

RLMO MEETING**Seventh meeting of the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF)****2–4 October 2000
Grand Hotel Taipei,
Chinese Taipei**

MRS. LOON KHOO, APLMF Secretariat

The Seventh meeting of the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum and Working Group meetings were held at the Grand Hotel, Taipei, Chinese Taipei on 2–4 October 2000.

Mr. Ruey-Jong Chen, Vice-Minister for Economic Affairs (Chinese Taipei) officiated at the opening ceremony. He highlighted the achievements of the APLMF, which has provided a forum for measurement authorities in the Asia-Pacific area to exchange their experience in the area of legal measurements, and emphasized the need to unify the system of measurements and the promotion of cooperation between economies.



Welcome address by Mr. John Birch AM, APLMF President

In his welcome address to delegates, Mr. John Birch AM, President of the APLMF, emphasized the role of legal metrology and the relationship between the government and metrology in the area of measurement for trade in commodities. He highlighted the role of the APLMF in facilitating trade and in developing trust and confidence amongst members through Forum activities and programs.

Mr. Neng-Jong Lin, Director General of the Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection (BSMI) spoke on the need to harmonize weights and measures and on the APLMF's contribution to regional and international development.

Fifty delegates and observers from thirteen Asia-Pacific economies attended the conference, as well as Mr. Jean-François Magaña, representing the BIML and WELMEC, Mr. Gerard Faber, CIML President, Dr. Eberhard Seiler, Head of the Technical Cooperation Department, PTB and Mr. Nigel Jou, CNLA and APLAC.

Working Group meetings

As has become normal practice, working group meetings were held in association with the conference. This year working group meetings were held on mutual recognition arrangements, training, utility meters, goods packed by measure, medical measurements, rice moisture measurements, taximeters, and intercomparison calibration and testing.

The Forum agreed to a program of work to be carried out over the next few years.

APLMF Work Program 2000–2001

- The train-the-trainer courses for the pattern approval and verification of nonautomatic weighing instruments be promoted and further workshops be run as requested.
- Ensure that areas of inconsistency between economies identified through the results in the intercomparison (e.g. the interpretation of the checklist) be adequately covered in future training courses.
- An APLMF train-the-trainer course for the verification of fuel dispensers and LPG dispensers be completed, trialed and run in China in March 2001.
- A workshop or seminar be run on accreditation and quality certification on legal metrology aimed at highlighting possible issues, in particular those concerning:

Seventh APLMF Meeting and Working Group Meetings

Front row, left to right:

Ms. Angela Chang,
Chinese Taipei

Mr. H. Prawoko, Indonesia

Mr. Gunaryo, Indonesia

Mr. G. Faber, CIML President

Mr. Ruey-Long Chen,
Vice Minister of Economic
Affairs, Chinese Taipei

Mr. John Birch AM,
APLMF President

Mr. Neng Jong-Lin,
Chinese Taipei

Mr. J.F. Magaña,
Appointed BIML Director

Mrs. Loon Khoo,
APLMF Secretary



- Certifiers of private sector verifiers of weighing and measuring equipment; and
- Certification of packers of goods packed by measure.
- Training priority be given to the following areas:
 - High capacity weighing;
 - High capacity flow measurement;
 - Goods packed by measure; and
 - Measurement of uncertainty in legal metrology.
- Consideration be given to organizing a seminar/workshop for training providers in legal metrology throughout the region.
- Consideration also be given in the future to organizing training courses on:
 - Standards laboratories officers training;
 - Compressed natural gas dispenser pattern approval and verification; and
 - Vehicle speed measuring devices and evidential analysis devices.
- The APLMF be actively involved with OIML TC 12 *Electricity meters* and keep members informed on developments in this area.
- Support the OIML in developing a Recommendation on Statistical Sampling.
- The APLMF note the development in OIML and WELMEC on revision of requirements for goods packed by measure and support continued cooperation to develop requirements that facilitate trade in goods packed by measure.
- A speaker be invited to address the next Forum meeting on the importance of metrological control of medical measuring instruments, particularly sphygmomanometers. It was noted that Austria held the secretariat for this OIML Recommendation (R 16) and could be invited to give the presentation.
- Conduct a study of the Rice Measurement Control System of Japan in the last week of August 2001.
- Seek funding from the APEC SCSC to continue the project after the study tour of Japan.
- APLMF support the OIML revision of its Recommendation on taximeters (R 21).
- The report on nonautomatic weighing instruments, which had been finalized and circulated to members, be sent for publication in the OIML Bulletin.
- The report on load cells be finalized and circulated to members.
- The intercomparison testing of mass standards and master meters commence as soon as possible.
- The OIML be requested to finalize the revision of Document D 1 *Law on Metrology*.
- Consider ways to involve consumers in Forum activities.
- Support the work of OIML TC 3/SC 5 *Conformity Assessment* in developing the Mutual Acceptance Arrangements (MAA) on Test Reports.
- Survey action being taken by member economies to ensure compliance of production instruments with type.
- Survey members on the establishment of a Working Group on the application of weighing bulk commodity shipping to replace draft survey.

- Develop a project on economic analysis of legal metrology with the aim of setting priorities based on economic and social impacts.
- Circulate information to member economies on Measurement Canada's Market Place Intervention Model (available on the Internet).
- Provide reports to members on WTO review of TBT agreements.
- Attend OIML and CIML meetings and provide reports on Forum meetings for publication in the OIML Bulletin.
- Provide reports to APEC SCSC and attend at least one meeting per year.
- Exchange information with other specialist regional bodies and attend the annual meetings where appropriate.
- Exchange information with other regional legal metrology organizations (RLMOs) and attend coordinating meetings with them.
- Pursue opportunities for obtaining funding for the development of legal metrology in the region.
- Strengthen the policy focus of the Forum meetings.
- Support the organization of the 8th Forum meeting.



