

## First two SADCAS Assessors Registered

Following the qualification of the first 2 assessors by SANAS mentors, SADCAS has registered its first assessors Mrs Anita Beukes from Namibia and Dr Ferojdeo Hemraj from Mauritius. Mrs Beukes and Dr Hemraj were amongst the first group of experts to be trained under the SADCA training program with funding from PTB Germany. Both the registered assessors fall under the medical laboratories field.



Mrs Anita Beukes

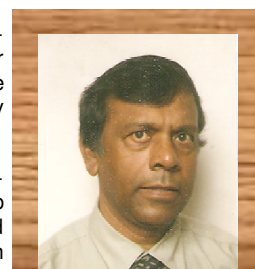
Talking to SADCAS about her experiences, Mrs Beukes said, *"I am honoured to be part of this historic development as one of the pioneer assessors for SADCAS"*. Mrs Beukes' career in laboratory quality management systems started in 2005 when she became the first Quality Assurance Technologist at the Namibian Institute of Pathology (NIP). At that time, her main responsibilities were to set up and implement the HIV rapid testing quality assurance program for the Namibian Ministry of Health in public health facilities and to assist the NIP Quality Manager in implementing quality management systems in the laboratories. In September of the same year, Mrs Beukes was nominated by the NIP through the NAFP- Namibia housed in the Ministry of Trade and Industry to be trained as a SADCAS assessor. At that time Mrs Beukes did not realize the impact that the training would have on her career in laboratory management. Although it took a while for the mentoring attachments to take place, her training as an assessor has been of great value as she served on the team which implemented quality management systems in two laboratories which were subsequently accredited. Mrs Beukes was also part of the team which conducted a gap analysis at the Windhoek Central Reference Laboratory in June 2008. Mrs Beukes then observed and participated in assessments under supervision of a SANAS mentor between 2008 and 2009.

Of her assessment experiences Mrs Beukes said, *"I have learnt a lot through this practical exposure and true to the old saying, "Practice makes perfect"*.

In her recommendations on future programs, Mrs Beukes highlighted the need for timeous mentoring of assessors which in her view is a more valuable skills transfer method. Mrs Beukes thanks SADCA Secretariat for organizing the course and mentoring program, SANAS for the assessment opportunities, PTB Germany for funding the training program and the Namibian Ministry of Trade and Industry for selecting her to participate in the training program and last but not least the NIP for the confidence shown in nominating her to participate in the regional program. Mrs Beukes is excited about being part of the SADCAS team which will contribute towards the improvement and recognition of SADC Technical competence.

Talking to SADCAS about his experiences, Dr Ferojdeo Hemraj was nominated together with another colleague from Mauritius to participate in the SADCA training program for assessors. In September 2005, Dr Hemraj participated in a specialist training workshop and attended the Test and Measurement Conference held in South Africa. The Test and Measurement conference was organized by the National Laboratory Association of South Africa.

Dr Hemraj then attended a training course on the ISO/IEC 17025 presented by SANAS. This course provided an in depth analysis of each requirement of ISO /IEC 17025, the interpretation thereof and how to implement each requirement. Dr Hemraj said he gained an insight into numerous aspects of the standard including method validation and uncertainty measurement and in addition had the opportunity to visit an accredited plant pathology laboratory situated at the University of Pretoria. This allowed Dr Hemraj to witness ISO /IEC 17025 in practice. He used the knowledge gained to prepare his laboratory for accreditation and contributed to the setting up of MAURITAS pool of assessors.



Dr Ferojdeo Hemraj

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To Dr Hemraj the training was the starting point of a long but worthwhile journey towards qualification as an assessor. So when the opportunity to observe an assessment in Gauteng, South Africa in October 2008 came up, there was no second thought on his part despite the fact that there were national celebrations of the festival of Divali in Mauritius at that time. Dr Hemraj learnt quite a lot from the SANAS assessors whilst carrying out their duties. Another opportunity to participate in an assessment of a medical laboratory in Polokwane, South Africa came up, this time with another trainee assessor from Namibia.

