Inspection Process” was also presented because ILAC Guidance documents for accreditation bodies and accredited organizations may provide information on the interpretation of accreditation criteria for specific applications. For inspection bodies, an inspection process may include measurements which may be referred to as either inspection, examination, checking or testing activities. It has for a long time been a matter of discussion as to the extent the requirements in

ISO/IEC 17025 need to be considered when an inspection body is accredited to ISO/IEC 17020 for an inspection task which includes measurements. ILAC G XXX has been developed to provide guidance on this topic.

Systematic Review of ISO/IEC 17020 - ISO/IEC 17020 was published on 1 March 2012. The systematic review of this standard will be launched on the 15th of January 2017 and to be closed on the 4th of June 2017. To this regard the standard was reviewed clause by clause and members were requested to comment on the various clauses which they feel should be revised. The general feeling from members was that the standard should not be revised as members were still getting to grip with its implementation a position which SADCAS then presented to the ILAC Inspection Committee at its meeting held in New Delhi on 29 October 2016.

Accreditation Scopes - The accreditation in the scope “Lifting Equipment” has been subject of discussion by the Advisory Committee since 2015. The National Social Security Authority (NSSA) representative informed the meeting that the new regulation which took into consideration the Lifting Equipment was still under development. Noting that the development of the regulation in Zimbabwe may take some time before gazetting, members agreed that the scope of accreditation for inspection could be extended to Lifting Equipment which would be accredited under the voluntary domain. Then it was agreed to move to voluntary accreditation of the lifting equipment for which a Working Group for lifting equipment only would have to be established to develop the criteria. The relevant members for lifting equipment will be co-opted to the Advisory Committee for inspection in Zimbabwe after which a Working Group would be established to develop the criteria.

Inspection Signatories - It was explained that an Inspection Authority’s ‘responsible person’ is a person approved by the Chief Inspector in accordance with Section 4(2) of R.G.N. no 279 of 1976 to supervise the manufacturing inspection of a boiler in accordance with the law. Similarly, in the case of pressure vessels, the ‘responsible person’ is approved by the Chief Inspector in accordance with Section 3(3) of R.G.N. no 303 of 1976 for the manufacturing inspection and Section 16(1) of R.G.N. no 303 of 1976 as amended by Statutory Instrument 284 of 1982 for pressure vessel in-service inspection. Then reference was made to Clause 6.1.4 of ISO/IEC 17020 which states that, “The inspection body shall make clear to each person their duties, responsibilities and authorities” and to Clause 7.4.2 (e) of ISO/IEC 17020 which states that, “The inspection reports and inspection certificates shall include signature or other indication of approval by authorized personnel.” Therefore, inspection bodies working under the regulatory domain shall issue reports or certificates signed by approved authorized personnel. It up to the organization to submit a request of the needed personnel to the regulatory authorities (NSSA) to.

Design Verification Engineer - It was explained that the Design Verification Engineer (DVE) competency requirements are set out in clause 4.3 of SADCAS TR 05 “Criteria for the accreditation of inspection bodies performing inspection in terms of the pressure vessels/boilers regulations in Zimbabwe”. The prescribed functions of an Inspection Authority referred to by the regulations are set out in the design and manufacturing standard specification, for example BS EN 12953, BS EN 12952 and PD 5500 for boilers and pressure vessels respectively. The Schedule of Accreditation provides

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among other things the roles, responsibilities and authority of Inspection Body personnel accordingly and such information is found in the public domain. In conclusion the meeting noted the need to review SADCAS TR 05 in order to substantiate the Design Verification function whether it can be made a stand-alone or not. Reference was made to Clause 6.1 of BS 12953 which requires that the manufacturer shall allow the responsible authority full access to all drawings and calculations necessary for checking the design and dimension of parts during the manufacture as appropriate. If erection on-site is not undertaken by the manufacturer, the manufacturer shall apply full information to enable the erection of boiler to be performed.

There being no other issues to discuss the meeting ended at 13:30 hours with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and to SADCAS for making arrangements for the meeting.

