



## **COMMUNIQUE**

### **12<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETINGS – JULY 2005**

Members celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of PAC at the 12<sup>th</sup> Plenary meetings in Bangkok, Thailand between 2 and 9 July 2005. 74 delegates, representing PAC members, certification / registration bodies, three specialist regional bodies and other interested parties attended the Plenary meeting, held on 8 July.

The meetings coincided with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our hosts, the National Accreditation Council (NAC) of Thailand. One of the Plenary highlights was an official celebration of both organizations' achievements during the last decade. A warm thank-you to NAC for all their efforts to make our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary meetings such a special event!

**PAC Membership.** PAC formally welcomed two new Accreditation Body members, Iran Accreditation Service (IAS) and Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) at the meeting. This brings the number of full members of PAC to 17 and associate members to 4.

**New Chair of PAC.** Elva Nilsen, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade for the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), was elected as the new Chair during the Plenary meeting. Mr. Shinichi Iguchi, Executive Director, Japan Accreditation Board (JAB) was elected Vice-Chair.

Ms Nilsen is the former Vice-Chair of PAC, and replaces outgoing Chair, Mr Xiao Jianhua, who has served in the position since 1999. Ms Nilsen thanked Mr Xiao on behalf of all members for his invaluable contribution to the establishment and development of PAC.

Mr Xiao will remain a member of the PAC Executive Committee, along with Mr Tony Craven (JAS-ANZ), Mr B Venkataraman (NABCB), Mr Suprpto (KAN), Dr Peter Herrmann (IIOC) and Secretary Ms Belinda Mort.

**Cooperation amongst APEC Specialist Regional Bodies.** Members supported increased cooperation between specialist regional bodies, and particularly between APLAC and PAC. It was agreed that the latter would be further explored by the PAC Executive Committee and APLAC Board of Management.

**Regional Industry Association for Certification/Registration Bodies.** Significant progress was made on the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Regional Industry Association for Certification/Registration Bodies. Preparations are underway to draft the Terms of Reference, which will be modelled on similar organisations in Europe and the US, but taking into consideration Asian specific issues.

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Membership will be open to all country specific Certification / Registration Body Associations or individual Certification / Registration Bodies operating regionally with their own accreditations from the region, who would subscribe and support the core principles of highly professional Code of Conduct and continuous improvement.

Interested and relevant parties from the certification/registration industry are invited to express their views by contacting TUV-SUD Group, Asian regional Headquarters, Mr. Frank Urban, Executive Vice President-Asia Pacific via email: [furban@tuvps.com](mailto:furban@tuvps.com)

**Technical Committee.** The Bangkok meeting was chaired by Ms Joan Brough-Kerrebyn of SCC and discussions focussed on strengthening the PAC MLA process in all three programs. Members supported further discussion of a draft resolution from EA to the September 2005 IAF General Assembly to apply Cross Frontier policy to Product Certification under the IAF MLA.

Members discussed the revision of the application and peer evaluation documents that will be needed in relation to the new requirements in ISO/IEC 17011. The Committee also encouraged the release of draft guidance for January 2006, in order to retain the present level of harmonisation.

**PAC Promotion.** Mr Tony Craven of JAS-ANZ chaired the meeting. Members discussed further enhancement of the PAC website and Newsletter and supported an IAF / EA proposal to the September meeting of IAF for increased cooperation amongst IAF, ILAC and regional bodies. They also supported establishment of a joint IAF / ILAC committee to coordinate and oversee communications and marketing activities at regional and international levels.

Members agreed that the Newsletter would be web-based in future, with the first issue in the new format to be published in August. Please contact the PAC Secretariat if you wish to be placed on the distribution list for the new publication.

Work has also been finalised on the PAC promotional CD, which is available from the Secretariat.

**PAC Developing Programs.** Mr Venkataraman of NABCB chaired the meeting in place of Mr Suprpto who was unable to attend. Members agreed in principle to criteria for providing funding assistance to members, based on World Bank economic data. Members discussed current and future training initiatives for PAC.

Three courses were held in 2005. SAC had hosted a course in April for accreditation assessors, including how to implement ISO/IEC Guide 65, parts of ISO/IEC 17011 and relevant CASCO Standards / Guides for product programs.

