



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) concerning cooperation on accreditation

INTRODUCTION

- Considering that cooperation among APLAC and IAAC is of mutual benefit for the development of accreditation in Asia-Pacific and the Americas;
- Considering that APLAC and IAAC have constituencies that include those from developing economies; and
- Considering the need to foster national, regional, interregional and global schemes for operation and recognition of reliable accreditation programs;

The Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) agree to the following understandings:

1 PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

1.1 The parties to this MoU are as follows:

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

2 PURPOSE AND APPLICATION OF THE MOU

- 2.1 The purpose of this MoU is to record an understanding between the parties on their working relationship so as to achieve its scope.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 This MoU does not make any legal or otherwise enforceable commitments on behalf of any of the parties.

3 SCOPE OF THE MOU

- 3.1 The scope of this MoU covers the relationship between APLAC and IAAC on matters of accreditation and conformity assessment policy.

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3.2 The scope of this MoU is alongside the roles and responsibilities that the parties already have towards each other arising from their membership in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

4 AREAS OF COOPERATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

4.1 Training and development

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

4.1.2 The parties will foster formation of qualified personnel through internships and consultancies for each other and for each other's member accreditation bodies.

4.2 Proficiency Testing Programs

4.2.1 The parties will foster participation in proficiency testing programs organized jointly, or by each party, when deemed suitable.

4.3 Peer evaluations

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

4.4 Information exchange

4.4.1 The parties will exchange information on accreditation programs, regional accreditation schemes, experience on operation of regional accreditation associations, and other pertinent topics.

4.5 Support on technical matters

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

4.6 Adoption of common positions

4.6.1 The parties will seek common positions on issues of mutual interest, such as developing accreditation bodies and regional accreditation schemes.

4.7 Projects and fund-procurement

4.7.1 The parties will cooperate in projects and procurement of funds from donor organizations.



5 IMPLEMENTATION AND STRUCTURES

- 5.1 The above areas of cooperation will be implemented through the following mechanisms:
- a) involvement of representatives in each other's technical work. As such the normal liaison and observer rules and procedures for input shall apply;
 - b) the APLAC Board of Management and the IAAC 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.

6 COMMENCEMENT, TERMINATION AND PERIOD OF OPERATION

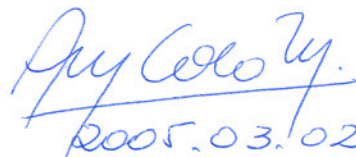
- 6.1 This MoU will commence on the date of its signing and will remain in effect until terminated or amended. Any of the parties may, upon giving three (3) calendar months notice in writing of its intention to do so, terminate this MoU.
- 6.2 This MoU may be amended (including changes to the scope) if mutually agreed upon. Such changes will be incorporated as a written change to the MoU, and the MoU will be reissued in full 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.
- 6.3 This MoU is signed on behalf of:

The Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, by
Mr. Anthony Russell,
Chair



Date: 2 March 2005

The InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation,
by Ms. Ana Maria Coro,
Chair



Date:

2005.03.02