SADCAS Staff Participate in AFRAC E-learning Project Test Phase

SADCAS staff, Mrs Pinkie Malebe and Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo participated in the testing phase of the e-Learning programme on accreditation developed for AFRAC and funded by the EU. The SADCAS staff were part of the participants nominated to review the "look and feel" of the e-learning training courses that are compiled as part of the ACP-TBT project.

The purpose of the Test Phase was to determine the participant's level of satisfaction with:

- The overall look and feel of the course material;
- The general content and ease of understanding;
- The ease of access and movement throughout the material; and
- The extent to which the participants believed the courses will add value in providing training to the target audience.

The course registration is online followed by an introductory video that gives an overview of the course material and how to manoeuvre the training material. Each module is preceded by a pre-test to determine the level of appreciation of the subject matter then a read through the course notes, followed by a test.

The course material covered the following topics:

- Accreditation in international trade;
- Introduction to the principles of ISO/IEC 17011;
- Establishing and efficiently managing a new accreditation body;
- Training of National Focal Accreditation Points (NAFPs);
- Toolkit for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in the process of preparing for accreditation; and
- Introductory training for Peer evaluators.

A 70% pass mark was set as a criteria for moving on to the subsequent modules and a certificate was issued for passing each module. SADCAS staff passed all the modules with flying colours!! This e-learning course was very informative and interactive and would be applicable and beneficial to CABs as they prepare for accreditation, new members of staff for accreditation bodies to understand accreditation and the National accreditation focal points. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to understand more about accreditation. We wish to thank AFRAC for this great learning opportunity.

SADCAS has since adopted Modules 1 and 2 as the basis to assess familiarization of accreditation issues especially after induction. Meanwhile all staff have been asked to undertake the modules 1 and 2 of the AFRAC e learning programme at their own pace.

SADCAS Holds Another ISO/IEC 17025 Course in Botswana

SADCAS recently held a 5-day training course on ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements and Internal Auditing in Botswana. The training was held at Oasis Motel in Gaborone, Botswana from 19 to 23 September 2016. A total of 19 participants from five organizations attended this course. The organizations that participated in the training course are Botswana Vaccine Institute (4), Botswana Power Corporation – Morupule B Power Station (4), Radiation Protection Inspectorate (2), the Department of Waste Management and Pollution Control (4), and Morupule Coal Mine (5) participants respectively. This was the 11th course on ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements and Internal Auditing to be held in Botswana.



Training in session

The two representatives from the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry which is home to the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Botswana Mr Edward Mmatli and Ms Boikhutso Pheto were also in attendance and in his opening remarks Mr Mmatli welcomed the participants to the course and thanked their organizations for recognizing the need to develop and train laboratory personnel in accordance with the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. He further went on to give a brief background of SADCAS and the training courses that are offered and gave some insight into the role that laboratories play as trade stakeholders in the 21st century.

The SADCAS Trainer Mrs Wedzerai Makaya encouraged participants to share their experiences and challenges that they face working in their respective laboratories and elaborated on how adherence to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard would help them in overcoming them, especially since most of them had Quality Management Systems that were in their infancy. At the end of the course the participants thanked SADCAS for a course well presented and looked forward to implementing what they had learnt in their laboratories.



Participants pose for a photo during training

Phase 2 of PTB-Germany Funded Training of Testing Laboratories Completed

SADCAS secured funding from PTB Germany for capacity development of testing laboratories that are involved in the mining and mineral processing sectors in 7 SADC Member States namely: Angola, Botswana, DRC, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The project was in 2 Phases. Although Namibia was originally in phase 1 of the project together with Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia, training courses were deferred to Phase 2. Phase 2 of the project therefore covered 4 countries namely: Angola; DRC; Namibia; and Zimbabwe started in May 2016 was completed in August 2016.

The objective of the project was to train management and staff from mining and mineral processing sector on ISO/IEC 17025, the key accreditation standards applicable to testing laboratories including those which operate in the mining and minerals processing sector in order to prepare them for accreditation. Thus contribute to the strengthening of industrial capacities in the mining and mineral processing sector and enhance the competitiveness and integration into the world markets. The training programme comprised of two training courses, a one-day awareness course on ISO/IEC 17025 followed by an intensive 5-day ISO/IEC 17025 requirements, implementation and internal auditing course.