The journey towards qualification as an assessor has been an important milestone in Dr Hemraj's career. All this would not have been possible without the contribution and support from various people and organizations to whom he wishes to express his sincere gratitude. Among them are SADCA, SADCAS, SANAS, MAURITAS and PTB Germany. Finally my special thanks to Marie Chilcott for all the arrangements made.



## SADCAS Admitted as a Member of the IAF

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was admitted in August 2009 as a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) in the membership category of Special Recognition Organization – Observer. This membership category gives time for SADCAS to develop closer relationships with the IAF and for further developments to take place in SADCAS before acquiring full membership.

The IAF is the world association of Accreditation Bodies and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel and other similar programmes of conformity assessment. The IAF's primary function is to develop a single worldwide programme of conformity assessment which reduces risk of business and its customers by assuring them that accredited certificates may be relied upon. Accreditation assures users of the competence and impartiality of the body accredited. IAF members accredit certification or registration bodies that issue certificates attesting that an organization's management, products or personnel comply with a specified standard.

SADCAS offers accreditation programmes for management systems (product/personnel certification bodies) in accordance with international standards/guides and aims to achieve international recognition by being a signatory of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement. SADCAS also offers accreditation programmes for testing/calibration laboratories and inspection bodies in accordance with international standards and aims to be signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement. SADCAS is an affiliate member of ILAC.



## Registration of SADCAS Trademark

The SADCAS trademark forms the core of the SADCAS accreditation mark. Registration of the SADCAS trademark in all the countries that will be serviced by SADCAS is therefore paramount in order to protect it against misuse. The SADCAS trademark has been registered in Botswana. Registration of the trademark in Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe is underway through the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and it is hoped that the registration process will be completed by mid 2010. Registration of the SADCAS trademark in Mauritius and Mozambique is expected to be completed in November and December 2009 respectively.



Registration of the SADCAS trademark in Angola is underway and a Power of Attorney has been issued to the Angolan Institute for Standardization and Quality (IANORQ) to register the trademark in Angola on behalf of SADCAS. The National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Angola is housed in IANORQ. In the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia, registration of the SADCAS trademark is also underway whilst in Seychelles the process of registration is still being explored with the assistance of the respective country's NAFP.



## SADCAS CEO Attends 2009 NLAZ Conference

The National Laboratories Association of Zimbabwe (NLAZ) held its annual conference from 9 to 10 July 2009 at the Standards Association of Zimbabwe Headquarters Harare. The NLAZ was established 5 years ago and is a non-profit organization whose aim is to bring together laboratory professionals in order to facilitate dialogue and professional development within the test and measurement sector. Initiated by representatives of 6 laboratories, NLAZ has grown to a membership of more than 50 members.

One of NLAZ's key calendar events is its annual conference which attracts a wide audience from within Zimbabwe and also representatives from neighbouring countries. This year's conference which was held at the Standards Association of Zimbabwe was attended by more than 45 delegates and organized by NLAZ in association with the National Accreditation Focal Point of Zimbabwe. The theme of the conference was "Sharpening Zimbabwe's Quality Services in Pursuance of Health, Safety and Trade Facilitation". The conference was opened by Honourable Professor Welshman Ncube the Minister of Industry and Commerce who in his speech noted the appropriateness of the theme on the background of disease outbreaks such as swine flu, cholera, HIV/AIDS, the launch of the SADC Free Trade Areas and the recently launched COMESA Customs Union. The minister called upon stakeholders to embrace accreditation and assured his Ministry's commitment to partnering with NLAZ and other SQAM organizations in developing and improving Zimbabwe's laboratory services. Various presentations were made and discussions held covering aspects of the conference theme. Mrs Mutasa the SADCAS CEO attended the conference en route to Lusaka, Zambia. Due to prior business commitments, Mrs Mutasa only attended the second day of the conference on the 10th July and presented 2 papers entitled **SADCAS: Regional Tie Post for Credible and Reliable Tests and Measurements** and the **SADCAS Accreditation Process**. In her presentations Mrs Mutasa explained what accreditation is and its benefits. She also shared with delegates worldwide trends in accreditation and gave an overview of SADCAS and in line with the title of her presentation articulated that SADCAS is indeed the regional tie post for credible and reliable tests and measurements. She further informed delegates of the progress with SADCAS setup and outlined to delegates how accreditation can be achieved through SADCAS. In her concluding remarks Mrs Mutasa commended NLAZ for its initiatives from which many laboratories' professionals had benefited over the years. She also commended NLAZ and the NAFP-Zimbabwe for the partnership in organizing the conference and encouraged the 2 bodies to continue to work together in promoting accreditation amongst stakeholders in Zimbabwe.

