

## RLMO MEETING ACCOUNTS

### - 8<sup>th</sup> APLMF Meeting - Meeting of the Regional Groups

12–16 November 2001  
Auckland (New Zealand)

AYAKO TANIGUCHI, APLMF Secretariat

### Eighth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF)

November 13 to 15, 2001

The Eighth Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF) and Working Group (WG) meetings were held in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand, from November 13 to 15, 2001, hosted by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, New Zealand. A total of 76 delegates and observers attended the meetings.

Delegates from the following nineteen APLMF economies were present: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, PR China, Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, USA and Vietnam.

The following five international and regional organizations attended as observers: the Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) secretariat, the BIML, the Cooperation for Metrology (COOMET), and the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Legal Metrology (SADC MEL).

Representatives from the PTB and officials from the following six Pacific Island Economies also attended: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

Mr. Keith Manch, General Manager, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, officially opened the meeting on behalf of Hon. Jim Anderton, Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand. He spoke on the importance of legal metrology, which can provide standards by which society can ensure a fair environment for trade, justice

and the social well being of its citizens and on the need for a strong infrastructure to support innovation and enterprise. He highlighted the pace and increase of globalization and the role of the APLMF in contributing to the sharing of knowledge, skills and techniques, and the promotion of consumer confidence.

Mr. John Birch, President of the APLMF, reported on the progress of programs and activities of the APLMF, and highlighted the following achievements:

- The train-the-trainer course on Verification of Petroleum and LPG Fuel Dispensers held in May 2001 in Beijing was successfully presented and organized by the National Standards Commission, Australia, and the China State General Administration of Quality Supervision & Inspection & Quarantine (AQSIQ).
- NSC obtained funding from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, Australia, to conduct the train-the-trainer course on Verification of Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments based on OIML R 76 in April 2002 in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- The WG on Rice Moisture Measurement obtained funding from APEC TILF to carry out its project, a study tour to Japan on metrological control of rice moisture measurements. This was the first stage of the project and was successfully conducted in October 2001 in Japan. The WG also obtained funding from APEC TILF for the second stage of this project to be conducted in 2003 in Thailand.

### APLMF Work Program for 2002–2003

The Working Group on Goods Packed by Measure seeks to:

- Follow up on the recent survey of APLMF economies seeking to establish the contact for goods packed by measure within each economy.
- Prepare and publish a register of officials who are the contacts in each economy for goods packed by measure.
- Prepare any required submission of comments on the redraft of R 87 or the proposed IQ Mark to TC 6 when required by the President.
- Keep the Secretariat informed of all correspondence with the Working Groups.
- Maintain relationships with other regional legal metrology organizations such as WELMEC WG 6.
- Prepare a report for the Ninth APLMF meeting on issues relating to Goods Packed by Measure including regulating prescribed sizes and unit pricing.

**The Working Group on Training seeks to:**

- Conduct the Train-the-Trainer courses for verifying Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments (NAWIs) in Hanoi from April 8 to 13, 2002.
- Consolidate training courses based on existing packages either as Train-the-Trainer courses or as one-day courses.
- Complete and distribute the Train-the-Trainer Module, based on OIML R 117 for verifying Fuel Dispensers.
- Investigate training in utility meters.

**The Working Group on Utility Meters seeks to:**

- Prepare a survey to identify and prioritize the specific needs of APLMF members with regard to utility meters and distribute the finalized survey to all APLMF members.
- Have Australia prepare an information sheet on electricity meter standards and concerns about the IEC's unacceptably high allowable accuracies.

**The Working Group on Rice Moisture Measurement seeks to:**

- Compile reports made by the participants and publish the finalized document by March 2002.
- Implement the second stage of the project funded by APEC TILF, which involves training in certifying and calibrating several types of rice moisture meters and establishing a suitable inspection system for APEC economies.

**The Working Group on Intercomparison Calibration and Testing seeks to:**

- Consider conducting another intercomparison test of non-automatic weighing instruments provided there is sufficient interest in participation from members.
- Commence intercomparison testing of mass standards.
- Have members participating in the intercomparison testing of load cells submit their reports to the Coordinator of the project, Australia, by December 2001, and circulate the finalized report to the members.
- Publish the report on Intercomparison Calibration and Testing of Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments in the OIML Bulletin.

**The Working Group on Mutual Recognition Arrangements seeks to:**

- Consider the involvement of other members of the MAA since the proposed MAA was based on the issuing of test reports by Issuing Authorities that participate in the OIML Certificate System (with the acknowledgement of their participating CIML Member).
- Continue to support the OIML work and not develop a regional MAA.

**The Working Group on Medical Measurements seeks to:**

- Present progress in the work on sphygmomanometers.
- Consider inviting a speaker to address the next APLMF meeting on the metrological control of sphygmomanometers.

