

**REPORT****ILAC 2000 Technical Conference and Fourth General Assembly****30 October–4 November 2000,  
Washington D.C.**

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The four-day *ILAC 2000 Technical Conference for Testing and Laboratory Professionals* was held in conjunction with the Fourth ILAC General Assembly.

**1 Technical Conference**

Six technical sessions were organized as follows:

**Session 1: Application of ISO/IEC 17025**

A presentation addressed the content and progression of the draft ILAC document *Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17025 for the Purposes of Accreditation* and two panels discussed the major concerns of accreditation bodies and of laboratories.

**Session 2: Stakeholder Reliance on Accredited Laboratories**

Benefits of accreditation (confidence, efficiency, international acceptance, etc.) were explored at some length by representatives of US and EU regulators and US and non-US manufacturers.

**Session 3: Proficiency Testing and Interlaboratory Comparisons**

A wide variety of topics related to proficiency testing was explored, including the results of a recent ILAC survey, cross-border confidence building, proficiency testing programs that accredited laboratories use to meet accreditation requirements and the long-term benefits of participating in these programs.

**Session 4: Uncertainty and Traceability**

Four presentations addressed requirements for uncertainty statements and their relationship to trace-

ability and provided guidance for different user groups, such as industry and chemical laboratories. A special tutorial on uncertainty analysis according to the GUM was also organized with some 30 participants.

**Session 5: Effect of Accreditation on International Trade**

Six presentations addressed this topic from the point of view of different key actors and all concluded in emphasizing the necessity for greater international and regional mutual recognition of conformity assessment results.

**Session 6: Developing New Accreditation Systems**

This session provided examples and experiences in developing new accreditation programs from the Latin American, Asia-Pacific and African Regions and a panel discussion explored future opportunities to facilitate the development of such programs.

**2 ILAC Fourth General Assembly**

In her report to the General Assembly, Mrs. Belinda Collins (Chair) gave a summary of activities since the last GA and focused on key issues such as the incorporation of ILAC (likely in The Netherlands), the creation of a permanent secretariat, further strengthening of the cooperation with IAF, the ILAC MRA and admission of new Full and Associate Members.

The event of major importance on the agenda was the ceremonial signing of the ILAC Multilateral Recognition Arrangement by the representatives of 35 calibration and/or testing laboratory accreditation bodies from 28 countries.

**2.1 Reports from ILAC Committees**

The *Accreditation Policy Committee* (among others) has finalized the supporting documents to the MRA and has drafted a document on the ILAC logo and accreditation mark to promote MRA membership.

The *Technical Accreditation Issues Committee* has finalized an application document *Guidance for accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025* and advanced well with two policy documents on traceability of measurement results and on introduction of the concept of measurement uncertainty in testing. This Committee has also undertaken the revision of OIML D 10 and a second draft will be circulated soon.

The *Laboratory Liaison Committee* reported advances in most items of the 1998–2000 Work Program. High priority has been given to the production of a guide for laboratory management converting from ISO Guide 25 to ISO/IEC 17025, to aspects of traceability and measurement uncertainty and to the use of logos.

The *Public Affairs Committee* reported on the revision of guidelines for development of ILAC documents, further developments of the ILAC web site and activities for the promotion of accreditation.

## 2.2 Reports and contributions from other international organizations in liaison with ILAC

Mr. Ohtsubo (Chair) gave an outline of recent IAF activities including the development of strategic policies, continuing to encourage accreditation bodies to join the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement for QMS and intensification of cooperation with ILAC.

On behalf of the CIPM Mr. Kaarls gave a short report on the recent CGPM session and the measures being taken for the implementation of the agreement on *Mutual recognition of national measurement standards and calibration certificates issued by national metrology institutes* signed in 1999.

The OIML representative gave information on recent OIML events and activities of TC 3/SC 5 *Conformity Assessment* that are of interest to ILAC. It was emphasized that the OIML is interested in closer cooperation with ILAC on conformity assessment and accreditation related issues and in a (trilateral) cooperation between BIPM-ILAC-OIML on metrology related issues, such as terminology and uncertainty of measurements.

## 3 Miscellaneous

The General Assembly agreed that representatives of ILAC would participate at the annual tripartite meeting of the *Convention du Mètre*, of ILAC and of the OIML to be held at the BIML in February 2001.

Representatives of regional bodies - APLAC, EA, IAAC and SADCA - also reported on their respective activities, recent developments and future plans.

The General Assembly appointed Mr. Mike Pete (SANAS) as Chair and Mr. Daniel Pierre (COFRAC and EA) as Vice Chair of ILAC for 2000–2002.

The next ILAC General Assembly will be held in Kyoto from 29 October to 2 November 2001. ■

