



Inter American Accreditation Cooperation

IAAC Report to PAC

This report includes IAAC activities from August 2011 to March 2012.

IAAC Membership

IAAC has maintained its membership at the same levels of last year. IAAC currently has a total of 41 members from 23 countries in the Americas. 22 are full members, 7 are associate members and 12 are stakeholders.

FQS of USA was acquired by ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, LLC., of USA as of November 2011.

IAAC MLA Group

The IAAC MLA Group currently has a total of 17 signatory members for the following scopes: Testing Laboratories (16 members), Calibration Laboratories (12 members), Quality Management Systems Certification Bodies (10 members), Environmental Management Systems Certification Bodies (7 members), Product Certification Bodies (8 members), and Inspection Bodies (5 members). The full list of MLA signatories may be accessed at the IAAC website, Members page: www.iaac.org.mx.

Extension of the IAAC MLA

IAAC is currently in the process of preparing to become a signatory of the ILAC MRA for the scope of Inspection Bodies, when it becomes operational. An ILAC evaluation team carried out a witnessing of two IAAC peer evaluations. The first one of ECA, Costa Rica, in January 2011, and the second of OGA, Guatemala, in June 2011. The ILAC team observed via Skype the MLA Group meeting which was held in Quito, Ecuador, on August 21, 2011. The ILAC team also carried out an evaluation of the IAAC Secretariat via Skype on October 18, 2011. IAAC has submitted its response to the findings to the ILAC team.

The IAAC General Assembly agreed to extend the MLA to include the following scopes:

- Persons Certification Bodies according to the ISO/IEC 17024
- Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS), according to ISO/IEC 17021, ISO 22003, and ISO 22000 at level 5.
- Information Security Management Systems (ISMS), according to ISO/IEC 17021, ISO 27006 and ISO 27001 at level 5.
- Green House Gas Emissions, according to all of the relevant standards.
- Proficiency Testing Providers, according to ISO/IEC 17043.
- Reference Material producers, according to ISO/IEC Guide 34, in combination with ISO/IEC 17025.

The MLA Committee assigned working groups for each MLA scope to develop the documentation that is need to begin the implementation.

New IAAC MLA signatories:

- OAE of Ecuador was accepted as a signatory to the IAAC MLA for the scopes of Testing and Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025); Quality Management Systems (ISO/IEC 17021); Product Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC Guide 65); and Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020).
- ONA of Paraguay was accepted as a signatory to the IAAC MLA for the scopes of



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Testing Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025); Product Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC Guide 65); and Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020).

- ECA of Costa Rica was accepted as a signatory to the IAAC MLA for the scope of Product Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC Guide 65); and Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020).
- Ema of Mexico was accepted as a signatory to the IAAC MLA for the scope of Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020), as of August 2010, however the MLA certificate was signed in August 2011*.
- A2LA of United States was accepted as a signatory to the IAAC MLA for the scope of Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020), as of August 2010, however the MLA certificate was signed in August 2011*.
- Cgcre of Brazil has been an IAAC MLA signatory for the scope of Testing Labs since 2002, and now Cgcre was accepted as a signatory to the IAAC MLA for the scope of Testing Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025 which also includes Medical/Clinical Laboratories under ISO 15189), as of August 21st, 2011.
- OGA of Guatemala was accepted as a signatory to the IAAC MLA for the scope of Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025), as of March 14th, 2012.

* A minimum of 3 IAAC MLA signatories was needed to launch this scope.

Training Activities:

IAAC carried out the following training activities:

- Workshop on “Experience Exchange on Best Practices in Accreditation”, sponsored by PTB of Germany, was held in Santiago, Chile on March 8-9, 2012.
- Workshop on the “Development and operation of Proficiency Testing schemes”, sponsored by PTB of Germany, was held in Santiago, Chile on March 12-13, 2012.
- A Peer evaluator training workshop for new peer evaluators, sponsored by OAE of Ecuador, will be held in Quito, Ecuador, on November 27-29, 2012.