Opening address by Mr. Ruey-Long Chen, Vice Minister of Economic Affairs, Chinese Taipei

Major issues

One of the major issues discussed was the transfer of the responsibilities of the APLMF presidency and secretariat from Australia. Both these positions have been held by Australia since the establishment of the APLMF in 1994 and Japan agreed to accept both these responsibilities from 1 January 2002.

Another significant development was an in-principle agreement for the introduction of a new membership fee structure to partially support the secretariat.

Eighth Forum meeting

The Forum accepted the invitation of New Zealand to hold the 8th Forum meeting in New Zealand. ■

Second Regional Seminar on Legal Metrology for ASEAN and APLMF economies

5–6 October 2000
Grand Hotel Taipei,
Chinese Taipei

MRS. LOON KHOO, APLMF Secretariat

The Seminar was held in association with the Seventh APLMF meeting and was attended by twenty-seven participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, ASEAN Secretariat, Australia, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei and the United States of America.

The objectives of the Seminar were:

- To identify possibilities of cooperation in legal metrology among ASEAN countries;
- To stimulate metrological activities and regional cooperation;
- To increase participation in activities of the regional and international organizations; and

- To establish an ASEAN Consultative Committee on Legal Metrology (ACCLM).

The Seminar was chaired by Mr. John Birch AM, APLMF President, and opened by Mr. Neng Jong-Lin, Director General of the Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection, BSMI, Chinese Taipei. Mr. Skol Harnsuthivarin, Deputy Director General, Department of Commercial Registration, Ministry of Commerce and Dr. Eberhard Seiler, PTB, introduced the aims and objectives of the seminar which arose out of the first regional seminar held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 8–9 November 1999.

Recommendations and conclusions

Participants from the ASEAN nations reported on developments in their legal metrology systems since the first seminar and identified a number of areas appropriate for regional cooperation.

1 Need for a Forum

The Seminar agreed that there was a need for a Forum or Body on Legal Metrology in the ASEAN and recommended that initially an ASEAN Sub-Committee on Legal Metrology (ASCLM) be established under the auspices of the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ).

2 Training

Training was seen as important both for developing national capability in emerging technologies and ensuring harmonization of capability in the region.

Training courses that would contribute to regional harmonization include:

- High capacity weighing including weighbridges;
- High capacity oil and gas flow measurement;
- Control of prepackaged goods;
- Application of quality certification and accreditation in legal metrology; and
- Standards Officer training course including uncertainty of measurement and evaluation of inter-comparison results.

In addition, training in approval and verification of LPG and CNG dispensers was identified as an emerging

technology in the region for which training was required.

Training effectiveness in the region will also be facilitated by the establishment of an ASEAN Legal Metrology Regional Training Network.

3 Legislation and administration

Most of the ASEAN legal metrology authorities are currently modernizing their legislation and there is the need to ensure that this does not result in introducing new legislative or administrative technical barriers to trade.

The Seminar recommended that an ASEAN Seminar on modernization of legislation and administrative systems be organized - this could include discussions on the role of government in legal metrology and a coordination mechanism for measurements used for regulatory purposes.

4 Mutual recognition

The Seminar noted the current activities within the OIML and the APLMF on developing the Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA) on test reports and agreed to support this initiative and develop a profile of national measurement and testing capability on legal metrology in the region to facilitate access to the specialized facilities and to support the development of an ASEAN MAA for legal metrology.

5 Priority setting

- The Seminar recognized the challenges facing legal metrology in the region arising from new technology, globalization, the changing role of government and the expanding scope of legal metrology and recommended that an analysis of the economic and social benefits of legal metrology be undertaken to assist in prioritizing resource allocation.
- The Seminar recognized that the next step in regional cooperation in legal metrology would be the establishment of the ASCLM and the development of the work program based on the above priorities.
- It was noted that as eight of the ASEAN legal metrology authorities are also members of the

APLMF, the work of the ASCLM would be complementary to that of the APLMF and could draw on resources developed by the APLMF.

- (iv) Thailand agreed to continue to act as Coordinator of this regional cooperation initiative and prepare the draft Terms of Reference for the ASCLM.
- (v) Members were also requested to explore possible sources of funding to assist in establishing the ASCLM and in this regard the Seminar noted the expression of support given by the PTB and the BSMI.

- (vi) It was recommended that ASCLM members discuss the outcomes of the Seminar with their respective members of the ACCSQ.

6 Conclusion

The Seminar expressed its appreciation for the support provided by the PTB, the Department of Commerce of Thailand, the BSMI and the APLMF for organizing and ensuring the success of the Seminar. ■



Second Regional Seminar on Legal Metrology for ASEAN and APLMF Economies.

Left to right: Dr. Pham The Vinh, ASEAN Secretariat; Mr. John Birch AM, APLMF President and Chairman of the Seminar; Mr. Neng Jong-Lin, Chinese Taipei; Mr. Skol Harnsuthivarin, Thailand; Dr. E. Seiler, PTB Germany



Delegates participating in the Seminar. *Left to right:* Dr. Chen Jay-San, Chinese Taipei; Mr. M. Ong, Singapore; Mr. John Barker, New Zealand; Mr. Chen SF, Malaysia; Mr. Abdul Rahman b Ghazali, Malaysia