The one-day awareness courses were held in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 8 August 2016, and in Namibia and Zimbabwe on 15 August 2016 and were attended by a total of 81 participants from 17 testing laboratories operating in the mining and mineral processing sectors.



Participants at the Awareness Course held in Harare, Zimbabwe pose for a photo with the Trainer, Mr Benson Gabi on extreme right front row



Participants during the Awareness Training course in DRC

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The 5-day ISO/IEC 17025 requirements, implementation and internal auditing courses which were held from 9 to 13 August 2016 in Angola and DRC, and from 16 to 20 August 2016 in Namibia and Zimbabwe were attended by a total of 81 participants from 15 testing laboratories. Based on the feedback from participants, the training courses were all very well administered, well presented and very relevant.



Group work in progress during the 5-day training course in Angola



Top management and participants pose for a photo with the Trainer Mr Victor Viki Mbuya Kanama during the 5-day course in DRC



From left to right: Mr Odilon Mwepu - GECAMINES Lab Manager, Mr Victor KANAMA Viki Mbuya- ASCO-LAB Chairman, Mr Didier MAKONGA- Director SSM Laboratory Manager and Mr. Valentin LISASO MOM-BELE - CEEC on 13 August 2016



Participants at the 5 days ISO/IEC 17025 training course held at Cresta Lodge in Harare pose for a photo with the Trainer Mr Benson Gabi

The mineral processing sector is identified in the SADC Industrial Policy as one of the priority sectors for development. Poor quality of products, general lack of quality control and quality assurance and inability to prove conformity of exports with international standards has been identified as a weakness of the mineral processing sector. The mineral processing sector has the relative advantage of gaining in competitiveness at fewer costs through adapting the final production to international standards. Laboratories play a critical role in the mining and minerals processing sector from exploitation, research, to grade control in the processing plant. Accreditation which is the process of providing recognition that an organization/person is competent to undertake specific tasks is now widely accepted as a transparent and non-discriminatory means of assuring technical competence of testing/certification/inspection collectively known as conformity assessment service providers. This training came at an opportune time as efforts are underway to strengthen the region's conformity assessment infrastructure as part of the industrialization strategy.

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All the participants on the training courses appreciated the training highlighting that the training was an eye opener, highly beneficial and enlightening. The participants enjoyed the training and most promised to revisit their decisions and commitment to accreditation. Judged from the feedback from participants the training was a success and greatly appreciated by all the participants. Through this phase 2 of the project us SADCAS has managed to create awareness on the need and importance of accreditation and to impart the necessary knowledge and skills to laboratory staff for them to implement ISO/IEC 17025 in their laboratories and to monitor compliance thereof.

Update on ISO/IEC 17011 Revision

The revision of International Standard which accreditation bodies have to comply with for international recognition ISO/IEC 17011: 2004: Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies is ongoing. The revision which was initiated as a new work item proposal in 2014 is being undertaken by Working Group 42 of the ISO Policy Committee on Conformity assessment (ISO CASCO WG 42). The WG has so far held 5 meetings and 3 drafting meetings.

Two Committee Drafts (CD) were issued with 1771 comments being received on CD 1 with 69 registering “yes” ballots, 8 registering “No” ballots and 7 abstentions and 1410 comments being made on CD2 with 76 registering “yes” ballots, 6 registering “No” ballots and 9 abstentions. The following are the key changes that have been made to the standard:

- ❑ The standard has been aligned with common structure of CASCO documents and the revised draft standard now has 10 clauses.
- ❑ Mandatory wording for impartiality, confidentiality, complaints and appeals has been incorporated. Disclosure of information is no longer required. For the management system 2 options i.e. Option A and Option B have been included.
- ❑ Proficiency testing (PT) has been identified as an accreditation activity.
- ❑ Where appropriate IAF and ILAC documents have been incorporated.
- ❑ Definitions have been changed, deleted and clarified as necessary.
- ❑ The concept of risk based thinking has been introduced.
- ❑ Competence criteria has been Incorporated.