The presentations were followed by lively interactions with delegates who wanted to know more about accreditation, SADCAS readiness to handle and process accreditation applications and the implications of the upcoming EU legislation on accreditation. Delegates also wanted to know about technical assistance programs in place for laboratories to achieve accreditation. Delegates called upon Government's support towards national technical infrastructural development especially to laboratories so as to ensure that accreditation goals are met amidst worldwide pressures for accreditation. At the end of the conference Mrs Mutasa held an interview with the Zimbabwe National TV which was publicized nationally. The conference was indeed successful and was an excellent opportunity to promote accreditation and SADCAS.



## SADCAS Technical Manager Attends Technical Assessor Course



Participants pose for a group photo

Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo the SADCAS Technical Manager attended the ISO/IEC 17025 Technical Assessor course held at Hotel 224 in Pretoria, South Africa from 7 to 11 September 2009. The technical assessor course was attended by 12 participants from 8 English speaking SADC countries namely: Botswana; Malawi; Namibia; Lesotho; Seychelles; Tanzania; Zambia and Zimbabwe. All participants to the course had successfully completed the ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements course previously held in Gaborone, Botswana from 20 to 23 January 2009.

The objective of the technical assessor course was to train selected candidates on how to undertake assessments of laboratories against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025. Candidates who successfully completed the technical assessor course will proceed to observe and participate in assessments under the supervision of a mentor following which they will be qualified and considered for registration as SADCAS assessors.

The training which was delivered by Mr John Peart, a SANAS Accreditation Specialist, was very interesting and practical. The course was funded by the SADC/EU SQAM project. Ms Ranorovelo thanks all involved in making her attendance possible in particular, the SADC/EU SQAM project, SANAS, the SADCA Secretariat and SADCAS. Other technical assessor courses are scheduled to be held in October up to December 2009 covering the other key accreditation standards as well as the ISO/IEC 17025 technical assessor course for the French and English speaking SADC countries.

## SADCAS Technical Manager Attends the 2009 NLA Conference

The SADCAS Technical Manager attended the 2009 National Laboratory Association (NLA) Conference and workshops held at the Misty Hills Conference Centre in Milledrift, South Africa from 14 to 16 September 2009. The Conference which was chaired by Mr Steve Sidney was attended by over 150 delegates South Africa, SADC Member States and representatives from national, regional and international laboratories associations and Proficiency testing service providers. SADCAS trainee assessors were among the participants at the conference, thanks to Mr Mike McNerney, the SADC/EU SQAM project team member who organized their attendance.

The NLA is a South African section 21 not for gain association whose membership comprises of companies and individuals from the laboratory fraternity and whose membership is open to accredited and non accredited laboratories. The conference is held annually and has been a good opportunity to share experiences and be updated on pertinent issues and developments within the tests and measurement area.



Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo  
SADCAS Technical Manager

The test and measurement conference and workshops addressed all aspects relating to testing, metrology including calibration, accreditation and quality assurance from a national, regional and international perspective. Apart from attending the main conference, the SADCAS trainee assessors particularly had to attend the workshop sessions on Proficiency testing and reference materials so as to get an appreciation of the importance and benefits of participating in such schemes and to know more about reference materials. Laboratory participation in proficiency testing schemes/ interlaboratory comparisons is a requirement of ISO/IEC 17025.

