



COMMUNIQUE FROM PAC 11 MEETING

The 11th annual meetings of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) were held in Seoul, Republic of Korea between 5 and 9 July, 2004.

Following are the major outcomes of the meeting:

- **PAC Plenary.** 52 delegates, representing PAC members and interested parties attended the Plenary, held on 9 July. It was very pleasing to see so many certification bodies from the region represented at the meeting.
- **PAC MLA for Environmental Management Systems (EMS).** The PAC MLA for EMS continues to expand, with 5 new signatories during the meeting. They are: CNAB PR China, KAB Korea, KAN Indonesia, ema Mexico and CNAB/TAF Chinese Taipei. These members join JAS-ANZ Australia and New Zealand, JAB Japan, SCC Canada and NAC Thailand, expanding the EMS MLA to 9 signatories. A further application has been received from DSM Malaysia and is currently being processed.
- **PAC MLA for Quality Management Systems.** There are currently 14 members of the PAC MLA for QMS, being: JAS-ANZ Australia and New Zealand, SCC Canada, CNAB PR China, HKAS Hong Kong, NABCB India, KAN Indonesia, JAB Japan, KAB Korea, DSM Malaysia, ema Mexico, BPS Philippines, SAC Singapore, NAC Thailand and CNAB/TAF Chinese Taipei.
- **PAC MLA for Products.** The PAC MLA for Product became operational at the meetings. The initial three signatories to the MLA are JAS-ANZ, SCC and ema. An application from ANSI USA to join the MLA was received during the meeting and several other members have advised that they will apply within the next 12 months.

Technical Committee. Following the resignation of Mr Steve Keeling of JAS-ANZ as Chair of the Technical Committee, the meeting was chaired by Ms Joan Brough-Kerrebyn of SCC. Members thanked Mr Keeling for his contributions to the PAC Technical Committee over the past 4 years, and welcomed Ms Brough-Kerrebyn as the new Chair.

Discussions focussed on strengthening the PAC MLA process in all three programs including creation and amendment of policy and procedure documents, improving the understanding and interpretation of ISO/IEC documents and associated guidance, and PAC input into the development of IAF policies and procedures.

PAC Developing Programs. The meeting was chaired by Mr Suprpto of KAN who reported on progress throughout the year. The APEC-sponsored training program for the EMS MLA was continuing, with several members receiving training to date and more courses planned before the deadline of 30 September 2004. The program 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. Members thanked JAS-ANZ, SCC and JAB for providing trainers for the program.

Members proposed three priority areas for training in 2005. These are: training of accreditation assessors of members for consistent application of standards for QMS and EMS including training on the new standards ISO/IEC 17021; training for accreditation assessors in Product including implementation of the relevant standards and guides and harmonisation of understanding; and training in ISO/IEC 17011 for accreditation body management staff and assessors, focussed on the differences between the current ISO/IEC Guide 61 and the new standard.

PAC Promotion. 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 as the source of useful information. Members agreed that there was a need to streamline the newsletter production process and proposed that the newsletter be produced professionally in future, rather than by volunteer members. Participation of members in PAC activities was also discussed, including ideas to increase participation.

Experienced Peer Evaluator Workshop. The workshop was again well attended by PAC team leaders and team members. Mr Phua Kim Chua of SAC Singapore chaired 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 applicant accreditation bodies across the three PAC MLA programs.

PAC Annual Meeting 2005. The 12th Plenary of PAC will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in the week of 4 - 9 July 2005. It will mark the 10th anniversary of the formation of PAC and all members and interested bodies are invited to join us in this milestone event. Details will be posted to the website shortly. Thank you to NAC for your kind offer to host the meeting.

PAC would like to thank KAB, our hosts for the 11th Plenary meeting, for their assistance and hospitality during the meeting. Due in no small part to KAB's excellent organisation and promotion of the meetings throughout the conformity assessment industry in Korea, a record number of people participated and all agreed that they were a great success.

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 - belindamm@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)

TAF (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)