



**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between  
the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and  
the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC)  
concerning cooperation on accreditation**

**INTRODUCTION**

- Considering that cooperation between APLAC and AFRAC is of mutual benefit for the development of accreditation in Asia-Pacific region and in Africa;
- Considering that APLAC and AFRAC have constituencies that include those from developing economies; and
- Considering the need to foster national, regional, interregional and global schemes for the operation and recognition of reliable accreditation programs.

The Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) agree to the following understandings:

**1. PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT**

1.1 The parties to this MoU are:

- (a) the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, as represented by its Chair; and
- (b) the African Accreditation Cooperation, as represented by its Chair.

**2. PURPOSE AND APPLICATION OF THE MOU**

- 2.1 The purpose of this MoU is to record an understanding between the parties on their working relationship so as to achieve the scope of the MoU.
- 2.2 This MoU is a general understanding between the parties and provides a basis for other more specific agreements between the parties at operational levels.
- 2.3 This MoU does not make any legal or otherwise enforceable commitments on behalf of either of the parties.

**3. SCOPE OF THE MOU**

- 3.1 The scope of this MoU covers the relationship between APLAC and AFRAC on matters of accreditation and conformity assessment policy.
- 3.2 The scope of this MoU sits beside the roles and responsibilities that the parties already have towards each other arising from their memberships in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

**4. AREAS OF COOPERATION AND RESPONSIBILITY**

**4.1 Training and development**

- 4.1.1 The parties will foster participation in training activities organised jointly or by either party, when deemed suitable.
- 4.1.2 The parties will foster formation of qualified personnel through internships and consultancies for each other and for each other's member accreditation bodies.

**4.2 Proficiency Testing Programs**

- 4.2.1 The parties will foster participation in proficiency testing programs organised jointly, by each party, when deemed suitable.

**4.3 Peer evaluation**

- 4.3.1 The parties will foster participation in peer evaluations organised jointly, or by either party, when deemed suitable.

**4.4 Information exchange**

- 4.4.1 The parties will exchange information on the development of regional accreditation cooperations and other relevant topics.

**4.5 Support on technical matters**

- 4.5.1 The parties will support common efforts on matters of a technical nature related to accreditation programs.

**4.6 Adoption of common positions**

- 4.6.1 The parties will seek common positions on issues of mutual interest.

**4.7 Projects and fund-procurement**

- 4.7.1 The parties will cooperate in projects and procurement of funds from donor organisations.

**5. IMPLEMENTATION**

- 5.1 The abovenamed areas of cooperation will be implemented through the following mechanisms:
- (a) involvement of representatives from each, in each other's technical work as necessary. As such, the normal liaison and observer rules and procedures for input shall apply;
  - (b) the APLAC Board of Management and the AFRAC Executive Committee managing the MoU and coordinating issues arising from it;
  - (c) attendance of each party's representative(s) at their respective General Assemblies and related technical meetings.

**6. COMMENCEMENT, TERMINATION AND PERIOD OF OPERATION**

- 6.1 This MoU will commence on the date of its signing and will remain in effect until terminated or amended. Any of the parties may, upon giving three (3) calendar months notice in writing of its intention to do so, terminate this MoU.
- 6.2 This MoU will be reviewed at least every three (3) years for currency.
- 6.3 This MoU may be amended (including changes to the scope) if mutually agreed upon. Such changes will be incorporated as a written change to the MoU, and the MoU will be reissued in full as a new version. Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MoU will be settled amicably by consultation between the parties.
- 6.4 This MoU is signed on behalf of:



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The Asia Pacific Laboratory  
Accreditation Cooperation, by  
Ms Chang Kwei Fern  
Chair

7 Dec 2012  
Date



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The African Accreditation  
Coopération, by  
Mr Ron Josias  
Chair

17/01/2013  
Date