Laboratories in SADC member states face many challenges in participating in proficiency testing schemes ranging from accessibility to such schemes to availability of reference materials. Whilst efforts are underway to address these challenges especially at regional level, much more still has to be done at both national and regional level in order to address these challenges which are a threat to laboratories compliance with ISO/IEC 17025.



## Highlights from the ILAC/IAF Vancouver 2009 Meetings



SADCAS CEO  
Mrs Maureen P Mutasa

The 2009 joint annual meetings of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) were held at the Western Bayshore Hotel – Vancouver, Canada from 2009-10-10 to 2009-10-20. Approximately 304 delegates from 67 economies attended the meeting compared to over 400 delegates from 57 economies who attended the 2008 joint ILAC/IAF annual meetings held in Stockholm, Sweden. The following economies from the Africa region attended the meetings: SADC countries represented by SADCA and SADCAS, ECOWAS countries, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia. Various ILAC/IAF working groups and committee meetings were held in parallel followed by the ILAC and IAF General Assemblies and the joint ILAC/IAF General Assembly and IAF Board meeting. A workshop for medical laboratories was also held in conjunction with the meetings.

The 2009 ILAC/IAF annual meetings were hosted by the Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation (CALA). The 2009 meetings were operated as a green conference with carbon effects for delegates' flights, a memory stick and wireless connectivity to reduce consumption of paper.

### Membership

Six new members were admitted by the IAF since the 2008 annual meeting, 2 Accreditation Body members, 3 Association members and SADCAS in the new category of Special Recognition Organization - Observer. Two other membership applications are on hand including KENAS, Kenya. Two members were suspended.

On the other hand ILAC admitted 9 Associate members, 2 stakeholder members and 2 affiliate members including SADCAS. One ILAC membership was terminated for non- payment of fees.

**New IAF/ILAC MLA/ MRA signatories**—Since 2008 Annual meetings, the IAF and ILAC welcomed 8 and 6 new Multilateral Arrangement (MLA)/ Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) signatories respectively. Amongst them is EGAC, Egypt for Quality Management Systems (QMS) Certification. EGAC, Egypt was also accepted as a signatory to the ILAC MRA for calibration and testing. The MLA/ MRAs were signed at a ceremony held during the gala dinner on 2009-10-19.

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**MLA for accreditation of ISMS**—The IAF MLA will be extended to cover the sub-scope for accreditation of Information Security Management System (ISMS) Certification Bodies. The sub-scope will be based on ISO 27001 and ISO 27006 in addition to ISO 17021 which will be added to IAF PR4.

**MLA for accreditation of FSMS** — The IAF MLA will be extended to cover the sub-scope for accreditation of Food Safety management System (FSMS) Certification Bodies. The sub-scope for FSMS will be based on ISO 22000 and ISO/TS 22003 in addition to ISO/IEC 17021 which will be added to IAF PR 4. The Technical Committee will explore the need for and if found necessary develop a specific IAF application document.

**MLA for certification of persons** — The peer evaluation for the scope of MLA for certification of persons has not commenced because the relevant technical work by the Working Group for ISO/IEC 17024 of the IAF Technical Committee is in progress.

**ILAC/IAF documents under development** — Various IAF and ILAC documents are under development including the following:

- **The IAF document on QMS scopes of accreditation** was sent out for ballot by IAF members and will now be published as an informative document instead of a mandatory document.
- An IAF WG is working on a **Mandatory document for the harmonization of sanctions** to be applied to conformity assessment bodies. The members agreed to circulate the document to IAF members for a 60-day ballot.
- A document **on transfer of accreditation** is also being developed by the IAF although some members feel that accreditation transfers are already adequately covered in ISO/IEC 17011 and IAF Mandatory Document 2 and that there is no need for such a document.
- An **IAF application document for ISO 22000** is under preparation.

ILAC withdrew ILAC- 11: 1994; Legal Liability in Testing, and ILAC – 12:1994: testing, Quality assurance, Certification and Accreditation as its content has been superseded by other promotional material. Other documents are under revision such as IAF/ILAC A2: 05/2007: IAF/ILAC MRAs: Evaluation of a single Accreditation Body.

