



Inter American Accreditation Cooperation

IAAC Chair Report 2008-2009

This report includes IAAC activities from the 13th General Assembly held in Asunción, Paraguay, in September 2008, until this 14th IAAC General Assembly, which is being held here today, in San José, Costa Rica.

IAAC Membership

Our membership numbers have been stable. During this meeting we will be reviewing a new application for stakeholder membership. In April 2009 the General Assembly accepted 5 new members via electronic ballot and who will be signing the MOU during the signing ceremony, four are Stakeholders and one is an Associate member. Unfortunately we will also be losing three IAAC Stakeholder members. Our Cooperation currently has a total of 42 members from 23 countries in the Americas. 21 are full members, 10 are associate members and 11 are stakeholders.

Extension of the IAAC MLA

IAAC has recently submitted an application to ILAC-IAF to extension its MLA to include the scope of Inspection Bodies. Currently IAAC is undergoing an evaluation process for the scopes of Product and Environmental Management Systems Certification Bodies that will now include Inspection Bodies. Up-to-date the following activities have been performed.

- An IAF evaluation team witnessed the IAAC evaluation of ECA, Costa Rica, and evaluated the IAAC Secretariat in Mexico, in April 2009.
- An IAF evaluation team witnessed the IAAC evaluation of INN, Chile, in June 2009.
- In past few days here in Costa Rica, an ILAC evaluation team evaluated the MLA Committee operations and also the IAAC Secretariat.

IAAC MLA Group

We have increase the number of the IAAC Multi-lateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) signatories. Cgcre/Inmetro of Brazil expanded their IAAC MLA scopes to include Product and EMS this year. The IAAC MLA Group is now made up of a total of eleven IAAC accreditation bodies which are MLA signatory members.

For Testing and Calibration Laboratories (10)

Argentina - OAA

Brazil - Cgcre/INMETRO

Canada - SCC

Costa Rica - ECA (Testing only)

Cuba - ONARC

Guatemala – OGA (Testing only)

Mexico - ema

USA - A2LA

USA - ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board DbA ACLASS

USA – ASCLD-LAB (Testing only)



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For Quality Management Systems Certification Bodies (6)

Argentina - OAA

Brazil - Cgre/INMETRO

Canada - SCC

Mexico - ema

Peru - INDECOPI/SNA

USA – ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board DbA ANAB

For Environmental Management Systems Certification Bodies (5)

Argentina – OAA

Brazil – Cgcre/Inmetro

Canada – SCC

Mexico – ema

USA – ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, Doing business as ANAB

For Product Certification Bodies (4)

Argentina – OAA

Brazil – Cgcre/Inmetro

Canada – SCC

Mexico – ema

IAAC Strategic Plan

During this Assembly we will review the progress achieved on the 2008-2011 IAAC Strategic Plan. I will be the first to tell you that we have successfully achieved our goals for this year, however we still face important challenges, including maintaining the international recognition of our MLAs and expanding it to new scopes. We will continue to achieve this only with the support of all the members.

International Accreditation Day celebrations

The celebration of the International Accreditation Day has now become a regular activity for Accreditation Bodies in our Region, and is a useful tool to promote the benefits of accreditation worldwide.

IAAC Documentation

We have continued to develop and approve new documents. We are improving our documents related to the MLA process as a result of the IAF-ILAC recent evaluation. During this Assembly we shall vote on the approval of some documents, in accordance with our work plan.

IAAC website

The IAAC website www.iaac.org.mx Member's only section is currently being used by the Committees and Subcommittees to store documents that not for the public use, also it is used to place confidential documents of the IAAC evaluations. You are encouraged to send us your feedback for improvement.

Also in the website you may find information on training courses organized by IAAC throughout the year, and the final reports of the IAAC proficiency testing programs.



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Technical Cooperation Projects

2007-2010 OAS Multi-annual projects

The OAS multi-annual projects during this four year term are being coordinated by the Cgcre/Inmetro of Brazil with the support of the IAAC Secretariat.

2008-2009 OAS Project

IAAC successfully concluded this annual project in March 2009. IAAC carried out all of the planned activities with the participation of members from 20 countries, and used 93% of the \$176,010 USD that were allocated. The Training Subcommittee, the MLA Committee, and the Laboratories Subcommittee have already reported on the outcome of the project's activities.

2009-2010 OAS Project

This year the OAS approved a total of \$203,000 USD, the project runs from August 2009 until March 2010. We are challenged with implementing all of the activities in an 8 month period, instead of the regular 12 month term, and we should be able to accomplish it successfully. For the first time, the OAS will deposit the project funds into the IAAC bank account so we can manage them directly with the generous support of the accounting staff at ema, Mexico.