The following is a synopsis of the key changes have been made Clause by Clause:

- ❑ **Scope** wording has been changed and aligned with the other scopes of the CASCO tool box by introducing the terms competence, consistency and impartiality. The Note under the scope has been expanded to include validation, verification and Proficiency testing.
- ❑ **Under Clause 3**, remote assessment, assessment plan and accreditation decision have been added whilst virtual assessments has been deleted. The term “Technical Expert” has been clarified whilst assessment activities has been changed to assessment techniques and expanded.
- ❑ **Clause 4 on General requirements** has been redrafted.
- ❑ The Informative Annex on knowledge and skills is now in the main text of the standard under Clause 6 hence now a requirement.
- ❑ **Clause 7 on Process Requirements** has been tidied up and issues around maintenance of accreditation which is being addressed differently by accreditation bodies has been clarified. Accreditation cycle has been kept at the same length i.e. a maximum of 5 years.
- ❑ **Under Clause 9 on Management system**, 2 Options have been introduced with Option B being applicable to those accreditation bodies that have established and maintain a management system in accordance with ISO 9001 and that is capable of supporting and demonstrating the consistent fulfilment of ISO/IEC 17011.

The Draft International Standard ISO/IEC 17011 was circulated for comment and comment period closes in December 2016, the Drafting Group is scheduled to meet in January 2017 followed by the main WG 42 meeting in February 2017 during which a Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) will be issued. The revised standard is scheduled to be published in August 2017. The WG 42 may agree that no FDIS be issued hence go straight to publication which means the publication date may very well be earlier than August 2017.

Update on ISO/IEC 17025 Revision

The revision of ISO/IEC 17025 is going on as scheduled by ISO CASCO Working Group 44 with the 2nd Committee Draft (CD2) having been issued in February 2016 following the 4th meeting of the working group held from 16 to 19 February 2016. The ISO CASCO WG 44 Convenors are Mr Warren Merkel (NVLAP, USA), Mr Steven Sidney (NLA, South Africa; Chair ILAC LC) and Mr Heribert Schorn (IEC). ILAC is represented on the WG by Ms Zhang Mingxia (CNAS, China) and Ms Johanna Acuña Loria (ECA, Costa Rica).

The WG 44 held its 5th meeting from 20 to 23 September 2016 to review the 1800 comments received on CD2 and the output of that meeting is the Draft International Standard (DIS). The DIS is structured into 8 main clauses and 2 informative Annexes and a Bibliography as follows:

1 Scope	5 Structural requirements	Annex A - Metrological traceability
2 Normative references	6 Resource requirements	Annex B - Management System
3 Terms and definitions	7 Process requirements	Bibliography
4 General requirements	8 Management requirements	

The following is a synopsis of the major Changes in ISO/IEC 17025 after incorporation of comments received on CD 2.

- ❑ Under the Introduction on the relationship with ISO 9001, the word “generally” has been introduced.
- ❑ Under Clause 1 Scope the revised standard is applicable to all organization performing laboratory activities.
- ❑ Under Clause 2. Normative reference only VIM is mentioned whilst the rest of the reference documents have been put into the Bibliography .
- ❑ Under Clause 3 Terms and Definitions, impartiality has been redefined as presence of objectivity. The term laboratory has been defined as a body that performs one or more of the following activities: calibration; testing; sampling associated with subsequent calibration and testing. A new term on “Decision Rule” has been added as the rule that describes how measurement uncertainty will be accounted for when stating conformity with specified requirement.
- ❑ Under Clause 6.3, Laboratory Facilities and Environmental Conditions, a new sub - clause 6.3.5 has been added which requires the laboratory to ensure that requirements related to facilities and environmental conditions are met when the laboratory performs activities at facilities outside its permanent control.
- ❑ Under Clause 6.4 on Equipment, a requirements for review and adjustment of calibration programme and for definition of validity of calibration have been added.
- ❑ Under Clause 6.5 on Metrological Traceability, an addition has been made on the need to select and use reference materials that are fit for purpose in the measurement process thus selection of the reference materials needs to be based on defined criteria.
- ❑ Under Clause 6.6 on Externally Provided Products and Services, there is an explicit requirement to maintain a register of all subcontractors.
- ❑ The decision rule has also been added under Clause 7.1 Review of Requests Tenders and Contracts.
- ❑ Under Clause 7.6 Evaluation of Measurement Uncertainty has been extended to sampling, otherwise the rest remains the same as for the 2005 version.