#### **Election of Directors**

Mr R Dougherty (ANAB, USA) was elected unopposed as Chairman of IAF replacing Dr T Facklam who had served as chair of IAF for 7 years. Mr X Jianhua (CNAS, China) was elected Vice Chairman of the IAF replacing Ms E Nilsen (SCC, Canada). Dr T Facklam was elected Director representing Accreditation Body members located in high income economies. All the above appointments are for three year terms ending 2012 General Assembly. Mr G Gyani (NABCB, India), Mr G Beer and Mr R Bennet will complete their respective terms as Directors representing Accreditation bodies' members located in low and medium income economies; Industry and User Association members; and Conformity Assessment Body Association members respectively.

The ILAC Executive Committee appointed Mr A Steinhorst (TGA), Germany as the chairman of the Arrangement Management Committee replacing Dr Llew Richards (IANZ, New Zealand ). Mrs D Zangar (TUNAC, Tunisia) who was appointed as Co - Chair of the Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC) replacing Ms M Lopez (EMA, Mexico) who resigned from the position.

#### **IAF/ILAC JOINT DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The ILAC/IAF JDSC continues to support accreditation bodies from developing countries through sponsorships for attendance to ILAC/IAF meetings and training. A number of workshops were held in developing regions during the period under review and also the ILAC brochures on "Benefits for Conformity Assessment Bodies participating in Proficiency Testing" and "Tested once and accepted everywhere" were translated into Spanish. A food seminar will be held in Libya in December 2009 and an ISO/IEC 17043 course will be held in Latin America. The food seminar and ISO/IEC 17043 course will be funded by ILAC and UNIDO.

#### **ILAC/IAF Marketing and Communications**

A guidance document on the route to signing and Arrangement with ILAC/IAF has been published and has a checklist on prerequisite requirements and flowchart which will no doubt be useful to accreditation bodies that are not part of region 2009. International Accreditation Day will be celebrated in June 2010 and the theme will be "Global Acceptance". Promotional material for the celebration will be ready early 2010. Preparation of promotional material to support the inspection MLMRA is underway.

IAF is developing an electronic newsletter whilst the ILAC is looking at making its newsletter electronic.

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### ILAC/IAF JOINT GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

The main item discussed during the joint general assembly was the future developments of IAF and ILAC. An analysis of benefits, disadvantages, cost implications and external perception and acceptance of the following three options was presented:

- Option 1 – Current structure with more effective cooperation between ILAC and IAF
- Option 2 – Legal entities with partial integration
- Option 3 – Single entity

The above options will be circulated to IAF/ILAC member bodies for a 30-day ballot in November on the preferred option. Members are encouraged to vote.

Various reports were presented by ISO, OIML, and UNIDO and by the Chairmen of joint ILAC/IAF Committees.

The 2009 ILAC/IAF meetings were once again a good opportunity for networking, sharing experiences and keeping up to date with and influencing accreditation developments worldwide. The next ILAC/IAF Committee meetings are scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in March 2010 whilst the next joint ILAC/IAF annual meetings will be held in Shanghai, China from 20 – 29 October 2010.



## UNIDO and WAITRO Launch Labnet

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organization (WAITRO) recently launched a web-based global laboratory network called Labnet. Labnet comprises of members from developed and developing countries. Its aim is to share information and knowledge in the field of laboratory testing and calibration. Through its web portal, Labnet provides information on the basic, sequential steps to be taken in planning laboratory development and accreditation, the promotion of international trade, equipment requirements, laboratory layout, and lessons learned from various developing countries including case studies in order to enable laboratory authorities to kick start the laboratory development process.

- Provide access to and disseminate information concerning laboratories and their activities;
- Share experiences related to laboratory design, management, development, maintenance and capabilities;
- Facilitate laboratory accreditation for international recognition. Accreditation gives formal recognition to competent laboratories thus provides a ready means for customers to identify and select reliable testing, measurement and calibration services;
- Create a forum for interaction and responses on various issues related to proficiency testing, certified reference materials and traceability as well as trade –related issues; and
- Facilitate information to industry on testing and calibration and product –specific information.

