

SEMINAR

PTB



## Introduction to Metrology

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### Introduction

This seminar was a follow-up to the workshop held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in December 2001. It was organised by the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Ivory Coast National Laboratory of Testing, Quality, Metrology and Analysis (LANEMA) with support from the local office of the German Development Cooperation (GTZ). It took place at the offices of the International Labour Organization in Abidjan, Ivory Coast and was part of the regional project "Encouragement of metrology and testing systems in West African Countries" financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This project aims to encourage metrology and testing activities through regional networking so as to contribute to the removal of technical barriers to trade in recipient countries.

### The seminar

The objective of the seminar was to provide an introduction to legal metrology and to brief local decision makers about the role of metrology for economic development and consumer protection. A total of 37 people participated in the seminar, representing the administrations and industries of the following countries in the region: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

### Opening ceremony

The seminar began with a formal introductory session, attended by the Minister of Industry and Promotion of the Private Sector and the German Ambassador to the Ivory Coast, during which the PTB project was presented and an introduction to the OIML was given.

### Training sessions

During the first two days, the following training sessions were given:

- ▶ Fundamentals of metrology (George G. Koré, *LANEMA*);
- ▶ Economic and social tasks of legal metrology (Ian Dunmill, *BIML*);
- ▶ Legal metrology legislation and national and international structures (Ian Dunmill, *BIML*); and
- ▶ The development of metrology in the European Union - the example of Germany (Wolfgang Kieninger, *Stuttgart Weights and Measures Office*).

These sessions enabled an exchange of experience, and were considered valuable by the majority of the participants.

### Evaluation of legal metrology questionnaire

Ulrich Diekmann (PTB) presented the results of a questionnaire on legal metrology, which had been circulated following the last meeting in Burkina Faso. As well as giving an idea of each country's mass and volume capabilities, the results of this questionnaire showed that there was generally:

- ▶ A need for training and improvement of personnel in conducting verifications, particularly for mass;
- ▶ A need for standards of mass and volume;
- ▶ A lack of premises and laboratories; and
- ▶ A need for the establishment of traceability.

### Technical visits

On the third day of the seminar, the participants were able to visit some public and private metrology and testing laboratories, in order to gain an appreciation of the implementation of some of the principles already discussed.

### Future actions

The following future actions were agreed:

- ▶ A training seminar on mass will be held in Benin in September 2002;
- ▶ A training seminar on volume will be held in December 2002 in Guinea;
- ▶ A third workshop will be held in March 2003 in Senegal to examine the progress made within the project;
- ▶ A questionnaire concerning industrial metrology will be circulated;
- ▶ A technical working group on mass will be established;
- ▶ A technical working group or committee will be established to examine the harmonisation of legislation. ■

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