

APAC Co-Chairs Report

Outline

- Summary of Key Activities
- Memberships and MRAs
- Capacity Building
- Finances
- Cooperation with Regional and International Bodies

Summary of Key Activities

since the last APLAC-PAC Annual Meetings in Kyoto, Japan in June 2017



Establishing APAC



1 Jan 2019

Operationalising APAC



APAC Constitution registered by Registrar of Incorporated Societies, NZ

Finalising APAC Governance, MRA & Mgt documentation

Liaising with ILAC & IAF on continued recognition of MRA/MLA

Winding up of PAC & transfer of assets and membership to APLAC

Change of APLAC name & adoption of new constitution

Confirming the membership fee model and 2019 APAC budget

Tender and appointment of APAC Secretariat

Transition of website

Establishment of transition structure

Communication with members, stakeholders and service providers

Fine-tuning of procedures and documentation

Conduct of Strategic Planning and develop APAC Strategic Plan for 2019 -2021

Nomination and Election of key positions for APAC

Follow-up evaluation by ILAC & IAF on APAC

On-going Peer Evaluations and Capacity Building Activities

APAC Membership

- Three membership categories
 - Full Members = APAC MRA signatories
 - Associate Members = Accreditation Bodies (ABs) not yet signatories
 - Affiliates = stakeholders, CAB associations



- As of September 2018, APAC's 45 Full Members have accredited 50,422 laboratories, inspection bodies, reference material producers and proficiency testing providers; and 3,201 certification bodies and greenhouse gas (GHG) validation and verification bodies.

APAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)



The APAC MRA covers the following scopes:

- Calibration
- Greenhouse gas validation and verification
- Inspection
- Person certification
- Person certification - IPC
- Product certification
- Product certification – GlobalGAP
- Proficiency testing providers
- Reference materials producers
- Testing (incl medical)
- Management system certification
 - Energy management systems (EnMS)
 - Environmental management systems (EMS)
 - Feed additives and premixtures quality systems (FAMI-QS)
 - Food safety management systems (FSMS)
 - Information security management systems (ISMS)
 - Medical device quality management systems (MDQMS)
 - Occupational health and safety management systems (OHSMS)
 - Quality management systems (QMS)

APAC is the recognised regional accreditation group of International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

Capacity Building (Jul 2018 – Jun 2019)

Extensive trainings and workshops organised including:

- ISO/IEC 17011 transition
 - 1-day engagement session on accreditation and ISO/IEC 17011 with government officials from APEC Member Economies in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (Aug)
- Food safety schemes
- ISO 45001 Occupational health and safety management systems certification
- ISO/IEC 17024 person certification
- ISO 13845 Medical device quality management systems certification
- Certification of processes
- Transition to ISO/IEC 17025:2017
- ISO/IEC 17020:2013 Workshop, focusing on implementation issues
- Workshop on accreditation in the medical sector using ISO 15189 (May 19)
- Workshop on ISO/IEC 17011 for AB middle management (Jun 19)
- Risk management in accreditation (Jun 19)

Finances

The 2018 Financial Auditors' Report for PAC will be presented to the General Assembly to close off the winding up of PAC.

Also attached in the GA paper is the audited financial report for APLAC as of 31 December 2018.

Cooperation with International and Regional Bodies

1. International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

Some key outcomes and development are as follows:

- a) The IAF is developing its **Strategic Plan 2020-2025**. A strategic planning session was held on 9 April to deliberate on the IAF Values, Mission, Vision, Strategic Directions and Actions.
- b) At the Joint EC meeting in Mexico, it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the Members of IAF and ILAC to establish a **single international organisation for accreditation**. The recommendation will be made to the October 2019 General Assemblies of IAF and ILAC for a decision by the Members of IAF and ILAC. If a positive decision is made by the IAF and ILAC Members, a Joint Task Force will investigate possible solutions for a single international organisation for accreditation which will be further decided by the Members of IAF and ILAC.
- c) It was noted the WTO TBT Committee has launched a process to develop a **guidance document on conformity assessment to support regulators** in the choice and design of appropriate conformity assessment procedures. There are Thematic sessions on the margins of TBT Committee meetings and the 2nd session is planned for Nov 19 in Geneva on National Quality Infrastructure. APAC members are urged to try to contribute and support their national TBT committee into WTO.
- d) APAC members who are also IAF members are to note that IAF monitors the status of the percentage **returns of their ballots**. IAF will suspend members with poor returns. It was noted a number of members from our region are at risk of suspension due to poor returns of ballots. I therefore urge you to cast a vote, and members can also abstain.

Cooperation with International and Regional Bodies

- e) Revision of IAF Database (CertSearch) Principle document to only for IAF MLA signatories under main scope ISO 17021-1. Some accreditation bodies, including from APAC, will be affected with this revised principle. It was noted that the International Automotive Task Force (IATF) had announced and demanded that their Tier 2 suppliers who have ISO 9001 certification to be in IAF CertSearch by end of 2020. There was also similar action from the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA).
- f) IAF evaluation of PAC has been completed with extension of scope recognition to GHG and Persons. APAC has applied to IAF for recognition for medical devices management system (self declaration)

2. International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

Some key outcomes and development are as follows:

- a) The ILAC article of association has been revised to change the voting right from per economy to per member. This will be put up for voting at the October 2019 General Assembly of ILAC.
- b) The final report on the ILAC re-evaluation of APLAC and extension of recognition to include the accreditation of Proficiency Testing Providers has been out to the ILAC full members for voting.
- c) ILAC has extended its MRA to include RMP. APAC (via APLAC) has applied for recognition but has not yet been evaluated.

Cooperation with International and Regional Bodies

3. APEC Subcommittee for Standards and Conformance (SCSC)

- a) Represented APAC to attend the SRB preparation meeting on 25 Feb 2019 and APEC Subcommittee for Standards and Conformance (SCSC) Meeting on 26-27 Feb 2019, Santiago, Chile. The purpose of the liaison is to raise awareness and share the APAC (APLAC & PAC) work as one of the specialist regional bodies (SRBs), , as well as to monitor development in APEC SCSC and identify potential areas for support and collaboration.
- b) Among the SRBs, there was discussion for a possible workshop at SOM1 2020 in Malaysia. It was agreed to have SRB case studies workshop to show impact of SRBs works.
- c) As the APEC Host Economy, Chile has identified four policy priorities, as follows:
 - Digital Society; Integration 4.0; Women, SMEs, and Inclusive Growth; Sustainable Growth
- d) APEC Committee for Trade and Investment (CTI) work program priorities include:
 - Support for the Multilateral Trading System
 - Deepening Regional Economic Integration
 - Strengthening Trade Facilitation and Connectivity
 - Promoting Innovative and Inclusive responses to APEC- wide issues

There is continuing focus for APEC to add value to the multilateral trading system, and to focus on activities and initiatives that support implementation of WTO decisions or ongoing WTO negotiations, improvement of SPS Notifications.

Thank You for contributing to the successful formation of APAC !

Special Tributes to:

Eric Lo (NATA) & Michael Fraser (past APLAC Secretary)

WW Wong (immediate past APLAC Chair)

APLAC Board of Management Members and PAC Executive Committee Members

All Committee Chairs

Graeme Drake (immediate past PAC Secretary & APAC Secretary)