The beneficiaries of Labnet are laboratories, professional laboratory staff in developing countries, exporters from developing countries, industry in particular small and medium-sized enterprises seeking metrology and calibration laboratories in developing countries, emerging accreditation bodies, laboratories with the potential to obtain accreditation, academia and researchers etc.

Labnet members receive support from experts on technical, regulatory and quality management issues with the aim of improving the competence and performance of laboratories. Labnet promotes cooperative efforts for solving common problems faced by laboratories and serves as a platform for sharing information. For more information on Labnet visit its website .

# LABNETWORK

[www.labnetwork.org](http://www.labnetwork.org)



## Developments in the Establishment of an Inter African Cooperation

A workshop hosted by MAURITAS, the Mauritius Accreditation Service was held in Port Louis, Mauritius from 1 to 2 April 2009 to discuss the establishment of an Inter African Accreditation Cooperation. The workshop was opened by the Honourable Gokhool, the Mauritian Minister of Industry, Science and Research. The output of the Mauritius meeting was a document of intent on the establishment of an African Accreditation Cooperation. A project Management Committee consisting of representatives from the sub regional groupings in Africa was also established and tasked with the preparation of a project document. The meeting also held preliminary discussions on the name of the cooperation. The document of intent has since been finalized and some members have already started to engage their respective Governments on the establishment of an Inter African Accreditation Cooperation for stakeholder buy in. A meeting was held with NEPAD who have expressed support for the body and urgency in the establishment of the Inter African Accreditation Cooperation. A project document on the establishment of the body and activities to be undertaken by the body has been drafted and is being considered by the Project Management Committee.

A meeting was held in conjunction with the 2009 ILAC/IAF meetings in Vancouver, Canada on 15 October to prepare for the next meeting of the Inter African Accreditation Cooperation which will be held around mid April 2010. the purpose of the meeting will be to consider and approve the project document, to convene task groups to progress the establishment of the Inter African Accreditation Cooperation, to develop selection criteria for experts to be trained as peer evaluators for the region and to decide on the trademark (name and logo) for the body.



## SADCA Executive Committee Holds its Inaugural Meeting

Following the disbandment of the SADCA Project Management Committee at the April 2009 SADCA Annual meeting, the SADCA Executive Committee held its inaugural meeting on 5 September 2009 in Gaborone, Botswana. The meeting which was chaired by Mrs Masego B Marobela was also attended by the vice Chairman Mr Cyprian T Mokhoru, other representatives from the region and SADC/EU SQAM and SADC/EU Food Safety projects team members.

At the meeting, the chairman of SADCA and SADCA Executive Committee Mrs Marobela appointed Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu – SADC SQAM Expert, Mr Robin Gopee – Director MAURITAS, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa – Chief Executive Officer – SADCAS, Mrs El-sabé Steyn – Director SA dti with Ms Anne-Marie Lötter as her alternative and Mr Riundja Kaakunga (Othy) as members of the SADCA Executive Committee. Mr Cyprian Mokhoru by virtue of him having been elected SADCA vice Chairman became the vice Chairman of the SADCA Executive Committee whilst the SADCA Secretariat consisting of the Regional Coordinator and Secretary serves as the secretariat of the Executive Committee.



SADCA Executive Members pose for a photo during the inaugural meeting

Following the appointment of the SADCA Executive Committee members, the meeting agreed to review the SADCA Bylaws and assigned the Regional Coordinator to initiate the review. The draft revision of the Bylaws would be considered at the next SADCA Executive Committee meeting and presented for approval at the next SADCA Annual meeting.

The newly established multi-economy accreditation body, SADCAS was admitted as a member of SADCA subject to ratification by SADCA at its next annual meeting. A lot of time was spent on reviewing and finalizing the programme for the training workshop on World Trade, Conformity Assessment and Accreditation Requirements to be held from 8 – 13 November 2009 in Pretoria, South Africa. The workshop which is being organized by the SADCA Executive Committee will be attended by SADCA Committee members, SADCAS Board of Directors, SADCAS staff and National Accreditation Focal Points.

