



COMMUNIQUE FROM PAC 10 MEETING

The 10th annual meeting of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) was held in New Delhi, India from 25 – 28 November 2003.

Following are the major outcomes of the meeting:

- **PAC Plenary.** 36 delegates, representing PAC members and interested parties attended the Plenary, held on 28 November. Acting on suggestions from members, the meeting duration was reduced to four days, and feedback on the new, shorter format of meetings was very positive from all who attended.
- **New Full Member of PAC.** Members were advised that STAMEQ, Vietnam has commenced operating an accreditation program and is therefore eligible to move from Associate Member to Full Member Status. Members unanimously voted for STAMEQ to be granted Full Membership of PAC.
- **PAC Mission Statement.** Following deliberation amongst members regarding the future directions of PAC, the following Mission Statement was adopted.

“To represent the interests of Asia-Pacific economies nationally, regionally and internationally in the area of certification / registration body accreditation and related activities in support of APEC, IAF and WTO / TBT aims and objectives.”

- **PAC MLA for Environmental Management Systems (EMS).** The PAC MLA for EMS became operational during the Plenary meeting, with JAS-ANZ, JAB, SCC and NAC all signing the MLA. Applications for the MLA from 5 other PAC members are currently being processed.
- **New Members of the PAC MLA group for QMS.** Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) was admitted into the PAC Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for Quality Management Systems (QMS) during the Plenary. This brings the number of PAC members to join the QMS MLA to fourteen. The other members are the China National Accreditation Board for Certifiers (CNAB), the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ), the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), the Japan Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (JAB), the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC), Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM), Korea Accreditation Board (KAB), National Accreditation Council of Thailand (NAC), the National Accreditation Board of Indonesia (KAN), Entidad Mexicana de Accreditation (EMA) Mexico, BPS Accreditation Scheme (BAS) Philippines, CNAB Chinese Taipei, and the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) India.

- **PAC MLA for Products.** Progress on the PAC MLA for Product was also advised at the meeting. Three evaluations have been undertaken to date, with JAS-ANZ and SCC successfully completing the process. The evaluations were conducted jointly with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). A further application is currently being processed and the PAC MLA for Product will become operational as soon as there are three approved signatories.
- **Extension of the PAC MLA.** Following discussion by members, it was agreed that there was no need to extend the PAC MLA programs to include either Hazardous Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) or Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) at this stage. Members agreed to re-visit these two topics at the next Plenary.

Technical Committee. The meeting was chaired by Mr Steve Keeling of JAS-ANZ, assisted by Vice-Chair, Mr Tetsuro Kawaberi of JAB. Discussions focussed on strengthening the PAC MLA process in all three programs, improving the understanding and interpretation of ISO/IEC documents and associated guidance, and improving the reporting process for PAC peer evaluations.

PAC Developing Programs. Following the departure of Mr Soo-young Jung from KAB, Mr Suprpto of KAN was appointed as Chair of the Developing Programs Committee. Members welcomed Mr Suprpto to his new role.

The Committee reported on progress throughout the year. The APEC-sponsored training program for the Product Certification MLA was completed since the last meeting, with a favourable response from participants in all three components of the program.

PAC is currently running a series of APEC-sponsored training courses for the EMS MLA. The courses consist of two components – training for certification/registration bodies who wish to either develop or improve upon their existing EMS certification/registration programs, and training for accreditation bodies who wish to develop an accreditation program for EMS. The program will run until September 2004 and training will be provided by JAS-ANZ, JAB and SCC. Members of the Developing Programs Committee thanked these organisations for their assistance in providing expertise for the training program.

Members also noted that a joint IAF / International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) workshop for peer evaluators would be held in Vancouver in February 2004, in conjunction with the IAF Technical Committee Meeting.

PAC Promotion. The PAC Promotions Committee held a very successful meeting during the Plenary. Mr Tony Craven of JAS-ANZ chaired the meeting. Members discussed means of promoting PAC to the general public, in particular, further enhancement of the PAC website and Newsletter. A draft of the PAC promotional CD was played at the meeting and members thanked NABCB for its work in developing this project. The CD will be released in the first half of 2004, following the incorporation of the final comments from members.

Experienced Peer Evaluator Workshop. Following its success in 2003, it was decided to include the Experienced Peer Evaluator Workshop in future annual meetings. The workshop was held over two ½ days, and attended by seven team leaders and members. Mr Phua Kim Chua chaired the discussion of the workshop. Participants discussed specific technical issues with an aim to harmonisation of understanding of the various guidance documents and improvement of peer evaluation processes. This will enhance the operations of the various PAC MLAs by ensuring the consistency among peer evaluation teams when evaluating applicants across the three PAC MLA programs.

PAC Annual Meeting 2004. The 11th Plenary of PAC will be held in Seoul, Korea in the week of 5 – 10 July 2004. Details will be posted to the website shortly. Members thanked KAB for their kind offer to host the meeting.

PAC would like to thank its hosts for the 10th Plenary meeting, NABCB, for their assistance and hospitality during the meeting. Members all agreed that the meetings were a great success, and the venue and evening functions were excellent.

Further information is available from the PAC Website – www.apec-pac.org or contact the PAC Secretary, Ms Belinda Mort at telephone +612 6559 1370, FAX +612 6559 1374 or email - belindam@tsn.cc.

Members of PAC are listed below -

Full members:

JAS-ANZ (Australia & New Zealand)	DSM (Malaysia)
SCC (Canada)	EMA (Mexico)
CNAB (PR China)	BPS (Philippines)
HKAS (Hong Kong, China)	SAC (Singapore)
KAN (Indonesia)	CNAB (Chinese Taipei)
JAB (Japan)	NAC (Thailand)
JASC (Japan)	ANSI (USA)
KAB (Korea)	STAMEQ (Vietnam)
KAS (Korea)	

Associate Members:

IIOC (The Independent International Organisation for Certification)
NABCB (India)