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Issue # 8

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## FROM THE CHAIR ...

### 11<sup>th</sup> PAC Meetings

The 11<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) were held in Seoul, Republic of Korea between 5 and 9 July, 2004. 52 delegates, representing PAC members and interested parties attended the Plenary, held on 9 July. It was also very pleasing to see so many certification bodies from the region represented at the meeting.

### Establishing the PAC MLA Management Committee

The PAC Executive Committee (EC) had recommended to the last Plenary in New Delhi that PAC should form an MLA Management Committee to take over the responsibilities of the MLA management from the EC. The Terms of Reference document for the new Committee was approved by letter ballot in June 2004.

Shinichi Iguchi of JAB Japan was appointed as the inaugural Chairman of the PAC MLA MC in accordance with the Terms of Reference. Other members of the committee are:

- Steve Keeling – JAS-ANZ Australia & New Zealand
- Joan Brough-Kerrebyn – SCC Canada
- Phua Kim Chua – SAC Singapore
- Ekanit Romyanon – NAC Thailand
- Yoshihiro Fuchigami – JASC Japan
- Peter Herrmann – IIOC
- Xiao Jianhua – PAC Chair

- **The PAC MLA For Product** became operational at the meetings. The initial three signatories to the MLA are JAS-ANZ Australia and New Zealand, SCC Canada and ema Mexico. An application from ANSI USA to join the MLA was received during the meeting and several other members have advised that they will apply within the next 12 months.



**Signatories to the PAC MLA for Product**

Ms Araceli Suarez (ema), Mr Tony Craven (JAS-ANZ), and Ms Elva Nilsen (SCC) with the PAC Chair, Mr Xiao Jianhua at the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meetings in Seoul

- **The PAC MLA For Environmental Management Systems (EMS)** continues to expand, with 5 new signatories during the meeting. They are: CNAB PR China, KAB Korea, KAN Indonesia, ema Mexico and TAF Chinese Taipei. These members join JAS-ANZ Australia and New Zealand, JAB Japan, SCC Canada and NAC Thailand, expanding the EMS MLA to 9 signatories. A further application has been received from DSM Malaysia and is currently being processed.
- **The PAC MLA For Quality Management Systems (QMS)** currently has 14 members, being: JAS-ANZ Australia and New Zealand, SCC Canada, CNAB PR China, HKAS Hong Kong, NABCB India, KAN Indonesia, JAB Japan, KAB Korea, DSM Malaysia, ema Mexico, BPS Philippines, SAC Singapore, NAC Thailand and TAF Chinese Taipei.

PAC would like to thank KAB, our hosts for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting, for their assistance and hospitality during the meeting. Due in no small part to KAB's excellent organisation and promotion of the meetings throughout the conformity assessment industry in Korea, a record number of people participated and all agreed that they were a great success.

Xiao Jianhua  
PAC Chair

## **New Member of the PAC Executive Committee**

**Balakrishnan Venkataraman** is a chemical engineer from one of the premier technical institutions in India. He started his career with the Indian national standards body, Bureau of Indian Standards (erstwhile Indian Standards Institution). Mr Venkataraman has wide experience of over 25 years in product and system certification and is a qualified lead auditor for Quality Management systems and Environmental Management systems. He had also been extensively involved in training, in the areas of standardization and quality systems.

He took charge of the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), India since December 2002. NABCB presently offers accreditation in the areas of QMS and EMS certification.



## **PAC Committee Reports**

### **Technical Committee**

The meeting was chaired by Joan Brough-Kerrebyn of SCC, assisted by Vice-Chair, Mr Tetsuro Kawaberi of JAB. Members thanked Steve Keeling for his contributions to the PAC Technical Committee over the past 4 years, and welcomed Joan as the new Chair.

Discussions focussed on strengthening the PAC MLA process in all three programs including creation and amendment of policy and procedure documents, improving the understanding and interpretation of ISO/IEC documents and associated guidance, and PAC input into the development of IAF policies and procedures.

### **Developing Programs Committee**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Suprpto of KAN who reported on progress throughout the year. The APEC-sponsored training program for the EMS MLA was continuing, with several members receiving training to date and more courses planned before the deadline of 30 September 2004. The program consist of two components – training for certification/registration bodies who wish to either develop or improve upon their existing EMS certification/registration programs, and training for accreditation bodies who wish to develop an accreditation program for EMS. Members thanked JAS-ANZ, SCC and JAB for providing trainers for the program.