The Executive Committee also received progress reports on the SADC/EU SQAM project's accreditation component and noted the activities scheduled/planned for the future. A progress report on the SADC/EU Food Safety project was also presented followed by deliberations on collaborations in accreditation related activities between SADCA and the SADC/EU Food Safety project.

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Following a report by the SADCA Secretariat on the assessor mentoring programme, the SADCA Executive Committee was delighted to note that the first two assessors had been qualified and recommended for registration as SADCAS assessors. Dr Farojeo Hemraj and Mrs Anita Beukes have since been registered as SADCAS assessors.

Discussions were also held on SADCA's participation at the upcoming ILAC/IAF Annual meetings to be held in Vancouver, Canada from 10 – 20 October. It was noted that a meeting to discuss the African Cooperation in Accreditation initiative would be held in conjunction with the ILAC/IAF Annual meetings.

The inaugural meeting of the SADCA Executive Committee was intense but successful as all scheduled agenda items were deliberated on.



## SADCA Hosts Workshop

The SADC Cooperation in Accreditation hosted a workshop on Trade, Conformity Assessment Bodies and Accreditation Requirements. The workshop which was held from 8 to 13 November 2009 in Pretoria, South Africa and was attended by SADCAS Board members, SADCAS staff, National Accreditation Focal Points and SADCA Committee members, was sponsored by the SADC EU/SQAM Project. Over 30 delegates attended the workshop whose objective was to:

- Promote an understanding of accreditation and its role in regional and international trade;
- Promote an understanding of accreditation standards requirements;
- Provide an overview of the accreditation infrastructure in the region and update delegates on developments in SADCAS ; and
- Learn about how to promote and market accreditation and accreditation services.



Group photo for participants at the workshop

The workshop which was opened by Mrs Masego Marobela, SADCA Chairman started off with a presentation by Mr R Kaakunga the SADCAS Board Chairman on world trade infrastructure and the role of the World Trade Organization. This was followed by presentations on the Technical Barriers to trade (TBT) and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreements by Dr O Chinyamakobvu and Dr H Hays who also brought it down to the regional perspective in their respective presentations on the SADC TBT and SPS Annexes to the SADC Protocol on Trade. Ron Josias the SADCA Regional Coordinator and Mrs M Mutasa the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer outlined the regional accreditation infrastructure. This was followed by a series of presentations by Mr J Peart on the key accreditation standards including ISO /IEC 17011. The SADCAS CEO then put the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 into context by outlining how SADCAS had addressed these in the SADCAS Policy Manual. She further outlined the roles and responsibilities of NAFPs, the SADCAS strategic planning process and reporting. Delegates were also given an update on the SADC EU/SQAM project by Mr M Ermel.

The last day of the week's workshop was on marketing during which Mr J Murthy and Mrs M Blum made various presentations on accreditation marketing strategies and tools.

The week's workshop was highly interactive and was a good opportunity to reflect on roles and to recommit to the achievement of regional accreditation goals.





## BOBS Hosts ISO/IEC 17025 Forum

The Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) hosted the 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ISO/IEC 17025 Forum on 10 September 2009. The meeting which was held at the beautiful BOBS Headquarters was attended by a total of 73 participants, 61 of whom were from private and public laboratories and the rest from BOBS.

SADCAS submitted a paper updating participants on the progress with SADCAS setup and outlining the SADCAS accreditation process. Due to unforeseen circumstances Mrs Mutasa the CEO of SADCAS could not present the paper in person. The paper was nevertheless circulated to all participants as well as SADCAS promotional brochure and pamphlets. In his welcome remarks, Mr Morgan (Director of Commercial Enterprises, BOBS) gave a brief background of SADCAS, mentioning the strides SADCAS had made since its inception, also adding that SADCAS is now ready to receive applications from laboratories seeking accreditation.