**The APLMF Members seek to:**

- Develop a project on economic analysis of legal metrology with the aim of setting priorities based on economic and social impacts.
- Support the work of TC 3/SC 5 in developing the Mutual Acceptance Arrangements (MAA) on Test Reports.
- Complete the survey of members on establishing a Working Group on Application of weighing bulk commodity shipping to replace the draft survey.
- Prepare a calendar of activities in member economies and circulate this information to members on the activities of the region.
- Prepare the third edition of the Directory of Legal Metrology in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- Have Japan circulate any information on opportunities for training in legal metrology to members.
- Have China provide information on the C mark system to members.
- Attend OIML and CIML meetings and provide reports on the Forum meetings to the OIML Bulletin.
- Provide reports to APEC SCSC and attend at least one meeting a 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 RLMOs.

- Consider organizing a conference on “The Future of Legal Metrology.”
- Consider organizing training courses in support of international trade on:
  - High-capacity weighing;
  - High-capacity flow measurements;
  - Goods packed by measure; and
  - Measurement uncertainty in legal metrology.
- Consider organizing a seminar/workshop for training providers in legal metrology throughout the region.
- Support OIML’s development of:
  - Recommendation on Statistical Sampling;
  - Taximeters, and
  - The revision of D 1 Law on Metrology.
- Maintain contact with the WTO on TBT issues.
- Upgrade and update the APLMF web pages.
- Continue to encourage the participation of DPR Korea in APLMF activities and invite a representative from East Timor to participate in the next Forum meeting as an observer.
- Strengthen the policy focus of the Forum meetings.
- Support the organization of the Ninth Forum meeting.

### Working Group meetings

On November 13, 2001, Working Group meetings were held on mutual recognition arrangements, training, utility meters, goods packed by measure, rice moisture measurements, and intercomparison calibration and testing.

### Topic for discussion

Ms. Lesley Harwood, advisor on consumer representation, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, New Zealand, was invited to the meeting and spoke on “Consumer involvement in legal metrology.”

### Major issues

#### *New President and Secretariat for the APLMF*

APLMF members were informed that effective January 1, 2002, the APLMF Presidency and Secretariat would be transferred from the National Standards Commission (NSC), Australia, to the National Metrology Institute of Japan (NMIJ) in the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan.

The new APLMF President and Secretariat members are:

- Dr. Akira Ooiwa, APLMF President, Director, Mechanical Metrology Division, NMIJ AIST.
- Mr. Kazuo Neda, APLMF Executive Secretary, Director, Legal Weighing Metrology Division, NMIJ AIST.
- Ayako Taniguchi, APLMF Secretary, International Metrology Cooperation Office, International Affairs Department, NMIJ AIST.

#### *APLMF Honorary Member*

APLMF members thanked Mr. John Birch, immediate past President of the APLMF, and Mrs. Loon Khoo, the former Secretary, for their contributions and commitment to the development and work of the APLMF. They also agreed to appoint Mr. Birch an Honorary Member of the APLMF in recognition of his outstanding service as a President from 1994 to 2001.

#### *APLMF Executive Committee Members*

APLMF Executive Committee members introduced were Canada, Japan (APLMF President and Secretariat), New Zealand (host economy for 2001), Vietnam (host economy for 2002), and Mr. John Birch AM (former APLMF President).

#### *Ninth and Tenth APLMF meetings*

Mr. Bui Quy Long, delegate from Vietnam, proposed on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation that the APLMF members hold the Ninth APLMF and WG meetings in November 2002 in Ho Chi Minh City. This is in association with the APMP General Assembly and the meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Legal Metrology.

Dr. Akira Ooiwa, the new APLMF President, also proposed to the members that Japan would like to host the Tenth APLMF and WG meetings in 2003 in Kyoto, Japan, in association with the CIML Meeting.

### Meetings of the Regional Groups

#### *ASEAN Working Group on Legal Metrology (WGLM)*

On November 12, 2001, the ASEAN Working Group on Legal Metrology held its first meeting prior to the

Eighth APLMF and WG meetings in Auckland, New Zealand. Officials attended from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam and a representative from the ASEAN secretariat and observers from Australia and New Zealand also attended. They discussed the terms of reference of the Working Group and proposed a work program for consideration at the next ACCSQ meeting in 2002.

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### *South Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (SPLMF)*

The second meeting of the South Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (SPLMF) was held from November 15 to 16, 2001 in Auckland, New Zealand, to discuss regional cooperation in trade measurement and legal metrology in the South Pacific region. Officials attended it from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga. Representatives from Australia and New Zealand also attended. The SPLMF members agreed that it would be necessary to establish a regional cooperation program in the South Pacific on trade measurement and legal metrology. Such a program would promote the efficient development of national systems, harmonize requirements, ensure consistency of measurement in the region, and support regional and international trade. ■

A Communiqué concerning the SPLMF  
is published on the following pages