Under Clause 7.8 Reporting of Results a new requirement to show date of issue of report and statement to the effect that the results relate only to the items tested or calibrated. A new sub - clause 7.8.2.2 has been added under

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reporting of results requiring a clear identification of any data provided by the customer and the need to put a disclaimer on the report when the information supplied by the customer can affect the validity of the test/calibration results. Where the laboratory has not been responsible for the sampling stage then it shall be stated in the report that the results apply to the sample as received. For calibration certificates there is a requirement to include a statement identifying how the measurements are metrologically traceable. The decision rule shall also be applied to the reporting. A new sub - clause has also been added requiring any changes made to an issued report to be clearly identified.

- Under Clause 8 on Management Requirements Option A and B have been introduced. Some changes on the requirements for internal audit some changes have been made with the standard making no recommendations on the frequency of the internal audits, no requirement for independence and no qualifications specified for internal auditors.

The DIS will be published any time now and members are encouraged to review the DIS and submit any comments through their respective national mirror committees established by the National Standards Body. It is expected that the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 will be published by October 2017. In anticipation of its publication ILAC agreed on a 3 year transition from the date of publication.

Upcoming Training Courses

COURSE	DATE(S)	VENUE COUNTRY/CITY	FEES (BWP)	FEES (USD)
ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements & Internal Auditing	6 to 10 February 2017	Botswana	8,000	-
ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements & Internal Auditing	6 to 10 February 2017	Angola		850
ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements & Internal Auditing	13 to 17 February 2017	Zimbabwe (Harare)	-	750
ISO 15189 Requirements & Internal Auditing	6 to 10 February 2017	Botswana (Gaborone)	In-house	
ISO 15189 Requirements & Internal Auditing	13 to 17 February 2017	Botswana (Gaborone)	In-house	-
ISO 15189 Requirements & Internal Auditing	20 to 24 February 2017	Swaziland (Mbabane)	In-house	-
ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements & Internal Auditing	6 to 10 March 2017	Namibia (Swakopmund)	8,000	
ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements & Internal Auditing	6 to 10 March 2017	Tanzania (Dar es Salaam)	-	800

To register for any of the above courses please download SADCAS F 70 (b) - Training Booking Form from SADCAS website: http://www.sadcas.org/sadcas_forms.php or contact SADCAS at info@sadcas.org for more information.



Delivering confidence, Assuring competency, Guaranteeing quality

Accreditation in Supporting Public Policy

The international accreditation organizations ILAC and IAF together with ISO and the *Independent International Organization for Certification* (IIOC) have established a website www.publicsectorassurance.org to showcase different global examples where accreditation has been used to support public policy efforts. From assisting forensic science in the UK, to effective voluntary programmes in the US, to improving the delivery of food safety in Australia, to protecting consumers in the safety of products in the Gulf Coast Countries, to supporting sustainable animal health in Botswana, the site demonstrates real examples where public policy is being delivered using accreditation.



Each topic contains case studies of how governments and regulators have used accredited conformity assessment, plus independent published research and supporting information.

A link to the public sector assurance site is provided on the SADCAS website www.sadcas.org under the window on links.

Invitation to Register as SADCAS Assessors

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) invites qualified assessors to be registered as SADCAS assessors for its testing/calibration/medical laboratories, and certification (management systems/product)/ inspection bodies' accreditation programmes. SADCAS' strategy over the next few years is to grow its pool of assessors so as to cover the anticipated scopes of accreditation, and the geographical and language diversity in the SADC region of which 13 Member States are serviced by SADCAS.

Assessors are experts from the public and private sectors as well as from technical institutions/associations who have been trained, qualified and registered as assessors by an accreditation body.

SADCAS will review and evaluate all applications to ensure that the assessors have the prerequisite qualifications, technical knowledge and experience required by SADCAS.

