



## **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- Considering that cooperation among the IAAC and the PAC is of mutual benefit for the development of accreditation in the Americas and the Asia-Pacific;
- Considering that IAAC and PAC share a number of common members
- Considering that the IAAC and the PAC have constituencies that include those from developing economies; and
- Considering the need to foster national, regional, and international schemes for operation and recognition of reliable accreditation programs;

The Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) agree to the following understandings:

### **PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT**

The parties to this MoU are as follows:

- a) the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation as represented by its Chair; and
- b) the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation as represented by its Chair.

### **PURPOSE AND APPLICATION OF THE MOU**

The purpose of this MoU is to record an understanding between the parties on their working relationship so as to achieve the scope.

This MoU is a high level understanding between the parties and provides a basis for other more specific agreements between the parties at operational levels.

This MoU does not make any legal or otherwise enforceable commitments on behalf of any of the parties.

## **SCOPE OF THE MOU**

The scope of this MoU covers the relationship between IAAC and PAC on matters of accreditation and conformity assessment, and supports the roles and responsibilities that the parties already have towards each other arising from their membership in the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

## **AREAS OF COOPERATION AND RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Training and development**

The parties will foster participation in training activities organized jointly, or by each party, when deemed suitable.

The parties will foster development of qualified personnel through internships and consultancies with each other and with each other's member accreditation bodies.

The parties will work together to promote awareness within the Americas and Asia Pacific regions, especially to government officials and regulators, of the importance of accreditation, and of the IAAC Multi-lateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA), the PAC MLA and the IAF MLA, by means of such activities as joint workshops and seminars and publication of information material.

### **Peer evaluations**

The parties will foster participation in peer evaluations organized jointly, or by each party, when deemed suitable.

The parties will explore ways of promoting recognition of accredited entities in each other's programs.

### **Information exchange**

The parties will exchange information on matters of common interest such as accreditation programs, regional accreditation schemes, experience on operation of regional accreditation associations, and other pertinent topics, and will promote this exchange also at the national level within their respective memberships.

### **Support on technical matters**

The parties will seek to support common efforts on matters of a technical nature related to accreditation programs.

The parties will cooperate in development of new MLA programs in accreditation of certification bodies.

### **Adoption of common positions**

The parties will seek common positions on issues of mutual interest, such as developing accreditation bodies and regional accreditation schemes, and wherever possible, harmonise their policy on matters of common interest.

## Projects and fund procurement

The parties will cooperate in projects and procurement of funds from donor organizations, including exploring ways of making joint applications for funding for joint activities including training programs in areas of common interest.

## IMPLEMENTATION AND STRUCTURES

The above areas of cooperation will be implemented through the following mechanisms:

- a) involvement of representatives in each other's technical work, where mutually beneficial. As such the normal liaison and observer rules and procedures for input shall apply;
- b) the IAAC Executive Committee and the PAC Executive Committee managing the MOU and coordinating issues arising from it;
- c) attendance of parties' representative(s) at their respective general assemblies and related technical meetings, and at least an annual meeting of the IAAC and PAC Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

## COMMENCEMENT, TERMINATION AND PERIOD OF OPERATION

This MoU will commence on the date of its signing and will remain in effect until terminated or amended. Any of the parties may, upon giving three (3) calendar months notice in writing of its intention to do so, terminate this MoU.

This MoU may be amended (including changes to the scope) if mutually agreed upon. Such changes will be incorporated as a written change to the MoU, and the MoU will be reissued in full and signed as a new version. Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MoU will be settled amicably by consultation between the parties.

This MoU is signed on behalf of:

 _____ The Inter American Accreditation Cooperation, by Ms. Ana Maria Coro, Chair	 _____ The Inter American Accreditation Cooperation, by Mr. Pat Paladino, Vice Chair	Date: 2007.08.16
 _____ The Pacific Accreditation Cooperation, by Ms. Elva Nilsen, Chair	 _____ The Pacific Accreditation Cooperation, by Mr. Shinichi Iguchi, Vice Chair	Date: 2007-08-16