Members proposed three priority areas for training in 2005. These are: training of accreditation assessors of members for consistent application of standards for QMS and EMS including training on the new standards ISO/IEC 17021; training for accreditation assessors in Product including implementation of the relevant standards and guides and harmonisation of understanding; and training in ISO/IEC 17011 for accreditation body management staff and assessors, focussed on the differences between the current ISO/IEC Guide 61 and the new standard.

### **Promotions Committee**

Tony Craven of JAS-ANZ chaired the meeting. Members discussed means of promoting PAC to the general public, in particular, further enhancement of the PAC website and Newsletter. Members agreed that there was a need to streamline the newsletter production process and proposed that the newsletter be produced professionally in future, rather than by volunteer members. Participation of members in PAC activities was also discussed, including ideas to increase participation.

## **Experienced Peer Evaluator Workshop**

The workshop was again well-attended by PAC team leaders and team members. It was chaired by Phua Kim Chua of SAC Singapore. Participants discussed specific technical issues with an aim to harmonisation of understanding of the various guidance documents and improvement of peer evaluation processes. This will enhance the operations of the various PAC MLAs by ensuring the consistency among peer evaluation teams when evaluating applicants across the three PAC MLA programs.

## **Information Exchange Session**

The Seoul meetings marked the first information exchange session among members. Steve Keeling of JAS-ANZ and Mr Phua Kim Chua of SAC, Singapore chaired the session. Alex Ezrakhovich of SAI Global Australia also made an interesting presentation on ISO 9001:2000 – Auditing Practice.

Other topics discussed included Auditor Competence, ISO 19011 – Use and status of Table 1, Product Certification – Type 5 system, Surveillance Issues, and Auditing of Overseas Franchises. Delegates agreed that the session was a valuable tool for enhancing harmonisation of understanding, and several items were referred to the PAC Executive Committee for further consideration.

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **SCC Canada and ema Mexico**

#### **New MLA signed between PAC members**

PAC is pleased to announce that a new MLA (Marriage Licence Agreement) was signed recently between Ms Anneke Auer of SCC Canada and Mr Jorge Olvera of ema Mexico.

The signing ceremony took place in Mexico recently, and the signatories plan to reside in Canada.

PAC members wish them all the best for the future!

#### **Congratulations to Anneke and Jorge**



### **JAB Japan**

JAB has started the activities of accreditation programs for sector schemes of TL 9000 and ISO 13485, and also revised the requirements for certification bodies, as follows:

#### **TL 9000**

JAB started, on June 1, 2004, to operate an accreditation program against TL 9000, a sector standard for telecommunications equipment industry.

JAB participated in an accreditation/ certification pilot program run by QuEST, the entity responsible for development and maintenance of TL 9000, and was approved as an accreditation body for the program in January 2002.

After the pilot program, while preparing to start accreditation activities under this program, JAB continued to collect relevant information on international trend, and to implement adjustments with interested parties including the Japanese business community.

Finally, JAB decided to start the operation of accreditation activities under this program, having taken into consideration various points of issues concerning the state of affairs of the business community.

## **ISO 13485**

Regarding an accreditation program against ISO 13485:2003, a sector specific standard for medical devices QMS, JAB developed and established JAB R 105, "Requirements for accreditation of certification/registration bodies of ISO 13485", and has started to receive applications for pilot accreditation of ISO 13485 from registration bodies. JAB R 105 will be revised when the standard is published as one of the JIS standards.

## **ISO 17024**

JAB issued a revised edition of JAB CP 100, "Requirements for bodies operating certification of persons" and JAB CP 300, "Guidelines for the 'Requirements for bodies operating certification of persons'".

These revisions were made for adapting to the newly issued ISO/IEC 17024, and IAF Guidance on its application published following the issuance. Both of these requirements are to be put in force as of January 1, 2005.

