



Meter
Convention



ILAC



OIML

PRESS RELEASE

Joint Meeting
(BIML, 21 February 2001)

A total of 14 persons - made up of the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Steering Committee Secretaries, Council Members and Bureau Directors - representing the Meter Convention, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Organization of Legal Metrology met at the OIML headquarters in Paris on Wednesday 21 February 2001 in order to discuss matters of common interest and initiate joint actions whenever appropriate. Many of the participants are also active within other international or regional bodies such as IMEKO, the Asia-Pacific Metrology Program or the European Accreditation Cooperation.

Meter Convention/OIML meetings have been held annually for some five years, with a view to developing cooperation between the two inter-governmental metrology organizations as an alternative to a merger, which has transpired not to be feasible at least for the next five or ten years. The necessity to associate ILAC in these meetings has increasingly become clear, owing to the role of metrology as a technical basis for accreditation and to the increasing cooperation between ILAC and both the BIPM and the OIML in many fields.

The meeting began with brief descriptions of the major events that had taken place within each of the three organizations since the previous meeting (23 February 2000). Information was also given concerning the activity within the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM) in which eight international bodies cooperate: BIPM, IEC, IFCC, ILAC, IUPAC, IUPAP, ISO and OIML, to

maintain and develop a joint vocabulary on metrology and a guide on measurement uncertainty.

Participants then examined those activities that are currently carried out within one organization which might influence activities within the other two (or one). The CIPM and ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangements are obviously inter-related (the equivalence of national measurement standards and the recognition of calibration and measurement certificates issued by National Metrology Institutes being a necessary basis for the mutual recognition of national accreditation systems) and a CIPM/ILAC Memorandum of Understanding is being discussed. These MRAs will also have an influence on the future OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement on the recognition of test results associated with OIML type evaluations. In the same way, the accreditation of laboratories that perform legal metrology evaluations and tests is a topic of common interest for ILAC and the OIML.

Another subject of a common and urgent nature is the development of a model law on metrology that would deal with the role of National Metrology Institutes and National Legal Metrology Services in the maintenance of national measurement standards, traceability matters, calibration services, technical basis for the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories, control of measuring instruments subject to regulations, etc. This model law would also give guidance for the establishment of national metrology infrastructures. It was decided to create a working group of

six experts (two from each organization) to prepare a proposal.

Assistance to developing countries in the establishment of sound metrology, legal metrology and accreditation bodies was also identified as a priority action; ILAC and OIML will start their cooperation in this field and the BIPM will be kept informed of any progress but will not be able to participate in this work - at least for the time being.

After the success of the International Seminar on the *Economic and Social Role of Metrology* held in Germany in June 1998, efforts have been made by the BIPM to find a country willing to organize a follow-up seminar in close cooperation with the

BIPM, the OIML and ILAC. It is hoped that a solution will be found for 2002 at the latest.

The current development of the ISO standard 17011 - which might affect the role of certain National Metrology Institutes - and the possibility for the three organizations to cooperate in order to find acceptable solutions was discussed.

The next meeting between the three organizations will be held in February 2002 at the BIPM. ■

Paris, 23 February 2001

PRESIDENTS MEET AT THE BIML



Left to right: Dr. K. Iizuka Immediate Past-President, IMEKO
 Prof. J. Kovalevsky President, CIPM
 Mr. G. Faber President, CIML
 Mr. M. Peet President, ILAC
 Dr. H. Imai President, APMP