Applications shall be addressed to:

Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo
 Technical Manager
 P Bag 00320
 Gaborone, Botswana

Email: jfranorovelo@sadcas.org; info@sadcas.org

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

New Accreditations

Accreditation	Name of Facility	Accreditation Number	Scope of Application	Tests Methods	Date of Accreditation	Expiry Date of Accreditation
Testing Laboratories Accreditation Programme	Zimbabwe Platinum Mines – Ngezi Laboratory	TEST-5 0022	Chemical Analysis	Ores Pt, Pd, Au, Ni, Cu Concentrates Pt, Pd, Au, Ni, Cu	22 Aug 2016	21 Aug 2021
	Tanzania Bureau of Standards Food Chemistry Laboratory	TEST-5 0023	Chemical Analysis	Honey • HMF • Moisture	21 Sept 2016	20 Sept 2021

Status of Key Accreditation Standards and IAF/ILAC Documents

STANDARD	STATUS
ISO/IEC DIS 17011:2004 Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies	At Enquiry Stage – Draft International Standard Ballot initiated
ISO/IEC DIS 17021-2: 2012 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 2: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of environmental management systems	Full report circulated - Draft International Standard approved to be registered as Final Draft International Standard
ISO/IEC DIS 17021-3 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 3: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems	Close of voting
ISO/IEC TS 17021-4: 2013 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 4: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of event sustainability management systems	International standard to be revised
ISO/IEC TS 17021-9:2016 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 9: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of anti-bribery management systems	International Standard published as at 2016-10-15
ISO/IEC NP 17021-10 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 10: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of occupational health and safety management systems	New project approved
ISO/IEC TS 17023: 2013 Guidelines for determining the duration of management system certification audits	International standard to be revised
ISO/IEC DIS 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories	International Standard registered
ISO/IEC DTR 17028 Conformity assessment - Example of a certification scheme for services	CD Study / Ballot initiated

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STANDARD	STATUS
ISO/IEC NP 17029 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies performing validation and verification activities	New project approved
ISO 17034:2016 General requirements for the competence of reference materials producers	International Standard published as at 2016-11-01
ILAC R1:09/2016 Management of ILAC Documents	This document provides rules and procedures for the classification and publication of ILAC documents
ILAC R4:10/2016 Use of the ILAC Logo and Tagline	This document outlines the rules for the use of the ILAC logo and tagline

Diary of Upcoming Events

DATES	MEETINGS	VENUE
27 November - 2 December 2016	ISO TC 176 Plenary Meetings (Quality Management & Quality Systems)	Rotterdam, Switzerland
6 December 2016	10 th National Accreditation Focal Points Annual Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa
6 - 9 December 2016	ISO CASCO WG 42 – Drafting Group Meeting on the Revision of ISO/IEC 17011	Geneva, Switzerland
7 December 2016	SADCAS/SANAS TPA M.27	Pretoria, South Africa
8 December 2016	2016 SADCAS Assessor Conclave	Pretoria, South Africa
9 December 2016	SADCAS Advisory Committees for Testing/ Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Programmes	Pretoria, South Africa
12 – 13 December 2016	SADCA Executive Committee Meeting	Gaborone, Botswana
19 - 22 December 2016	ARAC General Assembly Meetings	TBC
6 February 2016	SADCAS FRAC Meeting	Gaborone, Botswana
16 February 2016	SADCAS HRRC Meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
16 February 2016	SADCAS Board of Directors	Pretoria, South Africa
21 - 23 February 2017	ISO CASCO WG 42 – Meeting on the Revision of ISO/IEC 17011	Geneva, Switzerland
7 March 2017	BIPM-ILAC Working Group Meeting	Paris, France
8 March 2017	BIPM-ILAC-ISO-OIML Quadripartite Meeting	Paris, France
March 2017	SADC TBT Structures Meeting	TBA
31 March – 7 April 2017	ILAC-IAF Joint Mid Term Meetings	Frankfurt, Germany



Notice!!!

Christmas and New Year Holidays

**SADCAS office will be closed from Monday, 19
December 2016 and re-opens on
Monday, 9 January 2017**

**We wish you a Merry Christmas
& a Happy New!**

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