## **ANSI USA**

### **Building Accountability Among America's Personnel Certification Agencies**

#### **ANSI International Personnel Certification Summit, July 13 – 14, 2004**

More than 100 professionals from a diverse array of organizations engaged in an enthusiastic multi-sector dialogue on the value of the ANSI accreditation program for personnel certifiers and its relationship to the federal government, state licensure, and the international accreditation community at the ANSI International Personnel Certification Summit, July 13-14, 2004 at the Jurys Hotel in Washington, DC. Driven by heightened post 9-11 security, concern for public safety, consumer anxiety, growing skepticism about the bona fides of credentials, and demand for accountability, the event succeeded in addressing these phenomena within an integrated setting. Summit presenters included ANSI, U.S. federal and state government agencies, ANSI-accredited organizations, and the for-profit sector.

"The Conference made it clear that an accreditation standard for personnel certification bodies was urgently needed to support a mobile workforce in today's global economy," said George Bieber, human resources and training deputy director of the U.S. Department of Defense Defensewide Information Assurance Program. "The presentations represented a broad spectrum of interests, but surprisingly there was something of value to take away from virtually every session, no matter how far removed it appeared to be from my particular interest – information technology."

Welcoming Summit participants, ANSI president and CEO Mark W. Hurwitz (pictured, left) emphasized ANSI's role as an independent coordinator of the U.S. voluntary consensus standardization system. He added that ANSI provides a "forum where subject matter experts from the private and public sectors can work cooperatively toward the development of voluntary standards and conformity assessment systems that ultimately benefit the nation."

Keynote speaker Thomas Dowd, deputy assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, described the DOL market demand-driven program related to the U.S. public workforce. Key elements of this program will be career lattices, DOL-funded employer-community college partnerships, and worker competency and mobility based upon performance-based portable credentialing.

Additional U.S. federal government panelists underscored the need for a mix of workforce competency, certification/recertification, credentialing, and continuous assessment, increasingly in partnership with the private sector. The U.S. Department of Defense described its soon-to-be-mandated certification program in Information Assurance (IA), applied on a cross-agency basis through ANSI accreditation in accordance with ISO/IEC 17024. In federal healthcare, the need for standardized certification and credentialing was emphasized. The Department of Homeland Security has mandated an annual proficiency review for its baggage screening handlers. The Federal Highway Administration administers a right-of-way program where certification is expected to play a larger role.



One popular session during the summit focused on the experiences of ANSI-accredited personnel certifiers from ANSI's pilot program. They cited the following for seeking ANSI accreditation: (1) distinguishing their credentials from competitors; (2) imprinting a trans-border ISO/IEC 17024 cachet on their program; and (3) "raising the bar" by elevating their credential through an ANSI on-site assessment. Both the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials and the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry cited ANSI accreditation as a key factor in selecting the ANSI-accredited National Inspection Training Certification Corporation (NITC) as their certification administrator.

International speakers from Brazil and Japan voiced their expectations for ISO/IEC 17024 vis-à-vis their personnel certification programs. One international consultant highlighted the need for police and security certification programs in Baghdad. National Consumer League president Linda Golodner underscored the need to expand consumer knowledge in personnel certification activities beyond education, health, safety, and financial credentials and the importance of the joint ANSI-Conference for Food Protection (CFP) accreditation program. In a stirring finale, futurist Joseph Reum strongly underscored the role of certification as a technical path to pursue lifelong learning.

The ANSI International Personnel Certification Summit offered a central venue to focus upon personnel certification and accreditation issues in a dynamic environment. "The Summit helped to boost this new program's credibility and recognition among the federal and state government, private sector businesses, and the certification community," said ANSI conformity assessment vice president Lane Hallenbeck. "Competence of people is a pivotal factor in creation and delivery of goods and services all over the world, he continued, "and standards and conformity assessment can provide assurance to the marketplace." The next Summit on ISO/IEC 17024 is planned for May 2005.

## **KAN Indonesia**

### **ISO/IEC 17024**

KAN had adopted ISO/IEC 17024 to replace BSN Guide 501 (EN 45013) as requirements for Accreditation of Personnel Certification Bodies. The transition period of the implementation of these requirements is one year. Therefore, all KAN accredited Personnel Certification Bodies will fully comply with ISO/IEC 17024 within the year 2005.

### **Product Ecolabel**

ISO, through TC207, has issued standards on environmental management (ISO 14000 series), which consists of two types of standards, namely management and product oriented standards. Product oriented standards cover Environmental Labels and Declaration (EL), Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Design for Environment (DfE). Based on the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, the Ministry of Environment has launched the logo of the Indonesian Product Ecolabel to commemorate World Environment Day (5 June 2004).

