

APLAC REPORT TO PAC PLENARY, JUNE 2012

APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

At the APLAC MRA Council meeting in Manila, The Philippines on 14 September 2011 there were no changes to MRA signatories.

The signatory status of the following members was however continued:

- IANZ (New Zealand) for testing, calibration, inspection and ISO 15189;
- NATA (Australia) for testing, calibration, inspection and RMP;
- VLAC (Japan) for testing;
- HKAS (Hong Kong, China) for testing, calibration, ISO 15189 and inspection.

There are 33 signatories to the APLAC MRA, including 14 for inspection, 12 for ISO 15189 and 5 for RMP. Full details of the scopes of recognition of each APLAC MRA signatory can be found on the APLAC website: www.aplac.org

The 2012 APLAC MRA Council mid-year meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 7 and 8 June.

APLAC General Assembly

The APLAC General Assembly and associated meetings were held in Manila, The Philippines, in the week 10 – 16 September 2011. APLAC expresses its thanks to our host, PAO for the excellent arrangements for the week.

We were particularly pleased to welcome the PAC Chair, Shinichi Iguchi and PAC Secretary, Belinda Mort, to our week of meetings.

The main issues arising from the General Assembly and other meetings were:

- elections of APLAC office bearers (for details see below);
- endorsement of funding for six proficiency testing schemes due for completion and six proficiency testing schemes due for commencement in 2012;
- endorsement of a training course in ISO/IEC 17011 for nominated MRA evaluators;
- endorsement of support for the attendance of one member of staff from a developing economy non-member Accreditation Body at this year's General Assembly and Technical meetings to be held in Sydney, Australia;
- endorsement of the APLAC budget for 2012.

The 18th APLAC General Assembly and associated meetings will be held in Sydney, Australia, hosted by NATA, from 1 to 7 December 2012.

Administration of APLAC

Following the elections held in September 2011, the members of the APLAC Board of Management from 1 January 2012 are:

Ms Chang Kwei Fern (Chair)	SAC (Singapore)
Mr Barry Ashcroft (MRA Council Chair)	IANZ (New Zealand)
Mr Terence S S Chan (Immediate Past Chair)	HKAS (Hong Kong China)
Ms Suwanna Charunut	BLQS DMSc (Thailand)
Ms Regina Robertson	NATA (Australia)
Ms Roxanne Robinson	A2LA (USA)
Mr Nigel Jou	TAF (Chinese Taipei)
Mr Vu Xuan Thuy	BoA (Vietnam)

Mr Roger Muse, the Acting Chair of the Public Information Committee, was elected Chair of the Public Information Committee in September 2011.

The APLAC Committee Chairs are now:

Proficiency Testing	Dr Koichi Nara (IAJapan, Japan)
Public Information	Mr Roger Muse (ACCLASS, USA)
Technical	Mr Trace McInturff (A2LA, USA)
Training	Ms Zhang Mingxia (CNAS, People's Republic of China)

APLAC Membership

There has been no change to the APLAC membership with 37 Full members and 8 Associate members.

Full details of APLAC's members can be found on the APLAC web site:
www.aplac.org.

APLAC Cooperation with PAC

As noted above, we were very pleased to have Shinichi Iguchi and Belinda Mort attend the APLAC General Assembly week in Manila last September. We believe that their attendance, and the APLAC Secretary's attendance at the PAC Plenary in 2011, continues to foster a closer cooperation and understanding between our organisations.

It is pleasing to note that this cross-representation at each other's meetings appears to have become a regular event. There are also standing invitations for the PAC Chair to attend the APLAC Board of Management meetings and the APLAC Chair to attend the PAC Executive Committee meetings. It was also pleasing to note that Shinichi Iguchi attended the APLAC Board of Management meeting in Manila, The Philippines in September 2011.

The review of the MOU between our organisations has now concluded. APLAC was delighted when the MOU was signed by the APLAC Chair, Ms Chang Kwei Fern and PAC's Chair, Mr Shinichi Iguchi on 13 June 2011, in Manila, The Philippines. As required, by the MOU, the APLAC Board of Management will review the MOU on an annual basis.

The development of procedure(s) for joint APLAC/PAC evaluations is progressing albeit slowly. The Joint APLAC / PAC Document Control Procedure, J-APP-DOC-001, is currently with APLAC secretariat and it is envisaged that it will be ready to be sent out for member comment in early June.

The APLAC and PAC Secretariats are in the earlier stages of developing a draft program for a combined meeting to be hosted by ema in Mexico in 2014.

Future APLAC Events

APLAC Evaluator Training Course	2-4 June 2012	Bangkok, Thailand
APLAC Board of Management meeting	5-6 June 2012	Bangkok, Thailand
APLAC MRA Council meeting	7-8 June 2012	Bangkok, Thailand
APLAC General Assembly and associated meetings	1-7 December 2012	Sydney, Australia
APLAC General Assembly and associated meetings 2013	To be advised	Vietnam



Michael Fraser
APLAC Secretary

17 May 2012