2008-2009 IAAC - PTB Project

The IAAC-PTB Technical Cooperation project included activities such as workshops on Proficiency Testing, Development of a Business Plan, and Food Safety; support for Non-OAS project beneficiaries to attend workshops and seminars; support for peer evaluator training; and support to carry out the IAF evaluation of the IAAC Secretariat and MLA Committee and the IAF witnessing of an IAAC evaluation. The Training Subcommittee, the MLA Committee and the Laboratories Subcommittee have already reported on the PTB project's results.

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

Cooperation with IAF:

Elva Nilsen, IAF Vice-Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings in Asuncion, Paraguay, in September 2008. IAF supported the IAAC Chair's attendance to the IAF meetings in Stockholm, Sweden in October 2008.

In 2008-2009 IAF and IAAC carried out the joint peer evaluations of OAA, Argentina and INN of Chile.

At the request of IAF, IAAC will provide 2 regional peer evaluators (team members) for the evaluation of PAC which is due by the end of 2009.

Cooperation with ILAC:

The ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee (MCC) meeting and the ILAC Marketing Seminar were held in Asuncion, Paraguay, in September 2008, during the week of IAAC General Assembly meetings.



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Cooperation with PAC:

One PAC peer evaluator participated in the IAAC/APLAC peer evaluator training course held in USA, in March 2009.

Elva Nilsen, PAC Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings in Asuncion, Paraguay, in September 2008. IAAC regularly conducts joint peer evaluations with PAC.

Ms Andrea Corneli of IRAM, Argentina, (IAAC Stakeholder member) attended the PAC Plenary, held in Taipei, in June 2009, and delivered a presentation at the Seminar and at the Open Forum which focused on Food Safety issues.

In 2009, PAC and IAAC carried out the joint peer evaluation of ema, Mexico.

Cooperation with APLAC:

Laboratories of 4 APLAC members and 1 SADCA member are participating in the IAAC regional proficiency testing program on "Fatty Oils" organized INTI and OAA in 2008.

Laboratories of 5 APLAC members are participating in the IAAC regional proficiency testing program on "Wine" organized DTA-IBMETRO of Bolivia in 2009.

APLAC has invited IAAC members to participate in its proficiency testing programs during 2009.

In 2009, APLAC and IAAC carried out the joint peer evaluations of AIHA LAP, USA; NVLAP, USA; and ema, Mexico.

APLAC and IAAC held a joint evaluator training course in Maryland, USA in March 2009. 13 IAAC evaluators attended this course and are now qualified as trainee evaluators and may participate in IAAC evaluations.

Cooperation with EA:

Lorenzo Thione, EA Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings in Asuncion, Paraguay, in September 2008, and delivered a presentation during the IAAC Seminar on the EU Accreditation system. In May 2009, Ileana Martinez of NIST, USA, represented IAAC at the EA General Assembly.

Cooperation with SADCA:

One laboratory of a SADCA member participated in the IAAC regional proficiency testing program on "Fatty Oils" organized INTI and OAA in 2008.

Masego Marobela, SADCA Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings in Asuncion, Paraguay, in September 2008.

Cooperation with Africa:

Victor Gandy, IAAC Secretary, participated in a workshop of African accreditation bodies regarding the creation of an African Accreditation Cooperation, which was held in Mauritius, Africa, in April 2009.



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Cooperation with COPANT:

An IAAC representative attends COPANT General Assemblies and a COPANT representative attended the IAAC General Assembly in Asuncion, Paraguay, in September 2008.

IAAC Proficiency Testing programs 2008-2009

IAAC T004 Proficiency Test for Wine. A IAAC regional proficiency testing program on Wine, organized by DTA-IBMETRO of Bolivia. Registration began in April 2009. This program includes laboratories from the IAAC and APLAC regions.

IAAC T003 Proficiency Test for Fatty Acids. A IAAC regional proficiency testing program on Fatty Acids composition in Vegetable Oil organized by OAA / INTI of Argentina. Registration for the program began in November 2008. This program includes laboratories from the IAAC, APLAC and SADCA regions.

IAAC T002 Proficiency Test for Thermocouples. A IAAC regional proficiency testing program on "TYPE K THERMOCOUPLES" organized by ECA, Costa Rica, and NVLAP of USA. Registration began in April 2009. This program includes laboratories from the IAAC, APLAC and SADCA regions.

IAAC Financial Situation

Our membership numbers are currently steady however our expenses are increasing as we have all noticed in our own bodies. Now more than ever it is important to seek new sources of funding and to continue supporting IAAC by paying our membership fees on a timely basis.

Thank you very much

San Jose, Costa Rica, September 2009