This Ecolabel will be granted through accreditation by KAN, who will start to operate an accreditation program on Product Ecolabel Certification in October 2004. The launch of the program will be announced during Indonesia Quality month ceremony.

## **CNAB PR China**

### **Unified Accreditation of OHSMS CBs and Organic Product CBs**

CNAB commenced OHAMS accreditation in 2001 and Organic Product accreditation work in 2003

According to the instructions of relevant Chinese governmental documents, CNAB has taken over OHSMS certification bodies accredited by the former China National Accreditation Board for occupational Health and Safety Management System (CNASC) and organic Product certification bodies accredited by the former China National Accreditation Board for Organic Food.

CNAB has now conducted unified accreditation of OHSMS CBs and Organic Product CBs.

## **NAC Thailand**

### **Inspection bodies accreditation**

In 2003 NAC conducted the inspection body accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17020. At present the three inspection bodies have been accredited in the fields of electrical, food and consumer products and four accreditation certificates have been issued. NAC plan to be the member of APLAC for inspection body accreditation scheme in order to joint APLAC MRA by next year.

### **NAC launch new accreditation programs for HACCP and OH&S**

NAC has extended its programs for certification body accreditation to HACCP and OH&S schemes, which it launched on 9 August 2004.

## **12<sup>th</sup> PAC PLENARY MEETING – JULY 2005**

### **NAC is honoured to host the 12<sup>th</sup> PAC Plenary Meetings in Bangkok**

#### **Dates**

4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July 2005 inclusive

#### **Venue**

Novotel Bangkok  
Siam Square Soi 6  
Bangkok 10330  
Tel : (662) 2556888  
Fax : (662) 2551824

#### **Contacts**

Mr. Chaiyong Krittapholchai  
Office of the National Accreditation Council  
Thai Industrial Standards Institute Building  
Rama VI Street, Bangkok 10400  
THAILAND  
Tel : 66 2 202 3418  
Fax: 66 2 202 3486  
E-mail: [Chaiyong@tisi.go.th](mailto:Chaiyong@tisi.go.th)



Aerial view of the Royal Palace, Bangkok

Mr. Ekanit Romyanon  
Office of the National Accreditation Council  
Thai Industrial Standards Institute Building  
Rama VI Street, Bangkok 10400  
THAILAND  
Tel : 66 2 202 3454  
Fax: 66 2 202 3486  
E-mail: [Ekanit@tisi.go.th](mailto:Ekanit@tisi.go.th)



The Golden Buddah Temple



Tuk Tuks are a popular form of transport

Further details, registration forms etc, will be posted to the PAC website shortly.

**Members of PAC**

**Full Members**

JAS-ANZ



**JAS-ANZ**  
(Australia and New Zealand)



**SCC**  
(Canada)



**CNAB**  
(PR China)



**HKAS**  
(Hong Kong, China)



**KAN**  
(Indonesia)



**JAB**  
(Japan)



**JASC**  
(Japan)



**KAB**  
(Korea)



**KAS**  
(Korea)



**DSM**  
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**BAS**  
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(India)



The Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) is an association of accreditation bodies and other interested parties whose objective is to facilitate trade and commerce among economies in the Asia Pacific region.

Its ultimate objective is the creation of a global system that grants international recognition of certification or registration of management systems, products, services, personnel and other programmes of conformity assessment.

The PAC promotes the international acceptance of accreditations granted by its accreditation body members, based on the equivalence of their accreditation programmes.

The PAC operates within the framework of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and in cooperation with other regional groups of accreditation bodies around the world.

PAC Secretariat

Chair: Mr. XIAO Jianhua

Secretary: Ms. Belinda Mort

3729 The Bucketts Way

Krambach NSW 2429

AUSTRALIA

Tel: +61 2 6559 1370

Fax: +61 2 6559 1374

E-mail:

belindam@tsn.cc

This issue is published by:



**Komite Akreditasi Nasional (KAN) Indonesia**

**Manggala Wanabakti, Block IV, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Jakarta 10270 INDONESIA**

**Phone +62 21 574 7043-3 Fax +62 2 5790 2948**

**Email: [bsn@bsn.or.id](mailto:bsn@bsn.or.id)**

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