A second course was hosted by Stameq in Hanoi during June, with accreditation assessors from PAC members discussing consistent application of standards for QMS (ISO/IEC Guide 62)/EMS (ISO/IEC Guide 66), and future ISO/IEC 17021 requirements for both programs, including harmonized understanding/implementation of requirements.

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The third course was held in conjunction with the Bangkok meetings. The course concentrated on the training of accreditation body management staff and assessors of PAC members in ISO/IEC 17011 – differences between ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC Guide 61, also on understanding of other requirements of ISO/IEC 17011.

Members expressed thanks to trainers Phua Kim Chua (SAC), Tetsuro Kawaberi (JAB) and Joan Brough-Kerrebyn (SCC) for their work in organising and presenting the courses.

The following training courses will be held during 2006.

- Training in ISO/IEC 17020;
- Training in the proposed ISO/IEC 22003; and
- Information Exchange program on “Contents of AB Assessment Reports”. This course will possibly be held in conjunction with the 2006 Plenary Meetings.

A workshop for trainee peer evaluators may also be held, depending on demand. Details of all courses will be advertised to members and on the PAC website.

**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 accreditation bodies across the three PAC MLA programs.

**Open Forum.** The Open Forum was very well attended, with 22 Certification / Registration body representatives joining the PAC members for an afternoon of lively discussion and exchange of information. Delegates discussed ways in which the Asia-Pacific Regional Industry Association for Certification/Registration Bodies could contribute to the work of PAC, once it was fully established, including representation on PAC committees and working groups and joint promotion of accredited certification / registration to clients, regulatory authorities and government. Other issues covered in the forum were the Cross Frontier Policy, credibility of certification, inconsistencies amongst accreditation bodies, transfer of certificates. Delegates agreed that the Open Forum was of great value in developing cooperation between accreditation bodies and certification / registration bodies and it will be a regular event at future PAC meetings.

**MLA Group.** Members supported an IAF/ILAC JCCC Task Force proposal for management of IAF/ILAC MLA/MRA activities whereby the IAF MLA MC and ILAC AMC will hold joint meetings for joint MLA management activities including for the Inspection ML/MRA, joint evaluations to regional groups / single AB's with both IAF MLA programs and ILAC MRA programs and other common issues. The IAF MLA MC will manage the IAF specific activities and the ILAC AMC will manage the ILAC-specific MRA activities.

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## PAC MLAs

▪ **Environmental Management Systems (EMS).** The PAC MLA for EMS continues to expand, with 9 signatories to date being; JAS-ANZ (Australia and New Zealand), SCC (Canada), CNAB (PR China), KAN (Indonesia), JAB (Japan), KAB (Korea), ema (Mexico), NAC (Thailand) and TAF (Chinese Taipei). PAC is currently processing applications from DSM (Malaysia) and NABCB (India) and several other members have indicated their intention to apply during 2006..

▪ **Quality Management Systems.** There are currently 14 members of the PAC MLA for QMS, those being: JAS-ANZ (Australia and New Zealand), SCC (Canada), CNAB (PR China), HKAS (Hong Kong, China), NABCB (India), KAN (Indonesia), JAB (Japan), KAB (Korea), DSM (Malaysia), ema (Mexico), BAS (Philippines), SAC (Singapore), NAC (Thailand) and TAF (Chinese Taipei). IAS (Iran) has indicated that it will be applying for membership of the QMS MLA in the near future.

▪ **Product.** The PAC MLA for Product has three signatories at present, those being: JAS-ANZ (Australia and New Zealand), SCC (Canada) and ema (Mexico). Applications from ANSI (USA) and KAS (Korea) are currently being processed and several other members have advised that they will apply within the next 12 months.

**PAC Annual Meeting 2006.** The 13<sup>th</sup> Plenary of PAC will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam in May - June 2006. All members and interested bodies are invited to join us as we enter our second decade as a Regional Body. Details will be posted on the PAC website later in the year. Our thanks to STAMEQ for offering to host the meeting.

Further information on PAC is available on our Website – [www.apec-pac.org](http://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](mailto:belindamm@tsn.cc).

### Full members of PAC:

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

### Associate members of PAC:

IIOC (The Independent International Organisation for Certification)	NABCB (India)	IAS (Iran)	PNAC (Pakistan)
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