Mrs. B. Banyatsang from the Ministry of Central Medical Stores (CMS) presented a paper on supplies verification at CMS whilst Dr. K. Mosetha, National Food Technology Research Centre (NFTRC) presented a paper on milestones and challenges of implementing ISO/IEC 17025 at NFTRC. The presentations were followed by lively discussions on the papers presented. The ISO/IEC 17025 Forum is a platform for the exchange of experiences in the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025: General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. It is also a platform for the exchange of information on general issues affecting laboratories management. To SADCAS, the ISO/IEC 17025 Forum provides a good platform for the promotion of accreditation and the marketing of SADCAS services.

The 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ISO/IEC 17025 Forum will be held on 10 December 2009 at BOBS Headquarters.

For further information on ISO/IEC 17025 Forum contact:

- Mr. Shadrack Tebogo Kajane (Manager Laboratory Services – Industrial Metrology Unit)  
Tel: 390 3200
- Mr. Pilot Masunga (Manager Laboratory Services – Testing Unit). Tel: 390 3200



## Staff Appointment



Mrs Laureen Gudo  
SADCAS Financial Administrator

Mrs Laureen Gudo has been appointed SADCAS Financial Administrator and joined SADCAS in November 2009. A Chartered Accountant and holder of a First Class Bachelor of Accounting degree from the University of Botswana, Laureen is 33 years old. Prior to joining SADCAS, Laureen was a Senior Executive with Grant Thornton, Accountant with Radio Solutions, Accountant Clerk with First Sun Alliance and Phoenix Assurance.

In her capacity as the Financial Administrator, Laureen will be responsible for the financial, human resources and general administration of SADCAS and will report to the Chief Executive Officer.

Laureen is married and has four children. SADCAS welcomes Laureen to a hardworking and dedicated team of staff.



## Status of Key Accreditation Standards/Guides under Development

The following key accreditation standards are being developed/ revised by the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment ( ISO CASCO):

- **ISO/IEC NP 17020** – General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection. The New project (NP) was approved on 2009-05-01 and is at preparatory stage. A second draft working document (WD) has been prepared and is under consideration. This is a revision of ISO/IEC 17020:1998.
- **ISO/IEC NP 17024** – Conformity assessment- General requirement for bodies operating certification of persons. The new project was approved on 2009-02-01 and is at preparatory stage. This is a revision of ISO 17024:2003.
- **ISO/IEC FDIS 17043** – Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing. This is a revision of ISO /IEC Guide 43 : 19--. A Final Draft International Standard ( FDIS) has been registered for formal approval. The standard is scheduled to be published in February 2010.
- **ISO/IEC CD 17065** – Conformity assessment – Requirements for certification bodies certifying products, processes and services. A Committee Draft (CD) ballot was initiated. This is a revision of ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996.

### Vision

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

### Mission

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

### Core Values

- Impartiality
- Transparency
- Non discrimination
- Integrity

## Diary of Upcoming Events

DATES	MEETING	VENUE
2 – 5 November 2009	ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements course	Mahé, Seychelles
7 – 11 November 2009	ISO/IEC Guide 65 Technical Assessor course	Pretoria, South Africa
8 – 12 November 2009	SADCA Workshop on Trade, Conformity Assessment Bodies and Accreditation Requirements	Pretoria, South Africa
13 November 2009	ILAC MCC – Marketing Workshop	Pretoria, South Africa
23 – 27 November 2009	ISO/IEC 17025 Technical Assessor course	Pretoria, South Africa
23 – 27 November 2009	ISO/IEC 17021 Requirements and Internal Auditing course	Gaborone, Botswana
7 – 11 December 2009	ISO/IEC 17021 Technical Assessor course	Pretoria, South Africa
4 February 2010	SADCAS Finance and Audit Committee meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
17 February 2010	Board of Directors Governance training	Pretoria, South Africa
18 – 19 February 2010	SADCAS Board of Directors	Pretoria, South Africa
20 February 2010	SADCA Executive Committee meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
13 – 22 March 2010	ILAC/IAF Technical Committees	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
22 – 27 March 2010	SADC SQAM meeting	TBC
24 March 2010	SADCAS General Assembly	TBC
12 – 16 April 2010	AFRAC meeting	TBC

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