Technical Cooperation Projects

Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) Projects

Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency Project

Beatriz Garcia, IAAC Chair, signed the agreement for the technical cooperation project titled :“Quality Infrastructure Services for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (R3E) in Latin America and the Caribbean”, together with the Chairs of COPANT and SIM, as well as with PTB and OAS representatives. The project was signed in Braunschweig, Germany, on March 26, 2012, as part of the events regarding the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the PTB.

The objective of this project is to strengthen the capabilities of the regional Quality Infrastructure organizations SIM, COPANT and IAAC and of their national members in providing services for the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources and to promote mutual coordination in order to support the implementation of the respective national energy policies.

The implementation agreement and the project brochure have been posted on the IAAC website at: <http://www.iaac.org.mx/English/DocsPU.php>

The event photos may be seen at http://www.ptb.de/en/org/q/q5/qi_energy.htm



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Environmental Protection and Food Safety Project

IAAC recently completed the 2007-2011 technical cooperation project sponsored by PTB of Germany, titled "Regional Cooperation for Environmental Protection and Food Safety in Latin America and the Caribbean."

Cooperation with International and Regional Organizations

Cooperation with IAF and ILAC

Randy Dougherty, IAF Chair; and Peter Unger, ILAC Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings held in Quito, Ecuador, in August 2012; and also the midyear meetings held in Santiago, Chile, in March 2012.

An IAF-ILAC marketing seminar is scheduled to be held during the IAAC meetings in August 2012, in Cartagena, Colombia.

Cooperation with PAC:

Belinda Mort, PAC Secretary, attended the IAAC meetings held in Quito, Ecuador, in August 2011, thanks to the generous support of the Ecuadorean Accreditation Body, (OAE) of Ecuador. IAAC and PAC carried out two joint peer evaluations in 2011.

Cooperation with APLAC:

Michael Fraser, APLAC Secretary, attended the IAAC meetings held in Quito, Ecuador, in August 2011, thanks to the generous support of the Ecuadorean Accreditation Body, (OAE) of Ecuador.

IAAC invited APLAC members to participate in its proficiency testing programs during 2011; and APLAC invited IAAC members to participate in its proficiency testing programs during 2011. IAAC and APLAC carried out one joint peer evaluation in 2011.

Cooperation with EA:

Graham Talbot, EA Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings held in Quito, Ecuador, in August 2011. Ileana Martinez, IAAC Vice-Chair, attended the previous EA General Assembly. IAAC regularly receives EA documents under consideration by EA members.

Cooperation with SADCA:

IAAC invited SADCA members to participate in its proficiency testing programs during 2011. Masego Marobela, SADCA Chair, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings in Quito, Ecuador, in August 2011, thanks to the generous support of the Ecuadorean Accreditation Body, (OAE) of Ecuador.

Cooperation with AFRAC:

IAAC enjoys close cooperation ties with AFRAC.

Victor Gandy, IAAC Secretary, attended the African Accreditation Cooperation, (AFRAC), General Assembly meetings held in Mauritius, in October 2011.

Masego Marobela, AFRAC representative, attended the IAAC General Assembly meetings in Quito, Ecuador, in August 2011, thanks to the generous support of the Ecuadorean Accreditation Body, (OAE) of Ecuador.

Cooperation with ARAC:

In 2012, IAAC will sign a Statement of Technical Cooperation with the Arab Accreditation Cooperation, (ARAC), in order to implement activities to strengthen cooperation between the regions.



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IAAC meetings

The IAAC General Assembly meetings will be held on August 11-17, 2012, in Cartagena, Colombia, and will be hosted by the Organismo Nacional de Acreditación de Colombia (ONAC).

IAAC Information and Publications

Further information on IAAC members and IAAC documents is available at the IAAC website: www.iaac.org.mx